

## **President Greetings**



**Yuzabro Mogi**

President

Chiba-Wisconsin Association

Happy New Year!

I would like to extend my best wishes to everyone with the publication of the first CWA NEWS for 2019. I would also like to express my appreciation for your continued support and understanding in the exchange activities of the Chiba-Wisconsin Association (CWA).

Incidentally, this year marks the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chiba-Wisconsin sister-state relationship, and the 15<sup>th</sup> year since the CWA became the focal point of exchange activities for Chiba Prefecture .

During this time, thanks to the efforts of everyone involved, robust and active exchanges over a wide range of areas have developed. As a result, the scope of exchanges at the citizens' level has steadily expanded and deepened.

In November of last year, a 12-member delegation, consisting of a Culture and Arts Group and an Education Group, visited Chiba from Wisconsin. The Culture and Arts Group was very popular performing African dances at schools in Kisarazu City in Chiba. I was also very pleased to hear that the Education Group was also able to deepen our exchange through their study tours of universities in Chiba City.

In addition, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of the host families who cooperated with our homestay program. I would also like to thank all those concerned for the warm reception they provided by welcoming the delegation, despite the significant schedule changes due to circumstances on the Wisconsin side.

In 2019, the Chiba Goodwill Delegation will visit Wisconsin. I sincerely hope that it will introduce the charms of Chiba Prefecture, as well as strengthen our friendship and exchange with Wisconsin.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone, including the directors and members of the association, for your continued support and cooperation with the CWA's exchange activities.

## **Wisconsin Goodwill Delegation Visits Chiba**

On November 24 (Saturday) of last year, a 12-member Wisconsin Goodwill Delegation arrived in Chiba.

The delegation was the seventh one that the CWA has hosted. It consisted of a 6-member Culture and Arts Group from the African-American dance group "Nefertari African Dance Company" of Milwaukee, which recently marked its 50th anniversary, an Educational Group of two nursing professionals from the Madison Area Technical College (MATC), as well as an exclusive photographer and members of Wisconsin-Chiba, Inc. (WCI)

On November 29 (Thursday), the delegation paid a courtesy call to Mr. Kensaku Morita, the Governor of Chiba Prefecture and Special Adviser of the CWA. After welcoming each member of the delegation to Chiba, the Governor expressed his appreciation for the advancement of the sister-state relationship in areas such as culture and education. Over 1,500 people have participated in exchange visits since the inception of the sister-state relationship in 1990. He further expressed his wish that the friendship between Chiba and Wisconsin will continue to deepen in the future. The Governor also congratulated Dr. Alexander Durtka, a member of the delegation, on being awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette.

Following this, Dr. Sharon Durtka, head of the WCI delegation, along with thanking the Governor for his welcome, stated that her aspiration is that each member of the delegation take on the responsibility and role of a private diplomat between the US and Japan, especially Chiba and Wisconsin. She commented that, "We come with 'friendship' in our hearts, African music and dance, information on health and nursing fields, and opportunities for exchange between students and teachers. We also hope to learn more about the music, education, culture, and life in Chiba Prefecture."

Governor Morita presented the delegation with *Boshu Uchiwa* (Japanese fans), a designated traditional craft of Chiba Prefecture. The Goodwill Delegation presented the Governor with a quilt wall-decoration commemorating the 170<sup>th</sup> year since the founding of the State of Wisconsin.



Commemorative photo with Chiba Governor Kensaku Morita

## CWA Newsletter No. 42

January 7, 2019 (original Japanese version)

### Goodwill Delegation Schedule

Date	Cultural & Art Group	Educational Group
24 Nov (Saturday)	Arrival at Narita Airport	
25 Nov (Sunday)	Kisarazu Organic City Festival 2018 (performance)	Friendship Square
26 Nov (Monday)	Kisarazu Sogo High School (performance) Takakura Kannon Roadside Station "Umaku no Sato" Orphanage "No no Hana no ie" (performance)	Mihama Park Kimura Hospital
27 Nov (Tuesday)	Umi Hotaru Service Area Local Museum "Kin no Suzu" Former Anzai Family Home and Museum Kisarazu Kindergarten (performance) Aeon Mall Kisarazu Kosei Suisan Co. Ltd and Nakanoshima Bridge	Chiba University Faculty of Nursing Chiba University School of Medicine Hospital
28 Nov (Wednesday)	Mt. Nokogiri Koizumi Sake Brewery	Chiba Prefectural University of Health Sciences
29 Nov (Thursday)	Courtesy call with Governor of Chiba	
	Ichikawa City Cultural Hall (performance)	Makuhari Sogo High School, Nursing Department
	Farewell Party	Farwell Party
30 Nov (Friday)	Free Time	
1 Dec (Saturday)	Departure	

