

MINNIBARAKI

Our Forty-first Year

Minneapolis Ibaraki Sister City Association



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Foreign Minister's Commendations for FY2021

On December 13th, Consul-General of Japan Hiroshi Tajima hosted a Presentation Ceremony and dinner for the Minneapolis Ibaraki Sister City Association and the St. Paul Nagasaki Sister City Committee to honor each organization for receiving the Foreign Minister's Commendation for 2021.

During the presentation each organization received their certificate of recognition followed by speeches by Consul General Tajima and representatives of each organization.

The MISCA feels very honored to receive this Recognition.

More photos on the following page.



SPNSSC Co Presidents Maggie Quam, Joann Blatchley, Consul General Tajima and MISCA President Karl Reinhard with their Certificates of Commendation.

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*



Certificate of Commendation

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan extends his deepest regards to:

Minneapolis Ibaraki Sister City Association

In recognition of its distinguished service in promoting mutual understanding between Japan and the US and contributing to promoting friendly relations between Japan and other nations.

Awarded on August 20, 2021

MOTEGI Toshimitsu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

Ice Fishing

Helane Monsour

Ice fishing on Minnesota lakes is a popular way to spend time during Minnesota Winters.



Ice fishing is best done on lakes because there is no underwater current. The ice must be thick enough to be safe.



This fisherman is fishing with his sons.

They measure the ice to see if the ice is thick enough to be safe.

The man shows the depth on the auger; the ice measures about 12 inches.

The man and son drill a hole into the ice with the auger.





They are fishing for walleyes. Walleyes are tasty cooked in batter and fried.



They have a sled which carries a cooler for fish they may catch.

The sled also has extra fishing poles, and other things they may need for their day on the lake.



A tent is a good shelter from the wind and cold.



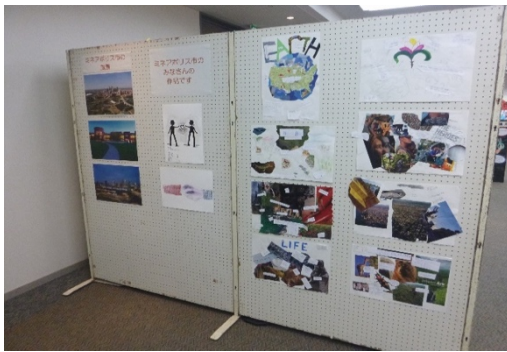
It is important to be safe on the ice.

The ice is deep enough to hold a large car safely.

Greetings from IFAI - Exchange program of calligraphy and art works by children and students between Minneapolis and Ibaraki City.

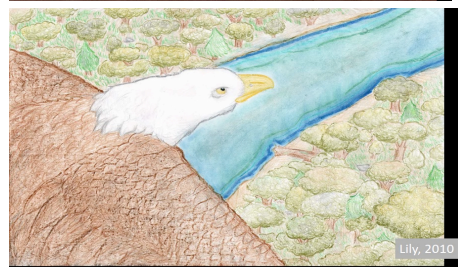
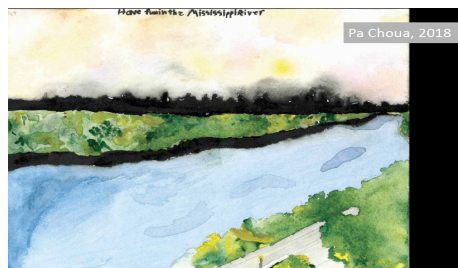
The exchange program of calligraphy and art works by children and students between Minneapolis and Ibaraki City began in 1981, the year after the sister city affiliation between the two cities. This event is still held today to let kindergarteners and elementary and junior high school students know more about the sister city relationship between the two cities, and to promote cultural exchange and friendship between the two cities.

This year, 49 works of art from Minneapolis were sent to Ibaraki City. They are part of the winning entries of the Big River Art Contest, in which students between the ages of 8 and 12. Participate. This contest is an annual contest for elementary school students to show their appreciation for the Mississippi River.



The works sent by Minneapolis to Ibaraki city are displayed at the sister and friendship city corner within the "General Exhibition" held at City Hall, along with the art works of children and students from Ibaraki City municipal kindergartens, elementary and junior high schools, which was held online as a measure to prevent the spread of the COVID - 19.

