Japan America Society of Minnesota







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

August 2018, Vol. 27, No. 08

July 11th Corporate Roundtable Recap



Ralph Inforzato giving his speech

On July 11, more than 30 professionals and JASM members attended JASM's Corporate Roundtable, hosted at the Stinson Leonard Street law office. A beautiful breakfast buffet was provided, and individuals ate and mingled before sitting down to hear Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) CEO Ralph Inforzato's intriguing talk. Mr. Inforzato's

speech was captivating, outlining the basics of Japan's significant manufacturing investment in America. 406,000. That is the staggering number of American jobs supplied by Japanese manufacturing companies, according to Mr. Inforzato. He said that 60% of Japanese company investors believe opportunities will expand in the future, providing even more job opportunities to America's workers. America is so focused on China (especially American media), that many Americans don't realize that Japan's investment in America is actually twenty times larger than China's! Mr. Inforzato also stressed that the current strains over trade found in Washington are making Japanese investors uneasy; some firms have started to drop out of U.S. involvement. The many tariffs enacted by President Trump are disrupting supply chains, and in doing so, creating anxiety in the Japanese companies providing thousands of jobs to Americans.

JETRO, Mr. Inforzato's organization, holds events to increase local involvement in and understanding of Japanese manufacturing. JETRO also provides a variety of other services to help American companies connect with Japan. It's important to see just how greatly Japan is impacting the American economy and to ensure that these ties with Japan

From left to right: JASM President Marc Blehert, Ralph Inforzato, Dick Stahl, and Rio

remain strong.

JASM has several of thankyous for those who helped
make this roundtable a success.
First off, without the help of
Mr. Inchan Hwang, partner at
Stinson Leonard Street, JASM
wouldn't have had such a
beautiful office to host the
event.

Cont. on Page 2

The Japanese Obon Festival: August 19th



Attendees at last year's Obon Festival wearing kimono and enjoying the festivities

The 2018 Obon Festival at Como Park on August 19 is approaching fast! Dust off your kimono or last year's Obon Festival shirt and come join us in a celebration of Japanese culture. You can anticipate Taiko drumming, singing, martial arts, bonsai, Bon Odori dancing, and plenty of delicious food as well as the muchanticipated lantern lighting at dusk. Each year the festival grows, drawing more and more

people who attend the event with friends and family. The festival is modeled after summer festivals held across Japan, and is reminiscent of Obon, one of Japan's biggest holidays, which commemorates the dead. The paper lanterns are said to guide ancestors' spirits to heaven.

A collaborative effort between JASM, Como Park, and the Saint Paul Nagasaki Sister City Committee, the Obon Festival is a chance for JASM to reach out to the wider community and directly promote cultural exchange.

Location:

Como Zoo Park 1225 Estabrook Dr. (Just East of the Como Conservatory) St Paul, MN 55103 **Time:**

Sunday, August 19 from 3:00 p.m. to dusk **Ticket Prices:**Adult (age 13 and older) - \$5.00

Adult (age 13 and older) - \$5.00 Child (age 3-12) - \$3.00 Senior (age 65 and over) - \$3.00 Under the age of 3 - Free



Free shuttle bus service will be available from a staffed offsite parking lot at the St. Paul Public Schools District Service Center, located at 1930 Como Ave. (near Fifield St.), St. Paul JASM is looking forward to hosting this event and can't wait to see you all there, enjoying the summer day with friends and family, surrounded by Japanese culture.

Letter from JASM Executive Director



Dear JASM members and friends,

My name is Rio Saito and I am humbled and honored to be able to introduce myself again to JASM members, but this time, as the Executive Director. Big thank you and お疲れ様でした to Ben-san for his service.

After serving JASM as Program Manager for 3 years, I worked remotely for a Tokyo company for one year. Even though it was a great learning experience for me, I missed JASM very much. I am delighted to be reunited with the wonderful board members and members of JASM who work tirelessly to serve this community.

As Executive Director, I would like to introduce JASM to more people and create a vital and open community for all. Please feel free to communicate with me about your hopes and wishes for the future of our community.

