

## **THE BEGINNING OF THE CLARINDA / TOKYO / TAMANA FRIENDSHIPS**

### **1987**

The relationship between Clarinda, Iowa USA and Tamana, Kumamoto Japan began in 1989, however, the things which led up to the relationship began in 1987, when Mr. Hideomi Aoki, President of Cosmo Space, Ltd. of Tokyo, Japan (a television filming company) came to the Glenn Miller Festival. He has returned to the Festival every year since, attending thirty-two Festivals in a row in 2018. In 1988, Mr. Aoki indicated to Marvin Negley, the President of the Glenn Miller Birthplace Society, that he would like to bring a band from Japan to the Festival. At that time, he didn't have a particular band in mind, but after returning to Japan and learning of the Tamana GHS Band, a band interested in the music of Glenn Miller, this was the band that he wanted to bring. At Mr. Aoki's request, Marvin Negley sent a letter to Mr. Maruo Sakurai, Principal of Tamana GHS, inviting their band to attend the festival in 1990. This was the beginning of the relationship which led to the Clarinda HS/Tamana GHS Student Exchange, the Glenn Miller Festival in Tamana, the cities of Clarinda and Tamana becoming Sister Cities on April 3, 1996 and Clarinda HS and Tamana GHS becoming Sister Schools on June 14, 1998. A great deal of credit must be given to Mr. Aoki for getting this relationship started and for his continuing support.

### **History of our Relationship - Clarinda / Tokyo / Tamana**

#### **1990**

Yoshiomi Mori, founder and director of the Tamana Girls High School band and Masayo Sasamoto (interpreter) came to Clarinda early in the spring to make plans for the Tamana GHS Band's trip to Clarinda. Mr. Mori, an avid Glenn Miller fan, must be given a lot of credit for his enthusiasm, determination and helpfulness in bringing the Tamana GHS band for the first time to the Glenn Miller Festival. (Spring 90)

The Tamana GHS Band came to the Glenn Miller Festival with approximately 80 students, teachers and parents. The Festival crowd and the citizens of Clarinda simply fell in love with the students and music of this wonderful band. Cosmo Space working with TKU Television filmed a documentary of the 1990 Tamana GHS band's visit. This video has been shown all over Japan. The author understands that the documentary was placed in some Japanese Embassies as an example of friendship between Japanese and Americans. (Jun 90)

### **Beginning of the Clarinda HS / Tamana GHS Student Exchange**

Following the visit to the 1990 Glenn Miller Festival by the Tamana GHS Band, Marvin Negley, President of the Glenn Miller Birthplace Society (GMBS), requested and received approval from Clarinda Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Clarence Lippert, and High School Principal, Ron Dobson, to invite students from Tamana GHS to study in Clarinda. This was done as a way of thanking Tamana GHS for bringing their band to the Festival. On August 5, 1990, Mr. Negley wrote a letter to Seigo Kitazato, the new Principal at Tamana GHS, and indicated that he and his wife, Jean, would offer to keep one or two Tamana GHS students in their home if there were students interested in attending either Clarinda HS or Iowa Western Community College. Mr. Kitazato responded that he was glad to hear this, but since their school year starts in April, it would work out better for them to consider doing this in the 1991/1992 school year. This would give them time to find and select interested students and also allow time for both schools to make preparations. Letters supporting this idea were sent to Mr. Kitazato from Dr. Lippert and Mr. Negley. In late January of 1991, Mr. Kitazato wrote to Dr. Lippert and in his letter, he

discussed about the Tamana GHS students coming to Clarinda and he also asked if there would be a Clarinda student interested in studying at Tamana GHS. If a year was too long, he proposed that they spend the summer studying at Tamana GHS until July 20<sup>th</sup> and then enjoy summer vacation with the Tamana GHS students. On February 4, 1991, Dr. Lippert responded to Mr. Kitazato's offer of having Clarinda students come to Japan and he indicated they were letting Clarinda students know about this opportunity. These are some of the things that led to what later was to become the Clarinda HS / Tamana GHS Student Exchange, which is discussed throughout the History of our Relationship. As mentioned above, the initial offer to keep students was made to thank the Tamana GHS Band for coming to the 1990 Glenn Miller Festival. When first made, this offer was intended to be for only one year, however, the Negley's felt it worked out very well and in 91/92 they asked administrators at Clarinda HS and Tamana GHS if they would be interested in continuing the exchange in future years. There was no exchange in the 92/93 school year, but after considering the offer to continue, the decision was made by the two schools to resume the exchange and it started up again in the 93/94 school year and has continued every year since. As of August 2018, 110 girls have participated in the Exchange, 51 from Tamana GHS and 59 from Clarinda HS.

Marvin & Jean Negley, IWCC President, Carl Heinrich, Lowell Lines, Michael Thompson and Hideomi Aoki visited Tamana. (Fall 90)

### **1991**

As had been planned, the first exchange started in the summer of 1991, when Teresa Boswell was sent as the first Clarinda exchange student to Tamana GHS, and the first three Tamana students sent to Clarinda HS were sophomores Ai Watanabe, Hisako Kurokawa and Manami Haraguchi. Ai, Hisako and Manami came to Clarinda in August of 1991 to homestay with Marvin and Jean Negley and to attend Clarinda High School for the 91/92 school year. Before school started (actually the day after they arrived) the first Tamana students were taken by Marvin and Jean Negley to Drum Corps International Finals in Houston, TX.

Lowell and Marcella Lines, Jonnie Miller (Glenn Miller's daughter) and her husband, Barry, went to Tamana GHS graduation ceremonies. (Spring 91)

### **1992**

Mr. Yoshiomi Mori came to Clarinda and brought \$4000 that had been raised by the people of Tamana for the restoration of the Page County Courthouse. The courthouse was severely damaged in a devastating fire that occurred on December 11, 1991. (Feb 92)

The first three exchange students after experiencing a different school life and culture were taken by Marvin and Jean Negley on an educational trip to Washington, D.C. and New York City. This particular trip has become an annual event for all of the Tamana Exchange students.

