

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通 信

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October 2020 Vol. 29, No. 10

Recap: Irankarapte: An Introduction to Ainu Culture in Japan with Dr. Christina M. Spiker

On Thursday, September 3rd, JASM presented *Inkarapte: An Introduction to Ainu Culture in Japan* with Dr. Christina M. Spiker. Dr. Spiker broke the webinar into three different sections: *Who are the Ainu?*, *American History & Ainu History*, and *Ainu Today: From Upopoy to Popular Culture*.



Dr. Christina M. Spiker

After a brief self-introduction by Dr. Spiker and a video from the Irankarapte Campaign in Japan, we began with an introduction to the Ainu. Dr. Spiker touched on subjects including identity and Kayano Shigeru, the

leading figure of the Ainu ethnic movement. Other subjects discussed included religion, music, language, oral literature, textiles, and wood carvings in Ainu culture.

The second part covered the intersection of American and Ainu history. Dr. Spiker mentioned that the colonization of Hokkaido, the northernmost prefecture of Japan and the location of many Ainu, as well as the assimilation of Ainu in Japanese society, were closely modeled on white American practices of assimilation of Native Americans. Next, Dr. Spiker illustrated the importance of the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair, a six-month fair that included a "living exhibit" of nine Ainu people, and introduced Ainu culture to the world. She also briefly mentioned the surprisingly large number of American collections of Ainu artifacts.

Dr. Spiker began the third part, *From Upopoy to Popular Culture*, by discussing the Japanese laws affecting Ainu today. Next was the recently opened Upopoy, the first national Ainu museum and park, and the various Ainu-related activities one can participate in at the park. Afterwards, Dr. Spiker introduced us all to a few contemporary Ainu artists and the amazing works they have created. Following this was a discussion on Ainu in popular culture. Much of this related to how Ainu culture has recently begun to permeate popular culture, and the problems these popular images can create. At the end of the session, there was a long Q&A segment.

Thank you, Dr. Spiker, for giving us this very informative talk, answering our many questions, and for introducing many of us to Ainu culture for the first time!

2020 Mondale Award Recipient: William Deef



Mr. William (Bill) Deef

On behalf of the Mondale Award Committee, we are excited to select William (Bill) Deef as recipient of the 2020 Mondale Award for Japan-Minnesota Partnership. Bill has earned this honor through decades of consistent, multifaceted, outstanding support of the Minnesota-Japan relationship.

Bill has dedicated much of his life and career to enhancing the Minnesota-Japan relationship through a wide variety of leadership roles. Bill served on the JASM Board of Directors and led the organization as President. He also has a long affiliation with the Minneapolis-Ibaraki Sister City Association. Bill has organized visits, exchanges, and a multitude of programs to foster personal, government and business relationships between Minnesota and Japan. Over his 35 years working for Meet Minneapolis Convention & Visitors Association, Bill has worked tirelessly to increase the number of Japanese tourists visiting Minnesota. These efforts included more than 60 trips to Japan, covering every prefecture, to promote Minnesota. Bill also led many Japanese officials and media professionals on tours of our state.

In 1994, Bill spearheaded the effort to plan and execute the ten-day *America Japan Week*. This event drew over 90,000 attendees and 1500 visitors from Japan. In 1999, Bill was chair of Gov. Ventura's Trade Mission to Japan. These are just snapshots of the many initiatives Bill championed to strengthen ties between Minnesota and Japan. Through his dedication, leadership and kindness, Bill has been an exemplary ambassador for Minnesota.

Bill Deef is Senior VP of Public Affairs for Meet Minneapolis, the city convention and visitors association. During his decades of service, he chiefly marketed the region to domestic and international visitors. In 1989, Deef began promoting Minneapolis and Minnesota as travel destinations for Japanese business and leisure travelers.

Bill Deef served on JASM's Board of Directors for 10 years (1994-2004) and as President (1999-2000). He was Chair of Gov. Ventura's trade mission to Japan in 1999 and was recognized twice by Explore MN Tourism for efforts promoting Minnesota. He served as chair of the Airport Foundation MSP and represents the tourism industry on the Minnesota District Export Council. He leads the Minneapolis Global Partnership program, which invests in the city's 12 sister-city relationships including Ibaraki City, Japan.

JASM is very pleased to present the Mondale Award to Bill Deef in 2020. Everyone is welcome to join us to honor Bill. For more information, see page 3.

Letter from the JASM President



Elizabeth Fehrmann
JASM President

Dear JASM community,

As always, I hope this note finds you safe and healthy.

We are well into fall, and trending inevitably toward shorter, cooler days. I have a birch tree in my front yard whose leaves always seem eager to be the first on the block to change color, so my yard is already blanketed in yellow, while the squirrels are happily digging holes all over the lawn and garden beds to bury half-eaten crabapples and other things they won't remember come spring.

