May 2020 Volume 1, Issue 1

MINNIBARAKI

Our Fortieth Year

Minneapolis Ibaraki Sister City Association

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Bell of Two Friends

This monument located on Nicollet Island is in need of repairs.

Haiku Awards Ceremony

The forty winners from Minneapolis will receive their awards this April.

It has been forty years since Mayor Donald Fraser of Minneapolis and Mayor Toshiyuki Shigetomi of Ibaraki City signed documents declaring Minneapolis and Ibaraki Sister Cities (pictured above).

Unfortunately due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all trips and events between the two cities have been canceled for this year. We are hoping that we will be able to arrange trips for next year and to have some belated celebrations!

Welcome to MINNIBARAKI

Welcome to the first edition of the MINNIBARAKI newsletter!

Here we hope to keep you up to date on events sponsored by the Minneapolis Ibaraki Sister City Association.

We currently plan to publish MINNIBARAKI four times a year; in February, May, August and November. As time goes on, we hope to turn this into a monthly publication.

You can find a calendar of upcoming board meetings and events on page 4 of this issue.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter!

Bell of Two Friends: a 20th Anniversary Gift in need of Repairs MISCA Fundraising Campaign Has a $2000 Matching Grant Sponsor!

The "Bell of Two Friends" monument sits on Nicollet Island just southeast of the Nicollet Island Inn. It was a gift from the City of Ibaraki in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the sister city relationship.

Unfortunately Minnesota winters are taking a toll on the monument. The BOTF was constructed mainly of pre-cast concrete and is experiencing cracking due to the freeze thaw cycles of a typical Minnesota winter.

Although the cracks are small at this time – if nothing is done they will gradually get larger, resulting in pieces of the monument falling off.

The city of Minneapolis has again asked for and received estimates for needed repairs from the same conservator who repaired cracking ten years ago. Estimates to repair the cracking are approximately $9000.

The city of Minneapolis itself is unable to pay for the repairs – so the Minneapolis Ibaraki Sister City Association has undertaken a fundraising campaign to raise the repairs needed for current repairs as well as future repairs.

So far $4000 has been raised.

MISCA has reached out to Business and Art groups, but they are not in a financial position at this time to help out.

However, Mr. Michael Rainville has graciously agreed to match the next $2000 in contributions received by June 15th – that means any donation that members of MISCA give would be essentially doubled and put us very close to funding we need.

So if possible could you please contribute to the repairs for the "Bell of Two Friends" – even a $25 contribution becomes $50.

If you would like to contribute online please visit our Give to the MAX page at:

https://www.givemn.org/organization/Minneapolis-Ibaraki-City-Cultural-Association

Or you can send a check, payable to MISCA to:

MISCA
c/o Meet Minneapolis
801 Marquette Ave S. Suite 100
Minneapolis, MN 55402

MISCA hopes to raise the remaining $5000 by June 15th, so that repairs can take place this summer.

Minneapolis Artist Karen Sontag-Sattel created "The Bell of Two Friends".

It is based on the mold of a Donkatu Bell that was found in Ibaraki City Japan.

Did you know?

The Bell of Two Friends has a bell inside that can be rung after walking under the arch. However the cord to ring the bell tends to disappear if left in place, so it is only put in when MISCA holds celebrations around the bell: the annual Cherry Tree Festival and Sister Cities Days.

2020 Haiku Contest Awards Ceremony: Sunday, April 19th

Due to the pandemic MISCA will hold a Virtual Haiku Contest Awards Ceremony this year on Sunday, May 31st at 2 p.m.

Forty students and adults from Minneapolis will recite their Haiku for all other winners to hear. Comments from the Judge for the top three winners of each category will also be read.

Winners will receive their Certificate and gift from Ibaraki via U.S. mail after the ceremony.

The ceremony will be recorded, so that we can allow others to see via or website of Facebook page.

Friends of the "Bell of Two Friends"

All contributors to the repair fund for the "Bell of Two Friends" will become a member of the "Friend of the Bell of Two Friends" and shall be recognized as follows:

All Contributors:

Will be listed on MISCA's Website – misca.us, Facebook page and Newsletter

Contributions of $250-500

Will receive a small-framed Certificate recognizing their contribution

Contributions of $501-750

Will receive a medium-framed Certificate recognizing their contribution

Contributions of $751 or more

Will receive a large-framed Certificate recognizing their contribution

Contributions of $2000 or more

Will also have their name inscribed on a plaque next to the Bell of Two Friends

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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Website: misca.us

Facebook: Search for MISCA

Snail mail:

MISCA
c/o Meet Minneapolis
801 Marquette Ave S. Suite 100
Minneapolis, MN 55402

MINNEAPOLIS-IBARAKI SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

Upcoming Board Meetings:

Monday, June 15, 2020

Monday, July 13, 2020

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:

Kreinhard1957@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

The following Events have been canceled due to the pandemic.
Cherry Tree Festival (May)
Sister Cities Day (July)

We are hoping to resume our events later this year.

Holidazzle (December)