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2024  
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# Friendship and Mutual Respect

A Thirty-Year Sister City Story  
姉妹都市三十年間の物語

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JAPAN

**2024 Sister Cities International Annual Awards**  
**Submitted for:**  
**Innovation in Youth and Education**  
**Best Overall**

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**Friendship and Mutual Respect,  
A Thirty-Year Sister City Story**

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# Foreword

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I first saw the document, Progress of Friendship Relations, in 2017. Nothing much was said about it. But it looked of interest to me, even though I was not directly responsible for Tsuyama Sister City relations. So I kept the document neatly tucked away in a file cabinet.

In 2019, I picked up the document from my files and looked at it again. This time a little bit closer. I began to notice a pattern of movement, of exchanges between Tsuyama and Santa Fe. Then I began, hesitantly with scratchy notes, to do some counting. I went online to check the source of Progress of Friendship Relations, and sure enough it was from the City Of Tsuyama. Well, that validated the source, so I continued to carefully count the exchanges.

I came up with over 500 exchanges. I was actually stunned at the high number. I knew what we were doing locally with exchanges in Santa Fe, and no other relationship was close to over 500. After all, the citizen exchanges are what Sister Cities is known for, what it takes pride in doing, the exchange of citizen diplomats from one city to another around the world, that's the Sister City mission.

But I left this documentation in 2019 because I had other responsibilities, and 2020 brought COVID, and everything shut down. Unfortunately for me, I also in 2020 became sick with Pulmonary Fibrosis, a medical condition that greatly slowed me down.

So nothing happened until the Fall, 2023. I went back to the scratch marks from 2019, and I began to see an outline of commentary. I dug into the document Progress of Friendship Relations and with on-line research, the sources and photos came together and the idea began to take shape. In the Fall, 2023, I met a delegation of Tsuyama visitors, Mr. Hidekuni Ehara, Ms. Yoko Tanaka, and Mr. Sigea Kono from Tsuyama City Hall, and the pace then sped up quite quickly. A young professional from the Santa Fe

Tourism Department, Taylor Washburn, came along and the Design and Layout rapidly pulled the photos and text into beautiful positions. The segments on Sanraku-en and the Chimayo Weaver fell into place, along with the ending piece on the student exchange segment. By the middle of March, it was all over.

So here it is, from a nearly discarded document in 2017 to seven years later, a finished story. It was an unrecorded story just waiting for someone to discover the many people involved; the hours of work and effort in the early years by all involved; the continued commitment all these years to keep it working by all involved; the beginning years, the Chamber music, the Pueblo Dancers, Japan Week, the Lead City, Sanraku-en, The Chimayo Weaver, all of the students and teachers traveling back and forth. It is a beautiful story, and the ending still remains in the future.

-Jeff Case PhD.





# 1991, 1992, and 1993 - The Beginning Years

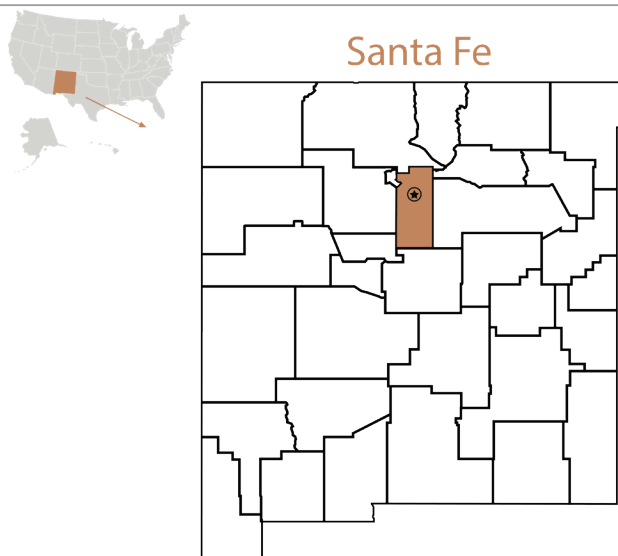
The foundation for the extraordinary friendship between the Sister Cities of Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA and Tsuyama, Okayama, Japan was started during the years of 1991, 1992, and 1993. It began with small inquiries about beginning a relationship. There was a desire expressed by citizen diplomats from Santa Fe to find a suitable city in Japan interested in exchanges. A Mr. Mondo Sector is credited with the initiation as he traveled to Tokyo, Japan, to meet with officials from the International Goodwill Association to find a Sister City.

The city named Tsuyama emerged as a good match. Both cities are similar in size, geography, and history. Tsuyama, a city of roughly 100,000 residents in south-central Japan, is known for preserving its history, and has a reputation as a treasure house of architectural temples and shrines. Its Historic District claims one of the largest numbers of extant Samurai houses in Japan. Santa Fe, a city of nearly 90,000 residents in the Southwest United States is also known for preserving its Hispanic, Native Pueblo, and architectural cultures, and claims many National Historic sites such as its Loretto Chappel and distinctive residences. Both cities have similar origin years; Tsuyama as Castle Town in 1616, and Santa Fe as a government center in 1620. Both cities lie

along established trade routes; Tsuyama is part of the Izumo Kaido Highway trade route, one of the oldest roads in Japan. Santa Fe is the destination for the Santa Fe Trail, one of the oldest and most productive trade routes in the American Southwest, and also the famous El Camino Real trade route to Mexico City.

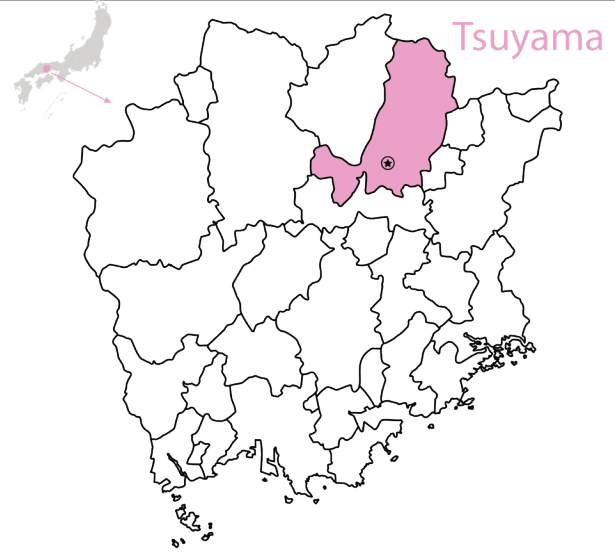
The Santa Fe Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, along with the Plaza, are well known downtown focal points and historical landmarks. The Basilica, a crowning achievement of Archbishop Lamy, is designed in a French Romanesque style. It has a beautiful, restful Cathedral Park alongside the church with many plantings and historic statues. Tsuyama also has its focal point known as Castle Town, and the preserved remains of Castle Town are high on a hilltop. The Castle was once the residence of the daimyo, and it is an official Japanese National Historic site. The Castle is listed in guides as a top viewpoint for the 1,000 Japanese cherry trees planted on the castle grounds and hillsides. When in blossom, its blooms provide soul enlightening views for both international and Japanese tourists. Both cities have citizens who are avid gardeners, and in summertime transform their backyards into horticultural masterpieces.

