

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通 信

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

June 2019 Vol. 28, No. 6

Recap: Corporate Roundtable with MGK

On Friday, May 17th, JASM members had a wonderful meeting with Steve Gullickson (President) and Randy Nelson (CFO) of McLaughlin Gormley King Co., Inc. (MGK).

The meeting started bright and early in the morning at MGK's parent location in Minneapolis/Golden Valley, Minnesota. After a brief introduction by JASM's Executive Director, Rio Saito, Randy Nelson introduced the company and Steve Gullickson gave a presentation on company history, what their general business model is, and their acquisition by Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.

MGK is in the insecticide business. They aim to create products that responsibly protect both people and environments from harmful and unwanted insects. The way MGK ethically produces insecticides is by using pyrethrum, a flower that doubles as a natural pesticide. Because Sumitomo is a leading force in the business of pyrethroid insecticides, they were interested in acquiring MGK. In 2012, MGK sold a majority share (86%) of their corporation to Sumitomo. Since then, they have been working together harmoniously to develop pesticides.

As a product developer, MGK does not only produce solutions under its own brand. The company also offers to create custom solutions for businesses interested in partnering with them. In fact, MGK's largest customer is SC Johnson.

In the future, MGK looks forward to a more synergistic exchange of values and ideas with Sumitomo. They are excited to see where this relationship will lead them in the future.



Steve Gullickson, President of MGK

JASM would like to thank MGK for their participation in this Corporate Roundtable. Many thanks to all who attended!

Mondale Award Nomination



Ambassador Mondale with 2018 Mondale Award recipient Linda Hashimoto van Dooijeweert

In 1997, the Japan America Society of Minnesota created the Mondale Award for Japan-Minnesota Partnership 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 Mrs. Mondale's decades-long efforts to promote the arts in both countries and Ambassador Mondale's service as United States Ambassador to Japan.

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!

All applications must be submitted by email to jasm@us-japan.org by Monday, August 12.

Strengthening MN's Future Workforce



Bob Luck, JASM Board Member, presenting at Macalester College

On April 22nd, students learning Japanese at Harding High School attended a talk given by JASM Executive Director Rio Saito and Board Member Bob Luck at Macalester College. There, Bob Luck talked about his

experience working for Japanese companies. He explained that if the students continued to study Japanese language and culture, opportunities like these could be available to them in the future. Following his presentation, students asked questions about his work. They were then split into groups and given a tour of the college by its Japanese language students.

If your group or school is interested in having a speaker talk about their professional experiences in Japan, please contact JASM at jasm@us-japan.org

Meet Our Board Member: Michiko Smith



*Michiko Smith
JASM board member*

My name is Michiko Smith and I work in research and development marketing for Daikin Applied.

I have served as a JASM board member since June 2018. As a board member, so far I have supported the planning for the Mondale Gala and Shinnenkai New Year's event.

I have known about JASM for many years through my employer, Daikin Applied, which is a corporate member of JASM.

I am originally from Kyoto, Japan and my family and many of my friends still live there. I have been living in Minnesota for 19 years. Although every winter, especially like this past winter, it makes me wonder why we still live here, this is my home now. JASM is a great way to stay connected to the culture of my home country while feeling very at home in my new country.



*Volunteer workshop the day before the
2018 Obon Festival*

I have had some experience with private events through my employer; however, working for a non-profit organization is a new experience for me. At every JASM event I have participated in, I have been very impressed by the vendors and volunteers who are willing to work for the events and serve in our community. JASM volunteers have so much pride and enthusiasm! I look forward to seeing our readers at future JASM events!



*Michiko Smith (second from right) at Tejime ceremony,
Shinnenkai 2019*

Report from a Mondale Scholarship Recipient: Elise Bearrood



*Elise (left) and her host sister
trying on kimonos in Kawagoe*

My time in Japan consisted of a lot of traveling, meeting new people, and experiencing new things. I had Japanese language classes four times a week with some really amazing professors, and I was able to practice Japanese every day as I would go through various day-to-day tasks like grocery shopping or riding on the trains. This helped me expand my Japanese vocabulary immensely, and I was able to understand Japanese language better and better. However, I learned much more than just the language. I learned to translate cultural differences

in order to know what I should do or say in various situations. This took a lot of observing others, asking questions, and reflecting on my own cultural mindset. Also, I learned about many common things that need to be avoided like ethnocentrism, cultural appropriation, and just plain ignorance. I think a study abroad experience is the perfect place to expand your mindset and learn to celebrate cultural differences, and I am really grateful that I was able to do this in my time abroad.

