

## Greetings from the Association President



Chiba-Wisconsin Association  
**President Yuzaburo Mogi**

I would like to extend my greetings on the occasion of the first issue of CWA NEWS in 2026.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your continued understanding and cooperation regarding the exchange programs and other activities of the Chiba-Wisconsin Association.

Chiba Prefecture and the State of Wisconsin established a sister-state relationship in 1990, and it has been 22 years since our association became the liaison for Chiba Prefecture.

During this time, we have carried out grassroots activities across a wide range of fields to further develop the friendly relations established by the prefecture, and as a result, the circle of community-based exchanges has steadily expanded and deepened.

Furthermore, while our programs for hosting and sending goodwill delegations were temporarily suspended due to the 2009 swine flu pandemic, the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, and the spread of COVID-19 beginning in 2020, we were able to resume these exchanges in fiscal year 2024 thanks to the dedicated efforts of all involved.

Although it is truly regrettable that the visit by the Wisconsin goodwill delegation, which was scheduled for last year, had to be postponed due to circumstances on the Wisconsin side, activities such as member exchange meetings, welcome parties for new ALTs, and food culture exchange events have continued steadily. We are currently disseminating information regarding these activities through video streams on our website and CWA NEWS.

This year, we are preparing to dispatch a Chiba goodwill delegation. Building on our past exchange achievements, we will strive to make this exchange even more fruitful. We also aim to further expand our network of exchanges and deepen our friendship so that the people of Wisconsin can come to understand the charms of Chiba Prefecture and the wonderful qualities of its residents.

In closing, I would like to ask for your continued support and cooperation—from our association's officers and members, as well as everyone else—regarding our exchange programs and other initiatives. I will conclude my remarks here.

## 2025 New ALT Welcome Party

On Saturday, September 27, with a refreshing autumn breeze in the air, the CWA hosted a welcome and social gathering for new ALTs. Thirty-five people, including eight new ALTs from Wisconsin, gathered at the Makuhari Seaside Park Barbecue Garden. The event began right on schedule with opening remarks by Steering Committee Chairperson Moriyama, moderated by Mr. Abe, Head of the Exchange Planning Group.

The participants divided into six groups and began cooking. In addition to vacuum-packed sausages, meat, and vegetables for the barbecue, they placed homegrown eggplant and pumpkin provided by the organizing committee on the grill. The atmosphere was lively, with some holding tongs, others checking the doneness of the food, and still others simply enjoying their meals.

This time, in addition to an increase in new ALT participants, four students from Keiai University in Chiba—who had just returned from Wisconsin after completing a short-term language study program—also joined us. Under each tent, English and Japanese flew back and forth, creating a youthful and vibrant atmosphere of exchange.

Everyone brought their own drinks, ranging from tea and soft drinks to beer. With the addition of sake brought by participants and red and white wines provided by Kikkoman, the conversation really picked up, and the atmosphere became even more lively. A 5-year-old girl who attended the event ran freely around the open-air venue—a welcome change from the confines of a classroom—bringing smiles to everyone's faces.

Just as everyone was feeling full from the yakisoba served to wrap up the event, the new ALTs began their self-introductions. Many of the ALTs are fluent in Japanese, and they spoke about the tension and excitement of working in schools, as well as their hometowns; however, their speeches in English seemed more lively, as they were better able to convey the full depth of their feelings. Additionally, Keiai University students who had just returned from a short-term language study program shared how much they had learned through their valuable experiences, expressing gratitude to the people of Wisconsin who had treated them so kindly during their stay and talking about the delicious local cheese.

After finishing everything on their plates—including the yakisoba—the participants cleared the cluttered tables. Following a group photo, they dispersed under the lingering strong sunlight, promising to meet again.

# CWA Newsletter No. 61

March 19, 2026 (original Japanese version)



Cooking



Toast



Conversation



ALT Self-Introductions



Keiai University Students

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※A video of the event can be found on the CWA's website (<https://chiba-wisconsin.net>)

## **Japan-U.S. Food Culture Exchange 2025!! ~Roast Turkey and Boso Futomaki Festival Sushi~**

On Sunday, November 30, 2025, under clear skies from early morning, a Food Culture Exchange Event was held at the Chiba City Lifelong Learning Center, with 25 participants, including ALTs.

Although this event has become an annual tradition, with nine ALTs participating this time, we solicited dish suggestions via a pre-event survey and added two new items to the menu: Broccoli Rice Casserole and Apple Pie (made using spring roll wrappers) proposed by the ALTs.

The CWA steering committee members gathered at 9:00 a.m. and efficiently began preparations, such as basting the turkey with oil and placing it in the oven, portioning out sushi rice, and distributing ingredients. By a little past 10:00 a.m., participants began to arrive, and everyone took their assigned stations to start cooking.