## United States of America

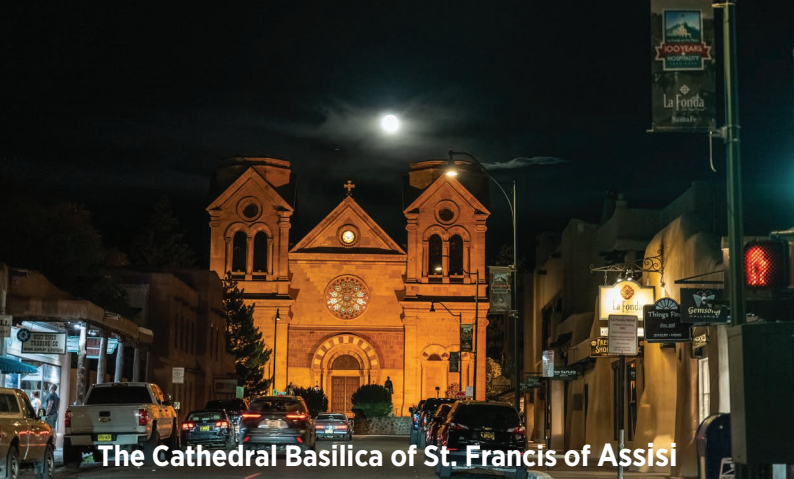


## New Mexico

## Japan



## Okayama



**The Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi**



**Tsuyama Castle (Kakuzan Park)**

In 1993, the Mayor of Santa Fe, Mr. Sam Pick, wrote a letter of invitation to the elected officials in Tsuyama. This was an excellent initiation because Mayor Sam Pick was well known for his ability to foresee a beneficial relationship, especially when it came to Tourism. He was always on radio, television, and in the newspaper inviting everyone in the world to visit Santa Fe. This emphasis on Tourism was a perfect fit for Tsuyama and Sister Cities. Mayor Sam Pick enhanced and enlarged the scope of friendship and exchanges between the two cities. This enthusiasm from Mayor Pick was reciprocated by the Mayor of Tsuyama, Mayor Nagare. Mayor Nagare knew the value of tourism for Japan, and he wrote to Mayor Sam Pick that the citizens of Tsuyama were ready and eager to promote a friendship exchange.

In May, 1993, a ten-person delegation from Santa Fe came to visit Tsuyama. They met with officials from schools and cultural facilities, and then the delegation joined with Tsuyama families in a homestay experience. One of the principles of Sister Cities is to show mutual respect by actually living with their counterpart families. It is known as a homestay, and is an excellent way to begin an exchange program. A larger thirty-person delegation with City Councilors from Miyasaka Tsuyama displayed ancient coins and traditions from Japan region in Santa Fe. Later, an official delegation with Mayor Nagare and two Tsuyama City Councilors visited Santa Fe.



@mollymorganphotography  
**Loretto Chapel Staircase**



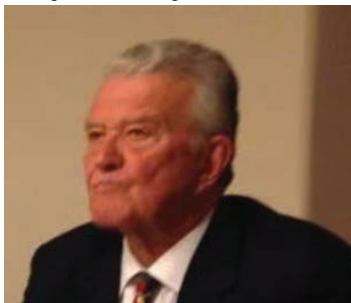
Courtesy of Tsuyama  
**Syurakuen Garden**



Courtesy of Tsuyama

Above: Temple Gate (Josai Area)

Below: Palace of the Governors (Santa Fe Plaza)



Santa Fe Mayor Sam Pick



Tsuyama Mayor Tatsuzo Nagare



# More Cultural Comparisons



Above: Chile Rstras hanging in Santa Fe  
Below: Traditional New Mexican Pottery



Above: Plum Blossom Trees in Tsuyama  
Below: Traditional Japanese Bamboo Art



Above: Traditional Puebloan Jewelry  
Below: Sopaipillas, a New Mexican Dessert



Above: Japanese Paper and Calligraphy  
Below: Traditional Japanese Sweets





# Santa Fe Opera

In February, 1994, a very interesting delegation from Tsuyama visited Santa Fe for purposes of a musical exchange. They attended the Barber of Seville at the Santa Fe Opera and also the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. There were ten musicians, a city official from Tsuyama Tourism, and a newspaper reporter from the Sanyo newspaper who wrote back to Tsuyama articles which extolled the Santa Fe Opera as one of the world's best.



Photo Courtesy of Santa Fe Opera

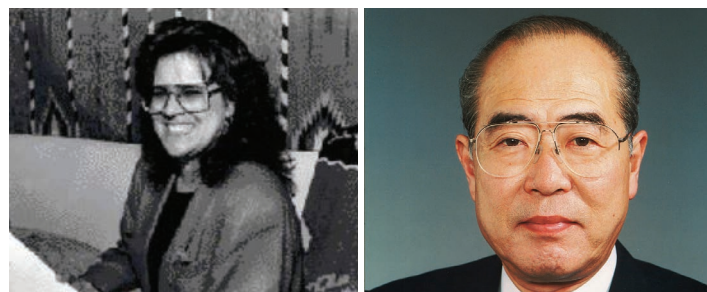
The Barber of Seville 1994-Santa Fe Opera

The Editor of the Sanyo newspaper returned to Santa Fe in 1995 with a much larger delegation from Tsuyama and the Tsuyama area. There were six Tsuyama City officials and leaders from the Tsuyama Foundation for the Arts. An exhibition was held in Santa Fe of traditional arts, crafts, and cultural performances.



Photo Courtesy of Eastern Sierra Symphony

Conductor Heiichiro Oyama



Santa Fe Mayor Debbie Jaramillo Tsuyama Mayor Yoshinobu Nakao

# Santa Fe Chamber Orchestra in Tsuyama

The music exchange continued. A very prominent Japanese musician/artist, Heiichiro Oyama, comes to Santa Fe by way of the Los Angeles Philharmonic where he was Principal Violinist and Assistant Conductor. In Santa Fe, he was appointed Artistic Director of the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival from 1991-1997. He also performed with the viola and conducted a quartet. In 1996 as Artistic Director, Heiichiro Oyama arranged for groups of Santa Fe musicians to travel to Japan and give public music performances in our Sister City, Tsuyama. These groups were very well received and provided high quality musical training.

Here is a quotation from November 28, 1996 about the value provided by the quartet from the local Asahi Tsuyama newspaper. It reads, "This festival is a sponsored project of the Tsuyama International Comprehensive Music Festival sponsored by the Tsuyama Santa Fe Friendship Association.

It is said that it is extremely rare in Japan for professional musicians to show how they practice right before a performance. The public practice was held for two and a half hours, and two elementary schools and two high schools were observers.

In Shostakovich's "Piano Trio," the piano, violin, and cello players took to the stage in casual clothes and played in unison, stopping frequently to exchange words.

Artistic music director, conductor, and viola player Heiichiro Oyama says, "Please look and listen to how we make music," and sometimes, "We're currently discussing pitch balance," he explained.

A high school student who watched the rehearsal from beginning to end was impressed, saying, "I could truly understand the effort, ingenuity, and difficulty involved in overcoming differences in interpretation and colliding with each other to create a single song."

Highly educational, and the open sharing and demonstrating of sophisticated music techniques shows the value of Sister Cities exchanges.

# Pueblo Indian Performances in Tsuyama

In 1994, as part of its cultural exchange, a great effort was made which deepened this relationship by bringing over to Tsuyama a delegation of Pueblo Indian dancers. In Santa Fe, the Pueblo Indian is greatly respected and the cultural dances attract much attention.

The goal was to promote tourism in Tsuyama and share more of the southwestern culture of Santa Fe. The sponsors decided that authentic southwest Indian dance performances would be the ideal invitation. For the Japanese, this was a colorful, exotic, exciting performance of dances that were hundreds of years old. Since the Japanese in their culture strongly revere tradition, this was very popular. An article was published in the local Tsuyama newspaper about the Pueblo Indians. It read, "A very large group of Pueblo Indians from Santa Fe and the surrounding area arrived in Tsuyama and performed a traditional dance at a high school gymnasium. The dance was titled "Prayer to the Earth."