Tomoko Tanoue, home-room teacher of the 91/92 exchange students, and four Tamana GHS Band alumni, Mika Watanabe, Miyuki Shigaki, Naoko Uetsuhara and Yukiyo Iwashita, visited the Glenn Miller Festival and performed in the GMBS Big Band (Jun 92)

Before flying back to Japan, the first three exchange students from TGHS were taken by Marvin and Jean Negley to Estes Park Colorado where they rode horses up in the mountains for a breakfast cookout and then flew on to California where they were invited to spend the night at the home of Jonnie Dee Miller (Glenn Miller's daughter) in La Jolla, California. The next day they spent the afternoon and evening at Disney Land before leaving the following morning for their

long flight back to their homes in Japan. In a similar fashion, Clarinda students who visit Tamana GHS during the summer are given the opportunity to visit many sites in Japan and to enjoy a host of new experiences. (Jun 92)

Tamana Mayor, Toranosuke Matsumoto, and City Council representatives came to Clarinda. (Summer 92)

### **1993**

The relationship between Clarinda and Tamana was recognized in Forbes magazine with a two-page article in the middle of a special Japanese section of Corporate Japan. This was extraordinary publicity for both communities. (Jan 4, 93)

## **Beginning of the GMBS Japan Branch**

Glenn Miller was born in Clarinda on March 1, 1904, so on March 1, 1993 (89 years later) the GMBS opened a Japan Branch in Tokyo at Meiji Memorial Hall and the New Branch sponsored a trip to Tokyo by the U.S. Army Field Band, Jazz Ambassadors, from Washington, D.C. The Jazz Ambassadors played a concert at AMLUX Toyota (a beautiful multi-story showroom building) and for the opening ceremonies at Meiji Memorial Hall. Approximately 400 people attended the \$100 a plate opening ceremonies. After the opening, the Jazz Ambassadors flew to Tamana where they played a concert for the Tamana community and held a short clinic for the Tamana GHS Band. Ten people from Clarinda, Marvin and Jean Negley, Lowell and Marcella Lines, Wilda Martin, Jim Millhone, Larry and Shira Bridie, Seth Watkins and Aaron Tharp from the Clarinda Academy, attended the Japan Branch opening, the Tamana concerts and the Tamana GHS graduation on March 3rd. Cosmo Space filmed the concerts and they were shown in Japan giving publicity to both Clarinda and Tamana. (Mar. 93)

Clarinda High School Exchange students, Ashley Mellencamp and Keely Whipp went to Tamana. (Jun 93)

The Tamana GHS Band came to Clarinda, with their Mayor, Toranosuke Matsumoto, City Officials, part of their Town Choir, an International Exchange Group, and three Tamana GHS exchange students, Akiko Yamaura, Megumi Sazaki and Satomi Otsuka, a total of 155 people. While the group was in Clarinda, they were entertained by the State Fair Singers and Dancers who home stayed one night in Clarinda. Following the TGHS Band's performances, which were attended by Governor Terry Brandstad, the Tamana GHS band, accompanied by Marvin and Jean Negley, and Shira Bridie, went to Drum and Bugle Corps International Finals in Jackson, Mississippi. After Drum Corps Finals, the three exchange students returned to Clarinda to begin the 93/94 school year at Clarinda HS. (Aug. 93)

Cosmo Space filmed a second one-hour video, which was shown all over Japan. (Aug. 93)

## **Beginning of the Swing in Tamana Glenn Miller Festival**

### **1994**

The Community of Tamana requested permission from the GMBS Japan Branch to hold a Glenn Miller Music Festival in Tamana. The GMBS Japan Branch forwarded the request to the GMBS who requested permission from the Glenn Miller Estate. Permission was granted allowing the first Swing in Tamana Glenn Miller Festival to be held. (Spring 94)

Marvin Negley attended graduation ceremonies of the first Tamana Girls High School Exchange students Ai Watanabe, Hisako Kurokawa, and Manami Haraguchi. (Mar 3, 94)

Clarinda High School Exchange students, Jill-Vanee Mace, Katie Reilly, Heather Thompson and Nancy Veach went to Tamana. (Jun 94)

Josh Bridie taught English for 2 months at Tamana GHS. (Summer 94)

Mrs. Akiko Uemura, a Tamana GHS teacher, traveled with exchange students, Yumi Ochiai and Yuki Kawasaki and returning Clarinda exchange students, Ashley Mellencamp and Keely Whipp, to Clarinda and visited 10 days. (Aug 94)

The GMBS Japan Branch sponsored a tour by the USAF Band, Airmen of Note, from Washington, D.C. to Tokyo and Tamana (1994 was the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the disappearance of Glenn Miller on December 15, 1944) The Airmen played several concerts in Tokyo and then flew to Tamana where they performed a concert for the community of Tamana and a clinic for the Tamana GHS Band. Ten people from Clarinda, Marvin, Jean, Paul, Van, Barb, and Mark Negley, Lowell Lines, Shira Bridie, Clarinda HS Principal, Bob Lesan, and his wife, Janel, went to Tokyo and then to Tamana for the Airmen of Note concerts and to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tamana GHS. (Nov. 94)

Cosmo Space filmed a video of the Airmen in Tokyo and Tamana, which was shown in Japan. TKU Television filmed the Airmen's Tamana concert and this was shown on TKU Television. Both films showed the communities of Clarinda and Tamana.

### **1995**

Marvin Negley attended graduation ceremonies at Tamana Girls High School of exchange students Akiko Yamaura, Satomi Otsuka and Megumi Sasaki. (Mar 95)

Lowell Lines and IWCC President, Dr. Kinney, visited Tamana and delivered a resolution from Clarinda Mayor, Frank Snyder, to become Official Sister Cities. (Spring 95)

Clarinda High School exchange students, Heidi Anderson and Kelsi Bogdanski went to Tamana. (Jun 95)

Mr. Nobukatsu Sakata and Mr. Katsuya Terazawa, Tamana GHS teachers, traveled with exchange students, Ayumi Uehara and Kaori Matsumoto to Clarinda and visited 10 days. (Aug 95)

A Sister-City delegation of 13 people from Tamana came to Clarinda to discuss an Official Sister-City Signing Ceremony to be held in Tamana on April 3, 1996. Future Sister-City relations were also discussed. (Oct 95)

## **Clarinda and Tamana became Sister Cities**

### **1996**

A delegation of 24 people from Clarinda traveled to Tamana to attend the Sister-City Signing Ceremony held on April 3rd, 1996, and to set up an exhibit about Clarinda which was on display in Tamana during the month of April. Included in the group were Mayor Frank Snyder, City Councilmen, Charlie Richardson, Gary Pullen and Gary Kelley, plus 20 citizens from the community. The 10-day tour included stops in Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Fukuoka and Tamana. (Apr 96)

The Tamana GHS Band came for the third time to the GM Festival. Also, a Sister-City Delegation from Tamana visited the Glenn Miller Festival and brought an exhibit about their city which was displayed in Clarinda during the month of June. (Jun 96)

Cosmo Space of Tokyo hired a Los Angeles film crew to produce a documentary entitled "Moonlight Serenade". The documentary was about how people from around the world come to Clarinda, Iowa, during the Glenn Miller Festival to remember Glenn Miller and his music. Also, TKU Television of Kumamoto, Japan filmed a one-hour documentary covering the return trip of one of the first Tamana band students to visit Clarinda in 1990. Hiroko Hiyashi, now a drummer in a Japanese military band, was the girl featured in the film. (June 96)

Clarinda High School exchange students, Jennifer Abma and Amy Gibson went to Tamana. (Jun 96)

Exchange students Ayumi Uehara and Kaori Matsumoto returned to Tamana after celebrating July 4<sup>th</sup> in Washington D.C. with Marvin and Jean Negley. (July 96)