### Delegation Members

Culture and Arts Group	
Ms. Marilyn Douglas	Nefertari African Dance Company Dance
Ms. Jaia Douglas	
Mr. Jaleel Douglas	
Ms. Rayesha Harris	
Ms. Tyneicka Shaw	
Mr. Earl Thompson	
Dr. Sharon Durtka	Delegation Head
Dr. Alexander Durtka	WCI Member
Mr. Clayborn Benson	Cameraman
Education Group	
Dr. Kerri Kliminski	Madison Area Technical College(MATC) Interim Associate Dean of Nursing School of Health Education
Ms. Sonja Noble	Madison Area Technical College(MATC) Associate Degree Nursing Instructor
Ms. Mindy Michalski	WCI Member

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### 2018 Welcoming Party for the new ALTs ~ Hospitality with the Tea Ceremony ~ Event Summary

On September 2<sup>nd</sup> (Sunday) last year, in the Chiba City Lifelong Learning Center, a welcome party was held for new ALTs to Chiba Prefecture. A total of 22 people participated. Of the four ALTs who participated, two of them were new ALTs from Wisconsin who had been sent to prefectural high schools in Chiba. In addition, several CWA members and their family members attended the event.

First of all, the staff started preparing lunch to be served at noon. The menu included *chirashi sushi*, salted rice balls, soup with onions, and a dessert of pears and grapes. The staff cooked about 4.5 kilograms of rice and prepared snow peas, eggs, pickled red ginger, nori, and white sesame seeds for the *chirashi sushi*.

At the same time, a spot was set up for experiencing the tea ceremony. Traditionally, the tea ceremony, based on offering "hospitality," is held in a traditional Japanese tea room. However, the *ryurei*, or "standing method" using chairs, was introduced so that foreigners can enjoy the tea ceremony. This time the *ryurei* style (called *mitate*) was set up and everyday utensils were used to perform the ceremony.

The participants gathered, and after the opening speech, enjoyed pleasant conversation while having lunch. The food was delicious, and people who had just met for the first time gradually relaxed, enveloping the venue in a friendly atmosphere.

Following lunch, four ALTs introduced themselves in Japanese, explaining where their hometown was in Wisconsin, which prefectural school they were assigned to, etc. Next, the main event, the Tea Ceremony, began.

First, in the *ryurei* style, Ms. Oura of the CWA Exchange Program Planning Group acted as a *teishu* (host), prepared the tea in the *otemae* (face to face) style, and offered tea to the four ALTs. After the ALTs received guidance from the staff, they turned their tea bowls with thoughtful expressions and drank the *matcha* (powdered green tea).

It was impressive that although the ALTs seemed puzzled when the *teishu* asked, "How do the clothes (*yukata*) fit?" The ALTs, with the help of the staff, replied, "It was delicious." Next, places were switched at the table. The "guest" who enjoyed the tea became the "host" who prepares the tea. So everyone could experience being both the "host" and the "guest."

They put *matcha* and hot water into the tea bowl and stirred it with a tea whisk to make *matcha*. While some of the participants had difficulty creating foam on top of the *matcha*, other ALTs were very skillful at using the tea whisk and producing foam.

The role of the "guest" (*kyakuyaku*) was to eat the Japanese sweets, take the tea bowl in their hands, rotate it to observe its beauty, and relish drinking the *matcha*. Finally, a commemorative photo of all participants wearing *yukata* was taken, and the event finished.



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Delicious food and lively conversation.



Two ALTs making *matcha*.



Ms. Oura, head of the Exchange Program Planning Group, demonstrating how to make tea.



Commemorative photo of the participants.

### Introducing the Wisconsin ALTs!

There are many ALTs from Wisconsin teaching at schools in Chiba Prefecture.