どうぞよろしくお願いいたします。

Mondale Award Nomination

Ever since Minnesota's own Walter Mondale served with distinction as the United States Ambassador to Japan from 1993-1996, JASM has sought to honor his legacy by identifying those members of our community who continue to build cultural bridges between Japan and the United States.

When Walter Mondale returned to the United States in 1997, the Japan America Society of Minnesota created the Mondale Award for Japan-Minnesota Partnership. The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding contributions to the building of understanding, cooperation and respect between the people of Japan and Minnesota. The award was named for—and first presented to—Joan and Walter Mondale to recognize his service as ambassador and her ongoing efforts to promote the arts in both countries.

JASM hopes to continue the distribution of this esteemed award this year. If you know someone who has dedicated their efforts to the continued benefit of the U.S/Japan relationship, please nominate them! Download the award criteria and nomination here:

mn-japan.org/programs/mondale-programs/mondale-award/

All applications must be submitted by email to jasm@us-japan.org by Monday, August 13.

Corporate Roundtable Recap Cont.



A full room of Corporate Roundtable attendees

JASM would also like to thank JETRO Chicago for allowing Mr. Inforzato to share his vast knowledge with us, as well as sending three additional JETRO

representatives to join us: Madeline Anderson, Tsubasa Hashimoto, and Kelly Highland.

Corporate Roundtable is a unique opportunity to get to know more about Japanese businesses. It's also a fantastic opportunity for networking. So many people showed up to the July Roundtable. People from a wide array of fields and backgrounds were in attendance and enjoyed learning and getting acquainted. Stay tuned for the date and special guest for the next Corporate Roundtable.



Mr. Inforzato talking with participants

Membership News

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

Tadako Pratt, Donald & Kyoko Klein, Magara Maeda, Robert Luck, Shizuko Koizumi, William & Jocelyn Patterson, Hisako Eppen, Tony Taniguchi, Ben & Chris van Lierop, Lisa Shakerin, Daniel Rolf, John Reinartz, Richard Stahl, Keiko Young, Alfred Zdrazil, Hiroshi & Eriko Nakato, Desmond Granrose, Elyssa Mason, Ray Sobocinski, Todd Zaun, Ai Soundara, Molly Schuneman, Yoriko Price, Deborah Hanson, Kaye Matsumoto, Shirley Huskins, Tom & Jeanne Tamura, Richard Telke, Jay Ihlenfeld, Miyuki & Mitch Baron, Jack and Karen Sattel, Gloria Kumagai, Suzuko Erickson, Masanao & Theresa Takahashi, Mutsumi Barnell, Charles Breer, Noriko Sugata, Gregory Cottles, Akiko & Samuel Durbin, Barbara shields, Diane Carter, Setsuko Dulski, Steven Ray, Mark Savin, Peter Gavin, Machiko Larson, Elfrieda Hintze

Thanks to the following renewing Corporate members:

KCC Japan Education Exchange Greater MSP Macalester College

Volunteers Wanted for the Obon Festival!



Children fishing for goldfish at the popular Kingyo Sukui booth

We are looking for volunteers for this year's Obon Festival. This is a great event for anyone who is interested in Japanese culture and would like to meet new people. Volunteers are compensated with free admission to the Festival.

The Obon Festival will be on Sunday, August 19th and will be split into two shifts for volunteers: first from 1:30-5:30 p.m., and the other from 5:00-9:30 p.m. If you are interested in working the later shift, please plan to arrive early, as last year many volunteers had difficulty arriving on time. There are

volunteer openings at the main JASM booth, the calligraphy booth, the Kingyo Sukui (goldfish catching) booth, and the J-Quiz booth, as well as the two Yo-Yo Tsuri booths.

There will be an orientation for volunteers on Saturday, August 18th from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., where we will learn the Bon Odori dance and go over the specific duties of the various volunteer positions. If you are interested in volunteering, email or call us, then please check your email for a message relating to Obon Festival Volunteering. This message will include a form you must fill out if you wish to volunteer.

Please visit our website: mn-japan.org and click on Events, then on *Como Park Obon Festival 2018: Volunteers Wanted Notice*, or contact Obon Festival Coordinator Romain Joussot by phone at 612-627-9357, or email at jasm.interns@gmail.com to volunteer.

