

CWA NEWS



Greetings from the Association President

On this, the 30th Anniversary of the Sister State Agreement between Chiba and Wisconsin, I extend my warmest greetings.

Firstly, I would like to pay my respects to all of those we have lost, offer my sincere condolences to all of those who are in mourning, and extend my deepest sympathies to those who are experiencing long-term health complications as a result of the recent COVID-19 pandemic. To those currently experiencing symptoms, I wish you a swift and full recovery. It is my sincere hope that this pandemic will come to an end soon.



In these times, as the Chiba-Wisconsin Association faces unprecedented challenges to its daily activities, I am deeply grateful for your understanding and cooperation.

Chiba-Wisconsin Association
President Yuzaburo Mogi

会長 茂木 友三郎

Cultural exchange between Chiba and Wisconsin began in 1990, with the establishment of this association in May 2004 centered around this sister state relationship and assuming the role of implementing body from Chiba.

Since that time, there have been interruptions including the swine flu pandemic and the Great East Japan Earthquake. But there has always been a steady exchange between our mutual organizations, and parties such as the Goodwill Delegation continued to dispatch members.

Last year should have been the year to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Sister State Agreement and we had been preparing to celebrate with a group of Wisconsin members of the Goodwill Delegation. However, with worldwide restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in place and extended into this year, we have instead decided to celebrate by publishing this commemorative newsletter alongside a video message.

Looking back, this association has shone a spotlight on the friendly relationship Chiba has built with Wisconsin. We have widened the mutual understanding and exchange between us in various fields, including culture and the arts. I feel that our friendship has deepened greatly over these many years. Wisconsin Governor Tony Ever's visit to Chiba in the fall of 2019 was a particularly symbolic event, signifying the relationship of our Sister States.

Looking to the future, I would like for the people of Wisconsin to come to know the value Chiba holds and the wonderfulness of its people, while deepening and widening the exchange between our two states even further.

In closing, I would like to extend my gratitude to all members of this association for their continuous support and cooperation in all the work that we do. Once again, thank you very much.

Greetings from the Wisconsin-Chiba Inc. President

Greetings from Wisconsin on the 30th Anniversary of State of Wisconsin and the Prefecture of Chiba Sister State/Sister Relationship

Wisconsin Chiba Sister State/Sister Prefecture roots go back almost 50 years when Kikkoman established its soy sauce manufacturing facility in Walworth, Wisconsin. The impact went beyond that first bottle of soy sauce on the kitchen table. It planted the seeds for a Wisconsin-Chiba formal declaration of friendship, a symbol of mutual goodwill. In 1990 Governors Numata and Thompson signed the sister-state agreement.



During these 30 years we explored topics such as culture and arts, education and health care, agriculture and dairy, environment, science/technology and tourism and continue to expand the scope of these exchanges.

WCI focuses on diversity, equity and inclusion - empowering others to experience things of which they have never dreamed – from discovering other ways to do ordinary things to problems solving, from coming as strangers to becoming members of their host families. Participants often describe these exchanges as “a life-changing experience.”

Our annual grassroots exchange has experienced three interruptions - the 2009 H1N1 flu pandemic, the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami and now the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic. These moments of pause have not deterred future exchanges but helped see unexplored opportunities.

Receiving a gift of *hashi*(箸) - an indispensable part of the Japanese table setting - I reflected on their purpose - a symbolic bridge mediating the *ma*(間), the empty space between the rice bowl and mouth. It is that empty space that is filled with possibilities. *Hashi* can only work if they work cooperatively.

CWA and WCI are like *hashi* - the bridge in the journey between Chiba and Wisconsin. They serve as the *hashi* for these connections and relationships that people form as they interact with each other. And like *hashi* working together, CWA and WCI pursue their mutual goal of understanding, respect and friendship – one person at a time

This 30th anniversary marks the passage of time, remembering the good those years have brought. We extend our appreciation and gratitude to the people of Chiba and Wisconsin who have planned, prepared, hosted and supported our sister state/prefecture exchange. Stepping into our next decade, we look forward to continuing this remarkable relationship filled with adventures and friendships.

Together may we grow and deepen our friendship.

Sharon Rae Landergott Durtka, PhD, LHD
President
Wisconsin-Chiba, Inc.

Greetings from the Governor of Chiba

I would like to extend my warmest greetings to you all on this special occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Chiba-WI sister state program.

Firstly, I would like to express my sincerest sympathies toward all those who have suffered due to COVID-19, as well as my deepest gratitude toward the medical staff and those who are working tirelessly for the benefit of society.

The Chiba-WI sister state program began on May 21, 1990, when the governors of both Chiba Prefecture and the State of Wisconsin signed the agreement in the state capital of Madison, Wisconsin.

Since then, the successful continuation of our program has been made possible by the efforts of the Wisconsin state government, the Chiba-Wisconsin Association, and all those who have supported this exchange. Once again, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for all their contributions.

Furthermore, I am honored by the invaluable contributions made by Mr. Yuzaburo Mogi of Kikkoman Corporation, whose efforts helped establish the sister state partnership between Chiba and Wisconsin and who currently serves as the Association President.

Through this sister state partnership, we have established a Goodwill Delegation in order to send people overseas and facilitate the exchange of culture, the arts and much more, including the ALT program benefitting our high schools. Furthermore, we have established exchange programs for high school students as well as university students from Chiba University and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Over two thousand people have actively participated in these exchanges and have emerged both enriched by what they gained from their experiences and aware of the positive impact they made on the lives of others.

Looking to the future, I am anticipating the day when the COVID-19 pandemic comes to an end, and I am able to meet the people of Wisconsin in person once again. Over the next decade, let us work together to further strengthen our connections and broaden the scope of our exchanges with each other.

In conclusion, as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the sister state alliance, I sincerely hope that the connection between Chiba and Wisconsin will only grow stronger and that we can deepen our friendship in the years to come.



Chiba-Wisconsin Association
Special Advisor
Chiba Prefectural Governor
Toshihito Kumagai

熊谷 俊人

Greetings from the Governor of Wisconsin

Governor Evers' Message for the 30th Anniversary Commemorative Magazine

Greetings!

On behalf of the people of the state of Wisconsin, I want to extend my sincerest congratulations to the Chiba-Wisconsin Association as they celebrate 30 years of a robust, sister-state relationship between Chiba and Wisconsin.



In 2019, I was proud to visit the Chiba Prefecture on my first international trade mission as governor of Wisconsin. Not only did the visit allow me to experience the region's beauty firsthand, but I was also able to build personal ties with the government officials, business leaders, and educators who live there.

Since the signing of the sister-state agreement, Chiba and Wisconsin have maintained a deep and meaningful relationship across many vital areas, including trade and investment, culture, and education. For example, Chiba and Wisconsin have supported each other economically through our state's robust partnership with Kikkoman Foods. We're also proud to offer opportunities for education and cultural exchange through sister-school relationships and programs for Wisconsinites to teach English at schools in Chiba.

This long and fruitful collaboration is the result of many years of devoted efforts by people in both Wisconsin and Chiba, including regularly held Goodwill Delegations and other endeavors aimed at forging even stronger bonds between our states.

While the past two years have been extremely challenging for all of us, this pandemic has reminded us that we have a shared interest in a brighter, healthier future, and that teamwork and cooperation are the most effective ways to address a global crisis. As we face other global challenges in the future, we know that Chiba and Wisconsin will continue working together to confront these challenges.

To those in Chiba and Wisconsin who have made all this possible, I am delighted to be celebrating 30 years of friendship between our two states. Congratulations to the Chiba-Wisconsin Association, and I look forward to this continued partnership as they lead in this important work.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Evers".

Tony Evers
Governor

30 Years of Progress in Sister State Exchange

Since the establishment of the sister state relationship between Chiba Prefecture and the U.S. state of Wisconsin in 1990, our two states have deepened their friendship by exchanging goodwill delegations, mainly in the fields of culture and education. While Wisconsin-Chiba, Inc., a private non-profit organization, has been implementing these exchange programs in cooperation with the Wisconsin state government, on the Chiba side, the Chiba Prefectural government initially took the lead in carrying out exchange activities. In May 2004, the Chiba-Wisconsin Association (CWA) was established as a body to promote exchange in Chiba Prefecture. Since then, in cooperation with the Prefecture, the CWA has developed exchanges in a wide range of fields, not limited to culture and the arts, and a total of 1,346 people have participated in the exchanges to date. Please see the following pages for more information on specific exchange activities.

