

As the season changes, and nature's hues become richer, our thoughts turn to outdoor activities and cool autumn celebrations. TSCI is happy to share our bounty of programs and experiences enjoyed and anticipated – read on in this issue of the TSCI Digital Newsletter to discover ways you can be a part of our global celebrations, now and throughout the year!

Welcome to a world of opportunity with TSCI!

Gios Keyes

Lisa Keyes - TSCI Executive Director Alabama State Representative and Board of Directors Liaison, Sister Cities International

# Happy 35th Anniversary Narashino International Association!



Hearty congratulations to the Narashino International Association on reaching its 35the Anniversary milestone! On October 15, the City of Narashino celebrated the special occasion with an official commemorative ceremony, led Narashino Mayor Daisuke Miyamoto, city and regional officials, NIA Chairperson Kazunari Yoshimura, and NIA representatives. At the ceremony, former NIA Chairperson Yukio Sakiyama was presented with a certificate of appreciation and a bouquet of flowers for his 11 years of service to the association. Alabama ALTs Alexis Acevedo, Alex Diaz, and Melodi Shaw were also in attendance.

The celebration was preceded by Narashino's "Kirat 2022" Citizen's Festival, featuring a festive and colorful parade.

The Narashino International Association was established in 1987, in partnership with the Narashino-Tuscaloosa Sister City affiliation. TSCI is grateful for NIA's ongoing efforts to promote sister city exchange programs and strengthening vital and diverse global friendships!



### Tuscaloosa-Schorndorf Partnership Celebrates 26 Years!

What a terrific celebration it was in late August, marking the 26th Anniversary of the Tuscaloosa-Schorndorf Sister City Partnership. Schorndorf's official delegation led by Mayor Bernd Hornikel, experienced a warm welcome by Tuscaloosa leaders, and an introduction to our city and region's cultural highlights. TSCI is so thankful for our Sister City partnerships – and looks forward to decades of collaboration ahead!



**Discovery Continues for ALTs in Narashino** 





Another year has come and gone for us ALTs in Narashino! It's been a busy one, as we've welcomed our newest teacher, Alex Diaz, onto the team. We just finished up the first half of the school year and will be starting our next school rotation very soon. In our spare time outside of managing performance tests, grading, or helping in the classrooms, we're out exploring all of the adventures Narashino has to offer!



Alex has been checking out every shrine he can find in the area, and when he's not teaching, he can be found walking around Tsudanuma discovering new sights and sounds.

Melodi, who recently returned from a brief trip home to the USA, has been having fun making friends at the local stationary spin studio and trying out the seasonal coffees and goodies from local cafes!

Alexis has been petting her quickly-growing Maine Coon cat to recharge between enjoying concerts and local festivities, like the recent Narashino Kiratto Parade!

We are always so thankful for everyone's support back home! Cheers to another great 365 days!

## JASA Annual Dinner Highlights Japan Business Success in Alabama





Special guests included Alabama Governor Kay Ivey, Consul General Kazuyuki Takeuchi, and Alabama Secretary of Commerce Greg Canfield, as well as government and diplomatic officials, Japanese and US company executives, economic developers and chamber of commerce representatives, and many others. TSCI is happy to be a member of the JASA organization.

## It's Application Time for Tuscaloosa City Schools Students Interested in Germany



After a three-year student exchange hiatus due to Covid-19 international travel restrictions. TSCI is thrilled to plan the July 2023 Student Exchange to Schorndorf, Germany! The application process is underway, and student interviews will be held in November. Preparations for the exchange will begin in January 2023 for selected student delegates, representing Paul W. Bryant, Central and Northridge High Schools. Tuscaloosa will host a student delegation from Schorndorf, Germany in October 2023. For more information about the TSCI/TCS student exchange program, please contact tuscaloosasistercities@gmail.com

### **Christmas Markets, Here We Come!**

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas across Germany, as cities prepare for their annual "Weinachtsmarkt", or Christmas Market, traditionally held during the four weeks of the Advent season. This year, a 27-member Tuscaloosa Sister Cities Community Delegation, led by Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox, will visit Schorndorf's Weinachtsmarkt, as well as celebrate the Tuscaloosa-Schorndorf 26-year partnership. Vendors, food and seasonal fun are planned for Schorndorf's beautiful outdoor Marktplatz. Danke, Schorndorf, for hosting our holiday visit!



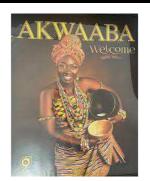




Ghana 2023



Tuscaloosa Sister Cities is delighted to welcome an Official Delegation from Sunyani-Techiman, Ghana, West Africa in Spring 2023! The Mayors and Regional Ministers from the Sunyani-Techiman regions are invited to be among the featured speakers at Tuscaloosa's West Alabama Multicultural Alliance WAMA Fest on April 2, 2023. During their visit, TSCI will celebrate the 12th Anniversary of the partnership between our cities, as well as greet delegates for TSCI's...



#### **Interested in Visiting Ghana?**

TSCI is planning a May 28 – June 9, 2023 Student/Community Delegation trip to Sunyani-Techiman, Ghana! There are only a few remaining available spaces for the 2023 Ghana trip, which includes tours of Accra, historic Cape Coast, Mole National Park, and amazing experiences in Sunyani and Techiman.

If you are interested, please contact TSCI at (205) 343-0100 or email tuscaloosasistercities@gmail.com as soon as possible!

#### TSCI 2022 Board of Directors

Tuscaloosa Sister Cities International is proud of the support and commitment, locally and globally, of its Board of Directors. The board meets at 5pm on the second Wednesday of January, April, July, and October. Each member supports TSCI programs and events throughout the year. Thank you to each outstanding member of the TSCI Board of Directors!



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- Christy Beem, Ken Chapman & Associates
- Matt Feller, Michelin Corporation
- Dr. Pamela Foster, University of Alabama
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- Matthew Orndorff, Alabama Public Radio
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- Dr. Janet Sherrod, Tuscaloosa City Schools
- Lisa Keyes, Executive Director, TSCI



#### Tuscaloosa Sister Cities Wants You

To become more involved with us! Whether you are interested in international culture, hosting an international student or adult delegate, or love to travel and would like to be a member of our next visit to Narashino, Schorndorf, or Sunyani-Techiman, Ghana we'd love to know you. TSCI is a non-profit, publicly funded agency and our goal is

to promote peace, mutual respect and global understanding and respect. We welcome your interest and your input, and we look forward to getting to know you better as we "Connect Globally and Thrive Locally".



Tuscaloosa Sister Cities International is a member of Sister Cities International "A Global Citizen Diplomacy Network"

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www.tuscaloosasistercities.wordpress.com

# Happy Fall Holidays from TSCI!



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