Corporate Membership Spotlight: Dorsey and Whitney LLP.



JASM is proud to announce Dorsey and Whitney LLP as the Corporate Spotlight member for August!

With locations across the United States and in Canada, Europe, and the Asia-Pacific region, Dorsey and Whitney LLP provides an integrated, proactive approach to their clients' legal and business needs around the globe. Dorsey's lawyers and staff help their clients gain traction in the business world by applying superb legal knowledge and skills with practical wisdom and a deep understanding of business and industry. Check out their website for more details!

https://www.dorsey.com/

JASM wants to thank Dorsey and Whitney LLP for their constant support as Patron Members. Without the help of our members, JASM would not be thriving today. Dorsey and Whitney LLP has been a long-lasting source of support for JASM and we are excited to continue our partnership with them into the future.

Please thank our members with your support!

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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 Minnesota Orchestra NDSU-Emily Reynolds Historic Costume Collection U of MN Dept. of Asian Languages and Literatures, Japanese Language Program Winona State Univ. Global Studies Dept.



Special Exhibitions of Japanese Art

fia Websit



Minneapolis is home to the beautiful Minneapolis Institute of Art. Not only does the Mia have the largest permanent space for Japanese art outside of Japan, but it also features frequently changing displays. Now is your last chance to see two special exhibitions that close in early August. "In Focus: Contemporary Japan" is on until August 12. This exhibition focuses on presenting Japanese values in the face of recent disasters and the falling economy, while challenging both identity and memory within Japan. Another must-see for Japan art and culture lovers is the exhibition "Touring Japan through Landscape Prints by Kawase Hasui" that will close on August 5. There are only a few days left of the Hasui exhibit, so make sure to check it out before it moves to its next location!

https://new.artsmia.org/exhibitions/

Japan Floods: How to help





Western Japan has recently been devastated by horrific flooding and many around the world are wondering how they can help out those who have lost their homes, possessions, and even family

members. Right now, the Japanese government is using small groups of civilian volunteers to help clean up the debris. It would be best to wait to travel there and assist until the government reaches out for more, non-local volunteers.

The easiest thing to do in order to help would be a small donation to help the cleanup effort. There are a variety of websites and fundraising movements taking place and even a small amount of money can help. Here are a few trusted websites currently accepting donations.

https://pbv.or.jp/en/donate/2018 nishinihon/

http://www.japanplatform.org/E/programs/westernjapandisaster2018.html

https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/flood-and-landsliderelief-in-japan-we-need-you/

The Lost Friendship Doll



Miss Miyazaki

In 1927, Japan gave the U.S. 57 dolls as a gift of goodwill. One doll, sent to Minnesota, disappeared into storage and was forgotten until librarian Maggie Snow came across an interesting book mentioning the dolls. The doll sent to Minnesota, named Miss Miyazaki, was eventually found at the Minneapolis Central Library along with several of her possessions, including a tea set and a fan.

She was in a sad state of disarray when found: her face falling off and legs held in place by mere layers of tape. Miss Miyazaki made her way back to Japan for

repairs, done by the grandson of the craftsman who originally made her. After being sufficiently repaired, Miss Miyazaki was returned to Minnesota. The dolls represent a 90-year-old gesture of goodwill born out of an immigration conflict. Although a few of the dolls are now missing, most are still around. During a recent trip to North Dakota (see article on page 2), JASM's own Ben van Lierop and Rio Saito got to meet Miss Okayama, another friendship doll, residing at North Dakota State University. While many of the dolls have been found, many are still missing. Finding the dolls and repairing them would be a step closer to stronger Japan/America relations.

To learn more about the dolls, read the historical novel "The Friendship Doll" by Kirby Larson, which tells the story of Miss Miyazaki and the other dolls.



Ms. Saito and Mr. van Lierop meeting Miss Okayama

https://www.twincities.com/2017/11/05/she-arrived-in-1927-and-then-disappeared-what-happened-to-minnesotas-friendship-doll/

North Dakota Area Outreach Report

As a part of the JASM's outreach program, former Executive Director Ben van Lierop and current ED Rio Saito expanded JASM's connections to North Dakota through a recent trip.