Pueblo Indian Performances in the Sanyo newspaper

The group came to Japan as part of the Pueblo/Japan Youth Cultural Experience Project, performed in Yamanashi Prefecture and Kyoto Prefecture, and then visiting Tsuyama City. When the group arrived in Tsuyama City, they were greeted by children from the painting class that sponsored the performance and members of the Tsuyama/ Santa Fe Friendship Association. The people of Tsuyama City welcomed the guests with a tea ceremony, mochi pounding, and an English play at Shurakuen-garden.

During the performance, Pueblo people dressed in traditional costumes danced to the beat of the drum selection. The powerful, rhythmic dance captivated the large crowd who visited the venue. Group leader Cloud Eagle said, "We are grateful to everyone who welcomed us. Santa Fe is a place where many different cultures come together. I think the exchange with Tsuyama City is a really good thing."



プエブロの人にとつて、羽や毛をまとい大地を踏みしめて踊ることは、先祖やあらゆる生命との対話を意味します

## サンタフェの歴史と文化の一端をみなさんへ プエブロインディアンの一行が伝統舞踊を披露

サンタフェとその周辺の先住民・プエブロインディアンの一行三十六人が、十月十九日に来津。二十日彼らの伝統舞踊を「大地への祈り」と題して作陽高校体育館で公演しました。一行は、プエブロ

日本青少年文化体験事業で来日し、山梨と京都で公演後、サンタフェと友好交流を進めている津山を訪れたものです。津山に到着した一行を出迎えたのは、この公演を主催した絵画造形教室「みなみの島」主宰・竹田千代美さん・上河原の子どもたちや津山サンタフェ友好協会のみなさんなど。衆楽園で茶の湯、もちつき、英語劇、ワークショップ（体験工房）などを行い歓迎しました。公演では、民族衣装に鳥の羽や動物の毛をまとったプエブロの人たちが、太鼓と歌に合わせて踊りを披露。力強く、リズムカルな踊りは、会場を訪れた約三百人の観客を魅了しました。津山との交流は良いことだと思います



'95 AMERICA

# JAPAN WEEK

記録アルバム

5周年  
特別企画



開催地：アメリカ合衆国・ニューメキシコ州  
開催期間：1995年5月30日～6月2日



# Japan Week, 1995

Japan Week is an event that introduces Japan's traditional culture with the purpose to deepen friendship and mutual understanding between Japan and the United States. It is sponsored by the Japanese government and Japanese businesses. In 1995, it was held in Santa Fe to honor its Sister City, Tsuyama, and also in Albuquerque to honor its Japanese Sister City, Sasebo. It was held from May 30th to June 3rd, and a large delegation of over 100 participants came from Tsuyama. In May, 1995, many Tsuyama residents participated as the exchanges between Tsuyama and Santa Fe had been progressing for about four years.

During Japan Week in Santa Fe, there was a parade of Japanese participants along the downtown streets. This was a way to announce Japan Week festivities and to introduce themselves to the Santa Fe community. The Santa Feans and visitors lined the downtown streets and applauded the Japanese parade. The Tsuyama's Zeidaiko drumming group performed on the famous Santa Fe Plaza, and many Santa Feans were excited by the Zeidaiko and began to dance with the drum beat.



Japanese performances on the Santa Fe Plaza



They would dance in circles around the historic obelisk and around the Plaza. Also, children from Santa Fe joined together and about six of them put a Japanese shrine on their shoulders and carried the shrine in a procession around the Plaza.

At the Sweeny Center, there were many Japan Week exhibits and demonstrations of Japanese art and Shodo Calligraphy. Japanese paintings lined the Sweeny Center walls. There were exhibits of Japanese costumes, colorful dresses and designs; demonstrations of Samurai sword play; enchanting performances on musical antique string harp-like instruments at Sweeny and in the New Mexico Capitol Rotundra; and pouring tea into special serving cups, saucers, and tea pots for the Japanese tea ceremony. In all about 4,000 Santa Feans visited the Sweeny Center and expressed a deep interest in Japanese arts and culture. This was the foundation to share Japanese culture that led more recently to the Japanese Matsuri ceremonies in Santa Fe.

## まちかどアラカルト A LA CARTE



▲サンタフェの子どもたちも神輿をかついで市街をパレード



▲伝統工芸の横野和船を紹介する上田繁男さん



▲博物館中庭で津山剣道連盟の「二人のサムライ」



▲州議事堂に響きわたる琴の音。津山邦楽会奏団



▲勇壮にユーモラスに、どの会場でも大賞賛の大谷青木神社の獅子舞



山中美香さん（南新座）右端

～着物の着付け～

三匳いたのは、初めて行った街なのに、人々も親しみやすく、一人で歩いていても違和感なくずっと滑り込んでいく感じ。街そのものが芸術的で、お目に留まるような美術工芸品も、どこにもないような独特の味わいがあります。ぜひ、もう一度行ってみたい街ですね。



▲治真の空手道とその心を披露した日本空手協会津山支部のお二人

▲「津山ナイト」でフォスター・モデルも演奏した郡山流尺八美琳会

▲礼拝堂で、日本の心「津軽三味線」を弾く田中竹仙さん

▲生け花の実演を後ろは大野美穂

Newspaper Clipping of Japan Week



## 8



# World Lead Off City Conference, 2004

第12回世界地方都市十字路会議 The 12th World "Lead-off City" Conference

挨拶 Greeting



The 2004 World Lead Off City conference was organized with a very compelling theme: Should a city tear down the older structures in order to make way for new buildings? Should the old but architecturally significant landmarks, churches, and housing be torn down and replaced with high rise apartment buildings and high- rise hotels?

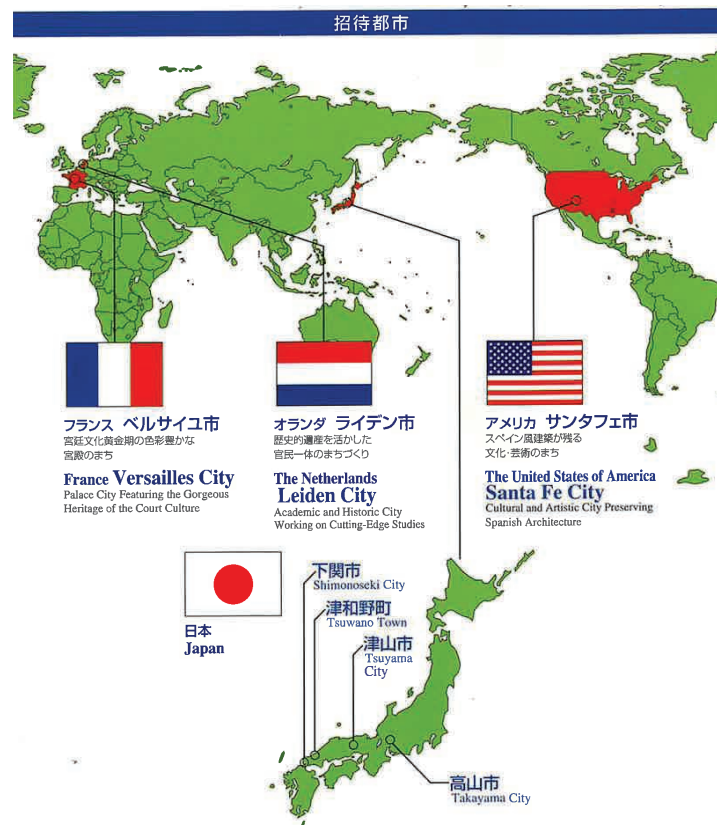
The participants for this remarkable conference were Mayors from Leiden, Netherlands; Versailles, France; three Japanese cities Takayama, Tsuwana, and Tsuyama; and Santa Fe, New Mexico. The focus was that each of these cities was strongly tourist oriented, and a significant portion of city revenue relied on the tourist industry. The mayors from these cities were considered experts on the topic, as they had faced these issues, many times contentious, with city council, zoning boards, and neighborhood associations. Their knowledge was considered invaluable for any city in the world facing this problem.