Though I lived in Tokyo, I was also able to visit Hiroshima, Kyoto, Nara, Osaka, Yokohama, Saitama, Chiba, Karuizawa, and Nikko. From what I have seen of Japan, I think it is truly a beautiful country, and I am really hoping to return in the near future. For now, I am enjoying sharing the experiences I had in Japan, informing people of what I have learned, and encouraging many friends and family to spend some time abroad so that they can experience these things for themselves. When I return to Japan, I look forward to reconnecting with many friends and I also intend to explore further and immerse deeper into Japan's country and culture each time I visit.

Membership News

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

Daniel Carballo, David Smith, Lori Vertin

Thanks to the following new Corporate members:

JP Network, St. Cloud State University;
IACE Travel

Thanks to the following renewing Corporate members:

JETRO Chicago; Briggs and Morgan, P.A.;
Dorsey & Whitney, LLP; Mu Performing Arts;
Deloitte Tax LLP; Japan Lifeline Co., Ltd.;
Metropolitan Airports Commission

MN Outreach: St. Cloud, Mankato, and Cambridge visits

On May 2nd, JASM Executive Director Rio Saito met with Professor Satomi Kohno of St. Cloud State University. They were joined by members of JP Network, the university's student group for those interested in Japanese culture, led by Dr. Jeff Ringer.

Then, on May 9th, Rio traveled to Cambridge, MN, which has a sister city located in Yuasa, Japan. There, she met with the chairman of Cambridge's Sister City Program, Joe Morin, as well as city representative Caroline Moe and Cambridge city administrator Lynda Woulfe. At this outreach event, JASM offered to help the program expand its capacities as well as to explain the work that we do to solidify relationships between organizations related to Japan.



Japanese Intercultural Association at Mankato State University



Rio Saito in Cambridge with Joe Morin and Lynda Woulfe

Next, on May 10th, Rio Saito talked to Mankato State University's Japanese Intercultural Association. Present were Mio Yoshizaki, the group's president, and members, which include Japanese students studying at the university as well as several Mankato students interested in Japan. At both universities, information was shared about JASM's mission, the internships and scholarships provided through JASM, and volunteer opportunities available to those who wish to make a positive contribution to the community. These trips were made possible by the Center for Global Partnership.



Corporate Spotlight: Arctos Law



Arctos Law is a small law firm located in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Our firm is dedicated to zealous advocacy, which we believe starts with a full and complete understanding of each client's unique situation. We established Arctos Law to provide ourselves a space to practice law in the way we feel legal services should be provided.

At Arctos Law, we strive to offer clients personalized representation and a better sense of control over their legal issues. We pride ourselves on our ability to work through clients' complex issues to provide our clients multiple paths towards achieving their goals and engage them at every level of decision-making while offering personalized guidance. Our attorneys' varied concentrations allow our firm to provide our knowledge, and the advantage of practical experience, over a wide array of legal issues. Attorneys at Arctos Law do not concentrate merely on drafting and structural guidance, nor do they concentrate only on litigation and representation in court. Instead, our attorneys leverage their knowledge and experience in both to offer a better and holistic legal service in each.

While our attorneys are varied in their practice areas, attorneys at Arctos Law are particularly passionate about both mental health law and business law. Where mental health issues are involved, the legal system can become complex, which calls for attorneys that have the experience and knowledge to ensure clients are aware of their options and the impacts of their decisions. Whether family law and guardianship issues concerning a minor child becoming an adult, or simply understanding all of a family's options as elderly parents begin to require more assistance, we are able to provide guidance and representation throughout.

Where business is concerned, whether existing or new, knowledgeable legal guidance from attorneys willing to take the time to understand your vision for your business can make all the difference, and the attorneys at Arctos Law make your vision their own. Where these two focuses meet, the attorneys at Arctos Law are able to provide legal services to Mental Health and Addiction Counseling Providers with a passion and knowledge that is often unique.

Please thank our members with your support!

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Mall of America
Medtronic, Inc.
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United Noodles

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UMN Dept. of Asian Languages and Literatures, Japanese Language Program
University of North Dakota-Grand Forks
Winona State University Global Studies Dept.



Harukaze 2019: Momokusu Iwata, *Shamisen Tokyo*

The Japan America Society of Minnesota presents
in memory of Mr. Takuzo Ishida

Momokusu Iwata

Shamisen Tokyo

Tradition meets Modernity

Award-winning Momokusu Iwata brings the ancient shamisen into modern times with songs infused with rock, jazz, and other contemporary elements.



