

## MISCA 2014

### Calendar of Events

**Monthly meetings held every second Saturday** in the Asian Culture Center at the Charles Wood Japanese Gardens.

January	Shinnen Kai (New Year celebration)
April	O-hanami Party
July/August	Summer cultural exchange
November	Mobile International Festival

### Officers

Cynthia Zipperly, Co-President (Mobile Co.)  
Mark Ewald, Co-President (Baldwin Co.)/Secretary  
Paula Tapia, Treasurer

### Email

[misca93@gmail.com](mailto:misca93@gmail.com)

### Online information

[www.miscamobile.com](http://www.miscamobile.com)

Facebook Group: Mobile Ichihara Sister City Association (MISCA)

### Office

Mobile Neighborhood Community Office, 2900 Dauphin St.,  
Mobile, AL 36606

### Meeting Location

Asian Culture Center in the **Charles Wood Japanese Gardens**  
at the corner of  
Springhill Avenue (Ziegler Blvd) and Forest Hill Drive,  
Mobile, AL 36608



MISCA

## MOBILE ICHIHARA SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

A Sister City organization opens to students and adults  
in Mobile and Baldwin Counties



Mobile 2014 exchange delegation holding fans they decorated with Japanese calligraphy with Ichihara students.

Established in 1993, MISCA's purpose is to strengthen the bonds of friendship by understanding and appreciating the different cultures and ways of life between Mobile, Alabama, U.S.A. and Ichihara, Chiba Prefecture, Japan through student and adult cultural and artistic exchanges.



Ichihara 2013 exchange delegation at Fairhope High School at the end of the cultural exchange activity day.

## ABOUT MISCA

### HISTORY

Mobile Ichihara Sister Cities Association (MISCA) was founded in November, 1993 as a part of Sister Cities International (SCI) headquartered in Washington DC. Sister city partnerships are created to increase global cooperation; promote cultural understanding; and stimulate economic development. SCI works to strengthen partnerships by motivating and empowering private citizens, municipal officials, and business leaders to conduct long-term programs of mutual benefit. The first Mobile/Ichihara student cultural exchange took place in 1994 and they have continued to the present year. The Ichihara International Association has sent several adult exchange delegations to Mobile for Mardi Gras, the Azalea Trail Run, and other occasions. MISCA assisted in hosting Japanese journalists/film-makers Teruo and Hiroki Nakamura in 2012 as they filmed a documentary about Mobile's history and traditions. In October of 2013, Ichihara invited an official delegation from Mobile to attend their festival for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "twinning" ceremony that inaugurated the Sister City relationship.



Part of City of Mobile display in Ichihara City Hall.

Torii gate at the entrance to a Shinto shrine.

### ACTIVITIES

MISCA's primary mission is to sponsor exchanges with Ichihara City, Chiba Prefecture, Japan each year for students aging from 12 to 18. A selection of exchange students from Mobile and Baldwin counties takes place every other year. In addition, members hold regular meetings, travel to Ichihara, host cultural events, correspond with citizens of Ichihara, raise money for humanitarian projects, produce newsletters, write articles for the Ichihara public information newsletter, and host visitors in their homes.

### MEMBERSHIP

There are 4 membership categories:

- \$15 Individual (Adult)
- \$25 Family (Couple or Family)
- \$10 Friends of MISCA (Non-voting Japanese member)
- \$50 Organization (Business or Organization)

### DONATIONS

Some exchange students need financial aid to participate in the summer exchange program. A place for donations is included below. Your generous support will help deserving students pay part of their airfare expenses so they can participate in this unique cultural experience.

For more information, please send an email to [misca93@gmail.com](mailto:misca93@gmail.com) or call Mark Ewald: 251-751-0593.

### Membership Application Form

Please check your membership category, fill in the information and return this portion with a check payable to MISCA to Paula Tapia, MISCA Treasurer, 15 Fiesta Dr., Spanish Fort, AL 36527.

- \_\_\_ \$15 Individual
- \_\_\_ \$25 Family (A couple or a family)
- \_\_\_ \$10 Friends of MISCA (Non-voting Japanese member)
- \_\_\_ \$50 Organization (A business or an organization)

\_\_\_ I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ for a donation to the Student Exchange Scholarship Fund.

**Name(s) –** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\*Please include all family members for family memberships:

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_