

## Program

### Opening Remarks

Clint Conner, Master of Ceremonies

### Greetings and Toast

Consul-General Jun Yanagi, Consulate  
General of Japan in Chicago

### Recognition of Sponsors

Bob Luck, JASM President  
Rio Saito, JASM Executive Director

*~ Silent Auction will close at 7:30 pm~*

### Keynote Speaker

State Representative Samantha Sencer-Mura

### Mondale Award Presentation

Bob Luck, JASM President

### Live Auction

Kat Dalager, Board Member

### Mondale Scholarship Presentation

Mirja Hanson, Mondale Award Committee Member

### Fund the Scholar

Kat Dalager, Board Member

### Closing Remarks

Clint Conner, Master of Ceremonies

### Tejime Closing Ceremony

Shiro Katagiri

*This event was made possible through the generous contributions of our sponsors.*

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**By attending the Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala**, you help fund the ongoing cultural and business programs of JASM, and the Mondale Scholarship Program that sends deserving students to study in Japan. 80% of your admission fee is tax deductible. JASM is a 501(c)(3) organization, Federal Identification Number 23-7259977.

The Japan America Society of Minnesota is a member supported non-profit association engaged in bringing the people of Japan and Minnesota closer together in mutual understanding, respect, and cooperation. Membership is open to individuals, corporations, and other organizations.

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# 26th Annual Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala

Saturday, November 4, 2023  
Oak Ridge Country Club



J | A | S | M  
JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY  
of MINNESOTA  
ミネソタ・日米協会

## Mondale Scholarship Recipients



My name is **Livvy Peters** and I am a junior at Macalester College. I will be attending Kansai Gaidai University for the Asian Studies Program in Hirakata City for my study abroad this fall semester. I'm very excited to have the opportunity to explore my interest in Japanese art history, meet new people, and develop my language skills during my study away experience!



My name is **Rachel Kelly** and I am a junior at Macalester College. I will be attending Kansai Gaidai University in Hirakata City for my study abroad this spring. I am extremely excited to have the opportunity to explore Japanese language and culture while learning about different identities in Japan.



My name is **Kendra Martin**, and I am a junior at the University of Minnesota. I will be attending the CET Japan program in Osaka for my study abroad this fall. I am very excited to dive into this language-intensive program and acquaint myself with the culture first-hand, all while gaining the invaluable experience of speaking and communicating with the locals of the Kansai region.

### Hors d'oeuvres

#### Deviled Eggs

*Spinach Artichoke Dip served in Phyllo Cups*  
*Tenderloin Tip Skewer served with Bearnaise Sauce*

### Entrees

*Herb Roasted Airline Chicken Breast with Poultry Jus*  
*or*  
*Curry Cauliflower Steak*

### Dessert

*Matcha Mousse Rolled Cake*

## Mondale Award Recipient

### Richard Stahl



Dick's lifelong interest in Asia was sparked by a 3-1/2 year stint in the Navy when he was stationed in Taiwan. This led to an international banking career that started in Chicago and ended in Minneapolis, with an assignment in Tokyo along the way. While in Japan, he became fascinated with the country and its people. Upon returning to the U.S., Dick has served in a variety of important volunteer roles, including Board Member of the Japan America Society of Chicago; Secretary, Treasurer and President of the Japan America Society of Minnesota; and Honorary Consul General for the State of Minnesota. Dick has been active in three sister city organizations: Bloomington-Izumi, Minneapolis-Ibaraki and St. Paul-Nagasaki. He has also served as an informal advisor to JETRO and to Minnesota State Government officials.

Some highlights of Dick's volunteer service include leading efforts in Minnesota to support the Tohoku region after the 2011 Tsunami, organizing JASM's 40th-anniversary celebration in 2012 and recruiting Japanese Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki as the keynote speaker for that year's Gala.

For his dedication in promoting U.S.-Japan relationships in Minnesota and the Upper Midwest, Dick was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun and Gold Rays with Rosette by Consul-General of Japan in Chicago, Kenichi Okada, on August 12, 2021.

Dick seems to be everywhere. He has spent time lobbying on behalf of Japan with Governors Dayton and Walz and encouraging young people to pursue their interest in Japan. He is a constant presence at Japan-related events in the Twin Cities, but you will also find him at events in Duluth, Fargo, and Chicago. He supports long-established organizations and welcomes newcomers. When I returned to Minnesota after living in Japan for 15 years, one of the first people I met was Dick. He had some great suggestions for me and my family, and he has continued to check in with me once a year for a cup of coffee and a chat about our mutual interests.

*Bob Luck, JASM President and Mondale Award Selection Committee Chair*

## Keynote Speaker

### State Representative Samantha Sencer-Mura



State Representative Samantha Sencer-Mura is an educator, a working mom, a local community leader, a fourth-generation Japanese American, and serving her first term representing District 63A in South Minneapolis.

She currently serves in the House Agriculture Finance and Policy, Education Finance, Workforce Development Finance and Policy, and Transportation Finance and Policy Committees. Additionally, she serves on the Minnesota Asian Pacific Caucus and the People of Color and Indigenous Caucus and is the newly appointed Chair of the House Minneapolis Delegation. Representative Sencer-Mura is the first Japanese American to serve in the Minnesota House. Before running for office, she worked as an educator.

She received her B.A. degree from Occidental College and her M.E. from Harvard University. She lives in Minneapolis with her partner, Lance, and their one-year-old child.

### The Japan America Society of Minnesota sincerely appreciates the efforts and contributions of these individuals:

#### Gala Planning Committee

Kat Dalager  
Mio Ishida  
Michiko Smith

#### Gala Auction

Marc Blehert  
Mio Ishida, Chair  
Michiko Smith

#### Emcee

Clint Conner

#### Auctioneer

Kat Dalager

#### Floral Arrangement/Table Decoration

Sogetsu Study Group

#### Dessert

Tomoko Drake

#### Kimono Assistance

Tomoko Stubbings

#### Tejime

Shiro Katagiri

#### Audio/ Audio Equipment

Ted Yang/ Neva Dalagar & Kevin Dietz

#### Photographer

Krizia Almoite  
Thao Hoang, Assistant

#### JASM Office

Rio Saito, Executive Director  
Yoko Ueno, Program Manager  
Jael Medzagoh, Intern  
Chandra Colvin, Program Volunteer  
Crystal Neff, Program Volunteer

#### Mondale Award Committee

Bob Luck, Chair  
John Babcock  
Mirja Hanson  
Elizabeth Fehrmann

#### Mondale Scholarship Committee

Charles Chan, Chair  
Michiko Kato Dressen  
Mirja Hanson  
Bob Luck