*The events listed here are ordered chronologically in accordance with the Japanese fiscal year, which runs from April to March

Year*	Month	Events
1990	May	Chiba Prefecture and the State of Wisconsin enter sister state agreement.
	September	Women of Wings visits Wisconsin (21 members).
1991	July	Education Delegation visits Wisconsin (10 members).
	October	Women of Wings visits Wisconsin (40 members).
	November	Cultural Delegation performs in the Chiba Culture Festival (49 members).
1992	July	Wisconsin Orchestra visits Chiba for a joint concert (86 members).
	September	Women of Wings visits Wisconsin (40 members).
	October	Cultural Delegation visits Chiba (49 members).
1993	August	Chiba-120 Wing Delegation visits Wisconsin (70 members).
	September	Cultural Delegation performs in the Chiba Culture Festival (44 members).
	October	Women of Wings visits Wisconsin (39 members).
1994	June	Cultural Delegation performs in the Chiba Citizen's Festival (40 members).
	September	Women of Wings visits Wisconsin (32 members).
1995	August	Chiba Friendship Wing '95 Delegation visits Wisconsin (41 members).
	October	Women of Wings visits Wisconsin (33 members).
1996	June	Cultural Delegation performs in the Chiba Citizen's Festival (40 members).
	September	Women of Wings visits Wisconsin (33 members).
1997	September	Women of Wings visits Wisconsin (33 members).
	March	Chiba Youth Orchestra visits Wisconsin for a joint concert (119 members).
1998	August	Cultural Delegation visits Wisconsin for Wisconsin State Sesquicentennial Folklife Festival (40 members).
	October	Women of Wings visits Wisconsin (27 members).
1999	May	Women of Wings visits Chiba (8 members).
	June	Cultural Delegation performs in the Chiba Citizen's Festival (39 members).
	September	Women of Wings visits Wisconsin (19 members).

Year*	Month	Events
2000	June	Cultural Delegation performs in the Chiba Citizen's Festival (21 members).
	October	Women of Wings visits Wisconsin (18 members).
2001	May	Women of Wings visits Chiba (8 members).
	August	Goodwill Delegation visits Wisconsin (19 members).
2002	September	Goodwill Delegation visits Chiba (19 members).
2003	May	Women of Wings visits Chiba (10 members).
	March	Goodwill Delegation visits Wisconsin (21 members). ※Biomass reciprocal exchange begins. Chiba Governor Domoto visits Wisconsin Governor Doyle.
2004	May	Chiba-Wisconsin Association is established. ※Inaugural Meeting held May 29 th in Chiba.
	September	Goodwill Delegation visits Chiba (18 members, 2 groups).
	October	Chiba Women of Wings 2004 visits Wisconsin (8 members).
2005	May	Wisconsin Women of Wings visits Chiba (8 members).
	September	Goodwill Delegation visits Wisconsin (20 members, 3 groups).
2006	June	Chiba Women of Wings 2006 visits Wisconsin (10 members).
	October	Goodwill Delegation visits Chiba (23 members, 3 groups). ※ Agreement between Chiba University and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee established.
2007	May	Wisconsin Women of Wings visits Chiba (9 members).
	October	Goodwill Delegation visits Wisconsin (22 members, 4 groups). ※Agreement between Kanda University of International Studies and Madison Area Technical College established.
2008	November	Goodwill Delegation visits Chiba (20 members, 3 groups).
2010	May	Former Chiba Governor Morita visits Wisconsin Governor Doyle to reaffirm sister state friendship. Sister State 20 th Anniversary Celebration held.
	September	Goodwill Delegation visits Wisconsin (20 members, 3 groups).
2012	September	Goodwill Delegation visits Chiba (15 members, 3 groups).
2013	October	Goodwill Delegation visits Wisconsin (21 members, 3 groups).
2014	May	Chiba-Wisconsin Association celebrates its 10 th Anniversary.
	November	Goodwill Delegation visits Chiba (20 members, 3 groups).
2015	October	Goodwill Delegation visits Wisconsin (22 members, 3 groups).
2016	September	Goodwill Delegation visits Chiba (10 members, 2 groups).
2017	June	Women of Wings visits Wisconsin (6 members).
	October	Goodwill Delegation visits Wisconsin (9 members, 2 groups).
2018	November	Goodwill Delegation visits Chiba (12 members, 2 groups).
2019	October	Goodwill Delegation visits Wisconsin (16 members, 3 groups).

* The events listed are ordered chronologically in accordance with the Japanese fiscal year, which runs from April to March.

History of Exchange 1990-1991

(Based on Japanese April-March fiscal year)

1990

● This Year in History: Unification of East and West Germany

May: Sister State Agreement Signing Ceremony

Chiba Prefecture and the state of Wisconsin sign a Sister State Agreement to the Prefectural Song



Both Then-Governors



The Signed Agreement

On May 21, 1990 at 4 pm (May 22 at 6 am in Japan) the Chiba-Wisconsin Sister State Agreement Signing Ceremony was carried out in Madison, Wisconsin. The ceremony was held in the rotunda on the first floor of Wisconsin's State Capitol building, where Chiba Prefecture's then-governor Takeshi Numata and other parliament members, along with Wisconsin's then-governor Tommy G. Thompson and other officials attended.

The ceremony started with the chorus of the "Chiba Prefectural Folk Song", which reverberated through the room. It had been requested that the prefectural song be played for the ceremony. However, although the song has only one verse, its chorus was played with a magnificent harmony. To hear it played in such a place seemed to surprise and move those that were attending from Chiba Prefecture.

At the signing ceremony, Mr. Numata opened with, "Chiba Prefecture and the State of Wisconsin have many similarities. I hope to strengthen the bond between Chiba and Wisconsin, as well as further deepen the intercultural exchange between Japan and the US".

Mr. Thompson also spoke of his hopes for the program, "This sister state agreement aims to deepen a friendship that two countries' governments alone cannot, as well as bring about global cooperation at the regional level. With this sister state agreement as the 'heart', I want to solidify cultural exchange with Japan".

What left an impression on those in attendance was the support and actions of the volunteers. For example, the volunteers had rented a limousine to meet attendees and chauffeur them around, which left a lasting impression.

September: Women of Wings Visit Wisconsin (21 Members)



Ceremony Celebrating the Formation of Women of Wings

From 2001, the Wisconsin Women of Wings branch started to visit Chiba Prefecture biannually, and the "General Assembly", consisting of the group members that were dispatched overseas from Chiba Prefecture, was created. After the General Assembly was dissolved in 2008, the "Wing's Assembly" (the General Assembly's successor organization that consists of volunteers aiming to further exchange for women) took its place.

"Women of Wings" was a project in the internationalization and advancement of women into leadership roles. As a part of Chiba Prefecture's policies to empower women, Women of Wings was commercialized in 1986. This organization sent women leaders from various fields overseas, widened global perspectives through observation and mutual exchange, and aimed to contribute to the advancement of women in leadership roles. Starting in 1990 following the signing of the Chiba-Wisconsin Sister State Agreement, Wisconsin was added as a destination. The exchange program continued until



Former WI State Senator Buettner Receiving Official Letter from the Prefectural Governor

1991

● This Year in History: Collapse of Japan's Bubble Economy

July: Sister State Exchange Program Delegation Visits Wisconsin (10 Members)

October: Women of Wings Visits Wisconsin (40 Members)



Ronald McDonald House



Wisconsin Women's Group



Going to Training by School Bus

November: Wisconsin Cultural Delegation Visits Chiba (40 Members)

1992

History of Exchange 1992~1993

● This Year in History: Public Servants in Japan Start 2-Day Weekends

July: Orchestra Visits Chiba (86 Members)

The Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra put on a joint performance with youth music groups within Chiba.

