

CWA NEWS



2018 Wisconsin Goodwill Delegation Farewell Party



Dance performed by the Culture and Arts Group

The Farewell Party for the Wisconsin Goodwill Delegation, which visited Chiba last November, was held at Hotel Port Plaza Chiba on Thursday, November 29th. A total of 49 people participated, including 9 members of the Culture and Arts Group, 3 members of the Education Group, as well as members of the host families, Wisconsin ALTs, and CWA members.

At the beginning, the Nefertari African Dance Company, this year's Culture and Arts Group, performed a dance from Nigeria in West Africa. This dance was called "the Dance of the Pilgrimage." The dancers wore white costumes representing the purity of the body, and entered the hall one by one. The audience was fascinated by the slow, graceful, and gradually increasing dynamism of the dance, led by the simple rhythm of the drums.

Next, Mr. Toshihide Nagai, a Vice President of the CWA, expressed his gratitude to the members of the delegation for visiting Japan, and thanked all the people who participated in this exchange. Mr. Noboru Tomizawa, the Director General of the International Affairs Division of the Chiba Prefectural Government, expressed his appreciation to the CWA, Chiba Prefecture's focal point of these exchanges, and stated his desire for long-lasting exchanges.

In response, the goodwill delegation leader, Dr. Sharon Durtka, President of Wisconsin-Chiba, Inc. (WCI), stated that during this year's exchange, the members of the WCI fully fulfilled their responsibilities and roles as private ambassadors. She went on to express her gratitude for the hospitality shown during the visit, and her excitement for future exchanges.

CWA Vice President Toshihide Nagai then presented a commemorative souvenir to Dr. Alexander P. Durtka, Jr., who received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, in the autumn of 2018. Following this, Mr. Masanori Itakura, an Auditor of the CWA, led the group in making a toast. Participants at each table then engaged in wide-ranging conversations while enjoying dinner. With everybody well-satiated from dinner, the CWA presented commemorative gifts to all of the members of the goodwill delegation. In return, the WCI presented the CWA with a quilt flag of Wisconsin.

Lastly, the venue was filled with song and dance performed by members of the Asanuma Ensemble, which is led by the CWA's Steering Committee member, Akio Asanuma. The performance included the *Tsugaru Jongara-bushi*, a folksong of the Tsugaru region in Aomori Prefecture, as well as a popular and representative song of the three-string shamisen, *Hanagasa Ondo*, literally meaning "flower straw-hat song," which is a folksong from Yamagata Prefecture. The audience was captivated by the performance that was interwoven with periods of intensity and tranquility.



Mr. Toshihide Nagai Mr. Noboru Tomizawa Dr. Sharon Durtka



Performance by the Asanuma Ensemble



Commemorative photo of all participants

Eventually, the party ended with a commemorative photo of all the participants. However, at some tables conversations continued for a long time. Many people were reluctant to say goodbye to the host families. It was a cozy farewell party like we had never experienced before.

The Culture and Arts Group

The Culture and Arts Group consisted of six members of the Nefertari African Dance Company which celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. They gave dance performances in Kisarazu City and elsewhere.

On November 25th, they performed at the outdoor Organic Festival held in front of Kisarazu Station. When the sound of the drum rang out, everyone's eyes focused all at once on the dancers. At first, onlookers just clapped and kept time with their feet, but halfway through the performance, they joined in with the dancers. Thus a performance intermixing with the local citizens was accomplished.

In the morning of November 26th, the company visited Kisarazu Sogo High School and performed in front of 712 first-year students. When the traditional African celebratory dance was performed, the students' bodies gradually started swaying in a natural rhythm. Afterwards, there was also a performance by members of the school's Japanese drum club. The dance company members were able to interact with the high school students who experienced seeing and touching the drums.

In the afternoon, they visited Kozoji Temple (Takakura Kannon) and saw the Kannon (Guanyin or Buddhist "Goddess of Mercy") Statue. Later, they visited the roadside station Kisarazu Umakuta-no-Sato, where they were able to directly experience Japanese culture. Afterwards the dance company members visited the No-no-hana no Ie Orphanage, where they were able to interact with the children.

