

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通 信

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

November 2018 Vol. 27, No. 11

21st Mondale Gala 2018 Keynote Speaker

JASM is very pleased to welcome Dr. Sheila A. Smith, a senior fellow for Japan Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, to serve as keynote speaker at the 2018 Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala on November 17, 2018.



Sheila A. Smith

Dr. Sheila Smith is an expert on Japanese politics and foreign policy. She has written several books discussing international politics and alliances concerning East Asia and the United States, such as *Intimate Rivals: Japanese Domestic Politics and a Rising China* (Columbia University Press, 2015), which was released in Japanese as 日中親愛なる宿敵: 変容する日本政治と対中政 (Tokyo

University Press, 2018), and *Japan's New Politics and the U.S.-Japan Alliance* (Council on Foreign Relations, 2014). She has also been a visiting researcher at the University of Tokyo and the University of the Ryukyus.

Dr. Smith is currently vice chair of the U.S. advisors to the U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON). She also serves on the advisory committee for the U.S.-Japan Network for the Future program of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation. She teaches as an adjunct professor at the Asian Studies Department of Georgetown University and serves on the board of its *Journal of Asian Affairs*. She earned her MA and Ph.D. degrees from the department of political science at Columbia University.

Dr. Smith has previously spoken at an event titled *Japan Still Matters*, hosted by JASM in Minneapolis and sponsored by the National Association of Japan-America Societies and Keizai Koho Center. We are excited to have her speaking at the Mondale Gala.

During the Mondale Gala, the Mondale Award and the Mondale Scholarship will be presented to the recipients.

With the Mondale Gala approaching quickly, we would like to inform our readers who wish to wear a kimono to the event that there is assistance available for kimono dressing. If you would like more information, please go to the Mondale Gala 2018 page on our website: mn-japan.org. Information will be kimono dressing assistance is near the bottom of the page.



Mondale Gala 2017

Recap: Know Me Kai Club



Know Me Kai Club at Saji-ya restaurant

On October 9th, with the goal of welcoming new Japanese expats to Minnesota, "Know Me Kai Club" had a record number of 44 attendees, including expats, JASM members, and other guests. In Saji-ya restaurant in St. Paul, a warm welcome was shown to expats and their families by members of the community, while they shared experiences over food and drinks. Expats were able to relax in this casual



Attendees at Know Me Kai

environment as they settle into their new livelihood in Minnesota.

Once again, thank you to Saji-ya for offering Happy Hour prices past 6:00 p.m., and thank you to all who came to the event. Even with poor weather, turnout was fantastic and everyone had a memorable time.

More pictures from Know Me Kai can be viewed on the last page.

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Do you shop online using Amazon? If you do, please consider using AmazonSmile at <https://smile.amazon.com> and choose JASM as your organization to support!

AmazonSmile has the same prices and products as Amazon. The only difference is that every time you buy products on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your purchase to JASM. There is no added cost to you!

With the holiday season approaching, please shop using AmazonSmile. We would be very appreciative of your support.

Letter from the JASM President



Marc Blehert
JASM President

Dear JASM Members and Friends,

Who's ready for winter? I am not...
Who is ready for the Mondale Award
and Scholarship Gala? Me!

The 21st annual 'Mondale Gala' will be held on Saturday, November 17th at the beautiful Oak Ridge Country Club in Hopkins. If you have not yet made your reservation, please do so by contacting the JASM office at 612-627-9375 or visiting www.mn-japan.org.

Bring your family, friends, and coworkers to this inspirational, grand event.

Why is the Mondale Gala important? In addition to gathering to enjoy the camaraderie of the JASM community, a critical component of the Gala is to raise money to support the Mondale Japan Study Abroad Scholarship fund. I spent my junior year of college (1995-1996) as an exchange student in Japan. Personally, I cannot imagine where my life would be without this experience.

For example, before embarking on this adventure, my diet was very narrow and self-restricted. I would not go near a tomato, amongst many other vegetables, and eating fish was out of the question.

Living abroad forced me to open my mind and expand my horizons far beyond my limited culinary preferences. The impact of not just vacationing, but becoming immersed in a foreign country and culture for an extended duration, is profound. There is no better time than college for such an experience. It is incredible and unique that we come together at the Mondale Gala as individuals and corporations to support the scholarship fund. Please be assured that your generous donations make a difference – more than you can imagine! The money raised is helping bright young students realize their Japan study abroad dreams, enriching their lives and our community.