The selection of Versailles, France, follows its prominent Hall of Mirrors in the stunning Palace of Versailles. The Palace was the principal residence of French kings beginning with Louis XIV and is the site of many historically significant events, such as the Proclamation of the German Empire and the signing of the Treaty of Versailles that ended World War One. Generations of artisans worked diligently to present the ultimate model of style and preservation.

The selection of Leiden, Netherlands, begins with Japan's policy of isolation from 1639 to 1854 with one exception, the exchanges with the Netherlands. The Netherlands kept introducing Western learning to Japan, and Tsuyama had many Japanese scholars learned Western studies through the University of Leiden.

The selection of Tsuyama, Japan, host of the lead Cities Conference grew from the preservation of landmarks and historical structures as in the Tsuyama Castle and Joto District. Tsuyama has preserved many machiya - traditional townhouse for traveling samurai and scholars - the most notable being Joto Mukashi Machiya, a large merchant residence built over 300 years ago.

The selection of Santa Fe, New Mexico, came from its Sister City relationship with Tsuyama, and from its very strong emphasis on preservation of the Santa Fe city Plaza and its iconic architectural and artistic style. For preservationists, this southwestern city is a gem of historical layers, and Santa Fe style is admired by many locals and tourists alike.











# 第12回 世界地方都市十字路会議

The 12th World "Lead-off City" Conference 2004

フランス  
ベルサイユ市



France  
**Versailles**

アメリカ  
サンタフェ市



The United States of America  
**Santa Fe**

テーマ  
**歴史資産を活かしたまちづくり**

●日時  
平成16年**9月29日(水)**

●会場  
**ベルフォーレ津山**

津山市新魚町17 アルネ津山 7階

プログラム  
9:00 参加者受付開始  
9:30 開会式  
9:50 事例発表  
13:40 基調講演: **山田洋次氏** (映画監督)



1931年9月13日、大阪府豊中市生まれ。1954年東京大学法学部卒業後、松竹に入社。代表作として「家族」「故郷」「阿郎」を始め、第1回日本アカデミー賞監督賞他5部門受賞の「幸福の黄色いハンカチ」、27年間続いた国民的映画「男はつらいよ」シリーズなど。最新作の「たそがれ清兵衛」は、藤沢周平原作の初の本格時代劇で、映画各賞を独占し、アカデミー賞にノミネートされるなど世界の話題となった。★1982年国民文化栄誉賞★1996年紫綬褒章★2002年勲四等旭日小章

15:20 パネルディスカッション  
16:40 閉会式



The Netherlands  
**Leiden**

オランダ  
ライデン市

Japan  
**Takeyama  
Tsuwano  
Tsuayama**



日本 高山市  
津和野町  
津山市

参加都市  
(50音順)

海外 ■サンタフェ市 (アメリカ)  
■ベルサイユ市 (フランス)  
■ライデン市 (オランダ)

国内 ■高山市  
■津和野町  
■津山市  
■下関市 (前回開催市・交流事例発表)

◆主催/国土交通省、岡山県、津山市、第12回世界地方都市十字路会議実行委員会

◆後援/総務省、外務省、全国市長会、全国町村会、(社)日本青年会議所、小さな世界都市連合推進協議会、全国地域づくり推進協議会、津山広域事務組合

お問い合わせ先

第12回世界地方都市十字路会議実行委員会事務局/津山市企画部企画室内

**TEL.0868-32-2027**

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kikaku@city.tsuyama.okayama.jp

国土交通省都市・地域整備局地方整備課

**TEL.03-5253-8404**

**入場無料です。**

参加は8月20日までに  
お申し込みください。



# New Sanraku-en Hidekuni Ehara Building



The more prized Sister City exchanges go deep into the culture. The time interval for exchanges is important, as the more meaningful ones last longer. The cultural penetration is important. Tourist, athletic, business, political, musical, and performance exchanges are all part of the business of Sister Cities. What is desirable, but not easy to come by are exchanges that take root and are actual transplants of cultural design.

One example is a building in Tsuyama, Japan. The name of the building is New Sanraku-en. This building is the vision of Hidekuni Ehara and his family. This is an institute/residence for mentally disabled housing 90 residents, and the purpose of the New Sanraku-en is the social integration of mentally disabled patients. At 28,000 Sq. Ft. its size is impressive. But what is more astonishing is that the style is an architectural transplant from Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Mr. Hidekuni Ehara is from three generations of family who have owned and operated mental rehabilitation facilities in Tsuyama. In his past experiences, he observed that the facilities looked drab, looked cold, looked uninviting and unwelcoming and empty. As one of the founders of the Tsuyama/Santa Fe

Sister City Association, he frequently visited Santa Fe. With each visit, his vision for a new architectural style took shape.

Hidekuni Ehara saw in Santa Fe style the look that was warm, exciting, colorful, and best of all for his patients a welcoming feeling that life would be good. That is the Santa Fe style he wanted for his institute in Tsuyama.

In 1994, Hidekuni Ehara brought his architect, a Mr. Hitishi Mabushi, on a visit to Santa Fe to study the south-western style adobe buildings, and also to contact with local artisans and interior designers. The carved doors, for example, are from Jeremy Morrelli who has a worldwide reputation. His showroom was located in downtown Santa Fe, and his workshop was on Guadalupe. The pendent light shades were cast in bronze in Santa Fe. Many materials such as wall sconces, and sinks were purchased from Artesanos in Santa Fe. Also purchased from Artesanos were the floor and wall tiles.

The efforts and expense were well worth it. The clients and staff were very pleased with this new style., and the warm emotional feel continues to this day.



Take a look at the photos below of the exterior architecture of this building, and see if you can identify details of Santa Fe style:



It is fairly easy to identify earth tone brown color, the tan stucco style exterior surface, the flat roof with terraces below, the setback style on the second floor and use of corbel accents on doorways, and palladium style Spanish windows.

Now we take a view of the interior of this building. Look at photos and recognize the use of Santa Fe style in interior decoration. There is even much more visible Santa Fe style in the interior.



Plaster walls, Santa Fe style sofa and chairs, Santa Fe style wall prints.



