

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通 信

The Tsūshin is a membership publication of the Japan America Society of Minnesota

December 2016 VOL. 25, No. 12

19th Annual Mondale Gala Brightens 2016

The 19th Annual Mondale Award Scholarship Dinner and Gala was held on Saturday, November 5th at Oka Ridge Country Club in Hopkins, Minnesota. Many JASM members, community leaders and friends of JASM attended the event.



Keynote Speaker, Consul-General Toshiyuki Iwado

The program began with an opening by Ron Leonhardt, emcee and JASM board member. Then came the greetings and toast by Richard Stahl, Honorary Consul of Japan in Minneapolis. Richard Stahl welcomed the guests and read a message of greeting from Ambassador Sasae who was unable to attend. Richard Stahl then toasted JASM for a great year and many more to come.

The keynote speaker, Consul-General Toshiyuki Iwado, was introduced by Ambassador Walter Mondale. Consul-General Iwado talked about the importance of the Japan-US relationship and how the bond has grown over the years. Consul-General Iwado also emphasized on the tension and political discord on the world, and how it is important for countries to work together. He touched on how Minnesota plays an important role in US-Japan relations with its history of trade and cultural exchange. He also spoke on how organizations such as JASM contribute to Japan and Minnesota relationships through the Mondale Scholarship program.

The Mondale Award presentation was presented by Ambassador Mondale to Yoko Breckenridge and Stanislaw Skrowaczewski. In place of Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, his son read a speech prepared by his father on how he was very honored to receive this award and to have had wonderful experiences with the Japanese community through his career in music. Skrowaczewski is now at the age of 92, and is the oldest working major conductor. He has had an important role in the international music scene, being both a renowned conductor and a highly-regarded composer.



Recognition of sponsors with certificates

(Continued on Page 3)

2016 Annual Meeting and Bonenkai

JASM would love to see you at the 2016 Annual Meeting on the evening of Thursday, December 15th. We look forward to discussing the wonderful successes of the past year and we will also be looking forward to an exciting new year of events! Please join us at Sakura Restaurant as we elect and welcome our new JASM board officers.

Following the Annual Meeting, please join us to celebrate for the traditional end of the year JASM gathering! This has been a favorite event for those who miss the Japanese end of the year party – the Bonenkai tradition. It's a great way to celebrate with your co-workers and friends to forget the past and celebrate the upcoming new year. New members have a chance to mingle with long-term members at this fun event!



JASM welcomes everyone to join us for this fun event and to invite your family and friends! We hope to see everyone there and we look forward to celebrating with you all.



Bonenkai 2015

Thursday, Dec. 15th, 2016

Annual Meeting and Bonenkai: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Sakura Restaurant
350 Saint Peter Street
Saint Paul, MN

\$22 Members, \$27 Non-members. Tickets can be purchased online at jasm@us-japan.org or by phone 612-627-9357

Shinnenkai 2017 New Years Celebration

Want to visit Japan? Here is your chance to do it without having to buy a plane ticket! The Japan America Society of Minnesota (JASM) is bringing the sights, tastes, and sounds of a Japanese New Year to Minnesota through our Shinnenkai celebration.

About Shinnenkai 2017

Shinnenkai is annual New Year Celebration in which we hope to bring the traditions of a Japanese New Year celebration to Minnesota. We will be promoting cultural exchange and new experiences in a fun environment. There will be cultural performances, delicious Japanese food, a silent auction, mini-workshops, and children's activities. We hope to create a fun family atmosphere that allows people of all ages to come together and experience a Japanese New Year!

Sunday, January 15th, 2017
4:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Ticket prices increase by \$2 if you pay at the door

Free - Children 5 and under

\$5 - 6-18 years olds

\$10- JASM member

\$8 - College Student (With I.D.)

