

MINNIBARAKI

Our Fortieth Year

Minneapolis Ibaraki Sister City Association



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- MISCA Origins
 - The origins and early years of MISCA
- The "Bell of Two Friends"
 - Fundraiser a success!
- From our Friends in Ibaraki
 - Greetings from IFAI
- Pickled Diakon Radish Recipe
- The making of a Japanese Garden

MISCA Origins and Exchange Programs

By Shiro "Don" Katagiri

Every Sister City affiliation has a unique and interesting story.

Typically, a sister-city affiliation is established based on the similarities of two cities such as its population, the position (government and economy size) and other characteristics. So, New York and Tokyo, Chicago and Osaka, Los Angeles and Nagoya make sense politically and diplomatically.

Many other sister city relationships start when American students go to Japan in the JET program and then return to USA. The students want to continue friendships that were built during their stay and so became the bridges to build sister cities.

How about Minneapolis and Ibaraki? It started based on business. Mister Donuts, a subsidiary of International Multi Foods, opened its 200th store in front of Ibaraki JR train station in the spring of 1979.

Joe Dubanowski, Vice President of IMF and Ibaraki Mayor Shigetomi stood next to each other for the ribbon cutting ceremony of opening the store. Mayor Shigetomi asked Joe "Where are you from?" Joe answered "Minneapolis".

Six months later, Mr. Yamashita, a diplomat from Ibaraki City, came to Minneapolis to start the groundwork of establishing our sister-city relationship.

MISCA, continued on Page 4

Bell of Two Friends: a 20th Anniversary Gift Fundraising Campaign a Success – Repairs Completed!

MISCA’s Fundraising campaign to repair the “Bell of Two Friends” was a success with over \$9000 raised by eighteen donors!

Work began on the “Bell of Two Friends on Monday, July 20th and has been completed.

MISCA would like to thank the KCI Conservation and the City of Minneapolis for facilitating and making the repairs to the Sculpture.

MISCA would also like to thank the following for the donations to the repair fund:

Diamond Friends

(\$2000 +)

Bill Deef

Michael Rainville

Karl Reinhard

Platinum Friends

(\$750 - 1999)

Jack Sattel and Karen Sontag Sattel

Mary Witkus & Werner Kohler

Gold Friends

(\$500 - 749)

Jessica Manivasager

Silver Friends

(\$250 - 499)

Richard & Marie-Rose Lundgren

Dan Rolf

Bronze Friends

(\$1 - 249)

Sharon Balke

Carter & Julia Clapsdale

Richard & Katherine Fournier

Mirja Hanson

Brain & Cynthia Haskell

Jim & Eiko Hoffman

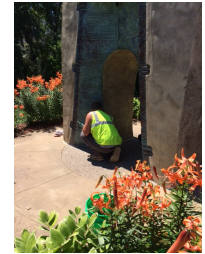
Brenda Langton & Tim Kane

Helane Monsour

Doug & Adona Rivord

Richard & Carol Stahl

Vernon Wetternach



Members of KCI Restoration working on the Bell of Two Friends”



The Sculpture before restoration.



The Sculpture after restoration.

The Rewards of Creating a Japanese Garden

By Mary Witkus

"It will have to be a Japanese Garden!" I exclaimed as I was in the final stages of planning our new home in Minneapolis in 2003. After perusing a pile of "How to Create a Japanese Gardens" books, creating said garden remained a mystery. But I plodded along: lanterns, pines, stepping stones, a basin, add some grasses.

Eight years into the project, a friend asked to bring a group of visitors from Japan to see the garden. Really? They know the real thing! Reluctantly I agreed, thinking I would also give them a workshop on handmade books - a souvenir to take home.

What a great time we had! Friendships were formed, and two months later we received an invitation to Ibaraki to celebrate 30 years of being 'Sister Cities'. Oh, yes, we will come, thank you very much IIN!

IIN members have taken us to many interesting sites in Japan. One garden was particularly meaningful to me: Tsuru Kame Niwa, (Crane and Turtle Garden). The crane and turtle are often represented in gardens. They each project a healthful life and longevity, the crane for 1000 years, the turtle for 10,000 years.

Below is my depiction of the crane and the turtle. You may be able to see the turtle swimming toward you. The maple on the farther island represents the long neck of the crane. It is very rewarding to share these traditions with those who visit our garden.



It is now eight years into the tradition. Five more groups have come to Minneapolis; we have visited Ibaraki six times, and many friendships have grown. All as a result of my humble Japanese-style garden. This is a reward I never dreamed could have been a result of creating a Japanese-style garden. I feel so fortunate.



Tsuru Kame Niwa

MISCA, continued from page 1

It was in 1978 when the Japanese National government brought out the globalization initiatives of the international cultural exchange program. Therefore, it was timely for Mayor Shigetomi to lay down plans to finance the program and assigned staff to initiate.

Therefore, it started as a government led program in Japan, and it has been always the Ibaraki side to become active in promoting the program.

Whereas it was started as a non-government volunteer organization in Minneapolis.

When Mr. Yamashita from Ibaraki came to Minneapolis in 1979, there were only handful of people who were interested in the sister city program. Minneapolis City was not interested at the beginning.

After having some volunteers and corporation sponsors, we proposed the purpose, goals and activities to develop an understanding of two countries and to promote friendships and goodwill.

Then we approached the City of Minneapolis again, and we got the nod from Mayor Donald Fraser.

