

# Northampton City Pages

News and Information from the City of Worthington

## Worthington Delegation Returns from Sayama, Japan

A partnership between sister cities, Worthington and Sayama, Japan, brings bonding, friendship, and cultural awareness to citizens in both cities. Delegates representing the City of

Worthington and the Worthington International Friendship Association (WIFA) spent the week of October 21-28, 2001 in Sayama, Japan. Sayama is the sister city of Worthington and is lo-

cated near Tokyo. The city of Sayama and the Sayama International Friendship Association (SIFA) worked with WIFA to coordinate the visit.

The delegation was made up entirely of Worthington citizens, who represent a wide range of interests, ages and professions. This special delegation also included two student representatives, chosen for their community involvement and unique interest in the Japanese culture. The delegation included:

- Judy Barnhart – Executive Director, Leadership Worthington
- Barbara Brown - Prison administrator
- Noelle Drewes - Student delegate, Thomas Worthington High School

Delegation members gathered at the Worthington Municipal Building before their departure. Front row, l. to r: Barbara Brown, Kim Platt, Noelle Drewes. Back row, l. to r: Mary Lou Lampe, Virginia Duym, Joe Kohler, Suzan Singh, Tom Falter, Judy Barnhart.



- Virginia Duym - English Teacher, Columbus State Community College
- Tom Falter - Worthington Youth Boosters representative
- Joe Kohler - Attorney, member of the Worthington Board of Zoning Appeals
- Mary Lou Lampe - retired
- Kimberly Platt - Student delegate, Worthington Kilbourne High School
- Suzan Singh - Stay-at-home mom, professional chef

While in Sayama, the delegation visited a variety of locations and attractions and represented the City of Worthington in meetings with Sayama's mayor and City Council president. The delegation presented an official gift from the City of Worthington to the City of Sayama. The gift, a painting of the Franklin County Bicentennial barn, represents the significance of Worthington's upcoming Bicentennial in 2003 and the State of Ohio's sister relationship with Saitama Prefecture, where Sayama is located.

Other activities of the delegation included visits to the Honda plant, the fire station, a new elementary school, the Sayama city museum, the community center, the recycling center, and a green tea factory. SIFA also treated the group to traditional Japanese food at traditional restaurants and at a rotating service sushi restaurant. The visit concluded with a "Mochitsuke," or rice pounding party, sponsored by SIFA, with traditional music and the making of "Mochi", a sweet rice dumpling. WIFA presented SIFA with a gift of a hand-made basket by a local artist. SIFA also presented delegates with gifts and souvenirs of their visit.

In addition to the official visits, delegates spent unscheduled time with their two host families, sightseeing, shopping, enjoying an evening of Karaoke, and learning more about areas of personal interest. As a result of their visit, the delegates will be able to contribute to the community of Worthington in areas of sports, education, health, senior activities, community leadership, city governance, and the arts.

The sister cities have sponsored several cultural visits and exchanges between Sayama and Worthington, the last being a visit from Sayama delegation here in Worthington a year ago in October. The City of Worthington and WIFA also look forward to welcoming delegates from Sayama at the kickoff of Worthington's Bicentennial next year. §