

Greetings from the Association President



Chiba-Wisconsin Association
President Yuzaburo Mogi

I would like to extend my best wishes to everyone with the publication of the first CWA NEWS of 2023.

I would also like to express my deepest appreciation for your continued support and understanding with regards to the exchange activities of the CWA.

Following the establishment of sister state relations between Chiba Prefecture and the State of Wisconsin in 1990, this Association was founded in 2004, making this year its 19th of serving as point of contact for our exchange on the Chiba side.

Since then, to build on the friendly relations established by the Prefecture, we have continued to widen and deepen our circle of community-based exchange by expanding into a wide variety of activities in the private sector.

Although the 2009 H1N1 pandemic and the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake interrupted the sending and receiving of our respective Friendship Delegations, through the great efforts of all involved, we were able to resume our regular exchange.

Last December, we published an English version of the CWA NEWS 30th Anniversary Special Edition so that people in Wisconsin can also trace the history of our exchange.

In addition, we were able to hold a Members Exchange Event and Food Culture Exchange Event, which had both been postponed since 2020. Restrictions were put in place and sufficient measures were taken to prevent the spread of Covid-19, but we were able to enjoy the benefits of face-to-face exchange.

This year, we are planning to host a Friendship Delegation from Wisconsin, as we had planned to do three years ago. In carrying out this event, we will closely monitor the situation surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic, and take appropriate measures in cooperation with the Prefecture, Wisconsin-Chiba Inc., and other related organizations.

We also plan to steadily implement other exchange programs as we are able.

It is my hope that we can continue to further expand our circle of exchange and deepen our mutual friendship in order to make the wonderful qualities of Chiba Prefecture and its citizens known to the people of Wisconsin.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the continued support and cooperation of our Association's board members, regular members, and all others involved in our exchange programs.

2022 New ALTs Welcomed with Traditional Japanese Musical Instruments!

A welcome party for newly arrived ALTs was held on October 2nd in the reception hall of the Soga Community Center in Chiba City. Due to the ongoing pandemic, attendees this year included the six members of Steering Committee member Akio Asanuma's performing troupe, seven new ALTs, and 14 Steering Committee members and other staff. This was the second attempt at a Japanese traditional instrument experience, and thanks to the members of the Asanuma Troupe, this year's event was enjoyable and exciting for all participants.

The event started at 2 p.m. with a performance of "It's a Small World" by the Asanuma Troupe, followed by a greeting from Chairperson Moriyama and an introduction of the participants.

As in the previous year, ALTs were divided into three groups to experience playing Japanese instruments: taiko, shamisen, and shakuhachi flute, under the guidance of the Asanuma Troupe members. One shamisen group in particular played so impressively that the Asanuma Troupe, surprised, asked them for an encore performance. It was also notable how the members of the Asanuma Troupe used their experience from last year's event to further improve their instruction this year.

Afterwards, all the ALTs and volunteers danced in a circle to "Tokyo Ondō" under the guidance of the Asanuma Troupe, and the atmosphere was as enthusiastic as a Bon dance at a summer festival. This provided a great opportunity for ALTs to get a taste of Japanese culture.

In this relaxed atmosphere, the self-introductions by the ALTs were very lively, and it seemed as if everyone was truly enjoying the opportunity. The event ended with a commemorative photo of the participants.

※This video is available on the CWA website (<https://chiba-wisconsin.net>)

CWA Newsletter No. 53

March 20, 2023 (original Japanese version)



After hands-on time with the instruments, we fully enjoyed the atmosphere of a Bon dance!



Commemorative photo of the participants

Thanksgiving Food Culture Exchange

On Sunday, November 27th, 2022, the “Japan-U.S. Food Culture Exchange! Thanksgiving & Japanese Harvest” event was held. This was the first time in three years that a food culture exchange event with Wisconsin ALTs was held, but due to restrictions by the venue due to the ongoing pandemic, from the CWA side the event was limited to Steering Committee members.

Blessed with mild weather, eight ALTs and 22 others, including Steering Committee members, gathered at the Chiba City Lifelong Learning Center. The Center is located an eight-minute walk away from JR Chiba Station, and its food culture seminar room is fully equipped with cooking equipment and tableware, including several large ovens.

The Steering Committee members entered the room as soon as it opened and immediately started preparing ingredients. By 10:30 a.m., all participants were dressed in aprons and bandanas and divided into five groups to start cooking. Group A prepared roast turkey and mashed potatoes, Group B prepared salad and soup, and Group C was able to experience making futomaki matsurizushi (Chiba Prefecture’s unique thick sushi rolls). Group D was in charge of green bean casserole and two kinds of sauces for the turkey, and Group E made hot apple cider and cinnamon apples. Participants weighed portions, adjusted the heat, and checked their finished products as the ALTs trying their hand at making futomaki sushi received careful guidance from their instructors. Even with masks on, the conversation was lively. Mr. Saso, who is in charge of videography can be heard asking participants, “Looks delicious, doesn’t it?”