September: Women of Wings Visits Wisconsin (40 Members)

October: Wisconsin Cultural Delegation Visits Chiba Prefecture (49 Members)

Forty-nine members of the delegation came to Chiba. At a cultural festival, they showed off Scottish and American dances, as well as showed displays of embroidery and painted flower patterns.



July



September - The Delegation Leader of The Women of Wings Greets Guests



October

1993

● This Year in History: European Union Established

August: Emotion and Joy Are Shared as the “Chiba-120 Wing” Sends Members of Its Goodwill Delegation to Wisconsin (70 Members)



Commemorating 120 years since the founding of Chiba, the “Chiba-120 Wing” Delegation dispatched all of its 70 members to Wisconsin. The group was composed of artisans of many kinds, including members of the Choshi hane-daiko drum circle, folk singers, folk dancers, and futo-maki sushi experts. They also sent crafters of boshu-uchiwa, the unique and expertly made paper fans from the southern peninsula of Chiba. While there, they participated in the Wisconsin State Fair in the West Allis

area of Milwaukee, and additionally visited the area around Appleton. On a stage at the State Fair, members carried out performances of taiko drumming, folk singing, and folk dancing. At a separate exhibition hall, the traditional craft of boshu-uchiwa was put on display. Alongside the display, members gave guests the opportunity to make futo-maki sushi. People who participated could create large sushi rolls with the image of a rose displayed on the side. Afterward they were able to enjoy eating their creations. The group also participated in the parade, gathered in beautiful kimonos and bold happi festival coats. In addition, the group took their performances and crafts to two different elderly facilities, delighting the guests with the rare opportunity to see and experience Japanese culture up close. In Appleton, their performance at Lawrence University ended in a standing ovation, sending the members home with heartfelt gratitude and joy.



September: Wisconsin Cultural Delegation Visits Chiba (44 Members)

October: Women of Wings Visits Wisconsin (39 Members)



◀ With Former Governor Thompson



◀ International Cultural Exchange Delegate Laura Tallroth (Edmonds)

December: Governor of Wisconsin Makes a Courtesy Visit to Chiba Governor

Heading a mission on trade, former Wisconsin Governor Thompson made a courtesy visit to former Chiba Governor Numata.



1994

History of Exchange 1994~1996

●This Year in History: First Japanese Female Astronaut, Mukai Chiaki, Goes to Space

June: Wisconsin Cultural Delegation Visits Japan (40 Members)

September: The Women of Wings Visits Wisconsin (32 Members)



With Lt. Governor Margaret Farrow



Wisconsin Children's Museum



Picnic at American Players Theater

1995

●This Year in History: The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake

August: Chiba Goodwill '95 Delegation Visits Wisconsin (41 Members)

A forty-one member Goodwill Delegation including taiko (Japanese drums), jazz band, and Nihon-buyo (traditional dance) groups from Chiba went to Wisconsin, and performed at events such as the Wisconsin State Fair.



October: Women of Wings Visits Wisconsin (33 Members)



Viewing the Fall Leaves at the Governor's Residence



Former WCI President
Dean Amhaus and Sarah Schroeder



Origami Showcase at an Elementary School

1996

●This Year in History: Hideo Nomo is First Japanese Player to Throw No-Hit Game in MLB

June: Wisconsin Cultural Delegation Sends Members to Chiba (40 Members)

September: Women of Wings Visits Wisconsin (33 Members)



At the Kikkoman Factory



Exchange with Women
Working at the Wisconsin State Capitol



A Calligraphy Demonstration

1997

History of Exchange 1997~1998

●This Year in History: Japanese Consumption Tax Increased to 5%

September: Women of Wings Visits Wisconsin (33 Members)

Exchange of Ideas With Female State Assembly Members



Exchange with Students of Franklin High School



Trying Kendama

March: 119 Members of Chiba Prefectural Youth Orchestra Visit Wisconsin for Collaborative Concert**A Life-Changing Concert in Wisconsin**

Excerpt from an article by Shigeko Saji in CWA NEWS #19 (November 2011 Issue)

Even now, that feeling of experiencing the moment when the entire audience inside the concert hall stood up in unison to give a standing ovation is etched on my mind. Many orchestra members also described how they were moved by the event. Cellist Mayumi Kawai wrote "The entire audience stood up shouting 'bravo' and applauding. I was so happy that I was about to cry. As the thunderous applause continued, the encore song 'The Stars and Stripes Forever' started playing. I became overwhelmed in the midst of this grand applause that I could not imagine experiencing in my home country, and finally tears streamed down my face... it was the first time I cried out of happiness from playing cello and I truly felt blessed. I thought that I would like to receive that kind of applause by performing solo someday. The reaction from the audience was the most memorable part of the concert." Although Ms. Kawai was studying English as an undergraduate at the time, this experience in Wisconsin inspired her to continue pursuing music. She is now playing cello in a professional orchestra.



Joint Concert with the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra at the Union Theater

1998

●This Year in History: Nagano Winter Olympics

August: Cultural Delegation Visits Wisconsin for Wisconsin State Sesquicentennial Folklife Festival (40 Members)

In affiliation with the state government, the Wisconsin Folklife Festival was held in the state capital of Madison to celebrate Wisconsin's 150 year anniversary. A delegation of forty members, chaired by Chiba Prefecture's Governor Numada, was sent to the state capital where the delegation members performed under tents around the Capitol Square. Demonstrations of tea ceremony, flower arrangement, traditional Japanese dress, and calligraphy were held at specially installed booths. There was a Bon Odori dance accompanied by taiko drumming, and both participants from Chiba and locals wore yukata, creating a harmonious atmosphere. In addition, the craftsmen showing off their bamboo work, kite-making, seasonal doll exhibition, and sushi rolls all contributed to make this a very popular event.



Tea Ceremony



Flower Arrangement



Futomaki Sushi

October: Women of Wings Visits Wisconsin (27 Members)

In Front of the Governor's Residence



Private Office of Former Wisconsin State Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson

1999

History of Exchange 1999~2000

● This Year in History: Bank of Japan Decides on Zero Interest Rate Policy

May: Wisconsin Women of Wings Visits Chiba (8 Members)

Meeting of Japanese and American Women of Wings Members



Hands-On Matcha Experience



Presenting a Commemorative Gift to the Chairperson of the General Assembly

June: Wisconsin Cultural Delegation Visits Chiba (39 Members)**September: Women of Wings Visits Wisconsin (19 Members)**

S.C. Johnson Company



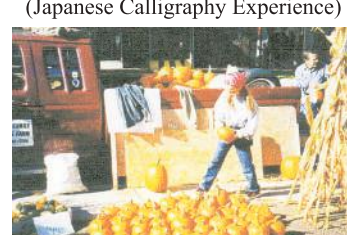
Speech at the Environmental Forum

Beautifully Written!
(Japanese Calligraphy Experience)

Governor's Residence



Fall Colors at the University of Wisconsin



Almost Halloween

2000

● This Year in History: Japanese Nursing-Care Insurance System Begins

June: Wisconsin Cultural Delegation Visits Chiba (21 Members)

Gospel quartet "Queens of Harmony" were among the 21 who visited Chiba and performed at MakuHari Messe.

October: Women of Wings Visits Wisconsin (18 Members)

Certificate of Commendation from the Governor



Electronic Sign Welcoming Women of Wings



Choir Performance at the Thank You Party



Coverage by the TV Station



The Delegation Leader Presents former Governor Thompson with a Handwritten Letter

2001

History of Exchange 2001~2002

●This Year in History: 9/11 Terror Attacks

May: Wisconsin Women of Wings Visits Chiba (14 Members)**August: Chiba Friendship and Cultural Delegation Visits Wisconsin (19 Members)**

The Delegation paid a courtesy visit to the Governor's office and held a meeting with the former Lieutenant State Governor Margaret Farrow. They participated in the State Fair by staging public performances, setting up exhibitions and giving demonstrations.



Traditional Performance



Traditional Performance



Traditional Crafts



Traditional Crafts



Parade on the Fairgrounds

2002

●This Year in History: Prime Minister Koizumi Visits North Korea for First Japan-Korea Summit

September: Wisconsin Cultural Delegation Visits Chiba (19 Members)

Eight Zaibas Lithuanian polka dancers and seven Oneida Nation Native American dancers were among the nineteen that came to Chiba. Along with staging performances and hosting exchanges in Tateyama, Kamogawa, and Kazusa Academia Park, they were also invited to join music classes at Chiba Prefectural Makuhari Sohgo High School.