This happened in October, 1980. We had an official delegation from Ibaraki led by Mayor Shigetomi and representation of the city and citizens. Both mayors signed the proclamation of the Minneapolis-Ibaraki Sister Cities affiliation.

One of many purposes of a sister city program is to understand other cultures and either to accept it or try to fill the gap.

I would like to list a couple of incidents that happened during MISCA trips to Japan. One student mistakenly pressed one of buttons on a Japanese toilet, and water flushed out, which startled him. Most of Japanese toilets in both public places and private homes have a bidet function. So watch out which button to press.

Once a chaperone with the Minnesota Little

Gopher baseball team had difficulty with taking off shoes in a Japanese style home. He called me one night and wanted to change his host family. He did not understand or accept how important it is to the host family to keep their tatami room clean. He explained to me that he never takes shoes off until he gets in bed, so he thought it was rude to take his shoes off in front of his female host. In the end we had to find a hotel for him.

Our early exchange programs included Jaycees, Lions Club, Minnesota Little Gopher baseball, then followed by soccer (Maple Grove), chorus groups (Minnesota Boys Choir, Bell Canto Girls), Minneapolis Youth Symphony Orchestra (a total of 105 people -- biggest delegation ever!), Nancy Houser dance group, Minneapolis Aquatennial Queen, lecture programs by high profile professionals like Alice Rainville, Jerry Arendt, Arvonne Fraser, and Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton.

The art program was enthusiastically promoted by Joan Mondale. Susan Warner made Minneapolis Images art pieces and sent them from Minneapolis to Ibaraki, then Ibaraki commissioned a couple of art projects.

One was built in front of Ibaraki Library by Leila Deneke, Norman Anderson built one on display in Ibaraki City Hall and another the Bell of Two Friends Sculpture on the Nicollet Island made by Karen Sontag Sattel.

Other arts exchange programs include sending several hundreds of watercolor paintings from Minneapolis Public School and Visitation Catholic School to Ibaraki.

A Haiku contest started in 1990s and still continues to have over thousands of submissions from Minneapolis students and teachers every year.

This program has become a prominent cornerstone and foundation of cultural exchange.

Greetings from our Friends in Ibaraki



Hello MISCA members, I am Sei Shirotani, the president of International Friendship Association of Ibaraki (IFAI) from this May. Congratulations on the first issue of MINNIBARAKI. This year is the 40th anniversary of the Sister Cities of Minneapolis and Ibaraki, and I am very pleased that the two cities have continued our friendship for a long time. In the next issue, we would like to share our memories of the relationship between Minneapolis and Ibaraki. Please look forward to it. Sincerely yours, Sei Shirotani the president of International Friendship Association of Ibaraki

皆さんこんにちは。本年5月から茨木市国際親善都市協会会長に就任いたしました城谷星です。この度はMINNIBARAKIの創刊おめでとうございます。今年はミネアポリス市と茨木市の姉妹都市締結40周年の年であり、長きにわたって両市の交流が続いてきたこと大変うれしく思います。次号ではミネアポリス市と茨木市の姉妹都市交流についてお話ししたいと思います。ぜひ楽しみにしてください。茨木市国際親善都市協会会長 城谷 星

Dan Rolf's Pickled Daikon Radish Recipe

Japanese Recipe

Takuan (Pickled Daikon Radish)

Takuan is a Japanese pickle traditionally taking months to ferment. This recipe is an easy variation for a quick pickle without the long fermentation. Still crisp and flavorful, in a fraction of the time. The pickling brine serves as a preservative, so one batch will keep for at least a month



Ingredients

1 long daikon radish *
1 tablespoon salt
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup water
1/2 cup rice vinegar
1 tablespoon sake (optional)

- Skin the daikon and cut into thin rounds.
- Sprinkle daikon with salt and let sit for 2 hours to pull out moisture.
- Add sugar, water, vinegar and sake to a small pan and bring to a boil. Stir until sugar dissolves and remove from heat.
- Squeeze excess water out of daikon with your hands.
- Place daikon in pickling container. Add liquid to container and let pickle for at least 2 days to develop flavor.

* Purple daikons makes a colorful pickle if available. The brine turns a deep red and the radish slices a dark pink.

The MINNIBARAKI newsletter is published quarterly (February, May, August and November) by the Minneapolis-Ibaraki Sister City Association.

MINNEAPOLIS IBARAKI SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors

Karl Reinhard.....President
Patrick Good Vice President
Dan Rolf..... Secretary
Sharon Balke Media

Board Members
Carol Austermann
Brian Haskell
Cynthia Haskell
Werner Kohler
Mary Witkus

More Information

Website: misca.us

Facebook: Search for MISCA

Snail mail:

MISCA
c/o Meet Minneapolis
801 Marquette Ave S. Suite 100
Minneapolis, MN 55402

MINNEAPOLIS- IBARAKI SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION



Upcoming Board Meetings:

Monday, August 3, 2020
Monday, September 14, 2020
Monday, October 12, 2020
Monday, November 9, 2020

Board Meetings are usually held
at ZenBox Izakaya

602 South Washington Ave
Social Time 5:30 - 6:15

Business Meeting starts at 6:15

However, at this time meetings are
being held virtually. If you would
like to participate, please email Karl
Reinhard at:

Kreinhard1957@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

We are hoping to resume
our events later this year.

HAIKU Contest
(November)

Holidazzle
(December)