Ayatoshi Oikawa
Piano



Please join us for JASM's annual *Harukaze* Spring Wind concert — an exciting cross-culture musical performance.

Sunday, July 28, 2019 3:00 p.m.

Sundin Music Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave, St Paul, MN 55104

Price: \$25 Non-Member, \$20 JASM Member, \$10 Students (with ID), \$5 Age 6 and Under

For reservations, please call the JASM office or visit the JASM website.



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43 Main Street SE, EH-131, Minneapolis, MN 55414
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www.mn-japan.org



MN Grassroots Development: Minnesota Council of Teachers of Japanese (MCTJ)

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 working 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).

MCTJ meets several times a year to work together to examine the current state of Japanese language education in Minnesota and then promote Japanese education statewide.

There are many exciting events going on in the coming year for MCTJ. In May 2020, Macalester College will host the 28th Conference of the Central Association of Teachers of Japanese (CATJ) on May 30-31, 2020. They will be bringing together language professionals from across the US and Canada to share their research and ideas on best practices in teaching and advising.



Minnesota Council of Teachers of Japanese at its first Shinnenkai in January

Currently, through a program funded by the Japan Foundation, both Harding High School and Eastview High School are hosting assistant teachers from the J-Leap program. Both programs are able to host these assistants for two years and enhance the quality of their programs.

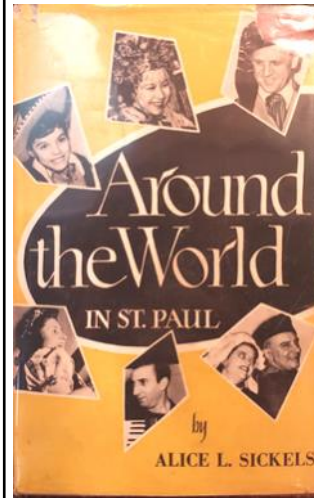
Mori no Ike, the Japanese language immersion camp in northern Minnesota, is so popular that there is a waiting list for their credit program. Finally, a new program for Japanese has started thanks to Carly Born at Arcadia Charter School in Northfield, Minnesota. This is the first time in over a decade that a new Japanese program has been added to a public school.

We are very excited about the positive growth and interest we see in Japanese education around Minnesota and hope to keep growing in the upward direction.

Laura Moy, President of MCTJ

Tom Haeg's Book Review

Around the World in St. Paul; Alice L. Sickels, University of Minnesota Press; 1945, 262 pages.



Less than a generation after the first Festival of Nations in St. Paul, Alice Sickels, a social worker, was awarded a fellowship by the University of Minnesota to write "...a narrative of experience, not a sociological experience." *Around the World* is a proud literary achievement chronicling the immigrant experience in Minnesota as told by recollections generated at this community festival.

Our curiosity is immediately drawn to the timely and even still coincidental date of publication -- 1945. America was still involved in World War II. The entire war now shifted to the Pacific against the sole enemy, Japan. The hysteria fostered by Pearl Harbor in 1941 against the Japanese did not ebb and remained a sensitive topic of discussion. But this did not impede our author. She follows the Tanbara family, Nisei Americans, from their home in Berkeley, California, to their escape to Minnesota to find a new life.

Although the re-settlers initially encountered mistrust and prejudice -- there were only nine Japanese families at the time in St. Paul -- they eventually found tolerance and acceptance. A Nisei letter written to a newspaper in a California relocation camp reads: "But the people here [in St. Paul] show us in everyday life how we should live in democracy and thanks to Minnesotans, I now understand what democracy is. I can also understand now why my three younger sons volunteered for the army one after another."

Ms. Sickels must also be commended for her courage. She was not shy about stating that her grantor, the University of Minnesota, was a co-participant in institutional segregation. It did not admit out-of-state Nisei students until the fall of 1943, and only after appeals were made by the Student Relocation Council. In contrast, all Minnesota private colleges almost immediately welcomed them.

Suki-yaki was served at the Festival of Nations for the first time in 1943. Ms. Sickles explains in great detail how it was prepared and served. "For *suki-yaki* is always cooked before the eyes of the guest." Which leads me to the Festival's radical practice of eating with friends. This is one way to overcome ignorance and intolerance. The Latin root for companion is *cum*: with, *pane*: bread. Literally, eating bread. Figuratively, companions eat (bread) together. And through this shared epicurean experience we learn more about one another.

Bon appetit...and pass the gohan.

-Tom Haeg

Around the World is available in the JASM Library.

A Word from Yoko Breckenridge

MN Nihonjinkai meets on the second Monday of each month at noon.

