Japan America Society of Minnesota







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

December 2018 Vol. 27, No. 12

21st Annual Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala



Ambassador Walter Mondale and Linda Hashimoto

On a chilly evening, the JASM community gathered at the Oakridge Country Club in Hopkins, Minnesota to celebrate the 21st Annual Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala on Saturday, November 17, 2018. The evening provided a special time to celebrate the ongoing relationshipbuilding between Japan and Minnesota.

The program began with words of welcome by the emcee, Clint Connor, partner at Dorsey and Whitney law firm and JASM Board Member. Next Richard Stahl, Honorary Consul of Japan in Minnesota, introduced Consul-General Naoki Ito from the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago. Consul-General Ito spoke about his joy in representing Japan to the Midwestern States and gave a toast.

Following Consul-General Naoki Ito's remarks, JASM Executive Director Rio Saito, and JASM Vice President Elizabeth Fehrmann had the pleasure of presenting certificates of recognition to JASM's many corporate sponsors. JASM was also pleased to recognize representatives from affiliated nonprofit organizations: Joann Blatchley, Co-President of the St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee; Kate Thersleff, JETAAMN President; and Andy Tso, Anime Twin Cities Board President. Lastly, former JASM Executive Director Ben van Lierop was recognized for his 12 years of service at JASM. Afterward, although she was unable to attend, U.S. Senator from Minnesota, Amy Klobuchar, spoke to Gala guests through a video message.

Ambassador Walter Mondale then introduced Dr. Sheila Smith, the Keynote Speaker for the event. She spoke about the importance of the U.S.-Japan relationship and its importance on not only the international front, but the domestic front as well. She closed her speech by praising JASM's contributions to the Japan-Minnesota partnership and the importance of contributions by individuals such as those of the 2018 Mondale Award recipient.



Keynote Speaker Dr. Sheila Smith

Continued on page 4

2018 Annual Meeting and Bonenkai



年次総会と忘年会のお知らせ

JASM would love to see you at the 2018 Annual Meeting on the evening of Monday, December 10. We look forward to report on another successful year, including the transition of Executive Director from Ben van Lierop to Rio Saito. We will also discuss the exciting opportunities we are working on for the new year! Please join us at Sakura Restaurant as we elect and welcome our new JASM board members and officers.

Following the Annual Meeting, please join us to celebrate the traditional end-of-year JASM gathering! This has been a favorite event for those who are missing the traditional end-of-year parties or *Bonenkai* in Japan. It is a wonderful way to celebrate with your co-workers and friends, to forget the past year and welcome the new year. New members will have a chance to mingle with long-term members at this fun event.

Monday, Dec. 10, 2018

6:30 p.m. Annual Meeting 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Bonenkai

Sakura Restaurant

350 Saint Peter Street Saint Paul, MN

*2 Hour parking validation by Sakura at Lawson Ramp 11 W 5th Street, St. Paul, MN 55102

Annual Meeting – Free Bonenkai – \$23 Members, \$30 Non-members

You can RSVP by going to our website for the Annual Meeting/Bonenkai at: *mn-japan.org*



Attendees at JASM's 2017 Annual Meeting

Letter from the JASM President



Marc Blehert JASM President

Dear JASM Members and Friends,

Time flies when you are having fun! It is hard to believe my term as JASM President is coming to an end. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve this wonderful organization.

Don't worry, I am not going away. Honestly, I have no plans to ever leave Minnesota – well, hopefully I'll be heading south for the winter one day but will always treasure my JASM membership.

I joined JASM back in 1996 as a recent college graduate and former Japan study abroad student. At the time, I was ecstatic to have found a group that would help me maintain and strengthen my connection with Japan. Joining JASM remains of the best decisions I ever made!

I have been a member for 22 years, almost half my life and counting. During that time, I have seen my membership go from the Student rate to the Individual rate then to a Household membership upon marriage to my wife, Amy. Our 3.5-year-old daughter Ella is now part of the club, completing the family membership.