Here in Minnesota, we've now been operating under some form of restricted public life for over seven months now, and as such, we are still dealing with the unique challenges that arise from operating in the midst of a pandemic. Despite the difficulties, our office staff — Rio, Yoko, and our intern Megumi-san — in collaboration with an amazing group of Minnesota-based creators, teachers, and partners, have continued to bring us interesting and unique Japan-related programming to keep us connected in this time of extended physical separation. They have helped us keep our bodies active with taiko, dance, and Aikido classes, and our minds enriched with bookbinding, summer school, meditation and mindfulness, soy sauce history, and Ainu culture classes. Thank you to everyone who has shared with us their precious time and diverse talents to keep our Japan-Minnesota community learning and growing!

Next, the JASM leadership team is in the midst of planning our most important fundraising event of the year: the annual Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala. We've never had a remote participation option for any of our past gala events, but the pandemic this year has forced us to quickly move to an entirely virtual platform, so we are going to be experimenting with a lot of new things this year. I hope you're looking forward to joining us on this particular adventure as much as we're looking forward to bringing this event to all of you wherever you are! Please keep your eyes open for registration and participation information.

Finally, once again, I'd like to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to everyone who has recently donated, renewed, or registered as a new member. This is a difficult time for non-profit organizations like ours, but I'm encouraged to see so many people stepping up to support us financially and saying "Yes, *this community is worth investing in.*" With your support, we can continue our programming and outreach efforts and continue to explore new and better ways of connecting with you.

Regards,
Elizabeth Fehrmann



Save the Date: Virtual Mondale Gala

We are pleased to announce the 2020 Virtual Annual Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala. This 23rd Mondale gala has been scheduled for **Friday, November 13th at 7:00 p.m.**



Mondale Gala 2019

The gala will be streamed live online and include presentation of the ***Mondale Award*** and ***Mondale Scholarship*** along with an auction, the Fund-The-Scholar fundraising effort, and more.

More information is forthcoming; mark your calendar! Please stay tuned and join us to celebrate the prizewinners and support the scholarship fund.



Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala 2019

Membership News (8/21-9/20, 2020)

Thanks to the following new JASM members:

Diane Burry, Norman Butler, James Hagen, Jeff Newton, Stephanie Pringhipakis, Barbara Reed, Frances VanDorn, and John Whitebread

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

Kazue Amey, Carol Anderson, Michael & Yoshie Babcock, Sharon Bigot, Marc Blehert, Jonathan Dane, Lawrence Farrar, Schott Fritchie, Yasuaki Fujita, Thomas Greenwalt, Phaeton Holland, Noriko Ishida, Akihito Ito, Jean Jarvis, Christina Kunz, Rebecca Oishi, Tom Robbins, Helen Sauer, Patrick Stahl, Dick Stahl, Jutta Thomson, Marie Thorsten, Jonathan Wiese, and Akiyoshi Yonehara

Thanks to the following renewing Corporate members:

Macalester College: Asian Languages and Cultures and Linguistics,
Dorsey & Whitney LLP,
Japan Lifeline Co., Ltd.,
and
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.

Upcoming: JASM Karate Dojo/ JASM 空手道場

Please join us for the webinar "*JASM Karate Dojo/ JASM 空手道場*" on Thursday, October 8th at 6:00 p.m.



Mr. Jerry Holt (second from left)

Karate practice is divided into three aspects: *kihon* (basics), *kata* (forms), and *kumite* (sparring). Mr. Jerry Holt currently teaches karate and kobudo at the White Bear Lake YMCA. In this one-time-only special webinar, he will teach us Kata. Kata is a formalized sequence of movements which represent various offensive and defensive postures.

Karate is a Japanese martial art whose physical aspects seek the development of defensive and counterattacking body movements. It is one of the most widely practiced martial art forms in the world.

This webinar will give you a great opportunity to enjoy some exercise and to experience one of the aspects of Karate.

Instructor: Mr. Jerry Holt



Mr. Jerry Holt (right)

Mr. Jerry Holt was born in the 1960 in the Mississippi delta. He started training in Okinawan karate in 1975. After graduation from high school, he joined the United States Marine Corps, where he was stationed in Okinawa, Japan. He is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi with a degree in photojournalism, and he has been a staff photographer at the StarTribune since 1990. He teaches karate and kobudo at the White Bear Lake YMCA. His sensei is Hiroshi Akamine who lives in Tomigusuku, Okinawa, and he tries to travel to Okinawa yearly to continue his training. He lives in Brooklyn Park, with his wife, Shirley. They have two daughters: Kellie and Kendall.

[History of Kata] *Please click the underlined words for the explanation

Fukyugata is the name of kata practiced in many styles of Okinawan karate, particularly Matsubayashi-ryu. There are two Fukyugata. Shoshin Nagamine (Matsubayashi-ryu) created Fukyugata Ichi and Chojun Miyagi (Goju-ryu) created Fukyugata Ni, or Gekisai Ichi. They were developed as beginner kata because the more traditional kata were too difficult for beginners.

In some styles of karate, the kata are known as Fukyu. In Goju-ryu, the second Fukyugata is referred to as Gekisai ichi.