Kamogawa City



Kamogawa City



Kazusa Academia Park



Prefectural Makuhari Sohgo High School

Friendship Square

To commemorate the sister state alliance between Chiba and Wisconsin, the Friendship Square was established in the new downtown area of Makuhari. In this square, there is a monument that symbolizes the friendship between Chiba and Wisconsin, which is made up of both pine ferns native to Chiba Prefecture and limestone called dolomite sourced from Wisconsin in its natural form. This square is a space where people can relax and enjoy each other's company.



2003

History of Exchange 2003

● This Year in History: Iraq War Begins

May: Women of Wings Visits Chiba (10 Members)

Courtesy Visit to Former Governor Domoto



Hands-On Flower Arrangement Experience



With a Host Family

**March: Chiba Goodwill Delegation Visits Wisconsin
(Culture & Arts Group 18 Members, Biomass Group 3 Members)**

In the last of the exchanges dispatched by the Prefectural Government, the Culture Group performed puppet shows, Japanese dance, and koto performances, as well as displaying art such as chigiri-e at elementary and high schools in Manitowoc and at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Puppet Show



Koto Performance of "Sakura, Sakura"



Handmade Armor



Chigiri-e



Kiri-e

In their first visit, the Biomass Group observed biomass-related facilities in Green Bay and Manitowoc.



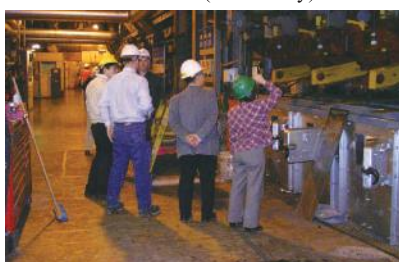
Heat Utilization Facility (Green Bay)



Cattle Barn (Green Bay)



Water Purification Plant (Manitowoc)



Stoker Furnace (Manitowoc)



Courtesy visit from former Governor Akiko Domoto to former Governor Jim Doyle during the Chiba Goodwill Delegation visit

2004

History of Exchange 2004

● This Year in History: Family of North Korean Abduction Victims Return Home to Japan

May: General Meeting to Establish CWA

At the then-Makuhari Prince Hotel, the General Meeting to Establish CWA was held with greetings from former Governor Akiko Domoto.



July: CWA Establishment Commemorative Recital

Joint Concert/Recital with Wisconsin's String Quartet Pro Arte and Mariko Takahashi (piano)



September: Wisconsin's Goodwill Delegation Visit Chiba (Culture & Arts Group 14 Members, Biomass Group 4 Members)

The Culture & Arts group visited elementary and middle schools and cultural halls in Tomisato City, the region formerly known as Sawara City (now part of Katori City) and Tateyama City, among others, for public performances and cultural exchange.



Tomisato Middle School



Sawara City (formerly)



Kanbe Elementary School



Minamiboso Culture Hall



Together with former Governor Jim Doyle, who was in the area for a meeting in Tokyo, a Welcome Reception was held at Kazusa Academia Hall (Kisarazu City).

The Biomass group, starting with visits to university research labs to exchange information, toured various facilities within Chiba Prefecture related to biomass.



Exchanging information at the Tokyo University Industrial Technology Research Lab.



At the Ebara Corporation's Waste Gasification Facility



Chiba Sanko Transportation Co Waste Cooking Oil Plant

October: Women of Wings Visits Wisconsin for the First Time



At Elkhart Lake



Letter from the Mayor of Cedarburg Welcoming the Members



Kappore at the Thank You Party

2005

History of Exchange 2005

● This Year in History: Prime Minister Koizumi Leads The Liberal Democratic Party to Historically Large Victory

May: Wisconsin Women of Wings Visits Chiba (8 Members)



A Welcome Party in Narita City

June: President Mogi Gives Commemorative Lecture

After the general assembly meeting, President Mogi gave a commemorative lecture on "Japan's Role in Globalization."



September: Collaborative Research Agreement Signed

Both governors were present at the signing of a collaborative research agreement between Kazusa DNA Laboratories and Promega Corporation.



September: Chiba Goodwill Delegation Visits Wisconsin (Culture & Arts Group 13 Members, Academics & Education Group 3 Members, Biomass Group 4 Members)



Mitchell Park Horticultural Center

Members of the Goodwill Delegation, established at the start of the CWA, visit Wisconsin

In the cultural exchange, members of the Culture & Arts Group held a "festival" at elementary and middle schools, focused around *Sawara Bayashi*, a traditional folk song and dance.



Sawara Festival



Sawara Bayashi



Collaborative Folk Song Performance

The Academics & Education group visit UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee, encouraging culture exchanges between Wisconsin Schools and Chiba University



UW-Madison



UW Milwaukee

The Biomass Group toured a facility that turns the methane gas in cow manure into electricity, as well as a manufacturing plant that creates bioethanol out of corn.



A Facility that Decomposes Cow Manure into Methane Gas



Large-Scale Landfill



Bioethanol Manufacturing Plant

2006

History of Exchange 2006

● This Year in History: Shizuka Arakawa wins gold at the Torino Winter Olympics

June: Women of Wings Visits Wisconsin (10 Members)



Visiting Former First Lady Doyle at the Governor's Residence



Farewell Send-off by the Ritter Family

October: Wisconsin Goodwill Delegation Visits Chiba (Culture & Arts Group 12 Members, Academics & Education Group 7 Members, Biomass Group 4 Members)

The Culture & Arts Group, joined by Klezmer band Yid Vicious, visited elementary and middle schools in Katori City and participated in an exchange party.



Katori Middle School



Palace Daitou (Katori City)



Higashiooto Elementary School



Sawara Fifth Middle School



Tsunomiya Elementary School

A Life-Changing Concert in Wisconsin

Excerpt from an article by Ms. Minako Okazawa, KIFA (Katori International Friendship Association) in CWA NEWS #20 (March 2011 Issue)

There is a picture hanging in the living room of our home...about 90 people all smiling happily. ...During the six days that the Delegation stayed with us, we truly enjoyed our time together. This project involved hundreds of people, and I hope that every one of them was able to create many happy memories in Sawara... The undertaking of hosting the Delegation united us, and everyone had their own role to play. Even now, looking back five years later, I am still filled with gratitude.

The Academics & Education Group, including then-Vice-Chancellor Cheng of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, visited Chiba to sign an "Academic Exchange Agreement" with Chiba University. Former Governor Domoto was also in attendance at the signing ceremony.

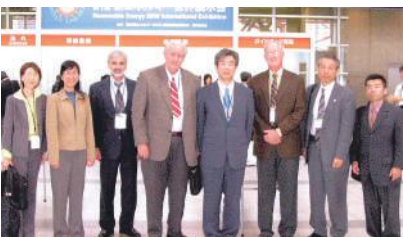


(pictured from left to right) former Governor Domoto, former UWM Vice-Chancellor Cheng, former Chiba University President Kozai, former UWM Lubar College of Business Dean Prasad



Chiba University School of Nursing

The Biomass Group observed sites relevant to the biomass industry throughout the Prefecture.



Renewable Energy 2006 International Exhibition



Kazusa Clean System



Yamada Biomass Plant

2007

History of Exchange 2007

● American Mortgage Crisis Causes Chaos in Global Economics and Finance

April: Host Family Attends a Wedding

Two members of the Goodwill Delegation who were placed with a host family in Katori City two years prior invited their host family to attend their wedding in Madison.

May: Wisconsin Women of Wings Visits Chiba (9 Members)

Members of Women of Wings Visit the Imperial Palace



Answering Questions at the Prefectural Chiba Girls' High School Forum

October: Chiba Goodwill Delegation Visits Wisconsin (Culture & Arts Group 11 Members, Biomass Group 4 Members, Academics & Education Group 2 Members, Psychiatry Group 5 Members)

The culture and arts group organized performances by the Choshi *Hanedaiko* Drummers at venues such as the Farmer's Market outdoor stage and various elementary and middle schools.



