

# Japan America Society of Minnesota



## 通 信

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

October 2017 VOL. 26, No. 10

### JASM Welcomes Ambassador Sasae to Minnesota with Community Banquet

On September 13th, the Japan America Society of Minnesota hosted a banquet in honor of His Excellency Kenichiro Sasae, Ambassador of Japan to the United States. Over 150 people attended the event at the Saint Paul Hotel and were treated to a gala dinner and a program with traditional Japanese



dances, a cello and marimba duet and a keynote address by Ambassador Sasae. Marc Blehert, JASM President welcomed everyone to the banquet and



Consul-General of Japan in Chicago, Naoki Ito gave greetings and offered the toast for the evening. The program continued with Emcee Clint Conner, JASM Board Member,

introducing former U.S. Vice President and Ambassador, the Honorary Chairman of JASM, Walter Mondale who then introduced Ambassador Sasae for the keynote address. Ambassador Sasae mentioned that the “people of Japan will never forget the service of Ambassador Mondale” during his time in Japan. He also quipped that he was glad to finally visit Minnesota where he had heard the “women are strong, the men are good looking and the children are above average.”

A musical interlude was provided by Minnesota orchestra cellist Sachiya Isomura who performed with his daughter Eri Isomura. Honorary Consul Dick Stahl closed the event with words of thanks.

### Mirja Hanson to Receive Mondale Award at Mondale Gala on October 28th

JASM is delighted to announce the 2017 Mondale Award for Japan—Minnesota Partnership will be presented to Mirja Hanson at the Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala at the Oak Ridge Country Club in Hopkins on Saturday, October 28th.

Dr. Mirja Hanson, Past President of JASM, and most recently the Honorary Consul General for Japan at Minneapolis, was raised in Japan where her parents, Pentti and Pirkko Karikoski, were missionaries for 34 years.



Mirja has worked in community and organizational development, serving as a consultant, facilitator and trainer for 42 years. Passionate about U.S.—Japan relationship building, Mirja advocated for the Japan—Minnesota relationship by serving on the Board of JASM, 1982-1997, and then was President from 1992 to 1996. It was during that time that she led JASM through critical organizational changes, such as hiring an executive director, creating the JASM logo, and producing the bilingual guide to living in Minnesota. Mirja also reached out to the business community, and events with a business focus were organized to “complement cultural activities”.

Mirja continues to serve the Japan related community in Minnesota volunteering and facilitating cultural and planning activities for organizations such as JASM and the Saint Paul—Nagasaki Sister City Committee. JASM is very pleased to present the Mondale Award for Japan-Minnesota Partnership to Mirja Hanson in 2017.

## Senator Al Franken to Speak at the Gala

JASM is very pleased to welcome U.S. Senator from Minnesota, Al Franken, to serve as the keynote speaker at the 2017 Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala on October 28th.

Senator Al Franken was first elected to the U.S. Senatr in 2008, and re-elected in 2014; he currently



sits on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, the Judiciary Committee, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and the Committee on Indian Affairs. During the address, Senator Franken will discuss his work and the importance of building bridges—not walls—

between the United States and its important allies like Japan.

During the evening gala, the Mondale Scholarship recipients will be announced for the 2017-2018 academic year. The students are enrolled in Minnesota colleges and universities that have a study program in Japan. These scholarships are intended to recognize and encourage the continued efforts to build bridges between Japan and Minnesota. The four students chosen were selected by the JASM Mondale Scholarship Selection Committee based on their academic records, the content of their essays and their desire to study in Japan.

To raise money for the Mondale Scholarship Program and other JASM program activities there will be a Silent and Live Auction. Look for great values in hotel and restaurant donations. Check out the JASM website for more information soon.