Santa Fe style vigas (exposed wooden beams)



Santa Fe style rug on wall, vigas, Saltillo-style tile





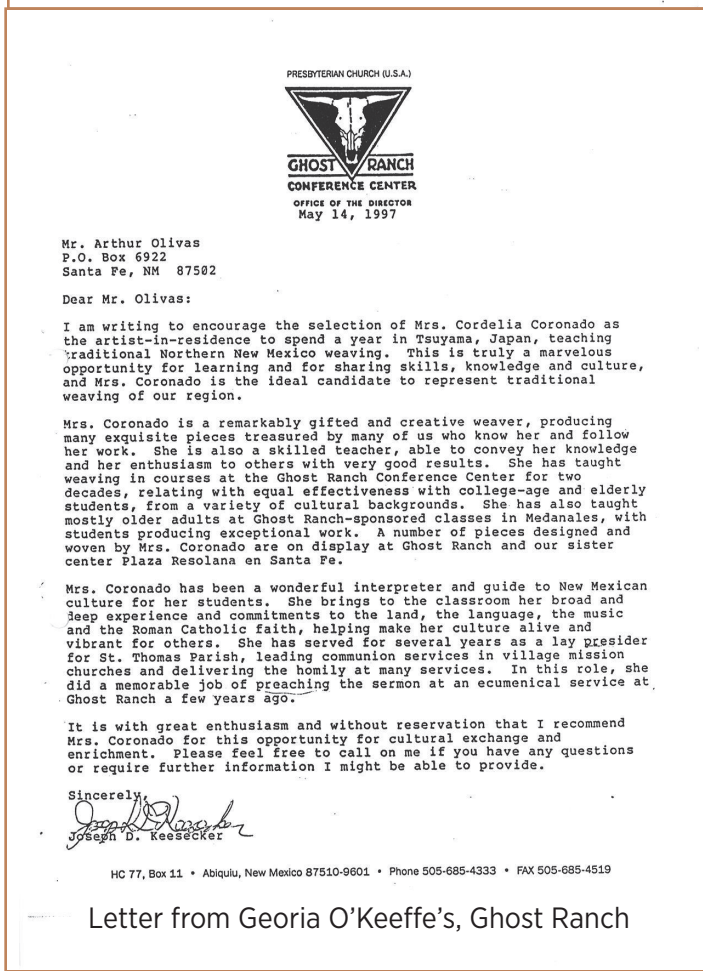
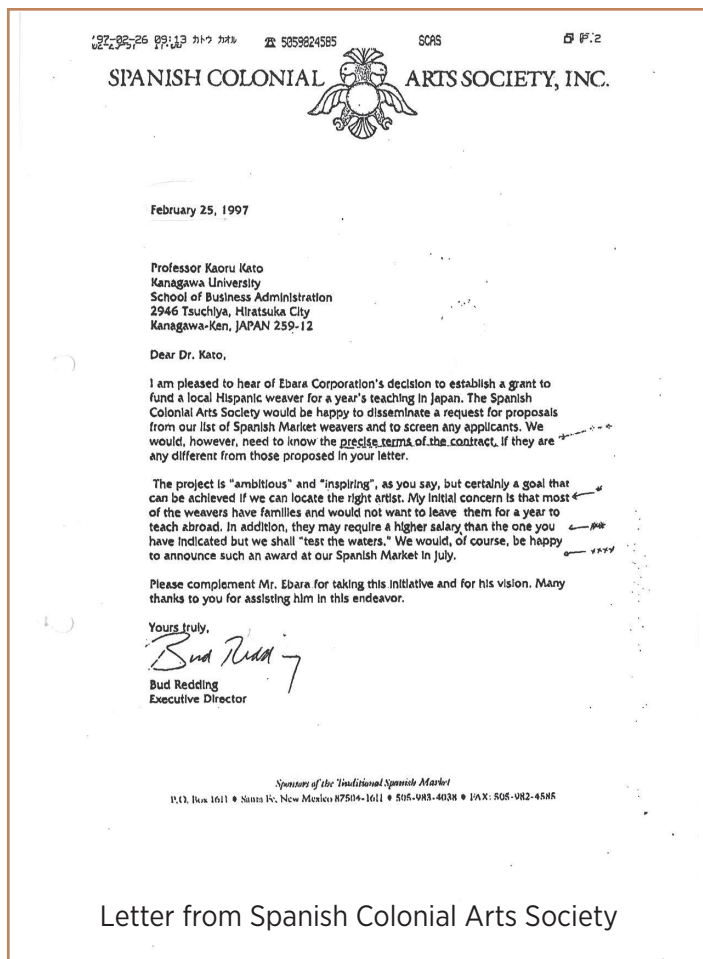
Another example of the strong cultural connection between Santa Fe and Tsuyama is established by the story of the Chimayo Weaver: Ms. Cordelia Coronado.

As mentioned, the Sanraku-en building was used to help assist people with mental disabilities to transition to a level of normal integration with society. When Hidekuni Ehara, the Director of Sanraku-en, would visit Santa Fe and northern New Mexico, he remarked at the beautiful Chimayo wool weaving and found it very interesting. He observed carefully the dynamic of fingers working the weaving loom, and he concluded that this might be a useful therapeutic, calming, and focused activity for his patients. The repetitive finger movement, he thought, would be a beneficial adaptation for those patients with mental disabilities at Sanraku-en.

He decided to bring this type of diligent weaving from northern New Mexico to Tsuyama. He wanted to find a weaver who could teach his staff, and the staff in turn could teach the elder, disabled, and handicapped patients. He wanted to give it a fair and long term try out, in order to gauge its usefulness for his patients. He decided to engage the best person from Santa Fe for the job at Sanraku-en. And so, the search began with requests, mailings, interviews, and thank you notes with some of the leading institutions in Santa Fe and northern New Mexico.

First is a letter from the Spanish Colonial Arts Society. This is a prestigious Santa Fe institution, and they agree that the project is, in their words "ambitious" and "inspiring". This gives Mr. Ehara a strong start.

Another letter is from the famous Georgia O'Keeffe, Ghost Ranch located in Abiquiu, northern New Mexico. They call this exchange of a Chimayo Weaver to Tsuyama a "marvelous opportunity for sharing culture", and adopted the phrase "artist in residence" to give the idea a descriptive handle.



Another letter from the Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, northern New Mexico. gives a very strong recommendation to Mr. Hidekuni Ehara to hire a Cordelia Coronado, and they say that Ms. Coronado in her work "has attracted students from all parts of the United States, including many foreign students, and a wide range of age groups." In the same letter at the very beginning the Ghost Ranch states, "She is the best person you could hope to get."

There is surprising support from Japanese Universities. Who would have thought that Mr. Ehara would gain vocal support from a cultural higher education institution in Japan. One is a letter from Kuoru Kato, Kanagawa University, Hirasuka, Japan, who supports the project goals and mission, and sends a job description to the CEO of the Spanish Colonial Arts Society, whom he knows from prior experience, which is located here in Santa Fe. The other surprising letter of recommendation for Cordelia Coronado is from Japanese professor Kumoko Nanba of Okayama Prefectural University. It turns out that this professor lived and worked for 10 years in northern New Mexico where she specialized in occupational therapy through hand-weaving and rhythmic finger dexterity.

Then there is also a letter from Cordelia Coronado herself in which she is "very pleased" to be part of the project, encloses two letters of recommendation, and shows an eagerness to live and work in Tsuyama, Japan.

Mr. Hidekuni Ehara did not do all of this on his own. There were numerous persons who helped him. He had 1-2 staff on site at the Wheelwright Museum, another strong cultural icon in Santa Fe, to gain some experience as a curator. Then there was significant assistance from Mr. Art Olivas who at the time was the President of the Santa Fe-Tsuyama Sister City program; also Mr. Bud Redding who was Executive Director of the Spanish Colonial Arts Society; also, an Aubrey Owen and Joseph Keesecker from the Ghost Ranch Conference Center, both were instrumental. There were, no doubt, others who helped this project along.



May 15, 1997

Mr. Arthur Olivas, President  
Santa Fe-Tsuyama Sister City Program  
P.O. Box 6922  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Dear Mr. Olivas:

This is to recommend Mrs. Cordelia Coronado for the Artist-in-Residence position in Tsuyama, Japan. She is the best person you could hope to get.

I have known Mrs. Coronado since I moved with my family to Abiquiu in 1973, and a year later hired her for the Ghost Ranch Conference Center to teach weaving classes part-time to adults at La Lanzadera Weaving Shop, near her home in Medanales. From her first class I was impressed with her organization and natural teaching ability. She later taught weaving during January college interim terms at Ghost Ranch from 1980-86. These courses, accredited for four semester hours through Austin College in Sherman, Texas, averaged thirty hours of working classtime per week for three weeks, and attracted students from all parts of the United States, including many foreign students and a wide range of age groups. In written evaluations, students consistently gave high praise to Mrs. Coronado, and the quality and quantity of their work in this concentrated course were impressive.

