

THE EXCHANGE



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COMING EVENTS	GO
Campfire July 28th 2009	GO
Japan Festival 9/19/09	GO

**Weeks Before Their Departure
2009 Students Trip Is Canceled!**



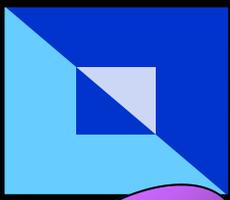
2009 is the First Year in 30 that the Japanese Students Are Not Participating in the Exchange Program. The first year there were 15 students that came to the USA and since then there has always been a lot of students that wan to come.

IT'S A BOY! IT'S A GIRL! WELCOME TO YOUR NEW FAMILY

John Seeley just passed out the notebooks exclaiming "It's a girl!" or "It's a boy!" to the excited host families when an email was sent to Lana White stating that "the Flu Epidemic is too severe for the teenagers in Japan and they are not allowed to have the exchanges take place". American plans are dashed as it all comes to a halt. Even worse, the students were ready to pack their bags and can't. Except for Anniversary Adult Years, there hasn't been a year since the Students haven't come to America. We still have fond memories of the previous exchange students but we would like to get to know the new faces that we have eagerly "adopted" already. We are still going to have the planned Campfire at George Owens Park July 28th and we are also having some extra activities for fund-raising and alumni events this year.



The last students, 2007, at traditional Killip Thanksgiving Dinner



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Robin & Larry Leavy

After many years of service as commission members The Leavy's, The Wilson's, The Ingram's and Rosie Smith retire. "We didn't expect to replace four commission members in the year 2009." explains new chairman, Jeannae Segura-Brown. Many years of hard work has been given by Sharon & Rosie that we can't count them. We do hope that they continue to participate and give in their special ways. Larry Leavy is known for cooking the chicken for the festival and Robin has been our treasure in the past, getting tickets for World of Fun and many more favors. Jim Ingram is a great MC for our festival and his whole family has participated in the host and exchange programs. There are six alumni from the three families. Naturally, we want to keep eating Rosie's food at the festival & garden help.



Above Major & Sue Hammett visit with Sharon and Rosie after their last meeting as commission members. Below Lysle & Carolyn Weeks and Dave & Ann Ragan attend the appreciation party.



Above: New Chairman: Jeannae Segura-Brown talks with previous Chairman, Joe Gall who took the Treasurer: position. Other officers will be Alan Davison and Debbie Lovewell. Below: The Potts and The Lovewell's visit with Sharon at her appreciation party that was held at Mary and Gerald Hancock's home.





Already busy at work, new commission member John Seeley helps plan with Sandy Peoples and Debbie Lovewell at his first commission meeting. John was the escort in 2007 & had already had a meeting with the host families for the 2009 exchange. He also has met with alumni that have an interest in solidify the alumni association with by-laws, events and fund-raisers. They hope to help the exchange.



Other new
commission
members are :

Bruce Benson (above) & Alreda Adams the new Junior High Sister School Teacher (right) & for the first time we have an Alumni of the Student Exchange as a commission member: Mike Winburn, who has been making slide shows for us for 2 years now and worked very hard with the adult exchange photographing events for five days straight. He plans to Bike-A-Thon in October as a fund-raising event for the JSCC.



Both inside of Mary & Gerald Hancock's house and outside in their Japanese garden (above) friends of the JSCC gather to wish Rosie, Sharon, Robin and Lucinda thanks for the time spent on the city of Independence commission. Jeannae gave wonderful speeches for all of them. Lucinda's twin's graduated so the family could not attend. At the next commission meeting Joe Gall was presented an appreciation plaque to hang in his office or home.



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The City IT Dept and JSCC Web Admin came up with the idea to offer a Facebook Group for the Alumni of the Student Exchanges. Because of it's success, hundreds of alumni have joined, Aaron Duff (below) has successfully presented ideas to the commission for the Alumni Association. By-laws, future events and fund-raisers.