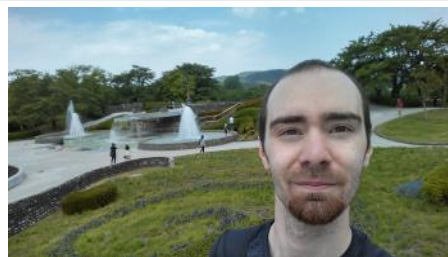
By the way, tomatoes and fish are now amongst my favorite foods.

We are also delighted to be presenting the Mondale Award for Japan-Minnesota Partnership to Linda Hashimoto van Dooijeweert. Linda has given generously of her time, talents and energy to several local organizations, eloquently chronicled in the September Tsushin. Linda embodies the spirit of outreach, bridging cultures, and bringing the people of Minnesota and Japan closer together. She is a most deserving winner of the prestigious Mondale Award. Many thanks for all the nominations received by JASM and the thoughtful consideration of the Mondale Award Selection Committee.

I am excited to see you all at the Mondale Gala!

Marc Blehert

New Intern: Tyler Brown



Hi, my name is Tyler Brown and I'm the new Event Coordinator for JASM. I'm an Asian Languages and Literatures major at the University of Minnesota and I hope to minor in many fields, from Mathematics and Computer Science to Linguistics.

I've always had an amazing relationship with my teachers and loved learning from them. This, alongside my interest in Japanese, has led me to want to become an English teacher in Japan. However, my overall goal is to participate in an organization like JASM to help bring cultures and people together. This dream was only strengthened after my 11-day trip to Japan a couple of years ago. My cousin and I stayed in Tokyo for most of our trip. However, we also spent a night in Hiroshima and Kyoto, and took a day trip to Sendai and Kawasaki's Michinoku Park (which was beautiful).

After graduation in the Spring of 2019, I would like to take part in the JET program and try to create a classroom like those of the teachers I admire.

I'd like to end with a thank-you to all the teachers and professors who may be reading this, or who you may know. I find it's something that goes unsaid while students are in school, but I know there are many others in your classes who would like to thank you as well. From all of them, and myself, with the utmost sincerity, "thank you."

Membership News

Thanks to the following new corporate members:

*MN Council of Teachers of Japanese
Murata Electronics/Vios Medical Inc.
Surdyk's Liquor & Cheese Shop*

Thanks to the following renewing corporate members:

*3M Company, Concordia Language Villages,
Global Minnesota, MGK Inc., Suishin Restaurant*

Thanks to the following new JASM members:

Michelle Jourdan, Koji Kadowaki, Chris Loven

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

*Charles Bercaw, Sayli Khadilkar, Kathryn Klibanoff,
Masako Yoshida*

Visit to Nagomi Ya Senior Living



Kaya Solhide and Kumi Mizuno with residents at Nagomi Ya

Identity of residents are protected for privacy

Supervised by the Nagomi Ya Activity Manager, the two students, along with Kumi's mother, delighted the senior residents at Nagomi Ya as they engaged in various activities such as chatting, singing, and other leisure activities. The seniors at Nagomi Ya were excited to have visitors and the two students said they had a wonderful time as well.

These kind of activities bring great joy to the senior residents of Nagomi Ya. If you would like to make a difference to the elderly at Nagomi Ya, they are currently looking for volunteers to do activities like those done by Kaya and Kumi. For more information please contact JASM through email at: jasm@us-japan.org

On Saturday, October 27th, with help from JASM Executive Director, Rio Saito, two students were able to visit Nagomi Ya Senior Living in Apple Valley. Nagomi Ya, one of our corporate members, is a care home for Japanese seniors with locations in Burnsville and Maple Grove, in addition to the one in Apple Valley.

Kaya Solhide and Kumi Mizuno, junior high school students who attend the Minneapolis Japanese school, personally requested Rio to provide the opportunity to visit the elderly at Nagomi Ya.

Corporate Spotlight: University of North Dakota - Grand Forks



JASM is proud to announce University of North Dakota - Grand Forks, a new Corporate Member with JASM, as the Corporate Membership Spotlight of November!

