

# Japan America Society of Minnesota



## 通 信

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

June 2017 VOL. 26, No. 6

### Harukaze 2017 - 80's Japanese Pop Star Coming to Twin Cities



Air Lines, 3M Company and Naigai Industries USA Inc. Tickets are still available!

The Japan America Society of Minnesota hopes to celebrate this cross-cultural experience by presenting an artist who built a successful pop career in Japan before starting a new musical journey as a jazz pianist in the United States.

In 2008, Senri Oe shelved his highly successful 25-year career as a Japanese pop star and actor to move to New York City in pursuit of a childhood dream—



Senri Oe in his 1984 album, *Pleasure*

becoming a jazz musician. As a lyricist, composer, and arranger since 1983, Oe built a robust Japanese popular music (J-Pop) career, releasing 45 singles and nearly 20 albums, winning the Japanese Gold Disc and FNS Pop Music Awards, and hosting a talk show on Japan's national broadcasting network.

Enrolling at The New School at age 47, Oe studied under Junior Mance, Aaron Goldberg and Toru Dodo. Since graduating in 2012, Oe has worked tirelessly to embed himself in New York's jazz ecosystem. Having established his own record label, PND Records and Music Publishing, Oe plays monthly at Tomi Jazz New York, is a regular pianist for Morning Musuko, a 17-piece big band specializing in Japanese popular music (J-pop), and has now released three albums. His three previous albums are titled *Boys Mature Slow*, *Spooky Hotel*, and *Collective*

*Scribble*. At the Harukaze concert, Oe will be presenting his fourth and newest album, *Answer July*.

In his previous albums, Senri has shown himself to be a versatile and adventurous musician, from his two-horn quintet in his first album, to a full big band, to a straight-ahead trio, to *Answer July*, a vocal showcase, all of which speak to Senri's talent and love of jazz music. At this performance, Senri will showcase his instrumental talent, playing the piano parts of his *Answer July* album. Senri thrives on collaboration and building relationships, as can be seen in his music. In addition to his work with artists in the US, Senri still maintains ongoing ties with the music and arts scene in Japan, writing for Sony Japan and working with independent artists. JASM is honored to be part of Senri Oe's new musical journey and provide jazz music to the community. Harukaze also serves as an opportunity to express appreciation for the current members of the Japan America Society of Minnesota who continue to support the organization through their gifts and contributions to the building of bridges of cultural understanding and international cooperation between the peoples of Japan and the United States.

JASM invites its members to come and experience the music and fun on June 7th.

Ticket Prices:

JASM Member: **\$15**

Non-JASM Member: **\$20**

Students, Pre-K through High School : **\$10**  
6 and under: **\$5**

**Wednesday, June 7th, 2017**

**Doors Open at 7:00 PM**

**Performance at 7:30 PM**

**Hamline University**

**Sundin Music Hall**

**1536 Hewitt Avenue, B1801**

**Check out the JASM website for more information and to purchase tickets.**



Senri Oe, from Jazztimes

## Takuzo Ishida to Receive the Order of the Rising Sun



Takuzo Ishida

JASM is pleased to share the following announcement from the Consulate General of Japan in Chicago: "On April 29, 2017, the Government of Japan announced that Mr. Takuzo Ishida will receive the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette. It is in recognition of his significant contribution to the Japanese community in Minnesota and to the promotion of friendly relations between Japan and the United States through cultural sharing. The prestigious decoration is conferred by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.

Mr. Ishida has made a remarkable contribution to the Minnesota-Japan relationship. As President of the Japan-America Society of Minnesota from 2004 to 2005, and a member for 30 years, he transformed the Society into a prominent organization that presents major programs. During his two years at the helm, individual membership jumped by 27%, and corporate membership increased by 11%. Through his leadership of the Harukaze Concert Planning Committee, he continues to bring Japanese arts and music to the local community.

As a founder of the Minneapolis Japanese School in 1993 and its current president, Mr. Ishida has strongly supported the study of Japanese language, culture, and traditions for more than two decades. Under his direction, the school has grown substantially and today it has 160 students. He has facilitated training sessions for instructors from across the Midwest.

In 2011, Mr. Ishida received the Mondale Award, which honors individuals for their significant contribution to mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and the State of Minnesota."

