# Japan America Society of Minnesota







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

October 2018, Vol. 27, No. 10

# **Mondale Scholarship Recipient 2018/19**



2017/18 Mondale Scholarship recipients

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2018/19 Mondale Scholarship. Each year, the Mondale Scholarship assists students in Minnesota to finance their study abroad in Japan. This year the Mondale Scholarship Selection Committee chose four recipients.

Elise Bearrood is currently a double major in Japanese and Chemistry at the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph. As early as elementary school, Elise found herself interested in Japanese culture. After graduation from high school, Elise was able to travel to Japan where she experienced Japanese culture and improved her language skills. During her first year in college, she was already taking Japanese courses at an advanced level. She will be using the Mondale Scholarship toward her fall semester abroad at Bunkyo Gakuin University in Tokyo.

Hannah Detlaff is a double major in Japanese and Computer Science at Macalester College in St. Paul. As she has already completed her college's most advanced Japanese course, she seeks to continue her education by studying in Japan. Hannah is looking forward to



2017/18 Scholarship recipient Robert Hanson and his family with Ambassador Mondale and Marc Blehert, JASM President

experiencing and immersing herself in a culture that differs from her own. She wishes to learn not only the language but also dive into the history, literature, and other aspects of Japan. She will be using the Mondale Scholarship towards a spring semester abroad at Sophia University in Tokyo.

**Tatiana Gust** is a double major in Japanese Studies and History at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter. Tatiana has had a great interest with Japan for the last seven years. She has completed all the Japanese language courses offered at her college and almost all of the Japanese history and culture courses. In Japan, she plans to work on becoming fluent in Japanese.

Continued on page 3

#### Know Me Kai Club: Please Help Us Welcome New Japanese Expats to MN



On Tuesday, October 9th, JASM members and non-members alike are welcome to participate in our new "Know Me Kai Club" event at Saji-Ya Restaurant, at 6:00 p. m. "Know Me Kai Club" provides very open networking opportunities for everyone. The goal of October 9th's "Know Me Kai Club" is to welcome new Japanese expats to Minnesota. Please join us to show a warm welcome to make our new friends feel at ease.

At this event, attendees can share stories about their experiences in Japan or Minnesota as well as interests in Japanese culture and society both from a personal and professional perspective.

Please join JASM's "Know Me Kai Club" for great discussions and expand your network in the wonderful ambience of Saji-Ya.

Thanks to Saji-Ya for offering Happy-Hour-prices even after 6:00 p.m. **RSVP required**. Please see details below.

Location: Saji-Ya

695 Grand Ave St. Paul, MN 55105

<u>Cost</u>: JASM Members—Free Non-Members—\$5



If you join JASM prior to or at this event, we will waive the non-member fee! Attendees are encouraged to purchase their own food and drink at the restaurant. *Nonmembers*: Please visit JASM website to purchase tickets in advance: http://mn-japan.org/2018/09/know-me-kai-club/

**RSVP:** We require everyone to make a reservation prior to the event. Please visit the JASM website to find the RSVP link, email jasm@us-japan.org, or call us at 612-627-9357.

### Grassroots Caravan to Hutchinson, MN

On August 20<sup>th</sup>, JASM's Executive Director Rio Saito joined the first visit of the Grassroots Caravan led by Consul-General of Japan in Chicago, Naoki Ito, to the city of Hutchinson, Minnesota. The caravan included representatives from the Consul General of Japan in Chicago, the Minnesota Trade office, the Honorary Consul of Japan in Minneapolis, the Japan Economic Trade Organization, and JASM.

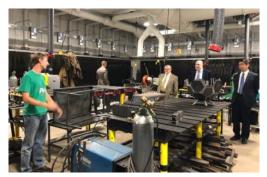
The caravan was welcomed and led by the Hutchinson Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism President and the Hutchinson Economic Development Director. The group took tours of a 3M facility, Hutchinson High School, and Ridgewater College, and also had a roundtable discussion at the Southwest Foundation regarding the current business relationship between Japan and America.

The goal of the Grassroots Caravan is to visit Japanese companies around the region to learn about their operations and communities, and see where further mutuallybeneficial business partnerships could be fostered. The group witnessed efforts to train and retain skilled workers through Ridgewater College's programs for nondestructive product testing, machine tools, and automotive programs. Caravan participants also learned about Hutchinson High School's TigerPath Academies program.