The University of North Dakota (UND) is the state's oldest university, equipping students with the insights to lead and the skills to make a difference. Their students are driven by the opportunity to pursue their goals, work hard, and achieve success. UND's mission is to provide transformative learning, discovery, and community engagement opportunities for developing tomorrow's leaders. UND consistently ranks among the best colleges for educational quality, affordability, and career outcomes. At UND, the safety and well-being of students, faculty, staff and visitors are the foremost concern. Located in Grand Forks, North Dakota, UND is right at home in a vibrant college town of more than 55,000 people, located on the border of North Dakota and Minnesota. Please go to their website for further details: <https://und.edu>

JASM wants to thank the University of North Dakota - Grand Forks for their support as Corporate Members. We are excited to continue our partnership with them in the future. We are also excited to announce that JASM will also accept applications for the Mondale Scholarship 2019 for students headed to the UND - Grand Forks as well as students attending North Dakota State University.

Please thank our members with your support!

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Sawai Pharmaceutical, Co. Ltd.
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The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd.
United Noodles

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Suishin Restaurant
Surdik's Liquor & Cheese Shop
Tomodachi
University of North Dakota - Grand Forks
Zen Healing Center

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Concordia Language Villages
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Macalester College Asian Language & Culture Department
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Minnesota Council of Teachers of Japanese
Minnesota Orchestra
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Historic Costume Collection
UMN Dept. of Asian Languages and Literatures, Japanese Language Program
University of North Dakota- Grand Forks
Winona State Univ. Global Studies Dept.



Midwest Japan Association Conference September 9-12, 2018



Panel discussion at the Midwest Japan Association Conference.

The 50th Annual Joint Meeting of the Midwest Japan Association was held in Omaha, Nebraska in September. Approximately 400 representatives from the Midwest and Japan attended. The Minnesota Trade Office and the Executive Director of JASM represented the state of Minnesota at this conference. Since 1967, the Annual Joint Meeting has served as the principal forum for trade and investment discussions between the Midwest and Japan. This year, the Japanese delegation included the Governor of Saitama, Kiyoshi Ueda; Shizuoka's Vice Governor, Akihito Yoshibayashi; Consul General of Japan in Chicago, Naoki Ito; and Consul General of Japan in Detroit, Mitsuhiro Wada; as well as the Japanese Ambassador to the U.S., Shinsuke Sugiyama. The Midwest delegation included Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts, North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum, Kansas Governor Jeff Colyer, Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb, Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, and Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker. William Hagerty, Ambassador to Japan, also provided a video message.

As a part of the welcome reception that was held in the beautiful Omaha art museum, KANEKO, Consul General Naoki Ito presented a commendation of the Foreign Minister of Japan to Mr. Jun Kaneko, an influential visual artist and longtime resident of Omaha.

During the conference, a few panel discussions were held. The topics were: "Transformation in Infrastructure," "Innovation and Technology Solutions," and "Success Stories in Trade and Investment." The meeting reconfirmed that collaborations between the United States and Japan have fostered transformations in infrastructure.

At the end of the conference, delegates from the Midwest and Japan reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining bilateral trade and investment through mutual cooperation, based on the strong trust cultivated over the years.



Midwest Japan Association Conference in Omaha, Nebraska

MN Grassroots Development: Twin Cities Japanese American Citizens League

JASM would like to introduce the many other Japan-related local groups in Minnesota to our members. This 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 Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), founded in 1929, is the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization. The JACL has worked to overturn more than 600 discriminatory laws and statutes and has been a leader in efforts to increase public awareness and understanding of racism. The organization monitors and responds to issues that enhance or threaten the civil and human rights of all Americans, and implements strategies to effect positive social change, particularly in the Asian Pacific American community. The JACL, headquartered in San Francisco, has seven district councils throughout the U.S. and an office in Washington, D.C. Its 106 chapters serve nearly 12,000 members.



Twin Cities Japanese American Citizens League

The Twin Cities Chapter of JACL is aware of the societal, political, and educational issues that affect our community today. The Twin Cities Chapter is committed to providing resources and programs that:

- Protect and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others.
- Preserve and promote the cultural heritage and values of Japanese Americans in a multicultural society.
- Participate in the development of understanding among all social and ethnic groups.
- Promote a sense of community among local people of Japanese ancestry.

The Twin Cities JACL (originally titled United Citizens League) was formed in 1949. It is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and one of 12 chapters that comprise the JACL's Midwest District Council.