While the main dish of the Food Culture Exchange Event is turkey, there are also two types of turkey sauces (cranberry and gravy), and mashed potatoes are a must. As for the Boso Futomaki Festival Sushi, participants attempted to create patterns of roses, camellias, peach blossoms, and even pandas. However, they wouldn't know if they had rolled them successfully until they cut them open, keeping the excitement going until the very end. Thanks to the attentive guidance of Ms. Minegishi from the Chiba Traditional Local Cuisine Research Society, as well as Steering Committee members Ms. Mitsuhashi and Ms. Kakuta, participants seemed thoroughly satisfied with the results while enjoying the thrill of solving a jigsaw puzzle.

The turkey was roasted well ahead of schedule, and by the time the carving was finished, the mashed potatoes, casseroles, salads, soups, and desserts were all ready one after another. The Festival Sushi rolls were also sliced, and by a little past 12:30 PM, everything was set for the meal. Once everyone took their seats and began eating together, the venue was filled with a warm and friendly atmosphere. This year's menu was more abundant than usual, offering both variety and quality, and I believe the participants were thoroughly satisfied. Once everyone had eaten their fill, we began a round of self-introductions in a mix of Japanese and English, and we discovered that the inari sushi was particularly popular.

We packed up all the leftover food into containers to take home as souvenirs, and after cleaning up, we took a group photo with all the participants.

Incidentally, although we were worried about securing a turkey this time, thanks to Steering Committee member Ms. Aoki, we were able to get one without a hitch. Additionally, Steering Committee Chairperson Moriyama provided vegetables he had grown himself: the sweet potatoes, in particular, were exceptionally delicious, living up to their reputation as the best of the season. I also took on the challenge of making Boso Futomaki Festival Sushi for the first time in a long while, and it was a fulfilling day as I experienced the joy of eating sushi I had made myself.

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All participants worked together to prepare the meal!!



Impressive knife skills!



The food was delicious, and we had a wonderful time!!

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\*A video of the event can be found on the CWA's website (<https://chiba-wisconsin.net>)

## 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):**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Libby Sattler | Prefectural Narita Kokusai High School  |
| Danielle Doh  | Kamagaya Municipal Nanbu Elementary School,<br>Tyubu Elementary School, Gohonmatsu Elementary<br>School |
| John Skendzel | Isumi Municipal Ohara Elementary School,<br>Ohara Junior High School, Choja Elementary School           |
| Greg Scheer   | Isumi Municipal Namihana Elementary School,<br>Ohara Elementary School, Ohara Junior High School        |

**Front Row (from the Left):**

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Oli Wright            | Prefectural Chiba Higashi High School   |
| Liz Xiong             | Prefectural Toke High School            |
| Faith Robinson        | Prefectural Matsuo High School          |
| Daryan Schultz        | Prefectural Togane High School          |
| McKenzie LeFaivre     | Prefectural Narita Kokusai High School  |
| Jessi Childress       | Prefectural Kashiwai High School        |
| Carson Holm           | Prefectural Matsudo Kokusai High School |
| Valerie Montes de Oca | Prefectural Awa High School             |

**Back Row (from the Left):**

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Elise Fischer       | Prefectural Sosa High School            |
| Marieigh Van Dellen | Prefectural Chiba Minami High School    |
| Kyle Krueger        | Prefectural Matsudo Kokusai High School |

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Zach Cervenka	Prefectural Nagareyama Otakanomori High School
Tom Meyer	Prefectural Kimitu High School
Jakob Otterson	Prefectural Chosei High School
Michael Hang	Prefectural Sakura High School
Adam Finnessy	Prefectural Matsudo Kokusai High School
Aaron Van Den Elzen	Prefectural Matsudo Kokusai High School
Sean Beyer	Prefectural Nagareyama Otakanomori High School
Maximilian Gumble	Prefectural Board of Education, ALT Program Coordinator

### Notice from the CWA

The 2026 Board of Directors Meeting, General Meeting, and Exchange Event are scheduled as follows.

Please note that details regarding the General Meeting and other events will be sent to members by mail.

#### 2026 Board of Directors Meeting

- Monday, June 1st, Hotel Port Plaza Chiba

#### 2026 General Meeting and Exchange Event

- Saturday, June 27th, Plaza Nanohana
  - General Meeting: Starting at 11:00 AM
  - Exchange Event: Starting at 12:00 PM

### Why not join the CWA?

The Chiba Wisconsin Association engages in sister-state exchange programs with Wisconsin, including the mutual dispatch and reception of goodwill delegations. We also participate in events and organize exchange activities for members, often involving ALT (Assistant Language Teachers) from Wisconsin. If you are interested, please contact us at the information below.

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

Email: [kokusaig2@mz.pref.chiba.lg.jp](mailto:kokusaig2@mz.pref.chiba.lg.jp)

#### [Editor's Note]

In this issue, we focused on covering the welcome and social gathering for new ALTs, as well as the Japan-U.S. Food Culture Exchange. We hope that by sharing the various details that couldn't be fully conveyed through video, you'll be able to get a more vivid sense of the atmosphere at these events. This year, we plan to send a Chiba Goodwill Delegation, and we're looking forward to hearing about the experiences of our members—primarily high school students—will have. CWA will continue to expand our network of exchange.

#### [Published by the Chiba-Wisconsin Association]

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<http://chiba-wisconsin.net/>

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