

THE EXCHANGE

Japanese Sister
City

Fall 2009 / Winter 2010
Newsletter

31st Anniversary Party

As tradition has gone, the third Saturday of January the JSCC commission brings lots of food to the Truman Memorial Building and many JSCC friends attend a gathering to remember the past years.

brought as a gift to our Sister City. Also the Japanese Language Teacher from William Jewell attended with student, Susan Peoples.

Below: Old friends and new gathered so we could send a nice photo to those celebrating in Japan on the same date!



Truman High School AFS students from Japan attended the party and signed the Tee-shirt that Lana White



Left: Dave Ragan leads the food line.

Right: Two Alumni Mallory Flippin and Caitlin Leavy talk to Sandy Peoples about Mallory's job in Japan in ten days.



Above: Beautiful decorations & beautiful food as well!

Special Person Spot

- Buck Buchanan, Japanese Garden Horticulturist who has assisted the Commission with the Independence Friendship Garden, was honored on September 16th with an award by the Kessler Society and the KCMO Parks and Recreation Department for the design and installation of the "Tiger Stroll Gardens" at 6616 Ward Parkway. Congratulations Buck!

October Garden Clean Up!

Commission members and JSCC friends gathered at the garden for an afternoon of fun and gardening. The city supplies the JSCC with a trailer to haul off weeds while volunteers

provide the pulling and the cutting as the garden gets royal treatment. Charlie Brown, Paloma Segura, Connie McQuain, Twyla Olsen-Hahn and Gerald Hancock pictured.





Communication Galore!

*Don't miss the next **hottest** event! Read all about the ten girls that are cooking up something fun and it's yummy to the tummy too...*

In the past 30 years we have gone from letters, International calls to emails and faxes. Now the JSCC has a fantastic web site that can be translated into Japanese, and our Sister City members in Japan can take time to read it, look at our newsletters and photos.

It might be fun for you to do it in English! The address is: www.ci.independence.mo.us/sistercity and if you get out on Facebook look us up on Higashi Murayama's page or use our email address: jscfriends@yahoo.com.

We would love to get new home addresses for the alumni students and for past JSCC friends as well as new

friends too. So send your info in care of City Hall or drop a note in one of the other locations mentioned. Please let us know if you have an email address or Facebook page.

We are always looking for more friends at the JSCC to partner with our international relationships.

Warm Gathering Coming Up!



Hot! Don't miss the chili/soup dinner Saturday, February 27th at 5-7 pm to support the ten girls going on the 2010 exchange. Come and meet them, hear live music and have a fantastic meal that will only cost two for \$10.

It is located across

from the Truman Memorial Building at the Westminster Hall on Pleasant and Truman. The 4 girls in the photo (left) sold tickets at the anniversary party in hopes to raise money for their trip. Contact: 816-399-4224 for more info.

JSCC Goes to EJCAC



Chairman, Jeannae Segura-Brown (left) accepts an award at the Eastern Jackson County Art Coalition event in November of 2009 for her work with the Sister School. Each year Jeannae teaches elementary

students about Japanese culture and music. The children perform several times during the year a Japanese performance. The Sister School idea began over 20 years ago when Sue Hammett started it.



Above Sue Hammett with Mayor Reimal at one of the JSCC meetings held every third Tuesday at the city hall at 7 pm. You are welcome.

Meet the 2010 Student Escort

Emily (Hays) Collins is no stranger to the JSCC having been a student herself in the 1994 delegation to Japan. She will be our first Alumni to be an Escort and a perfect person for the ten girls that will make up the 2010 delegation.

Emily, who has her Masters in Social Science, feels especially good about this years trip even though she is picking up the group

that didn't get to go in the 2009. She has been getting to know the girls that met with Jana Waits last year and the new girls that have been accepted more recently.

Emily's husband, Chris Collins, who is working in Dubai, thinks this is a perfect time for Emily to be an escort and hopes she gets to see her old friends in Japan as well. Besides being

alumni, Emily hosted during a Japanese adult during the 30th Anniversary trip.

In Emily's past she has worked extensively with the youth of the deployed service members, including all branches of the military, as well as the foreign branch. During the H1N1 outbreak in the first semester of school, Emily was busy as a sub in Lee's Summit schools as well as working retail at Sephora's.

Emily Collins pictured below as she takes the elevator up the St Louis Arch. Emily has lived in Florida and Nevada and now owns a home here.



In May of 2009 she traveled to New York, London & Dubai and is very familiar with the airport rules & regulations in today's world. She and the girls will do great!

Honorable Visitor From Japan

Carolyn and Lysle Weeks hosted Nakagawa-san who was the former liaison to the Higashimurayama mayor. For thirty years Nakagawa-san worked for our sister city and dedicated his career to the relationship between other countries.

He was very thankful to see many of his dear friends from years past at household parties. Many JSCC friends gathered to spend valuable time with him.

While in Independence, Nakagawa-san enjoyed bike riding and shopping in the craft

tents since he visited during the Santa-Caligon festival. He went to other locations in the United States on his vacation but loved his home away from home in Independence. We were all reminded of his many other trips here.



Rosie Smith and Ann Ragan expressing the kind of friendship shared at the JSCC.

Thanks to Bill & Joanne Shaw for the many new Japanese items donated for the bazaar.

Volunteers Thanked!

Thanks goes to the Hammett's, the Vest's and the Ragan's for doing two shifts at the parking lot in Sept. They have always been #1 volunteers for the JSCC. Also thanks to the many others that

helped that weekend. It was a lot of fun! Thanks to Alan for the luxuries he provided.

Also many thanks to the ladies who sold items at the Fall Japan Festival for the JSCC.



Five Storied Pagoda at Tochigi taken by our Sister Cities very own freelance photographer, Shiwori Katayama. Look for more photos of Higashimurayama, and other Japanese sights in the future.

Japanese Sister City

JSCC in care of the Independence City Hall
Jeannae Segura-Brown, Chairman
Alan Davison, Vice President
Joe Gall, Treasurer
Debbie Lovewell, Secretary

John Seeley-Student Exchange Chair
Gerald Hancock & Sandy Peoples
Newsletter/photography/Web/Facebook
Major Hammett, Friends of the JSCC Fund
Lana White, Founder with the love and
dedication of the great people of
Higashimurayama!

*"For people who love to share their
lives with others."*

**Below: Hockey
Night for the JSCC
at the new arena!**



Above: Debbie Lovewell and Jr. High Sister School teacher, Alreda Adams enjoy the day with the JSCC in the city parade. Ah! Sunshine!



Left: Charlie Brown and the JSCC walked the Independence Halloween Parade.

Below: The banner was an honor to carry in the parade and it was a great day to be out.

Go out to Facebook to hear & see the **Voice Thread** that Jeannae made about the parade. Also see the video made to advertise the parking lot fund-raiser! They are really clever!

Events and Up-Coming News

-Feb 27th fund raiser Chili/Soup dinner to raise money for the 2010 Exchange Students
5-7 pm Saturday at Westminster Hall
-Now accepting applications for the **2011** Student delegation. Applications are located on the web site. Interviews will be this spring.

-April 11th Save the Date for the Cherry Blossom Festival at the Sermon Center!
-July 12th the students and Emily leave for Japan.
July 27th the students return bringing the Japanese delegation with them! Be a **host** family. Applications

are on the web site. See your city through new eyes for your vacation this year and host.
-The Japan Festival, the 2nd MOTAKU Anime Convention and our Garden clean up will all take place in **October**, as well as the city parade-a busy month! ☺ ☺



Friendship Garden photo taken by Mike Winburn

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