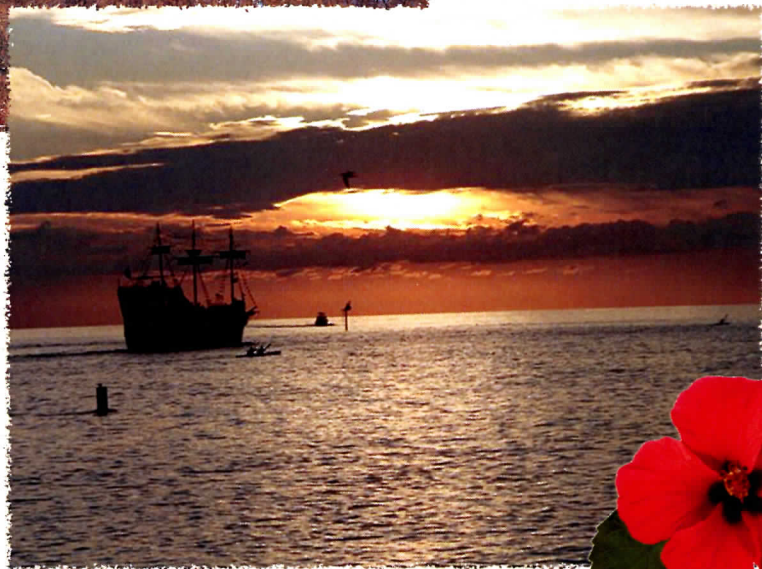


50th Anniversary



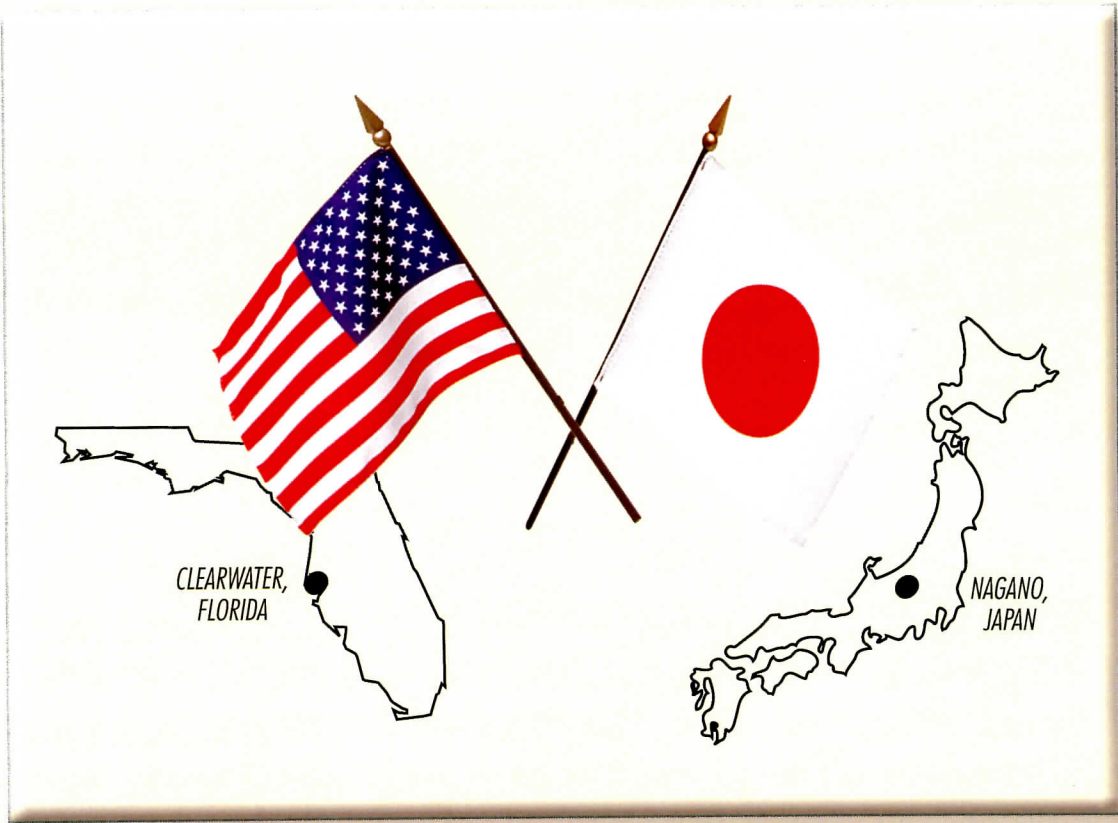
Nagano, Japan • Clearwater, Florida
Sister Cities

1959 ~ 2009



***Clearwater Sister Cities, Inc. dedicates
this commemorative booklet to the
City of Nagano, Japan and its many
citizens for sharing their culture with
the Clearwater community through
mutual exchanges.***

Clearwater Sister Cities, Inc., a non profit organization, was established to assist the City of Clearwater to promote cultural understanding, friendship, and global partnerships through exchanges with Clearwater's Sister City, Nagano, Japan and to foster an environment for furthering international relations between our two cities.



Fifty Years of Friendship
1959 ~ 2009



It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the citizens, membership, Board of Directors, and friends of the cities of Nagano, Japan and Clearwater, Florida on the 50th Anniversary of the sister cities relationship between the two cities.

Through the vision of President Dwight Eisenhower, when he initiated the People-to-People program in 1956, the cities of Nagano and Clearwater have been successful through communications and exchanges to achieve President Eisenhower's goal. Our cities have achieved a meaningful understanding of each other's culture.

There have been many memorable experiences over the past fifty years involving elected officials, city employees, citizens of our cities, members of our fire departments, students, and teachers. Every visit was a memorable one and as our Japanese friends described in 2008 our student exchange program, by saying it's "A Once in a Lifetime Chance". There are reflective summaries of these events in this 50th Anniversary Booklet.

The Clearwater Sister Cities organization established the "Pavilion in the Sun" with its theme "Visit Clearwater, Visit Florida" which showcased Florida during the 1998 Winter Olympic Games held in Nagano. Through the volunteer efforts of our citizens, this exhibit was a tremendous success and strengthened the bond of friendship between the cities of Nagano and Clearwater.

As the people of each city grow closer, may our exchanges and experiences make both cities a better place in which to live. May we reach out beyond this relationship to help bring others into a union of greater cultural awareness and acceptance.

Long live the friendship between Nagano and Clearwater! My best wishes for a future together in peace and friendship.

Sincerely,

Lois Sewell
President, Clearwater Sister Cities, Inc.

Besides the two cities' obvious similarities, the kindness and generosity expressed by Clearwater's citizens made Mayor Kurashima feel welcome and hopeful for a positive, long-lasting relationship.

He returned to Clearwater less than two years later to formally request a partnership with Nagano. To honor the visit, the city council passed a resolution and presented

Mayor Kurashima with a medal, which was gratefully acknowledged by the Nagano City Council in return. With the assistance of the Nagoya American Culture Center, Nagano then sent Clearwater an official proposal on April 27, 1958, to become sister cities. The Clearwater City Council voted in favor of the motion on January 19, 1959. Two months later, on March 14th, the Nagano City Council passed a similar resolution, thereby cementing the sister city relationship.