On November 27th, after visiting Umihotaru Parking Area, the Former Anzai Family Residence, and Kimisarazu Tower, the group visited Kisarazu Kindergarten and performed. At first, the children looked straight forward and diligently watched the dance, but they were then encouraged to form a circle and dance along with the performers. Ultimately, everyone could enjoy dancing happily together.

On November 28th, the Nefertari African Dance Company members took a walk around on Mt. Nokogiri. Since there are no mountains in Wisconsin, they truly enjoyed the mountain atmosphere. They were surprised to see the stone Buddha and the 500 arhat statues. Later, the group visited a sake brewery and listened to an explanation of the sake brewing process.

On November 29th, the Dance Company had an exchange with the Ichikawa City Culture and Arts Group scheduled to visit Wisconsin in 2019, in addition to members of the Ichikawa International Association.

Members of the Nefertari African Dance Company (NADC)

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Ms. Marilyn Douglas | NADC Dancer, Director |
| Ms. Jaia Douglas | NADC Dancer |
| Mr. Jaleel Douglas | NADC Drummer |
| Ms. Rayesha Harris | NADC Dancer |
| Ms. Tyneica Shaw | NADC Dancer |
| Mr. Earl Thompson | NADC Drummer |
| Dr. Sharon Durtka | Delegation Leader, WCI President |
| Dr. Alexander Durtka | WCI Board Member |
| Mr. Clayborn Benson | Cameraman |

Itinerary

| | |
|-------------|---|
| November 25 | First meeting with host families Performance at Organic Festival |
| November 26 | Kisarazu Sogo High School, Takakura Kannon, Roadside Station Kisarazu Umakuta-no-sato, No-no-hana no Ie Orphanage |
| November 27 | Umihotaru Parking Area, the Former Anzai Family Residence, Kimisarazu Tower, Kisarazu Kindergarten |
| November 28 | Mt. Nokogiri, Hota Elementary School, Koizumi Shuzo Sake House |
| November 29 | Visit to Ichikawa City |



712 first-year students watched the performance



The entire group – Smile!



Dancing with the kindergarten kids



The audience also joined in the dance



Marilynn Douglas together with the Ichikawa City International Association members

WCI Goodwill Delegation 2018 Culture Group

Marilynn Douglas (Nefertari African Dance Company, Director)

In the midst of preparing for the Nefertari African Dance Company's 50th Anniversary, I received a call inviting the dance company to perform in Japan. With much excitement I sent out a group text to see who would be interested. After scrambling to get passports, paperwork, preparing for Folk Fair, attending an orientation for Japan and celebrating 50 years of existence, we were finally Japan Bound. The excitement of performing in Japan and staying with a host family was an unexplainable feeling, not just for me but for the other members of the group, too.

Besides the delay in Detroit, we arrived in Japan, settled into the Hotel and were ready for a week stay. Early Sunday we had breakfast, headed to meet at the Kisarazu Community Center and were welcomed by Mr. Suzuki with a language translator. I could tell by the energy Mr. Suzuki had right then that we would have a wonderful time. With open arms they embraced us (myself, Jaia & Jaleel) treated us just like family as if we had already lived with them. They made sure we had breakfast daily, and a variety of foods to eat, both cold and hot. Of course we had some traditional Japanese food for breakfast. This included: Japanese cereal, fruit, eggs (boiled, scrambled & an egg bake), bacon and little "wieners/hot dogs" They always gave us a variety to choose from. One noticeable thing was if there was some food left over from the evening, Mrs. Suzuki always had it on the breakfast table in the morning. They made sure we got to our daily drop off location and picked us on time. Our family daily morning and evenings talks/discussions were great. We learned so much about Japanese culture and were able to share our own cultural experiences. We learned how to communicate and understand our differences and celebrate the similarities. We shared pictures with them and they shared with us the pictures in their homes. The night Illumination at Tokyo Bay was amazing and beautiful to see. They took us to their Outlet Mall to shop, even to a discount store. Dinner was different daily including a trip to "Big Boy" where we had steak & rice. I truly enjoyed our stay and now have a new family to communicate with and forever embrace. The four nights with our families went quickly and it seemed strange having to pack up and prepare to leave. Departing from our families early Thursday gave me time to process, that it was really almost time to go home, but seeing them again at the farewell dinner gave me a final time to say "see you later", and I knew that we had a new Japanese family for the rest of our lives.

