

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通 信

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October 2019 Vol. 28, No. 11

Announcing Mondale Gala Keynote Speaker: Minnesota Governor Tim Walz



Minnesota Governor Tim Walz

Every fall, JASM hosts the Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala. At this event we present the Mondale Award for Japan-Minnesota Partnership and the Mondale Scholarships. At each gala, we feature a keynote speaker to further enhance Japan-Minnesota relations. We are honored to announce that our keynote speaker for this year's Mondale Gala is Minnesota's 41st Governor, Tim Walz.

Recently, Governor Walz returned from a six-day trip to Japan, China, and South

Korea where he discussed trading partnerships. His efforts are not only directed towards large US companies, but have been specifically focused on Minnesota businesses and their relationships with these East Asian companies based on shared values. These pursuits are what drew JASM executive director Rio Saito to ask Governor Walz to be the keynote speaker at this year's gala.

From the beginning, Governor Walz's life has been committed to public service. He was born in 1964 in small-town West Point, Nebraska to a farming family. Immediately after high school, he served in both the Nebraska and Minnesota National Guard. His military career spanned from 1981 to 2005 with a final rank of Command Sergeant Major. During this time, he graduated from Chadron State College with a degree in social science. Soon after graduating in 1989, Harvard University offered him the chance to teach in the People's Republic of China. Upon his return to Nebraska in 1990, he continued his work in the National Guard and became a teacher and football coach. It was there that he met Gwen Whipple, who he later married in 1994.

In 1996, the Walz family moved to Mankato, Minnesota where Governor Walz continued teaching and coaching football, this time at Mankato West High School. In 2006, not even a year after he left the National Guard, Governor Walz was elected to the United States House of Representatives and served a total of six terms in Minnesota's First Congressional District. In January 2019 he was sworn in as Minnesota's Governor.

We hope that you will all join us in welcoming Governor Walz to this year's Mondale Gala.

2019 Mondale Award Recipient: Patricia Katagiri



*Patricia Katagiri,
2019 Mondale Award Recipient*

Since 1997, JASM has had the honor of bestowing the Mondale Award for Japan-Minnesota partnership. This year, we are thrilled to announce that we have selected Patricia Katagiri as the recipient of the 2019 Mondale Award for Japan-Minnesota partnership. We feel this is long overdue recognition for Patricia's lifelong dedication to *chado*, the Japanese way of tea. Over decades of outreach, teaching and interactive demonstrations, Patricia has spread the understanding and appreciation of Japanese values, tradition, culture, and art.

Patricia started her study of tea in 1969 and began teaching *chado* in 1987. In 1997, she founded the Yukimakai tea study group. Over the years, several of Patricia's students have followed in her footsteps to become licensed *chado* instructors. Yukimakai was recognized by Urasenke, one of the three main Japanese tea ceremony schools, as their 85th global affiliate organization. In addition to leading Yukimakai, Patricia has worked closely with the Minneapolis-Ibaraki Sister City Association (MISCA), the Saint Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee (SPNSCC), and numerous schools, colleges and public institutions. Through these efforts, Patricia has introduced countless Minnesotans to the *chado* ideals of harmony, respect, purity and tranquility (*wa, kei, sei, jaku*).

Chado unifies several venerable Japanese traditions - calligraphy, ceramics, flower arranging - into a singular experience. The tea ceremony can be very formal, with many rules and traditions. However, Patricia has always emphasized that it is the person for whom the tea is being shared with that is the most important part of the process. She has taught many the spirit of *chado*-how to make and receive tea with a grateful heart. With each interaction, Patricia has helped bring the people of Minnesota and Japan closer together.

The Mondale Award is named for Ambassador Walter Mondale, former US Vice President and former ambassador to Japan, and his wife, Joan Mondale, who were the first ever recipients of the award.

Continued on page 2.

Letter from the JASM President



*Robert Luck,
JASM President*

JASM has been hijacked by aliens who installed a puppet president to do their bidding! Just kidding. Elizabeth Fehrmann has temporarily stepped aside to deal with some pressing matters at her day job, and I am filling in for her as President until she returns in December. My name is Bob Luck, alias Shiawase Taro, Blood Type A, 58 years old, living in Minneapolis. 40 years ago, I met a young exchange student from Japan named Sahya Nakamura at Carleton College and my plans to move to Europe after graduating

went out the window. I followed Sahya to Japan, where we got married at the U.S. Embassy. That was before Walter Mondale was named Ambassador, so we unfortunately can't say that he married us. We have divided our time between Minnesota and Japan since then, and we love both places, although I must confess to preferring Japan in the winter and Minnesota in the summer. It is a great honor to serve briefly as the President of JASM.

