

EXCHANGES

Japanese Sister
City

February & March 2010
Newsletter

Students Raise Money

“Dinner Here” and “Live Music” were on the signs as the balloons danced in the wind announcing the Chili & Soup dinner presented by the 2010 Delegation. Inside were low lights and a stage, round tables with every chair taken. People were eating standing up even as they listened to the professional sound of the rock band that one of the delegates is in. Parents of the delegation made the food & worked at the event that raised money for the Student Exchange. This was a new experience for the student delegation and the JSCC.

Awesome Job, Girls!!



Left: Emily Collins, Debbie Lovewell and Anna Price have their aprons on for cooking.

Right: Shayla Jarman & Anna Price help serve the food for the long lines of hungry people.



Far left the band plays an anime favorite, “Sailor Moon” theme song. Left: Michelle Naomi and Mary Ann Poling pause for a minute of kitchen duty! They are mom’s of 2 students.

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Special Person Corner

Terrie Scherer Price, Alumni Escort of 1984, is sending her daughter, Anne, to Japan this year. When Terrie was there, she became Daughter #3 to her host family. She still shares cards and wonderful memories with them. Anne will now become a daughter to a new Host Family and carry on the tradition.



Above: Terri served up a variety of cakes she made for the dinner fund-raiser. Yummy!

Student Recruitment Video Ready

Jeannae Segura-Brown created an upbeat video to showcase the Student Delegate Program at local high schools. Members of the 2010 Exchange were interviewed in the video as, was Mayor Reimal, who said “With your cooperation, knowledge and desire to go to Japan and to host the Japanese when they come here, this program will continue for a long time.”

The students commented on the once in a life-time experience this exchange would be for them. They intend to make new friends, explore the culture and to try new things.

Dr. Jim Hinson, School Superintendent, remarked that studies show that trips abroad have a great impact on student lives and future careers.

The photo right, from the

video, shows Japanese and American students laughing after playing a game. And this year’s activities will be just as much fun





MEET THE 2010 STUDENT EXCHANGE GROUP

Collectively, the student exchange group represents Truman High, Chrisman High, St. Mary's High, and Lee's Summit Christian High school as well as Northwest Missouri State University. This all girl group live in Independence with their parents and are outstanding citizens. Their names are: Emily Tanner, Nicole Kearney, Elizabeth Polina, Anna Price, Austin Sneathen, Dana Masters, Miriam Vnaoni, Marie Mader, and Shayla Jarman. We hope to share many photos of their trip and hear about their experiences in our beloved sister city. (Left: photo that is in the recruitment video)

Through a Japanese Lens



**Spring Time In
Higashimurayama**
*"Through the Lens of
Shiwori Katayama"*



Shiwori, a freelance photographer in Higashimurayama, has sent some of her photos and postcards to sell at the festival to help raise money for the student exchange. They are photos that she took of the popular Japanese Cherry Blossom and the Iris which is famous in Higashimurayama because of the huge park dedicated to flowers. When the students visit they experience the park first hand.

Shiwori writes:

***"When cherry blossoms bloom, we feel the smell of spring.
When cherry blossoms have fallen, we notice the transience of the flower.***

When cherry blossoms become green leaves, we learn the warmth of the sunshine filtering through foliage."



COMMITTEES HARD AT WORK

The Student Exchange Committee, chaired by John Seeley, met many times in the past months to prepare for the upcoming activities that will take place this summer.

Experienced member, Twyla Olsen-Hahn has kept records of previous host families and activities the Japanese students are involved in. The committee will examine the budgets and options for 2010.

One of the first concerns was the 2011 Escort. Applications were taken this winter and the interview process began in the spring. Committee members besides the chair are: Jared and Josh Seeley, Susan Peoples, Emily Collins and Commission members Twyla Olsen-Hahn, Alreda Adams and Debbie Lovewell. There are many plans and decision to make in preparing for the Japanese Student Delegation.