Mr. Yusuke Fujimoto, a Tamana GHS teacher, traveled with exchange students, Mayumi Fujimoto, Kazuyo Yamamoto and Sachiko Maruyama, to Clarinda and visited 10 days. Most of the Tamana exchange students coming to Clarinda are juniors but these three girls were seniors. (Aug 96)

Stephanie Huseman, secretary at Clarinda City Hall, went to Tokyo with her husband, Gordon, to a Sister City Conference and then went on to visit Tamana. Letters were sent from Clarinda Middle School to Tamana students. (Nov 96)

### **1997**

Bob and Jean Williams were invited by the Yoshiomi Mori family to visit Tokyo, Japan and then Tamana where they toured the area and attended the Swing in Tamana Glenn Miller Festival. (Apr 97)

Marvin and Jean Negley were invited by the Swing in Tamana committee to attend the Swing in Tamana Glenn Miller Festival and by Tamana Girls HS to attend the opening ceremonies of the 97/98 school year. On the way to Tamana they stopped in Tokyo to visit members of the GMBS Japan Branch. (Apr 97)

Clarinda High School exchange students, Melissa Green and Shana Davis went to Tamana. Mayumi Fujimoto, Kazuyo Yamamoto and Sachiko Maruyama returned to Tamana (Jun 97)

Michelle Miles, a graduate of Clarinda High School and a special-education teacher, was hired by Tamana Girls High School to be an assistant English teacher in Tamana during the 97/98 school year. Michelle was the first teacher from the Clarinda community to go to Tamana and teach. (Aug 97)

Mrs. Etsuko Morimoto and Ms. Miyuki Tsurusaki, Tamana teachers, traveled with exchange students, Maiko Arahira and Maya Inoue, to Clarinda and visited 10 days. (Aug 97)

### **1998**

Mr. Lowell Lines traveled to Tamana to attend opening ceremonies of Tamana's new four-year nursing college. He also attended the opening ceremonies of the two-year nursing college located on the campus of Tamana Girls High School. (Apr 98)

## **Clarinda HS and Tamana GHS became Sister Schools**

The Tamana Girls High School band made their fourth visit to Clarinda and their third visit to the Glenn Miller Festival. The band performed two concerts, put on a marching exhibition and marched in the Festival's Friendship Through Music parade. A total of 65 people were in the group. A ceremony was held during the band's concert on June 14, 1998, in which Clarinda HS and Tamana GHS became Sister Schools. (Jun 98)

Mr. Russ Reiter and Mrs. Patsy Martin, Clarinda teachers, traveled with Clarinda exchange students, Amanda Bix and Sara Lund, and returning Tamana exchange students, Maiko Arahira and Maya Inoue, to Tamana to spend 10 days. (Jun 98)

Mr. Terumasa Araki, a Tamana English teacher, traveled with Tamana exchange students, Tomoko Maruyama and Suga Takamura, and returning Clarinda students, Amanda Bix and Sara Lund, to Clarinda and visited 10 days. (Aug 98)

Mr. Lowell Lines, his wife, Marcella, son Gary and a Clarinda Japanese friend, Yasuko Turner, traveled to Tokyo and on to Tamana to visit friends in Tamana and to attend the Country Music Festival held near Kumamoto. (Oct 98)

Former exchange student, Satomi Otsuka, and her friend, Toshi xxxx, visited Clarinda and stayed three days with Marvin and Jean Negley. She visited with teachers, host families and many other friends and along with her boyfriend experienced shooting a rifle and running a chainsaw. (Dec 98)

### **1999**

Former exchange student, Ayumi Uehara, and her brother, Yoshinobu, visited Clarinda and stayed with former host parents, Rich and Pam Anderson. On their way to Clarinda they stopped in Texas to visit Clarinda friends, Marge and Jim Anderson. While in Clarinda they visited with teachers, host families and friends and went on a trip to Chicago with another host parent, Pat Bogdanski. (Mar 99)

Marvin Negley visited Tamana and was one of the commencement speakers at graduation ceremonies of Tamana Girls High School. He met the three 1999/2000 Tamana GHS Exchange students, Chiju Matsumoto, Maki Fukumura and Yuka Kawahara and eleven former exchange students, Manami Haraguchi, Megumi Sazaki, Akiko Yamaura, Satomi Otsuka, Yuki Kawasaki,

Kaori Matsumoto, Kazuyo Yamamoto, Mayumi Fujimoto, Sachiko Maruyama, Maiko Arahira, and Maya Inoue plus many teachers and friends. (Mar 99)

Former exchange student, Kazuyo Yamamoto, visited Clarinda and stayed with her host parents, Marvin and Jean Negley. She visited with teachers at Clarinda High School and also with many students and friends. She came to Clarinda with a Tamana friend, Yumiko Tsuga, who had been a translator in Tamana for Lowell and Marcella Lines. She stayed with the Lines' and visited many places in the Clarinda area. (Mar 99)

Mr. Ron Willeman and Mr. Mike Moreno, Clarinda teachers, traveled with Clarinda exchange students, Ann Lund, Meagan Anderson and Samantha Thompson, and returning Tamana exchange students, Suga Takamura and Tomoko Maruyama, to Tamana and spent 10 days. (Jun 99)

Mr. Yoshiomi Mori, Asst. Principal at Tamana GHS, came with his travel agent, and returning summer exchange students Ann Lund, Meagan Anderson and Samantha Thompson and 1999/2000 Tamana exchange students, Chiju Matsumoto, Yuka Kawahara and Maki Fukumura to Kansas City, MO. The students returned to Clarinda with their parents and host families and Mr. Mori and his travel agent continued on to New York City to make arrangements for a music concert by an all-star band from Kumamoto prefecture. (Aug 99)

Kaori Matsumoto (95/96 Clarinda HS / Tamana GHS exchange student) visited Clarinda on her way to Texas Women's University in Dallas, Texas. (Aug 99)

Vocal music teacher, Mrs. Sharon McAlpin, and Clarinda students, Cindy Whitmore and Katie Dinville were invited to attend the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tamana Girls High School. Cindy and Katie performed musical numbers in the ceremony and also participated in a forum on "The Importance of Cultural Exchange." Mrs. McAlpin was one of the keynote speakers along with Mr. Kitazato, Principal of Tamana GHS and a third speaker, So Iku Su, Principal of Masan Girls High School in Masan, Korea (Tamana GHS's other Sister School). (Nov 99)

Kaori Matsumoto (95/96 Clarinda HS / Tamana GHS exchange student) visited Clarinda during Christmas vacation at Texas Women's University and also visited her brother in Canada. (Dec 99)

## **2000**

Dale McAllister, Marvin Negley, Rod and Terri Nester made a Sister-City trip to Tamana attending the 7<sup>th</sup> Swing in Tamana Glenn Miller Festival, meeting with the new mayor, Tetsuya Takasaki, and touring various places in the city. On the trip they also made short stops in Hong Kong, Tokyo, Osaka and Hiroshima. (Mar/Apr2000)

