

# MINNIBARAKI

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## Our Forty-fourth Year

*Minneapolis Ibaraki Sister City Association*



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45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ibaraki Delegation Visit to  
Minneapolis July 2025

August 6<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Ceremony

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## 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Happenings

November 2025 will mark the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Sister City relationship between Minneapolis and Ibaraki City.

In July a delegation of five citizens from Ibaraki visited Minneapolis to help celebrate the anniversary. See the following pages for photos during their visit.

In September, MISCA is planning a trip to Ibaraki City. A delegation of five MISCA members will be visiting Ibaraki City from September 21<sup>st</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>. Some will also be attending the US – Japan Sister Cities Summit in Izumisano, Osaka, Japan from September 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. Delegation members will also be spending a day at the world expo that is being held in Osaka.

## 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 Baugnet  
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*

## Ibaraki City Delegation Itinerary

Here is a list of things our guest from Ibaraki did during their visit to Minneapolis:

Saturday, July 19 – Arrive from Ibaraki; welcome reception at Wood & Paddle

Sunday, July 20 – Walking Tour of Downtown Minneapolis, Sister Cities Day at Nicollet Island Pavilion; dinner at Murray's Steakhouse.

Monday, July 21 – Meeting with Mayor Jacob Frey; sightseeing tour of St. Paul and Minneapolis provided by Kiku Enterprises, Inc.

Tuesday, July 22 – Visit to Longfellow Gardens; Visit to Minnehaha Falls; Lunch at Sea Salt; Book making a Mary's home; Dinner at Kindee Thai Restaurant; Attend performance of *Cabaret* at Guthrie Theater

Wednesday, July 23 – Shopping at Mall of America; visit Minneapolis Institute of Art; reception at Season Lounge; march in Aquatennial Parade (which was unfortunately canceled due to the possibility of severe weather)

Thursday, July 24 – Depart and return to Ibaraki



Arrival at the airport. L to R: Mr. Sei Shirotani, Ms. Yayoi Sabi, Ms. Ruri Sabi, Mary Witkus, Mr. Takashi Kiso, Mr. Toshiki Kawashima, Karl Reinhard, Dan Rolf, Carol Austermann.

## Our Guests from Ibaraki:

Mr. Sei Shirotani – President of IFAI

Mr. Teruya Tsuji – Vice President of IFAI

Mr. Toshiki Kawashima – IFAI Secretariat Staff

Ms. Ruri Sabi – Ibaraki citizen

Ms. Yayoi Sabi – Ibaraki citizen

Mr. Takashi Kiso – Tour conductor

## Reception at Wood & Paddle



Mr. Toshiki Kawashima &  
Mr. Takashi Kiso



Werner Kohler, Mr. Toshiki  
Kawashima & Mr. Takashi Kiso



Ms. Yayoi Sabi, Ms. Ruri Sabi &  
Claire Lewis



Karl Reinhard & Hiroshi Yoshino



Mr. Sei Shiotani & Shiro Katagiri



Carol Austermann &  
Hiroshi Yoshino



Elida Zaldivar-Parada, Bill Deef &  
Hiroshi Yoshino



Mary Witkus & Dan Rolf



Pat Katagiri & Cynthia Haskell



Mr. Sei Shiotani with his dessert at  
Murray's





The Mighty Drumming Group opening Minneapolis Sister Cities Day with a performance.



Minneapolis Sister Cities Day:  
MISCA Information table; Ms. Yayoi Sabi; Forty-Fifth Anniversary Cake



A visit to the Longfellow Gardens at Minnehaha Park



A visit to Minnehaha Falls



A visit to Mary Witkus' home



Making Photo Books at Mary's house



## August 6 Remembrance Ceremony by Karen Kersting

The mood was somber, yet hopeful as a small crowd began to gather in the morning hours of August 6, 2025. In the Lyndale Peace Garden of Minneapolis colorful paper cranes hung in strands of 17, moving softly in the breeze, and stirring our hearts with memories. We had come in commemoration of the many lives lost because of the Hiroshima bombing 80 years ago on this very day. People gathered quietly under the gray skies and greeted one another as guitar music brought us together with songs of hopefulness, camaraderie, the ending of wars, better days to come with reminders to really see and hear and know each other. Voices rang out as the beautiful late summer flowers worked their magic.

A group of young girls decorated the surrounding area with the cranes they'd been folding since February. One of them had decided to do something for her 17th birthday that would make a positive impact. The others joined their friend enthusiastically and had been folding for 6 months! All participants in today's vigil were given a crane by the girls and encouraged to bring it home or place it somewhere in the garden as a special remembrance. A local storyteller shared the moving story of Sadako and the Cranes followed by a young man who detailed his journey through the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. Both were very impactful.

As we listened, planes flew overhead in a steady flight pattern toward the airport, causing the speakers to stop and pause while waiting for the noise of the engines to lessen. It was eerie for me to look up and see the planes in the sky this morning. I thought of the many, 80 years ago, who looked up at the sound of a plane-possibly pointing or waving in excitement, and never realizing the next moment would be their last. Their beautiful life was turned into a horrible nightmare. EVERYTHING CHANGED in a flash!

At 8:15 we observed a moment of silence as we remembered, hoped and prayed that such destruction would never happen again. A group of veterans each held a handmade bell which they rang together 11 times. Every November 11th, at 11:00 they do this to celebrate the war's end. A procession of those with cloth peace banners wove their way through the garden and over the peace bridge while others followed, giving time for talking and dreaming together of possibilities to come.



### 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

### Board of Directors

Karl Reinhard.....Chair  
Patrick Good ..... Vice Chair  
Brian Haskell..... Secretary  
Cynthia Haskell .....Treasurer

### Board Members

Karen Kersting  
Helane Monsour  
Dan Rolf  
Werner Kohler  
Mary Witkus

## More Information

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## MINNEAPOLIS- IBARAKI SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

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### Upcoming Board Meetings:

TBD

Board meetings are held vis Zoom

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

[misca.info@gmail.com](mailto:misca.info@gmail.com)



## Upcoming Events

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MISCA delegation visit  
to Ibaraki City

Sept 21 - 27

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