The highlight of my tenure in JASM leadership has been getting to know so many of our outstanding Individual and Corporate members. The talents, knowledge and generosity of JASM members, the lifeblood of this society, is second to none. I have learned so much from all of you and can never thank you enough for your support and dedication to the JASM mission.

I am forever grateful to former Executive Director, Ben van Lierop for encouraging me to volunteer way back when and then inviting me to join the JASM Board. It takes a village to run JASM and I express my heartfelt appreciation to the Board of Directors I have been privileged to work with. Their guidance is instrumental in the continued success of JASM.

I am thrilled for the future of JASM under the leadership of Executive Director Rio Saito and Program Manager Yoko Ueno. You could not ask for more capable, dedicated, friendly staff. It is also a pleasure to be succeeded by Elizabeth Fehrmann as the next President of JASM. She brings new energy, skills and ideas that will keep JASM moving onwards and upwards at a steep trajectory.

Finally, I am quite relieved to say JASM finished in the black the past two years and I didn't break anything.

I wish you all a happy, healthy new year and see you at the Shinnenkai!

By Marc Blehert

JASM Board Members and the JASM Office team would like to thank Marc for his enthusiasm and for all of his contributions during his time as president. We are excited to continue working with Marc, as we strengthen the Japan-Minnesota relationship.

Save the Date: Shinnenkai 2019



Drum Performance at 2018 Shinnenkai

JASM is bringing the sights, tastes, and sounds of a Japanese New Year to Minnesota through our Shinnenkai celebration on Sunday, January 27, 2019!

Shinnenkai is JASM's annual event in which we hope that, by bringing the traditions of a Japanese New Year celebration to Minnesota, we can promote cultural exchange and new experiences in a fun environment. There will be cultural performances, delicious Japanese food, a silent auction, and children's activities. We hope to create a fun family atmosphere that allows people of all ages to come together, meet other Japan-related groups, and experience a Japanese New Year.

Sunday, January 27th, 2019 4:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Washington Technology Magnet School In the Great Hall 1495 Rice Street Saint Paul, MN 55117

Don't forget to mark your calendar and join us as we celebrate the Japanese New Year!



Membership News

Thanks to the following renewing corporate members:

Sawai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Sakura Restaurant

Thanks to the following new JASM members:

Motoko Hioki and Family, Jennifer Kumasaki, Sangki and Joann Park, Germana Paterlini, David Swanlund

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

Fusako Muro, Mark Petty, Thomas Robbins, Koichi and Yvonne-Marie Shiozawa, Bill Strand, Jonathan and Tracy Wiese

Emperor Akihito's Abdication and Emperor's Birthday



Akihito Emperor of Japan

Japan's royal family is the oldest continuous hereditary monarchy in the world. For thousands of years, emperors have followed tradition by passing the crown to their eldest son after death. Emperor Akihito, the current ruler, was expected to do the same, but has surprised the country with his announcement of abdication: the first in more than two centuries in Japan's history. Akihito wants to pass on his role as emperor to his son, Naruhito, prior to his death.



Naruhito Crown Prince of Japan

Due to his recent battles with cancer and heart surgery, Akihito feels he is unable to fulfill his duties as Emperor, and hopes Japan will respect his decision to step down. Although politically, the emperor of Japan has no power, he and his family are beloved by Japanese citizens. Emperor Akihito will abdicate the throne on April 30, 2019 and Crown Prince Naruhito will succeed him on October 22, 2019.



Emperor's Birthday Celebration

Because of his abdication, this will be the last year the Emperor's Birthday (天皇誕生日, *Tennō tanjōbi*) is celebrated on December 23, Emperor Akihito's birthday. The following celebration of the Emperor's birthday will not occur until February 23, 2020, after Crown Prince Naruhito ascends to the throne.

japanvisitor.com/tokyo/emperors-birthday

Corporate Spotlight: Murata Electronics/Vios Medical





JASM is proud to announce a new Corporate Contributing Member, Murata Electronics/Vios Medical, as the Corporate Membership Spotlight of December.