\$13 - Non-JASM Member

Family package - up to 2 adults and 2 children in the same household. \$20 JASM Member and \$25 Non-JASM Member

Shinnenkai will present:

- Activities & Demonstrations
- Food
- Entertainment and Performances
- Exhibitors
- Silent Auction

NEW LOCATION
Washington Technology
Magnet School
Great Hall
1495 Rice Street
Saint Paul, 55117



Shinnenkai 2016 mochi (Japanese rice cake) making

Minneapolis Japanese School

平成 29年度ミネアポリス日本語補習授業校 園児・児童募集
<http://www.minneapolisjapaneseschool.org/>

クラス	対象年齢*	体験入学	試験・面接	募集期間
おひさま組 (親子教室)	満2歳	希望者 見学可能	1月28日	平成28年11月5日 ～平成29年1月14日
幼稚園 年少組	満3歳	1月14日	1月21日 (面接)	平成28年11月1日 ～ 平成28年12月11日
小学部 1年	満6歳	2月11日 (年長組体験・試験・面接)		平成28年11月1日 ～ 平成29年1月31日

対象年齢*は平成29(2017)年4月1日時点での年齢です。
参加をご希望の方は、松本seito@minneapolisjapaneseschool.org までご連絡ください。

Trial Classes and Enrollment Interview at Minneapolis Japanese School

Class	Date of Birth	Trial Class	Interview & Examination	Application Deadline
Parent/Toddler Class	4/2/2014 ～ 4/1/2015	Request Available	1/28/2017 (Interview Only)	1/14/2017
Preschool Class	4/2/2013 ～ 4/1/2014	1/14/2017	1/21/2017 (Interview Only)	12/11/2016
1 st Grade	4/2/2010 ～ 4/1/2011	2/11/2017		1/31/2017

If you are interested in attending, please contact Mai Matsumoto at seito@minneapolisjapaneseschool.org

Membership News

Thanks to the following Renewing JASM Members:

Anne Campbell, Clair & Tom Larkin, William Strang

Thanks to the following New JASM Members:

Elfrieda Hintze, Derek Lehmberg

Thanks to the following Renewing JASM Corporate Members:

Global Minnesota, Kiku Enterprises,
Winona State University, Suishin Restaurant,
MGK Company

Thanks to the following Renewing Sakura Circle Members:

Ken & Paula Port

19th Annual Mondale Gala Brightens 2016 (Continued on from Page 1)



Ambassador Walter Mondale presenting Mondale Award to Yoko Breckenridge

Yoko Breckenridge also shared her gratitude on winning the award and a few stories of her life experiences. Yoko has worked hard in creating a Japanese library and has succeeded as the library has been flooded with books and patrons. Yoko has also put in a great amount of work for helping those from Japan living in the Twin Cities area to provide them with information and a venue to meet and make friends. Both Award winners are inspirational individuals who have made many contributions to the building of US-Japan relationships in Minnesota.

During the dinner, both a silent and live auction were held to raise funds for the Mondale Scholarship program, and to provide financial support for future JASM programs. Generous donations were received from businesses

and donors who competed on a wide variety of items. Some of these included pottery, airline tickets, and Japanese art work.

This year's recipients of the Mondale Scholarship were four outstanding students: Lisa Au and Joe Druckman from Carleton college, Robert Hanson from St. Olaf college, and Christian Grande from Saint John's University.

Lisa Au will be traveling to Japan where she will be studying at Doshisha University as part of Carleton's Gardens, Landscape, and the Built Environment study abroad program. Joe Druckman will be studying abroad in Kyoto, where he will study gardens and landscape architecture of the medieval period. Robert Hanson will be attending Waseda University at the School of International Liberal Studies in Tokyo. Christian Grande will also be studying in Tokyo where he hopes to explore Japanese culture and the practice Aikido while learning how to draw Japanese-style animations with his classmates in Tokyo. Marc Blehert, JASM president, awarded the scholarships to these talented students as they embark on an exciting journey made possible by generous donors.

Marc Blehert closed the ceremony, thanking everyone for their generous contributions to JASM during this special event. Takuzo Ishida and friends sent the audience off with "Tejime," the Japanese custom of ceremonial handclapping, performed at the end of a special event to bring the occasion to a lively close.

JASM is grateful for all of those who made donations to the Mondale Scholarship fund and to other JASM programs. JASM sincerely thanks all the volunteers, donors, and sponsors who contributed to the success of this event!