They visited JASM member North Dakota State University, MN State University Moorhead, the University of North Dakota, and Concordia Language Village headquarters at Concordia College. Ben and Rio discussed working together to bring awareness of the importance of study abroad and learning a foreign language. In NDSU, they viewed a Japanese "friendship doll" named Miss Okayama (see article on page 4 for photo and details).

It was a very fruitful visit to the Study Abroad program of Minnesota State University Moorhead and the University of North Dakota, where the passion for supporting students to study abroad matches JASM's. We are hoping to continue our relationship with these colleges in the Upper Midwest to support students who have potential to prosper on the world stage.

2018 Burnsville International Festival



Romain holding the Japanese flag

On Saturday, July 21, Burnsville held their 11th International Festival in Nicollet Commons Park. The event had tables displaying cultures from around the world as well as a multitude of different global foods, music, and entertainment. We at JASM had our own table and represented Japan at the Festival. During the opening parade of flags, our intern Romain Joussot

proudly carried the Japanese flag. At JASM's table, we taught festival attendees how to make Origami Samurai helmets and spread the word about upcoming JASM events. By the end of the day, people could be seen walking around the park adorned in their Samurai helmet, ready to go off to battle.

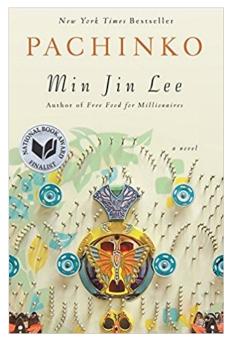


A girl with her new Samurai helmet

Tom Haeg's Book Review:

Pachinko; Min Jin Lee, Grand Central Publishers, 2017, 489 pages.

This 2017 family saga by Korean American author Min Jin Lee traces four generations of Korean immigrants — outsiders loathed and disenfranchised in Japanese-occupied Korea and then in Japan during the twentieth century. During their journeys, we learn more about *sub* rosa Japan, organized crime, stoicism, shame, survival, tolerance, hope, class mobility, redemption, family,



prejudice, and marriage in a compelling fictional account which cleverly and subliminally reveals historical and social customs. Lee deftly accomplishes this by illuming her characters' hopes and aspirations to successfully carry the narrative.

Okay, to answer your obvious question, "Why 'pachinko'?" This slot-machine-like gambling game is ubiquitous in Japan and (at least according to Lee) is controlled by organized crime, and thereby despised like all Zainichi (ethnic Korean immigrants). Korean families in Japan are frequently drawn to the pachinko business as their only opportunity to overcome discrimination, avoid poverty, find work, and accumulate wealth to eventually achieve social acceptance. Hence, the leitmotif.

While reading Pachinko I was curiously drawn back to the archetypal family saga genre novel, *Buddenbrooks*, written by Thomas Mann. *Buddenbrooks* follows the multi-generational decline of a fictitious petit bourgeois German grain trading family in the mid-19th century. Although Lee diverges with an overachieving, upward bound Korean family in the pachinko business, the literary platform is consistent and true to the Mann template except that one goes down and the other up. The influence is interesting, the ideas transcending, and the struggles consistent.

Lee has a distinct following of readers connected to her debut novel (Free Food for Millionaires), has earned awards for her short stories (Axis of Happiness and Motherland, 2004), and been recognized for her prolific magazine and newspaper essays in The Times of London, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Food and Wine, plus lectures, reviews and more.

Recommendation: I give it five stars (out of five).

-Tom Haeg

Nihonjin kai Yard Sale 2018

On July 21, 2018, the second Nihonjin-kai Annual yard sale was performed. At 7:30 a.m. when I showed up to front of the site there were already numbers of people busy putting up tents and my fellow sign task partner was waiting for me. There was a promising midsummer clear sky. I was a little foggy on what was going on because I was gone from May - June, however everyone was smiling and busy getting ready. Everything was going very smoothly. The whole event reminds me of a quote from the book "Philosophy of Work" by Kenkyusha. It states, "Good workers do not always obey their superior" (they have their own minds). Another book, "Too Fun - A Law of Success" by Hitori Saito says "You became a success because you enjoy doing it, NOT you are enjoying it because you are a success."