Cordelia's adult students from past years now include at least eight professional weavers, two of whom also now teach weaving classes.

During January terms Mrs. Coronado also gave presentations on the culture of Northern New Mexico to students from all six of the courses included in the Ghost Ranch January Terms. Many students wrote in their evaluations that her talks were the most insightful and valuable parts of their time at Ghost Ranch.

Letter from Georia O'Keeffe's, Ghost Ranch



## KANAGAWA UNIVERSITY

School of Business Administration,  
Department of International Business and Management

2946 Tsuchiya, Hiratsuka-city,  
Kanagawa-ken 259-12, JAPAN  
Tel: 0463-59-4111 Fax: 0463-58-9688

March 18, 1997

Kaoru Kato

Mr. Bud Redding  
Executive Director  
Spanish Colonial Arts Society  
P.O. Box 1611  
Santa Fe, NM 87504-1611

Dear Bud,

Thank you very much for your response of dated February 25, 1997. I immediately transferred the letter to Ebara Corporation. Since then, I had been in Spain for a few weeks so I could not proceed the next steps until now. As you mentioned, we understand certain difficulties to find a weaver who will come and teach in a foreign country for one year. But we still believe this project is worth trying. To recruit the appropriate personnel, Mr. Ebara asked me to send the following information regarding qualifications, job descriptions, and other conditions which may be imposed in the contract. You may be free to summarize the details for dissemination purpose.

Position Available: One Technical instructor for hispanic weaving.

Length of term: One year (expecting to start August, 1997)

Gender: Male or Female

Location of Workshop: Tsuyama City, Okayama Prefecture, or  
JINDAI VAC SHONAN HIRATSUKA JINDAI VAC SHONAN HIRATSUKA JINDAI VAC SHONAN HIRATSUKA

Letter from Kanagawa University



The other major impact of selecting Ms. Cordelia Coronado is that she is recognized as a "Santa Fe Living Treasure". She was honored in 1991 as a Weaver of Tradition which means she can trace back her weaving lineage to her grandfather, and she acknowledged that her weaving is a blend of Spanish and Navajo Indian ancestry. Also noteworthy for the Sanraku-en project Cordelia Coronado says, "Weaving is very therapeutic. On a bad day, it melts troubles away." Cordelia Coronado had a wonderful personality. And was much loved and respected by the Chimayo community. She was a choir leader, a prolific gardener, and a water rights activist preserving traditional mayordomo water rights.

In Tsuyama, she was also admired by everyone. At first, she stayed with Hidekuni and family, but because she was independent and because she wanted to live and be with the people, she moved out into a house of her own. She also learned how to drive and drove herself around for shopping trips to market places amongst the Tsuyama people. Without being able to speak Japanese, she was quite able to communicate with the staff at Sanraku-en and with clients. She was honestly loved by everyone. She never hesitated to attend any event in Tsuyama or other nearby towns, where she was always willing to show and teach her skill of weaving. After her departure from Tsuyama, Cordelia returned twice to refresh the staff's weaving skills.

At Sanraku-en today, weaving skills, as practiced by Cordelia Coronado, are used as therapeutic tools for patients. Weaving has taken root in Tsuyama, and finished pieces are displayed at Tsuyama Folk Art exhibitions.



FROM : KUMIKO NANBA
TEL NO. : 0866942049
1997. 7. 2 17:30
P. 2

OKAYAMA PREFECTURAL UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Design
Department of Craft and Industrial Design
111 Kuboki, Soja-shi, Okayama-ken, Japan 719-11
平成9年6月15日

社会福祉法人
江原恵明会 殿

推薦文

この度、社会福祉法人江原恵明会が、スパニッシュ織りを用いて作業療法を行う事業を計画されるにあたり、その技術指導者として、Mrs. Cordelia Coronado を選出されたことは、北ニューメキシコ州に十数年在住し、テキスタイルデザイン専門領域より作業療法と織物の研究を行っている私にとっても、大変意義深いもので、彼女は最適任者であると信じております。

アメリカ合衆国ニューメキシコ州の伝統芸術文化のうち、特にスパニッシュ系アメリカ人によって継承されているスパニッシュ織りは、多民族共存の文化を象徴しつつ、地域のコミュニティを中心として地元民の生活に深く根づいております。異文化との交流・慣習者と隣居者との交流・世代間の交流等、価値観の多様化がますます進んでゆくであろう日本社会には、多民族共存が行われてきた文化を知ることは重要であると願います。

Mrs. Cordelia Coronado は、1600年代よりスペインよりメキシコ経由で現在の北ニューメキシコ地域に入植した人々の直系家族の出身であり、スパニッシュ織りの代表的な継承者であると同時に、その制作活動および地域での技術指導における中心的な役割を果たしています。織物活動を行う両親（母親の Agueda は日本で言う重要無形文化財的存在）の手助けをする等、幼少の頃よりスパニッシュ織りに親しんだ彼女は、1958年に郵便局長の職を父親より引き継いだと同時に、スパニッシュ織りに正式に取り組み始め、旺盛なる織物活動を郵便局退職後の現在も行っております。

また彼女は、1978年より年2回実施している自宅アトリエをつかってのスパニッシュ織りのワーク・ショップや、ゴースト・ランチというプレスベリアン派キリスト教団の運営するセミナーハウスでのワーク・ショップを1974年より毎夏行うことを通して、その伝統技術の伝承と保存に力を注いでおり、これらを通して、彼女の技術指導者としての優秀さを窺うことができます。

地域に根を深く下ろしたスパニッシュ織りを代表する Mrs. Cordelia Coronado が、その豊かな人間性や織物技術とその伝授における確かな専門知識で、江原恵明会の計画事業を通して、作業療法の技術指導者に与える効果は計り知れないほど素晴らしいものであると確信してやみません。

Letter from professor  
Kumoko Nanba

岡山県立大学デザイン学部  
助教  
難波久美子

Medanales, N. M. 87548  
May 20, 1997

Ehara Keimeikai Social Welfare Inc.  
306 Tsuyamaguchi, Tsuyama-City  
Okayama-Pref., 708 Japan

Mr. Terry Asamo

Dr. Mr. Asamo,  
I recieved your letter of May 19th and was very pleased to se that you are willing to consider me as weaving instructor for your project. You also say that you will be coming to Santa Fe in June so we can make final arrangements. I am now working on getting a passport and getting pictures for your profinle form.

I am enclosing 2 letters of recommedation from plces I have taught before and am still teaching. I hope to have the rest of the paperwork ready by the time you come so we can finalize the agreement.

I want to thank you for accepting my intentions and sending me all the information on your part of Japan. I would also like to know more about the cost of living such as prices on food and housing etc. I am looking forward to seeing and talking to you in the near future.

Respectfully Yours,  
Cordelia Coronado  
Cordelia Coronado

Letter from Cordelia Coronado



**Ms. Cordelia Coronado weaving in  
Tsuyama and examples of traditional  
Chimayo woven rugs**





# Tsuyama & Santa Fe Student Exchanges

At the heart of this relationship are the Tsuyama/Santa Fe student exchanges. The effort over a span of 28 years was incredible. The fundraising for both cities was remarkable and most appreciated. The outcomes, we think, are among the highest even nationally compared with other Sister City programs of similar size cities.

