

January 2024

**Matthew Neeley**

President

Lima Sister Cities Association  
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Dear Esteemed Members,

I trust this letter finds you well. As we reflect on the events of the past year, I am pleased to share the accomplishments and exciting developments within the Lima Sister Cities Association (LSCA).

**\*\*Spring 2023:\*\***

Our cherry blossom viewing picnic was a resounding success, fostering community spirit and appreciation for the cultural exchange we hold dear.

Two transformative trips to Japan, one with high school students and another with adults, marked a significant milestone for the LSCA. Notably, Lima's mayor embarked on her inaugural journey to Japan, engaging with Harima's newly appointed mayor, enhancing international relations.

A summer cookout provided an enriching platform for students to recount their Japanese experiences, fostering cross-cultural understanding.

**\*\*Fall 2023:\*\***

The LSCA proudly hosted a movie premiere for the War Bride documentary. Through meticulous communication efforts, the documentary gained recognition, securing airtime on the esteemed Bowling Green PBS station.

**\*\*Winter 2023:\*\***

Our Organization celebrated the season with a Christmas tree on display at the museum's tree festival, reflecting on the trips this year to Japan.

We ended by having our annual general meeting at the Old Barn Out Back where we enjoyed a meal and talked about what's new for 2024 and ended with a fundraiser auction.

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**\*\*New for 2024:\*\***

In the spirit of appreciation, members will receive exclusive membership stickers, showcasing their unwavering support for the LSCA. Additionally, a selection on the membership form members can order T-shirts that will be available for delivery in early spring.

Excitingly, plans are underway for a reciprocal visit from our Japanese counterparts to Lima. We are actively seeking host families for a homestay experience. Further details will be communicated via our official channels on the website and Facebook as they unfold.

We have plans for new enhancements to our community garden this year. Stay tuned for updates, as we continue to beautify and cultivate connections within our beloved Lima.

The 2024 Garden Clean up is scheduled for March 30th from 10am - 12 or longer. So it can be ready for any out of town visitor coming to town for the eclipse the following week.

April 13th 2024 we will be having our annual cherry blossom festival.

Your continued support and engagement are instrumental to the success of the Lima Sister Cities Association. We look forward to another year of fostering friendship and cultural understanding.

Warm regards,

*Matthew Neeley*

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President, Lima Sister Cities Association