If he were able to look back on the last fifty years, Mayor Kurashima would not be disappointed in his original vision of friendship, business ties, and mutual understanding between Clearwater and Nagano. More than 1,000 Japanese and American citizens have traveled between the two cities for goodwill tours, cultural presentations, commemorative visits, and student exchange programs. The power of these interactions is recognized by both communities and will certainly continue for many years to come.

Friendship Resolution to Clearwater Is Translated

Above is a reproduction of a resolution adopted by Nagano City, Japan, and sent by that city's Mayor Itaru Kurashima after his visit here during the summer of 1956, to Mayor Alex D. Finch and Cleveland Insko Jr., city commissioner.

A literal translation made by Mrs. George Latherow, Largo, follows: "The people of the city of Nagano esteem it a great honor that your city selected the city of Nagano, Japan as the sister city for the purpose of promoting mutual amity and understanding in President Eisenhower's People to People program and the people of the city of Nagano express heartfelt thanks for it.

"The city of Nagano, on behalf of the people of Nagano, resolved also to affiliate with your city on March 14, 1959 for the purpose of stimulating the cultural ideas and the furtherance of amity and friendship.

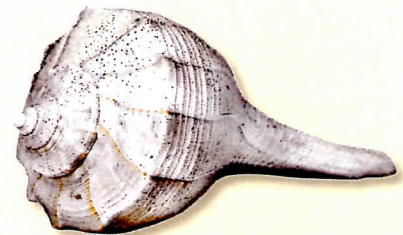
"The city of Nagano hopes profoundly that the friendship between the sisters, the people of Clearwater and Nagano will continue long in existence."

The signatures are those of Mayor Kurashima and Saburo Yonekura, president of Nagano Municipal Assembly, Japan.

Insko is chairman of the People to People program and Grant

Raulerson is vice chairman. Raulerson has had a long association with Japan and Nagano City through his heavy import of fine Japanese items.

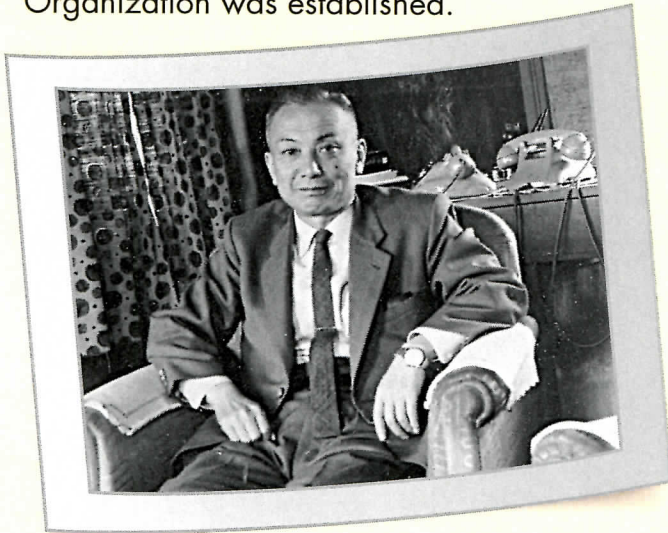
This same resolution has appeared in a Nagano City Newspaper which was sent to Raulerson some time ago.



Nagano - Clearwater Sister Cities

Historical Highlights

In 1956 President Dwight Eisenhower believed that ***"If only people will get together, then so eventually will nations"***. Through this citizen diplomacy initiative, the Sister Cities International Organization was established.



Nagano Mayor Itaru Kurashima

In 1956, Mayor Itaru Kurashima of Nagano City, Japan was invited by the State Department to visit three prospective U.S. cities in order to select one with which Nagano could develop a personal bond.

Though Nagano's cool, alpine climate and mountainous terrain contrasts starkly with Clearwater's subtropical temperatures and



The reputation for winter sports among the surrounding mountains equals the draw of Clearwater's top rated beaches and sunny weather in attracting visitors.

coastal plains, both cities share several other important characteristics, including a tourist-driven economy. Nagano's Zenkoji Temple and its reputation for winter sports among the surrounding snowy mountains equal the draw Clearwater's top-rated beaches and sunny weather has in attracting visitors.

Mayor Kurashima completed his weeklong tour of Clearwater at the beginning of October 1956 and soon initiated discussions with Clearwater's Mayor Herbert Brown on creating a city affiliation.



Nagano's Zenkoji Temple has a history of over 1,400 years. It attracts thousands of visitors each year interested in the history and culture of the City of Nagano.



The Relationship Expands to Cultural Exchanges and Experiences...

September 1959

Clearwater Symphony Conductor Leon Pouloupoulos, founder of both the St. Petersburg and Clearwater Symphony Orchestras, visited Nagano and appeared with the Nagano Symphony.



September 1959 Mayor Itaru Kurashima (right) of Nagano City shows Mr. and Mrs. Leon Pouloupoulos of Clearwater his display of the tokens of friendship sent to Nagano by Clearwater. Above the key to the City of Clearwater can be seen a picture of Mayor Alex D. Finch and City Commissioner Cleveland Insko, Jr., flanked by several proclamations of the meaning of the sister city program.

The 60s

The Early 60's

Clearwater's organization of Friendly Cities, Inc. was involved in an exchange of letters between citizens of Nagano and Clearwater. The first group of Clearwater citizens, a group of eleven, traveled to Nagano with Ms. Louise Keppie, president of Keppie's Travel Bureau. Throughout the 60's, several citizen visits occurred and Clearwater organizations held events to honor Nagano and promote cultural understanding and awareness.



DARUMA GIFT

Local residents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Johnson are presented with a red-painted "Daruma" by Mayor Tadao Natsume of Nagano on their recent visit to Clearwater's sister city. "Daruma" is the god of patience who bestows final success and happiness.

THE CLEARWATER SUN

Clearwater, Florida, Monday, November 16, 1959



CITY MARKS NAGANO PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE PROGRAM
 Large crowds turned out yesterday afternoon at the Municipal Auditorium to celebrate official Nagano City Day at a tea and exhibition. (Left) Mayor Alex Finch cuts a ribbon to officially open yesterday's festivities. Grouped around him near the ribbon are Mrs. Louise Crowell who was in charge of arrangements for yesterday's tea;



Candy Cobb, tea hostess; Cleveland Insko Jr., chairman of Friendly Cities Inc.; and representatives of local and women's clubs who assisted at the tea wearing authentic Japanese kimonos. (Right) Some of the crowd at yesterday's tea are seen examining the many exhibits from private Oriental collections. The chairs in front were set

up for visitors who viewed films taken in Japan by Col. Walter Payne. Kimonos and scrolls can be seen displayed on wires above the other exhibits. Visitors were also treated to an exhibition of interpretive Japanese dancing by Kaji Nadaoka who is visiting in St. Petersburg. (See story on Page 8-A) (Sun Photos)

