

2009～2010

財団研究グループ交換

Group Study Exchange

# 報告書 <sup>Part 1</sup> (Report)

R.I.D. 7150 《U.S.A／New York State》

↑ 2009      ↓ 2010

R.I.D. 2640 《Japan／Osaka・Wakayama》



R.I.D.2640 GSE Committee

# Governor message

2009~2010  
Group Study Exchange



Dear District 7150 Governor 2009-2010  
Frederick W. Cholet

January 2010

Greetings from District 2640

Many thanks to you and all of the Rotarians, especially for the host families that joined our GSE team, lead by Miwako Minami during their stay from September 19 to October 17 of last year.

We received a detailed report from them about their educational and cultural experiences.

Each of them enjoyed your excellent program and had many varied and unforgettable experiences.

I desire to further our good friendship, not only between our team members but also between members of our districts who can take advantage of this special opportunity of cultural exchange.

At the end of March, your GSE team lead by Pamela G. Matt is coming to our District.

I and all of the Rotarians are looking forward to meeting them and are now preparing a warm welcome.

Again thank you and I want to send my best wishes to you and all the Rotarians for continued progress and many successes throughout the year.

Sincerely

District 2640 Governor 2009-2010  
Yuji Murakami

# Thank-you letter

2009~2010  
Group Study Exchange



January 2010

Since the winter has come in our district RI 2640, we can now see snow on the mountains nearby. Thank you so much for your hospitality during our GSE team visiting. During their stay in New York State, we could see how and what they were doing via the Internet.

Looking at their smiles and pictures with Rotarians, we could tell they were spending fruitful days over there. I really appreciate you organizing job training and cultural experiences, as well as friendship meetings which will be very useful and beneficial in the future for them. I cannot thank you enough for everything you have done.

On the 13th of December, their homecoming report meeting was held. We saw how their visit was successful through a PowerPoint presentation. At the moment, we are making arrangements to welcome the GSE team from your district. We are looking forward to your visit in this spring.

Sincerely Yours,  
Masaru Nakagawa  
RI 2640 GSE Committee Chairperson

## 2009-2010 GSE Team



	Name	Profession	Photo
Governor	Yuji Murakami	Lawyer	Center Front
Team Leader	Miwako Minami	Restaurant advisor	Center
Team Member	Kagumi Yoshida	Securities Company	Right
Team Member	Marie Ohara	Accountant	Far Right
Team Member	Akiyo Aibata	English school Teacher	Far Left
Team Member	Yuka Sunano	Beauty salon	Left

**HISAYOSHI SANGEN (Counselor)**

**YUKIHIRO IWAMOTO (Foundation Committee Chairperson)**

### GSE Committee Members (2009-2010)

**Masaru Nakagawa (Chair man)**

**Tadaji Yamamoto (Vice Chair man & Zone 3 coordinator)**

**Munehiro Hanada (Project Contact & Zone 2 coordinator)**

**Osamu Iwahashi (Zone 1 coordinator)**

**Shunro Hamamoto (Zone 7 coordinator)**

**Masafumi Shinya (Zone 5 coordinator)**

**Yasunobu Nishida (Zone 8 coordinator)**



# Activity Report

2009~2010  
Group Study Exchange



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 2640

GSE TEAM LEADER

**Miwako Minami**

## ■ Occupational Activities ■

I chose to visit facilities for physically challenged children. My interest comes from my experience of giving swimming trainings to physically challenged kids, which I started in the International Year of Disabled Persons and continued for the following 10 years. This time I visited 8 facilities; Association for Retarded Children, the ARC, Hallberman Center, ENABLE, Golisano Children's Hospital, Oswego Industries, ARISE, OCM BOCES, YMCA. They were all very well furnished. I was able to observe trainings in their swimming pools, which I found very fruitful. All the staff was taking pride in their work, and I was particularly impressed in the way the staff takes the standpoint of the children in their trainings.

## ■ Cultural Experiences ■

My perception of the US is that there is much difference between the North and the South. I travelled from Syracuse to other places. I found its climate to be quite similar to that of Canada and its people to be laid-back with easygoing way of life.

Education seems to be an absolute focus there. It seems that children make up their mind about future course as early as elementary school years, and curriculums are designed accordingly thereby, I was positively surprised, children have very robust mind of their own. The U.S. is a country with a short history, which seems to make the people interested in other cultures including, in particular, Japanese culture. Whenever I go abroad, I think that we should preserve our culture and learn more about it ourselves.

