



EXCHANGES

JAPANESE

Winter
2003

25th Anniversary Visit

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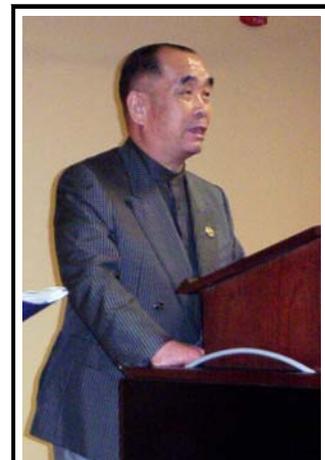
It was a "Magic" Moment when the two Mayors celebrated 25 years of one of the most successful Sister City relationships anywhere on the Planet! To share in a toast to the continued success of that relationship was a most touching moment as both old and new friends shared in a moment of celebration, emotion and memories.

It was a great week for such a celebration. The reception at Glendale School was a most memorable moment for both guests and residents. There was non-stop picture taking until everyone had all of the memories captured they desired

Guests were also impressed with visiting the Harley Davidson plant and the tour of the newly remodeled Board of Education Building. It was a sad farewell Wednesday as host families said goodbye to their new family members.



Sister City President, Jana Waits greets Mayor Hosobuchi with both he and Mayor Stewart exchanging warm greetings.



Mayor Hosobuchi Greets Independence Committee and Friends

ANNIVERSARY MEMORIES



Preparing for the Reception



Celebrating at the Banquet



**Megurita Principal Re-
ceives Certificate from
School Superintendent**



Sister School Gift to Glendale



Guests of Honor at Glendale



Enjoying the morning at Glendale



Lunch at Bingham-Wagner



Visiting Powell Gardens



Trying on a Harley for size!

Gift from Megurita

On October 7, 2003, Glendale Elementary hosted a visit from the Japanese delegation. The visit began with a motorcade from the Independence School District office to Glendale. As the motorcade approached the school, our visitors could see almost 500 Glendale students lining Lee's Summit Road and the school drive. After greeting our guests, the students escorted the delegates to the gymnasium where the students entertained our visitors with songs, drums and gifts. Mrs. Etsuyo Ishida, principal of Megurita Elementary in Higashimurayama, presented Glendale with a beautiful wall-hanging of saki-ori cloth. The wall-hanging was created by Megurita's sixth grade students under the guidance of Mrs. Ishida. The wall-hanging is now proudly displayed in one of Glendale's main hallways

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS CHOSEN

Meet Chiyoko "Rosie" Smith, a brand new Sister City Board Member. If you have attended any recent Sister City event, you have probably tasted Rosie's creations. She has prepared food for both the 25th Anniversary Celebration in January and the evening reception for our guests from Higashimurayama.

Rosie has been a friend of Sister City for many years, introduced to our activities through Lana White. A hard worker, Rosie spent twenty years serving as Middle School Cafeteria Manager for the Ft. Osage Public Schools.



"Rosie" Smith

Born in Japan, she married Charles (deceased), a member of the US Army, moving to the United States

and becoming a Citizen in 1957. Rosie has three children and seven grandchildren she loves to dote on. She enjoys cooking, sharing recipes (look for one in this newsletter), catering Sister City parties, line dancing and cheering for the Chiefs.

Rosie wants to help others understand and appreciate her Japanese heritage and wants to expand and enhance Japanese oriented school programs. The Committee has very much appreciated Rosie's help on so many occasions. We are most pleased to welcome Rosie aboard as a Committee Member.

Another new committee member is Robin Leavy, with the support of husband Larry. Robin is Regional Sales manager for the Insurance Division of Bank of America. She and Larry will visit Japan in 2004 and daughter Mallory will be a Student Ambassador in 2004. Their second daughter, Caitlin will not be far behind.

The Leavy's were first introduced to hosting through a friend who was active in YouthFriends. They have now hosted seven Japanese students including one through the IYUSA program. Enthusiastic and energetic, Robin brings a unique background based on her business and intercultural experience.

Robin has been amazed at the fluency of Japanese students in English. She feels this is due to the length of time they study English in school and the early age they first begin. She also respects the honor and value that the Japanese place on family and



Robin Leavy

family values. Robin is very interested in supporting and promoting the exchange programs between the two cities.

One who loves to prepare her own special dishes at home, Robin would like to learn more about the Japanese language and work to recruit more families to host students and be involved in the exchange program.

Robin's other area of involvement include being very involved in church and community ministry, serving as co-chair for that program. We are most happy to welcome Robin to the Committee.

A Night of Sushi

The Independence student delegates who will be traveling to Japan in June, 2004, met in December at Deborah Orr's home to learn how to make sushi. Rosie Smith instructed the students as they each assembled a variety of sushi. Of course, students also enjoyed tasting the many different ingredients and varieties of sushi. Mrs. Smith was an excellent teacher and students thoroughly enjoyed their evening. We are all excited about our upcoming trip!

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„ The President’s Corner

„ As my family and I bring out Christmas decorations,
 chose Christmas cards and begin shopping for just the
 " right gift for family and friends, my mind keeps going
 " back to the 25th Anniversary visit with our friends
 " from Higashimurayama. Much like Christmas, after
 " hours of thoughtful preparation on everyone’s part,
 " we spent five festive, fun-packed days together cele-
 " brating our 25-year friendship. Then it was over and
 " back to day-to-day life. Was it worth all the effort?
 " Absolutely!! Sharing our lives, friendship and love
 " through letters, e-mails and occasionally in person, is
 " what keeps me going in my daily life. I am thankful for
 " the blessings that the Japanese Sister City association
 " has brought me and my family. I sincerely wish each
 " one of you a very happy holiday.

„ Jana

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