Friendly Program With Japanese City Now Incorporated

INSCO CHOSEN PRESIDENT FOR FIRST YEAR



FRIENDLY CITIES INC. — At last night's meeting in the City Hall, Commissioner Cleveland Insko Jr., signed the documents of incorporation officially naming Clearwater's sister-city program with Nagano, Japan. At Insko's left is Robert E. Turner, second vice president; at his right Mrs. Michiko Latherow, treasurer and official interpreter for the group. (Sun Photo)

By IRENE ALBERT
 Sun Staff Writer
 Clearwater's sister-city program with Nagano, Japan, was formally incorporated last night at the City Hall auditorium under the name of "Friendly Cities Inc."
 By-laws and articles of incorporation were approved and election was held to elect the non-profit organization taking part in President Eisenhower's People to People movement.
 Organized to promote friendly relations and better understanding among communities throughout the world, hope was expressed by Chairman Cleveland Insko in the future Clearwater have more than one such city in other parts of the state.
 "The primary purpose of the movement is to unite loyal citizens in the promotion of goodwill and better international relations between the United States and friendly nations," Insko explained. "First we get the right foot going . . . then the left . . . I hope Nagano is only the first step toward similar alliances with other communities in the world."
 Mrs. Gladstone Winslow, prize winner in the contest to name the local organization of grass-roots diplomacy was Mrs. Marcella Gladstone of Safety Harbor, a registered nurse at Morton Plant Hospital who also supplied the prize-winning title for Clearwater's Fun 'N Sun festival several years ago. Grant Raulerson, associate chairman of the sister-city program, donated and presented Mrs. Gladstone with a painting by Japanese artist Nidai Fumpei Sanjin of Osaka.
 Insko was elected president of



(Times photo by Al Hackett)

EXCHANGE PROGRAM LEADERS

...In Clearwater who'll help steer the "sister city" project with Nagano City, Japan, are Chairman Cleveland Insko, Jr., left; Mrs. George Latberow, Largo, who'll translate correspondence from Japan, and Grant Raulerson, vice chairman.



—Staff Photo by Frances Brush

Japanese Guests Warmly Greeted

Dancers alighting from airliner (left) are about to get the same kind of warm greeting Vivian Walker, Miss Clearwater, (left, right photo) and Clearwater Mayor Joseph Turner are giving Japanese official Naokazu Okuda (far right.)

March 1966

Dancers from Nagano City visited Clearwater to perform Kimono and Obon dances at the Miss Clearwater Pageant and Fun 'n Sun Festival. They were the first goodwill ambassadors to visit Clearwater.

Japanese Aide Is Welcomed In Clearwater

CLEARWATER — There was a lot of international goodwill at Tampa International Airport yesterday as the Florida sun and Clearwater officials gave a warm welcome to Naokazu Okuda, consulate general of Japan for the southeastern United States, and a six-girl dancing troupe from Nagano City, Clearwater's sister city.

Okuda and the dancers will be guests during the city's annual Fun 'n Sun Pageant which begins Thursday.

The dancers, headed by Toshiko Nakajima, will perform during the Jaycee-sponsored Miss Clearwater Pageant Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at municipal auditorium. They will also perform at Memorial Civic Center at 8 p.m. Sunday.

The welcoming committee was headed by Mayor Joseph Turner and the city commissioners and included City Manager James Stewart, Vivian Walker, Miss Clearwater 1965; Arthur Kruse, Mr. Clearwater; Chamber of Commerce Manager Woody Todd, Ed Wilkie, Jaycee president; Taver Bayly, last year's Mr. Clearwater; Steve Brown, international relations chairman of the Jaycees; Sam Clark international director of the Florida Jaycees of Vero Beach; Sangoro Hatauaka, former resident of Nagano and interpreter for the occasion; Jim Roman, Jaycee publicity chairman, and other Jaycee officers.

After the welcome at the airport the visitors were brought back to Clearwater city hall for a presentation of keys to the city.



—Staff Photo by Charlie Mohn

Visitors Arrive From Japan

A group of Japanese visitors to Clearwater for the coming Fun 'n Sun Festival are pictured as they were welcomed on arrival yesterday at Tampa International Airport. At far left is Vivian Walker, current Miss Clearwater; then the troupe of six dancers from Nagano, Japan, Clearwater's sister city; Mayor

Joseph Turner, and Naokazu Okuda, Japanese consul general for the Southeastern United States. The visitors were honored at a reception at city hall yesterday. The dance troupe will entertain during the three-day Miss Clearwater Pageant which starts tomorrow night at the municipal auditorium.

Sister City Welcomes Local Travelers

By IRENE ALBERT
Sun Staff Writer

Nagano — Clearwater's sister city in Japan—rolled out the red carpet a few weeks ago for 11 local travelers who recently returned from a globe-girdling expedition.

"It was the highlight of our trip," said Miss Louise Keppie, owner of Keppie's Travel Bureau, who accompanied the group on its round-the-world tour of 11 countries in Europe, the Holy Land and the Far East.

"The most impressive thing about our Nagano stay was the warm welcome and the wonderful feeling that its people were doing everything in their power to give us a good time."

"Everything in their power" included an assortment of activities that ranged from an official banquet, attended by more than half a hundred local dignitaries, to escorted trips to temples, shrines, and a regional silk factory. There they saw everything from the hatching and feeding of silkworms to the finished product of raw silk. Throughout their Nagano stay, they were accompanied by an affable and official guide and interpreter, Kyozi Tereshima.

Visited Clearwater

Among dignitaries who greeted them either at the station, the banquet, or upon other occasions during their three-day stay, were former Mayor and Mrs. Itaru Kurashima and several friends from a former visit by Miss Keppie. Young Arturi Kurashima, who visited Clearwater a couple of years ago, made a special trip from Tokyo to welcome them, as did another young Japanese—Hisao Nishimura, a pen pal of Mayor Robert Weatherly's 17-year-old daughter Barbara.

Another one-time Clearwater visitor — Junsho Hayashi, high priest of Zenkoji Temple — made one of the banquet speeches welcoming the American visitors to Nagano and applauding their work on the sister city program and promotion of international good will and understanding. There was a reciprocal exchange of keys to the two cities by Miss Keppie on behalf of Mayor Weatherly and Nagano Mayor Tadao Natsume.

During the program of food and entertainment at a typical Japanese inn where they stayed — the Gomeikan — along with exotic Nipponese dishes went Japanese instrumental music and dancing, a special tea ceremony, and flower arranging — all of them colorful and intriguing to western eyes and ears.

Made Trip

"We made the trip from Tokyo to Nagano on a typical Spring day. There were peasants working in the flooded paddy fields planting rice . . . freshly washed

clothes fluttering between bamboo poles . . . and big carps made of cloth and paper to celebrate the birth of boy babies — an oriental status symbol, related Miss Keppie.

On the day they left Nagano,

still more city officials together with old and new friends arrived at the station to bid the visitors goodbye and present them with gifts. Among these were two large bags of apples—one sweet and one tart—from Hayashi.

"Nagano is in the heart of Japan's apple country," explained the Clearwater tour leader, "and we munched apples all the way to Singapore." Before leaving Japan, the travelers also saw Mount Fujiyama at dawn, which they found comparable only to the Taj Mahal by moonlight.