The Tamana Girls High School Band made their fifth visit to Clarinda and their fourth visit to the Glenn Miller Festival. The band performed three concerts under the direction of Shinichi Yoneda and guest conductor, Yoshiomi Mori, and also performed while riding in the "Music for the World" parade. A total of 55 people were in the group including, Iwao & Satomi Fukumura (Maki's parents), Yuki Uchimura (marching coach), Shigeo Ikeda (Glenn Miller fan), Michiko Norinaga (photographer) and a group of 10 alumni girls from TGHS, Harumi Koga, Ayako Ryuno, Saori Nakayama, Akiko Yamaura, Miyuki Mori, Miho Yamamoto, Asami Kusunoki, Mayu Fujimoto, Nagisa Sugimoto, Kazuyo Yamamoto, and Manami Haraguchi. Mrs. Naoko Fujii, Tamana math teacher, presented a plaque containing a letter of appreciation in celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of our school's relationship. Also coming with the group was Takashi Ohnishi, director of the Little Cherries Big Band from Kagoshima prefecture. (Jun2000)

Pat Bogdanski and Pat Davison, Clarinda citizens, traveled with Clarinda exchange students, Michaela Bevins and Sarah Mullin, and returning Tamana exchange students, Chiju Matsumoto, Maki Fukumura and Yuka Kawahara to Tamana and spent 10 days. (Jun 2000)

Mayor Takasaki, and a delegation of 20 Tamana citizens made a Sister City trip to Clarinda. Those making the trip were Junichi Nakagawa-Chairman of Tamana Assembly, Takeshi Takano-City Council, Yoshinori Yoshida-City Council, Tsuyoshi Taniguchi-Director General Economy Dept., Masaaki Takane-Deputy director General Tamana City Assembly Secretariat Dept., Matsuyoshi Nishikawa-Director Secretarial Division, Koichi Wada-Planning Division, Noriyuki Tashiro-Principal of Tamana-machi Elementary School, Masaomi Higashi-Youth Group Commerce & Industry, Sumako Yasuda-Member HIDANE CHAN, Manami Haraguchi-Tokyo Electron Kyushu Inc. & Interpreter, Minako Kan-Assoc. of Tamana International Exchange, Reiko Ueda-Assoc. of Tamana International Exchange, Hatsumi Kanehira-Citizen, Kiyo Sakaguchi-Citizen, Hiroshi Murata-Citizen, Emiko Ito-Citizen and Keiko Takasaki-Mayor's wife. (Jul 3-6, 2000)

Tamana GHS exchange students Ayako Ueda and Izumi Fukakusa traveled to Clarinda. (Aug 2000)

## **2001**

Mrs. Jill Kurtz, CHS ESL teacher, and Mrs. Jayne Chrouser, CHS office secretary, traveled with Clarinda exchange students, Sara Homrig and Jesse Corcoran and returning Tamana exchange students, Ayako Ueda and Izumi Fukakusa to Tamana and spent 10 days. (Jun 01)

A boy from Tamana High School visited Clarinda in August. (Jul-Aug 01)

Former exchange student, Tomoko Maruyama, and a girlfriend made a return visit to Clarinda and visited Tomoko's host mom, Donna Scarlett. (Aug 01)

Mr. Shoji Shimada, a Tamana English teacher, traveled with Tamana exchange students, Nozomi Tokimure, Sakura Okumure and Sae-un Lee, and returning Clarinda students, Sara Homrig and Jesse Corcoran, to Clarinda and visited 7 days. (Aug 01)

Former exchange student, Kazuyo Yamamoto, and her younger brother, Ujiro Yamamoto, came to visit her host family, Marvin and Jean Negley, and stayed for a week. (Aug 01)

Nine Clarinda citizens (Mayor Frank Snyder and his wife, Margaret Snyder, city councilmen, Rod Nester & Tom Farrens, Lowell Lines, Dale McAllister, Sara Campbell, Clytha Brown, and Marvin Negley) made a trip to Tamana Japan to celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of becoming Sister Cities (April 3, 1996). On the way to Tamana the group stopped in Tokyo and visited officials at NSK, Mr. Aoki and some Japan Branch Directors, traveled by bullet train to Osaka and visited AKS officials, stopped in Hiroshima and then went on to Tamana where they attended the opening ceremonies of the Kumamoto Cultural Festival and home stayed with Tamana citizens. After visiting in Tamana, five in the group, Lowell Lines, Dale McAllister, Sara Campbell, Clythia Brown and Marvin Negley, went on to Kagoshima city in southern Kyushu to meet with the Little Cherries band and to thank them for coming to the 2001 Glenn Miller Festival. (Oct 20-31, 01)



## **2002**

Hisako Kurokawa, one of the first three exchange students, was married on March 24, 2002. Hisako was the first Tamana GHS Exchange student to be married. She has been living and working in Tokyo and will continue to live there after her marriage. Her husband's name is Masanori Miura.

Suga Takamura, an exchange student in 98/99, came back to visit Clarinda for a week. (Mar 02)

Ai Watanabe, another of the first three exchange students, was married on October 26, 2002. Ai has been living and working in Fukuoka and will continue to live there after her marriage.

Yumi Ochiai, another exchange student, was married in 2002 to Shinji Kawanaka.

Principal Michael Ruffing and his wife, Denise, traveled with Clarinda exchange students, Marena Vittorio, Meredith Chrouser and Lisa Shelton, and returning Tamana exchange students, Nozomi Tokimura, Sakura Okumura and Sae-un Lee and spent 7 days in Tamana. (Jun 02)

The Tamana GHS Band came for the sixth time to Clarinda and for their fifth time to the GM Festival. Also, the Dallas Brass made their first appearance at the Festival and held a clinic with the Tamana GHS Band and also performed two concert pieces with the band. (Jun 02)

Mr. Seiya Tokunaga, a Tamana English teacher, traveled with Tamana exchange students, Akane Morikawa, Masami Nakano and Saki Hirashima, and returning Clarinda students, Marena Vittorio, Meredith Chrouser and Lisa Shelton, to Clarinda and visited 6 days then visited Mount Rushmore and Chicago before his return trip home. (Aug 02)

## **2003**

Marvin and Jean Negley traveled to Tamana to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Swing in Tamana Glenn Miller Festival. While in Tamana they also got to see 17 of the 31 Tamana GHS Exchange students and they also were honored to attend the wedding of Yukiyo Iwashita, who was a trumpet player in the first Tamana GHS Band to visit Clarinda in 1990. (May 03)

Band director, Marty Aldrich, traveled with Clarinda exchange students, Rachel Bellairs, Rachael Mullin and Bethany Anderson, and returning Tamana exchange students, Akane Morikawa, Saki Hirashima and Masami Nakano and spent 7 days in Tamana. (Jun 03)