The works received by Minneapolis from Ibaraki City are displayed at the English Haiku Contest Award Ceremony, and often at the cherry blossom festival on Nicollet Island. They add color to the festive ceremonies.



We hope that the 25-art works sent from Ibaraki City will add color to the award ceremony of the English Haiku Contest this year as well.

Haiku Contest 2022

MISCA received over 600 entries for this years Haiku Contest!

This year's theme was jitsu (実) which means fruit or bear fruit.

MISCA Board members just completed their round of judging and the 30 top Haikus in each category will soon be sent to Ibaraki for final judging.

We are looking to have the Haiku Awards Ceremony sometime this April – and hoping that we will be able to do it as in person event this year – cross your fingers!

Winning students and their teachers will be notified by the end of March.

Wishing all the entrants the best of luck!



The Dining Room is now open! A portion of the dining room is set aside for walk ins; seating here is first come first served. They are now accepting reservations on a limited basis for parties of six or less. Zenbox is still offering takeout delivery and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 4:30 – 9 p.m. You can find their online menu at:

[Zenbox.com](https://zenbox.com)

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>

Kamoda Shōji:

The Art of Change

Kamoda Shōji (1933 – 1983) was one of Japan's more celebrated potters and had a considerable following in Japan and more recently in the United States.

This exhibition is the first outside of Japan and features nearly 50 works from 10 private American collections that span his entire career.

This exhibition of his works is currently on display at the Minneapolis Institute of Art until April 17, 2022 (Cargill Gallery – Free Exhibition).

We hope that you will check this out!

Explore Ibaraki

IIN Working Group on Outdoor Activities

There are many little-known but interesting places in Ibaraki. In this issue, we would like to introduce several spots in the north of Ibaraki. We hope you will get interested in and venture to these gems next time you visit us.

Explore IBARAKI

- 1 Ibaraki shrine (kuroi no shimizu)
- 2 Sasukehi ato (Furuta Oribe)
- 3 Kawabata Yasunari Literature Hall
- 4 Marumata, Fushimiya
- 5 Tanaka-cho Tenman-gu
- 6 Confluence of Aigawa, Ibaraki rivers
- 7 Soji-ji temple



1. Ibaraki Shrine (the map, no.1)



Ibaraki Shrine is located between JR Ibaraki Station and Hankyu Ibaraki Station.

It worships Takehaya-Susanoonamikoto, one of the greatest Shinto-kami or deities. His brave fights with Great Snake are often performed in Bunraku and Kabuki.

We visit the shrine to ask for our happiness for annual events, such as New Year's Day, (1) *Toka Ebisu*, (2) *Wakuguri sinnji* or *Chinowa-kuguri*, the Summer Festival, (3) *Shichigosan*, (4) *Omiyamairi*, (5) *Yakubarai* etc.

The highlights of Ibaraki Shrine are Haiden or the hall of worship (the photo above), Ootorii or the Giant Gate, and the East Gate (the photo below). The East Gate used to be Karamete-Gate, the back gate, of former Ibaraki Castle.

Notes: (1) festival on January 10 to wish for wealth (2) walking through a hoop made of kaya grass wishing for protection against evil (3) celebration of children's growth when they are 3, 5 and 7 years old. (4) babies' first visit to shrine to pray for their health (5) warding off the evil and bad luck

Kuroi no Shimizu



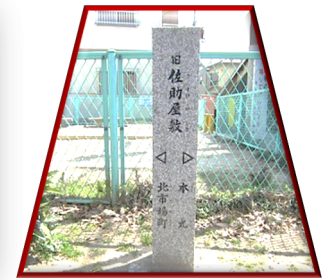
Ibaraki has long been famous for Kuroi no Shimizu well water, one of the three best waters in northern Osaka. Toyotomi Hideyoshi, the greatest warlord, liked the water so much that he ordered fresh water from Kuroi every time he held a tea party. Today, the Kuroi Tea Ceremony is held in October.

Ibaraki Shrine is currently being rebuilt. Next time you come to Ibaraki; you can see the beautifully renewed shrine.

2. Sasukehi ato: Furuta Oribe (the map, no.2)

Ibaraki is located between Kyoto and Osaka, and has played an important role as a transportation hub since ancient times. A castle was built there and it has developed as a castle town.

A stone monument stands quietly near the place where the castle was located. It says there used to be a residence of Sasuke (also known as Furuta Oribe) around here.