Corporate Membership Spotlight: Mocon Inc.



Mocon's vision is to promote the quality and safety of the environment and products that are consumed. Mocon's mission statement is to "provide unparalleled solutions by developing state-of-the-art test and

measurement instruments and services on which our customers can depend."

Mocon was founded in 1966 and has evolved into providing many instruments and services for the packaging industry, contract testing, industrial gas testing and microbial detection. Mocon offers comprehensive range of instruments and services for testing, measuring and analyzing with installations in 79 countries, representing 6 continents. Some of Mocon's values are integrity, innovation, high quality, customer focused, and respect.

Marc Blehert, JASM's president works for Mocon and has helped strengthened US-Japan relations in Minnesota. Bruce Bauer also works for Mocon as an International Manager and attended the Mondale Gala.

JASM is excited to announce that Mocon has become a JASM Corporate Member and we look forward to working together in the future.

Please thank our members with your support!

Corporate Benefactor Members

Daikin Applied
Delta Airlines, Inc.
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Bowman and Brooke, LLP
St. Jude Medical, Inc.

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Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, PC
Hubbard Broadcasting
Japan Lifeline Co. Ltd.
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Naigai Industries U.S.A. Inc.
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Kiku Enterprises, Inc.
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Osaka Roseville Restaurant
Sakura Restaurant
Saint Paul Saints Baseball Club
Suishin Restaurant
Tomodachi
Zen Healing Center

Nonprofit Members

Concordia Language Village
Economic Club of Minnesota
Global Minnesota
Greater MSP
JETAA Minnesota
JETRO Chicago
Minnesota Trade Office
KCC-Japan Education Exchange
Macalester College Asian Language & Culture Department
Minneapolis Japanese School
Minneapolis Institute of Art
Mu Performing Arts
NDSU-Emily Reynolds Historic Costume Collection
U of MN Dept. of Asian Languages and

A Big Thank You to the Many Sponsors of the 2016 Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala

Corporate Sponsors

3M Company

Daikin Applied

Delta Air Lines, Inc.

Dorsey & Whitney, LLC

Hamre, Schumann,
Muller & Larson, P.C.

Hubbard Broadcasting, Inc.

Mall of America

Medtronic, Inc.

Saint Paul Saints Baseball Club

Thank You!

The Japan America Society of Minnesota sincerely appreciates the efforts and financial support of these individuals and organizations.

We would also like to acknowledge the donors for their generous gifts toward the silent and live auctions and for their generous support to fund the Mondale Scholarship

Mondale Award Committee

Richard Stahl
John Babcock
Bill Strang

Cuisine

Tomoko Drake

Emcee

Ron Leonhardt

Floral Arrangement

Ikebana Sogetsu Group

Kimono Assistance

Tomoko Silbert
Tomoko Stubbings
Kasumi Tago

Music

Sakura Kai

Photographer

Gabriel Traveller

Table Decorations

Ikebana Sogetsu Group: Flower Arrangements
Keiko Martin: Ceramic Vases

Videographer

Steve Blehert

Mondale Scholarship Committee

Elizabeth Brailsford
Chuck Chan
Michiko Kato Dressen
Takuzo Ishida

Gala Planning Committee Co-Chairs:

Elizabeth Brailsford
Marc Blehert

Committee Members:

Takuzo Ishida
Richiko Kamata
Ron Leonhardt
Shannon Meyer
Clint Conner
Ben van Lierop
Rio Saito
Sofia Hisakuni
Ben Allard
Catherine Florendo



JASM Presents Business Roundtable in Fargo, N.D.



Dick Stahl Presenting

On Wednesday, November 9, a JASM Japan Business Roundtable was held in Fargo, North Dakota that was hosted by the North Dakota Trade Office. The program was organized for local businesses in North Dakota as a forum on

doing business in Japan. Presentations were made by Dick Stahl, Honorary Consul of Japan in Minneapolis, Ralph Inforzato Executive Director of Business Development of JETRO Chicago, and Ben van Lierop, JASM Executive Director. Topics such as the decision making process in Japanese companies, the practice of group consensus, the importance of trust in building relationships, and attention to detail in producing high quality products, were presented as important attributes for companies doing business in Japan.