## ■ Social Opportunities ■

This time I moved every week, which means 4 families took care of me during my stay. They were all friendly, and I am grateful that they made me feel comfortable. Quite naturally, our common theme was the question of aging. It seems a lot of elderly people including parents of my host families are living on their own. We seem to share the same issue. In the U.S., with some exceptions, people own large houses built on large premises for very low costs compared to Japan. Its relative trouble is that one has to drive even to visit next door. Nature's blessings are abundant, and I was impressed that people find offerings of each season and enjoy hand-making most of the things. I miss the markets with beautiful lines of many vegetables and fruits that are also very cheap.

# Activity Report

2009~2010  
Group Study Exchange



## ■ Hospitalities during My Stay ■

Every host family showed me their heartfelt hospitality, for which I am truly grateful. As a visitor, I felt invited into their everyday life. That way, they didn't feel urged to do something special, which, I think, turned out to work very well. I felt at home and a part of their families right on my arrival each time. Yet, they showed me hearty hospitalities with delicious dinners and a mountain of waffles just out of the oven in the morning. There was this particular week when my activity plans were not very clear yet. When that happened, the host families gathered after a regular meeting and stayed until very late, contacting other clubs to find out what I could do. On behalf of my team, I would like to thank all the people; the Governor, GSE Chair, Governor Elect, former GSE leaders, our host families and many others who took care of us.

# Activity Report

2009~2010  
Group Study Exchange



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 2640

GSE member

**Kagumi Yoshida**

## ■ Occupational Activities ■

I visited some Investment companies and two of Security Companies.

I thought Security Company in America is quite different from that in Japan. We do not have any partitions at a Sales department in our office. It is very important for American to keep their employees' privacy. The system of back office is similar to ours. For example, how to make an account and the system of computer are similar. I think Japanese system is better than American in regard to receive money from customers. On one hand they use check in America, on the other hand we use transfer system without cash in Japan. The idea of compliance is very important both in America and in Japan. So both countries have training of it.

## ■ Cultural Experiences ■

My host mother brings us to a church on Sunday morning. They are really religious. I felt the culture of religion in America is different from that in Japan to see them directly.

I was surprised to know the fact that the

act of volunteer concerning church is common and some Christian serve bread and some coffee after worship.

It is very common in America to use cars. They don't have public traffic system except some buses so they can't go anywhere without cars. They don't have much traffic jam because they have lots of wide freeways. I commute from my home to my office by taking bus, train and subway. Everybody feel sorry for me to know the fact that it takes an hour from my house to my office. I sometimes saw some Amish who persist in their original living style. They don't use any electronic system and modern culture. The fact taught me that the United States is a mulch racial nation.

## ■ Social Opportunities ■

I stayed at four families for a month.

They warmly welcomed us like a member of their family.

They treated me like their daughter and hugged me. I was very pleased of mama's dish with them after dining out in several days. When we faced in troubles, we could talk to them directly to find better way.

That is the very way of America, I thought.

# Activity Report

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2009~2010  
Group Study Exchange



## ■ Impression ■

I was really moved of American culture  
that they praise frequently.

"Your team is the best that I have ever seen."

"Your English is really good."

"What a good pants."

And so on. They know the way to please  
others. We Japanese should follow their  
good example. That was a pleasant  
experience as they were very kind to us.  
I had a really great time. Thank you for  
everything.

# Photo Report

2009~2010  
Group Study Exchange



職業訓練 投資会社を訪問 (Utica)



例会にてバナーの交換 (Saugoit)



District Conference (With Governor)



District Conference (With exchange students)



Host Family (Baldwinsville)



Organic Firm



# Activity Report

2009~2010  
Group Study Exchange



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 2640

GSE member

**Marii Ohara**

## ■ Occupational Activities ■

I visited 2 CPA offices.

One is owned by my host Rotarian.

I could have a chance to accompany to the auditing. He explained the system of accounting and the way of business operations with showing the financial reports. I could learn the difference between Japanese accounting and American one.

The other is one of the largest CPA firm in the area, which one Rotarian works. They make full use of the latest accounting technology, and I could learn some of the system. They can perform their business efficiently with the technology, I feel we should develop the technology in the near future.

Besides the accounting offices, I visited some educational institutions; kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, high school and universities. I visited some classes, talked with students, discuss with teachers and visited a school board.

Though I had some knowledge of the system of college, it was the first time for me to visit other schools. I learned they have wonderful educational system that children can receive the education in better

environment.

## ■ Cultural Experiences ■

In America, the birthplace of Rotary, we joined various Rotary activities such as the district conference and meetings, I felt that I could learn what is Rotary and how they should be. Through the activities, I experienced the Rotary motto; community service, vocational service, international service, club service and training the young. We also visited many companies, institutions and historical places which we won't be able to visit in Japan. They are all precious experiences for us.