In 1544, he was born into a war lord family in Gifu prefecture, later came to Ibaraki as a servant of influential war lord. At that time, the world was the Warring States Period, and many war lords were competing to take the whole country.

Every day, while devoting their time to war, they absorbed in the tea ceremony to gain peace of mind or to formulate war operations. Some of tea utensils were equivalent to the value of a castle. Oribe also emerged as one of the great tea masters, made a reputation for himself. He produced tea utensils, tea rooms, gardens, etc., and became the founder of the Oribe school.



An image of tea ceremony

3. Ibaraki Municipal Kawabata Literature Hall (the map, no.3)

Kawabata Yasunari is the first Japanese to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1968. Why was Kawabata given the Nobel Prize? Kawabata is famous for his works like "Snow Country" (*Yukiguni*), "Thousand Cranes" (*Sennbaturu*) and "The Old Capital" (*Koto*). They express the Japanese mind with great sensibility and deeply impressed people of the world.



Kawabata was born in Osaka City 1899, and lost his parents before he was three years old. He was brought up by his paternal grandparents who lived at *Toyokawa* in Ibaraki city.

From the days he was in elementary school, he would sit almost every day on the branch of an evergreen *mokkoku* tree in his grandfather's garden and read books. Ibaraki is the place of his youth where Kawabata lived until he graduated from Ibaraki High School, solidified his literary aspirations, and took the first step.

Ibaraki city conferred the title of Honorary Citizen on Kawabata Yasunari and opened the Kawabata Yasunari Literary Museum and many citizens became familiar with Kawabata and his literature.

On display are about 400 items such as books authored by Kawabata, his letters, manuscripts and calligraphic works as well as the scale model of his childhood home, photographs and videos including the Nobel award ceremony in Stockholm in 1968.

Ibaraki citizens and visitors to Ibaraki, please visit the Kawabata Literature Hall.

4. Marumata and Fusimiya (the map, no.4)

MARUMATA is a brick tunnel. The bricks are stacked at an angle to be strong. Generally, this kind of twisted brick tunnel is called nejiri manpo.

The Tokaido Main Line runs on this Japan's oldest elevated railway over the tunnel built in the early Meiji era, in 1877. The tunnel is a living road which many citizens pass through every day.

When we go through Marumata, we come to Fushimiya, the oldest konnyaku and tofu factory in Ibaraki city. Fushimiya follows their traditional method of making tofu. They have used good underground water from a 300-foot-deep well for long.

Tofu is made into various products including sweets such as cake and donuts.

The picture below shows one of my home tofu dishes, Yudoufu. Tofu can be used for many dishes. Don't you think they look delicious?



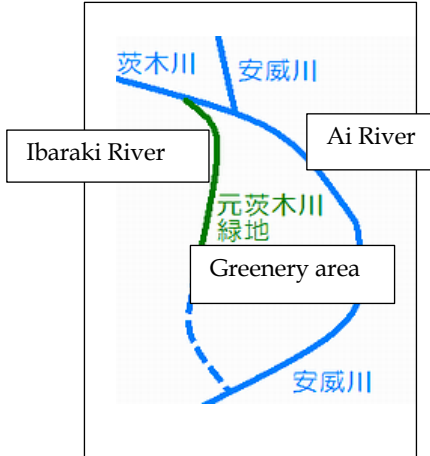
5. Tanakacho Tenmangu (the map, no.5)



It is a small shrine in the residential area but has a historical background with Sugawara Michizane, a shinto kami or deity of learning. Michizane was a leading court scholar and political figure in the late 9th century, but under a false accusation by his political rival, he was sent into exile to Dazaifu, Kyushu. On the way to Dazaifu, Michizane stayed at Tanakacho and protested his innocence. But the Tanakacho people drove him away. Disappointed, he left for Dazaifu, where he died in disgrace. After his death, a series of calamities such as storms, fires, and epidemics hit Japan. Attributing this to the exiled Michizane's angry spirit, people all over Japan built shrines dedicated to him to placate his anger, and so did the Tanakacho people.

Now, Michizane is venerated as a shinto kami of learning. Many students visit here, wishing for academic success.