"TigerPath Academies gives students the directions, tools, education, support, and hands-on experience to get where they want to go with confidence. By selecting one of the four TigerPath Academies, students take classes, pursue internships, experience hands-on learning, and receive tailored activities to nurture their career interests. In some cases, students are able to obtain industry-recognized certification or required training while still in high school. Career-specific classes and hands-on learning opportunities give Hutchinson High School students an advantage when building their resumes, applying for apprenticeships, and/or earning scholarships to trade schools, colleges, or other specialized programs." (https://hutchtigerpath.com)

The facilities of Ridgewater College and the high school were realized by a \$1.2 million investment from Hutchinson and several local manufacturers. The city of Hutchinson, the schools, and local manufacturers work closely together to build a strong workforce for the city that will surely pay off in the future.

The Grassroots Caravan would like to visit another city in Minnesota to see what other kinds of effort are being made to strengthen the workforce of the future.



Consul-General Ito, Mr. Ralph Inforzato of JETRO, & Superintendent Daron VanderHeiden getting a demonstration from Hutchinson High School's TECH education teacher.

#### Recap: Normandale Japanese Garden Festival



New JASM interns Bekah and Isaac helping attendees make origami samurai helmets.

Huge thanks to Normandale Community College for putting on the Nihon Teien Matsuri, Japanese Garden Festival! The event took place on Saturday, September 22. There were many activities, displays, and performances, ranging from taiko drum playing to a show of various kimono.

In the gymnasium there were activities including karate performed by the South Metro Authentic Ancient Arts group, sword performances from Seiryukan Dojo, and archery from MN Kyudo Renmei. An upstairs marketplace offered Japanese food and snacks, while the JASM booth nearby had many visitors inquiring about the organization and folding paper samurai helmets. Outside were more food choices and of course the beautiful and famous Japanese garden.

Thanks again to all who came and also to those who helped put on a great event. To those who could not come, we hope to see you all next year.

More pictures of this event can be viewed on the last page.

# **Membership News**

Thanks to the following renewing corporate member: University of North Dakota - Grand Forks

Thanks to the following renewing corporate member: Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, P.C.

Thanks to the following new JASM members: Elisheva Perelman, Dylan Sprung

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:
Dina Blumenfeld, Estele Bekele, Yoko Breckenridge,
Noriko & Takuzo Ishida, Jonathan Dane, Kay A. Thomas,
Jutta Thompson, John Babcock, Tomoko & Bruce Drake,
Akihiko Ito, Michael & Yoshie Babcock, Akiko & Scott
Kilau, Hiroe Hosna, Derek Lehmberg, Christina Kunz,
Hisako Eppen, Michael Johnson, Tom & Clare Larkin,
Karl Reinhard, Hisako Bickner, Marc & Amy Blehert,
Hanna Brandt, Michael Johnson, Lawrence & Keiko
Farrar, David Mixon, and Gregory Schuneman

### Mondale Scholarship Recipient 2018/19 Continued



Marc Blehert, JASM President, announcing the recipients of the 2017/18 Mondale Scholarship

Tatiana is currently using the Mondale Scholarship toward her fall semester abroad at the Kansai Gaidai University in Osaka.

She was JASM's Media Relations
Coordinator intern during the summer of 2018

Mason Williams is a double major in Business Administration and International Business at the University of St. Thomas. Since he returned from Japan earlier this year, Mason has had a strong desire to return and further continue his studies toward fluency in Japanese. He wants to experience

as much as he can in Japan, from big cities such as Tokyo to smaller towns. He plans to also take courses that will be beneficial towards his business major. His goal is to work in Japan after his graduation from college. He will be using the Mondale Scholarship towards time at Osaka Gakuin University. During the winter and spring of 2018 he was JASM's Media Relations Coordinator.

Congratulations to the recipients of the Mondale Scholarship! We wish them a great time in Japan and are looking forward to hearing back from the recipients on their return.