## By the numbers

From 1997 until 2024, spanning 28 years, there are 20 student delegation exchange trips. Each delegation had a different number of students, ranging from 1 to 32. Each delegation of students had, of course, adult chaperones who might be teachers and parents. From the Tsuyama City Hall records, the document entitled Progress of Friendship Relations provides much detail. The Tsuyama schools involved are Hokuryo Junior High school, Sakuyo High school, Tsuyama Higashi High School, Tsuyama High school, and Mimasaka High school. The Santa Fe schools had mainly Monte Del sol as the first school, and a more recent partner is the Santa Fe School for the Arts and Sciences.

When you add up the figures, the total number for students in these exchanges trips is **348**. That's a correct figure, **348** total students in Sister City exchange trips practicing citizen diplomacy between Tsuyama and Santa Fe.

## Tsuyama and Santa Fe Local Leaders

With impressive numbers like these, many times there is one person who stands out. There is the one, single person who is the driver, diligent and forever moving the exchange forward. For the Tsuyama/Santa Fe student exchange that person is Shari Osgood-Tafoya.

## Shari Osgood-Tafoya

Shari first became interested in Japan when her family hosted a Japanese exchange student. She then studied Japanese language at her local community college, completed a degree in East Asian Studies at the U of C-Davis, and did research on Japanese businesses. Then she moved to Tokyo for advanced language studies and worked as a Japanese translator before landing a job in the securities industry as an analyst of Japanese tech companies. She remained in Tokyo for nine years absorbing the

Japanese culture and promoting Japanese art. Shari moved to Santa Fe in 1992 as a student at St. John's College. She taught Japanese language at UNM, SFCC, and private tutoring; and also did translations for Los Alamos and Sandia Laboratories. In 2003 she began teaching at Monte del Sol Charter School, where she continued for over 20 years. She spearheaded the Japanese language and travel program, taught AP Japanese, and personally organized Home-stays and student travel exchanges to Tsuyama. Students reported that one of the most cherished experiences were her summer camps.

*"The homestays always turned out to be the favorite part of the trip for the students. They were all nervous beforehand, but the Homestay is designed to replace nervous tension with friendship. At the end of the Homestay and preparation for return, there were many tears when they had to leave Tsuyama."*

-Shari Osgood-Tafoya





## **Student Exchange Supporters**

There are of course many supporters for this exchange. An exchange of this length, duration, and breadth needs supporters to give it life.

Satori Murata, the current President of Tsuyama/Santa Fe Sister Cities who has participated in numerous exchanges and Homestays, teaches Japanese at the SFAS, helps with fundraising, and gave initial support when I began this project; Dr. Zoe Nelsen organized student exchanges and Homestays and is the current Head of Monte del Sol; Dayni Standdon and Margarita Blanco are faculty at Monte del Sol and are responsible for Tsuyama exchanges; Mr. Todd Stiewing, current Principal of the Santa Fe School for the Arts and Sciences, made invaluable contributions, organized students for exchanges and Homestays, and gave solid fundraising support; Dr. Robert Jensen, the past Head of Monte del Sol school was, for many years, a major supporter and organizes student exchanges and Homestays; Art Olivas, the past President of the Tsuyama/Santa Fe Sister Cities, and who initiated an exchange of emails between schools and helped with school organization, who traveled with Mayors from two cities and who organized many wonderful connections; Santa Fe Mayors Sam Pick, Debbie Jaramillo, Larry Degado, David Coss, Xavier Gonzales, and Alan Webber were all supporters and enjoyed seeing Santa Fe youth gain international exposure and citizen diplomacy from this Sister City experience.

Quote from the Principal of Monte del Sol, Dr. Zoe Nelsen:

*"The Santa Fe/ Tsuyama exchange has shaped the lives of many of our students over the last two decades. International travel provides a transformative experience that includes stretching out of their comfort zones and expanding cultural perspectives. One of our pillars is Global Literacy, and the trips to Japan promote cultural understanding, tolerance, empathy, and appreciation of diversity. The homestays in Tsuyama grant the possibility of life-long relationships. "*

The supporters from the Tsuyama side: several staff members from the Tsuyama/Santa Fe Friendship Association organized students for exchanges and Homestays; Mr. Hidekuni Ehara, of the Tsuyama Friendship Association who did much fundraising and help in organizing with Tsuyama schools. He also generously helped with food menu for recep-

tions and bus transportation for the students; Mayor Nagre, many other Tsuyama Mayors; numerous city staff like Ms. Yoko Tanaka and Mr. Shigeo Kono; Ms. Yoko Tanaka worked diligently and deserves much recognition for her research work for this project.

It is noteworthy that in Santa Fe there are a group of Japanese cultural supporters who have presented to the Santa Fe community a ***Matsuri***. The ***Matsuri*** is a coming together of Japanese culture including performances of Taiko drumming, martial arts, tea ceremony, food specialties, and art work. The Santa Fe community appreciates the ***Matsuri***, and it receives high attendance.



Mayor Javier Gonzales with  
Tsuyama Students at Monte del Sol

## **Fundraising**

Before each of the school exchange trips to Tsuyama, Shari Osgood organized extensive fundraising efforts. The idea behind the school trips was to make them accessible to as many students as possible, regardless of financial status. So, the fundraising was purely to finance student scholarships. Typically, through the hard work of fundraising, almost 50% of the students received some sort of assistance. The students, and their families, were very grateful for the financial aid. The fundraising events varied from rummage sales to school dances, snack sales, etc., but the crowning event was always a Japan Night dinner and silent auction. The gala evenings were well-attended by elected city officials, community leaders, and a large number of Santa Fe/Japanese cultural enthusiasts who loved everything about Japan. As a nice feature, for Japan Night the students organized the menu, meal preparation, table service, and clean up. The best part is that the students provided most of the evening's entertainment. They sang songs, recited prose and poetry, and performed dance movements. Everyone loved Japan Night!

## Homestays

One of the most important features of cross-cultural relationships are Homestays. For years, Sister Cities, and other organizations, have used Homestays with the youth, students, and teachers in the cross-cultural exchanges to ease tension and gain understanding of different cultures by using Home Stay immersions. The motivation is to learn closely from your host family about food, language, cultures and domestic life in order to get a fuller understanding and appreciation of the host's culture. The Homestay immersion nurtures and strengthens a special bond, sometimes stretching a lifetime. The Homestay is a type of learning that can only come from immersion and personal interactions. It's relatively easy to implement with local leadership, and it is low cost with maximum impact.

For the Tsuyama/Santa Fe student exchange travel trips, there were 20 Homestay experiences. This proved invaluable for Sister City citizen diplomacy.