Mr. Seiya Tokunaga, a Tamana GHS English teacher, traveled with Tamana GHS exchange students, Chikako Nakagawa, Sae-young Lee and Kanae Kimoto and returning exchange students, Rachel Bellairs, Rachael Mullin and Bethany Anderson to Clarinda and visited 4 days and then visited Hawaii on his return trip home. (Aug 03)

Exchange student Yumi (Ochiai) Kawanaka had a baby girl, Ayane. (Oct 31, 03)

## **2004**

A Clarinda delegation of Mayor Frank Snyder, City Councilman, Rod Nester, Economic Devel. Dir., Rick Alley, and Charlie Richardson of NSK, went to Tokyo to meet with officials at NSK Corp. and then minus Charlie Richardson they went on to Tamana to meet with officials and friends and then went to Osaka where they rejoined with Charlie Richardson and met with officials of AKS Corp. (04)

The Tamana GHS Band came for the seventh time to Clarinda and for their sixth time to the GM Festival. The Dallas Brass also came and held a clinic for the Tamana GHS Band and performed two arrangements with them on stage. (Jun 04)

Superintendent of Schools, Paul Honnold and his father, Duane Honnold, traveled with Clarinda exchange students, Kallin Harris and Andrea Harrell and returning Tamana GHS exchange students, Chikako Nakagawa, Sae-young Lee and Kanae Kimoto and spent seven days in Tamana. (Jun 04)

Mr. Keizo Yamashita, a Tamana GHS science teacher, traveled with Tamana GHS exchange students, Hiroko Uchimura and Haruna Urata and returning exchange students, Kallin Harris and Andrea Harrell to Clarinda and visited five days and then met his family in Las Vegas and visited the Grand Canyon. (Aug 04)

Rod Nester, daughter, Ashilyn Nester, Deb Whitmore and John Smith made a trip to Tamana to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the community being incorporated with the name Tamana. In 2005, three surrounding communities will join the city of Tamana making the total population around 73,000 people. (Oct 04)

Marvin Negley made a trip to Tamana to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tamana GHS where he got to see 16 of the 33 former Exchange Students. He also met the 2005 Exchange Students, Masumi Kanamitsu and Erika Tsunoda. On the way he stopped in Tokyo and met with Hideomi Aoki to make plans for the 2004 Glenn Miller Exhibition to be held at the Mitsukoshi Department Store in Tokyo from Dec. 21-26. He also met with Tamana GHS Exchange students, Satomi Otsuka and Megumi Sazaki and another exchange student, Akiko (Kawada) Fujimoto, who came to Clarinda on another program. In Tamana, on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> he was welcomed by an earthquake at 3:15 AM measuring 4.3 on the Richter scale. Not a huge quake but a size only occurring in Tamana about once every ten years. It was an interesting experience for him. After attending the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ceremonies on Nov 5 & 6, he attended the wedding of Tamana GHS Exchange Student, Akiko Yamaura, & Yasushi Ichiki at Huis Ten Bosch in Nagasaki on Sunday Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004. It was a very nice wedding and an interesting and fun experience. (Nov 04)

On December 19, Marvin Negley returned to Tokyo to attend the Glenn Miller Exhibition at the Mitsukoshi Department store. The Exhibition was well attended with approximately 10,000 people visiting the six-day event, December 21-26. While in Tokyo, he met three Tamana GHS Exchange students, Hisako (Kurokawa) Miura, Satomi Otsuka and Megumi Sazaki plus Hideomi Aoki and several employees of Cosmo Space Co., Ltd., several executives from NSK Corporation and Mr. Yoshiomi Mori and Tamana Mayor, Tetsuya Takasaki. He returned home on Thursday December 23<sup>rd</sup>. (Dec 04)

## **2005**

Richard and Pam Anderson traveled with Clarinda exchange students, Stephanie Lantz and Emily Gowing and returning Tamana GHS exchange students, Haruna Urata and Hiroko Uchimura and spent two weeks in Tamana and other places in Japan. (Jun 05)

Mr. Seiya Tokunaga, a Tamana GHS English teacher, traveled with Tamana GHS exchange students, Masumi Kanamitsu and Erika Tsunoda and returning exchange students, Stephanie Lantz and Emily Gowing to Clarinda and visited three days and then traveled to Atlanta, Georgia to tour the area before returning back to Japan. (Aug 05)

The city of Tamana merged with three other surrounding towns raising their population from 46,000 to 73,000. An election was held to determine the mayor of the new Tamana-shi and the new Mayor elected was Mr. Yuuten Shimazu. He replaced Mayor Takasaki. Also, in Clarinda, Mayor, Frank Snyder, retired and a new Mayor, Gordon Kokenge, was elected. (Nov 05)

## **2006**

Manami Haraguchi, one of the first three exchange students, and two of her friends, Miho Kamasaki and Yumi Hasegawa came on a trip to visit her host family, Marvin and Jean Negley, and her Clarinda friends and then went on to spend a few days in New York City. Manami had just received an engagement ring from Takashi Murakami, a software engineer at Tokyo Electron, where she works. (Feb 06)

The Tamana GHS Band came for their eighth time to Clarinda and for their seventh time to the GM Festival. (Jun 06)

Charlie, Connie, and Emilee Richardson traveled with Clarinda exchange students, Abby Sweet, Rachael Dudley and Zhao Lin and returning Tamana GHS exchange students, Erika Tsunoda and Masumi Kanamitsu to Tamana City and spent one week visiting students that they had hosted and site seeing in Tamana and the nearby area. During their stay they also visited the new Mayor, Yuuten Shimazu. (Jun 06)

Mr. Seiya Tokunaga, a Tamana GHS English teacher, traveled with Tamana GHS exchange student, Saori Nakayama, and returning exchange students Abby Sweet, Rachel Dudley and Zhao Lin to Clarinda and visited three days and then traveled to Boston Massachusetts to tour the area before returning back to Japan. (Aug 06)

Marvin and Jean Negley visited Mr. Aoki, Miyo Suzuki, Atsuko Katsuta and the Nishida family in Tokyo along with many Exchange students in Tokyo, Moriama, Osaka, Kumamoto and Tamana. They also attended several parties with friends and students and the wedding of Manami Haraguchi and Takashi Murakami in the city of Kumamoto. After this they joined up with the Sister City delegation in Tamana which is listed below. (Sep/Oct 06)

The Clarinda Sister City Organization made a visit to Tokyo, Hiroshima, Tamana and Osaka. people, Rod Nester, John Smith, Deb Miller, Chad Wellhousen, and Alan and Rachel Bellaires, made the trip visiting Mr. Aoki and NSK in Tokyo, the Peace Museum in Hiroshima, Tamana City for the Sister City Signing Ceremony of the New Tamana City which incorporated three new towns becoming a city of 73,000 people, Tamana Girls High School-All Sports Day, AKS Corporation in Osaka and many other events and places. (Sep/Oct 06)