JASM would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Ishida for the many years of membership, contributions, and support that Mr. Ishida has provided as both a member of JASM and a member of the wider community.



Order of the Rising Sun ribbon bar

## JASM members participate in Mia's Art In Bloom

Several weeks ago, from Thursday, April 27th to Sunday, April 30th, the Minneapolis Institute of Art held its 34th annual Art In Bloom exhibition. The event featured 165 floral designs which interpreted the Mia's collection.

Over the course of the four day festival, many curious art and flower lovers made their way over to the museum and explored the showpieces, listened to lectures and demonstrations, went on tours, and experienced the height of spring and creative talent of the over 100 florists and artists.

The speakers at the event included Livia Cetti, author of *The Exquisite Book of Paper Flower Transformations*, Lindsay Taylor, floral stylist, and Princess Giorgiana Corsini, Renaissance garden expert.

JASM is proud to have had several of its members participate in the event. Takuzo Ishida grew a magnificent bonsai, whereas Noriko Ishida, Yoko Toda, Yoshie Babcock, and Keiko Martin created beautiful ikebana displays so as to celebrate the Minnesota spring in a way that only Japan is able to. Events such as these, where the cultural values of both Japan and America are showcased side-by-side, are what allow the bridges of understanding and friendship between the United States and Japan to grow. We encourage our members to continue with such outstanding examples of art and culture.

## Membership News

Thanks to the following  
Renewing JASM Member:  
Charles Borchert

Thanks to the following  
New JASM Member:  
Susan Armington

Thanks to the following  
Renewing JASM Corporate Members:  
Dorsey & Whitney, LLP.  
Hubbard Broadcasting, Inc.  
Anime Twin Cities, Inc.

Thanks to the following  
New JASM Corporate Member:  
Metropolitan Airports Commission

Thanks to the following  
Renewing Sakura Circle Members:  
Kenneth and Paula Port

## NAJAS/KKC Business Speaker Series: Japan Still Matters

On Friday, July 21st JASM, in partnership with the National Association of Japan America Societies and the Keizai Koho Center, will be hosting a Business Speaker Series titled "Japan Still Matters."

Recently the business and trade relations with Japan have become more uncertain, in part due to the failure of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), creating a need for new and revitalized trade relations with Japan. As both markets strive to compete on the global stage, it becomes imperative that we look into deepening the relations between our two countries and how it will come to effect future trade between Japan, America, and Eastern Asia in general. Towards this end, two speakers have been invited, one from Sumitomo Chemical Company, and the other from the Council on Foreign Relations.

### Speakers



**Ray Nishimoto:** Senior Managing Executive Officer and Representative Director of Sumitomo Chemical Company, Ltd.

#### Location:

Radisson Blu  
Bergen One Room  
35 South Seventh Street,  
Minneapolis, MN 55402



**Sheila Smith:** Senior fellow for Japanese studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. Sheila is the author of *Intimate Rivals: Japanese Domestic Politics and a Rising China* and an active researcher on Japanese strategic choices due to geostrategic change in Northeast Asia.

Registration: **11:30am**  
Program: **12pm-1:30 pm**

#### Tickets:

JASM Member: **\$30.00**  
Non-Member: **\$35.00**  
Student: **\$15.00**

*Please thank our members with your support!*

#### Corporate Benefactor Members

Daikin Applied  
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Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, PC  
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Saint Paul Saints Baseball Club  
Suishin Restaurant  
Tomodachi  
Zen Healing Center

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Macalester College Asian Language & Culture Department  
Minneapolis Japanese School  
Minneapolis Institute of Art  
NDSU-Emily Reynolds Historic Costume Collection  
US China Business Connection  
U of MN Dept. of Asian Languages and Literatures, Japanese Language Program  
Winona State Univ. Global Studies Dept.

## Corporate Membership Spotlight: 3M



In 1902, five investors started the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company with a simple goal: to harvest corundum. Now, more than 100 years later, 3M is recognized as a global science company, with their over 90,000 employees working on improving and expanding their over 100,000 patents which have improved the daily lives of

hundreds of millions of people worldwide.

3M is a company with outstanding values. They act with honesty and integrity in all that they do. They offer superior quality, value, and service, provide investors with attractive returns, respect the social and physical global environments, value the talent and initiative of their employees, and earn worldwide admiration from their associates.