6. Confluence of the Ai River and the Ibaraki River (the map, no.6)



The Ai river and the Ibaraki river were flooded again and again. Because the river bed was higher than surroundings and banks were fragile. People lobbied local government and home ministry to reform the two rivers. Finally, replacement of the Ibaraki River was decided and the construction was conducted in 1939~1943. And also, twisting two rivers straightened. The Ibaraki River joined up with the Ai River. Because there's three reasons. Firstly, the Ibaraki River passed city center. Secondly, county government existed in Ibaraki city center. Thirdly, amount of the Ibaraki River was one fifth of the Ai River. The monument had constructed at the confluence of the two rivers as memory. The former Ibaraki River became greenery area which is known as Sakura St. and a park where citizens enjoy nowadays.



7. Soji-Ji (the map no. 7)

Soji-Ji, of the **Shingon sect of Buddhism**, is the 22nd of the 33 Pilgrimage Sites of Western Japan. It was founded in the late 9th century during the Heian period by Lord *Fujiwara Yamakage*, a Minister of State. Soji-Ji has a legend of a turtle who helped *Yamakage*. The thousand-armed Kannon is the image of this temple known as "Kannon on a turtle" mentioned in the legend. *Yamakage* is also said to be the "Father of the Japanese Kitchen Knife".

In the late 16th century, during the Warring States period, Soji-Ji became the fort of Oda Nobunaga, a powerful warlord of that time. The temple was set on fire during the Battle of Ibaraki and burned down. In 1603, at the order of warlord Toyotomi Hideyori, Katagiri Katsumoto, a chief retainer of Hideyori, rebuilt Soji-Ji and its peripheral buildings.

Although the temple was damaged by fire in later periods, parts of it remain as they were in the Heian period. Many people visit Soji-Ji as a place of Kannon worship today.



いばらきたんぼう
茨木探訪

IIN^{やがいかつどうぶんかかい}野外活動分科会

茨木市内には隠れた名所がたくさんあります。今回は茨木市北部の見どころをご紹介します。茨木市の宝であるこれら名所に興味を抱かれ、次回茨木に来られた際に足を運んで頂ければ幸いです。

いばらきじんじゃ ちず
1. 茨木神社 (地図1)

茨木神社は、JR茨木駅と阪急茨木市駅のほぼ中央にあります。神話上、最も偉大な神様の御一人である建速素戔嗚尊をお祀りしています。彼と大蛇の勇敢な戦いはしばしば文楽や歌舞伎で演じられます。

人々は、初詣、十日戎、輪くぐり神事(茅の輪くぐり)、夏祭り、七五三、お宮参り、厄払い等、毎年恒例の行事で、神社にお参りし幸せをお願いします。

茨木神社の見どころは拝殿(写真左)・大鳥居・東門鳥居(写真右)です。東門は元々、旧茨木城の搦手門でした。

くろい しみず
黒井の清水

茨木は古くから「黒井の清水」と呼ばれる湧き水で有名でした。大阪北部三名水の一つです。戦国時代の武将豊臣秀吉はこの水をととても気に入り、茶会を開くたびに黒井の清水を注文しました。今日、「黒井の茶会」が10月に行われています。

茨木神社は、現在再建中です。次回茨木に来られた時は、美しく生まれ変わった神社を見て頂きますよ。

さすけいせき くるたおりべ ちず
2. 佐助碑跡(古田織部)(地図2)

茨木は京、大阪の間に位置し、古代から交通の要衝として重要な役割を果たしてきました。そこに城が築かれ、城下町として発展を遂げてきました。

その城があった場所の近くにひっそりと石碑が佇んでいます。この辺りに佐助(別名、古田織部)の屋敷があったそうです。

1544年に岐阜の武士の家に生まれた古田織部は有力武士の家来となって茨木にやってきました。当時、世は戦国時代であり、天下を取ろうと武士たちはしのぎを削っていました。

日々、戦に明け暮れる一方で彼らは心の平安を得るため、あるいは、戦の作戦を練るため、茶の湯に傾倒していました。たった一つの茶道具が城の価値に相当するものもありました。織部も茶人の一人として頭角を現し、名声をほしいままにしていました。彼は茶道具や茶室、庭園などをプロデュースし、織部流の創始者となりました。

3. 茨木市立 川端康成文学館 (地図3)