A few months ago, we did a survey of our members and other constituents. Here are some of the findings I thought were most interesting:

- 82% of respondents felt that JASM was "Above Average" or "Far Above Average" in fulfilling its mission to bring the people of Japan and Minnesota closer.
- The most highly rated events sponsored by JASM were the Obon Festival and the "Know-me Kai" social events. It seems you like to party.
- You like the Tsushin, but you believe the web site needs improvement. Agreed! We intend to put web site improvement into our strategic plan.

We collaborated with sister city groups and other Japan-related organizations to send out the survey. As a result, 51% of our responses came from non-members. If you believe in JASM and its mission, encourage your friends to become members!

JASM hosted a number of great events in the summer, culminating in the Obon Festival in Como Park. This is our biggest event of the year and thousands of visitors came to JASM's booths to don a fox mask, purchase a water-balloon yo-yo, or try some homemade rice balls. This event would not be possible without the efforts of volunteers. Seventy volunteers staffed the booths and they have my heartfelt thanks. I volunteered at the calligraphy booth and was impressed by the skills of our two masters, Shimono-san and Murakami-san, and their disciples, Anna-san and Peter-san.

Volunteers are also critical to the success of the Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala, planned for Saturday, November 2nd. They will be preparing Ikebana displays, providing musical accompaniment, and helping attendees with kimono dressing. Thanks to your generous support at last year's event, we were able to fund four scholarships in 2019. Please join us and help make this year's dinner even more successful!

-Robert Luck, JASM President

2019 Mondale Award continued

Continued from page 1.

The award was made to recognize exemplary achievement by individuals and organizations in fostering understanding and good relations between the people of Japan and Minnesota.

Please join us in celebrating Patricia's achievement by coming to this year's Mondale Gala on Saturday, November 2, 2019 at Oak Ridge Country Club in Hopkins. There will be a keynote address given by Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, appearances by previous Mondale Scholarship recipients, a silent auction, and dinner.

This is a ticketed event, so please buy your ticket by scanning the QR code below or by visiting our website at mn-japan.org.

Saturday, November 2, 2019

5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Oak Ridge Country Club in Hopkins

700 Oak Ridge Rd,
Hopkins, MN 55305



*The Consulate General of Japan in Chicago with
attendees at the 2018 Mondale Award
and Scholarship Gala*

Membership News

Thanks to the following new JASM members:

William French, Nigel Hearn, Risa McKinney,
Minori Nakamoto, Dominic and Mika Pease, Tara Silvis,
Patrick Stahl

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

Kasue Amey, Sharon Bigot, Yoko Breckenridge,
Michiko and Paul Buchanan, Jonathan Dane, Lawrence and
Keiko Ferrar, Deborah Hanson, Jean Jarvis,
Christina Kunz, Jan Magree, Ann McCarthy,
Cheiko Millard, Hiroko Nagai, Elisheva Perelman,
Richard Stahl, Ben and Chris van Lierop

Recap: Normandale Japanese Garden Festival



Visitors to JASM booth wearing origami samurai helmets

On Saturday, September 21st, Normandale Community College hosted their annual Japanese Garden Festival. The forecast for the day had previously been rainy, but when the time came there was only a light shower so the day was perfect for enjoying the beauty of Normandale's Japanese garden.

JASM held a booth indoors alongside the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) and St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee (SPNSCC). There we promoted JASM by making origami samurai helmets, handing out JASM flyers, and answering people's questions about JASM. Additionally, there were booths nearby that sold kimono, teacups, statuettes, and

more. There were Ikebana displays by Ikebana International and performances by Taikollaborative and Harisen Daiko. In the gymnasium, MN Kyudo Renmei, Toyama Ryu Batto Jutsu, Five Elements Martial Arts Laido, and South Metro Authentic Ancient Arts demonstrated their swords, archery, and karate skills. Attendees were also able to enjoy dance performances by Sansei-Yonsei Kai (SYK) outside in the Japanese garden.



JACL members folding paper cranes at their Normandale booth

Please thank our members with your support!

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Minneapolis Japanese School
Minneapolis Institute of Art
Minnesota Council of Teachers of Japanese
Minnesota Orchestra
Mu Performing Arts
NDSU-Emily Reynolds
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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.



