

MINNIBARAKI

Our Forty-first Year *Minneapolis Ibaraki Sister City Association*



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Consul-General Update

Consul-General of Japan Kenichi Okada has been reassigned to a new position. He will now be Consul-General (with rank of Ambassador) of Hong Kong.

We enjoyed working with Consul-General Okada during his time in office. We wish him all the best in his new position.

His replacement is Hiroshi Tajima. MISCA wishes Consul General Tajima all the best in his new position and look forward to working with him.



**Current
Consul-General
Hiroshi Tajima**



**Former
Consul-General
Kenichi Okada**

Friends of the Bell of Two Friends

Diamond Friends

*Bill Deef
Michael Rainville
Karl Reinhard*

Platinum Friends

*Jack Sattel and Karen Sontag Sattel
Mary Wittkus & Werner Kohler*

Gold Friends

Jessica Manivasager

Silver Friends

*Richard & Marie-Rose Lundgren
Dan Rolf*

Bronze Friends

*Carol Austermann
Sharon Balke
Carter Clapsadle & Julia Baugnet
Richard Kathrine Fournier
Mirja Hanson
Cynthia & Brian Haskell
Jim & Reiko Hoffman
Brenda Langton & Tim Kane
Helane Monsour
Doug & Addona Rivord
James & Norma Solstad
Claire & Paul Spilseth
Richard & Carol Stahl
Vernon Wetternach*

Foreign Minister's Commendations for FY2021

On August 20, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced the recipients of the Foreign Minister's Commendations for 2021. This year, commendations will be awarded to 187 individuals and 41 organizations.

Within the Consulate General of Japan in Chicago's jurisdiction, four individuals and four groups have been selected for their contributions to the strengthening of relations between the United States and Japan.

Groups

Minneapolis Ibaraki Sister City Association

The Minneapolis Ibaraki Sister City Association was established in 1980 following the establishment of a sister city relationship between Minneapolis and Ibaraki City in Osaka Prefecture. The committee actively supports exchanges between the two cities, which celebrated the 40th anniversary of their sister city affiliation last year. It also contributes to the promotion of friendship between the two cities and the understanding of Japanese culture by holding various events such as the annual haiku contest and the cherry blossom festival. The committee also played an important role in the restoration of the "Bell of Two Friends" sculpture located on Nicollet Island, a symbol of friendship between the two cities.

Saint Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee

The Saint Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee was established to promote exchanges between the two cities, which became the first sister cities in Japan and the United States in 1955. The sister city relationship celebrated its 65th anniversary last year, and active exchanges continue today. Based on the strong belief of the two cities in building peace, the committee has been involved in organizing memorial events and exhibitions for the atomic bombings, as well as actively accepting and dispatching citizen groups and exchange students to strengthen the relationship between the two cities. In addition, the Committee holds various events such as the Obon Festival and the Cherry Blossom Festival every year to introduce and promote understanding of Japanese culture.

Iowa Sister States Yamanashi Committee

Wisconsin Chiba, Inc.

Jack-O'-Lanterns

Cynthia and Brian Haskell

The carving of jack-o'-lanterns in October is a long-standing tradition enjoyed by all ages. The custom of carving a root vegetable (pumpkin or turnip) with a face and putting a candle inside was brought to the US by Irish immigrants. Today people carve not only faces, but elaborate scenes. At the Minnesota Zoo *Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular* you walk through the dark woods and see thousands of elaborately carved pumpkins. It is quite an impressive sight!

Oh! — fruit loved of boyhood! — the old days recalling,
When wood-grapes were purpling and brown nuts were falling!
When wild, ugly faces we carved in its skin,
Glaring out through the dark with a candle within!

- John Greenleaf Whittier, "The Pumpkin" (1850)



Can you name this place? photos taken at Minnesota Zoo,
2019, B. Haskell

Greetings from IFAI - Japan: The Harmonious High-Tech Country

I'd like to say I planned to come to Japan and it was my goal or destiny from the outset but the truth is I haphazardly came via a recommendation from a Japanese teacher at my university in Tennessee, a Ms. Okigami. She recommended that if I really wanted to improve my Japanese and learn about Japan I should go to Japan. When I told her I had never traveled abroad and knew little to nothing about the world she laughed and said, "With your personality you will do fine Joshua-san." I owe a great debt of gratitude to Okigami-sensei as she pointed me in all the right directions, helped arrange my involvement with the JET Program and helped set me off on an adventure of a lifetime that literally altered my entire future, saw many changes in my life and led me to live in a country that I have come to support and love for the past 22 years.