The Mondale Scholarship award is intended to both recognize and encourage the continued efforts to build a bridge between Japan and Minnesota. JASM would like to continue support for future leaders of the Japan-Minnesota relationship. Please join us for the 21st Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala to support the Mondale Scholarship program as well as JASM activities. The Gala will take place at Oak Ridge Country Club in Hopkins on Saturday, November 17, 2018.

### Corporate Membership Spotlight: Saji-Ya Restaurant



JASM is proud to announce *Saji-Ya Restaurant* as the Corporate Membership Spotlight of October!

Saji-Ya Restaurant has been serving traditional Japanese food for more than 35 years. They offer Happy Hour every day from 3-6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 4-6 pm on Sunday. They "are passionate about creating food that is both delicious and beautiful with service that is always friendly." Please go to their website for further details: www.sajiya.com

JASM wants to thank Saji-Ya Restaurant for their continued support as Partners in Service. Saji-Ya Restaurant has been supporting us through their contributions at many events, such as Shinnenkai, J-Quiz, and the Obon Festival, and we are excited to continue our partnership with them in the future.

# Please thank our members with your support!

#### Corporate Benefactor Members

3M Company
Anime Twin Cities, Inc.
Daikin Applied
Delta Air Lines, Inc.
MTS Systems Corporation
Sawai Pharmaceutical, Co. Ltd.
Taivo International

#### Patron Members:

Dorsey & Whitney, LLP St. Jude Medical, Inc.

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Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, PC
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Japan Lifeline Co. Ltd.
Mall of America
Medtronic, Inc.
Metropolitan Airport Commission
MGK, Inc.
Naigai Industries U.S.A. Inc.
The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd.
United Noodles

#### **Corporate Contributing Members**

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#### Nonprofit Members

Concordia Language Villages 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 University of North Dakota- Grand Forks



Winona State Univ. Global Studies Dept.

#### New Intern: Bekah Zimmerman



Bekah Zimmerman Membership Coordinator

My name is Bekah Zimmerman and I am the new Membership Coordinator intern for JASM. I recently graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Asian Literatures and Languages with an emphasis in Japanese. I hope to teach English overseas next year in either Japan or Korea which are two countries in which I have an interest. It has been a goal of mine to work for

JASM and I am excited to join a nonprofit that promotes Japanese culture.

I have studied Japanese since high school. When I was in college, I saved up enough money to travel to Japan for the first time. I had such a wonderful time in Japan, but one of my favorite experiences was shopping in Harajuku.

When I am not working for JASM, I am working two other jobs to save up money to go back to Japan. In my free time I love to write, do photography, and go hiking. My favorite time to go hiking is the fall because of all the vibrant colors of the forest.

#### New Intern: Isaac DeGroot



Isaac DeGroot Media Relations Coordinator

Hello, I am Isaac DeGroot! I am the new Media Relations Coordinator at JASM.

I am currently a senior at the University of Minnesota -Twin Cities and am studying Japanese and East Asian culture. I started studying Japanese during my first year of college and ever since, I became deeply interested in not only the language, but the culture and people as well.

This interest led me to study

abroad in Japan during the previous summer. I had a fantastic time in Japan! My favorite part was the people, food, especially octopus sushi, and the train system. I hope to return and work in Japan some time after I graduate.

I am excited to help JASM continue to bring the people of America and Japan together to be able to share cultures and experiences. In the future, I hope I can work in Japan and continue to foster the bond between Japan and America.

### MN Grassroots Development: The Minnesota Nikkei Project

JASM would like to introduce the many other Japan-related local groups in Minnesota to our members. This new series, *Minnesota Grassroots Development*, aims to strengthen the links of the Japan-America community throughout the state of Minnesota by familiarizing members with these groups working tirelessly to bring the community together.

The Minnesota Nikkei Project (*Nikkei*: Japanese descent) incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 1978 in Minneapolis. It was created in response to a push by the Midwest Nisei Aging Conference (*Nisei*: second generation of Japanese-American) in Chicago and the national Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) to increase awareness and involvement with the aging Japanese community. A local board was formed and chaired by Bill Doi. This Twin Cities group made a commitment to the elderly Issei (*Issei*: first generation Japanese immigrants) to make their remaining years as pleasurable as possible through volunteer efforts of the Nisei and Sansei (*Sansei*: third generation).