Murata is a global leader in the design, manufacture, and supply of advanced electronic materials, leading-edge electronic components, and multi-functional, high-density modules. Murata innovations can be found in a wide range of applications from mobile phones to home appliances, and automotive applications to energy management systems and healthcare devices. Supporting customers' design, production, and procurement requirements throughout the Americas, Murata has sales teams, product engineers, and business development engineers in several major hubs besides Minnesota, including Atlanta, San Jose, Irvine, San Diego, Austin, Dallas, Chicago, Detroit, Boston, and São Paulo.

Vios Medical Inc. is a U.S.-based medical technology company focused on utilizing medical-grade IoT sensors and Virtual Patient Care Services to optimize the management of patients throughout the continuum of care. Their goal is to reduce the cost of healthcare, enhance clinical workforce productivity, and improve patient outcomes through clinical workflow automation. Vios Medical Inc. became a subsidiary of Murata Electronics in 2017.

JASM wants to welcome and thank Murata Electronics/Vios Medical for their support as Corporate Contributing Members. 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.
Taiyo International

Patron Members

Dorsey & Whitney, LLP

Corporate Sustaining Members

Deloitte Tax, LLP
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, PC
Hubbard Broadcasting, Inc.
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

Briggs and Morgan, P.A. Murata Electronics/Vios Medical Inc. Nagomi Ya Senior Living Satellite Industries, Inc. Wanner Engineering, Inc.

Partners in Service

JK's Table
Kiku Enterprises, Inc.
Minnesota Trade Office
Origami Restaurant
Sakura Restaurant
Saint Paul Saints Baseball Club
Saji-Ya Restaurant
Suishin Restaurant
Surdyk's Liquor & Cheese Shop
Tomodachi
Zen Healing Center

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 Council of Teachers of Japanese Minnesota Orchestra NDSU-Emily Revnolds Historic Costume Collection UMN Dept. of Asian Languages and Literatures, Japanese Language Program



University of North Dakota- Grand Forks Winona State University Global Studies Dept.

21st Annual Mondale Gala Continued



in Chicago, Naoki Ito

The Mondale Award for Japan-Minnesota Partnership was presented by Ambassador Mondale to Linda Hashimoto van Dooijeweert, founder and dance director of Sansei Yonsei Kai, and an active member of the Japan-Minnesota community. Linda Hashimoto expressed her sincere gratitude and humbly received the reward. After she received the Mondale Award, Linda and two other dancers performed a traditional Consul-General of Japan Japanese dance, Takasago no Mai.

During the dinner, both silent and live auctions were held to raise money for the Mondale Scholarship program, and to provide support for future JASM programs. Generous auction donations had been made by both individuals and businesses in the form of airline tickets, pottery, and hotel vouchers. The live auction was conducted by Katie Imholte-Gabriel of Fladeboe Auctions, who also conducted the "Fund the Need" donation appeal. Many generous attendees responded with gifts to "Fund the Need." Following the dinner, guests enjoyed green tea sponge cake with chocolate glaze, graciously prepared by Tomoko Drake.

This year's Mondale Award Scholarship recipients were four distinguished students: Elise Bearrood from the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph, Hannah Detlaff from Macalester College in St. Paul, Tatiana Gust from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, and Mason Williams from the University of St. Thomas.



Centerpiece by Sogestu Ikebana and vase by Keiko Martin

As the event came to a close, JASM President Marc Blehert spoke of the impact of studying abroad in Japan, and proceeded to close the ceremony by thanking everyone for their donations and contributions to the 2018 Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala. Takuzo Ishida, who also with provided us with a stunning Bonsai display, and friends also made sure to send the event off with a bang with a performance of *tejime*, the Japanese custom of ceremonial handclapping performed at the end of a special event, to bring the event to a close.