ZENKOJI TEMPLE

... Accompanied by Mayor Tadao Natsume of Nagano, travelers visited Zenkoji Temple near Clearwater's sister-city in Japan.

ZENKOJI TEMPLE

...Accompanied by Mayor Tadao Natsume of Nagano, travelers visited Zenkoji Temple near Clearwater's sister city in Japan.

1965

Eiko Aizama from Nagano and Elizabeth Runyon from Clearwater participated in the first teacher exchange.



The 80s

November 1984

25th Anniversary Celebration – Clearwater’s Mayor Kathleen Kelly hosted Nagano Mayor Masayuki Yanagihara for his second visit to Clearwater. He brought with him 25 citizens from Nagano.



Mayor Kathleen Kelly and Commissioner Rita Garvey entertain guests from Nagano in the Office of the Mayor in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the relationship between the City of Nagano and Clearwater.



1984 City of Nagano Guests



Nagano City Mayor Masayuki Yanagihara, Clearwater Mayor Kathy Kelly and Commissioner Rita Garvey examine a gift from Nagano to Clearwater, its sister city.

Clearwater Times
— DAVE PIERSON

Nagano City Mayor Masayuki Yanagihara, Clearwater Mayor Kathy Kelly and Commissioner Rita Garvey examine a gift from Nagano to Clearwater, its sister city.

Sister cities mark their 25-year anniversary

Clearwater Times Staff Writer

CLEARWATER — There was some difficulty with pronunciation but no problem at all feeling the good will Wednesday as Clearwater and Nagano City, Japan celebrated 25 years as sister cities.

A reception in City Hall was highlighted by expressions of friendship from Nagano City Mayor Masayuki Yanagihara and Clearwater Mayor Kathy Kelly and by the presentation of gifts.

Clearwater gave Yanagihara a Roger Bansemmer painting of the *Beach Sentinel* scene duplicated in posters for Sparkling Clearwater Day.

Nagano City gave Clearwater an exquisite ceramic figurine.

There was also an exchange of other mementos among individuals at the reception, where Commissioner Rita Garvey, chairman of Clearwater's Sister City Committee, presided.

Guests included former City Commissioner Cleveland Insko Jr. He got Clearwater involved a quarter-century ago in the sister city exchange, which started as President Dwight Eisenhower's People-to-People Program.

Since then, the two cities have exchanged students, teachers, officials and tourists. Clearwater Mayors H. Everett Hougen, Joe Turner Sr. and Charles LeCher, and Vice Mayor Garvey have visited Nagano City.

Mayor Kelly had some trouble with the name of the sister city, transposing the first two letters so it came out "Angano." But the Japanese made the "g" sound like an "n," roughly pronouncing it "Nanano."

Yanagihara was visiting Clearwater for the second time and headed a party of 25. The group also attended a Greater Clearwater Chamber of Commerce reception on Monday and went to Disney World's Epcot Center.



MAYOR GREET'S JAPANESE DANCERS — At City Hall, Mayor Joe Turner presented the six Japanese dancing girls and Japanese Consul General Naokazu Okuda with a gold key to the city. The talented ladies, left to right,

are: Junko Jinpo, Mas Katsurko Aoki, Mrs. T structress Toshiko Nakajima. Next in line are Okuda and Mayor Turner.

PRESENTED WITH CITY KEY

MAYOR GREET'S JAPANESE DANCERS

At City Hall, Mayor Joe Turner presented the six Japanese dancing girls and Japanese Consul General Naokazu Okuda with a gold key to the city. The talented ladies, left to right, are: Junko Jinpo, Masako Tokutako, Emko Hatayama, Katsurko Aoki, Mrs. Toshiko Tsuchiya, and dance instructress Toshiko Nakajima. Next in line are Okuda and Mayor Turner.

Japanese Dance Troupe Given Rousing Welcome

By ERIC ATKINS, Sun Staff Writer

Past the polished philodendron and over the blue-green carpet the six Japanese girls, their manager, an interpreter, and the consul general of Japan, Naokazu Okuda, were lead into City Manager James Stewart's office yesterday to see the view of a setting sun in Clearwater Bay. They peered through the glass window panels, twice as tall as they were. They giggled and seemed to enjoy themselves. They received the traditional keys to the city, presented by Mayor Joe Turner. They smiled and seemed patient as photographers took picture after picture.

When a reporter went from one to the other to get names, again they removed the name cards that were pinned to their colorful costumes and held them close to his eyes so he could read them easily.

Courteous

It's something, being courteous, but another thing anticipating a courtesy.

They arrived shortly before 4 p.m. at Tampa International Airport yesterday.

The consul general was the first to arrive. He came in on a four-engine jet from New Orleans where he has his office at the Japanese consulate for southeastern United States. Vivian Walker, Miss Clearwater, gave him the heartiest welcome with a kiss on each cheek.

About five minutes later the dancers arrived on one of those big jets with the engines in the tail and the main door way up front.

Each one was dressed in the traditional Japanese kimono, each in a different colored fabric. In their white socks and thong slippers they were no taller than the largest department store doll.

Dance Instructress

Mrs. Toshiko Nakajima is the dance instructress and the leader of the other five. She pointed out that each had been given a name card by the Nagano Jaycees which also gave credit to the Clearwater Jaycees, sponsors of this visit for the upcoming Fun 'n Sun Festival.

To be on the safe side the Nagano Jaycees also sent along a manager Harry A. Nishimura from Tokyo. Nishimura, who says "Just call me Harry," was also one of the busy photographers with his miniature Japanese movie camera.

He was just as busy as the local photographers when it came to taking pictures of the dancing girls.

The girls will perform tomorrow night, Friday and Saturday (March 16, 17 and 18) during the Miss Clearwater Pageant at the Municipal Auditorium. They will perform four different dances, the last to be given at the Memorial Civic Center, Sunday at 8 p.m.

The Japanese guests are scheduled to stay a week.

Officials On Hand

Taver Bayly, last year's Mr. Clearwater, and Woodrow Todd, executive vice president of the Greater Clearwater Chamber of Commerce, were on hand to greet the honored guests. These two will be doing the same thing in reverse come June.

They will lead a party of goodwill ambassadors to Clearwater's sister city of Nagano and a 32-day tour of the Orient sponsored by Oceanic Travel Service Inc.

Language differences will present no problem for members of the Hanayagi Dancing School.

St. Petersburg businessman, Sangoro Hatanaka, a 31-year resident of Pinellas County will act as their interpreter during the dancers' week-long visit.



The 70s

1979

During the 70's, there were no record of exchanges between the two cities until Nagano's Mayor Masayuki Yanagihara re-established the relationship by visiting Clearwater. It was at this visit that the determination for visits in five-year increments was established.



1983

In February 1980, flower arrangers (Ikebana), Masako Maruyama and Nobuko Ito visited Clearwater to spread Japanese culture. They were followed in 1983 and 1984 by other flower arrangers. This was the start of the annual teacher exchanges. They visited Clearwater to further introduce Japanese culture to the citizens of Clearwater. While visiting our area, they demonstrated the art of flower arranging in Clearwater schools.