Yoko Breckenridge accepting the 2016 Mondale Award

## More Information on the Mondale Gala

**When:** The Mondale Gala will be hosted on Saturday, October 28, 2017

**Where:** Oak Ridge Country Club, 700 Oak Ridge Rd, Hopkins, MN 55305

**Ticket Prices:** Early Bird: (Register by Oct. 11)  
JASM Member: \$90  
Non-Member: \$115

Regular (Register Oct. 12 –23)  
JASM Member: \$110  
Non-Member: \$135

Post-Deadline (After Oct. 24)  
JASM Member: \$130  
Non-Member: \$155



## Membership News

Thanks to the following  
New JASM Members:

Matthew Murphy, Patricia Kaufman, Karen Schiller, Thomas Draeger, George Frambo, Katie Severt, Brita Olmstead, Austin Baker, Sheryl Hogg

Thanks to the following  
Renewing JASM Members:

Daniel Carballo, Bob Leidlein, Kathryn Klibanoff, Diana Lynne

Thanks to the following Renewing JASM  
Corporate Members:

Kiku Enterprises, Inc.

## A Thank You to Previous Mondale Award Recipients

At JASM, we are committed to bringing the peoples of Japan and Minnesota together, and building a lasting relationship. The Mondale Award for Japan—Minnesota Partnership is bestowed upon those who “go the extra mile” to forge and sustain the important relationship between Japan and Minnesota. With the coming of the Mondale Gala on October 28th, 2017, JASM would like to give a special thanks to the following past Mondale Award recipients:

Joan and Walter Mondale (1997), N.L. (Neal) Gault, Jr. (1998), Akiko Sako (1999), Ruth Tanbara (2000), Minnesota International Center (2001), Edson and Harriet Spencer (2002), Kimi Hara (2003), Diane and Evan Williams (2004), St. Paul - Nagasaki Sister City Committee (2005), KCC Japan Education Exchange (2006), Hiroshi Yamashita (2007), Chris Rossow (2008), Charles Graham (2009), Shirley Huskins (2009), Dean and Masako Potter (2010), Takuzo Ishida (2011), Inkie Brons (2012), Yoshie Babcock (2013), Warren MacKenzie (2014), Matthew Welch (2015), Stanislaw Skrowaczewski (2016), Yoko Breckenridge (2016).



Honorary Consul of Japan Dick Stahl with 2015 Mondale Award Recipient Dr. Matthew Welch

## Please thank our members with your support!

### Corporate Benefactor Members

3M Company  
Daikin Applied  
Delta Air Lines, Inc.  
MTS Systems Corporation  
Taiyo International

### Patron Members:

Bowman and Brooke, LLP  
St. Jude Medical, Inc.

### Corporate Sustaining Members

Anime Twin Cities, Inc.  
Deloitte Tax, LLP  
Dorsey & Whitney, LLP  
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.  
Gray Plant Mooty, Mooty & Bennett, PA  
Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, PC  
Hubbard Broadcasting, Inc.  
Japan Lifeline Co. Ltd.  
Lindquist & Vennum, PLLP  
Mall of America  
Medtronic, Inc.  
Metropolitan Airport Commission  
MGK, Inc.  
Naigai Industries U.S.A. Inc.  
The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd.

### Corporate Contributing Members

Briggs and Morgan, P.A.  
Microbiologics, Inc.  
Nagomi Ya Senior Living  
Sysco Asian Foods  
Satellite Industries, Inc.  
Wanner Engineering, Inc.

### Partners in Service

JK's Table  
Kiku Enterprises, Inc.  
Minnesota Trade Office  
Origami Restaurant  
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  
KCC-Japan Education Exchange  
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 Spotlight: Delta Air Lines, Inc.



Delta Air Lines is a major American airline, with its headquarters and largest hub at Hartsfield - Jackson Atlanta International Airport in Atlanta, Georgia. The airline along with its subsidiaries and regional affiliates operate over 5,400 flights daily and serve an extensive domestic and international network that includes 319 destinations in 54 countries on six continents, as of October 2016. Each year over 160 million people travel through Delta Air Lines.

Delta's vision includes sustainability and social responsibility. At Delta, sustainability is defined as “meeting the company's financial goals of growth and profitability over time, through business practices that minimize the environmental impacts of Delta operations and promote the health, welfare, and productivity of the individuals and communities we employ and serve.”

Akinori Yokosawa, Manager of Nikkei Sales, Global Sales & Distribution, serves as the key representative of Delta Air Lines, Inc. for JASM.

