



# MIA news

## Miyakonojo International Association

Miyakonojo International Association  
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### Hi everyone!

It's funny, I've given my self-introduction lesson to more than one thousand students, but I find it hard to introduce myself here. My name is Paul Joseph Acculus Tinkle. My blood type is O-, I am 24 years old, and I come from America. I was born and raised on the northside of Indianapolis, Indiana. I love my home, meaning both Indiana and America. That's the first thing you should know about me: I am very American and proud of it. I carry my nation with me wherever I go. I believe that all good Americans are naturally cultural ambassadors. We love learning about other people, how they do things, and why. The first question I meet when I ask new people is often "where does your name come from?" Background and heritage fascinate me.

That is a big part of why I came to Japan. I believe as Meiji did that our two cultures have much to learn and gain from each other, so that we may both flourish. When I was asked by the JET programme to be a cultural ambassador, I jumped at the opportunity. If you could not already tell, I am a student of history. What first drew me to Japan was its fascinating history and culture. Did you know for example that Japan was the first nation in all of world history to grow and cultivate trees for food? From Kenmu, to Oda Nobunaga, to Meiji, I love studying Japanese history.

Something else important to me is my faith. I am Catholic and was very active in my church back home in Indiana. I love reading about famous Japanese Catholics like St. Paul Mikki and Nagai Takashi. I have a special devotion to Dr. Nagai and pray that he may become a Saint someday soon. I would highly recommend that anyone who does not know about Dr. Nagai read about his life and work. I am very thankful for the faith community that I have found here at the Miyakonojo Catholic Church.

As for my hobbies, outside of history I am fascinated by sports and international politics. My favorite sports are baseball and basketball. In Junior High I played basketball and I'm always ready for a casual pickup game. I also played

lacrosse, a native American sport, from elementary school to my first year of high school (year 3 of Japanese junior high). Recently I have enjoyed watching Kyudo and supporting the Nishi JHS kyudo team.

When it comes to international politics, I spend much of my free time reading newspapers about parliamentary affairs in various countries. My friends have often laughed when I respond to "what are you doing?" with some variation of "reading about the Tokyo governor election!" In college, I even ran for the state legislature of Indiana. Though I did not win, it was a lot of fun!

My major artistic passion is singing. I have enjoyed singing as long as I can remember. In high school I was part of a choir. We would put on traditional European costumes and sing old historical songs. I also did choir for 2 years in college. I was very happy to see that karaoke is so widespread even in Miyakonojo!

I hope this article has illuminated more about me. Please if you see me in public feel free to come say hello. I am still learning Japanese, but I learn more every day. Everyone is Miyakonojo has been so warm and welcoming that it reminds me of home in the Midwestern United States.



### Information & Notices

#### World Festa 2024

The 2024 World Festa will be held on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Meeting Place: Miyakonojo Culture Hall (都城総合文化ホール)  
International Booth, Exhibition Corner  
Due to circumstances of the venue, there will not be any performances. More details can be found in MIA News' s December issue.

#### Mongolia Fest!

Together with Mongolian hailing Miyakonojo residents, participants can enjoy Mongolian songs, receive enamel pins, and play traditional games. Additionally, there will be exhibitions of the Mongolian Nomadic tribe's traditional home (gelt), trial fitting for historical clothing paired with a photoshoot, selling of goods and Mongolian food, and an introduction of select goods from the organization's connected

corporation.

E-mail [mia@btvm.ne.jp](mailto:mia@btvm.ne.jp)

Location: MallMall, Machinaka-square.

(Miyakonojo City Nakamachi 16-15)

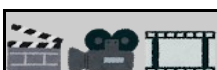
Free participation

Sponsored by Miyakonojo City and the Mongolian Friendship Association.

Please direct inquiries towards the Miyakonojo International Association (MIA) by phone or email.

Phone: 0986-23-2295

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#### Movies info

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

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



- Godzilla -1.0
- Out
- The Creator
- Domino
- How do you live?

- Flying Saitama 翔んで埼玉
- Wonka
- Wish
- Spy Family: Code White
- Let's go to Karaoke!