This meeting takes place at the Japanese Library, 4231 Bloomington Ave., Minneapolis.

Bring a dish to share and join us for fun, food and friendship!

Our **Annual Garage Sale** will be Saturday, June 29th from 9am - 6pm in front of the Japanese Library. Please remember us as you are doing your spring cleaning! We will gladly accept donations of all sorts including housewares, collectibles, knick-knacks, Japanese gift items and clothing, electronics, furniture, baby and children's items (baby clothes are popular), games, books, puzzles, craft items, and adult clothing.

If you have items that need to be picked up, please contact Karen Harwerth, 612-747-0340 or email her at kharwerth@comcast.net. She and her husband Mike would be happy to make arrangements with you.



Garage Sale 2018

We are also looking for volunteers to help whenever they can throughout the day! We especially need lots of young, strong helpers for set-up from 7-9 a.m., sellers to take a few hour shifts all day, and a cleanup crew afterwards.

In conjunction with the sale, we have an open house inside the library where members, volunteers, and library friends can enjoy refreshments.

Thank you for your support! All proceeds from our sale towards sponsoring a fall event for elderly Japanese, MN Nihonjinkai members, their families and friends.



Photo by
Ackerman + Gruber

Yoko Breckenridge
612-839-0008



Another Visit to Nagomi Ya

In April, students from Harding High School made another visit to Nagomi Ya Senior Living in Apple Valley. During their visit, they performed songs and made crafts, among other activities. Importantly, they also provided companionship to the residents of Nagomi Ya. Nagomi Ya, one of our corporate members, is a care home for Japanese seniors with multiple locations in Burnsville and Apple Valley.



A student plays music for the residents

The students that visited the residents of Nagomi Ya were Zoë Hogart, Joshua Yang, Kristina Hang, Dylan Vang, and Ma Shwe. These kinds of activities bring great joy to the senior residents of Nagomi Ya. If you would like to make a difference in the lives of the elderly at Nagomi Ya, the staff are currently looking for volunteers to do activities like those done by the students of Harding High School and keep residents company. For more information please contact JASM through email at jasm@us-japan.org

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 Nihonjinkai）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、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: ybreckenridge@cbburnet.com

(Nihonjin-kai monthly meeting is every 2nd Monday at noon. The meeting is held at 4231 Bloomington Ave S. Minneapolis, MN 55407).

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 (minimum 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**

Correction: Special Edition Tsushin

Unfortunately, the JASM team made a mistake while editing the special Tsushin commemorating Mr. Takuzo Ishida. On page 4, lines 10 and 16, Mr. Ishida's name is misspelled. We apologize deeply to both the author and readers for this mistake. The online version was corrected.

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 at least 3:30).

Place: Corner Coffee
1414 W 28th St,
Minneapolis, MN 55408
(Just east of Hennepin Avenue South)

*For questions, comments, or concerns, please call the
Minneapolis Japanese Conversation Club at 612-524-8433*



New Intern: Emily DeChaine



*Emily DeChaine, Media
Relations Coordinator*

Hi everyone! My name is Emily DeChaine, and I am the new Media Relations Coordinator at JASM. I am originally from Brainerd, Minnesota, and moved to the Twin Cities for college. I am a sophomore attending the University of Minnesota, where I am pursuing a major in Linguistics and a minor in Asian Languages & Literatures with a focus on Japanese.

I have always had a love for learning languages, which is what drove me to start learning Japanese. The language and culture of Japan is so beautiful, and I am grateful for the opportunity to work with JASM to form healthy, lasting intercultural relations. I also look forward to meeting more people from Japan, as well as others with ties to the country.

In the future, I hope to be able to study abroad or travel to Japan. It would be an incredible experience, and it would be great to be able to practice my Japanese with more native speakers. Overall, I am very excited to be a part of JASM.

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 smartphone.

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
June 2019

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)

JASM's May Events



Corporate Roundtable with MGK



Students visit Nagomi Ya



Corporate Roundtable



Corporate Roundtable



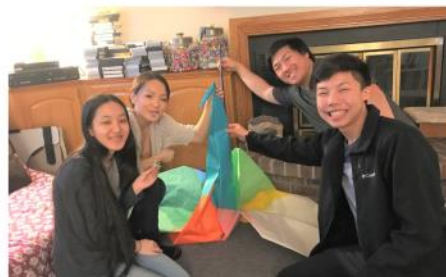
Macalester visit



Cambridge Sister City visit



St. Cloud State University visit



Harding HS Students at Nagomi Ya