In his presentation, Ralph Inforzato mentioned the growing investments by Japanese companies in the U.S. As the third largest economy in the world, Japan is the leader in foreign investments in U.S. manufacturing. The audience was encouraged to consider the sophisticated market in Japan as a gateway to other markets in Asia. The fact that the Japanese market demands high quality in products makes it easier to promote these products to other countries in Asia.

This program in Fargo was part of the JASM Minnesota Outreach Initiative that has received funding through the Japan Foundation – Center for Global Partnership.

Economic Club invites Minister Kuroda from the Embassy of Japan to Speak



Minister Kuroda presenting

On Thursday, November 17, 2016 the Economic Club of Minnesota hosted their 2016-2017 Members and Sponsors event. The event featured The Hon. Jun-ichiro Kuroda who is the Minister for Economy, Trade, Industry and Energy at the Embassy of Japan. Before his current position, Mr. Kuroda was Director of Americas Division in the Trade Policy Bureau at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI).

Mr. Kuroda mentioned how the U.S. is the strongest ally to Japan in building the international relationship. Japan hopes that the U.S. will be able to participate in the Transpacific partnership with the new U.S. administration. Mr. Kuroda sees Minnesota as a strong economy that can benefit from the TPP. He also said the business situation is changing in Japan due to more Japanese women serving as directors of companies and more foreign investments are encouraged.

JASM was very pleased to participate in this event and to meet business leaders who support trade between Japan and Minnesota.

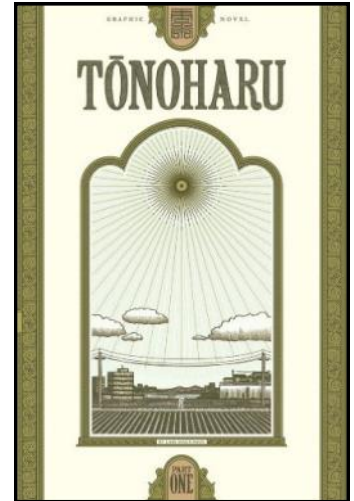


Takehito Kamata, Sam Hanson, Mirja Hanson, and Minister Kuroda

Tom Haeg's Book Review

Tonoharu (Parts One, Two and Three); Lars Martinson; Pliant Press; 20 08, 2010 & 2015).

In 2003, native Minnesotan Lars Martinson left to teach English in a junior high school in Fukuoka, Japan through the JET program as an AET (Assistant English Teacher). His teaching experiences and *gaikokujin* observations form the bases of this three volume graphic novel (his words, not mine), uh, well, uh, comic book (my words, not his). He began drawing and writing this trilogy in 2005. Part One was published in 2008, Part Two in 2010 and Part Three in 2015.



But, I must be fair: it would be mistaken to tag *Tonoharu* as just another comic book in the Western sense. There are three, dust-jacketed, hard covered volumes. It has brilliant illustrations and a novella semblance, *ergo*, graphic novel. Besides, I have never read, -nor heard of, a three volume, hard-covered comic book, although this one may resemble *manga* in the *tankobon* style, a dedicated book-sized volume of anime peculiar to Japan. *Tonoharu* is an intriguing narrative, autobiographical odyssey with generous text, interweaving plots, and a generous parade of characters to qualify for this distinction.

Martinson smartly couples the story-line with his self-drawn, clever two-tone, 19th century ink style illustrations, -over 400 in each volume, thereby creating a seamless Dickensian milieu for the text. Quite an achievement and well done. This indefatigable attention to graphics perhaps explains the decade long delay in publishing Part Three.

The story. Our hero, Dan Wells, alights in an isolated, rural Japanese town to teach English to Japanese urchins. He suffers the Japanese language and customs as he endeavors to achieve *sensei* esteem while falling in love here and there. He experiences isolation, depression and *ennui* as an outsider looking in for his *raison d'être*. His initial naiveté is supplanted with angst, certitude replaced by indecision and equanimity forsaken for volatility. His struggles are real and facilely identified by any foreigner who has taught in Japan (so I am told). There are frequent, awkward *gaikokujin* moments elevated to a delightful comic level. We empathize with his gawkiness while he strives for personal growth and culturally, assimilated maturation to achieve acceptance (whatever that means).