川端康成は日本人として初めて1968年にノーベル文学賞を受賞しました。なぜ川端康成にノーベル賞が与えられたのでしょうか？

川端康成は日本人独特の感受性を持って、“雪国”、“千羽鶴”“や”古都“などの作品で、深く世界の人々を感動させたのでした。

川端康成は1899年に大阪市で生まれましたが、3歳になる前に両親を失いました。彼は3歳から大阪茨木市豊川の祖父母の下で育てられました。小学生の頃から、彼は毎日のように祖父母の家の庭にある木斛の樹上で、本を読んでいた。茨木市は彼が旧制茨木中学を卒業するまで過ごした青春の地であり、彼の文学が芽生え、そして第一歩を踏み出した地です。

茨木市は川端康成に名誉市民賞を与え、そして多くの市民が川端康成やその文学に親しむ拠点となる様に、川端康成文学館を開館しました。

文学館では川端氏の著書、書簡、原稿や墨書の他子供の頃の家模型、写真にノーベル賞受賞式のビデオ等約400点が展示されています。

茨木市民の方や茨木市を訪れた皆様、どうぞ川端康成文学館を訪れてみて下さい。

4. まるまた、伏見屋 (地図4)

まるまたは煉瓦のトンネルです。煉瓦は強度を増すよう重ねられています。一般にこのように煉瓦を積んだトンネルをねじりまんぼと呼びます。東海道本線が明治時代初期1877年に建設されたこの日本で一番古い高架鉄道を走っています。このトンネルは今も多くおおくの市民が通る現役の道です。

まるまたを通り過ぎると伏見屋にきます。伏見屋は茨木市で一番古い蒟蒻と豆腐の工場です。伏見屋は昔ながらの伝統的製法を守っています。300フィートの井戸から良質の地下水を使用しています。

豆腐はケーキやドーナツのようなスイーツなどいろいろな製品に変わります。写真下は我が家の豆腐料理の一つ湯豆腐です。豆腐は実に様々な料理に使われます。おいしそうですね？

5. 田中町天満宮 (地図5)

住宅地に静かに佇む、学問の神菅原道真所縁の小さな神社です。以下は道真と天満宮の話です。道真は9世紀後半の有名な学者で政治家でした。しかし政敵の謀略により九州の大宰府に左遷されます。大宰府への道中、田中町に立ち寄り、自身の無実を訴えましたが田中町の人々は道真を追放してしまいます。失意のもと大宰府に渡った道真は当地で無念の死を迎えました。道真の死後、嵐や大火事、疫病等の厄災が頻発し、人々はそれを道真の怨霊のせいと恐れしました。そこで道真の怒りを収めるべく各地に彼を祀る神社を建てたのです。田中町の人たちもこの地に神社を建てました。

今では道真は学問の神と崇められ、学生たちが学問成就を願って訪れる神社となっています。

6. 安威川・茨木川合流の碑 (地図6)

安威川と茨木川は何度も何度も洪水になりました。なぜなら、茨木川は天井川で土手も崩れやすかったからです。茨木の人々は、大阪府や内務省にこの二つの川を改修するよう働きかけました。ついに、茨木川の付け替え工事が認められ、1939年から1943年まで工事が行われました。流れのくねった二つの川は、真っすぐにされました。こうして茨木川が安威川に合流することになりました。次の3つの理由からです。一つ目は、茨木川は市の中心を通っていたからです。二つ目は、郡役所が市の中心にあったからです。三つ目は、茨木川の水量は、安威川の5分の一だったこともあり。こうして、二つの川の合流の碑が、記念に作られました。元茨木川は、今は公園と桜通りとして親しまれる緑地帯になり、市民に親しまれています。

7. 総持寺(地図7)

真言宗の総持寺は、西国三十三所巡礼の第二十二番札所です。9世紀末の平安時代に、太政大臣であった藤原山陰公によって創建されました。総持寺には山陰を助けた亀の伝説があります。"千手観音"と、呼ばれるご本尊が「亀に乗った観音様」としてその伝説に登場します。また、山陰は「日本の包丁の父」とも言われています。

16世紀末の戦国時代、この境内は当時の有力武将であった織田信長の砦となり、茨木の戦いで火を放たれて焼け落ちました。1603年、戦国武将・豊臣秀頼の命により、秀頼の重臣・片桐且元が総持寺とその周辺を再建しました。その後も火災による被害を受けましたが、一部は平安時代のまま残っています。

総持寺は、多くの人々が観音信仰の場として訪れます。

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:
Tuesday, February 15, 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.

Haiku Awards Ceremony

Date, time and venue to
be determined

Please check out our
Facebook page for virtual
events