## ■ Social Opportunities ■

All of our host families took us as a member of their families not as a guest, so we could relax at home and enjoyed the life with them. They made the schedule such as we could experience the beauty of vast nature and we enjoyed a lot.

I learned that they have tried to make the environment to make use of regionality which is rich in nature and lakes. There are many wind mills on the mountains and canals.

In addition, we could make good communications about the each country, cultures, Rotary, what we think and so on without a language problem.

# Activity Report

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2009~2010  
Group Study Exchange



## ■ Impression ■

I was impressed by the hospitalities of Rotarians. They are all magnanimous and tried us to spend the time with rest and happy.

I could meet a lot of wonderful people and make mutual friendships through the GSE program. With this experience, I could think what I should be. Now, I try to do my best to show the people how I matured, and I want to be a member of Rotary in the future.

Thank you for giving me to have a chance to have a great experience and to meet wonderful people.

# Photo Report

2009~2010  
Group Study Exchange



First Host Family (Mr. and Mrs. Howard)



Second Host Family (Mr. and Mrs. Cann)



# Photo Report

2009~2010  
Group Study Exchange



Old Forge にてボートクルーズ（初雪を体験）



Farewell Party



Ms. Fallesen



The Thomas



Japanese Food Party



kayaking Experience



# Photo Report

2009~2010  
Group Study Exchange



District Conference



With Mr. Fred Cholet at Fire Station



Fort Stanwix National Monument



Nature Walk



Tea Presentation



Multi Club Meeting

# Photo Report

2009~2010  
Group Study Exchange



Morning Meeting



Food Service Volunteer

# Activity Report

2009~2010  
Group Study Exchange



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 2640

GSE member

**Akiyo Aibata**

## ■ Joined GSE program ■

I attended the GSE program for four weeks from September 17th to October 17th. We visited Syracuse, New York in the United States. When I applied to this program, I didn't know much about Rotary Club. However, I was extremely excited about the fact that I would be able to join GSE. After all members were chosen, we practiced many things such as our presentation, tea ceremony, songs, and Origami(Japanese paper folding)for about six months. Our task was to be able to properly share Japanese culture with the people who we would meet. Although preparation kept us busy, these times made for building a good sense of teamwork. To tell the truth, I sometimes felt like I had to do much more than what I had originally expected. However, after meeting the people in Syracuse, it made me feel like all the work was well worth it. People enjoyed our presentation, listened to us curiously, and even tried our different cultural activities with us. Afterwards, I regretted not studying even more about our culture so that I could have explained with more confidence.

Over the four weeks that we visited, everyone gave us a very warm welcome. I got a chance to visit four elementary schools during this program. My biggest surprise was the free breakfast and lunch system. There are some students who have families that cannot afford to pay for meals. As students cannot study well with empty stomachs, the school serves them meals free of charge. The percentage of students who get free meals at each school is different, but all schools have this system in place. I thought this was a great program.

I learned many other things during my observation of the schools. Kindergarten students study in the same building as the elementary students. Some schools offer ESL classes. Most of the schools have a great special education system and also have many curriculums for students who need extra help. Some classes had multiple teachers in order to help and instruct students who were falling behind and who needed a little extra assistance. I really felt the passion and caring of the teachers and sensed that they genuinely wanted to help every student. Maybe one reason is that there is a state-wide exam in New York and the state chooses the best school system. I was impressed with the pride and interest many people have in education.

My fondest memories are the times with the host families. Every week we stayed with a different family, so I was able to meet four different host families. All of them gave us a warm welcome and treated us like their own family, so I was able to have a comfortable stay. The entire

# Activity Report

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2009~2010  
Group Study Exchange



experience was filled with great memories. All Rotarians and host families tried to show us as much as they could, have fun with us, and always went out of their way to make us feel as comfortable as possible. I was very impressed and appreciative of their hospitality.

This program opened my eyes to a new world. I feel very fortunate I could meet such great people. I will never forget my team leader and fellow members of the program.

They supported me throughout the four week program. I will always treasure my time with them. Thank you.



# Photo Report

2009~2010  
Group Study Exchange



# Activity Report

2009~2010  
Group Study Exchange



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 2640

GSE member

**Yuka Sunano**

I went to the BOCES, Hair Salon and Spa as a supervised tour. It was really interesting especially the system of BOCES. Students can work on the project as part of their classes, and cost is reasonable. And if they wanted to get a national qualification, it is possible to take.

Difference between the Hair Salon and Spa is the Hair Salon usually does only the hair things, but the Spa does total beauty. We don't really have the Spa type salon in Japan. The Spa I went was very big! There were caf? in the Spa. Spa treatments(hair, nail, tanning and waxing)have got each professor in each room..

