EXCHANGES

Japanese Sister City Commission

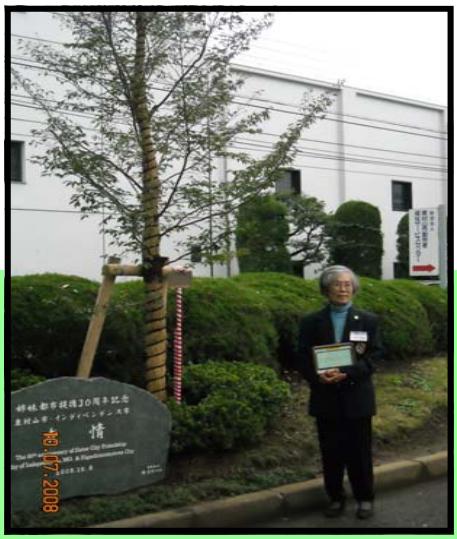
Fall 2008

30th Anniversary Highlights

Inside this issue:

Mayor, Tree Killips	1
30th Anniversary Trip	2
Sharing Japan in Japan	3
Sushi Hour & Social Hour	4
Students, Sales & Garden	5
Glendale at Fall Festival	6

A Memorial Cameria Tree is planted in honor of Lana White's 30 years of service to both Sister Cities. It Blooms White Flowers in the Spring to remind us of all that she has done for world peace & love.



MAYOR REIMAL MADE HONORARY CITIZEN

Thank you Sister City Committee for allowing us to join the 30th Anniversary Delegation to Higashimurayama. It is always a great time when we can renew friendships and make new ones with our kind and wonderful counterparts in Japan. We were greeted with warmth and cheers as we arrived at the civic center. The committee had prepared a nice snack for us after that long airplane ride. After many hugs and hello's we were on our way, with our many bags to our homes for the week. What a treat to be able to share the homes and everyday lives with our friends.

They had planned full days and nights for us. We toured a Sake Bottling Company. We almost lost Lana here. We have pictures for blackmail purposes. We witnessed beautiful glassware being made and saw really dark chocolate being made and packaged. That was just on the first day. Don and I were privileged to accompany the Mayor of Higashimurayama on Sunday as he and Don gave the opening speeches for two celebrations. Several of our group attended the first celebration. Glendale, ask to see your principal in his full costume. The next festival was a more traditional one where the adults and children pulled a wooden temple wagon through the streets of this particular district. It was a beautifully carved antique wooden wagon with large wheels and two very large ropes attached. It really was heavy. Every child that helped pull the wagon was given a bag of candy after we had pulled the wagon to the location of the celebration. The back of the wagon opened and formed a stage where there were various dancing and singing presentations. Of course the visit to our Sister School was the highlight of the visit. The children greeted us with flags and cheers. Each class performed for us in the gym and then we visited their classrooms and ate lunch with them. They were so cute and friendly. That evening we were invited to a banquet at their beautiful Country Club. We were all showered with gifts. (So many that several of us had to purchase another suitcase.) Don was made an honorary citizen of Higashimurayama and Lana White was honored for her years of dedication. The next day they treated us to a trip through their wine and fruit country. We were fortunate that Mt. Fuji allowed us to see her top for a short time. Some of us took the tram ride up and took pictures with Mt. Fuji in the background. We toured a company that prepared and packaged a type of rice dessert. It was very tasty. We had an outstanding lunch at a famous hotel overlooking this beautiful valley and then on to pick grapes in one of the vineyards. The City of Higashimurayama placed a special tree at the Civic Center in honor of our own Lana White. We all join them in expressing our appreciation to Lana for all of the hard work and dedication she has given to the Sister City Program for 30 years. Unfortunately, time passed all too quickly and it was time to leave our new and lifetime friends for another 5 years. We've all found that e-mail makes us closer now. Thanks again to everyone who accompanied us. You made this a trip of a lifetime. We all have a lot of pictures. If anyone has a time, we would be glad to share this wonderful experience with you.

Mayor and Mrs. Don Reimal

Kathy and John Killip are honored by Mr. Ono for their many artistic gifts and personal contributions.

EXCHANGES

EXCHANGES

EXCHANGES

In America Richard Gephard receives Good Citizen Award given annually at Truman Library and JSCC members are there. Below with Mayor Reimal.

