

9 月度木曜例会 (2016/09/01)

9 月の木曜例会はいつも通り Group Talking で、夏休みの出来事等会員同志グループに分かれて話し合います。その前に今回は 7 月 9 日～11 日間「ミネアポリス体験ツアー」に、参加者 10 名中 IIN 会員が 6 名参加しましたのでその体験談を聞きましょう。更にミネアポリス観光局に長年勤めていた宮本裕子さんをお迎えしました。何人もの IIN 会員のみなさんがミネアポリスで宮本さんにお世話になっています。さあ～どんな楽しい話が飛び出しますやら。後半はグループトーク、各自夏休みの思い出を発表。

皆さん久しぶりの顔合わせです。夏休みを終え、新学期を迎えた小学生のような雰囲気が感じられました。

I lived in Mpls for two years from 1987 to 1989.

Minneapolis is the second hometown - my home sweet home - for my family. After coming back to Japan, I have had opportunities to visit my old friends several times.

This year, I had a chance to visit Mpls as a member of the Mpls Experience Tour 2016. Fortunately, some IIN members waiting for a cancellation moved up, and finally ten people including 6 IIN members could go there. This visit was so special and fruitful.

Mr. Arthur and MISCA members gave us a warm and memorable welcome and hospitality.

I'm sure that many exchanges have taken place between Mpls and Ibaraki not only many friendships but also good relationship have been made over many years.

I would like to add some information on the history of this tour.

IIN started 'the Study Tour' many years ago and IFAI followed the program afterwards. Then it was modified as 'the Mpls Experience Tour' in 2015, and the tour 2016 finished successfully as well. I really hope to continue this opportunity and our relationship from now on. (M.S)



I really enjoyed all programs of this tour. I met many Americans, got new Japanese friends through this tour.

How do you pronounce Minnesota? My dictionary says [minnesota] But local people, Minneapolis people pronounce it [minesoda] as same as [toyoda] not [toyota]. I believe them. So I pronounce it [Minesoda] now

Martha was my host wife. Nasser was my host husband. I think some of us may remember her.

Martha is a professor emerita of St, Catherine University. She visited Ibaragi with her students, joined our meeting in January. My host family entertained us very well in the casual way, so I could see their usual days. Martha likes playing cross-word puzzle on the newspaper every

morning and takes a nap in the afternoon. Nasser reads many newspapers carefully and plays tennis in the afternoon a few days a week.

They cooked us their special dinner for us. Martha cooked a kind of beef-stew in her way. Nasser cooked rice in his special way. These dishes are popular among their friends.

I could enjoy their cooking with them, and Martha called me "sous-chef" The dinner with wine was yummy, of course. Thank you! (A.Y)



I used to live in Minneapolis forty years ago.

The things that never changed are encountering nice people, receiving full of hospitality and developing a friendship.

During the tour, I was nearly drowned in hospitality of MISCA members and their friends.

The familiar faces like Arthur, Doug, Mary and Werner picked us up in the morning and took us to the attractions and dropped us off the dorm in the evening every single day.

Moreover, they kindly invited us to their home, preparing afternoon tea and BBQ. Of course as a host family. This is a just part of their enthusiastic welcome. This tour was not an ordinary packed tour but authentic handmade tour. After forty years, I've discovered never-changing friendship again.

Last but not certainly least, I'd like to express my heartfelt gratitude for them and also nine tour members. Finally we ended up to be a very good team. And I'm already thinking what I should do when they're coming the year after next. (M.T)

一番印象に残っていることはホームステイ。The most impressive thing for me was Home Stay. 女性 3 人で一緒に買い物したり、ランチに出かけたり、とても楽しくて自由な時間でした。

3 women used plenty time for shopping, going out for lunch and so on.

ちなみに、帰国してから驚いたことは、私の周りの茨木人は姉妹都市ミネアポリス市へのツアーがあることを知っていたこと。(Y.K)



The trip to Minneapolis was the best memory of my life.

Because I was in a wheelchair due to a knee problem, the members of IIN and MISCA helped me with everything.

I learned that the American spirit of volunteerism is different from that of Japan's. For example, the MISCA members welcomed us to their homes every day. They held barbeque parties at a different person's home every single day, and took us on a two-day trip. It was not only the MISCA members who helped. A very high-status friend of a MISCA member – a female air traffic controller -- took a week off of work just to help us. She drove us around every day. I was amazed with the level of America's volunteer spirit.

I was also impressed with how wheelchair-accessible Minneapolis was. There were slopes everywhere – in the museum, the shopping mall, and regular streets. It was very convenient to get around in a wheelchair.

It was unfortunate that I needed to be in a wheelchair, but I am so glad that I went. In fact, because I didn't walk for a week, my knee healed enough so that I was able to dance the bon odori on the last day! I am so grateful for everyone's help. Thank you very much! (Y.N)

宮本さんは1992年以來23年間ミネアポリスに居住、その内20年間をミネアポリスコンベンション観光協会アジア担当として勤務、現在は大阪でアメリカ文化のコンサルタント、コーディネーター、旅行、観光等を通じ国際交流を推進しています。またジュエリーアーティストとしても活躍。彼女ならではのミネアポリスの良さをレクチャーしてくれました。その内容を記しましょう。



まず Minnesota の語源はダコタインディアンの sky tinted on water, minne は水を意味します。

カープレートに 10,000 lakes と書かれているように非常に沢山の湖があり実際には2万以上あるとか。最大はスペリオル湖で3州に跨ります。さらには世界で4位の Mississippi 川、これも father of the water を意味します。では質問！上位3つの川は？そうです、アマゾン、ナイル、黄河ですね。ところで4,000km を流れる源流に行ったことありますか？カナダ国境に近いイタスカ湖にあります。さて皆さんの Minneapolis に関する理解度は？コーンフィールドの中にポツンとある田舎町と思っはいませんか？全米16位のビッグシティ、アメリカのほぼ中心に位置しています。その為巨大な国際空港を持ち、テレビの天気予報には欠かせませんし、金融市場のハブともなっています。スカイウェイのおかげで厳寒の真冬でもダウンタウンはどこにでも行けますし、治安も良く一度も危ない目にあつたことはありません。でもテロリストにとっては狙い目かも。それからモールオブアメリカ！それは単なるショッピングモールではなく屋内型テーマパークの極みであり Expo city のモデルでもあります。マイナス30度の厳寒の時期にヨーロッパから訪れる人を沢山迎えます。理由はショッピングのみならず grey sky の国々から blue sky の下で太陽を愛でたいから。このような都市と姉妹都市であることを誇ってください。

ところで私が Mississippi の12歩で渡れる源流からメキシコ湾



Baton Rouge に至る旅を計画したら参加してくれますか？この旅は死の直前に走馬灯のように思い出される素晴らしいものになることを請け合いますよ。