Another committee hard at work has been the Cherry Blossom group. Lana White, Jeannae Segura-Brown,

Matt Weston and Jared Presler have been inviting vendors and performers, planning and ordering food, and handing out tasks.

If you would like to help contact Lana White at 373-0751 or send Jeannae an email at Jeannae@Sbc-global.net or go to the website.

Alan Davison, Debbie Lovewell and Bruce Benson have been digging up prior information to structure a budget for future years, while Sue & Major Hammett, Joe Gall, Sandy Peoples and Gerald Hancock have been looking at our bylaws, data base of addresses and methods of communication to ensure that we are being efficient in our legacy and communication committees.

In her presentation to the City Council, Chairperson Jeannae Segura-Brown reviewed, the committee's many monthly and annual activities.

Exciting times are coming and we want you to be part of the fun! **It's Awesome!**

"Give our love to Higashimurayama."

Mallory Flippin



Left: Mallory Flippin alumna student, daughter of Robin and Larry Leavy, graduated from college and signed up to teach English in Japan. She commented, "It is the sister city trip that built my love and desire for Japan." Many of the alumna students are coming back around to help out on activities, be in the commission, and be escorts. Many alumna are currently pursuing college degrees, family life and careers. They are connecting on Facebook.



Both photos showcase the traditions cultivated for 22 years at the lovely Cherry Blossom Festival. Above, a beautiful Kimono; Below, Glendale Students perform. Look for Anime this year.



*JSCC in care of the Independence City Hall
Commission Members*
Jeannae Segura-Brown, Lana White,
Alan Davison, Bruce Benson,
Joe Gall, Debbie Lovewell,

John Seeley, Connie Mc Quain
Gerald Hancock, Sandy Peoples
Sue & Major Hammett, Twyla Olsen-Hahn
Alreda Adams, Don Reimal

Volunteers Thanked!

Thank you, JSCC members **Debbie Lovewell, Sandy Peoples** and **John Seeley** for the supplies, hard work and support in the 2010 Delegation Fund Raiser! Escort Emily Collins couldn't have done it without their and alumni **Susan Peoples** superb assistance.

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

March 2010 JSCC met with the City Council to express what a wonderful and active Sister City Independence has. With Sister School programs, High School & College age exchanges, Anniversary Adult trips, and a Friendship Garden there is something for every age. The Cherry Blossom Festival, held April 11th, is a family event. Alan Davison encouraged Jeannae Segura-Brown to draw in the minds of the councilmen an accurate picture of all that the JSCC does each month and why we have the events that we do. The City Council now has a better understanding and appreciation for the Sister City Program.



Friendship Garden photo taken by
Historian, Gerald Hancock.
Please enjoy yourself when visiting this
small piece of peace.

[www.ci.independence.
mo.us/sistercity](http://www.ci.independence.mo.us/sistercity)

Events and Up-Coming News

April 11th
Save the Date
for a wonderful way to get acquainted with the Japanese Sister City. Sunday, April 11th at the Sermon Center, Located on the corner of Noland & Truman. Featuring Japanese arts, crafts, food & friendship.

Activities include a Japanese Garden vendor, decorative art for the hand and face, Sister City gift display, Japanese kimono display & sales, Sister School crafts,

Tempura craft, Japanese Doll Display, and Japanese bazaar,

Others include Oshiko Yamanaka & the Japan Cub of Kansas City, Dr. Honda's Japanese Acupuncture & Chiropractic, Motaku vendors & anime films, Sister School performances, Martial Arts demonstrations, Japanese dance, food and more.

It's a great day for family fun.

Right: Bill & Joanne Shaw. original committee members, visit the festival in 2008!



Festival of Colors Student Art

Join us at the Festival of Color Youth Art Show with the Citizen Civic and Cultural Committee. It is the weekend after the Cherry Blossom Festival and is located at the Sermon Center, Friday - Sunday.