Visit TC JACL on the web: www.tcjacl.org, like us on Facebook at TC JACL, or email us at twincitiesjacl@gmail.com or at our youth email: youth@tcjacl.org

By Amy Dickerson, Japanese American Citizens League

Report: NAJAS Conference in Seattle

Each year, the National Association of Japan America Societies (NAJAS) hosts all of its member organizations at their annual meeting. This year, the annual meeting was held in Seattle, Washington on September 20-21. Thirty-seven out of 38 recognized JAS organizations were in attendance, and JASM was represented by Rio Saito, JASM Executive Director, and Elizabeth Fehrmann, JASM Vice President.

Thursday morning was devoted to an impressive lineup of speakers from places like the Embassy of Japan, the US Department of State, and the National Foreign Trade Council, who covered a host of topics related to the US-Japan relationship, ranging from trade to security to diplomacy.

There were a number of Japan-focused support organizations in attendance, including the Japan Foundation, the Japan-United States Friendship Commission, and the US-Japan Council. Representatives participated in a panel discussion on Thursday afternoon that highlighted the role of each organization in the US-Japan relationship, and gave a glimpse into efforts underway to better prepare for and engage the next generation of US-Japan relations.

Thursday evening, NAJAS members were treated to a reception hosted by the Consul General of Japan at Seattle, Yoichiro Yamada. It was a chance to mingle and talk to other Japan America societies' leaders about their organizations and compare notes on events, membership, and more.

On Friday, NAJAS held the annual meeting itself, followed by a series of workshops on practical topics of interest to those running non-profit organizations, such as the legal implications of recent tax law changes and how to realize benefits of strategic planning.

JASM is going through a period of change this year, and the NAJAS event provided the perfect opportunity to network with like-minded people who are all striving to offer the best possible experiences to their Japan-America communities. Look out for more changes yet to come as JASM begins to implement new ideas and new collaborations to grow and better serve our members!

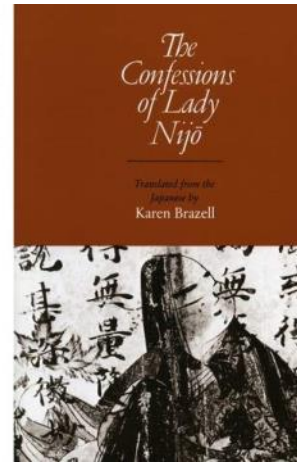
By Elizabeth Fehrmann, JASM Vice President



Peter Kelly, President of NAJAS, speaking at the 2018 NAJAS Annual Conference in Seattle.

Tom Haeg's Book Review

The Confessions of Lady Nijo; Translated by Karen Brazell, Stanford University Press, 1973.



This brilliant autobiographical narrative, written in 1307, traces true life stories of a concubine, court lover, poet, and wandering Buddhist nun (the same person) in a serial set of tales spanning 1271-1306. Although she originally intended for the writings to restore her family's waning prestige, unfortunately, the transcript was barely read and went largely unnoticed. It remained dormant for over six centuries until it was finally discovered in 1940, when a nondescript scholar haphazardly stumbled upon it at the Imperial Household Library in Tokyo. Publication was delayed by the war until 1950, and the complete annotated edition was not finished until 1966. Ms. Brazell's English translation came seven years later in 1973.

Japanese literature scholars cite *The Confessions* as a great masterpiece of prose and poetry in a diary format. They are spot on. As an insider tell-all, it enables the reader to get behind the curtain to learn more about the age in which our heroine lived: an age of aristocrats, the warrior class, imperial court, military governors, bureaucrats, shoguns, court parties. We discover the imperial court in Kyoto, the downfall of Kamakura and the division of the imperial family into two feuding positions.

The counterweight to its historical insight is the elegant poetic style Lady Nijo weaves into the text to convey her most sensitive emotions. Its leitmotif is insightful and refreshing in its simplicity:

Have pity on one burdened by sorrow
And soon to vanish like the snow
Burying the garden, blocking the paths.

Interestingly, *The Confessions*' irony is not revealed until the last paragraph: "That all my dreams might not prove empty, I have been writing this **useless** [bold added for emphasis] account – though I doubt it will long survive me." As a critic she is wrong, it is not useless; as a prognosticator, she is remiss, it is a classic. This gestural and somewhat belated attempt at self-deprecation in the end only adds to the tome's sublime message.