Corporate Spotlight: JP Network, St. Cloud State University



JP Network's Japan Night 2019

Undokai (known in Japan as Sports Day), their own Japan Night, and even *Taiko* performances, to simply enjoying karaoke, cooking, or playing games together at their weekly meetings. Since 2005, the JP Network of St. Cloud State University has been a place for students of all backgrounds to come together, have fun, learn a little bit more about each other, and make friendships that transcend cultural boundaries.

For more information about the JP Network of St. Cloud State University or to get in touch with them, please go to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SCSJPNetwork>.

The JP Network of St. Cloud State University is a student group dedicated to educating American students about Japanese culture and Japanese students about American, or more specifically, Minnesota culture. As a student group they host a variety of Japan themed events ranging from



Students at one of JP Network's weekly meetings

Report from Mondale Scholarship Recipient: Mason Williams



Mason Williams outside Umeda Station in Osaka

Summertime soon approaches and with it comes a time to reflect. I am sitting in a small *kisaten* in Umeda with an iced coffee to my left and my computer before me. I will fly back to the United States in four days and as my homecoming approaches, I can recall a time when the urban sprawl of Osaka stretched out before me, unknown and inviting exploration. In these past nine months I have journeyed far and wide from the flashing lights of *Dotonbori* to the pastoral plains of *Tondabayashi* and the vast expanse of *Biwa-ko*. Through it all I have spoken Japanese to friends, acquaintances, and fellow learners — each conversation delightfully useful to my studies but simultaneously exposing all the gaps in my knowledge and reminding me of how much I have left to learn. Admittedly, I am happy to be going home too. I have missed my daily routine in Minnesota as



Mason's first encounter with the Glico Running Man

well as my friends and family. But something has changed. No matter where I go, who I meet, and where life takes me, I will always have a home here in Osaka. The friends I've made here and the people I've met will always exist in my memory and when I return, they promise to welcome me back and guide me through the city once again. From the long line at my favorite bubble tea store in Umeda to the Korean fried chicken restaurant where many Friday nights were spent belting out K-pop hits and chowing down on the most delicious food, Osaka will remain to welcome me back if I ever return, just as it invites all people to explore its wonders and meet its wonderful people. It remains with me in my thoroughly Osaka accent and the urban slang I picked up from my friends. Osaka will always be with me and though I'm leaving now, I can't wait to come back and explore it even more.

-Mason Williams, 2018-19 Mondale Scholarship Recipient

New Intern: Jameson "Carter" Collins



*Jameson Collins,
Membership Coordinator*

Hello everyone! My name is Jameson "Carter" Collins, and I am the new Membership Coordinator at JASM. I grew up in Hutchinson, Minnesota and moved to Minneapolis to attend the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities from which I graduated in May of this year. I majored in Asian Languages and Literatures with a focus on Chinese and Japanese and minored in Computer Science.

I was originally driven to learn about East Asia by frequently talking with the immigrant parents of my closest friends during my childhood. Over time, I grew most attached to learning about Japanese culture and language. This opportunity that JASM has gifted me allows me to further healthy cultural exchanges between Japan and the US, similar to the experiences I had as a child. I truly look forward to bridging cultures more often with those who have ties to Japan while I am here at JASM.

In the future, I hope to attend graduate school in Japan starting in April 2020. I am in the process of multiple screenings for the MEXT Scholarship which I have thankfully passed the first hurdle and received at least one Letter of Acceptance from a Japanese university so far. I plan on researching Japanese popular culture and the effects its images have on rural Japan through tourism. In the end, I am grateful to be a part of JASM.

New Intern: Lydia Rose



*Lydia Rose, Media
Relations Coordinator*

Hello everyone! My name is Lydia Rose and I am the new Media Relations Coordinator at JASM. I am originally from Rochester, MN, but moved to the Cities to study at the University of Minnesota. I am currently a junior studying Technical Writing and Communications and minoring in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies with a focus on Japanese.

When I was little, my mother would tell me stories about how she spent her first summer out of college in Japan. Her face would light up every time, as she told me about souvenirs she had brought back with her and the friends that she had made. I always wondered what kind of place could make my mother look so happy.

While I have never been to Japan myself, it has been more than enough to be able to enjoy small pieces of Japan here in Minnesota. Volunteering at the Obon Festival and meeting several of you has been a wonderful and life changing experience. I am so thankful for the opportunity to work at JASM and hope to have many more experiences like it.

Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA Delegation Visit



Ambassador Walter Mondale at Global Minnesota's Japanese business panel

Over the week of September 16th, Global Minnesota organized several events which were sponsored by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA (SPFUSA). These events revolved around Japan-America relations in business and how they affect Minnesota businesses as well. Ambassador

James Zumwalt; Chairman and President Satohiro Akimoto of SPFUSA; Dr. Satu Limaye, Vice President and Director of the East-West Center in Washington, D.C.; and Liz Brailsford, Chief Operating Officer of World Affairs Councils of America (WACA) were in attendance at every event as panelists, moderators, speakers, or attendees.

Things kicked off on Tuesday, September 17th with a breakfast gathering at the Mall of America. The event was cohosted by the Minnesota Trade Office and JASM alongside Global Minnesota. Here representatives from the University of Minnesota, Red Wing Sister City, St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee (SPNSCC), the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), and the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program alumni of Minnesota and many more were in attendance. Here they discussed how our different organizations can collaborate to achieve future goals and what exactly those goals are. A lunchtime discussion was held at the State Capitol where many Japanese company representatives in Minnesota gathered. Here Ambassador James Zumwalt and acting Consulate General of Japan in Chicago, Kenji Tanaka discussed US-Japan trade.

September 18th, included a full day of activities starting with a panel discussion on US-Japan relations and Japanese business in light of recent events with a guest appearance by Ambassador Walter Mondale, former US Vice President and former ambassador to Japan. The event was hosted in Minneapolis by Dorsey and Whitney, LLP, which is a corporate member of JASM. This gathering was coorganized by Global Minnesota, Minnesota Trade Office, and JASM.

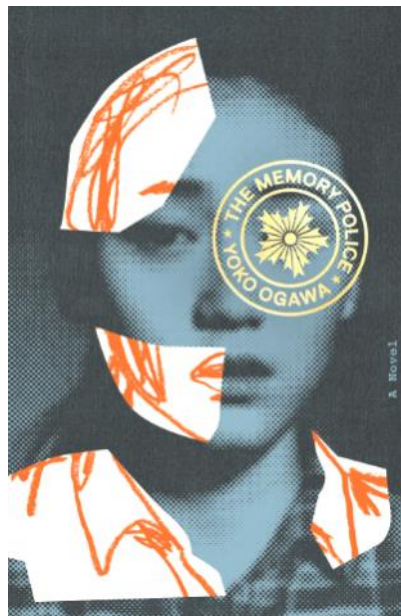
In conjunction with SPFUSA, Global Minnesota hosted a presentation by Dr. Satu Limaye at the Landmark Center in St. Paul. The presentation revolved around Japanese investments in Minnesota and other ways that Japan has been able to support Minnesota businesses.

The last event on the 18th was a gathering at the Hennepin County Library - Minneapolis Central where former US Director for National Intelligence and Commander of the US Pacific Command, Admiral Dennis C. Blair (ret.), Chairman and Distinguished Senior Fellow at SPFUSA, and Dr. Satu Limaye discussed the future of US-Japan relations. A Q&A portion of the program followed which was moderated by Liz Brailsford. This event was sponsored by SPFUSA and organized by Global Minnesota.

Tom Haeg's Book Review

The Memory Police; Yoko Ogawa, Pantheon Books, 1994 translated by Stephen Snyder in 2019.

"You'll see for yourself, something will disappear from your life." -Mother to Daughter



These harrowing yet prophetic words set the mood in a Twilight Zone-like futuristic society. It is a *noir* world victimized by bizarre disappearances. Things just vanish because, well, this is science fiction. And once gone all memory of them, too, vanishes. But it is not just material things that disappear. People, too. No one knows why, no one questions and quite frankly everyone

seems numb (except our protagonist narrator), so no one really cares. Those who remain, the survivors, are systematically investigated by an eponymous memory police squad whose duty it is to eliminate all reminiscence. They even patrol streets to ferret out incriminating memory genes.

The style is quite Kafkaesque. We learn about Big Brother excesses within an orthodox, group-oriented society (Japan?) hell-bent on reducing all opposition to vanquish individuals' traces and dignity. It is a maniacal, totalitarian regime. Move over, George Orwell.

The imagery is thick. We are drawn to a torture chamber cluttered with discarded typewriters. The metaphor is brilliant. The typewriters, or memory incubators if you will, are worthless because words are anathema and memory is disabled. So, without memory, the individual is compromised, quartered, and discarded. Our narrator's monosyllabic words are terse to evoke the parched venue. See: "Autumn passed quickly."

