



Worthington - Sayama Holiday Traditions **Live!**

The first joint program presented virtually live with sister-cities Worthington and Sayama

Event Date & Time:

(There is a 14-hour time difference between the two cities)

Worthington: Wednesday, December 16 at 7:30 pm

Sayama: Thursday, December 17 at 9:30 am

[Register online and the meeting link will be shared prior to the event.](#)

Join the Worthington & Sayama International Friendship Associations for the first ever live virtual program, bringing Worthington and Sayama citizens together to share cultures and conversation.

For the first joint program in December, Sayama features a cooking expert who will share a traditional Japanese dish that is prepared for the New Year's holiday. She will demonstrate the customs of the preparation and presentation for the New Year's celebration meal. Worthington will share the sights, sounds and experiences of a traditional Worthington holiday season with community and neighborhood holiday lights and decorations, and family traditions such as baking Christmas cookies, hanging stockings and other family traditions. There will be opportunity for questions and answers after the presentation.

Background of how the joint programming was conceived

The COVID-19 pandemic has been difficult for citizens of Worthington and Sayama. Although our cultures may differ in many ways, we are united in our determination to stay safe, protect our friends and families, and support our communities while we endure the challenges of the pandemic. Although the 2020 Worthington delegation visit to Sayama was cancelled, we have focused on new ways we can remain connected and bring the citizens of our two communities even closer together than ever before.

WIFA and SIFA leadership has been meeting virtually over the past several months to talk about ideas for joint programming for WIFA and SIFA members, as well as residents of our two cities. We have developed a series of programs that will be presented live in each city, where we can learn about each other's cultures, talk and ask questions, and recognize all that we have in common that brings us together.

We hope you will join us for this special program to strengthen the bonds of our long-time sister-city relationship.