Two aspects of the company for which it is particularly proud are its diversity and its focus on sustainability. 3M has offices in more than 70 countries (including Japan) and over 90,000 employees worldwide. The diversity in people, experience, ethnicity, etc. drives the company forward. On another note, 3M is dedicated to creating products that, in addition to improving the lives of its customers, improve the environment as well. 3M has cut greenhouse emissions by 57%, uses less water, releases less pollutants, and has still not stopped their efforts in creating a sustainable company.

As a global company with connections in Japan and most of the world as well as being a long-time supporter of JASM, we would like to thank Makoto Ishii and the rest of 3M for their support as a loyal Corporate Member.



## New JASM Intern: Maria Drange



Hello, my name is Maria Drange and I am excited to introduce myself as the new Events Coordinator for JASM. As a teenager I had the opportunity to learn about Japan through an exchange student my family hosted, who quickly became a close friend.

After spending 3 years studying Japanese language at the University of Minnesota, I had the opportunity to study abroad in Tokyo, where I spent four months learning about and experiencing Japanese culture. I became acquainted with JASM by attending and volunteering for a few events, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to devote my time to such a worthwhile cause. Throughout my time in college, JASM has helped me branch out and educate myself by providing opportunities to get involved with Japan, and it is my hope that by interning with JASM I can be a part of providing those opportunities to others. I look forward to all of the events we will be putting on this summer and hope to see you all at them!

## Annual Membership Renewal and Changes

The JASM Annual Membership Renewal will occur soon! However, there is a big change in the works in the JASM annual membership renewal process. Instead of a 12-month JASM membership, all memberships will instead be on a 12 month rolling basis. You will be receiving a letter detailing this change as well as a renewal on the new plan in June.

Our organization thrives off of the participation, support, and generosity of our members, and we hope to continue to act as and build bridges of understanding and cooperation through your continued support.

JASM would like to take this opportunity to thank and express our appreciation towards the loyal and generous financial support which the many JASM members have shown through your annual membership fees, and to let you know that it really does make a difference! The contributions which you provide allow us to provide the many events and activities which act to build connections throughout the community. Please consider adding a donation along with your new monthly subscription so as to allow JASM to grow stronger in the future.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [jasm@us-japan.org](mailto:jasm@us-japan.org).

From all of the team here, thank you all for your support of JASM.

## New JASM Intern: Avery Ewing



Hello! My name is Avery Ewing, and I am the new Communications and Japanese Obon Festival Coordinator for JASM. I grew up in Minneapolis, and I first started learning about Japan through Japanese games and animation when I was young. I just finished my third year at

the University of Minnesota, where I'm studying English with a Japanese minor. As someone with a love of language and literature, learning about Japanese culture and history through the language has been an incredible opportunity, and I'm excited to continue learning and helping JASM strengthen the bond between Minnesota and Japan. At home, I also enjoy making Japanese dishes and sweets. Even though I'm an amateur cook, it's always exciting to find new vegetarian Japanese recipes. I look forward to working together with everyone to make this another fun summer for JASM and the Japanese Obon Festival! よろしくおねがいたします。

## Akiko Fujimoto Named Minnesota Orchestra Assistant Conductor



Akiko Fujimoto, from [minnesotaorchestra.org](http://minnesotaorchestra.org)

Akiko Fujimoto has just recently been named the Assistant Conductor of the Minnesota Orchestra. Fujimoto was born in Japan and moved to the United States at the age of 14. She went on to study music and psychology at Stanford. She currently holds Masters in conducting from Boston University and the Eastman School of Music.

Fujimoto has held many leadership positions in orchestra nationwide, including the Harvard University Mozart Society Orchestra, the Houston symphony, and most recently as the Associate Conductor of the San Antonio Symphony, where she has conducted classical, pop, education, and baroque concerts as well as ballet. She is an increasingly recognized conductor, with many praising her for being both dynamic and versatile.

JASM would like to extend a warm welcome to Akiko Fujimoto in her new position here in the Twin Cities and we eagerly look forward to her future events here.

## 2017 Mondale Scholarship Applications

Attention to all students studying Japanese language and culture! Do you want to study abroad in Japan? **The Japan America Society of Minnesota will be accepting applications for the 2017-2018 academic year Mondale Scholarship in June!**

JASM will award the Mondale Scholarship to Minnesota undergraduate students enrolled in Minnesota colleges and universities who want to broaden their knowledge of Japan through a combination of study and travel. JASM will offer up to \$4,500 in scholarships for the academic year. The selection committee has the discretion to award up to four \$1,000 scholarships or three \$1,500 scholarships.