Jackson Co Historical Society 50th Anniversary and Kemper Art Event for the Jackson Co Cultural Art Coalition had a few JSCC faces attending in support of their events. Left to Right: Lana White, Mary & Gerald Hancock, Emily Collins, Susan Peoples, Ann and Joe Gall. At the art gala, Left to Right: Gerald Hancock, Sandy Peoples, Joe Gall and Lana White. Sandy Peoples is the new JSCC member, responsible for the website & learning newsletter skills. Sandy has participated several years in JSCC events. Hosting adult & student as well as sending Susan to Japan.

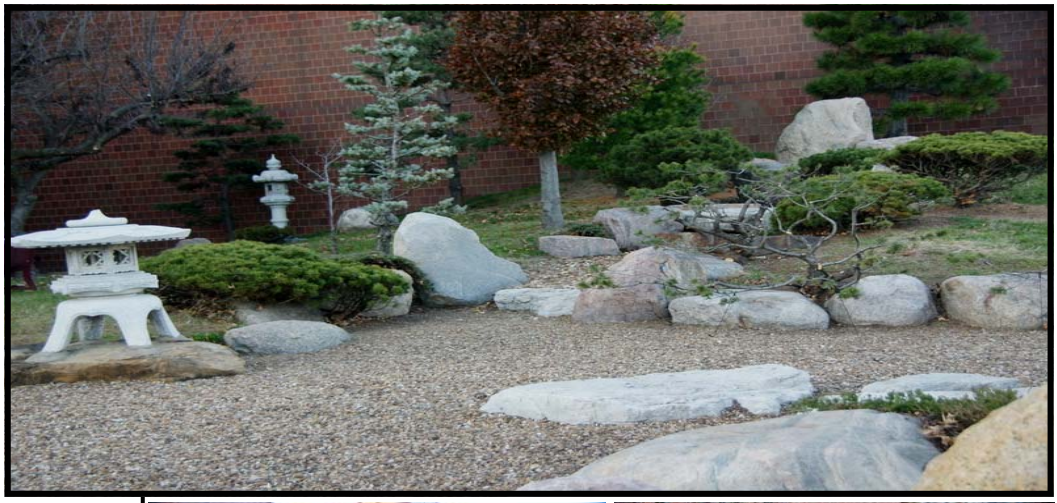
Rosie Smith, Sharon and Ray Wilson with Gephardt, former Congressional Representative.

Four of the 2009 Students and their parents are introduced at the October meeting ! Have fun!

2009 Exchange Students & Jana Waits

Securing tickets and passports have been the top two activities on the delegations' minds as they prepare for their trip this coming summer. In alphabetical order: Jessica Barszcak, Brooke Baslee, Moses Daniel, Landrin Faiva, Anna Price, Matilyn Salva, Austin Snethen, Emily Tanner, Steven Todorovich, and Sally Waldman . Congrats!

Lana White, Debbie Lovewell, Susan & Sandy Peoples, Andrea Anderson, & Rosie Smith worked the Fall Festival with great sales !



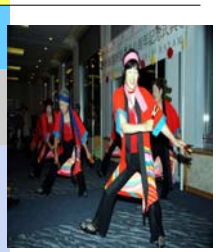
ABOVE LEFT: KC Japanese Fall Festival Sales were very successful with the work of Rosie Smith (top) Andrea Anderson, Lana White, Debbie Lovewell, Susan Peoples and Sandy Peoples (not pictured) Thanks for all the donations. ABOVE RIGHT: Look at that beautiful, clean and well taken care of Garden! On Oct 18th Members and Friends turned out in full force to aid Buck Buchan in beautifying the Garden! Student Alumni Emily Collins is responsible for finding this talented & helpful Japanese Gardner. Thank you Buck!!

Glendale Sister School Students are GREAT! One of the best things at the KC Fall Festival~Thanks Jeannae for your leadership!

Independence Japanese Sister City
www.ci.indep.mo.us/sistercity/
816-373-8385 jsg@hfmlegal.com

DON'T MISS....

Save the Date!
April 26, 2009
Spring Cherry Blossom Festival will be Sunday, April 26th at the Sermon Center. Spread the word and bring your friends! For a Good Time!

Cherry Blossom Festival: Kimono Sale- to add to the many activities!

Annual Anniversary Celebration
Truman Memorial Building
Sat., January 24th
2-4 PM
Everyone associated with Sister City is invited to come and celebrate 30 years of Friendship