My recommendation? While the story by itself is quite deserving, *Tanoharo*'s real opus reposes in the amusing drawings craftily wedded to a terse text *de rigueur* in a comic book (I'm sorry) format. Not an easy task yet it succeeds. And, if you like this, then indulge. However, it is too quick a read for me (e.g., about 52 minutes for Volume One). So the suggested retail price of \$19.95 USD each for Volumes One and Two and \$24.95 USD for Volume Three is a bit too rich. Otherwise, -if you happen to be rich, it may make a nice gift for your next door JET neighbor. "Move over, Batman."

-Tom Haeg

Yoko Receives Award from Walter Mondale

Nov. 5th 2016 at Oak Ridge Country Club Hopkins, MN. 55305. Yoko B. received Mondale Award for Japan-Minnesota Partnership. I lived as a Child in Northern China's War. I was a refugee starved for food and the good life of going school. I escaped by hiding under old newspapers on a US cargo ship that was heading back to Japan. Missing 2 years of school and only 2 months to graduate 6th grade, I pencil copied friend's text book by light of wicker in cooking oil. Chicken coop home had dirt floor but no toilet, electricity nor a candle. Books are my treasure I collected every opportunities, many helping hands joining.... **TV Japan Special** made book donors from a wide area. We have regular gathering of volunteers who control and operate the place. I might own this building but everything else are hard working result of others. Awarded should be all of them. Love for books and love for each other.



Approximately 750 Minnesota Japanese Families in and out of this place. Thank you to All.



Sign made by Brother Yoshinori Sasaki



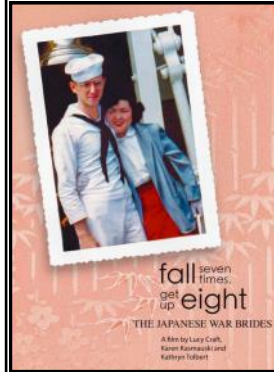
Yoko Breckenridge

612-839-0008

yoko@yoko4home.com



Film Viewing and Panel Discussion: "Fall Seven Times, Get Up Eight: The Japanese War Brides"



On Saturday, January 21st, 2017 Minneapolis Institute of Art will be hosting a film viewing and panel discussion for the film "Fall Seven Times, Get Up Eight: The Japanese War Brides." It is a free and open event to the public!

Plot Summary:

Three women — all firstborn daughters of Japanese war brides — recall their mothers' lives in 1950s America. These were the brides young GIs brought home from an enemy nation. By at least one estimate, nearly

50,000 Japanese women crossed the Pacific as wives of American men between the end of WWII and the close of the 1950s... an unprecedented, heretofore unthinkable migration of Asian women to US shores and yet an event that has been largely overlooked. Living in mostly isolated communities scattered across the US, the women were left largely to their own devices as they tried to navigate a racially segregated

Saturday, January 21st, 2017 @ 1:30PM

Minneapolis Institute of Art
2400 Third Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404

Free and open to the public
RSVP is required and MIA will announce further instructions in the near future on their website

American society. Drawing on personal anecdotes we paint a portrait of their saga that is in equal measure triumph, humor and sadness. We tell their stories both as journalists, and as the mixed-race children who experienced firsthand their dreams, struggles and aspirations.

Award Ceremony of the Foreign Minister's Commendations

The Minister of Foreign Affairs held the awarding ceremony of the Foreign Minister's Commendations for 2016. The commendations were awarded to 142 individuals and 31 groups. They were presented with award certificates and commemorative gifts by Fumio Kishida, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan.



Ben van Lierop, Executive Director of JASM being awarded by Consul-General Toshiyuki Iwado

This year in Minnesota, Matthew Welch, Deputy Director of the Minneapolis Institute of Art, and Ben van Lierop were given the commendations by Consul-General Toshiyuki Iwado at a ceremony at Macalester College on November 4th.