Tsuyama Students visiting Santa Fe in 2017

## Homestay Testimonials

From a Tsuyama Parent:

*"When I accepted the homestay, my children were in the 1st, 3rd, and 5th grades. Two boys and a girl. I was a little nervous as it was my first time, but I decided to accept the homestay because I wanted my children to be interested in English and other countries. Our family looked forward to the arrival of our guests from Santa Fe, planning ahead of time what we would say, what we would listen to, where we would go, what food we would eat, etc.*

*We accepted two high school girls, and they were very bright youth. My children also quickly became friends with them. I watched with a big smile as the children talked and played*

*games with the girls in English, as the Japanese was not yet fluent.*

*Our family had a great time with the Santa Fe girls. We visited many places in a short period of time such as going to temples, watching fireflies, and visiting my grandparents' house.*

*When we said goodbye, both of the Santa Fe girls and our family cried a lot. Through the homestay program, the children were able to learn and share the goodness of Tsuyama. Also, our children were able to learn about Santa Fe and were very interested in it. So, my eldest son decided to go to Santa Fe for a homestay the following year.*

*It's a great memory for our family, and we all love Santa Fe."*



From a Tsuyama Student:

*"During the two weeks at Santa Fe Summer Camp, I learned about culture and food culture that I had never experienced before, made friends from overseas, and made many fun memories. Also, actually going to an English-only environment for a week was a good stimulus for improving my English skills, and it was a step towards my future dreams. At first, you may be worried about going to a homestay or an English-only environment, but I think it will be a better experience than you think."*





From a Tsuyama Parent:

*"It was in 2018 that we hosted a visiting group from Santa Fe at our home as a host family. It was quite a challenging experience for those of us who could barely speak English, but we managed to communicate with each other using broken English and gestures.*

*Fortunately, the girl who came to our house was a girl from the host family that my daughter had taken care of when she visited Santa Fe the previous year, and my daughter and the girl got along well and talked a lot. We were able to get into the conversation easily.*

*The stay was only for a short period of one week, but during that time we not only had breakfast and dinner together at home, but also went out to eat and go bowling. So we tried to make many memories.*

*She also seemed to enjoy karaoke with her daughter's classmates on weekend nights, and I think they were able to have a variety of experiences and exchanges.*

*It was a valuable experience for us as we were exposed to a different culture, and I'm glad that our daughters continue to communicate with each other even now, and have built long-lasting friendships through the friendship city exchange with Santa Fe.*

*By becoming a host family, we have become more familiar with Santa Fe, and if we have the chance, we would like to visit the city someday.*

Excerpt "Santa Fe high school student delegation visits Tsuyama City" (2018AugustFrom June 10th to 14th, 2016, 17 high school students and teachers from Santa Fe City (USA), which has a friendship exchange city relationship with Tsuyama City, visited Tsuyama City. During the period, students interacted with high schools in the city through calligraphy, flower arrangement, and other activities. After taking a walk around Shuurakuen, the group deepened their relationships with each other while experiencing Japanese culture, such as experiencing origami and fan making.

### **Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant Evacuation.**

Of note. A natural disaster, a tsunami/earthquake occurred in Japan, and it touched the Tsuyama/Santa Fe student exchange.

On March 11, 2011, an earthquake/tsunami crushed

the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant on the coast of Japan. The cores overheated, seawater damaged pumps, and flooded all turbine and reactor buildings. Everyone was concerned for public safety.

In the nearby Prefecture of Tsuyama, Japan, were 20 Santa Fe youth on a Home Stay Sister Cities exchange with their host families in Tsuyama, Japan. The host leader, Hidekuni Ehara, saw that their responsibility was for the safety of Santa Fe youth. The Tsuyama leaders ordered an evacuation of the Santa Fe youth back to safety in New Mexico. I was told it resembled a military type operation with a dedicated group of Japanese on telephones with whatever airline carrier could bring relief. Santa Fe youth were told to pack their bags and be prepared for airport travel/ departure.

The in-country evacuation was a success. There were travel costs for flight changes which was covered by the Tsuyama Friendship Foundation and Hidekuni Ehara. Upon return of Santa Fe youth, Mayor David Coss issued a proclamation of appreciation.



### **Sister City Citizen Diplomat Exchanges**

The figure for adults participating in Sister City citizen diplomat exchanges between Tsuyama and Santa Fe from the Progress of Friendship Relations document is **267**. That's right, from the beginning through the Chamber music, and the Pueblo Indian dancers, the extraordinary Japan Week, The Lead Cities exchange the Sanraku-en, and the Chimayo Weaver exchange the total number of citizen diplomat exchanges is **267**.

Now add the number on 20 student Sister City exchanges of **348** students and chaperones for citizen diplomat exchanges. That's right, **348**.

The total number combined is **615** for citizen diplomat exchanges between Tsuyama and Santa Fe over a 30-year time frame. That's right, **615**. It is an extraordinary effort which shows the depth and commitment of this Tsuyama/Santa Fe Sister City relationship.



# Tsuyama Santa Fe News

Vol.27

2021年3月31日

Tsuyama "Relationship  
Newsletter"

## 津山サンタフェ友好協会機関紙



新型コロナウイルス感染症の感染拡大により、令和2年度は予定していたサンタフェ市からの訪問団来津は叶いませんでした。

いち早くコロナが終息し、また津山市とサンタフェ市との温かい交流が再開されることを願い、サンタフェニュースvol.27を発行します。

発行：津山サンタフェ友好協会

Tsuyama Santa Fe Friendship Association

事務局：〒708-8501 岡山県津山市山北520 津山市地域振興部地域づくり推進室内

電話：0868-32-2032 ファックス：0868-32-2152

メール：chiikizukuri@city.tsuyama.lg.jp

津山市ホームページにも  
公開しております



# Conclusion

The relationship between the United States and Japan takes shape with the ending of World War II. The ones who came back to their home country started over again and began to rebuild. They began by starting families and raising children. They began to rebuild their houses and neighborhoods, then their cities, and finally their countries. The Japanese and United States economies grew rapidly from the 1950's and huge corporations emerged like Toyota, Honda, and Sony, which marked prosperous times. In 1956, President Eisenhower saw a need to increase international relationships and formed the idea of Sister Cities to give citizen diplomats throughout the world a venue for peaceful, creative, and productive expression. Locally in Santa Fe, a monument has been erected to commemorate the Japanese American internment camp as a symbol of peace, and the youth of Santa Fe are making paper cutouts of cranes, which also have become symbols of peace.

We've come a long way in our 30-year Tsuyama/Santa Fe relationship, and accomplished much. From the first interactions in 1991, to the official signing of the Sister Cities Agreement in 1996 between mayor Larry Delgado of Santa Fe and Yoshinobu Nakao of Tsuyama. It continued to strengthen through the multiple major cultural exchange events, such as the Pueblo Indians performing in Tsuyama in 1994, Japan Week in Santa Fe in 1995, the vast knowledge shared by Ms. Cordelia Coronado, the Chimayo Weaver, and much more. Then there are the more than 30 citizen diplomat exchanges between the two Sister Cities, that equate to some 615 people, including students, chaperones, politicians, artists, musicians, authors, performers, and others, having exchanged knowledge, insight, and cultural experiences.

We think that this 30 year relationship, as described in this commemorative document, is a worthwhile example of how a Sister City relationship can be made to work through persistence and open-mindedness. And it is this type of relationship that has, and continues to make us all better citizens.



Tatsuzo Nagare  
1983-1995



Yoshinobu Nakao  
1995-2006



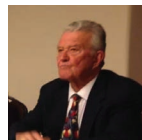
Hiroyuki Kuwamura  
2006-2010



Akinori Miyaji  
2010-2018



Keizo Taniguchi  
2018-Current



Sam W. Pick  
1986-1994



Debbie Jaramillo  
1994-1998



Larry Delgado  
1998-2006



David Coss  
2006-2014



Javier Gonzales  
2014-2018



Alan Webber  
2018-present

# Mayors

## Tsuyama

## Santa Fe

# More Cultural Comparisons



San Miguel Chapel in Santa Fe (oldest church in U.S.A.)



Japanese Bank in Tsuyama



Traditional Spanish Art



Traditional Japanese Doll



Traditional Navajo Rugs



Sakushu Kasuri (Japanese Fabric)



# Acknowledgements

Jeff Case PhD.  
Santa Fe Sister Cities  
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Mr. Hidekuni Ehara, Ms. Yoko Tanaka, Mr. Shigea Kono

Santa Fe Researchers-  
Jeff Case, Taylor Washburn, Satori Murata, Shari Osgood, Dr. Zoe Nelsen

Santa Fe City Flag



Tsuyama City Flag