JASM is grateful for all those who made donations for the Mondale Scholarship program, and to all those who made this event happen. JASM is also sincerely grateful to all the volunteers, donors, and sponsors who contributed to the success of this event! We couldn't have done it without you!



Attendees at the 21st Annual Mondale Gala

More photos can be viewed on the page 7 and 8

MN Grassroots Development: Minnesota Council of Teachers of Japanese

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 Minnesota Council of Teachers of Japanese (MCTJ) is a non-profit organization of teachers of Japanese language, literature, and linguistics which works to promote the study of Japanese at all levels of instruction in the upper midwest. MCTJ offers professional development for teachers as well as works with JASM to promote and run the annual J-Quiz competition for high school students, with the support of numerous JASM volunteers and local college and university professors. MCTJ is a local affiliate of AATJ (the American Association of Teachers of Japanese).

Every year members of MCTJ attend and present at national conferences for Japanese and world language education. Members also work with the Japan Foundation Los Angeles and have received grants, J-Leap assistants from Japan, teacher training, and many other opportunities that benefit students who are studying Japanese in the upper midwest.

By Laura Moy from MCTJ



Minnesota Council of Teachers of Japanese

Support JASM through AmazonSmile



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 in full swing, please shop using AmazonSmile. We would be very appreciative of your Support.

North Dakota Outreach Report

Greetings JASM Members,

My name is Kate Thersleff and I am a current JASM Board Member as well as the President of the local JETAA (Japan Exchange and Teaching Program Alumni Association) chapter. Part of our mission at JETAAMN as well as JASM is to do outreach to local colleges and universities.

At the end of October, JASM Executive Director Rio Saito and I were given the opportunity to visit and speak to several colleges outside of the Twin Cities area about the Mondale Scholarship.

This past year, Ambassador Walter Mondale approved widening the eligibility criteria to include colleges located in North Dakota, so we went to visit universities there to let students know about the services and opportunities that JASM provides. In North Dakota, Rio and I visited the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, North Dakota State University in Fargo, and of course, since we were there, we also visited nearby Minnesota State University in Moorhead.

We met with students at all three locations and talked to them about study abroad, Japan, interning with JASM, and the Mondale Scholarship. The ability to share this scholarship with students from a different state and create stronger ties between Japan and the Midwest is something that I am proud to be a part of. Rio and I are hopeful that in the next round of Mondale Scholars we will have someone from North Dakota to add to those chosen to receive this award.

By Kate Thersleff, JETAAMN President; JASM Board Member





Top: Kate Thersleff Bottom: Rio Saito speaking with students

Many thanks to the Japan Foundation for sponsoring this trip.

Tom Haeg's Book Review

Biruma; Hiwa Satoko, Seidosha Press, 2003; Translated by Juliet Winters Carpenter; 111 pages.

[Note: this book is out of print, but can be found in the JASM office library]

Hiwa Satoko's poetry, while sharing laconic traits common to Japanese *haiku* or *tanka*, is quite distinctive. There is no expected rhyme, no syllabic parameter; instead, there is a subtle, suggestive cadence, an impressionistic tone to capture our imagination. Yet it bewilders us with images that deliver powerful punches far beyond the apparent. This is both exciting and challenging. Exciting: it is fanciful in imagination. Challenging: it confronts the reader with the opaque. Readers then must read the poem again and again on several levels to achieve, well, "figure it out".

Noteworthy is Satoko's courage. As an unknown, she wrote and designed *Biruma*, paying upfront all the publication costs. Yes, out of her own pocket, on her own dime. Why? No publisher at first dared to take a chance on her; they all took a pass. So, it is even more surprising that *Biruma* won the prestigious Nakahura Chuya Prize for Japanese poetry in 2002 for this, her first attempt at writing. This prize has only two qualifications: It must be modern and it must be 'fresh in feeling' to merit the eponymous award befitting one of Japan's most revered poets, who died all too young at the age of 30.