The Foreign Minister's Commendations are awarded for those with outstanding achievements in international fields. The awards are an acknowledgment for these individuals contributions to the promotion of friendship between Japan and other countries.

JASM was honored to be part of this ceremony and we hope to continue fostering the relationship between Japan and the United States.

Advertise in the Tsushin!

Advertisement Rates

Style	Size	Cost/issue
1/4 page	5 x 3.5 in	\$50.00
1/2 page	5 x 7.5 in	\$90.00
Full page	10 x 7.5 in	\$150.00
Classified	80 character line	\$10/ line (min. 2 lines)

Ad production and design available in both Japanese and English for an additional charge. Deadline for completed ads and classifieds is the 20th of every month.

**Questions? Contact
the JASM Office
Tel: 612-627-9357
jasm@us-japan.org**

Japan America Society Calendar

December

December 15th, Annual Meeting and Bonenkai

January 15th, 2017 Shinnenkai New Years Celebration

*If you would like to let JASM know about an upcoming event, e-mail us at jasm.interns@gmail.com *

Japanese Speaking Club

The Japanese Speaking Club is an informal meeting place for those wishing to practice Japanese. We encourage those just beginning the language as well as native speakers to gather at the **Espresso Royale Café** in Downtown Minneapolis to meet new people, discuss experiences in Japan, or simply to speak Japanese. Come when you can, leave when you must.

Date/Time: Every Saturday at 3:00 p.m.

Place: Espresso Royale Café
1229 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55403



For more information, visit www.meetup.com and search for the key words "Japanese speaking club"

月例日本人会のお知らせ

毎月日本語図書館で日本人会の昼食会 (Monthly Nihonjin-kai) を行っています。電話などでお誘い合わせの上、お友達やお知り合いとご一緒においで下さい。可能の方はどうぞ料理を1品ご持参願います。ミネソタ州在住の日本人達で良い事を考え、ご馳走と日本語で楽しい時間を持ちましょう。

日程：毎月第2月曜日正午より

場所：日本語図書館

(4231 Bloomington Ave S., Minneapolis, MN 55407)

また、毎週土曜日午後2時から、日本語図書館のお手伝いしてくださる方の集まりがあります。是非ご参加ください。この図書館には、漫画や宗教誌約25000冊や約2500本のビデオDVDがあり、希望者にはセルフサービスで日本人会と同じく無料で貸出しています。お問い合わせは下記までどうぞ。

Yoko Breckenridge

Cell phone: (612) 839-0008 E-mail: Yoko@yoko4home.com

Nihonjin-kai monthly meeting on 2nd Monday, at noon, at 4231 Bloomington Ave S Minneapolis, MN 55407

Become a JASM Member online!

Support our mission and become a member!

1. Go to mn-japan.org
2. Click on 'Membership' at the top
3. Select your membership type and read the benefits and instructions.

You can also become a member using your smart phone!

Japan America Society of Minnesota

- ☐ Membership Application ☐ Change of Address
- ☐ Tax-deductible Donation

Name

Name (2nd adult of a household membership)

Address

City

State

ZIP

E-mail

Phone

I would like to make an additional tax-deductible donation of _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

(Please make checks payable to JASM)

Individual Membership

Patron.....	\$1,000+
Sustaining.....	\$500+
Contributing.....	\$100+
Individual	\$30
Student/Senior	\$20
Household	\$50
(2 adults plus children under 18)	

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Japan America Society of Minnesota



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通信

Tsūshin
December 2016

The Japan America Society of Minnesota is a non-profit, non-political association engaged in bringing the peoples of Japan and the United States closer together in mutual understanding, respect, and cooperation. Through programs and interchange, it endeavors to promote an appreciation of cultural, educational, economic, public, and other affairs of interest to both peoples. Membership in the society is open to individuals, corporations, and other organizations interested in furthering its programs.

The Japan America Society of Minnesota is a member of the National Association of Japan-America Societies.

19th Annual Mondale Gala Scholarship and Award Gala 2016