Coming from a lower middle-class background in Tennessee I ventured farther than any other member of my family by taking the plunge to move and work in Japan. Coming here for the first time in 2001, I experienced the splendor and beauty of a culture that was as remote and far from my own as could be. I learned a great deal about the culture in large part from becoming a teacher of English. I met many wonderful and helpful people who helped me to transition from a strictly western viewpoint or an American stance on issues to that of one that was blended and gave me a far wider spectrum of understanding of myself as well as that of a country as foreign as Japan.

I participated in festivals, wearing loincloths, dancing in Bon dances, eating interesting foods, experiencing intricate ceremonies and enjoying lavish parties, amazing nightlife and traditional culture. I visited shrines on one day and karaoke boxes the next. I played video games in Akihabara, and visited bull fighting venues in Ehime. Throughout all these experiences I learned the value of being in Japan and what that meant to me. I got to experience being a foreigner, a minority and a person representing my own culture to people who were eager to learn.

I was often asked questions by people about my own culture. I got to explain differences in manners, expectations, school experiences and the like. I found myself part traveler, part explorer and part cultural ambassador to Japan. I was asked to put on cooking

classes where I taught Japanese housewives how to make soup beans and cornbread and to cook deep fried catfish. I gave lessons on American Football and hip-hop culture. It was through many activities like this that I learned the greatest thing of all, that my culture was significant and learning about other cultures helped add to the beautiful tapestry of life.

As I have spent over half my life in Japan I often wonder if I am not more Japanese than American in some respects. I typically bow when greeting, say "gomen" more often than I would like to admit, prefer drinking green tea to sugary soda and celebrate New Year's with more passion and vigor than I ever did living in America. I now am married to a beautiful and kind Japanese woman and have a child that goes to kindergarten in Japan. We celebrate the traditional holidays of America like Thanksgiving and Christmas but also participate in "Obon and Setsubun events!"

My life has been enriched a thousand-fold by coming to Japan and living here as an American. My viewpoint has changed, my world concept as well. I value things more and believe I am a more considerate person, especially of others' culture and philosophy. I try to be more accepting, accommodating, and cooperative in my social endeavors. For that, I must say "arigato" to Japan for enlarging my world and making me part of this wonderful global village. I urge you to consider visiting and if you find it attractive stay for a while. I am sure you will eventually come to love Japan as much as I have.

Thank you,
Joshua Meade



Enso Daiko -by Helane Monsour

Enso Daiko is a taiko drum group based in Minneapolis’ twin city across the Mississippi River, Saint Paul, Minnesota.

There has been a taiko drumming group in the Twin Cities since 1997. Currently, there are three taiko groups performing at various venues.

Here are photos of Enso Daiko performing at a park in Roseville, a suburb of Saint Paul. The City of Roseville sponsors a wide variety of music and performances during the summer. The audience bring their own chairs and enjoy an evening of wonderful entertainment.



The drummer of the far right is also a Saori weaving instructor. She has many talents!



Audience participation in a traditional Japanese dance.



The Finale. High Energy!



The Dining Room is now open! Seating is first come first served - no reservations at this time. Zenbox is still offering takeout delivery or Patio dining every Tuesday through Saturday from 4:30 - 9 p.m. You can find their online menu at:

Zenbox.com



Enso Daiko at a painting lesson of enso at Laughing Waters Studio.

KARUTA

by IIN Working Group on Cultures

Karuta is a traditional Japanese card game. It is said to be useful for children to learn letters and words, and for adults to train their concentration. It has been enjoyed by all people since ancient times. The name “*Karuta*” is derived from the Portuguese word for cards.

“*Ibaraki Kyodo Karuta (Ibaraki local Karuta)*”

It was born from a hope that children could learn about their hometown while playing a card game joyfully. It consists of 44 cards of reading cards and picture cards each. The reading cards were selected from 2,484 phrases written by 10 to 12-year-old children of Ibaraki city in 1976 and some of the phrases were changed in 1985. The reading cards are printed with descriptions of historic people, famous places, nature, and legends of Ibaraki. Each picture card has a cutout picture describing each reading card with the first *hiragana* of reading.

