MISCA Presentation 2022 / 4/22

How or why or When we had been connected to Japan.

I had my first painting lessons from a Japanese teacher when I was 10 years old, and that experience made Japan very intriguing to me.

For more than 20 years I have studied with several painting teachers. Here are two examples of my work. Many of our Japanese guests have been to Bob Schmitt's studio.

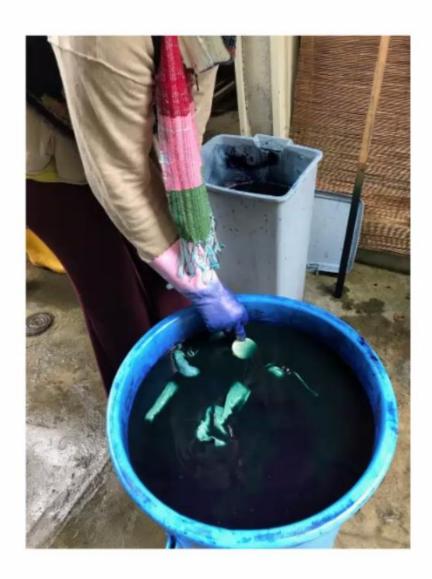
We study and copy from the Master painters.



In 1995 I took my first trip to Japan, alone, for three weeks, and it was an adventure. I got lost a lot!

In 2017 I returned to Japan on a textile study tour.

We experienced dyeing with indigo, spinning cotton, and weaving on a Saori Japanese loom.



This is me at the main Saori weaving studio somewhere near Osaka.



Japanese textiles are beautiful, and there are several examples hanging on the walls in my home.

There is a wedding kimono, a noren and a farmer's jacket.

The textiles range from the most formal to the most humble.



Antique noren from Katsuyama.



Antique boro farmer's jacket.



There is a Japanese Saori weaving loom in my living room, and a sample of my weaving. Saori weaving is a joyful experience because it is satisfying to work with all kinds of beautiful yarns.

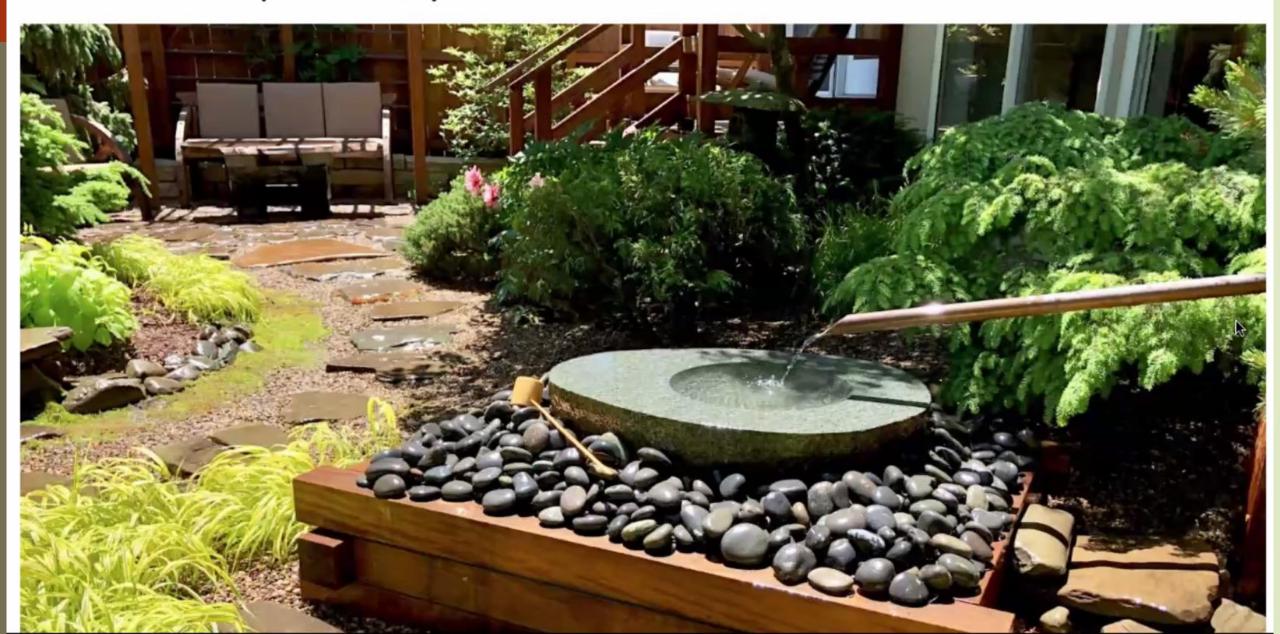


Mary Witkus & Werner Koehler





Our Japanese-style Garden Bonus



Another group of Ibaraki Friends



and more ibaraki Friends



Thank you for taking us to visit Gardens in Japan



Thank you for taking us to visit Gardens in Japan

















High School

Japanese Culture Class

Literature Haiku Noh Kabuki and more!

Mrs. Mills
would say
"When you go
to Japan..."
She never said
"if" always
"when"
because she
thought we
must go.



Hawaii

1983

Many Japanese neighbors

Started studying aikido

1985 Moved to Minneapolis

Continued aikido study



2006 May

Took my mother on a trip to Japan

Our first day in Narita was very colorful.

I remember the smell of jasmine flowers in Tokyo.



2008 November

2nd trip to Japan

This time with work colleagues to learn about Toyota improvement methods. Now I teach quality improvement to leaders at my hospital.

Dharuma goal:
"Learn to see
better by
practicing
drawing. Do 25
drawings."

Still not done!