Here is a sample poem - you decide and enjoy:

Curvature of the Spine

Kyphosis

He took my hand and placed it on the severed muscle in his thigh. Grabbed my hand and forced it to touch the scrawny severed place. (And then my hand moved back and forth pressing hard.)

Many questions arise. Kyphosis? What does the hand signify? Who is the narrator? Is she in control? "Severed place?" Is she healing a wound, a scar? Was the wound physical, emotional, or both? In dissecting the work, it demands an elevated academic, somewhat Socratic approach: question... answer... question... answer... etc. It begs group discussion.

Seidosha Press was wise to select Ms. Carpenter as the English translator. She is an American who began her Japanese language studies at age 16. She knew that her translation must replicate Satoko's intent to celebrate language. She has several prestigious translation works for distinguished Japanese publishers. She currently is a professor of literature at Doshisha Women's College in Kyoto.

Otanoshimi kudasai. お楽しみください。

By Tom Haeg and Nancy Christensen

[Tom Haeg writes book reviews for the JASM Tsushin. Nancy Christensen is a local poet of note. Tom enlisted Nancy for help to collaborate in writing this review.]

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS!

Did you know MN Nihonjin-kai has been creating handcrafted greeting cards for over 20 years? It started when we were looking for ways to raise money for the group. A few of us started using our origami skills to create greeting cards for all occasions. The beautiful calligraphy is the work of Hisako "Betty" Wendt. Even though she is no longer with us, her artwork is featured on most of our greeting thanks to digital copies. We have four regular card-makers in our group at present, but would welcome more!

Can you help? Contact Karen at (612) 747-0340. You create at your own pace in your own home! We can provide the paper and card materials. If you prefer to make origami only, we can design the cards using your creations! We are always looking for new ideas and card designs. Please let us know if you would like to get involved - it's for a great cause!!

















Every card comes sealed in a poly bag with an envelope for protection. Each card is individually hand-crafted and therefore unique. These are beautiful "as is" but can also be framed as artwork and displayed. Our greeting cards make wonderful gifts and cover almost every occasion!

Cards are sold at the Obon Festival, the New Year Festival, and at the Japanese Library. We have a card rack in the back room and there is a payment box on the kitchen table for your convenience. They are a STEAL at only \$3.50 each, or 3 for \$10. Thank you for the continued support!





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).

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/

4月からの幼稚部及び小学部の新入生を募集します!

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
幼稚部 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<u>seito@minneapolisjapaneseschool.org</u> までご連絡ください。

Trial Classes and Enrollment Interview at Minneapolis Japanese School

at Millieapolis 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	
1 st 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.

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

Japan America Society Calendar

December

Bonenkai/Annual Meeting, Monday, December 10, 2018

January

Shinnenkai, Sunday, January 27, 2019

Japanese Speaking Club

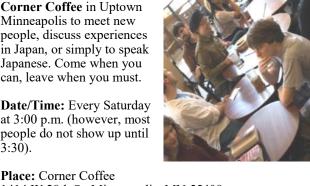
The Japanese Speaking Club is an informal meeting place for those wishing to practice Japanese. We encourage those just beginning the language as well as native speakers to gather at **Corner Coffee** in Uptown Minneapolis to meet new

people, discuss experiences in Japan, or simply to speak Japanese. Come when you can, leave when you must.

at 3:00 p.m. (however, most people do not show up until 3:30).

1414 W 28th St, Minneapolis, MN 55408

Place: Corner Coffee



More Photos from the Mondale Gala 2018



Become a JASM Member online!

Support our mission and become a member!

- Go to mn-japan.org
- 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 smartphone!

Japan America Society of Minnesota

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

Name	
Name (2nd adult of a household member	ship)
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: (Please make checks payable to JASM)	

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

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

Japan America Society of Minnesota



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



Tsūshin December 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)

21st Annual Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala