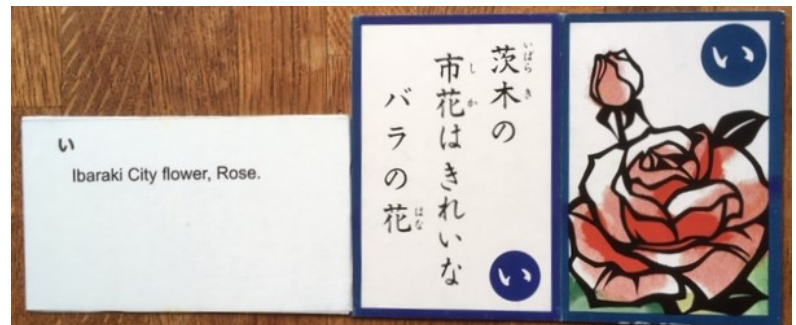
When playing, a dealer reads out the cards and players compete to get the cards that match the reading. The winner is the player who takes the most cards. The English cards are masterpieces translated by some of IIN members in 2020. We are looking forward to playing this game with you soon.

い 茨木(いばらき)の 市(し)花(か)はきれいな
バラの花(はな)

Ibaraki City flower, Rose (*bara* in Japanese)

Rose was selected as a city flower to commemorate 20th anniversary of Ibaraki City and 1970's International Exposition in Osaka. Ibaraki's old name means cutting briars in old Chinese letter.

Ibaraki city has some rose gardens. The largest *Wakazono*-park has about 2000 rose trees. We can enjoy beautifully brooming roses every spring and fall.



Left: reading card Middle: reading card (Japanese) Right: picture card

は はばたけ 鳩(はと)のマークの 茨木市(いばらき)

Ibaraki City, launch out into the world with its pigeon symbol.

The emblem of Ibaraki city represents Chinese character “*茨*” read as *ibara* and a pigeon as a symbol of peace in the center. It was decided in 1948 when Ibaraki town and three villages were combined to be Ibaraki city. The emblem was considered as the symbol of Ibaraki that was nicely located and taking large steps in various fields; industry, economy, culture and so on. In addition, Ibaraki city declared itself a non-nuclear city in 1984.



In Japan, many local governments have special manhole covers showing their features, and Ibaraki city has those designed with a pigeon and roses.



ゆ 友好(ゆうこう)の 輪(わ)で結(むす)ぶ 姉妹(しまい)都市(とし)

Minneapolis and Ibaraki are sister cities

The idea of becoming sister cities began when Mr. Donuts, a subsidiary of International Multi Foods, opened the 200th store in front of JR Ibaraki station in 1979. At the opening ceremony of the store, Mayor of Ibaraki City met the vice-president of IMF whose hometown was Minneapolis.

After many processes, Mayor Donald Fraser of Minneapolis and Mayor Toshiyuki Shigetomi of Ibaraki City signed documents declaring Minneapolis and Ibaraki Sister Cities in 1980.

We have been very happy to make friends with you since then, more than 40 years.



や 弥生(やよい)時代(じだい) 銅鐸(どうたく)のいがた 東(ひがし)奈良(なら)

A mold of a Dohtaku bell from the Yayoi Period

Higashinara in the southern part of Ibaraki City is famous for an archaeological site.

Some children discovered earthenware and stone arrowheads of the *Yayoi*-period (from B.C.5century to A.D.3century) in a vast construction site about 50 years ago. That led to research the area and to discover the *Higashinara Iseki*. The mold of a *Dohtaku* bell, named No.1, dug up in 1974 made this site renowned throughout our country because it was discovered only here in Japan with the almost perfect shape. The perfect shape! The news was the big surprise for

archaeologists. Broken pieces of other two molds, named No.2 and No.3, were also dug up in the same site.

Those molds have special patterns called *ryusui-mon*, designing flowing water. Many *Dohtaku* bells made with the molds of No.2 and No.3 were discovered in *Shikoku* Island, *Osaka* Pre. and a northern part of *Hyogo* Pre. It tells us that the community who had high technologies of casting widely associated in trade and culture.

This area had most important roles technologically, economically and politically in Japan about 2000 years ago.

It is believed that *Dohtaku* bells were used as ritual implements at that time. Now, we can see many kinds of the remains in the *Higashinara* Municipal Museum.

The “Bell of Two friends” on Nicollet Island, based on the precious mold No.1, is a symbol of friendship of two cities.