2015 May

Received permission to study tea from Urasenke Konnichian Sen Soshitsu

My teacher in Minneapolis is Pat Katagiri-sensei.

Our study club, Yukimakai, has several events during the year.

Cynthia setting up for a tea event at Como Japanese Garden Tea House in St. Paul. Many items were a gift from Nagasaki Sister City to St. Paul group.









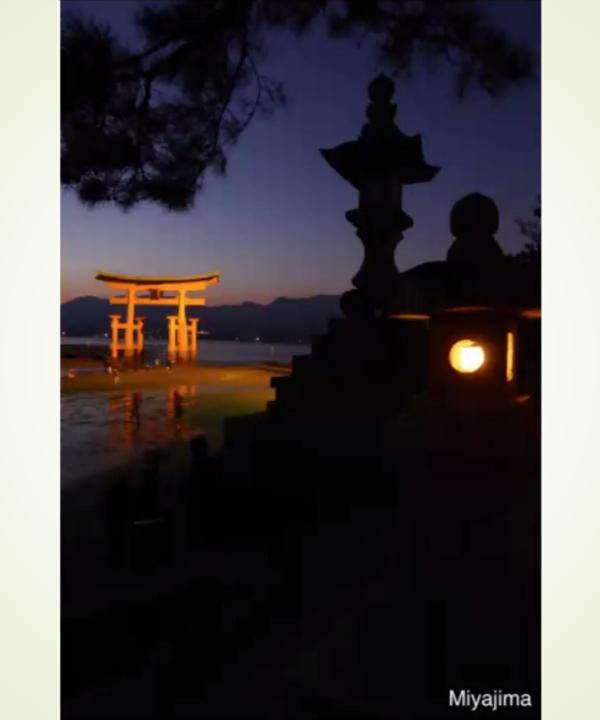
























.

We enjoyed Japanese food in many different ways from the traditional to the less traditional.





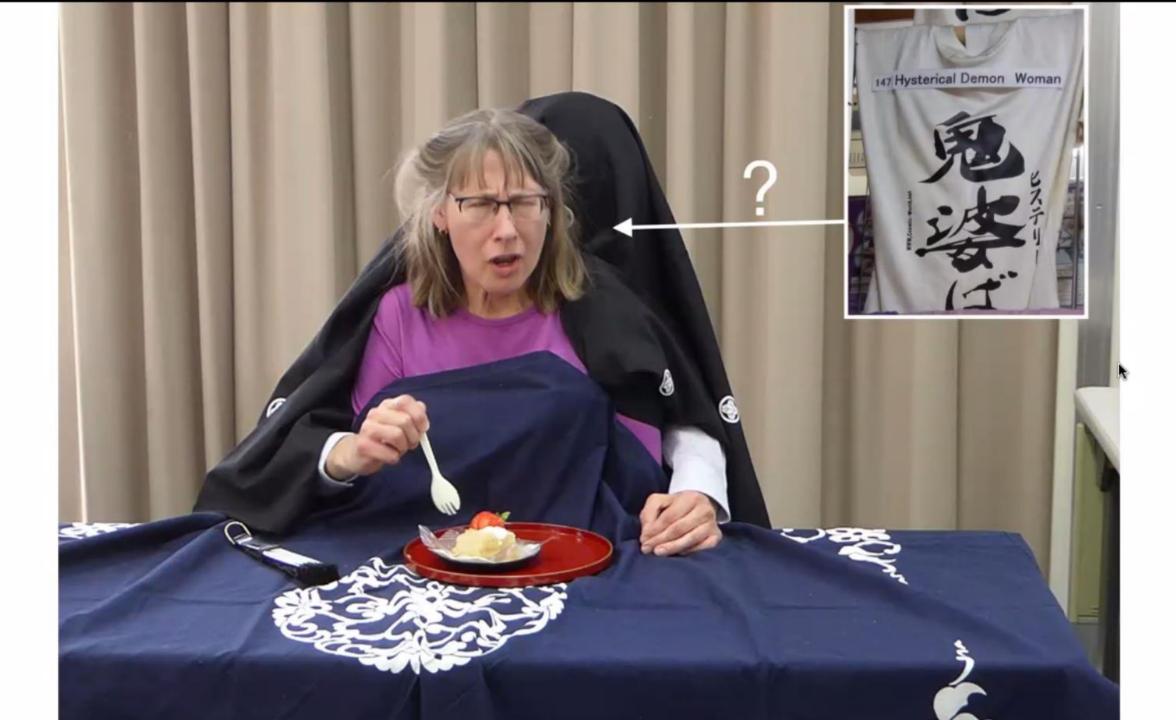
















.



1987 Sons of Norway USA Cup

My first year coaching a traveling soccer team with a new club called the Maple Brook Blast Soccer Association.

This team provided homes for the boys of the Ibaraki team.

In 1986 some of the same MapleBrook teams players had also provided homes for another team from Ibaraki.



The coach of the 1987 team was Susumu Tanigawa.

He stayed in my home (apartment) for that week.

We had a great time!



in 1988 another team from Ibaraki came to play in the USA Cup.

Again the team from MapleBrook provided homes for the boys.

Hideo Nakami was the coach (2nd from left in back row).

Michikazu Tanaka was assistant coach (Left end of back row), he stayed in my apartment for the week.

Again we had a great time!



During these visits to Minneapolis by the Ibaraki team, we were asked when we would bring a team to Ibaraki.

Well, that happened in 1989.

Not only did they play soccer, but also Basketball!



I got to see my coach friends again - even staying in Tanigawa's home!

And a chance to meet many other coaches.





1992 Soccer Visit

















1996 Soccer Visit

