

MINNIBARAKI

Our Forty-fourth Year

Minneapolis Ibaraki Sister City Association



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2024 Trip to Ibaraki

Eight members were able to travel to Ibaraki City from November 13 through November 20. Everyone had a great time! Our hosts from IIN and IFAI were great and planned wonderful activities for us.

These activities included:

- A belated 40th Anniversary Celebration with IIN members, which included:
 - A live performance of the puppet show we would see later – stupendously done
 - A sencha tea ceremony
 - Making Japanese sweets
- Bus tour to Awaji Island, including:
 - Making incense
 - A puppet show at Ningyoza Theater
- Sister Cities Day at the new Kitashin Hall in the Onikuru Building
- A visit to Sojiji Temple
- A meeting with the Mayor Fukuoka of Ibaraki
- A 40th Anniversary Party in the Onikuru Building
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You can find photos of our visit in pages 3 through 6.

Friends of the Bell of Two Friends

Diamond Friends

Bill Deef
Michael Rainville
Karl Reinhard

Platinum Friends

Jack Sattel and Karen Sontag Sattel
Mary Witkus & Werner Kohler

Gold Friends

Jessica Manivasager

Silver Friends

Richard & Marie-Rose Lundgren
Dan Rolf

Bronze Friends

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

2024 English Speech Contest

IFAI held their 41st English Speech Contest on October 20, 2024. Sixteen junior high school students and three high school students participated. Below is the winning speech, given by Zheng Yi Jie, Year II of Osaka Prefectural Fukui High School.

The Power of Relationships

Who is in your circle?

There is a force that shapes my life in profound ways. It is called *the power of relationships*. Whether it's family, friends, or mentors, the connections I built have influenced who I am and who I have become. Through these relationships, with emphasis on friends, I have truly thrived.

According to a Harvard study by social psychologist Dr. David McClelland, your 'friends' account for as much as 95% of your success.

At their core, relationships provide support. When I face challenges, it is often the people around me who lift me up. Last year, as I prepared for crucial certifications, one of my close circle of friends, Koichi, played a vital role in my success. He encouraged me to stay focused, helped me create study plans, and always answered my questions with patience and positivity. Thanks to his guidance, I was able to pass my exams and earn my certifications.

This experience showed me that relationships are not just about friendship and support – but about growth and learning as well. Without Koichi's mentorship, the journey would have been much harder. This is *the true power of relationships*: 'they' pushed me to be a better version of myself. Therefore, it is important that I do not discount, devalue or discard them.

Relationships are not only about what I receive; they are also about what I give.

My small acts of kindness, gratitude and understanding, can also affect others in return.

In conclusion, relationships uplifted, inspired, and helped me grow. So, please cherish the connections you have, and do continue to build new ones.

Thank you for listening.

Ibaraki Trip Photos

Mary Witkus, Dan Rolf, Karl Reinhard



IIN Groups Day Hoashi Tsuyoshi – Photographer (top left in cap); Sakagami Michiko – Project Manager (top right, in center of group); Kazuko Yamaguchi holding the calligraphy she created for the theme of the event (top right); Noriko Kawase conducting Sencha tea ceremony (middle left, middle right and bottom left); Sayuri Yoshikawa (bottom right) showing her Japanese Sweets “Plum blossoms and rose (Ibaraki City Flower)”.



IIN Theater featuring Masa Sasaguchi (top left) as the emperor's older brother; Yuki Kawahara (top middle and right, middle left) in love with emperor then take over by the golden fox with 9 tails; Satoko Kimura (middle) as the emperor and chairperson Keiko Tsuji (middle right) bringing the light reflected by the mirrors to foil the plot to kill the emperor.



Awaji Suspension bridge; Karl in front of the bridge; an actual sized model of how the suspension cables are constructed.



Incense making at Awaji Island. Michiko Nakamura mixing the dough; Mary Witkus mixing her dough; others rolling their dough into a ball; Gousei Uemera rolling his dough into a ball; rolling the dough out to a consistent thickness.





Lunch at Awaji Island; Claire Lewis; Makiko Kato; Wakako Nosaka.



Outside of Ningyoza Theater; program; head puppeteer.





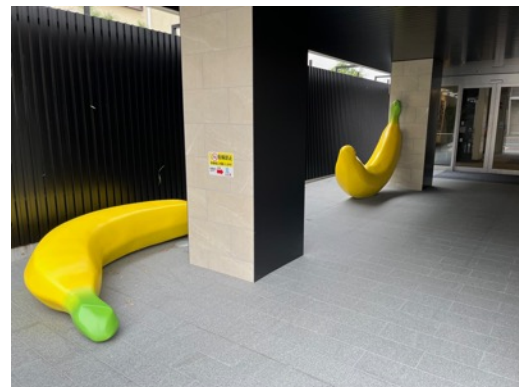
Sister Cities Day at the new Kitashin Hall in the Onikuru Building – Wakako Nosak leading the singing and inserting “Friendship” into the song Edelweiss; Dan Rolf with Mr. Wakabaiashi; Karl and Dan watching the ceremony; Toyoko Ando with Mary Witkus, Claire Lewis with Yoko Shimomura; Patrick, Mandy and Sherry having lunch.



A visit to Sojiji Temple



Farewell Party: IFAI President Shirodani and IFAI Vice President Tsuji; Karl Reinhard and Hiroshi Yoshino; Buffet line; Bill, Hiroshi, Mary & Noriko Kishida; Mary, Motoko Okada, Claire Lewis & Toichi Okada; Satoko Kimura, Junko Nishida, Sachiko Kikuzawa, Mary, Kyoko Taguchi; Group photo.



Visit to Mayor Fukuoka; Expo Park in Ibaraki; 100 Yen Shop; Bananas outside a shop; Karl with his Soccer Coach Friends (Kana Yamamoto, Kenta Ohashi, Karl, Isao Kawakami, Hiroaki Saruhashi).



Haiku

Karen Kersting

Pickleball-A fun learning experience in which to get exercise, be challenged and make new friends.

Ball meets paddle-thwack!
Arcs back over net swiftly
Smiles flash on both sides



Image courtesy of Vecteezy

Sorry for the newsletter delay Haiku

(a soccer story)

Karl Reinhard

Attacker strikes the ball
The defender blocks the shot!
Oh no, broken arm!!!



Five hours in ER
Next surgery, plate and screws
Arm now on the mend

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:

Wednesday, Feb 26 at 6:30 pm

Board meetings are held via
Zoom

Zoom Meeting with IIN

Tuesday, Feb 11 at 6:30 pm

If you would like to participate,
please email Karl Reinhard at:

misca.info@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Cherry Tree Festival

&

Haiku Awards Ceremony

Sunday, May 11 at 2 pm

MISCA Trip to Ibaraki

September 2025

Please check out or
Facebook page for other
events and information.