**Applications must be postmarked or emailed no later than Monday June 19th, 2017.**

### Applicants must:

1. Complete application form (available online)
2. Send official college/university transcript(s)
3. Earn a cumulative GPA 3.0 or higher
4. Send two letters of recommendation
5. Write an essay that addresses why you want to study and travel in Japan and your goals for this experience
6. Send a copy of the letter of acceptance from the intended program of study in Japan
7. Have a program length of one month or longer



The selection committee will review all applications and select finalists for interviews. These interviews will be held in the JASM office in mid-July, 2017.

**For more information and required application materials, please visit [www.mn-japan.org](http://www.mn-japan.org)**

## Want to be a Bridge Between Cultures? JASM is Hiring a Program Manager!

The Program Manager will focus on organizing events by providing creative and innovative leadership that support the JASM mission. Applicants may also be considered for an expanded role within this growing organization in the future.

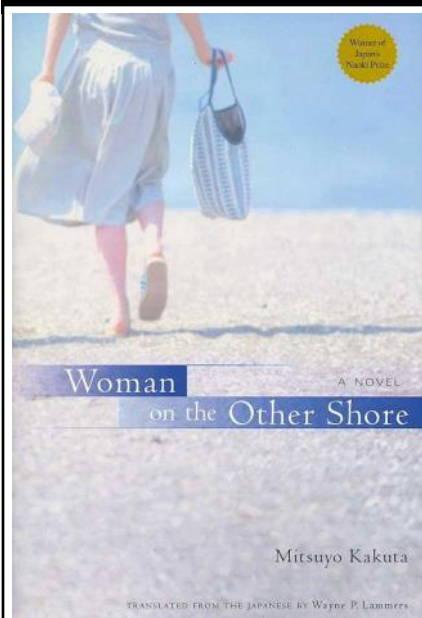
### Qualifications:

- Four-year college degree or two-year degree with appropriate experience
- Social Media, communication and computer skills
- Native level Japanese language and proficiency in communication in English desired however will consider strong candidates with other qualifications
- Appropriate visa for employment in the U.S.

The position will require 35 hours per week with an annual salary of \$30,000. Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume in English by June 16, 2017 to JASM:

Attn: Ben van Lierop  
43 Main Street SE, Suite EH-131  
Minneapolis, MN 55414  
Phone: 612-627-9357  
Email: [jbvanlierop@us-japan.org](mailto:jbvanlierop@us-japan.org)

## Tom Haeg's Book Review:



*Woman on the Other Shore*; Mitsuyo Kakuta, Kodansha International Press, 2004; 2007 English translation by Wayne P. Lammers); 271 pages.

The first story of *Woman on the Other Shore* enmeshes two seemingly opposite protagonists. Sayoko, a timid Japanese

housewife, wallowing in a static marriage to an insensitive spouse and dominating mother-in-law, serendipitously lands a job as a housekeeper with a travel-housekeeping company. Surprise: Aoi, her new boss, is her former classmate, a free-spirited, cigarette-smoking, unmarried, liberated woman. Naturally, as opposites, they are attracted to the other's adopted lifestyle. Or maybe not. We'll see.

The second story is a flashback of Aoi's adolescence when she endured bullying, shyness and self-identification issues. We learn about her character through the struggles she encountered while growing up. See: 'what doesn't kill you makes you stronger.' They empowered in her a sense of independence and self-confidence. Her childhood friend, Nanoko, a street-smart individualist, enabled Sayoko with the courage to think outside the box in a parallel manner to Aoi's later relationship with Sayoko.

The two-tier narrative does a brilliant job of reinforcing seminal themes of tenuous relationships, insecurity and just the fear of being ostracized in modern Japan. It accomplishes this by showcasing these emotions through more than one character and by doing so genuinely validates their predominance in the human condition.

This was the first English translation of Kakuta's work. The translator, Wayne P. Lammers, did an admirable job, even though sometimes the word choice for the colloquial was a bit stretched or dated, -"Ack" or "Ga-a-aag!"