Excited to partner with the JSCC, Jared Presler & Matt Weston (above) have great ideas to help the Cherry Blossom Festival. They are also excited about bringing real Japanese traditions to their Anime Convention in October 2009, which is called Motaku. They had a table at the Cherry Blossom Festival selling tee-shirts from their company called Fresh Baked Tee's.



Alumni of the Exchange, Emily Collins, who is responsible for finding our new gardener Buck Buchan, donates her time to the JSCC. It is so nice to see Alumni starting to come back to the JSCC and offering their ideas and time with the garden, Cherry Blossom Festival & hosting Japanese guests. Emily has done all three. She has hopes of being an Escort in the future and promoting fund-raising events for the Student Exchange costs. She would like to see the exchange go to Nikko & Disney.



Our Japanese Garden is looking pretty good, thanks to the City Public Works Dept & Parks & Recreations Dept. Also we have to thank our wonderful Mayor Reimal who attends many of our commission meetings, gives advice and follows up on our needs. He also spent all day at the festival working in Rosie's kitchen. The City IT Dept., City 7 and the Cityscene are also areas of the city that support the commission.



Garden work day is coming up in October for all those who want to lend a hand & enjoy the day.

Larry Leavy, Emily Collins and Sandy Peoples are learning from Buck last Oct.



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The Cherry Blossom Festival takes efforts starting in the commission meetings. (left) Rosie is talking to Jeannae about her ideas of putting Sakura in vases on the tables. Jeannae lets Rosie know there are going to be lanterns hanging across the area also. In the background Sue and Sharon discuss paper products and tickets that will be used in Rosie's Café. Below our two chefs, Dave Ragan and Larry Leavy, work the day before the festival making Teriyaki Chicken. Sorry no Moo

Our Sister School Glendale performs in the public twice a year. Once in the fall at the Japan Festival at JCCC and once at the Spring Festival in Independence. Each year it is different children and new songs and music. They love their Happy Coats and colorful props. They are



Vendors, crafts and Japanese items are sold at the festival. Below two students, Austin and Elizabeth, who were going to be on the 2009 exchange but will now be on the 2010 exchange, sell cards that they made as a fund-raiser. Wearing Haori's donated to us from Higashimurayama the girls look apart of the festival staff. Kimono's, obi's and special socks were sold for women's apparel and everything from magazines to paintings were also sold. Vendors are important to a successful festival.

Presently the festival is an educational and advertising tool about the Japanese Sister City in Independence and Higshimurayama. It makes aware the Exchange program that exists each year and it helps to teach the difference in the Japanese culture from other Asian cultures. Many Americans do not know the difference. Americans do not always get a true picture from Holly-



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Learning to cook Japanese food is a new challenge for all the helpers at Rosie's Café. Pictured here are Rosie, The Hammetts, The Leavy's, Twyla Olsen-Hahn, Debbie Lovewell & Sandy Peoples. Many others lent a hand.



There is our Mayor! Working at Rosie's Café !

This was the 21st annual Cherry Blossom Festival and you may wonder how it continues year after year. Sue Hammett said, "We have had so much fun that the years just flew by before we knew it." We hope there are many more!

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Raffle tickets, announcing the events and entertaining guests was the job that Jim Ingram was given at the festival (below).



A representative from the Chicago's Consul General came to our event. Above he is with Independence Mayor Reimal.



A bird's eye view and a child's view are featured here with the Naka Kon table to the left and the Ikebana Table right. There are so many wonderful things going on during the short five hours of the festival. This year was the first year that we had anime and manga featured at the event which has displayed traditional Japanese culture in the past. America certainly loves new "Japan stuff."



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Lana White's friends here in America and two from Japan help at the Cherry Blossom Festival. We think the sales were up because of the help the Japanese ladies gave us. They almost had a hard time getting back into the country because the Swine Flu just broke out. Lana also got to explain the kimono on student Susan Peoples. She was a happy lady at the Cherry Blossom Festival.



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