Cherokee Middle School



Farmer's Market

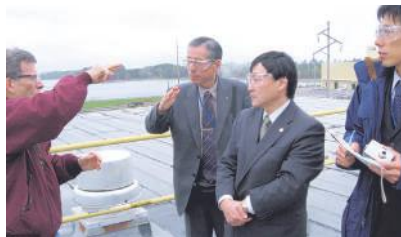


The Biomass Group engaged with a research development group involved in the manufacturing of ethanol produced from biomass materials (vegetation) and visited a cardboard factory and dairy farm.



UW Madison

The Academics & Education group from Kanda University of International Studies signed an agreement with Madison Area Technical College centered around student exchange between the two schools.



Sewage Treatment Plant at the Cardboard Factory

The Psychiatry Group visited psychiatric facilities as well as support facilities managed by private volunteer groups.



In Front of the Cattle Barn at a Large-Scale Dairy Farm



Influential Psychiatrist Dr. David Ruonte (pictured second from left)



With Hmong People from Vietnam

2008

History of Exchange 2008

● This Year in History: First Olympic Games Held in China

November: Wisconsin Goodwill Delegation Visits Chiba (Culture and Arts Group 9 Members, Biomass Group 4 Members, Women of Wings 7 Members)

The Culture and Arts Group, polka music group “Karl & The Country Dutchmen”, visited elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as the Chiba Institute of Science in Choshi City. They also participated in a cultural exchange party with the public.



Shimizu Elementary School



Choshi Fourth Middle School



Municipal Choshi High School



Chiba Institute of Science

Cultural Exchange Party
(at Chiba Institute of Science)

Welcoming the State of Wisconsin's Goodwill Delegation

Excerpt from an article by Hiroyuki Itou of Choshi City's Policy Planning Group - Secretarial Policy Division in CWA NEWS #20 (March 2011 Issue)

From the beginning when first starting to prepare for the reception, everyone involved in organizing the International Exchange was suggesting “What if we created a place where everyone, including locals, can mingle?” So, we planned to have a Cultural Exchange party with the public and each school the night of the second day. Looking back, the Cultural Exchange Party ended up being the most memorable.

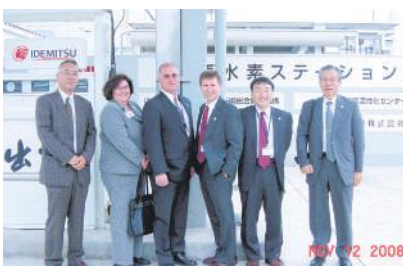
Host families and interested members of the public were able to meet together for this event and have lively conversations, creating an atmosphere that erased our initial worries and concerns. In the end, everyone was able to gather in a circle and dance to tairyou-bushi (a traditional Japanese fisherman's folk song). It was a tremendous success.

I cannot deny that the party had no budget and a handmade feel, but seeing it become a lively party with around 150 participants made me happier than I can put into words. I want to thank everyone who made this event possible, and I hope that everyone was able to enjoy the party.

The Biomass Group exchanged ideas with members from Kazusa DNA Research Labs and visited facilities such as a hydrogen station attached to a hydrogen manufacturing facility.



Exchanging Ideas at Kazusa DNA Research Labs



The Hydrogen Station



Yamada Biomass Plant

The Women of Wings Group participated in a discussion on gender at Josai International University.



Members of the Wisconsin Goodwill Delegation returned home at the end of their 7-day itinerary. We'll miss you. See you again!



Narita Airport

2009

History of Exchange 2009~2010

- This Year in History: President Obama Takes Office, Awarded 2009 Nobel Peace Prize for Promotion of Nuclear Non-Proliferation

Due to the novel Influenza outbreak, dispatch of the Chiba Goodwill Delegation to Wisconsin was postponed.

2010

- This Year in History: Spacecraft "Hayabusa" Returns from Mission to Asteroid Itokawa

May: Governors Reaffirm Sister State Relationship

Former Governor Morita visited Wisconsin for an exchange of ideas with former Governor Doyle before signing an official reaffirmation to continue the sister state relationship.



May: Sister State Exchange 20th Anniversary Gathering

The CWA, in conjunction with the Prefectural Government, hosted the Sister State Exchange 20th Anniversary Gathering at Port Plaza Chiba.



September: Chiba Goodwill Delegation Visits Wisconsin (Culture & Arts Group 12 Members, Biomass Group 4 Members, Women of Wings 4 Members)

Wisconsin-Chiba Inc. hosted a Sister State Exchange 20th Anniversary Party. Chiba Goodwill Delegation Visits the Wisconsin Kikkoman Foods Plant



Cutting the Commemorative Cake



All Attendees



The Culture & Arts Group, consisting of the Bappaka Lion Dance Preservation Society and the Nakazato Kirakukai performed a traditional dance from Noda City at elementary, middle, and high schools.



Country View Elementary School



Middleton Public Library

The Biomass Group exchanged ideas with the members of the state government and visited facilities in order to observe the state of technological development at companies and research institutes.



Information Exchange with the State Government



Solar Energy Technology Development Plant



City Sewage Treatment Facilities

The Women of Wings Group toured various facilities including a hospice center, children's center, and the guilders center.



At a Preschool



Singing Along with Guitar Accompaniment from a Music Therapist

2011

History of Exchange 2011

● This Year in History: Great East Japan Earthquake and TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident

Due to the March 11 Great East Japan Earthquake, the Wisconsin Goodwill Delegation's Visit Postponed

March: CWA Mediates Exchange Program Implemented between Elementary Schools

After the Great East Japan Earthquake, letters of encouragement arrived at an elementary school in Chiba City from an elementary school in Wisconsin. The picture below is of an "Asia Festival" held at the partner school that sent the letters.



Serving Japanese Food



Displaying the First Calligraphy of the Year from the Chiba City Elementary School

March: Encouraging Message from Wisconsin—Relief Project for Japan

Shortly after the Great East Japan Earthquake, on March 31 Wisconsin's First Lady Tonette Walker together with Wisconsin-Chiba, Inc. launched a relief project for Japan (press release pictured to the right).

OFFICE OF FIRST LADY TONETTE WALKER
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Press Release

Media Contact: Annie M. Nolan
Phone: (608) 333-4076

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 31, 2011

**FIRST LADY TONETTE WALKER
ANNOUNCES FUNDRAISING EFFORT FOR JAPAN**

Wisconsin-Chiba, Inc. and the First Lady partner to raise money for the Japanese Red Cross

MADISON, WI, MARCH 31, 2011: First Lady Tonette Walker and the sister-state organization Wisconsin-Chiba, Inc. announced today the Wisconsin-Chiba Japan Relief Project, organized to raise money for Japanese relief efforts, on behalf of the people of Wisconsin.

"The recent devastation of the earthquake and related tsunami has been deeply painful to observe," said the First Lady. "When I learned that Wisconsin's sister-state Chiba had been affected by the disaster, I couldn't help but be moved to action."

Since 1990, Wisconsin has shared a warm sister-state friendship with Chiba, Japan. Wisconsin-Chiba, Inc., the sister-state organization, and the First Lady, who is serving as Honorary Chairwoman of the Wisconsin-Chiba Japan Relief Project, have collaborated to create a Wisconsin-specific fundraising project represented by a unique logo to join in the support for the Japan relief effort.

"With much thought, we have developed a beautiful and culturally sensitive logo to represent Wisconsin's support for the Japanese relief effort. The two kanji symbols together form a compound word meaning friendship and are symbolically positioned to show Wisconsin's support of the Rising Sun," said Kevin Crawford, President of Wisconsin-Chiba, Inc. "We think the artwork does a great job of visually telling the story of Wisconsin's care for our Japanese friends who are suffering in so many ways."

— MORE —

Wisconsin-Chiba Japan Relief Project Page 2

The Wisconsin-Chiba Japan Relief Project will be an ongoing effort to raise both awareness of, and money for, Japan, through various fundraisers and initiatives. One hundred percent of donations made to the Wisconsin-Chiba Japan Relief Project, collected by Wisconsin-Chiba, Inc., will be donated to the Japanese Red Cross.

