



EXCHANGES

Japanese Sister City
Commission

Summer 2008

30th Anniversary Begins in January But It's Not Over Yet



International Friendship Club 30th Anniversary Celebration



Higashimurayama Friends Prepare for Touring

It all started in both Higashimurayama (HC) and Independence with special Celebration Parties in January. In May, 43 members of HC's Intentional Friendship Club came and spent five days enjoying the many sights and events planned for their visit

The schedule was packed with new events, including touring a dairy farm, roasting hot dogs over a campfire, and visiting the Jazz Museum and Negro Hall of Fame. Traditional events were a motorcade and visit to Glendale School and a banquet at Arrowhead Stadium with presentations and gifts.

Home-stays are what always makes the time special for both those participating and those staying in many personal ways. Dear friends were re-united, including the Shaw's and the Ohno's, as well as the making of new friendships. Sarah Lovewell and Emily Collins hosted for the first time and Emily commented to the Commission, "You made everything seem effortless and spot-on."

Those that did the planning and led events know that it was one of the best visits ever, because the Japanese were very pleased with many activities including the Campfire and afternoon on the Square. They were also very impressed with Independence's volunteer spirit, openness, warmth and friendliness.

Tywla-Olsen-Hahn's hard work was worth it after seeing the Japanese guests enjoy their time in our city. Carolyn Weeks reflected on the week by stating that, "We have come a long way with our friendship and each year it builds and develops." Sharon Wilson exclaimed that "Glendale was spotless and the 'children's' performance was fantastic." Jeannae Segura-Brown did an excellent job in coordinating the many details of the Sister School Visit. The Commission thought about the week and Sue Hammett said, "We never knew it was going to last thirty years. We just got busy and had a good time and before we knew that time had flown by."

You can view highlights from the week on a ten minute video that is on the website and a special speech from Higashimurayama's mayor filmed in the seasonal garden in Higashimurayama, which is also on the anniversary page on the website. Check it out at : [Http://www.ci.independence.mo.us/SisterCity](http://www.ci.independence.mo.us/SisterCity)

The time was too short and the good-byes too difficult for those families saying farewell to their departing friends in the bitter wind of that cold morning. Many adults are planning a trip to Higashimurayama, which will take place in October 2008. If you would be interested contact Connie McQuain 816-461-2720

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CITY HALL



INDEPENDENCE SQUARE



TRUMAN LIBRARY



SISTER SCHOOL VISIT



ARROWHEAD BANQUET



Killips Recognized at 30th Anniversary Party

The 30th Anniversary year, 2008, was kicked off with a January Anniversary Party at the Truman Memorial Building. Many core members and friends of the JSCC came with many memories of planning, hosting, fund-raising and special events. In recognition of their unselfish service and many personal contributions over these many years, John and Kathy Killip were honored for their personal volunteering and magnanimous hosting.

They have graciously opened their home to Japanese youths and adults as well as hosting the special and well-liked "Thanksgiving" dinner and pool party for the Commission, friends and Japanese guests. They have built a tea house on their property and have decorated their pool house in Japanese décor which adds a special touch to the party atmosphere. Altruistic in nature, John and Kathy also use their artistic abilities to make distinctive gifts for honoring the City of Higashimurayama and the Higashimurayama Interna-



tional Friendship Association. (HIFA) . When sharing their home with Japanese guests they open what seems to be an American museum of artwork composed of both theirs and acquired art pieces. In addition to traveling on adult exchange visits to HC , their children have been ambassadors to Higashimurayama through the student exchange program.

Their support to the Commission in friendship and attendance at functions have benefited the members more than they realize . Consequently, it seemed most appropriate for President Joe Gall to recognize their contributions by presenting John and Kathy with an inscribed plaque commemorating that appreciation.

Below are photos from the Party



Thanks for the slide show!



Events & Happenings

Get Involved: If you would like to find out more about ways you can help the JSCC contact Joe Gall at jsg@hfmlegal.com or attend a Commission Meeting open to the public in July on the 30th and in August on the 20th.

Sister City International Convention will take place July 16- 19th at Crown Center. To volunteer contact Lana for details 816-373-0571

2008 Japanese Heritage Baseball Game at the Royals is August 4th at 4:30 for pre-game events. Contact Hiroko Keightley 816-665-1767 for discounted tickets-\$16-by July 20th. Come support the Japanese Club and Royals manager Hilman, as well as other Japanese ball players. Enjoy folk music, dance and Japanese Drum as well as a ball game!

Plan on attending the 2008 Greater Kansas City Japan Festival at the Carlson Center, Johnson Co. Community College 12345 College Blvd, Overland Park, KS Saturday, September 27th 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Enjoy the Glendale kids perform, plus much more all day long. <http://www.gkcjapanfestival.com>

Fund-raising Opportunity: JSCC is collecting Japanese items to sell at the fall JCCC festival. Contact Lana White at 816-373-0751

Rosie Smith is collecting recipes for a JSCC Cook-book which was inspired by her early morning hosting of the May Japanese guests. csmith8169@netscapeconnect.com

We are updating our address book. Please make sure we have your most recent information. Also if anyone is being missed please let us know. Send all information to Jeannae@sbcglobal.net or call Jeannae at 816-833-3109

2009 Host Family Applications are now being taken. Next issue will cover all the details about the 2009 escort and the 2009 Student Delegation. Hosting is the most rewarding experience and keeps you in the action! The form is on the first page of our web site. [Hhttp://www.ci.independence.mo.us/SisterCity](http://www.ci.independence.mo.us/SisterCity)



New Years 2008

The Hahn Family experience the Kikachi's Japanese New Year!



Christmas in the USA -Former students visit their host family again: The Seeley & The Argo Family.



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