English students 'toy' with Japanese culture

By Lara Glenn
News Reporter

Balloons made of paper, bean bags and twirling sticks sailing through the air, students struggling to knock down little men made of rings.

Reiko Takahashi and Chiyumi Takei have transformed an ordinary PPHS English class into a fiesta of Japanese culture complete with flower arranging, paper folding and games.

While Takei arranged flowers, Takahashi spoke about Japanese history and Ikebana (flower arranging). When Takei finished, students were given the chance to try Ikebana first-hand.

According to Miss Becky Kelley, PPHS English teacher, Japanese ladies learn Ikebana by this method of copying the teacher.

Takei and Takahashi, Japanese teachers, are in Pinellas County as part of an exchange program between Clearwater and its sister city, Nagano City, Japan. Each year, two Japanese teachers spend a month in Pinellas County schools and two local teachers spend a semester in Nagano.

representational English. Kelley represented Pinellas County in Nagano in 1982.

To be considered for their trip to Clearwater, Takahashi and Takei were required to have teachers' licenses in Ikebana and to pass a very difficult examination in English. Many teachers

apply for the trip because the city of Nagano pays most of the cost for the trip.

At home, Takahashi serves as a volunteer instructor of both American and Japanese students of Ikebana. She is also a homemaker and mother of two children.

Takei is a disc jockey for a Nagano City radio station. She plays both Japanese and American music on her programs.

In addition to games and flower arranging, the teachers helped the students make origami cranes or samurai hats out of brightly colored paper. This activity is very popular among children and adults in Japan and was a favorite of the students.

Jennifer Gross, junior, said she enjoyed the origami because the teachers could make the figures so quickly.

Junior Michael Long, said, "I thought that it was an extremely interesting program, and I enjoyed it thoroughly. It was well put together."

The Japanese teachers will be going to New York and Washington D.C. at the end of February after visiting eight other Pinellas County schools. They said they hope to have met their goals of teaching American students some Japanese customs, and in turn, learn American customs.



Junior Blane Chaplow tries his hand at Ikebana (flower arranging) as Chiyumi Takei supervises.

1984



top: Junior Blane Chaplow tries his hand at Ikebana (flower arranging) as Chiyumi Takei supervises.

bottom left: Chiyumi Takei applauds students' attempts at Ikebana.

bottom right: Reiko Takahashi, dressed in traditional kimono, prepares to demonstrate Japanese toys.



1984

Commissioner Rita Garvey with Chiyumi Takei and Reiko Takahashi.

1989

30th Anniversary Celebration – Mayor Rita Garvey and delegation traveled to Nagano to participate in the 30th Anniversary Celebration.



Sept 1989 – Mayor Rita Garvey of Clearwater, Itaru Kurashima, President of International Friendship Club, Mrs. Kurashima and Hiroji Koide



Nagano City Mayor Tasuku Tsukada, Mrs. Tsukada, Clearwater Mayor Rita Garvey with husband Tim, along with other guests, enjoy the 30th Anniversary Reception hosted by Nagano.



Nagano Teachers

1980's

The mutual annual exchange plan began with teacher and student exchanges between the two cities. This program blossomed over the years to include high school, junior high school, middle school students, and local teacher exchanges between Nagano and Clearwater. Our exchange activities feature homestay programs, school visits and local sightseeing. Thanks to the goodwill and generosity of the people involved over the years, the friendship between our two cities has grown and will surely continue to prosper for years to come.

Page 12 BEELEADER October 30, 1986

Japanese exchange teachers learning about America

by Penny Schwab
 Located in central Japan, about 100 miles or so west of Tokyo and in the town of Nagano, Clearwater's sister city.

Similar in size and population, Clearwater and Nagano have long exchanged ideas, cultural information, gifts and even school teachers.

This is, in fact, the sixth year of the teacher exchange program according to Carmine Zini, Pinellas County's supervisor of foreign languages, and it's going strong.

Each year two dedicated English teachers from each country travel about each other's culture, students, schools and teaching practices.

Nagano teachers arrive annually for a month long stay during October-November and are most interested in observing classroom routines, according to Zini.

Although they don't teach, they do give slide and video presentations and lectures regarding their 12 elementary, middle and high schools they visit in Pinellas County.

This year's visitors are Tami Ouchi and Yoko Aoki. Both are English instructors in Nagano, Japan. Miss Aoki's school is very small and somewhat rural, Zini explained. She is one of six teachers in a school of only 22 students. Because she is the only female teacher, she is also required to teach homemaking to her female students.

Mr. Ouchi ("Mr. O") as he likes to be called teaches in a school more similar to our local institutions but both teachers commented that, as a whole, American schools "are very large" in size.

In Japan, they related, there are more male teachers than female and all are very dedicated. It seems that if a Japanese instructor should from teaching, returning to the school system is next to impossible. A rigorous re-entry exam must be passed and if the teacher (male or female) is over 35 years old it is all the more difficult. Certainly, this is one thing that seemed to impress the Japanese teachers was the outstanding behavior of students

during a fire drill exercise. "My impression is that your students are much more orderly," Mr. O remarked. He added that in American schools there are "lots more regulations" than in Japanese schools.

Also, according to the teachers, despite the distance in miles and no matter where they might live, "At first glance, the American students seem more mature, more grown up," Mr. O stated. "But when you look more deeply, they seem to be at the same level" as the Japanese students.

This is the first trip to America for both teachers who were most excited about the prospect of observations.

"It has been one of my most outstanding desires to come to this country," Mr. O articulated.

Although Miss Aoki was worried about what she called "her poor English," she really spoke quite well and was extremely pleasant.

The Japanese government pays for the teachers' visits. While they are here, they spend each of the four weeks in a different host family home. Most recently they were the guests of Clearwater's City Commissioner, Rita Gentry.

When not at school, the pair have been traveling around Florida seeing the many sights. Both enjoyed the many sights. Both enjoyed the many sights. Both enjoyed the many sights.

A typical day at a Florida school for the visitors includes a welcome ceremony, a gift presentation, a tour of the school, a side presentation and classroom teaching observations. They were at Largo Middle School last week and will next at various locations until they depart for Japan November 10.

As part of the American teaching experience, the teachers are put through various visits until two July. Before leaving by the teachers, and their insurance in Japan, by the system to teach English school level.

With this in mind, also prove they

interest in the culture and teachings of Japan. "Teachers are chosen for their experience, knowledge and enthusiasm of Japan and its culture," explained Zini. Also, candidates must have traveled extensively and be flexible and adaptable to the climate and civilization of Japan.

This year July Overcash of Kings Highway Elementary and Eric Stallworth from Kono Holms High School will be making the reciprocal trek in the popular program.

Sometimes the stars of the that teachers decide to stay in Japan once they arrive. This has happened to two of the American exchange teachers, Zini said.

All in all, Zini said, the schools and contacts have been a "wonderful experience" for Mr. Ouchi and Miss Aoki. "They have a strong interest in a good atmosphere and that Japanese people are welcome in our country."



TAMI OUCHI AND YOKO AOKI are English teachers in Nagano, Japan - Clearwater's sister city. They will be visiting the Clearwater area until Nov. 8 in the hopes of learning more about American culture and ways of teaching.