With a board represented by different organizations and churches, the Nikkei Project evolved. Regular meetings with crafts, lunch, and activities were planned. Outings to museums, boat rides, fishing trips, live performances, and of course, eating at Japanese restaurants were looked forward to and enjoyed by the Issei. Through the efforts of the Nisei the goals of the Nikkei Project were wonderfully met.

Fast forward 40 years to 2018. The Issei have since passed, as well as many of the founding Nisei members. Today the Nikkei Project continues to serve the elderly Nisei in our community with the same vision and dedication through the volunteer efforts of the Sansei. We help provide a supportive place for older Nisei to maintain social ties in the Minnesota Japanese community.

Meetings are held twice a month at Spring House Ministry Center in Minneapolis from September through May, with an average attendance of about 55 people (including the Sansei). A typical Wednesday will start off with coffee and social time and, depending on the day, may include crafts, bingo, Japanese dance/singing, holiday parties, and lunch. We try to keep in mind Japanese traditions and look forward to seasonal events like making mochi and celebrating Oshogatsu.

-Rosie Iversen, the Minnesota Nikkei Project



Christmas Gathering of the Minnesota Nikkei Project Members

### Selling Rice to Japan



Ojibwe farmers rowing carefully through their rice field.

It might seem a bit strange to say that Minnesota is selling its wild rice to Japan, one of the biggest rice producers in the world; but recently, a small tribe of Ojibwe natives have been sending harvested

wild rice to sell at food expos in Japan. These efforts are matched with the effort to try to find a consistent contract with importers at Foodex, the largest food show in Asia.

As you may know, wild rice is drastically different from the sticky rice grown in and exported from Japan. Wild rice is extremely nutritious with a nutty flavor and unique texture, very different from white and brown rice. While both brown and wild rice are healthy, wild rice is much healthier than brown rice, having 30% fewer calories as well as 40% more protein (taste.com). Ojibwe people in Northern Minnesota are hoping to strengthen their rice production by catching the eye of the rice-loving Japanese. Unfortunately, this market may be a ways off. With declining demand from the shrinking and aging population in Japan, domestic Japanese rice growers will be facing their own problems in the future. Hopefully, once the population crisis is resolved, the rice demand will skyrocket and a steady import of Minnesota's wild rice will make its way to Japan.

http://www.startribune.com/minnesota-tribes-hope-the-world-gains-a-taste-for-wild-rice/416622423/

## Minneapolis Institute of Art: The Tale of Genji

Since August, the Minneapolis Institute of Art has been hosting an exhibition of Japan's most famous literary works, *the Tale of Genji*. Written in the early 1000s by Murasaki Shikibu, a lady-in-waiting at the imperial

court, the tale traces the life and romantic pursuits of an imperial prince called Genji. Being the world's first novel, it has inspired countless Japanese artists over the centuries. This exhibition will focus on *Genji*-related



Image from Minneapolis Institute of Art website

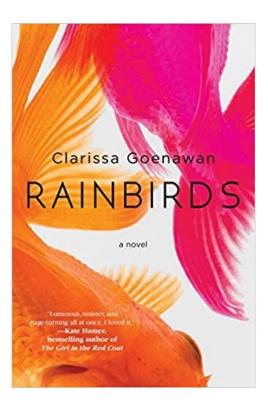
art, woodblock prints, folding screens, lacquerware, and kimono, created over the past 500 years.

The exhibition has two parts. The first rotation of "Love Affairs: The Tale of Genji in Japanese Art" is open until November 25th. The second rotation will be on view for December 1st until March 10th, 2019. The exhibition highlights masterpieces of Japanese art and is free to visitors.

https://new.artsmia.org/exhibition/love-affairs-the-tale-of-genji-in-japanese-art/

# Tom Haeg's Book Review: Rainbirds

Rainbirds; Clarissa Goenawan, Soho Press, 2018; 323 pages.



This is Clarissa Goenawan's literary novel debut. She chose a murder mystery whodunit platform to tell the story. In the process, she successfully broadens the plot with appealing imagery, self-discovery, secrets, crumbling relationships, coincidence, eccentricities, dreams, and sibling rivalry.