First published in 1994, *The Memory Police* antedates the cloud, the *ne plus ultra* of cyber memory, by about two years. Certainly, Ogawa saw it coming and wanted this novel to serve as a somber presage. I think it was Einstein who said something like, "You don't have to remember anything that can be looked up." Well, after reading *The Memory Police*, perhaps you should.

Other award-winning Ogawa tomes are *The Diving Pool* (1991), *Hotel Iris* (1996, also a Stephen Snyder translation), *Revenge-Eleven Dark Tales* (1998), *The Housekeeper and the Professor* (2003), and more.

-Tom Haeg

A Word from Yoko Breckenridge

It appears that summer in Minnesota is officially over! The air is getting cooler and we are busy preparing for our Annual Fall Colors River Cruise with MN Nihonjinkai! If you forgot to sign up, or missed the details in last month's newsletter, contact Karen Harwerth as there might be a few spots open due to last minute cancellations or changes. You can email her or call her: kharwerth@comcast.net, (612) 747-0340.

We will be taking a 2.5-hour dinner cruise along the Mississippi with Stillwater Riverboats on Sunday, October 13th, from 3:30-6 p.m. The cost for anyone over 65 is only \$10 per person!

Fall is a busy time around the Japanese Library. We can always use volunteer help on Saturday afternoons around 2:30 p.m. to help with various duties! There are leaves to rake and books to process, and we try to end the day together with a nice meal inside the library. Please consider joining us for an afternoon! This is also a good time to visit the library if you have never been there, or if you have Japanese guests in town. Our book count continues to climb! Thank you to everyone who donates books, movies and music to our library. And thank you to the volunteers who take care of getting everything organized and put away.

Fall and Winter bring questionable weather, so Nihonjinkai is always looking for younger volunteers to drive elders to our monthly meeting, as many are not comfortable driving in the rain/snow. This month's meeting happens to be the day after the cruise! If you can pick someone up and bring them to the library from noon to 2 p.m. on Monday, October 14th, please let us know. You may call Karen Harwerth to volunteer as a driver.

Let us remember all of our members who are sick, recovering from sickness/injury, and unable to join us. Take time to visit and make them smile!



Photo by
Ackerman + Gruber

Yoko Breckenridge
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Takuzo Ishida*

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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**

Calendar

October

**Corporate Roundtable with
Sawai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. - October 3rd**
The Basics with Kado no Mise - October 6th SOLD OUT

November

Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala - November 2nd

Japanese Conversation Clubs



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)



Another group for studying Japanese!

Check out Twin Cities Japanese Language Study Group <http://meetu.ps/c/3fPSK/FQBBY/d> on Meetup!

*This is a private group. In order to join, several questions must be answered by following the link above.

Thank You: Sogetsu Ikebana



Setsubana Ikebana's Yoshie Babcock's center piece at the 2018 Mondale Gala

Here at JASM there are a lot of people and organizations that work behind the scenes to make our goal of developing Japan-America relations possible. Oftentimes, these supporters do not receive the thanks and recognition that they deserve. Therefore, we would like to take this space to recognize these supporters and thank them for all of the amazing work that they do. This month we would like to thank Sogetsu Ikebana.

Sogetsu Ikebana has been dedicated to the creative art of Japanese flower arranging for decades and have been providing JASM events with beautiful and stylish flower arrangements for years. They provided the incredible flower arrangements for JASM's Harukaze event to commemorate Mr. Takuzo Ishida and have continually agreed to provide flower arrangements for our annual Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala.

We would also like to thank Yoshie Babcock specifically. Yoshie has been a teacher of the art of Ikebana for more than 30 years and has worked tirelessly to make collaborations between Sogetsu Ikebana and JASM possible.

We here at JASM are so thankful to Sogetsu Ikebana led by Yoshie Babcock for their support of JASM and for all of the beauty, creativity, and color they bring into our lives.

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 _____

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

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

Individual Membership

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

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Japan America Society of Minnesota



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通信

Tsūshin
October 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)

2019 Normandale Japanese Garden Festival and SPFUSA Delegation Visit



Amb. James Zumwalt and SPFUSA delegation



Normandale bridge



SYK performers at Normandale



Dr. Satu Limaye of East-West Center



JASM booth at Normandale



Liz Brailsford of WACA



Toyama Ryu Batto Jutsu at Normandale



SPNSCC booth at Normandale



JACL booth at Normandale