1986



Nagano Exchange Teachers enjoy the experience of teaching the Japanese culture in the Clearwater classroom and gaining knowledge of the American way of life.

'Eager' pupils impress visiting teachers

By KAYLOIS HENRY
 Times Staff Writer

CLEARWATER — The students in Glenda Berman's second-period class laughed as their friends tried out their gifts from Japan.

"They look, elevator shoes," remarked one girl as she stepped gingerly in the girly wooden sandals the Japanese wear with their kimonos.

Atsuko Nakajima smiled as she watched the children play with the paper balls, whistles and other toys she and Yoshika Nakamura had brought them.

"They are so eager," Ms. Nakajima said. "It has been her biggest impression of American students."

At Clearwater High, she was surprised to see students holding hands and kissing, and girls wearing makeup. That wouldn't happen among her Japanese students, who are more reserved, Ms. Nakajima said.

Ms. Nakajima and Nakamura are exchange teachers from Nagano, Japan, Clearwater's sister city. The visit to Clearwater's Kennedy Middle School on Thursday was part of a tour of Pinellas County schools. Their itinerary includes visits to Enterprise Village, Clearwater High School and the School Board.

Please see TEACHERS Page 8

1989



Japanese teachers Atsuko Nakajima, left, and Yoshika Nakamura dish out "Ethnic Edibles".
 Times photo — STEVE HASEL



Nagano Students



1980

FIRST GROUP OF NAGANO STUDENTS (not in photo order):

Yutaka Nyuyama, Hiroko Itakura, Kanae Ito, Rie Koyama, Yasuhisa Ino, Miki Nishimura, Atsuko Otsuka, Yukihiko Ota, Masahiko Yamaguchi, Masataka Shiozawa, Masakazu Kobayashi, Kotoyo Yamaguchi, Kazuko Mizuide, Maki Takemura, Yumi Mizusawa.



1981

From 1980 through the present, Nagano students have visited Clearwater annually. They have experienced attending Clearwater schools, homestays with local families and exploring the American culture. They left Clearwater with many happy long lasting memories.

Clearwater Teachers



Clearwater teachers find it a rewarding experience to teach in Nagano.





Through the years, many Nagano students have had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit Clearwater.







Clearwater Students



1991 First High School Student Group representing Clearwater: Jennifer Underhill, Tashanna Porter, Becky Goodgame, and Andy Shaw.

In 1991, four high school students from the Clearwater area and a chaperone traveled to Nagano as exchange students. This was the start of the annual exchange of high school students with the Young Ambassador Program (Clearwater middle school students) to follow in 2001.





Clearwater students enjoy the culture and sights of Nagano, and meeting and making new friends.





Young Workers Program

The Young Workers Program was established where young adults and Nagano City employees came to Clearwater to work in local businesses. The Clearwater Fire Department was a major participant in this program.



1989 Japanese send fond remembrance of Clearwater visit

BY KENWYN CARANNA
Staff writer

CLEARWATER — "I left my heart in Clearwater with my tears of farewell."

So wrote Kumiko Miyamoto, a Japanese woman who visited the city in August as part of Clearwater's sister city program with Nagano, Japan.

"On my trip to Clearwater I happened to have a chance to see that kind people made me a kind woman," wrote another visitor, Yoko Aonuma.

Both women spent 10 days here at the home of Grant and Genevieve Raulerson. Recently, the Japanese visitors repaid their hosts by sending them a booklet detailing their experiences here.

The only problem is the booklet is written entirely in Japanese. Parts of it, however, were translated for the Raulersons, who have fond memories of their guests.

"We had a good time," Raulerson said. "I don't think any of them were happy to be going home — at least they didn't look it" the morning they left.

In all, 10 Japanese citizens in their 20s came to Clearwater to learn American customs and mingle with the locals.

The visitors spent their time much like typical American tourists do. Disney World, the

beach, shopping malls and nightclubs filled some of their itinerary.

"My daughter took them to Mako's, and they just had a ball," Raulerson said of the local nightspot.

While at the restaurant El Capitan, the Japanese particularly were intrigued by the older, married couples who danced together, Raulerson said. The visitors told him this was unheard of in Japan.

The group also went sightseeing in some places many Americans probably would rather avoid: police headquarters, a fire station and the sewage treatment plant.

"For some reason, the Japanese get a real kick out of our sewer plant," said Raulerson. "It was interesting to see their reactions."

While the young Japanese workers and students have come here regularly, Raulerson said there had not been an organized effort to send an American student group to Japan. But that has changed.

Earlier this month, Pinellas County schoolteacher Linda Damsky sent letters to students and parents informing them of her plans to chaperone such a group in June. Ms. Damsky has participated in the exchange program between two cities. Students interested



weeklong trip may call Ms. Damsky after 5 p.m. at 734-7317.

For those who may not fit the criteria of "student," Mayor Rita Garvey is organizing another group of residents. She said people to

slated for mid-May. The trip will mark the 30th anniversary of the two cities' friendship. Interested persons may contact travel agent Don Taylor at 971-4991 in Tampa. Or leave a message for more information at City Hall at 462-3700.



1987



During their 1993 visit, the Clearwater Fire Department presented the Young Workers with a bicycle as a gift. The Young Workers returned to Nagano with the bicycle. What a wonderful gesture by the Clearwater Fire Department.



November 1994

35th Anniversary – Nagano City Mayor Tasuku Tsukada and delegation of 27 citizens visited Clearwater.



1998 Nagano Winter Olympics

Countdown to the Winter Olympics



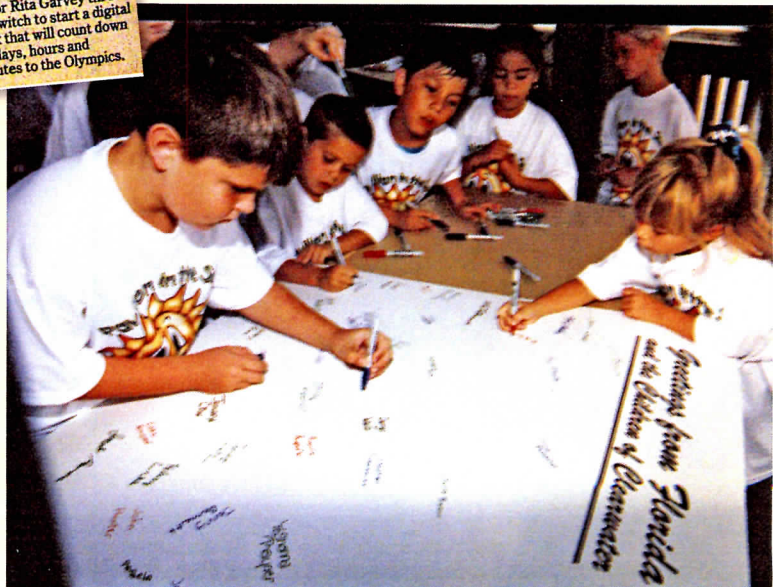
Students from Ridgecrest Elementary School march in the parade Thursday through downtown Clearwater.



