

PEGGY HAUSHEER



I, Carolyn Weeks, am delighted to introduce the honoree of Jan 26 2011 at the JSCC 33rd Anniversary, Peggy Hausheer, who was the first president/chairman of the JSCC after the official signing of the City's Sister City association with Higashimurayama in 1978. Having worked with her on other community projects close to 50 years, I feel I know her pretty darn well.

Peg is an initiator, a planner, an administrator, an educator, a collaborator— all excellent and important qualities for leadership. But, I would add other characteristics to describe her nature which makes her the leader extraordinaire. I've seen it in everything she attempts. Beyond just being a pleasure to work with under good and bad circumstances, she is tenacious and tough!...like a dog diggin' for a bone...determined to get the job done. Which is a quality sometimes necessary to initiate and fire up a new program.

In the early 1960's and 70's Peg and her husband, Dr. Herm Hausheer, were involved with the People to People hosting program. In 1962 Lana was appointed by the governor to develop a Japanese Sister State/Sister City program in the Kansas City area. She also was working under the auspices of the national Japanese Consulate in San Diego. Somewhere in that space of time, two of the Hausheer children, Jean and Fred, now Dr. Jean and Dr. Fred, decided to travel on one of the first exchanges in the program Lana was launching. And I believe that is how Peg and Lana became acquainted.----- As an aside to this story—as a result of that five week experience in Japan, Fred, the medical doctor, has started a successful pharmaceutical company in Japan working on oncology therapeutic drugs and easily converses with them in their language.

At that time, Kansas City already had a sister city association with Kurachiki, Japan. And, Lana was looking for and thought she had found a suitable sister city for Independence in Higashimurayama. It was around 1977 when Lana came to Mayor King's Office to approach the Mayor. Dick was supportive of the idea and he said "You get an interested group together and he would meet with them and approach the City Council for approval." Well, there were lots of people interested, some from the African Sister City Commission that was struggling because of the distance involved. The Commission was formally established by the City.

Peg was instrumental in making the group happen, along with others. Paul Roberts had made a trip to Japan and met with people in Higashimurayama.



He came back with our first gift—a big battle board in a glass case which he carried on the plane and it was displayed in the Mayor’s Office for many years.

It was in those first years when the Sister City association was being established that I recognized Peg’s relentlessness in developing lasting education and fund raising programs, helping to create trips and ceremonies and friendships that has made the success it is today.

Peg is also a degreed home economist and I can tell you after working with her to develop community health and nutrition programs she is just as persistent in that field. In 1986 she developed a not-for-profit called Nutra-Net after observing that recipients of pantry food did not know how to prepare it. She was executive director of Nutra-Net until last year. She developed award winning nutrition education programs and authored books, one very popular “Whiz, Zip and Zap” used in children’s programs in Indep School District and other Kansas City schools for pregnant teens, teen Moms and Head Start. The organization also is focusing on aspects of Michelle Obama’s anti-obesity campaign for kids “Let’s Move On.”

Peg has received the national “Nutrition Action Award,” the “Woman of Achievement” Award from AAUW, Kansas City Dietetic Assoc. Special Recognition Award, and MS Society Achievement Award. She has been a Youth Friend since 2005, active in the Boys and Girls Club and the Optimist Club. She is a valuable asset to this organization, to her profession and to this community. We are so grateful to have been the beneficiary of her talent and leadership since the Sister City’s inception.



Sharon Wilson, Rosie Smith, Peggy Hausheer, Lois Anderson, Carolyn Weeks, Bill Shaw, Joanne Shaw, Lana White, Sue Hammett, Major Hammett, and Gerald Hancock. 25 years of dedication commission members gather at the 33rd Anniversary Party. Of this group Sharon, Lana, the Hammetts and Gerald are still on the commission. Rosie volunteered to help Sharon set up and serve cake and beverages. The JSCC members brought the finger foods.



Sandy Peoples took this photo of the people gathered together for the 33rd Anniversary party. Some 2011 exchange students, alumni, Friends of the JSCC and Commission members present.



Thank you, Peggy for good beginnings!