By noon, the roast turkeys were cooked beautifully, and the delicious smells made our stomachs rumble. The pandas and peach blossom designs in the futomaki sushi added color, the apple cider gave off a spicy aroma, and the cinnamon apples served with a generous scoop of ice cream for dessert were all delicious.

After the meal, everyone at each table introduced themselves. As the speeches proceeded, one ALT explained that Thanksgiving is “a day for families to get together and eat a full meal,” and another told of how his ancestors came to North America on the Mayflower, adding a touch of history to the friendly atmosphere.

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing pandemic our exchange with the ALTs was again limited to the Steering Committee members. It is our hope that the situation will come under control, and the day when all our members can once again participate will come soon.

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CWA Newsletter No. 53

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The food prepared by the participants was delicious and lots of fun!



Commemorative photo of the participants

Introducing the Wisconsin ALTs!

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

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



Inserted Photos (from the Left):	
James Aguilo Ramos	Prefectural Kimitsu High School
Front Row (from the Left):	
Maximilian Gumble	Prefectural Board of Education, ALT Program Coordinator
Josie Anderson	Prefectural Sakura High School
Julie Mae Engelman	Prefectural Nagareyama Otakanomori High School
Libby Sattler	Prefectural Narita Kokusai High School
Hanna Nam	Prefectural Narita Kokusai High School
Josephine Kirkland	Asahi Municipal 2 nd Junior High School, Higata Elementary School, Kyowa Elementary School
Alexie Bollman	Prefectural Chiba Minami High School
Grace Burzinski	Prefectural Chiba Higashi High School
Back Row (from the Left):	
Joseph Simurdiak	Prefectural Nagareyama Otakanomori High School
Alexis Lipkie	Prefectural Awa High School
Tyler Jossart	Prefectural Matsudo Kokusai High School
Aaron Van Den Elzen	Prefectural Matsudo Kokusai High School

CWA Newsletter No. 53

March 20, 2023 (original Japanese version)

Drew Downie	Prefectural Matsudo Kokusai High School
Lindsay Davenport	Prefectural Matsudo Kokusai High School
Nathaniel English	Prefectural Kashiwai High School
Liz Xiong	Prefectural Toke High School, Prefectural Chishirodai High School
Matt Vosters	Prefectural Matsuo High School
Ben Alden	Prefectural Sosa High School
Daryan Schultz	Prefectural Togane High School
Grant Koyama	Oamishirasato Municipal Oami Junior High School
Clara Fujino	Isumi Municipal Misaki Junior High School, Choja Elementary School, Nakane Elementary School, Ohara Elementary School
Carly Rowley	Isumi Municipal Ohara Junior High School, Choja Elementary School, Ohara Elementary School

Announcement from the CWA

In regards to the FY 2023 Board of Directors Meeting and FY 2023 Annual General Meeting and Exchange, we plan to hold them at the times and venues posted below. We will inform all CWA members of relevant details regarding the meetings by mail when they are determined.

FY 2023 Board of Directors Meeting

- Tuesday, May 23rd, Hotel Port Plaza Chiba

FY 2023 Annual General Meeting and Exchange

- Sunday, June 18th, Hotel Plaza Nanohana
 - General Meeting begins at 11:00
 - Exchange begins at 12:00

“How about Joining the CWA?”

The Chiba Wisconsin Association (CWA), in addition to conducting sister exchange projects with the state of Wisconsin every year, participates in events and exchanges with ALTs from Wisconsin. If you are interested in joining CWA, please contact us at:

Phone: 043-223-2394 (International Affairs Division, General Planning Department, Chiba Prefectural Government)

Email: kokusaig2@mz.pref.chiba.lg.jp

Obituary

Ms. Kyoko Oura, who served as a member of the Steering Committee and Head of the Exchange Program Planning Group, passed away on December 15th, 2022.

We would like to express our gratitude for her contributions and pray that she rest in peace.

CWA Newsletter No. 53

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【Editor's Note】

This year, despite the limitations placed on the numbers of participants due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we were able to enjoy the true joys of meeting face-to-face through the Members Exchange Event, the New ALT Welcome Party, and the Food Culture Exchange Event. Although the pandemic will continue to affect us in the new fiscal year, we will continue our efforts to provide opportunities for our members to be moved and delighted by face-to-face exchange.

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