By Tom Haeg

Volunteer Day at the Japanese Library

This month I'd like to share a little bit about what goes on at the Japanese Library (4231 Bloomington Ave. in Minneapolis) particularly on **SATURDAYS!!**

Saturday afternoons (usually after 1 p.m.) are set aside as "work days." For most of us, this probably conjures up visions of books getting checked in and out, shelves being dusted off, etc. But at the Japanese Library, our volunteers do ALL KINDS of tasks!! The lawn is mowed and edged, garden beds are planted and weeded, leaves are raked and bagged, donations are processed, the garage is organized, things that need repair get fixed, supplies are restocked and rooms are cleaned. Sometimes it's a lot of work, but Yoko never lets us go away "empty handed." Volunteers and library visitors come together at some point during the afternoon to enjoy a snack and beverage. Serving together is a great way to get to know each other, and helps us to form new friendships.



Yoko Breckenridge, pictured in front of the Japanese library with pumpkin bags full of leaves!

Saturday afternoons are also a GREAT time to visit, check out books and DVD's, or drop off your donations.

Hope to see you some Saturday soon! Thank you!



Yoko Breckenridge
612-839-0008



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、お友達や知り合いとご一緒においで下さい。可能の方はどうぞ料理を1品ご持参願います。ミネソタ州在住の日本人達で良い事を考え、ご馳走と日本語で楽しい時間を持ちましょう。

日程：毎月第2月曜日正午より

場所：日本語図書館

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

また、毎週土曜日午後2時から、日本語図書館のお手伝いして下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).

Trial Classes and Enrollment Interview at Minneapolis Japanese School

平成31年度ミネアポリス日本語補習授業校 園児・児童募集

<http://www.minneapolisjapaneseschool.org/>

クラス	対象年齢*	体験入学日	試験/面接	募集期間
おひさま組 親子教室	満2歳	希望者見学 可能	2月2日	平成30年11月1日～ 平成31年1月19日
幼稚園 年少組	満3歳	1月12日	1月19日 (面接)	平成30年11月1日～ 平成30年12月15日
小学部 1年	満6歳	2月9日	2月9日 (試験/面接)	平成30年11月1日～ 平成31年1月26日

対象年齢*は平成31年4月1日時点での年齢

参加をご希望の方は、高田 seito@minneapolisjapaneseschool.org までご連絡ください。

Trial Classes and Enrollment Interview at Minneapolis Japanese School

Class	Date of Birth	Trial Classes	Interview & Examination	Application Deadline
Parent and Toddler class	4/2/2016～ 4/1/2017	Request Available	2/2/2019 (Interview only)	1/19/2019
Preschool class	4/2/2015～ 4/1/2016	1/12/2019	1/19/2019 (Interview only)	12/15/2018
1st Grade	4/2/2012～ 4/1/2013	2/9/2019		1/26/2019

If you are interested in attending, please contact Aya Takada at seito@minneapolisjapaneseschool.org.

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

November

21st Mondale Gala, Saturday, November 17, 2018

If you would like know more information about JASM events, please go to our website: mn-japan.org

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

November Holidays in Japan

During November, Japan celebrates two national holidays: Culture Day (文化の日; *Bunka no hi*) and Labor Thanksgiving Day (勤労感謝の日; *Kinrō kansha no hi*).

Culture Day takes place on November 3rd, and is celebrated by promoting culture, the arts, and academic endeavor. As part of the celebrations, the Order of Culture presents awards to those who have made significant contributions to advance Japanese culture or society as a whole. Culture Day was first held in 1948, to commemorate the announcement of the post-war Japanese constitution on November 3rd, 1946.

Labor Thanksgiving Day takes place on November 23rd and is an occasion for commemorating labor and production and giving one another thanks. This event encourages people to think about issues affecting peace, human rights, and the environment.

11月23日



勤労感謝の日

Become a JASM Member online!

Support our mission and become a member!

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

You can also become a member using your smart phone!

Japan America Society of Minnesota

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

Name

Name (2nd adult of a household membership)

Address

City

State

ZIP

E-mail

Phone

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

Amount Enclosed: _____
(Please make checks payable to JASM)

Individual Membership

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

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通信

Tsūshin
November 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)

Know Me Kai Club