As culture experience we went to the museums, company, university, firehouse and sometimes spend time out in nature etc. It was great experience for me to visit those places. It was impossible without you to experience it. We ate a lot of chickens at meals while we stayed there. I found out that local people don't eat big amount so much. But, every body love sweets especially chocolate! Whenever we visited the company or somebody's house chocolate was always there. I love that though. I have sweet tooth too.

I think people have a sense of optimism and positive thinking. I feel that they know how to enjoy their life. It was interesting that the pink ribbon movement having been sent by the individual came to catch on worldwide; I learned importance of insistence of individual. I thought that the person who started the pink ribbon movement and the support of surroundings were also wonderful. We have to speak out what we believes too.

I was very glad that hosts have prepared the dinner of a beef stew and the Thanksgiving dinner in spite of a busy schedule. The culture and the event of the country were able to be experienced through meal. Various plans were set up and I thought that it was too busy sometimes. If I was able to spend more time with hosts while staying, it might have been more wonderful.

We were supposed to visit the farm and go Apple picking but it was rescheduled because of bad weather. It was regrettable.

People were interested in the culture of Japan such as the paper folding, calligraphy, tea ceremonies, and kimono. And the greatest thing was that we could experience it together. Various questions had been received even about the meaning of kimono pattern and the history. Thank to everybody I was studied, too. It reminds me that it was very important to know Japan as Japanese.

Finally I would like to thank everybody. A wonderful experience was able to be done thanks to you.

Many thanks for your generous hospitality and I won't forget it.



# Photo Report

2009~2010  
Group Study Exchange



(calligraphy) wrote one character each



Thanksgiving dinner



Apple fest



Women's right museum



Hair Salon



BBQ Dinner





# Photo Report

2009~2010  
Group Study Exchange



Vocational day



farewell party



potluck dinner



dinosaur BBQ



Onion flower !?



fire house



With students



With chopstick s !

# Photo Report

2009~2010  
Group Study Exchange



Chocolate cake!



airport



On the boat

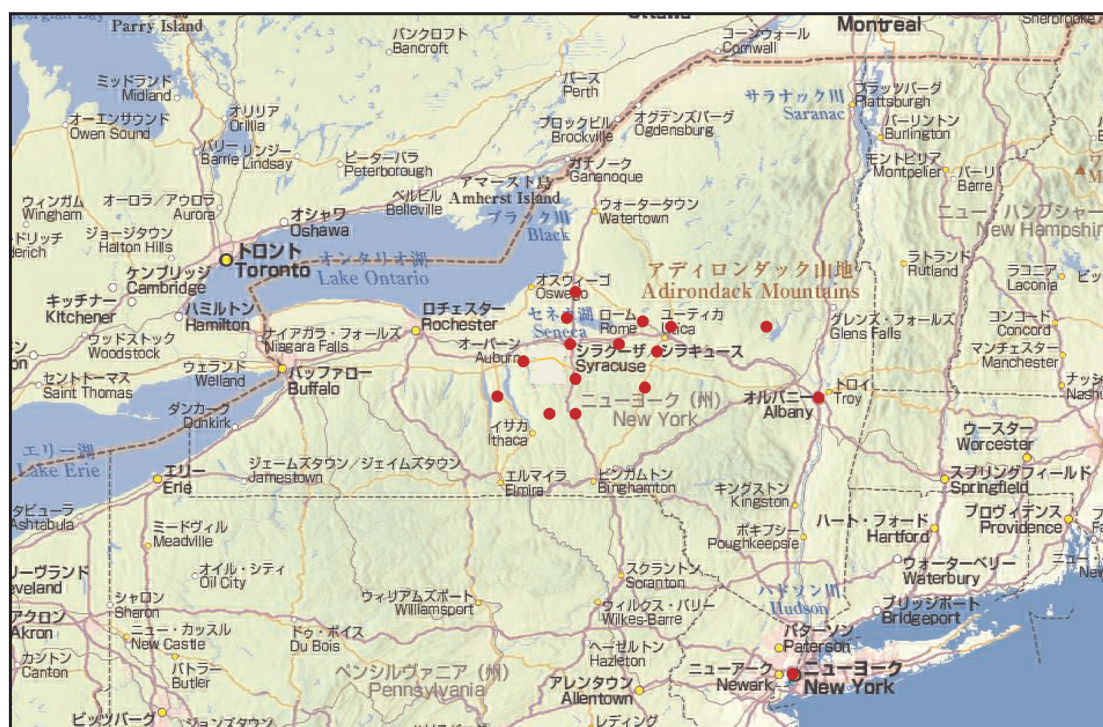


Feed the deer



At the church





● ... GSE Team Visited Town