"Our hearts go out to our friends in Japan during this difficult time," said Walker. "We are asking people in Wisconsin to please make a contribution to the Wisconsin-Chiba Japan Relief Project to show Wisconsin's unified support for Japan."

Description of the artwork:

The letter 'W' of the word Wisconsin represents the Rising Sun of the Japanese flag. Embedded in the middle of the word 'Wisconsin,' it symbolizes the arms of the people of Wisconsin embracing their friends, the people of Japan.

The Rising Sun in this image is supported by two kanji symbols, characters in Japanese script. The kanji on the left means 'friend' while the kanji on the right means 'like.' The two kanji together form a compound word meaning friendship and are symbolically positioned to show Wisconsin's support of the Rising Sun.

The triangular set up of the Rising Sun over the kanji for friendship symbolizes 'many, many' or 'much.' In this case, many, many warm thoughts of friendship and love on behalf of the people of Wisconsin in support of our dear friends in Japan.

Note:
Postcards ranging from 1x3 inch and 6x9 inch to office, map, and bumper stickers, which feature the project's logo, are available for purchase at www.WisconsinChiba.org/affiliates.htm.

About Wisconsin-Chiba, Inc.:
Wisconsin-Chiba, Inc., is a sister-state organization which promotes educational, cultural, science, and technological exchanges, creating bonds of friendship and understanding between the people of Chiba, Japan and Wisconsin USA. Wisconsin Chiba Inc. was established in 1990 after the signing of the Sasebo-Sister State agreement. Governor Timothy G. Thompson (Wisconsin) and Takashi Nomura (Chiba) joined their respective states in 1990 as "sister states," creating a business, cultural and educational partnership. Wisconsin Chiba Inc. is an entirely non-profit, tax exempt, volunteer organization.

September: Fumiko and Hisashi Miyazaki Receive Commendation from State Governor

Fumiko and Hisashi Miyazaki, a married couple, were acknowledged for their many years of efforts towards international exchange activities as private citizens, and received public recognition from Wisconsin's state governor (official document to the right).



Hisashi Miyazaki (center) and His Wife, Fumiko (far left)

2012

History of Exchange 2012

●This Year in History: Yamanaka Laboratories' Research on iPS Stem Cells Receives the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

April: CWA Intermediates in Football Showcase

Thanks to the mediation of the CWA, the best-in-Japan Obic Seagulls are able to visit the Green Bay Packers.



Lambeau Field



A Restaurant in the Stadium

September: Wisconsin Goodwill Delegation Visits Chiba (Culture & Arts Group 10 Members, Women of Wings 3 Members, WCI 2 Members)



The Wisconsin Goodwill Delegation Visits the Soy Sauce History Museum in Noda City



Women of Wings Focused on the Eastern Part of the Prefecture.

A Welcome Party in Noda City

The Culture & Arts Group Performed a Pomeranian Dance at elementary and middle Schools in Noda City and a High School in Narita City.



Kawama Middle School



Shimizudai Elementary School



Prefectural Narita Kokusai High School

From Being a Host Family to a Making a Trip to Milwaukee

Excerpt from an article by Yoko Furuya of Noda City in CWA NEWS #25 (November 2012 Issue)

Once it was decided that we would be a host family, anxiously we began to exchange emails. Eric had recommended that we make Japanese style meals, and desired for us to fit him into our daily lives as much as possible. Every night during that time, my husband and I would get out some of Eric's favorite Kirin Beer, and talk with him deep into the night. During these talks, we gradually understood each other on a deeper and deeper level. On the third night, we held a potluck with some of our friends. In what felt like the blink of an eye, his 5 day stay ended. All that we could think about was what things we wanted to talk more about or what things we wish we could have shown him. As we continued to stay in touch over the internet, it soon became an absolute must for our family one day to visit Eric in Milwaukee. => For the rest of this story, please see page 22.

The WCI focused on the economic and industrial northwestern area of Chiba



Kikkoman Factory in Noda City



Chiba University Kashiwanoha Campus



Sapporo Beer Manufacturing Plant

2013

History of Exchange 2013

● This Year in History: 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games Decided to Be Held in Tokyo

May: Wisconsin College Students Greet Prefectural Governor

As a part of the government-supported North American youth exchange program, students from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh had a chance to pay a visit to former Governor Morita.

September: Interview with Both Governors

Former Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker and former Chiba Governor Morita meet and hold an interview at the Japan-Midwest U.S. Association's Japan-US Joint Meeting, held in Tokyo.

October: Chiba Goodwill Delegation Visits Wisconsin (Culture & Arts Group 13 Members, Science & Technology Group 4 Members, Health & Welfare Group 4 Members)

Chiba Goodwill Delegation Pays Courtesy Visit to former Governor Walker



The Health and Welfare Group visited a medical center and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

UWM College of Nursing

The Arts and Culture Group was made up of members of the traditional Japanese dance troupe Yabanakai from Narita City. They visited schools and care homes in Wisconsin and participated in a dance festival.

*Kurodabushi**Kimigayo Shouchikubai**Yashiki Musume*

The Science & Technology Group participated and shared their research in an international seminar about indoor plants. The group also observed the University's research lab as well as the distribution of vegetables.



Exchanging Information at the International Seminar



Research Facilities at UW-Madison



At a Large Supermarket

2014

History of Exchange 2014

● This Year in History: Japanese Consumption Tax Increases from 5 to 8%

May: 10th Anniversary Celebration of CWA Founding

An exchange event was held at Hotel Port Plaza Chiba to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the CWA founding.

August: Host Families Attend Wedding

Three of the host families of the 2012 Wisconsin Goodwill Delegation were invited to the wedding of two Delegation members in Milwaukee.

November: Wisconsin Goodwill Delegation Visits Chiba (Culture & Arts Group 8 Members, Science & Technology Group 2 Members, Education Group 3 Members)

The Culture and Arts Group, comprising members carrying on the traditions of Irish immigrant music performed at social welfare homes and other venues, as well as taking part in cultural exchange at middle and high schools.



Social Welfare Home "Magokoro"



Prefectural Narita Kokusai High School



Tea Ceremony Experience

The Science & Technology Group toured Chiba University, along with corporate plant factories and other facilities in the northwestern part of the prefecture, focusing on the northwestern part of the Prefecture from the standpoint of experts in agriculture and nutrition.



Chiba University Kashiwanoha Campus



MIRAI Co., Ltd. Plant Factory



Yamada Biomass Plant

The Education Group focused their efforts on Chiba City, touring Chiba University and the Prefectural University of Health Sciences.

Prefectural University of Health Sciences
Nitona CampusPrefectural University of Health Sciences
Makuhari Main Campus

Chiba University

2015

History of Exchange 2015

●This Year in History: In the Rugby World Cup, Japan Wins a Historic 3 Games

September: Meeting Between Chiba Governor and Wisconsin Lt. Governor

Former Wisconsin Lt. Governor Kleefisch and former Chiba Governor Morita appeared at the “Japan American-Midwest Joint Session” held in Tokyo. Also present was former CWA Vice President Yasuhide Akada.

October: Chiba Goodwill Delegation Visits Wisconsin (Culture & Arts Group 12 Members, Education Group 5 Members, Agriculture Group 4 Members)

The Culture & Arts Group, composed of members from Mobara City’s Japanese classical Flute group Nezumi alongside a skilled calligrapher performed at schools as well as elderly and disabled care facilities.



Indian Community School



St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care

The Agricultural Group, made of amateur dairy farmers and horticulturists, toured local farms and university research facilities.



A Family-Owned Farm



A Research Facility for Growing Rice in Cold-Weather Regions



A Full-Sized Supermarket

Including the president of the Chiba University of Health Sciences, the Education Group visited universities and health science centers. They were looking for prospective students and employees.



South Shore Aurora Health Care Center



St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care

October: Goodwill Delegation Participates in Events Commemorating 25 Years of Partnership Between the Sister States

Celebrating the 25 year agreement between the two sister states, Chiba and Wisconsin members of the Goodwill Delegation participated in commemorative events taking place in Wisconsin.



Commemorative Tree Planting at Kikkoman Foods



Cutting the Cake at a Party Organized by the WCI

Annual Meeting

At the CWA Annual Meeting held every year in June, reports of last year's activities and budget are reported, alongside deliberation of plans and spending for the current year. This picture is of the Annual Meeting held in June of 2015.