JASM is grateful to Delta Air Lines for its Corporate Benefactor Membership.

(This information was taken from [https://www.delta.com/content/www/en\\_US/about-delta/corporate-responsibility.html](https://www.delta.com/content/www/en_US/about-delta/corporate-responsibility.html))



## JASM Building Bridges for 45 Years

This year JASM celebrates its 45<sup>th</sup> year as a “bridge” between Japan and the U.S. in Minnesota. As part of the celebrations for this year, JASM welcomed Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae to Minnesota with a banquet in September. The event served as an opportunity for JASM to connect with other Japan related organizations, such as the Saint Paul -Nagasaki Sister City Organization (SPNSCC), the Minneapolis-Ibaraki Sister Organization, the Duluth International Sister City Organization, and the JET Alumni Association (JETAAMN) by inviting their representatives to join in the welcome of Ambassador Sasae. Yoshie Babcock created a colorful ikebana arrangement to grace the event. It was a grand celebration of the U.S. – Japan relationship in Minnesota.

Now we are preparing for another big highlight of the year: the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala. This flagship event of JASM raises money for the Mondale Scholarship program that supports the JASM vision of developing young leaders with an international view for the future. We also remember the contributions of Shirley Huskins, Kimi Hara, Ruth Tanbara, Rev. Andrew Otani and William Ogden, the first President of JASM, who were founding members of JASM.

JASM naturally has changed much since its early beginnings. In 1993, through the visionary leadership of JASM President Mirja Hanson, JASM opened an office, hired an Executive Director, and began recruiting Corporate Members to sustain the organization through corporate financial support. Grants from foundations, such as the Japan Foundation have also played key roles in providing funding, especially for the cultural and arts programs of JASM. The priorities may have changed, but the vision remains much the same: building bridges of understanding, focusing on the development of future leaders and building a strong financial foundation for future events and programming.

While corporate sponsorships continue to be important as well as funding through grants from foundations, JASM is now seeking donations from private donors. JASM has already started raising money from generous donors through its Major Gifts Legacy Campaign. This campaign makes it possible for private donors to give to JASM through their private investments or through their Estate Planning programs. Honorary Consul and Past President of JASM, Dick Stahl and his wife Carol, recently designated the largest individual contribution in the history of JASM in their will. Past JASM President John Babcock pledged to JASM an estate gift. Then recently, Michael and Yoshie Babcock made a large monetary donation to JASM. We are very grateful to these JASM members and others, not named here, who are helping JASM to grow stronger financially for the next 45 years. Please consider making a gift that feels right for you to the JASM Major Gifts Legacy Campaign. Thank you for helping JASM to make a difference in the world for the future.

Ben van Lierop, JASM Executive Director.

## New JASM Intern: Charles Daoheuang



Greetings everyone! My name is Charles Daoheuang and I am the new Membership Coordinator at JASM. I am currently finishing my time at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. I am an Asian Languages and Literature major with a focus on Japanese

but my enrollment at the U was not the first time I set my focus on Japan! As a kid, I grew up with Japan inadvertently through the dissemination of Japanese pop culture. I even recorded the ending song to the Pokemon anime with a voice recorder so that I could listen to it on the school bus in the morning—my rapping career never took off though.

My enthusiasm for Japan also lead me to study abroad in Tokyo for one year where I learned to greater appreciate Japanese culture and broaden my understanding of Japan. At JASM, I hope to bring my insights and enthusiasm for Japan to help achieve and surpass our goals both big and small. JASM does amazing work and I am happy to be a part of the team!

## Spring 2018 JASM Interns Wanted

Are you a college student interested in a career in International Business or International Relations? Do you have an interest in Japan or speak Japanese? If the answer is yes, the Japan America Society of Minnesota (JASM) has an opportunity for you!

**Hours Per Week:** 10-25 (often negotiable and flexible)

**Positions:** Membership Coordinator, Event Coordinator, Media Relations Coordinator

### Qualifications:

- Interest in Japan required; Japanese language skills helpful but not required
- Undergraduate student or recent graduate in related field
- Willing to work flexible hours and participate in JASM events (some evenings and weekends)

**If interested, please contact Program Manager Yoko Ueno at [yueno@us-japan.org](mailto:yueno@us-japan.org).**

**For more information, please go to <http://mn-japan.org/volunteering/internships/>**

## Minnesota -Japan Partnership Facts

Did you know that Japan supports workers and economic growth in Minnesota?