Mr. Seigo Kitazato, former Principal of Tamana GHS, traveled with Tamana GHS exchange student, Sachi Matsumoto, to Clarinda and visited six days in the Clarinda area. Sachi had severed a finger at Tamana GHS in August and was not able to come to Clarinda with Saori for the start of school. After her re-attached finger had healed, she came to Clarinda on October first. Mr. Kitazato visited Clarinda HS and had the chance to teach a class at Garfield Middle School. He also traveled with former Clarinda Mayor, Frank Snyder to Lincoln, Nebraska where many years ago he attended the University of Nebraska for one year. Later in the week, he enjoyed playing golf with Marvin Negley. Before returning to Japan, he traveled with Lowell Lines to Sioux City, Iowa where many years ago he was made an honorary citizen of the city. (Oct 06)

## **2007**

Shira Bridie and Jean Negley traveled with returning Tamana GHS exchange students, Saori Nakayama and Sachi Matsumoto, to Tamana City and spent four days visiting students, friends and officials and then visited the Aoki family for three days in Tokyo. Clarinda HS did not have an exchange student this year. (Jun 07)

Fumihiro Ikenaga and his wife, Yoshie, accompanied Tamana GHS Exchange Students Mima Murakami and Jina Kim (a Korean student attending TGHS) to Clarinda. They visited Clarinda for a few days and then went on to Indianapolis, IN to meet their son, who recently graduated from Indiana University with a degree in accounting and will be working for Deloitte Touche in Detroit, MI. They traveled to Niagara Falls in Canada and then on to New York City where they joined up with their son and daughter for a short family vacation.

## **2008**

Marvin Negley was given a 70<sup>th</sup> birthday-present trip to Japan by his wife, Jean, to attend the Tamana GHS Band's New Year Concert. The concert was held in the Kumamoto Prefectural Theater on Sunday January 13<sup>th</sup>. This is the last major concert for the senior students who graduate on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The concert was wonderful and approximately 2000 people attended. He visited city hall, attended a 'Glenn Miller Festival in Tamana' board meeting and enjoyed several parties with students, teachers and friends. (Jan 08)

The Tamana GHS Band made their ninth visit to Clarinda and their eighth visit to the Glenn Miller Festival. (Jun 08)

Mr. Dave Seela, CHS Teacher, traveled with Clarinda Exchange Students Katie Aldrich, Julia Lantz and Lindsey Slough and returning TGHS Exchange Students Mima Murakami and Jina Kim to Tamana and stayed one week visiting Tamana GHS and Tamana City. (Jun 08)

Fumihiro Ikenaga and his wife, Yoshie, accompanied Tamana GHS Exchange Student, Sayaka Koba, and three returning Clarinda Exchange Students, Katie Aldrich, Julia Lantz and Lindsey Slough to Clarinda. After getting Sayaka enrolled at CHS they traveled for six days with Marvin and Jean Negley to Mount Rushmore, Yellowstone National Park and many other places out west. (Aug 08)

Satomi Otsuka, an Exchange student in 93/94 was married to Ikuo Kurihara on October 28, 2008 in Tokyo where they both live and work. (Oct 08)

Kazuyo Yamamoto, an Exchange student in 96/97 moved to Germany where she will be married to her Japanese friend and will live in Germany. (Oct 08)

## **10th Anniversary Celebration of CHS and TGHS becoming Sister Schools**

Ten people from Clarinda flew to Japan to attend the 10th Anniversary Celebration of CHS and TGHS becoming Sister Schools which occurred on June 14, 1998. Those in the group were Mayor Gordon Kokenge and his wife, Roberta, Principal Michael Ruffing, Paul Jones and his wife, Margery, Carmen Moses and her two daughters, Jocelyn and Jaedra, and Marvin and Jean Negley. The group left on Nov 4<sup>th</sup> and the ladies took a tour of Tokyo on the 6<sup>th</sup> while the men paid a visit to NSK Headquarters to visit with president, Seiichi Asaka and former president, Mr. Sekiya. The group also visited Mr. Aoki and Cosmo Space Co., Ltd. and Miyo Suzuki's "Jazz

Bird.” On the way to Tamana by the Shinkansen the group stopped at Shin-Osaka and were met by former Exchange Student Akiko Yamaura Ishida her husband, Yasu, who acted as travel guides for a stop in Hiroshima where they met former band director, Mr. Mori who treated the group to Hiroshimayaki. After visiting the Peace Park the group went on to Tamana. The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration was held on Saturday Nov 8<sup>th</sup> at the Tamana City Auditorium and was followed by a luncheon at the Tsukasa Hotel and a dinner that evening with the mayor and city groups. On the return trip they visited with Erika Tsunoda who now works for the airlines at Narita airport. (Nov 08, 2009)

## **2009**

Assistant Principal, Harley Schieffer and his wife Linda, traveled with Clarinda Exchange Students Breanna Gray, Tianna Martin and returning TGHS Exchange Student Sayaka Koba to Tamana and stayed one week visiting Tamana GHS and Tamana City. (Jun 09)

Fumihiro Ikenaga and his wife, Yoshie, accompanied Tamana GHS Exchange Students, Naho Ideguchi, Hyeri Shin and two returning Clarinda Exchange Students, Breanna Gray and Tianna Martin to Clarinda. After getting Naho and Hyeri enrolled at CHS they traveled for four days with Marvin and Jean Negley to Kansas City and Branson Missouri visiting museums, shows and enjoying the scenery. (Aug 09)

On September 16<sup>th</sup> nine ladies and one boy from Tamana City came to visit friends in Clarinda.

### The following people were in the group:

Mrs. Minako Kan - Owner of Kan Clinic with her husband who is a doctor in Tamana.

Mrs. Nobuko Okamoto - Owner of Okamoto Clinic and nursing home in Tamana.

Mrs. Kazuko Matsumoto - Former Mayor Matsumoto's wife. Now lives in Kumamoto. Mrs. Yuko Matsuoka - Owner of a pharmacy near Tamana station.

Mrs. Sayuri Kawatzu -Visited Clarinda with Tamana Choir, stayed with the Lines’.

Ms. Maya Inoue - Former exchange student from TGHS.

Ms. Maki Fukumura - Former exchange student from TGHS.

Ms. Sachi Ikeda-Visited Clarinda when in Junior High, now a first year nursing student.

Mr. Yasunari Ikeda - Younger brother of Sachi and a 9<sup>th</sup> grader in Junior High School.