Kakuta, age 50, is a prolific author of over a dozen books. She has received several literary awards. *Woman* earned her the Naoki Prize, Japan's most prestigious award for popular fiction. Her current assignment is a modern translation of the *Tale of Genji*. There will be more. Stay tuned.

-Tom Haeg



## ミネソタ日本人会

6/2017

今月8日の正午、4231Bloomington Ave. S. Minneapolis MN 55407に所在するミネソタ日本語図書館での写真です。大きなバースデケーキと海老の天ぷらそばがありました。「おいしかった」と携帯電話テキスト札状が昼食休みに出席した一人から即時に届いた。晩年、日本では米国市民は失格と言われた在ミネソタ戦争花嫁達がここに老人ホームを作ろうと菊川レストランで話し合った。曲折の後に只今の日本人会には約750家族が記録され、450人がE-Mailを受信、20-30人が月例の第二月曜日正午の集まる。



広い地帯に散在する日本人とその子たちが家庭料理と日本語でのお喋りをする数時間は貴重で楽しめる集まりになった。夫、子供を初め英語の生活から日本語が心置きなく通じるは嬉しく有り難い瞬間なのだ。危篤昏睡状態の未亡人の諺言が日本語で大騒ぎとなり、日本人看護が来ると病状一転して一日お喋り寿命が2週間延びたと聞かされた。言葉の力は素晴らしい。日本人会及び日本語図書館本、DVDの借出し（どちらも無料）本、並びにヤードセール、お盆祭り用の品物寄附いただきます。ご一報ください。洋子の帯電話 **(612)839-0008** へどうぞ。



**Yoko Breckenridge**  
612-839-0008

yoko@yoko4home.com



## Fort Snelling Exhibit

On May 27<sup>th</sup> the Minnesota Historical Society opened an exhibition titled *Gambatte! Legacy of an Enduring Spirit: Japanese American WWII Incarceration, Then & Now*. At the exhibit, located at Historic Fort Snelling, visitors can view historic photographs of Japanese-Americans during WWII taken by photographers including Dorothea Lange and Tom Parker juxtaposed against recent portraits of those same individuals and their progeny taken by Paul Kitagaki Jr. This exhibit explores the Japanese concept of Gambatte, triumphing over adversity, and how such a concept was carried out through the chronicles of Japanese Americans who lived through incarceration during WWII. The exhibit will be on display through October 28<sup>th</sup>, so be sure to make your way over and remember this often overlooked part of American history.

**Historic Fort Snelling**  
200 Tower Ave.  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103

## St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Cherry Tree Celebration

June 3<sup>rd</sup> marks the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Cherry Tree Celebration. The gift of the Cherry Trees from Japan to America began in 1912 when Japan gave 3,000 Cherry Trees to Washington D.C. to enhance and celebrate the close relationship between the two nations. 100 years later, to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the event, Japan again donated Cherry Trees, this time in batches of twenty to 36 different American Cities. St. Paul, a sister city to Nagasaki since 1955, was chosen as one of those cities. The Cherry Tree Celebration has therefore come to represent not only the relationship between Japan and America, but also of St. Paul and Nagasaki.

Come and enjoy a morning at the Como Park with plenty of refreshments, and live Japanese cultural song and dance performed by the Minneapolis Taiko group, Harisen Daiko.

**Free for all**  
**Saturday, June 3. 9:30 AM - 12 PM**  
**Como Park Zoo & Conservatory**  
1225 Estabrook Dr  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103

# 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<br>(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

### June

3rd: St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Cherry Tree Celebration  
7th: Harukaze with 80's Pop Star Senri Oe

\*If you would like to let JASM know about an upcoming event, email us at [jasm.interns@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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) |          |

Japan America Society of Minnesota  
43 Main Street SE Suite EH—131  
Minneapolis, MN 55414

# Japan America Society of Minnesota



Riverplace EH-131  
43 Main Street SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55414-1031

Tel: 612-627-9357  
Fax: 612-379-2393  
jasm@us-japan.org  
www.mn-japan.org

## 通信

Tsūshin  
June 2017

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.

Photos of some Art in Bloom Exhibits at the Minneapolis Institute of Art.



Above: Takuzo Ishida's  
bonsai tree.



Above: Ikebana  
Display by  
Yoko Toda



Above: Ikebana Display by  
Noriko Ishida



Above: Ikebana Display by  
Keiko Martin