-Minnesota exports \$2.1 billion in goods and services to Japan supporting nearly 14,000 jobs

-Japanese tourists spend nearly \$300 million a year in Minnesota

-Japanese students contribute \$6 million annually to Minnesota's economy

-The Minneapolis Institute of Art is the largest gallery space for Japanese fine arts in the western world

-About 90 Japanese businesses are located in Minnesota, and employ 5,100 workers in the state

-\$1.04 billion in exports to Japan support advanced manufacturing in Minnesota

**Close Partnership with Japan: Good for America,  
Good for Minnesota**

(Information courteously provided by The Embassy of Japan, Washington D.C.)

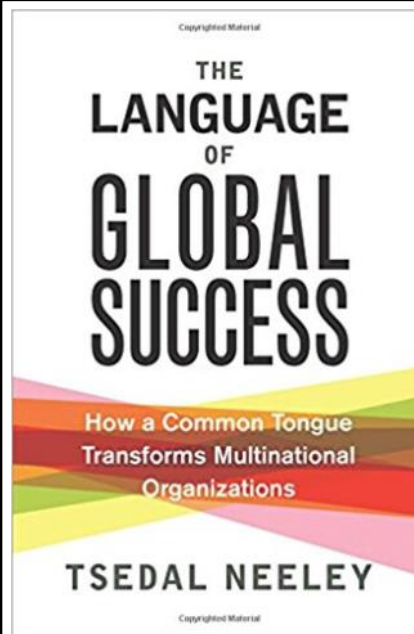
## Interested in Hosting a Japanese Student? Meet Yutaka Kitasaki!

Yutaka Kitasaki is a student from Wakayama Medical School and is looking for a family to stay with from December 2017 to January 2018. He prefers to live with a family that is located on a bus route. A little more about Yutaka: he is from Shiga Prefecture, where Lake Biwa is located. Yutaka likes playing and watching sports, and is on the rowing club at his university. His family includes his mother and father, his younger sister, and his grandmother. His family also has a dog named Caramel, after the color of his fur. Yutaka looks forward to meeting a nice host-family! If you would like to host Yutaka for two months, please contact the JASM office at 612-627-9357 or email [jasm@us-japan.org](mailto:jasm@us-japan.org), attention: Ben or Yoko.



A portrait of the Kitasaki family: Yutaka is second from right, holding Caramel

## Tom Haeg's Book Review:



The Language of Global Success; Tsedal Neeley, Princeton Press, 2017; 188 pages, \$26.95.

In March 2010 Hiroshi Mikitani, the chief executive of the Japanese e-commerce, global colossus Rakutan, issued a company-wide order: Rakutan would become an English-only organization. *Sugoi!* All 7,100 workers were given two years to get their "Englishnization" (his term) up to speed. They would have to score above 650 on a 990-point Test of English. If not, demotion or dismissal. The result: 90% of

its Japanese workforce met the standard; the remaining 10% were allowed a six-month grace period.

The reasoning for this verbal inflection was quite simple. Japan had become too insular. Mikitani determined that "Our goal is to catch up with the global market." A common language was crucial to share business acumen and cater to customers' needs. In other words, how to compete in a global economy.

Ms. Neeley is a professor at Harvard Business School. She spent over five years interviewing Rakutan employees and managers throughout the world to assess the language edict's efficacy. She opines that the subliminal effect for the language change was intended to re-invent the company by nudging the employees "away from its traditional Japanese hierarchical system, one characterized by rules, deference to authority, and perceptions of status, toward a perspective that would enable openness and assertion."

But stop. There is a disconnect. Less than two years into the language experiment ("changing perspectives by changing language"), Mikitani embarked on a purposeful re-emphasis of Japanese practices and cultural models throughout the organization. Do I hear pressure from the board? Perhaps. Mikitani probably surmised that the language change was a tad too draconian and felt pressure to re-kindle traditional Japanese best practices within the organization. Understandable. Nonetheless, Ms. Neeley further concludes that Western culture does not have to dominate in an English-speaking global company. Yet, the clarity, ease and transparency of a common language (read: English) is still essential to transmit core culture.