Mrs. Manami Murakami - Former Exchange Student, Interpreter and Tour Guide.

he group visited many homes, a farm, restaurants and businesses in Clarinda as well as several places in Omaha. Part of the group returned to Japan on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> and the others returned on Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>. Everyone involved had a wonderful time and enjoyed doing things together. (Sep 09)

## **2010**

A Sister City Delegation from Tamana came to visit and attend the Grand Opening of the Glenn Miller Birthplace Museum on Thursday June 10, 2010, the opening day of the Society’s 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival. The delegation was led by the new Tamana Mayor, Takasaki. Also, the Tamana GHS Band made their 10<sup>th</sup> visit to Clarinda and their ninth visit to the Glenn Miller Festival and performed at the Grand Opening and during the Festival. (Jun 10)

Principal, Teresa Nook and her father, Dwight traveled with Clarinda Exchange Students, Andrea Nelson, Shaylea Foster, Anna Smith and returning TGHS Exchange Students Naho Ideguchi and Hyeri Shin to Tamana and stayed one week visiting Tamana GHS and Tamana City. (Jun 10).

Fumihiro Ikenaga and his wife, Yoshie, accompanied Tamana GHS Exchange Students, Ayame Yamaguchi, Yui Arase and three returning Clarinda Exchange Students, Andrea Nelson, Shaylea Foster, Anna Smith to Clarinda. After getting Ayame and Yui enrolled at CHS they traveled for several days visiting Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and Boston (Aug 10)

## **2011**

Alan Bellaires, President of the Sister Cities Organization, Dwight Sump, Director of the Glenn Miller Birthplace Museum and Marvin Negley, President of the GMBS, went to Tokyo and then to Tamana to attend the opening ceremonies of the new Shinkansen Station in Tamana on March 12, 2011. However, the opening ceremonies were cancelled due to the 9.0 earthquake that occurred in northern Japan at 2:46 PM on Friday March 11, 2011. When the earthquake hit, the three mentioned above were talking to three different classes at Tamana GHS on Kyushu Island. They were far enough from the earthquake that they did not feel anything. Earlier that week they had been in Tokyo and Alan had been even farther north so if the earthquake had occurred then, things would have been much different. The earthquake caused a terrible tsunami to hit the north-eastern part of Japan resulting in more than 21,000 deaths and totally destroying several cities. Also, several nuclear plants were severely damaged causing serious radiation to be released. Several weeks later the community of Clarinda raised \$58,000 and sent it to Japan to help the many people who were suffering. (March 11)

Noel and Pat Bogdanski traveled with Clarinda Exchange Student, Alex Johnson, and returning TGHS Exchange Students Ayame Yamaguchi and Yui Arase to Tamana and stayed one week visiting Tamana GHS, Tamana City and Nagasaki. (Jun 11)

Fumihiro Ikenaga and his wife, Yoshie, accompanied Tamana GHS Exchange Student, Fumi Hoshizuka and returning Clarinda Exchange Student, Alex Johnson to Clarinda. After getting Fumi enrolled at CHS and visiting the Iowa State Fair they flew to San Francisco, CA where they visited the city, the Golden Gate Bridge and Yosemite National Park. (Aug 11)

The Glenn Miller Birthplace Society sent two trombones, two trumpets, two alto saxes, and six clarinets to Japan to be given to young students who were victims of the March Tsunami. Many students lost some of their family, their home, their town and their school so almost everything. The Society is hoping that the musical instruments will give the students something positive to focus on and the playing of music will be something cheerful for the students to do. (Sep 11)

## **2012**

The Tamana GHS Band made their eleventh visit to Clarinda and their tenth visit to the Glenn Miller Festival. (Jun 12)

Matthew (Matt) and Heidi Bird traveled with Clarinda Exchange Students, Kristine McCunn, Calleen Nelson, Savannah Sieburg and returning TGHS Exchange Student Fumi Hoshizuka to Tamana and stayed five days visiting Tamana GHS, Tamana City, Mount Aso, Unzen and Nagasaki. (Jun 12)

Fumihiro Ikenaga and his wife, Yoshie, accompanied Tamana GHS Exchange Student Hirono Saeki and returning Clarinda Exchange Students Kristine McCunn, Calleen Nelson and Savannah Sieburg to Clarinda. After getting Hirono enrolled at CHS and visiting with Clarinda friends they left for Peru in South America for a one-week vacation. (Aug 12)

### **2013**

Marvin and Jean Negley attended the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the GMBS Japan Branch which was held at the American Club in Tokyo, Japan, on March 1, Glenn Miller's Birthday. After enjoying a nice meal, the crowd was entertained by the USAF Band 'Pacific Showcase' under the direction of Capt. Haley Armstrong. After spending a few days in Tokyo and visiting some former CHS exchange students, they left on the Shinkansen for Tamana on Kyushu, Island. They attended TGHS Graduation Ceremonies on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and visited with School officials, Tamana GHS students and Mayor Takasaki. After visiting a few days in Tamana they went to Kumamoto city, Osaka, Kyoto and back to Tokyo Station on the Shinkansen. They got to visit with 18 of the 47 Japanese students that to date have participated in our Student Exchange: Kaori Matsumoto, Hyeri Shin, Kazuyo Yamamoto Yamaguchi, Ayame Yamaguchi, Yui Arase, Fumi Hoshizuka, Sayaka Koba, Maya Inoue, Manami Haraguchi Murakami, Maki Fukumura, Chikako Nakagawa Uchida, Yuki Kawasaki Kudou, Megumi Sazaki, Satomi Otsuka Kurihara, Suga Takamure, Ayumi Uehara Koni, Maiko Arahira Clark, Akiko Yamaura Ichiki, plus two NSK girls Kyoko Nishida Tejima, Akiko Nishida Yokokawa, and Yasuyo Yokoyama (former Marching Coach at Tamana GHS).

Dick and Carleen Perry (CHS English teacher) and their daughter, Jenifer, traveled with Clarinda Exchange Student, Nichole Hoyt, and returning TGHS Exchange Student, Hirono Saeki, to Tamana and stayed five days visiting Tamana GHS, Tamana City and Nagasaki where they visited Penguin Aquarium, Atomic Bomb Museum, Peace Park, Glover Mansion, and in Shimabara the Dejima and Unzen Volcanic Disaster Museum. (Jun 13)

Fumihiro Ikenaga, accompanied Tamana GHS Exchange Student Kaede Miyazaki and returning Clarinda Exchange Student Nichole Hoyt to Clarinda. After visiting with Clarinda friends and getting Kaede enrolled at CHS he returned to Japan on Aug 20<sup>th</sup>, the first day of school at CHS. (Aug 13)

### **2014**

The Tamana GHS Band made their twelfth visit to Clarinda and their eleventh visit to the Glenn Miller Festival. There were 69 girls in the band. (Jun 14)

Three Clarinda High School girls, Hannah McCormick, Lindsey Pace and Autumn Sieburg accompanied returning TGHS exchange student, Kaede Miyazaki, to Tamana, Japan. The three Clarinda girls will spend two months in Japan (one month at TGHS and one month on vacation with the TGHS students). Four adults from the Clarinda area, Linda Mier, Steven Carmichael and Larry and Kimberly Kruger accompanied the students to Tamana, Japan where they spent four days and then visited Kumamoto, Hiroshima, Kyoto and Tokyo before returning home. (Jun 14)

Sow Okada (TGHS English Teacher) accompanied Tamana GHS Exchange Student Akari Imada and returning Clarinda Exchange Students Hannah McCormick, Lindsey Pace, and Autumn Sieburg to Clarinda. Sow visited Clarinda High School and sites around the city and then left on a trip to Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon, etc. before returning to Japan.