More than 10 times taller



The mold #1
17 inches in height



The Bell of Two Friends - more than 10 times taller

「かるた」

かるたは、日本の伝統的なカードゲームです。子供が文字や言葉を覚えるのにも、大人が集中力を鍛えるのにも役立つと言われていて、古くから人々に親しまれてきました。「かるた」という名前は、ポルトガル語の「カード」に由来しています。

< 茨木郷土かるた >

このかるたは、子どもたちが楽しく遊びながらふるさとのことを学んでほしい、という願いから生まれました。読み札と絵札それぞれ 44 枚のカードで構成されています。読み札は、茨木市の 10~12 歳の子どもたちが書いた 2,484 の句の中から 1976 年に選ばれ、1985 年にその一部が変更されています。その読み札には、茨木市の歴史上の人物、名所、自然や伝説などが取り上げられています。絵札には、それぞれの読み札を説明する切り絵があり、読み札の最初のひらがなも書かれています。

遊び方は、読み手が読み上げた内容に合致する絵札を競技者が取っていきます。そして、最後に最も多くの絵札を取った人が勝ちです。読み札の英語版は、2020 年に IIN の有志が翻訳した力作です。近いうちに、このかるた遊びを皆さんと一緒にできることを楽しみにしています。

い 茨木(いばらき)の 市(し)花(か)はきれいな バラの花(はな)

茨木市制 20 周年と 1970 年の大阪万博を記念して、バラが市花として選定されました。茨木市の旧名は、古い漢字で「茨を切る」という意味です。茨木市にはいくつかのバラ園があり、一番大きな若園公園には、約 2000 本のバラの木があります。毎年、春と秋には美しく咲き誇るバラを楽しむことができます。

は はばたけ 鳩(はと)のマークの 茨木市(いばらき)

茨木市の市章は、いばらと読む漢字「茨」と平和の象徴である「鳩」を配しています。この市章は、1948 年に茨木町と 3 つの村が合併して茨木市となったときに決定され、立地条件に恵まれ、産業、経済、文化など様々な分野で飛躍している茨木市を象徴しています。また、当市は 1984 年に非核都市宣言を行っています。日本では多くの自治体で、マンホールの蓋にそれぞれの地域の特徴を表すデザインを施していますが、茨木市は鳩とバラをデザインしたマンホール蓋を設置しています。

ゆ 友好(ゆうこう)の 輪(わ)で結(むす)ぶ 姉妹(しまい)都市(とし)

姉妹都市提携のきっかけは、インターナショナル・マルチフーズの子会社であるミスタードーナツが、1979 年に JR 茨木駅前に 200 号店をオープンしたことでした。その開店式で茨木市の市長は、ミネアポリスが故郷の IMF 副社長と出会いました。その後、様々な経緯を経て、1980 年にミネアポリス市のドナルド・フレイザー市長と茨木市の重富利行市長が、ミネアポリス市と茨木市の姉妹都市を宣言する文書に署名しました。以来、40 年以上にわたり、皆様と友好を深め続けていることを喜ばしく思っています。

や 弥生(やよい)時代(じだい) 銅鐸(どうたく)のいがた 東(ひがし)奈良(なら)

茨木市の南部に位置する東奈良は、遺跡で有名です。今から50年ほど前、広大な工事現場から弥生時代の土器や石鏃が子どもたちによって発見されました。それがきっかけとなりこの地域の調査発掘が行われ、東奈良遺跡の発見に繋がりました。1974年に発掘された「1号」と名付けられた銅鐸の型は、日本で唯一、ほぼ完璧な形を保って発見されたことから、この遺跡は全国的に有名になりました。完璧な形だ！というこのニュースは、考古学者にとって大きな驚きでした。同じ場所から、「2号」、「3号」と名付けられた他の2つの鋳型の破片も発掘されています。

これらの鋳型には、流水文と呼ばれる特殊な模様があり、「2号」と「3号」の鋳型で作られた銅鐸は、四国や大阪府、兵庫県北部で多く発見されています。このことは、高度な鋳造技術を持つ集団が広く交易や文化に関わっていたことを物語っていて、この地域は約2000年前の日本において、技術的にも経済的にも政治的にも最も重要な役割を担っていたと考えられます。

なお、銅鐸は当時、祭祀用の道具として使われていたと言われています。現在、市立東奈良博物館では、この遺跡からの様々な発掘品が展示されています。

ニコレット・アイランドに設置されている「双珠の鐘」は、この貴重な鋳型「1号」に基づくもので、両都市の友好のシンボルとなっています。

MINNIBARAKI - Past Issues

Looking for some information from a past issue of MINNIBARAKI?

All past and current issues of MINNIBARAKI can be found at the following link (copy and paste into your browser):

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16FIWH9sgFta1MN8wHIQ1eCFand3iAON8?usp=sharing>

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

MINNEAPOLIS IBARAKI SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

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MINNEAPOLIS- IBARAKI SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION



Upcoming Board Meetings:

Monday, November 8, 2021
Monday, December 13, 2021
Monday, January 10, 2022

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:

misca.info@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

We are hoping to resume
our events later this year.

Holidazzle – December
2021

Date and time to be
determined

Please check out or
Facebook page for virtual
events