All of our performances were a lot of fun as well. Although a little cold, we had a great time performing at the outdoor Organic Festival. However, once the dancing started, we warmed up. At the Kisarazu High School performance, the student and staff greeting displayed nothing but love and appreciation. The Japanese drum group was simply an amazing group full of energy and love. The Kisarazu Kindergarten school experience was full of energy. The little kids truly enjoyed the "audience participation". They smiled and had a lot of fun participating and watching our performance. Another very memorable performance was at the Children's Home. They loved our dancing, and we loved the Umbrella Dance they presented us with. My most memorable moment from the Children's Home was when a little boy was imitating our adult drummer with his numbers game. The last performance was with the Japanese Women's Group. I look forward to seeing them in Wisconsin. They interacted with Nefertari, inquired about our costumes and allowed us to share their "clappers" that they performed with. They enjoyed our dancing, and even imitated some of the moves after.

The different tourist sites that we got to see while visiting Japan were all very beautiful. One of my favorite sites was climbing Mt. Nokogiri. Initially the thought of climbing a mountain was not exciting, however after arriving there and riding the cable car up, seeing the view was simply amazing & beautiful. There were lots of stairs, but the end result of getting to the JigokuNozoki (View of hell) was a life lasting memory. Seeing the Buddha and the other statues will last with me forever. I enjoyed visiting the temples, markets, museum and seeing most places from up high. I tried a few new foods also while visiting Japan including the fishery market. The Sake Winery was an experience; although the sake was a bit strong for me. Visiting the Governor of Chiba Prefecture made the entire group feel important. The Governor was full of energy and seemed excited to meet with the Chiba-Wisconsin Delegation group.

Being a part of the Chiba-Wisconsin Goodwill Delegation for 2018 was an awesome experience. The entire trip was indescribable. I especially thank, Ms. Yasuko Aoki, Ms. Yoshie Kato and Mr. Tetsuji Ogawa for the hospitality of the entire trip! I can't forget and forever grateful for Mrs. Sharon Durtka for the invitation.

The Education Group

The Education Group consisted of three members: Dr. Kliminski, Interim Associate Dean of Nursing School of Health Education, Madison Area Technical College (MATC), Ms. Noble of MATC, and Ms. Michalski of the Wisconsin-Chiba, Inc.

On November 26th, the group visited Kimura Mental Health Hospital (Chiba City), the oldest private mental hospital in the Prefecture. After a brief introduction to the hospital and a discussion in the conference room, the group toured the facility.

On November 27th, the group visited the Graduate School of Nursing at Chiba University. They received an overview of the university, exchanged opinions on the care of terminally ill patients, and toured the facilities. In the afternoon, they visited the Chiba University Hospital, which is a core hospital in the area. There they received an explanation of the framework of the hospital, had a tour of the hospital, and shared thoughts on the differences between Japanese and American culture and other topics.

On November 28th, the group visited Chiba Prefectural University of Health Sciences. Following a brief overview on the Departments of Nursing, Rehabilitation, and Dental Hygiene, they toured the school and observed the state of practical training among other things. Dr. Kliminski also gave a presentation on MATC.

On November 29th, following a courtesy call with the Governor of Chiba Prefecture, the group visited Chiba Prefectural Makuhari Sogo High School's Nursing Course. There they received a briefing on the framework of the school and toured the school facilities, where they observed actual classroom instruction.

The group members thoroughly enjoyed their visits of the facilities and listened attentively through all the briefings.

Group Members:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Dr. Kerri Kliminski | Interim Associate Dean of Nursing School of Health Education, MATC |
| Ms. Sonja Noble | Nursing Instructor, MATC |
| Ms. Mindy Michalski | Wisconsin-Chiba, Inc. member |

Itinerary

| | |
|-------------|---|
| November 26 | Kimura Mental Health Hospital |
| November 27 | Chiba University Graduate School of Nursing, Chiba University Hospital |
| November 28 | Chiba Prefectural University of Health Sciences |
| November 29 | Chiba Prefectural Makuhari Sogo High School's Nursing Course |



Discussion at Kimura Mental Health Hospital



Observing actual training at the Graduate School of Nursing, Chiba University



Briefing at the Chiba University Hospital



Tour of nursing care training room of the Chiba Prefectural Makuhari Sogo High School's Nursing Course



Observing actual training while visiting Chiba Prefectural University of Health Sciences