Mayor Rita Garvey escorts one of the snowlets, owl-like characters who are the official mascots of the 1998 Winter Olympics, to the stage after the parade.

On a day that resembled a festive holiday, Clearwater celebrated the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan, on Thursday with a parade through downtown. Nagano is Clearwater's sister city and the parade opened a 100-day countdown to the Games that begin Feb. 7. The parade started at City Hall and ended at Station Square Park. It included city commissioners, city employees, schoolchildren and volunteers who will travel to Nagano during the Olympics to help Clearwater staff its \$395,000 exhibit about Florida. At the park, Mayor Rita Garvey threw the switch to start a digital clock that will count down the days, hours and minutes to the Olympics.

Mayor Tasuku Tsukada announced during an earlier visit that Nagano was the site of the 1998 Winter Olympics. In a later visit, Mayor Tsukada discussed having a Clearwater Hospitality Center in Nagano during the games. Because of the strong sister city relationship, 3000 square feet of free space was donated in the Tokyu Department Store. The exhibit, Pavilion in the Sun, had the theme "Visit Clearwater, Visit Florida". The State of Florida through the Tourism, Trade and Economic Development Department, as well as many other entities, contributed funds for this exhibit to showcase Florida. Mayor Rita Garvey, a supporter of the sister city program since the early '80's, said **"Friendship is at the heart of the Clearwater-Nagano relationship and is what really gave this project its start"**.





City of Nagano Mayor Tasuku Tsukada, City of Clearwater Mayor Rita Garvey and dignitaries at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the "Pavilion in the Sun" located in the Tokyu Department Store, Nagano.



above: Darlene Kalada of Clearwater talks to children near the beach exhibit at the Pavilion in the Sun, located in the Tokyu Department Store in Nagano.



Mascots from 1998 Winter Olympics.



right: Ben Anderson helps a child with a putt at the pavilion.

40th Anniversary Highlights



April 1999

40th Anniversary Celebration – Nagano Mayor Tasuku Tsukada with a delegation of 36 citizens visited Clearwater.



above: April 25, 1999, Nagano Delegation is welcomed at Tampa Airport by Clearwater Sister Cities Supporters.

far left: Mrs. Tsukada, Hiroji Koide, President, International Friendship Club, Past Mayor Clearwater Rita Garvey, Nagano City Mayor Tsukada, Clearwater City Mayor Brian Aungst and Mrs. Aungst pictured with bell presented to Clearwater by Nagano City.

middle: Nagano Guests enjoy the Dolphin Encounter.

left: An evening Sayonara Dinner Cruise on the Starlight Majesty was enjoyed by our guests.

Young Ambassadors

January 2000

Clearwater Sister Cities received a grant from the State of Florida for students to participate in a video camp.

June 2000

Five middle school students representing Clearwater and their chaperones were selected to participate in the "My Eyes Have Seen" Video Grant Program. They traveled to Nagano to video everyday life in Japan. Upon returning to Clearwater, their video was shown in Pinellas County schools and throughout the community so others could learn more about life in Japan. Clearwater Mayor Brian Aungst accompanied the students



Brian Aungst, Jr. (not pictured), Patrick Doyle, Ashley Dean, Alisa Castanga and Ryan Carter middle school students with chaperones, middle school teachers Jeff Hutto and Richard Wisemiller.



and chaperones on this visit. These five students were the start of Clearwater's Middle School Student Exchange Program. The Young Ambassadors, as they are now formally named, are middle school students from the Clearwater area that visit Nagano, homestay with local families, and attend their schools, as well as travel throughout other areas of Japan with their chaperones.



February 2002

Nagano Mayor Washizawa visited Clearwater in connection with the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah.

45th Anniversary Highlights



May 2004

Mayor Brian Aungst, city officials, and a Clearwater citizens delegation totaling 53 were hosted by Nagano City in honor of the 45th Anniversary and enjoyed the opportunity of exploring Nagano.



Clearwater Mayor Brian Aungst and City of Clearwater representatives visit Nagano in celebration of the 45th Anniversary.



Nagano guests are greeted at Tampa Airport by members of Clearwater Sister Cities and host families.

April 2005

Clearwater hosted Mayor Shoichi Washizawa and a 31-member delegation of Nagano citizens. While in the area, they enjoyed touring our city and enjoying various activities around Clearwater Beach.



above: Mika Maki, Nagano violin teacher, entertained guests at the Sayonara Reception, as well as other events, during the 45th Anniversary Celebration in Clearwater April 29, 2005.



top center: Clearwater Mayor Frank Hibbard, Nagano Mayor Shoichi Washizawa and Mrs. Washizawa.

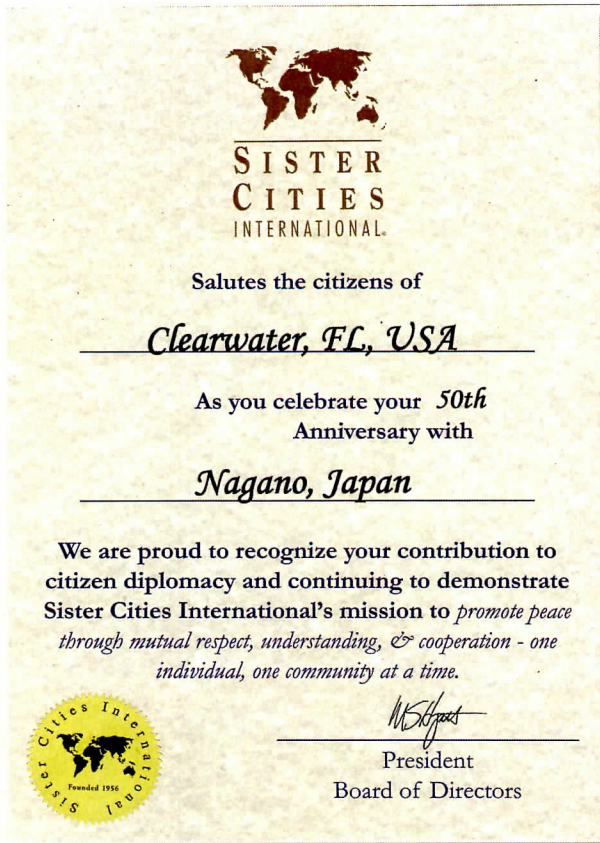


above: 45th Anniversary Nagano official delegation in front of Clearwater City Hall.

