



# EXCHANGE

Japanese

SPRING  
2003

## The Cherry Blossom Festival—2003

### Inside this issue:

<i>Cherry Blossom Festival 2003</i>	1
<i>The Washi Drummers</i>	1
<i>News Briefs</i>	2
<i>Glendale-Megurita Email Project is Successful</i>	2
<i>Glendale Japanese Club Performs</i>	3
<i>Taiko Drummers Come to Cherry Blossom Festival</i>	3
<i>In Memorium</i>	4

Set aside Sunday, April 27th for the 2003 Cherry Blossom Festival. Special events will include our World-Class Chicken Teriyaki Dinner with Rosie Smith's famous Fried Rice, the best anywhere! Watch Sushi being made and take some home.

Interactive displays will include calligraphy, Ikebana flower arranging, hand crafts, puppetry play, Temari handball, Sushi making and tasting, Japanese language tips, and Japanese gift market. See Bonsai Trees being groomed and offered for sale.

*The Oriental Café is open from 12:00—3:30 pm. So plan to reserve that date now for an afternoon of good food, fun and an experience in Japanese culture and life. Glendale Japanese Club Performs*

## The Washi Drummers Something New from the Glendale Japanese Club

Besides a Japanese play, the GJC has added a Japanese Drum Corp called the Washi Drummers (Washi means Eagle in Japanese and the Eagle is Glendale's mascot). Using patterns learned from Megurita's drum club the Washi Drummers are using the classroom instruments to recreate the patterns heard on the Taiko drums.

"The kids really love the drumming. They give up their only recess and part of their lunchtime to practice. We're very excited to perform for the school," said Mrs. Jeannae Segura Brown, Club Sponsor

### BIG NEWS

The Cherry Blossom Festival will be held April 27th,

11:30 am — 4:00 pm at the Sermon Center.

**FREE  
ADMISSION.**

## News Briefs from JSCC

### **Grant Awarded to JSCC**

Major Hammett and Randy Vest were instrumental in helping JSCC apply for and receive a \$10,000 grant for 2003 from Jackson County for use in the 25th Anniversary Celebration and other Sister City activities.

### **Glendale Principal Selected as Escort**

Deborah Orr, Glendale's new principal replacing Galen Hoff, has been selected by the JSCC interview committee as Escort for the 2004 student exchange trip to Japan. Her story will be featured in the next Newsletter. Applications for Student aBassador are now being reviewed.



Deborah Orr, 2004 Escort

### **Glendale-Megurita Email Project is Successful**

This year's communication between Glendale and Megurita was the best ever thanks to email technology. Megurita's Glendale Friendship Club emailed letters and pictures to Glendale's Japanese Club. We had almost daily correspondence with both the sponsors and the students. We had discussions about the Space Shuttle disaster, what we did for New Year's Eve, the weather, the trouble with North Korea, our best subjects in school, what Santa Claus brought us and the various flu bugs that circulated around. It was great fun and friendship!

If anyone would like to be included in the Glendale Megurita email project, we will add your name to the list so you can see what's going on! Just email Mrs. Brown at "jsegura@indep.k12.mo.us".

## Glendale Japanese Club Performs

On Friday, April 25th, the Glendale Japanese Club, (GJC) will don Kabuki style make-up and costumes to perform “The Lost Fishhook”. The 10 and 11 year olds have practiced about 25 hours in preparation for the production. “We’re so proud of our Japanese Club, we love to go ‘all out’ for the spring performance,” says Japanese Club sponsor Jeannae Segura Brown.

Preparations include a giant Mt. Fuji, a 15’x25’ ocean, an underwater castle, and a sword fight. “I’ve also tried to modify our stage to reflect the Kabuki style of stage with long thrust offstage right. That’s where the Lord of the Sea will enter.”

On the night of the performance, special make-up artists come in to prepare the children’s faces. The process is a long one starting with the eyebrows getting waxed so that the white face paint will cover the whole face evenly. “The hardest part is keeping the children from smearing their make-up after we put it on,” says Mrs. Brown.

---

## Drummer’s Come to Cherry Blossom Festival

The Mid-America Nazarene University (MNU) Taiko Ensemble will perform at the 2003 Cherry Blossom Festival to be held on Sunday, April 27th from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Dr. Baldredge of the MNU Music Department organized this special group in 2001. With the loan of a drum set from the Japanese Consulate, the group was on its way to success. The Ensemble’s first performance was given in April of 2002. Since then, other Japanese musical instruments and additional drums have been added to increase the musical breadth and depth of the group’s music. The group focuses on providing music for events sponsored by the Japanese community of the Midwest. They will perform at 3:20 in the afternoon on the Sermon Center Stage.



Visit us on the Web  
Http:www.geocities.com/  
japanesesistercity

E-mail us at: visitjapan@fcmail.com

Phone: 816: 252-0921



## In Memoriam

We were all saddened by the loss of our great friend, Lee Comer. Former Mayor Comer passed away on February 6, 2003. He was the first Independence Mayor to pay an official visit to Higashimurayama. The Sister City Committee and Higashimurayama jointly sent flowers to his memorial service on February 9, 2003. We will deeply miss Lee. Our condolences and sympathies are sent to the family with deepest respect and regard.



**JSCC**  
**City Hall**  
**Independence, Missouri 64050**