WCI Goodwill Delegation 2018 Higher Education & Healthcare Report

Kerri Kliminski EdD, MSN, RN & Sonja Noble MSN, RN

Wisconsin has enjoyed a sister state relationship with Chiba Prefecture in Japan since 1990. Exchange of delegates representing culture, education, healthcare and business occur on a rotating basis. The 2018 Wisconsin Chiba delegation traveled to Japan November 23rd- December 1st, 2018. Healthcare Education delegates included Kerri Kliminski and Sonja Noble of the Madison College Associate Degree Nursing Program. Mindy Michalski assisted in navigating the culture and traditions as a previous culture member and current Wisconsin Chiba committee member.

Professional visits were made over a four-day period to universities, hospitals and a high school offering a nursing program in Chiba Prefecture.

The first professional visit took us to Chiba University to pick up Dr. Shohei Tachi who escorted us to Kimura Mental Health Hospital. He presented information related to the prevalence of psychiatric illnesses, rates of suicide, patient length of stay (LOS) and staffing ratios. Points of particular interest discussed included significantly longer inpatient LOS and transition to the community resources, challenges associated with mental illness and an aging population and similarities with the US in having qualified providers to meet patient care needs. Dr. Tachi and the charge nurse conducted a most thorough tour of the facility and engaged additional staff in introductions and answering questions.

On the second day of professional visits, Dr. Zaiya Takahashi and Miwa Watanabe, R.N., MSN welcomed us to the Chiba University Nursing School. They presented information on topics such as End of Life Care and curriculum, Advanced Care Planning and an Integrated Community Care System. Discussion included the increased aging populations of our two countries and the importance of providing care while respecting dignity and independence. Dr. Watanabe invited us into her classroom where students were working in groups and then presenting nursing care plans for a post-liver surgery patient. The nursing students remained remarkably focused on their task despite our intrusion and their critical thinking skills are evident in both their written work and verbal presentation of the nursing process. We also toured the Nursing Skills Lab and other classroom areas.

After lunch, we toured Chiba University Hospital. This is an 850-bed hospital. We were able to tour a Liver Transplant unit as well as a Chemotherapy clinic that serves 100 patients per day. We exchanged ideas about the wearing of surgical masks both in an inpatient and outpatient environment. This would be a fascinating comparative study to do between Chiba and Wisconsin. Following our tour, presentations were given by representatives from health informatics and Community Care and Patient Care Services departments. Both presentations highlighted the similar challenges faced in the USA with health information portability and accessibility as well as the need for early, coordinated discharge planning to decrease patient length of stay and financial burden to acute care organizations.

On our third day, faculty and administration of Chiba Prefectural University of Health Sciences welcomed us for presentations on nursing, dentistry, physical therapy and an overview of research conducted by the university. Dean Ogata was a most gracious host and our lunch prepared by the nutrition students was one of the best meals of the entire trip. We had rich discussion about the similarities and differences in healthcare provision and delivery as well as healthcare education between Japan and the US. Since our return, the Madison College President has requested the Director of International Education be in contact with leadership at the Chiba Prefectural University of Health Sciences related to a possible future partnership and articulation agreement.

In the afternoon, we toured the school viewing the dental clinic, student classroom, and lab spaces for the four health programs offered at Chiba Prefectural University of Health Sciences. We appreciated the opportunity to participate in our first tea ceremony conducted by nursing professor Minami Kanda as well as her patience in teaching us this calming and relaxing ritual. At the conclusion of our day, nursing students released from class enjoyed the opportunity to take a picture with us and we have in turn enjoyed the opportunity to share the picture with our students.

On our final day of professional visits, we were welcomed to Makuhari Sohgo High School by Principal Kitabayashi Hidetaka and his staff on our last afternoon of professional visits. Over tea and snacks, information was shared about the five-year nursing program that students start at the age of fifteen. This highly competitive program accepts only 40 students per year and boasts a 100% National Certification Exam pass rate. It is the only high school of its kind in Japan. Despite the school's success, no plans exist to expand enrollment or open other nursing program high schools. A video of students performing basic skills demonstrated not only the rigor of the program but also the maturity of these young students in acquiring foundational patient care skills.

Staying with host families is a rich experience that contributes significantly to the exchange. Kerri had opportunity to stay with the Miyazaki family consisting of mother, Suiko, father, Miki and sons Joe (14) and Riki (8). Sonja had opportunity to stay with Ms. Shinobu Kitamoto.

Kerri is thankful to have had the opportunity to develop a friendship with the Miyazaki family and look forward to continued email exchanges with Suiko. She is hopeful the family will visit Wisconsin one day and allow her to repay their kindness.

Shinobu was an incredibly gracious host and Sonja was fortunate and so grateful for the time spent getting to know and learn about each other.

We will be forever grateful to have participated in the 2018 Wisconsin Chiba Goodwill Delegation. It was an honor to build relationships with our Chiba-Wisconsin Association and Chiba Prefectural International Affairs Division hosts, the many professionals who helped us learn and were open to an exchange of ideas and information and our host families who were patient, kind and welcoming in allowing us an experience beyond that of any tourist visiting Japan. The stories we have begun to share with family, friends, colleagues and students will have a lasting impact and we are committed to supporting the sister state partnership. It was truly a transformational experience.

Host Family Experiences

Introducing the families who volunteered to be host families

Mr. Ryoichi Suzuki, Kisarazu City

Overcoming the differences in food and culture

The day I was really looking forward finally arrived. I welcomed three visitors from Milwaukee: a 50-year-old woman, her 17-year-old niece, and 10-year-old nephew, who stayed for four nights and five days. In front of Kisarazu Station, they gave an impressive drum performance. The African dance was truly amazing.

At my house, I prepared sukiyaki and tempura for dinner so that they could experience Japanese food. Unfortunately, they could not eat vegetables or seafood. For dinner, we often ate out at restaurants such as KFC, McDonalds, and Big Boy. Our diet consisted of meat, meat, and more meat. Incidentally, breakfast was simple, consisting of cereal with milk, boiled eggs, etc.

The 8:00 to 18:00 schedule was tough for the group, so I was a bit disappointed that except for the afternoon of the first day, there was not much time to interact with our guests

after they came back home.

However, living together was a very valuable experience. For example, they would affectionately call my one-year-old granddaughter "Nana!" "Nana!", and Nana would also embrace them and say, "Mommy!" "Mommy!" Afterwards, my granddaughter seemed to wonder why her "Mommy," older sister, and older brother have not returned even though it is now December.

I also have fond memories of drinking together at night and having fun conversations.



Being hugged by Marilyn



In front of our home (Come again!)

Ms. Suiko Miyazaki, Chiba City

The first thing Kerri said was, "Please spend your time as you usually do." I was relieved since I thought it would be nice for her to see the Japanese family life as it really is, just like when I have hosted international students in the past. Kerri and I hit it off right away since Kerri and I are only two years apart in age and each have two children, one being 14 years old.

While there are many things a person learns and that have a significant impact, I was impressed by the fact that even though we come from different countries and circumstances, we could understand one another as mothers and housewives through many things, such as parenting and the sense of values, etc.

My children received a heartfelt handwritten letter and a present from Kerri's two daughters, and it was also a delight to write a reply and have a warm exchange between our children, even if they are far apart.

Kerri was not picky about food, so she enjoyed a variety of home-cooked dishes, such as cooked rice, taro miso soup, oden, and other dishes. She liked the sesame sauce and *ponzu* vinegar in the hotpot dishes shared with my family gathered around.

Even if it is only for a short time, if you eat and sleep together under one roof every day, you will gain a sense of familiarity with each other. I am very happy to think that I could contribute in some small way in such an international exchange. I will cherish the experience.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Ms. Kerri, who was always so friendly to my family, and to the people of the association who have given us such a wonderful opportunity.



Inohanatei teahouse in front of Chiba Castle



In the living of our home

Expanded Exchanges with Chiba Citizens!!!

Last November 24th (Saturday), the twelve members of the 2018 Wisconsin Goodwill Delegation visited Chiba and returned to the U.S. on December 1st (Saturday). During the time they were here, the members had a variety of exchanges and meetings with Chiba citizens. Below are some photos of their exchanges and encounters.



On November 24th, the delegation arrived at Narita Airport. Despite the long journey, everyone looks hearty!!