On a collateral note, we are told that announcement of the Englishnization edict was a wake-up call for schools in Japan teaching English. In a 2009 study of English proficiency in 30 Asian nations, Japan ranked second to the bottom. *Omoshiroi*.

-Tom Haeg



## "Speaking of Home"

9月18日2017. 州都セントポール市の繁華街を繋ぐ4本のスカイウェイに世界58カ国からミネソタ州へ来た移民達と故郷物語が半透明のガラス通路に展示されました。街路から見上げることもできますがどうぞ Skywayを散歩道として移民者達の物語を読んでください。私も日本からの移民者として選ばれ主宰者 ナンシ・アン・コインさんのインタビューをうけたのは数年前実現されるまで如何に大変な事業であったかと思われます。「何故ミネソタへ移民してきたか？」移民者達の故郷での写真とその生活が各々書かれてあり世界中の人に会っているような気分になります私も日本からの移民者として大きな写真になって居りますが...選ばれている写真は自分では思い出したくない人生に絶望的だった少女時代のものでした。5年生の夏休みにソ連軍攻撃から逃げ出し街角で煙草売りした収入は9人家族に足らなく終戦後4ヶ月に3人の弟妹を餓死させ便所で一人泣いた「神様洋子はまだ生きています！」小さい子達は腸が見える程痩せ可愛い歯の骸骨になって息が止まりました。



放浪生活二年後卒業証書取得の目的で入った6年生には教科書がなく ソ連兵にメガネを略奪された私は強度近視で黒板の字が見えなかった。ダグラスマッカーサー元帥によって日本の義務教育が9.3.3になった。校舎のない新制中学生達は土で田圃を埋め木材を運び木造校舎が出来上がった3年後は卒業式だった「貧乏人の娘が頭が良いと言うのは親不孝というものだ」と父の宣言の下に進学の夢は破れ前金で住み込み農業労働者になり週末祭日なし午前4時起床夜の9時馬に飼葉が最後。私は町の子百姓仕事を知らない本の虫、優等生で生徒会長は役立たず父はお金が必要だったのだ。若い血の夢破れ山脈に沈む夕陽に向かって泣いた。長い三つ組みのお下げにもんぺの山着物だった。67年後の今..

「アメリカは良い処だった。天国の様に、貧しい時でも平和と希望があり、足掻きの努力は報いてくれる国だった。」有難う...

書き写した

**Yoko Breckenridge**

612-839-008

yoko@yoko4home.com



## Nobuko Imai to be Featured Artist of CMSM Concert - October 8th, 2017

The Chamber Music Society of Minnesota will have a season opening concert at Sundin Music Hall of Hamline University in Saint Paul, Minnesota on Sunday, October 8th, 2017 at 4:00 PM. The featured artist is the renowned violinist Nobuko Imai.

Tickets can be purchased by phone (651-450-0527), online at [www.chambermusicmn.org](http://www.chambermusicmn.org), or at the door.

### Tickets:

\$25 Adult | \$20 Senior (62+) | \$15 Student



## Mondale Gala 2017 Kimono Assistance

If you wish to wear a kimono for the 2017 Mondale Gala and require assistance for the event, be sure to fill out a registration form by October 16th, 2017. Upon your reservation, a \$20 fee is requested for the service. **Do not forget to bring 3 koshi himo (cord or strips of cotton) and 2 thin towels as well.** You will be contacted for the appointment and the details before the event. To fill out a form, please visit <http://mn-japan.org/2017/09/20th-annual-mondale-award-and-scholarship-gala-2017/>



Guests wearing kimono at the 2016 Mondale Gala

# 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

### October

**28th: Mondale Gala**

\*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. (however, most people do not show up until 3:30)

**Place:** Espresso Royale Café

1229 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55403



## 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  
October 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.

## Ambassador Sasae Banquet - September 13, 2017