2016

History of Exchange 2016

●This Year in History: Donald Trump Elected President

September: Wisconsin Goodwill Delegation Visits Chiba (Culture & Arts Group 7 Members, Education Group 3 Members)

The Culture & Arts Group, made up of members of the Dance Academy of Mexico, held performances at elementary, middle, and high schools all across the city of Mobara and participated in a concert at a cultural exchange event.



Mobara City Hall Lobby Concert



Prefectural Chosei High School



Farewell Party



Takushoku University Koryo High School

The Education Group visited many places within Chiba City, including Chiba University, the Chiba General Education Center, Chiba Prefectural University of Health Sciences, an elementary school, and a high school.



Miyazaki Elementary School



Prefectural Makuhashi Sohgo High School Nursing Course



Prefectural University of Health Sciences



Chiba University School of Nursing

Exchange Event

After the end of every general meeting that the CWA holds regularly each year, the association also holds an exchange event in which members, staff and ALTs all participate. After a pleasant chat over lunch, the participants enjoy a performance by the previous year's dispatched members, and the ALTs who will leave in August share their memories of their time in Japan. This picture is of the exchange event held in June 2016.



2017

History of Exchange 2017

● This Year in History: Golfer Matsuyama Finishes 2nd Place in US Open

June: Women of Wings Visits Wisconsin (6 Members)

Chiba Members Visiting Wisconsin (Welcome Party at Dianne Ballweg's house pictured)



Banquet Featuring Japanese Home Cooking at the Gilda's Club

September: Information Exchange between Governors

Japan-Midwest US & Midwest US-Japan Associations' 49th Annual Joint Meeting was held in Tokyo. Former Governor Scott Walker attended with former Governor Kensaku Morita and exchanged information.

**October: Chiba Goodwill Delegation Visits Wisconsin (Culture & Arts Group 4 Members, Education Group 5 Members)**

The kabuki dance group Wazaogiza, recommended by Kisarazu City, participated in the Culture & Arts Group. They held public performances for events such as Japan Fest 2017.

*Kyo-no-Shiki**Sanbasou**Kuni-iri Yakko*

The Education Group, consisting of members of Chiba University, visited places such as universities' nursing departments, the Muslim Community and Health Center, and companies handling hospice, among others.



Muslim Community and Health Center of Wisconsin



Alberno College



UW-Madison Nursing Training Room

Board of Directors Meeting

CWA holds a Board of Directors meeting in May every year to discuss the business report and settlement of accounts for the previous year and the business plan and budget for the current year, which are to be submitted to the Annual General Meeting. After the deliberations, attendees exchange opinions on how to proceed with future projects. For the list of members of the Board of Directors, please view the "Overview" section at <https://chiba-wisconsin.net/>.

This photo shows the Board of Directors meeting held in Chiba City in May 2018.



2018

History of Exchange 2018

● This Year in History: Female Tennis Player Naomi Osaka Wins US Open

September: Wisconsin Goodwill Delegation Visits Chiba (Culture & Arts Group 9 Members, Education Group 3 Members)

The Culture & Arts Group, comprising members of the Nefertari African Dance Company performed at various locations including Kisarazu City.



Organic Festival



Kisarazu Kindergarten



Kisarazu Sogo High School



Farewell Party

The Education Group visited high schools and hospitals around Chiba City, as well as Chiba University and Chiba Prefectural University of Health Sciences.



Prefectural Makuhari Sohgo High School Nursing Course



Prefectural University of Health Sciences



Chiba University Graduate Nursing Research Program



Chiba University Hospital

2019

History of Exchange 2019

● This Year in History: Female Tennis Player Naomi Osaka Wins the Australian Open

September: CWA Board Members Meet with Wisconsin State Governor and His Attendants

Attending a conference held in Tokyo, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers along with his wife and staff visited the Chiba Prefectural Office. After a courtesy call from the Chiba Governor, board members of the CWA met with the State Governor and his staff.

**October : Chiba Goodwill Delegation Visits Wisconsin (Culture & Arts Group 8 Members, Dairy Group 4 Members, Cycle Tourism Group 4 Members)**

Members of the Culture and Arts Group, including members of the Minami Gyotoku Group from Ichikawa City, performed a traditional yosakoi festival dance at various high schools alongside various facilities. Additionally, they performed at Japan Fest 2019.



St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care



Italian Community Center



Franklin High School

The Dairy Group, consisting of dairy farmers within the Prefecture, went to see area dairy farms as well as toured cheese factories.



A Family-Owned Farm



A Corporate Ranch



A Cheese Factory

The Cycle Tourism Group rode Wisconsin's many trails, as well as met with leaders from Trek Bicycle Corporation.



Elroy Sparta State Trail



Trek Corporation



A Bike Store

Activities to Raise Publicity for Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Festival

CWA started the Wisconsin Festival based on the concept of “Come! See! Know our Sister City!” It was held a total of four times.



In March 2008, the Choshi Hane-Daiko Preservation Society participated in the third Wisconsin Festival and helped make a lively venue. (Venue: Nanohana Hotel Plaza)



At the fourth Wisconsin Festival held in May 2009, Wisconsinite Greg Irwin not only held a musical performance, but also carried out a discussion on the theme “Meeting Wisconsin, and the Future”. (Venue: Chiba University Keyaki Hall)



Exhibits at Events like Global Festa CHIBA

CWA also actively held exhibits for other organizations' projects. Nearly every year since Global Festa CHIBA in August 2009, CWA has held exhibits to spread knowledge of Wisconsin.



September 2010, the CWA booth stationed in front of the entrance for the Chiba National Athletic Meet General Opening Ceremony (Venue: ZOZO Marine Stadium (Formerly Chiba Marine Stadium))



May 2015, selling Johnsonville hot dogs at Global Festa CHIBA (Venue: Kanda University of International Studies)



May 2019, an ALT from Wisconsin selling hot dogs at Global Festa CHIBA (Venue: Kanda University of International Studies)

Member Exchange Activities to Raise CWA Member Enthusiasm

Prefectural Bus Tours

In order to increase the number of participants, non-CWA members were allowed to participate. The bus tour trips to regions within the Prefecture were held nine times.



Visiting Tateyama Castle in the southern part of the Prefecture, a setting in the Nanso Satomi Hakkenden (Eight Dog Chronicles) (November 2006)



Viewing the big Hina Matsuri (Dolls' Festival), a custom of Katsura City in the southern part of the prefecture (February 2008)

Holding a Welcoming Party for the New ALTs



Starting from October 2015, the ALT welcoming party allows participants to experience traditional Japanese culture through origami, ehagaki, tea ceremony, etc. while interacting with CWA members (Tea Ceremony Experience in September 2018)

Hosting Events like the Thanksgiving Party



November 2013



November 2014



November 2019

Starting in September 2006, what used to be a barbeque party was later changed to a Thanksgiving party, in which members and non-members alike can participate (Food Cultural Exchange Meeting). Every year, many ALTs look forward to this event.

Messages from the Steering Committee:

The CWA Steering Committee meets monthly to discuss how best to implement the plans approved by our Board of Directors. The Steering Committee is made up of volunteers committed to the relationship between Chiba and Wisconsin. Below, we would like to present their messages regarding our sister state exchange efforts.