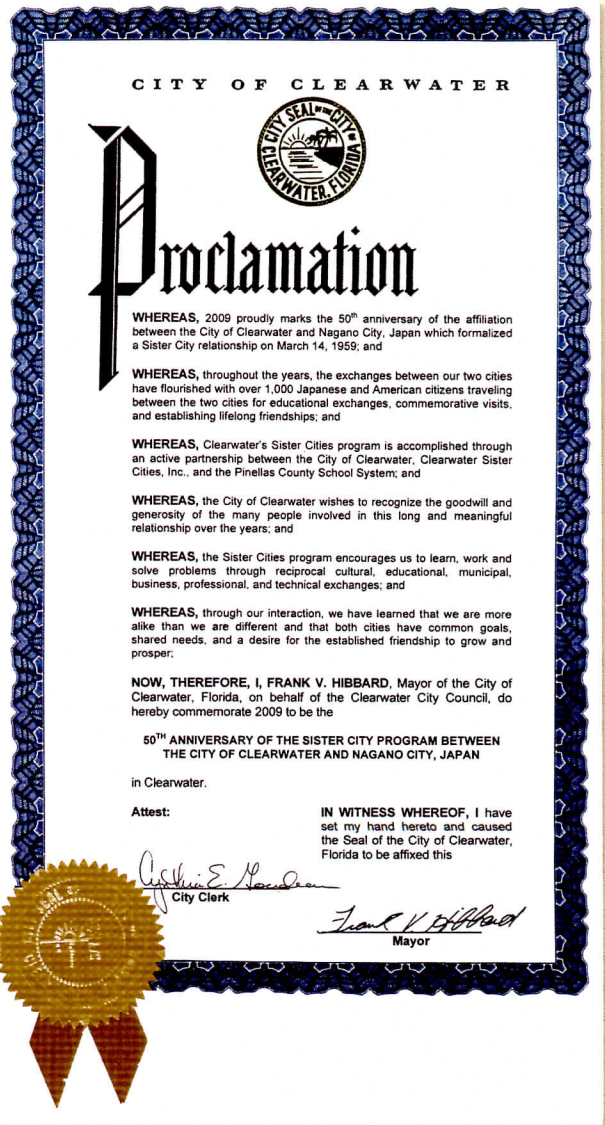
left: Nagano Mayor and Mrs. Shoichi Washizawa, Clearwater Sister Cities, Inc. President, Richard Wisemiller and Mrs. Wisemiller, Hiroji Koide, President, International Friendship Club and others enjoy Tropical Party hosted by Clearwater Sister Cities, Inc.

50th Anniversary Memories

Nagano, Japan - Clearwater, Florida



Proclamations from Sister Cities International and the City of Clearwater commemorating the 50-year Sister City relationship between Nagano, Japan and Clearwater, Florida.



February 2009

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the sister city relationship, Clearwater students and residents designed lanterns to be used in Nagano City at their annual Lantern Festival in February. Since the 1998 Winter Olympic Games, Nagano has held a lantern festival.



above: Citizens of Clearwater designed lanterns for Nagano Lantern Festival.

left: Lanterns designed by Clearwater citizens join other lanterns lining Nagano's street during the festival.

April 2009

With the assistance of the Honorable Hiroshi Yamaguchi, Miami's Consul General of Japan, Clearwater hosted its first lantern festival. Six lanterns used in Nagano's festival were shipped to Clearwater for the event along with approximately 400 paper lanterns which were hand carried by participants. Several hundred other lanterns were created by residents of the Clearwater Community.



The festival consisted of musical performances by the taiko drummers and the koto as well as various Japanese demonstrations. Other Japanese traditions on display were the art of kimono, tea ceremonies, bonsai, sumi-e painting, calligraphy and origami. The event was a wonderful display of Japanese culture.



October 2009

Clearwater Mayor Frank Hibbard, Vice Mayor, Councilmembers, spouses and companion visited Nagano in honor of the 50th Anniversary Celebration between our two cities. During their visit they participated in Nagano's annual Sanada Festival.



l-r: Councilmember John Doran, Mrs. Stephanie Doran, Councilmember George Cretekos, Mrs. Carolyn Cretekos, Cathy Brooks, Vice Mayor Paul Gibson, Mayor Frank Hibbard, and Mrs. Teresa Hibbard in front of Nagano 50th Anniversary Welcome Banner.



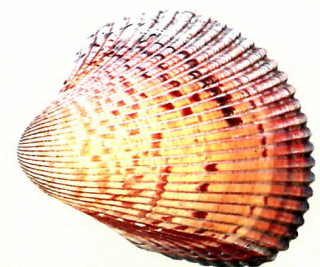
Mrs. Teresa Hibbard, Nagano City Mayor Shoichi Washizawa, and Clearwater City Mayor Frank Hibbard.



front l-r: Councilmember Cretekos, Mrs. Doran, Mrs. Cretekos, Mayor Hibbard, Mrs Hibbard, Cathy Brooks and Ashley Hayes.

back: Festival Representatives, Councilmember Doran, Vice Mayor Gibson, Festival Representatives.

Clearwater Official Delegation at the Sanada Festival with the banners for the City of Clearwater and Sanada Family.

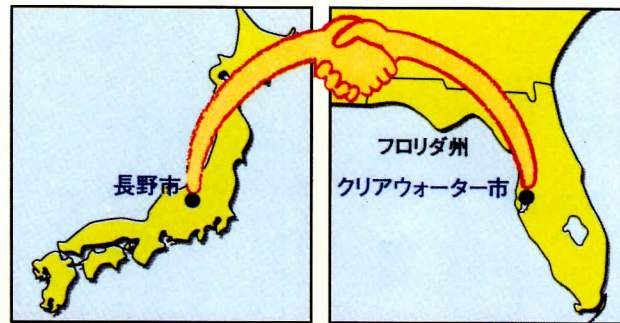


Memories & Friends

Write your memories of your visit and let new friends sign your book on these two pages.







Clearwater Sister Cities, Inc. would like to thank the Cities of Nagano and Clearwater, their school boards, schools, and citizens for 50 years of assisting in uniting the hands of friendship between our two cities and cementing the bond that has been made which will continue to grow through the years.

Acknowledgement is given to the
2009-2010 Clearwater Sister Cities, Inc. Board of Directors:

Lois Sewell, President

Grant Raulerson, Vice President	Myrtle Sachs, Secretary/Treasurer
Sara Kessinger, Membership Chair	Richard Wisemiller, Board Member
Marilyn Hall, Board Member	Billi Taggart, Board Member
Candy Hays, Board Member	Takako Thibodeau, Board Member

Carol Huber, Newsletter Editor

Rita Garvey, Past President and Former Mayor, City of Clearwater

~also~

Elizabeth Minor, Cultural Affairs Programmer, City of Clearwater

Dawn Lakin, Graphic Designer

for the creation of this booklet and for the many supporters who donated pictures and information which are included.

**Clearwater Sister Cities, Inc. extends a special thank you
to the following persons who have provided outstanding support
towards the publication of this 50th Anniversary booklet.**

Gold Supporters

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Carolyn and George Cretekos
Rita Garvey
John H. and Marti Graham
Bruce and Marilyn Hall
Tom and Lois Sewell
Billi Taggart

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Rachel Wolfson

Bronze Supporters

William and Sue Dillon
Katie Humberstone
Darlene Kalada
Christie and Stephanie Middleton
Daryl and Deirdre Schuster

*Clearwater Sister Cities, Inc. through this booklet has attempted to document some of the many
cultural experiences between the Cities of Nagano, Japan and Clearwater, Florida.
We strived to achieve accurate data and apologize if there are any errors or omissions.*



As the sun sets ending the first 50 years, a new year arises with new opportunities for cultural experiences filled with unforgettable memories as the bridge of friendship unites the Cities of Nagano and Clearwater.