First meeting of the Culture and Arts Group and the host families at *Kisarazu Mirai Labo* (November 25th)



Exchange meeting with the Culture and Arts Group, the Ichikawa Group that will visit Wisconsin in 2019 and the Ichikawa International Association (Ichikawa City Cultural Hall, November 29th)



The Education Group visited Makuhari Sogo High School (In front of the Nursing School on November 29th)



With CWA members at the hotel on the departure day (December 1st, Hotel Port Plaza Chiba)



Narita Airport on December 1st, prior to departure. Thank you for all the great work!!

Update from a Former ALT



Jacob Letter

Hello everyone! I find it difficult to believe I've been back in Wisconsin for nearly five months already. It was great to see my family when I got back. I had a few weeks of break before the American school year started at the end of August. Since then, I have been working as the Director of the Modern Foreign Language Education Department at Glenwood City High School and Middle School. It is a very fancy title for my department because I am the only



My brother Josh and my sister-in-law Paige at their wedding reception

teacher in my department. I teach all of the Spanish classes for the school district which means I teach 7th grade through 12th grade (Japanese Junior High School 1st years- Senior High School 3rd years). It is very fun to still be teaching even if I cannot be teaching English in Japan, which I miss very much. Unlike Japan, I am not an assistant teacher, which means I must create all of my own material and lesson plans, write all of the tests, and teach 7 classes a day on my own. It is very challenging, but I love the ability to teach whatever I want and make any project I want as well. And even though I have more classes every day here, I have about 1/9 of the students I had in Japan, so I can know all of my students better and make better relationships with them.

As for my family, of my three brothers, my brother Josh got married in September. It was very exciting and I am glad I could be a part of it. My middle brother, Jeremiah, started his own company recently and it was cool to visit him and see what he has been up to while I was gone. Finally, my youngest brother, Jared, left for a semester in Thailand on Christmas Day. It was fun to see another family member follow in my footsteps and leave the country to explore the big, wide, amazing world that we live in. I'm really hoping he has an amazing adventure there.

The two pictures I'm sending along include a picture from my brother Josh's wedding reception. He and Paige got married in California but we held a reception for them in Wisconsin so the whole family could join. The second picture is of me with my



From left to right: Sra. Norkoli, Jake, Sra. Martinson, enjoying company at the Foreign Language Teacher Conference

high school Spanish teacher and a Spanish teacher friend of ours. Sra. Martinson (with the dark hair) was my Spanish teacher for 4 years in high school as she was the reason I wanted to become a Spanish teacher in the first place. We had the opportunity to meet at a conference for Language Teachers here in Wisconsin in November. It was very good to see her again, and share my marvelous adventures in Japan with her.

I really hope to make it back to Japan soon, but until then, if anyone comes to Wisconsin or Minnesota, let me know and I would love to meet up again!

Spring and Thanksgiving Come Together!

This year's "Food Culture Collaboration 2019" event was held on February 24th. At 10 o'clock on a beautiful and sunny Sunday morning, 30 participants gathered at the Food Culture Room at the Chiba City Lifelong Learning Center. They were eager to begin cooking with home-grown local Chiba ingredients such as nanohana, potatoes, and sweet potatoes.

Under the guidance of Ms. Mitsuhashi and Ms. Yamagata of the traditional local cuisine research group, the Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) and first-time participants took on the challenge of making Boso Futomaki Matsuri Sushi. The participants seemed very pleased with their splendid creations.

By using nanohana in the green casserole, a spring-like atmosphere filled the air. Meanwhile, a variety of dishes, such as candied sweet potatoes using marshmallows, spicy apple cider, colorful salads, and more, were prepared while waiting for the turkey to finish cooking. Finally, just what everyone was waiting for, the light-brown roasted turkey, was served, and suddenly a Thanksgiving-like atmosphere emerged.



Everyone worked together to prepare the dishes!!!



With everyone seated at the neatly set tables, the long-awaited feast began. A lively and festive spirit enveloped the room, with people discussing recipes, taking photos, serving turkey, tasting homemade delicious dishes, and so on. Once everyone was full, self-introductions began. The speeches in both English and Japanese were very friendly, humorous, and personal, and the time passed very quickly.

Incidentally, the food cultural exchange event began several years ago to further mutual understanding and deepen the friendship by exploring the food cultures of Wisconsin and Chiba Prefecture. The event continues to this day thanks to the Wisconsin ALTs who are teaching at local and prefectural schools throughout Chiba Prefecture.

Inspired by the ALTs, many of the participants resolved to improve their English skills or visit Wisconsin someday. It truly

felt as if the circle of exchange and understanding has continued to expand. It reflects the Japanese expression, "Eating out of the same pot," similar the English expression "To drink from the same cup," meaning to become close friends by sharing a meal and experience. One wonders what lasting impressions were etched into the memories of the participants who worked together to prepare dishes and clean up.



Commemorative photo of all participants

The ALTs and others who participated in the February 24th food culture event were asked the following questions in Japanese:

Callie Leone (Kamagaya City) 1st year

- ① Japanese sweet potatoes ② Politeness ③ Talk more actively with foreigners.

Samuel Doty (Hokuto City, Yamanashi Prefecture) 1st year

- ① Yakisoba ② Kindness ③ Approach foreigners more assertively.

Gio Nava Garcia (Sosa City) 1st year

- ① Okonomiyaki ② Politeness, kindness, safe, no crime ③ Be less shy, talk more openly with foreigners.

Amanda MacDonald (Kimitsu City) 2nd year

- ① Steamed Egg Custard ② Speak well of people ③ Even though I want to try and do things myself, Japanese people tend to help too much, so I would like them to leave me alone.

Max Gumble (Chiba City) 2nd year

- ① Saikyoyaki ② The clean, on-time train system ③ Japanese are surprised that foreigners can use chopsticks, but all foreigners can; I would like them to have more common sense.

Jamison Taube (Togane City) 2nd year

- ① Tsukemen Ramen ② Calmness ③ Japanese work too much. It's better to share the workload. Japanese kids shouldn't just study all the time.

Paula Green (Nagareyama City) 2nd year

- ① Boiled mackerel with miso, smelt ② Immediately help you when you are in trouble ③ Even though foreigners have individuality and different personalities just like Japanese people do, they tend to have assumptions about and prejudices toward foreigners.

Rose Yeazel (Narita City) 4th year

- ① Okonomiyaki, tempura, miso soup ② Polite and kind ③ Japanese work late into the night and high school students also study too much; they should have more fun.

Tina Brown (Togane City) 5th year

- ① Okonomiyaki ② Hospitality, kindness helpful ③ Adults work too much and children study too much.

Patrick Grimes (Chiba City) 6th year

- ① Seared bonito ② Communicating while drinking ③ Communicate more even when not drinking.

Melissa Janssen (Kashiwa City) 8th year

- ① Okonomiyaki ② Not afraid of adventure ③ When problems arise, I would like Japanese people to communicate instead of assuming what others are thinking.

Questions

- ① What's your favorite Japanese dish?
- ② What do you like best about Japanese people?
- ③ On the other hand, what would you like Japanese people to change about themselves?

(Included in the parentheses is the person's placement, followed by the number of years they have lived in Japan.)

Interview with Mr. William White, the first Honorary Consul in Madison, Wisconsin

On Tuesday, January 15th, the staff of the CWA met with Mr. William White (center of the photo). Mr. White was appointed as the first honorary consul in Madison, Wisconsin, by Mr. Naoki Ito, the Consul-General of Japan in Chicago. The CWA staff talked with him about the relationship between Chiba Prefecture and the State of Wisconsin, including the sister-state relationship and the history of the CWA's establishment. They also asked for his support on further exchanges in the future, to which he willingly agreed. Additionally, Ms. Yasuko Kurihara, Principal Deputy Director of the Local Partnership Cooperation Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, attended the meeting.

CWA Notices

FY 2019 Board of Directors Meeting
 • May 21st (Tuesday) Hotel Port Plaza Chiba

FY 2019 Annual General Meeting and Exchange
 • June 8th (Saturday) Hotel Plaza Nanohana
 ◦ General Meeting begins at 10:30
 ◦ Exchange begins at 12:00

[Acknowledgements]

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Editor's Note

In this issue we covered the exchange activities with the WCI Goodwill Delegation that visited last November. In the WCI Goodwill Delegation's report sent after their departure from Japan, members of the delegation expressed their gratitude to the host families and everyone involved in the exchange activities. In addition, the host families also expressed their appreciation for having such a valuable experience. Through exchanges such as these, the CWA plans to continue to expand the scope of the exchanges between Chiba and Wisconsin.

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