Once when I was staying in Wisconsin for work, I had a chance to attend a public hearing for locals. At this meeting, average townsfolk came together and passionately discussed the issues at hand from the early evening hours into the late of night. I was struck with awe to witness this kind of grass-roots democracy at work even at the local level. Likewise, the CWA also carries out its activities with the spirit of democracy by drawing forth contributions from each member and thoroughly discussing together before making its decisions. (Kazuya Hayashi)

I joined the CWA Steering Committee in 2005. As a member of the Goodwill Delegation, I accompanied the psychiatry team to Wisconsin in 2007. I also served as a host for each kind of event organized by the cultural exchange section of the Steering Committee. (Teruo Abe)

In 2012, we accompanied the Pomeranian Dance Group to a middle school in Noda city for a performance that turned out to be a huge success. The report noted that the group members said that they felt just like rock stars and that the performance had given them the encouragement they needed. (Tadao Miyazaki)

I traveled to Wisconsin 20 years ago as part of a folk singing group. Afterwards, I joined the CWA and performed folk songs at many events, all of which I really enjoyed. I sincerely hope that many people will be able to see Wisconsin and that the CWA will be able to grow. (Akio Asanuma)

In the fall of 1996, I decided that my first trip abroad would be to the US, and I fortunately happened across the chance to go to Wisconsin. I will never forget the sight I saw out the window of the plane in the morning fog. From then on, I cannot describe how much my life has been enriched by the numerous experiences I've had with the CWA. Thank you so much. (Kyoko Oura)

As a Wisconsinite who has come to view Chiba as my second home, the 30th Anniversary of our sister state relationship is extremely important to me. Going forward, I would like to continue to show the beauty of both Chiba and Wisconsin to the people of both sides of this relationship, and I hope that we can begin to resume in-person exchange events as we recover from the Covid-19 pandemic. (Max Gumble)

As a member of the Steering Committee, I will continue to do my best to both raise awareness of and participate in Chiba-Wisconsin exchange, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary. (Masahiro Ishida)

Including my two years as an exchange student, I have spent a total of 14 years in Wisconsin, so it has become my second home. From now on, I hope I can be of help in promoting friendly relations between Wisconsin and Chiba. (Kazuo Shimizu)

When I visited Wisconsin in 2015, I was an employee of the International Affairs Division of the Prefectural Government. It was right around the 25th anniversary of the Sister State Agreement. I will never forget the homestay I did at Mindy Michalski's home. (Kenji Saso)

I was the prefectural government member in charge of cultural exchange with WI in April 2000. The welcoming of the delegation that June, the visits to WI in August 2001, and other events were what led to the activities of the steering committee today. I can only do so much, but I hope that I will be able to continue being of service in the future. (Tadao Ando)

My secret weapon for cultural exchange is “Chiba Prefecture’s Traditional Regional Cuisine, ‘Futomaki Festival Sushi’”. It’s a state of the art makizushi that is all the craze—it’s stunning, fun to make, and delicious. I am looking forward to the time when we can all make it together. (Sanae Mitsuhashi)

I was incredibly excited and nervous when I stayed with a host family in 1996. My host family was a doctor and his wife. I was amazed at how big their backyard was, and you could see an unobstructed view of the sunset from their spacious living room. I spent two nights in their beautiful home. What left an impression on me was how housework was done by everyone, regardless of gender. (Takako Ishii)

Over the past thirty years, we have had to deal with disasters and hardships such as earthquakes and pandemics that have caused many people a lot of suffering. However, CWA, like a river, has kept on going. We will continue to build and maintain a solid relationship through cooperation. (Mihoko Ohara)

Ever since I visited Wisconsin as a member of the Goodwill Delegation in August of 2001, the warm welcomes of the WCI and the host families there, as well as the continued activity of the CWA in these 20 years have been of great encouragement to me. (Shigeo Moriyama)

That these exchanges have continued for a long many years, and that we have worked to help each other in this time brings me great joy. I pray that we will work together even more actively in the future. (Yasuko Aoki)

Meeting with women of Wisconsin through Women of Wings has left with me many precious memories which I hold dearly to this day. This is proof of the great pride I have for the women of Wisconsin as well as towards my friends in The Women of Wings (Shizue Yamazaki)

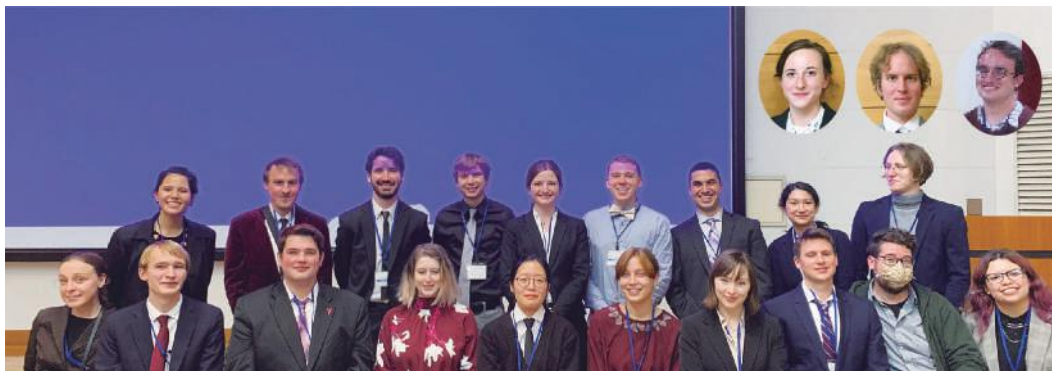
During their visit in 2018, I hosted President Sharon and her husband, along with Clayborn Benson. Between negotiations with the hotel, making dinner arrangements, and showing them to the morning meeting place, I quickly felt the three of us grow very close. (Tetsuji Ogawa)

Post-Covid-19 pandemic, I hope that we will once again continue to carry out the diverse relations between our two states. As Secretariat, I will do my best to ensure that happens. (Kei Takaya)

The Sister State 30th Anniversary Special Edition is having a great impact on the partnership between Chiba and WI, which evokes our memories of the past 30 years so much. From now on, I will do my best to strengthen our cooperation and further deepen our relationship as Secretariat. (Shuhei Oku)

Translation Acknowledgments, etc.

Throughout the elementary, middle, and high schools of Chiba Prefecture, there are a large number of Assistant Language Teachers from Wisconsin who serve to both advance students' English abilities and deepen their international understanding. These ALTs also regularly take advantage of opportunities to participate in both promotion and exchange activities with the CWA. Among this group, we would like to thank ALTs Lewis Hurd, Matt Vosters, and Alexis Lipkie, as well as Chiba-Wisconsin ALT Program Coordinator Max Gumble, who also serves as a member of our Steering Committee, for their assistance in preparing the English translation of this Newsletter. We would like to deeply express our gratitude, as well as introduce all of this past year's Wisconsinite ALTs.



【Headshots (left to right)】

Julie Mae Engelmann	Prefectural Nagareyama Otaka no Mori High School
Joseph Simurdiak	Prefectural Nagareyama Otaka no Mori High School
Max Gumble	ALT Program Coordinator, Prefectural Board of Education

【Front row (left to right)】

Clara Faile	Isumi Municipal Misaki Junior High School, Choja Elementary School, Nakane Elementary School, Ohara Elementary School
Tyler Jossart	Prefectural Matsudo Kokusai High School
Jon Kangas	Prefectural Sakura High School
Grace Burzinski	Prefectural Chiba Higashi High School
Hanna Nam	Prefectural Narita Kokusai High School
Libby Sattler	Prefectural Narita Kokusai High School
Josephine Kirkland	Asahi Municipal Daini Junior High School, Higata Elementary School, Kyowa Elementary School
Lewis Hurd	Prefectural Matsudo Kokusai High School
Jamison Taube	Prefectural Togane High School
Alexie Bollman	Prefectural Chiba Minami High School

【Back row (left to right)】

Carly Rowley	Isumi Municipal Ohara Junior High School, Choja Elementary School, Ohara Elementary School
Matt Vosters	Prefectural Matsuo High School
Ben Alden	Prefectural Sosa High School
Matt Rathsack	Prefectural Toke High School, Prefectural Chishirodai High School
Alexis Lipkie	Prefectural Awa High School, Prefectural Nagasa High School
David Garcia	Prefectural Kashiwai High School
James Aguilo Ramos	Prefectural Kimitsu High School
Sophia Silva	Prefectural Matsudo Kokusai High School
Grant Smith	Oamishirasato Municipal Oami Junior High School

Editorial Note

Looking back over the past 30 years of exchange between Chiba Prefecture and the State of Wisconsin, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who has been involved in our sister state exchange over the years, including those who have since passed. We realize once again that this exchange program would not have been possible without countless people's enthusiasm, which is shown clearly in the messages from our Steering Committee members. We are sure that even more people from Chiba and Wisconsin will continue to meet and create excitement in the future, and the CWA will continue to make every effort to further expand and deepen our circle of exchange.

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