## **2015**

The Osaka Rakers Jazz Orchestra from Osaka, Japan performed at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Glenn Miller Festival. While in Clarinda the band members home stayed with Clarinda families. This band has been performing in Osaka for a number of years and they play really well.

Two Clarinda High School girls, Hannah Sunderman and Emily Bahn traveled with returning TGHS exchange student, Akari Imada, to Japan. The three girls were accompanied by Greg Jones (manager of the Radiation Dept. at the Clarinda hospital) and his daughter Lauren. Greg and Lauren spent a few days in Tamana and then visited Hiroshima, Kyoto and Tokyo before returning home. (Jun 15)

On Aug 21, Fumihiro Ikanaga (TGHS English Teacher) and his wife, Yoshie, accompanied Tamana GHS Student Honoka Watanabe and returning Clarinda Exchange Students Hannah Sunderman and Emily Bahn to Clarinda. The Ikenaga's spent three nights and two days in Clarinda and then visited Atlanta, Georgia before returning to Japan on Aug 28.

Sept. 26, Jamie Shore, Christina Adams, Jean Negley and Marvin Negley traveled to Japan to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Community Integration in Tamana-shi. They visited several places in Tokyo and had dinner with Hideomi Aoki and his family. Marvin and Jean also got together with several exchange students that are living and working in the Tokyo area. The group took the Shinkansen to Kyoto and visited a famous Shrine and the Geisha district. Exchange student, Akiko Yamaura, brought her two children to the hotel and had dinner with the Negleys. Also, some of the members of the Osaka Rakers Jazz Orchestra came to Kyoto and took the group to Osaka for dinner and then Jamie and Christina went shopping and the Negleys went to the Rakers studio and were treated with a 45-minute concert by the Orchestra. They also got to see another exchange student, Ayumi Uehara, her husband and two children who came to the concert. On the way to Tamana, the group stopped in Hiroshima and visited the Peace Park. While in Tamana the group visited the new city hall and attended the 10th Anniversary of Community Integration ceremony held in the concert hall. After the ceremony was completed in Tamana, Marvin and Jean went to Kumamoto-shi and stayed with Manami (Haraguchi) Murakami and met with several former exchange students and their families. They then traveled to Seoul Korea and visited with former exchange students, Sae-young Lee, Jina Kim and Hyeri Shin (the 4<sup>th</sup> Korean student to participate in the exchange, Sae-un Lee, is currently in the U.S. studying for her Doctors degree).

## **2016**

The Tamana GHS Band made their thirteenth visit to Clarinda and their twelfth visit to the Glenn Miller Festival.

On June 27<sup>th</sup> Curtis and Lisa Hull, traveled to Japan with their daughter, Anna, returning exchange student, Honoka Watanabe and two Clarinda exchange students, Grace Moheng and Mariajose, Guerrero.

## **2017**

In June, Manami Murakami came to stay with Marvin and Jean Negley to visit and to help with the Glenn Miller Festival.

Manami Murakami returned to Japan on June and was the chaperone for two Clarinda exchange students, Ashley McCoy and Olivia Plowman, who were going to TGHS for two months.



On August 16, 2017 So Okada, a TGHS English Teacher accompanied to Clarinda, Tamana GHS Exchange Student Ayane Maruyama and returning Clarinda Exchange Students Ashley McCoy and Olivia Plowman.

## **2018**

On May 28<sup>th</sup> Manami Murakami came to stay with Marvin and Jean Negley to visit and to help with the Glenn Miller Festival. Following the Festival the Negleys rented a mini-van and traveled with Manami to Colorado Springs, Colorado and stayed in their son Van's home, and then went to Denver, Colorado where they met with Manami's husband, Takashi Murakami, and together they traveled through the Rocky Mountains and drove to Seattle, Washington where they met their son Mark and his wife Emily. After they spent a day in Seattle Manami and Takashi returned to Japan and a few days later Marvin and Jean flew back to Clarinda.

The Tamana GHS Band made their fourteenth visit to Clarinda and their thirteenth visit to the Glenn Miller Festival. The girls of the Tamana Girls High School Band are wonderful ambassadors for their school, their community and their country. Their concerts are great!

On June 15<sup>th</sup> Pat Bogdanski traveled to Japan with two Clarinda exchange students Samantha Eberly, Tatiana Schaapherder and returning exchange student Ayane Maruyama. Pat enjoyed seeing several teachers and former exchange students and in particular one student, Yui Arase who home stayed with Pat and Bo in 2010/2011.

On August 18<sup>th</sup>, Yoko Ono and her friend Toshihiro Okano came to Clarinda with exchange student Ji Hyun Kim, a student from South Korea that is attending Tamana Girls High School and returning Clarinda exchange students Samantha Eberly and Tatiana Schaapherder. After visiting a few days in Clarinda, Yoko and Toshihiro traveled to New York, NY and Washington, D.C. before returning to Japan.

On October 1, 2018 a Sister City delegation from Tamana, Japan came to Clarinda with their new mayor, Takahiro Kurahara. The group spent three nights and two days in Clarinda visiting businesses, farms, and many other places of interest. The adults stayed at the new Boulders Inn and Suites and the three students in the group home stayed with families in the area, Cale and Dawn Plowman (daughter Catie), Joe and Joy Tunnicliff (daughter Sarah) and Seth and Christy Watkins (daughter Tatum).

Those in the delegation were as follows:

Takahiro Kurahara - Mayor of Tamana City, Japan

Emiko Chikamatsu - Vice Chairman of Tamana City

Makiko Yoshida - City Council member

Yoshinori Yoshida - Association for international exchange

Akiko Mizumoto - Director of planning and management

Sayuri Yoshinaga - City office staff

Manami Murakami - Interpreter

Kenichi Morikawa - City office staff

Yuka Matsushima - Junior high school (9<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Ran Mochizuki - Junior high school (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Ayari Yasuoka - Junior high school (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Hidelfui Nago - Tour conductor

It was an educational visit for everyone and those who participated had a lot of fun being together. We are proud to have such a wonderful Sister City as Tamana, Japan!

**Since 1987, many great things have happened between Clarinda, Iowa USA and Tokyo and Tamana Japan. Throughout these years we have had many interesting and rewarding exchanges between our citizens. But most important of all is the promotion of friendship between our communities and peace and good will between our countries. This alone is more than enough reward for our efforts.**

**Marvin Negley**