



# MIA news

Miyakonojo International Association

Miyakonojo International Association  
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## Hello Miyakonojo!

Hello everyone! My name is Kyle Johnson and I'm 35 years old. I came to Japan from Los Angeles, CA in America, and I arrived in Miyakonojo on August 2. I'm a junior high school ALT. In America I taught at elementary, junior high, and high schools. At elementary school, I taught Math, English, PE, Music and Art; in America it's common for elementary school teachers to teach multiple subjects. At a combined junior high and high school, I taught English, and also coached volleyball and worked in the school library. In my free time I enjoy sports, movies, going to concerts, singing, playing guitar, and performing.



With my family

However, performing fills me with the most passion. My performances have included playing original songs, acting in theatrical plays, standup comedy—a single person telling jokes and stories on stage, and improv—a group of actors who create an original play in real time based on an audience suggestion.

I lived in Los Angeles the last 8 years, but I grew up in Chicago, a lakeside metropolis in northern America. Chicago is a wonderful city, full of gorgeous buildings and fun cultural activities. It was a great place to grow up. Chicagoans create a warm atmosphere with their kind personalities, but the weather can be brutal. In Chicago, people often have to dig their buried cars out of the snow during the long, frigid winters.

Los Angeles is a great city, too, but for different reasons. Los Angeles is the largest city on America's west coast. It sits near mountains, forests, and the ocean. It's usually warm in the city, even in the winter, but you can drive to the beach and surf, and then drive into the cold mountains to ski in the same day. Los Angeles is probably best known for being the entertainment capital of America because lots of music, television, and movies are made there. It's an exciting place.

As a teenager, I saw the movie *Lost in Translation*—a movie about an American actor who feels out of place while working in Tokyo until he bonds with another American visitor. I immediately felt drawn to visit Tokyo and explore the neon wonderland myself, but it took more than a decade for me to finally visit. In 2018, I visited Tokyo and Kyoto and loved every moment. It was so fun that I decided to return for three months in 2019, intent on experiencing Japan outside of the major tourist destinations. Through World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF), a homestay network of organic farmers, I stayed with families in Hiroshima, Kumamoto and Nagano prefectures. I also volunteered at a school in Kagoshima prefecture for one month. Those three months were the best of my life. Some of my favorite memories are chatting with locals at farmers markets, relaxing in hot springs, and enjoying a spiritual sojourn on Mount Koya.

Since I've lived my life in big cities so far, I want to have a different experience in Japan. I'm glad that I can walk less than a kilometer from my apartment here in Miyakonojo and find myself surrounded by fields. I look forward to knowing Miyakonojo, both its way of life and its residents, more deeply through my time living here.

## Information & Notices

### ◇ **Community Safety Workshop for Foreign Residents**

Together with Japanese people living in Takazaki, Miyakonojo, you can learn how to live safely.

Target Audience: Foreigners living in Miyakonojo and their families

Date and Time: 10/22/2023 (Monday) 10:00-12:30

Location: Miyakonojo, Takazaki District Community Center 2nd Floor Large Conference Room

Content:

- Miyakonojo city trash placement and separation
- Police box information

English, Chinese, Mongolian, Vietnamese, Persian (or Farsi) translations are available.

Participation Fee: Free

Estimated attendees: 15

Application Method: By 10/23/2023 call or email the Miyakonojo International Association about applying.

1) Name 2) Address 3) Preferred Language \*Choose from the listed languages 4) Mail Address

Application: by using phone, FAX, or E-mail, please send this information to the Miyakonojo International Association (MIA).

### ◇ **International Exchange Night! Let's mingle!** **(Intended for people over 20)**

Enjoy a meal while engaging with foreign born people who are living in Miyakonojo!

Date and Time: 11/18(Saturday) 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Location: Naka-machi Food Hall (Miyakonojo Naka-machi 17-9 Cine-port Building 1F)

Content:

The main purpose of this event is to exchange with local residents of the region. There might also be quizzes and games.

Target Audience: Over 20 years old

Attendance Limit: 20

Participation Fee: MIA members: 2,500 yen General 3,500 yen

Hors d'oeuvres and a 2 hour all you can drink are included. There will also be 2 kinds of foreign beers.

No reservations in advance. Please buy a ticket beforehand.

As the seating is pre-determined, please purchase a ticket ASAP.

There are no same day tickets.

Ticket Acquisition:

By phone, FAX, or email, contact the Miyakonojo International Association (MIA) in order to purchase a ticket.



**Movies info C-Plaza Cine-port (Tel: 0986-24-2571)**

17-9 Nakamachi, Miyakonojo, Miyazaki Map-Code (GPS): 117 488 540\*55



- *Alice and Teres' Illusion Factory*
- *Meg the monster 2*
- *Mission Impossible Dead Reckoning*
- *Kingdom Flame of Fate*
- *How do you live*

- *Haunted Mansion*
- *Gran Turismo*

\*The 1st of every month is ¥1,100 for everyone.

\*Every Wednesday is 'Ladies' Day', all ladies ¥1,100.

\*The cinema is closed every Tuesday.

\*For session times visit: <http://movie.walkerplus.com/th286/schedule.html> (Japanese)

-All broadcast in Japanese.