The setting is a small town, Akakawa, an imagined and somewhat nondescript, unremarkable place outside of Tokyo but still in Japan. Our hero, Ren Ishida, is the narrator. After learning about his sister's violent death in Akakawa, he awkwardly goes there to settle her estate. Or so it seems. Meanwhile, the plot thickens when his naivety distracts him to pursue more haunting questions: why she originally left home, what strained their relationship, why she chose to live in a desolate place like Akakawa and, of course, who killed her. And more. In a coincidental turn of events, Ren ends up living in his sister's prior residence, assumes her last teaching position, and even associates with her co-workers. This oddity is nonetheless believable and helps to move the story along.

Although Goenawan is primarily a woebegone mystery writer, she broadens her base by portraying her characters with depth and their relationships with intrigue in a novella format. She cleverly connects them in the puzzle as if they are living side-by-side in a small American town. Her writing is compact, simple and easy to follow.

Goenawan is an Indonesian-born Singaporean writer and *Rainbirds* is her first novel. Curiously, there has not yet been a Japanese translation. Only English. It will be interesting to learn if her next novel, too, has a Japanese setting.

-Tom Haeg

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Obon Festival 2018 was a successful event for MN Nihonjinkai/Japanese Library! We want to thank everyone who visited our booth and purchased items from our group. We would also like to thank everyone who donated items for us to sell and most especially, thank our volunteers! Although it was an extremely BUSY day, we always enjoy meeting new people and running into old friends at Como Park.

We plan to use some of the proceeds to make a few minor improvements to the Japanese Library which will benefit everyone who uses the space. If you are a carpenter or interior painter who would like to donate your time and resources to help us give the Japanese Library a little "facelift," we have a few projects waiting for you!

Volunteer day at the library is usually reserved for Saturday afternoons, but we can be flexible. Please call Karen Harwerth if you are interested in getting involved: (612) 747-0340.



2018 Obon Festival Volunteers

We received some wonderful donations in response to our last article and are very excited! One of the donations was a collection of "retro" Japan Airlines calendars. We are planning to frame some of the beautiful artwork for permanent display in the library as part of our "facelift." Thank you, Mr. Jim Hoffman. Your gift is greatly appreciated!





Yoko Breckenridge 612-839-008 yoko@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).

# Visit to Roosevelt Highschool

On September 25<sup>th</sup>, JASM Executive Director Rio Saito and Honorary Consul Dick Stahl were invited by teacher Mark Rugnetta and the Asian Student Union to present Roosevelt High School with a flag of Japan. The school has been collecting flags from various nations with the purpose of promoting cultural diversity. Executive Director Saito and Honorary Consul Stahl spoke to the students about the importance of learning about other cultures. They encouraged students to reach out to exchange students and to get involved in activities that promote cultural diversity and awareness. After the school has finished collecting flags of various countries, they intend to display them to show their support of cultural diversity.



JASM Executive Director Rio Saito and Honorary Consul Dick Stahl with teacher Mark Rugnetta and the students at Roosevelt High School

# **Advertise in the Tsushin!**

#### Advertisement Rates

Style Cost/issue Size 5 x 3.5 in \$50.00 1/4 page 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!

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

### Japan America Society Calendar

#### **October**

Know Me Kai Club, Tuesday, October 9, 2018

#### November

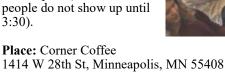
21st Mondale Gala, Saturday, November 17, 2018

# **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





# **Support JASM through IACE Travel**



Did you know there's a way to travel to Japan while supporting the Japan America Society of Minnesota? The Arlington Heights branch of IACE Travel is offering an opportunity to do just this. Whether or not you are a JASM member, when you mention the Japan America Society of Minnesota while booking your flight, IACE Travel will make a donation to JASM. Whether you're looking for a plane ticket, JR Pass, cruise, or grand tour, IACE has a package for you. Get started today by checking out the IACE Travel webpage at: https://www.iace-usa.com/en, or by calling them at 847-437-2244 / 800-785-4223.



#### **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
- 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

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

Name	
Name (2nd adult of a household member	rship)
Address	
City Sta	te ZIP
E-mail	Individual Membership Patron\$1,000+
Phone	Sustaining\$500+ Contributing\$100+ Individual\$30
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)

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

# Japan America Society of Minnesota



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



Tsūshin October 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)

# Normandale Japanese Garden Festival 2018

