Volunteers relaxing after the busy day

Overall, we had approximately 45 volunteers and record breaking sales. I was a little worried that there wouldn't be enough food to go around, but everything went smoothly and we had enough. After we toasted the success of the event and enjoyed a little party and cleaned it was already10:00 p.m. We were tired but did we "Enjoy the Event?" YES!

This was a fundraising event, but more importantly, we had an opportunity to get together and truly enjoy the company of each other! The tightly packed room was full of talk and laughter. We do not have many systems or programs to publish, but we have the opportunity to come and enjoy the relationship!

"Give to those in front of you. This is what you can do for the <u>greatest love.</u>" (Do nice things to those in front of you...family, friends. Give it your best. "This is a secret of Success" A Good Relationship......



Yoko Breckenridge 612-839-008 voko@yoko4home.com





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時からは、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 is every 2nd Monday at noon. The meeting is held at 4231 Bloomington Ave S. Minneapolis, MN 55407).

シカゴ領事館出張サービス

ミネソタ州イーガン市

実施日 平成30年10月11日(木曜日)

時間 午前9時30分から午後12時15分まで 午後1時15分から午後4時まで

会場 Quality Inn & Suites

1950 Rahncliff Ct, Eagan, MN 55122 1-651-681-9266

領事出張サービスでは、遠隔地にお住まいの在留邦人の皆様のパスポートの申請または 交付、各種証明の申請、戸籍・国籍の届出、在外選挙人名簿登録の申請、在留届の提出 などを受け付けています。

パスポートの交付を希望される方は、<u> 平成30年9月27日(木)まで</u>に当館宛てに郵便仮申請制度(注)を利用して、パスポートの仮申請を済ませてください。

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各種証明の申請及び戸籍・国籍の届出につきましては、いずれも予約制です。必ず事前 に当館までご連絡ください。

旅券および証明手数料は、当日会場で現金にてお支いいただきます。釣り銭のないよう ご用意ください。

在シカゴ日本国総領事館

CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN IN CHICAGO 737 North Michigan Avenue Suite 1100 Chicago, IL 60611

電話 1-312-280-0400 / FAX 1-312-280-9568

ホームページ http://www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_ja/index.html

Advertise in the Tsushin!

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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.

Advertisements are 10% off for JASM Members A one year Ad subscription guarantees one month for free!

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

Japan America Society Calendar

August

Obon Festival: Sunday, August 19 from 3 p.m. to dusk

*If you would like to let JASM know about an upcoming event, email 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 Corner Coffee in Uptown 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: Corner Coffee



1414 W 28th St, Minneapolis, MN 55408

For questions, comments, or concerns, please contact JASM at jasm@us-japan.org or 612-627-9357

Looking for New Interns

JASM is currently searching for new interns! We are looking for individuals who are:

- Interested in Japan,
- Has a familiarity with Microsoft Office programs
- Is an undergraduate student or recent graduate
- Is willing to work flexible hours and participate in JASM events.

As JASM internships are unpaid, we offer meaningful work experience and intangible benefits. The networking opportunities introduce interns to influential individuals working within Japanese-related businesses and organizations. For more information regarding details on a specific position, please visit our website at

mn-japan.org/volunteering/internships.

If interested in applying, please email, fax, or mail a resume and cover letter to:

Yoko Ueno, Program Manager Japan America Society of Minnesota Riverplace EH-131 43 Main Street SE Minneapolis, MN 55414 yueno@us-japan.org

T: 612.627.9357 F: 612.379.2393

Become a JASM Member online!

Support our mission and become a member!

- . 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

O Tax-deductible Donation	
Name	
Name (2nd adult of a household members	ship)
Address	
City Stat	e ZIP
E-mail	Individual Membership Patron\$1,000+ Sustaining\$500+
Phone	Contributing\$100+
I would like to make an additional tax- deductable donation of	Student/Senior\$20 Household\$50 (2 adults plus children under 18)
Amount Enclosed:	

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

(Please make checks payable to JASM)

Japan America Society of Minnesota



Minneapolis, MN 55414-1031

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



Tsūshin August 2018

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.

(Please report any inaccuracies you find in this publication to jasm.interns@gmail.com)

July Corporate Roundtable and **Burnsville International Festival 2018**