ALT, short for “Assistant Language Teacher,” is a foreign language teacher who assists with foreign language education. Currently, there are many ALTs in elementary, junior, and senior high schools in Chiba for the improvement of English pronunciation and international understanding. Among them are the following ALTs from Wisconsin:



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### Inserted Photo:

Amanda MacDonald                      Kimitsu High School

### Back Row from the Left:

Jacob Stroth	Matsudo Kokusai High School
Max Gumble	Toke High School, Chishirodai High School
Gio Nava Garcia	Sosa City Nosaka Junior High School, Sakae Elementary School, Noda Elementary School, Yoshida Elementary School, Nosaka Kindergarten
Jamison Taube	Togane High School
Jon Kangas	Sakura High School
Patrick Grimes	Chiba Prefectural Board of Education, ALT Program Coordinator

### Middle Row from Left:

Josephine Kirkland	Asahi City Daini Junior High School, Higata Elementary School, Kyowa Elementary School
Rose Yeazel	Narita Kokusai High School
Lucas Young	Chiba Higashi High School
Jacob Wiering	Sosa High School

### Front Row from the Left:

Clara Faile	Isumi City Misaki Junior High School, Chouja Elementary School, Nakane Elementary School, Ohara Elementary School
Natalie Stoeckel	Isumi City Misaki Junior High School, Taito Elementary School, Furusawa Elementary School
Evelyn Ewald	Awa High School, Nagasa High School
Tina Brown	Matsuo High School
Kaoley Vue	Matsudo Kokusai High School, Kogane High School
Shelli Rodgers	Kashiwai High School
Melissa Janssen	Higashi Katsushika High School
Paula Green	Nagareyama Otakanomori High School

### <A Word from Patrick Grimes>

Since August 1<sup>st</sup> of last year, I have been the ALT Program Coordinator for the Chiba Prefectural Board of Education. Prior to that, I lived in Tateyama City for five years working as an ALT at Awa and Nagasa High Schools. It hasn't even been a half year since I became Program Coordinator. While I'm still learning about the position, I want to make the best use of my five years of experience and work hard so that both new ALTs and ALTs already in Chiba will use their talents and skills to do their best.

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I'm originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and after graduating from the University of Wisconsin, I came to Chiba six years ago thanks to the Chiba-Wisconsin sister-state program. Subsequently, I have had a variety of experiences and made many friends. In gratitude to Chiba Prefecture, I would like to work with the CWA as the ALT Program Coordinator to strengthen our sister-state relationship.

### Notes from CWA

#### [Newly elected Governor Evers]

On January 7, 2019, Tony Evers became Wisconsin's 47<sup>th</sup> Governor. Governor Evers is 67 years old and was previously the Wisconsin Superintendent of Public Instruction. He became the Democratic candidate for Governor last year and was elected to office.

#### [Awards]

- In 2018, Mr. Yuzaburo Mogi, our association's chairman, was awarded the "Person of Cultural Merit Order" (official Japanese recognition and honor which is awarded annually to select people who have made outstanding cultural contributions).
- In the Fall of 2018, two members of the Wisconsin Chiba, Inc., the focal point for exchanges with Wisconsin, received awards from the Japanese government:
  - Dr. Alexander P. Durtka, Jr. (Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette)
  - Mr. Milton E. Neshek (Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays)

#### [Obituary]

- Mr. Toshiaki Ishii, vice chairman, passed away on September 20, 2018.
- Mr. Yasuhide Akada, vice chairman of the board, passed away on October 15, 2018.

We thank these two individuals for their contributions and pray that may they rest in peace.

#### [Editorial Note]

At the end of November of last year, a delegation from Wisconsin visited to Japan to deepen exchanges with the prefectural residents, mainly in Chiba City and Kisarazu City, and returned home safely. Although the schedule was greatly delayed due to circumstances on the Wisconsin side, I would like to thank all the visitors and host families for their warm reception. The details of the exchange will be published in our next issue. The CWA will continue to make efforts to expand the scope of our exchanges.

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Chiba Convention Bureau and International Center

14F Marive East, WBG 2-6 Nakase, Mihama-ku, Chiba-shi, Chiba-ken 261-7114

TEL: 043-223-2394 (International Affairs Division of the Chiba Prefectural Government)