These two kata were commissioned by the special committee of Okinawan Karate-do under Mr. Gen Hayakawa, then governor of the Okinawa Prefecture in 1940. The kata were finished and introduced in 1941 in order to promote a basic and standard kata across a majority of Okinawan Karate styles; however, only some styles continue to practice both or one of these kata.



Mr. Jerry Holt

Please sign up today by clicking [here](#)! We are looking forward to seeing you there.

*Please thank our members
with your support!*

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UMN Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
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Winona State University Global Studies Dept.



Recap: JASM ブランチトーク：醤油のお話 JASM Brunch Talk: The Story of Soy Sauce

On Sunday, September 6th, JASM presented the “Story of Soy Sauce” webinar exploring the history, creation, and diversity of soy sauces with Mr. Fumihito Kojima from KIKKOMAN Marketing and Planning. This event was held only in Japanese.



Mr. Fumihito Kojima

本日の内容

1. なぜ海外？
2. しょうゆの歴史とアメリカ市場の開拓
3. しょうゆの作り方
4. しょうゆの品質の違い
5. 質疑応答

Mr. Kojima started the webinar with a self-introduction, detailing his own history with soy sauce and the products he currently works with. He explained how soy sauce production has expanded overseas and decreased in Japan recently.

Next, Mr. Kojima discussed the origins of soy sauce, how its use spread throughout Japan during the Edo Period, and how its popularity spread overseas over the past 70 years. Afterwards, he explained how soy sauce can be made both organically and chemically depending on which company is producing it. Mr. Kojima also went into length about the differences in quality between these two types of soy sauce and how soy sauce can best be used to heighten the flavor, taste, and color of what we eat.

Thank you, Mr. Kojima, for giving us this very interesting and wonderful webinar on this very familiar sauce!

臨時領事事務所開設のお知らせ(9月～10月分)

シカゴ市及びクック郡は新型コロナウイルスの感染が拡大している州からの来訪者に14日間の自主隔離を義務付ける緊急旅行命令を発出しており、当館管轄10州のうち、これまで指定されていたアイオワ州、カンザス州、ミズーリ州、ネブラスカ州、ノースダコタ州及びサウスダコタ州に加え、9月25日からウィスコンシン州及びミネソタ州が対象州になります。これらの州にお住まいの方が当館にお越しいただくことが実質的に困難になる中、当館ではこれらの州にお住まいの皆さまを対象に領事サービスの提供を継続するため、以下のとおり臨時事務所を開設します。

新型コロナウイルス感染拡大防止のため臨時領事事務所は完全予約制になりますので、利用をご希望の方は必ず事前に電話でご予約をお願いします。ご予約のない場合、入場をお断りすることがあります。必要に応じて11月以降も継続する予定です。11月以降の予定は決まり次第お知らせします。

【予約方法】当館開館日の受付時間内に以下の電話番号宛に電話で予約をお願いします。電話番号：312(280)0400

【開設日】 10月14日(水) 10月28日(水)

【開設時間】 10時30分から12時15分及び
13時15分から15時まで

【会場】 DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Chicago Oak Brook
1909 Spring Road Oak Brook, IL 60523
TEL:630(472)6000

Report From a Mondale Scholarship Recipient 2019-2020: Daphne Iskos

As a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, my initial plan to spend a semester studying at Sophia University after a winter internship at Japan's biggest non-profit organization, Ashinaga, went astray. Unfortunately, my study abroad at Sophia University was cancelled before it had even begun, and I found myself flying back to Minnesota five months earlier than I had anticipated. However, I was beyond lucky to have had a transformative two months of time working in Tokyo as a translation intern with Ashinaga (あしなが育英会).

Ashinaga is a scholarship organization. In Japan, the organization gives financial help to low income but academically excellent students who have lost at least one parent (or have a parent with a disability who cannot work). Ashinaga also runs the Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI), in which the organization completely funds the international university education of a few distinguished students from each of the forty-nine Sub-Saharan African countries. Many of these students choose to come to Japan, but there are also students who choose to go to the UK or other places in Europe. Both the Japanese and Sub-Saharan African students have the option to live in Ashinaga's Kokoro-Juku (subsidized housing dormitories) in Tokyo or Kobe. During our stay, the seven winter-term interns also lived in this housing, and as a result had a lot of valuable opportunities to get to learn about the experiences and personalities of the students who lived there.

Another learning component of the internship came in the form of volunteering at and learning about the mission of Ashinaga's Tokyo Rainbow House, which was attached to the Tokyo Kokoro-Juku where I lived. The Rainbow House is a public facility that houses workshops and other healing events for parents and children alike on how to cope with the grief of losing a parent or loved one. The interns were walked through the protocol grieving children undergo when they come to an Ashinaga Rainbow House. This guided time includes moments for playing with other kids in the workshop, releasing of anger (there's a whole room in the Rainbow House with padded walls and a punching bag for kids to let out their frustration), and time for solo and group reflection regarding the loss of the family member. Depending on the workshop, there are also activities that are a combination of reflection and play.



The winter interns and Ashinaga scholars working together to aid in reforestation efforts at the Minamihama Memorial Place, located in the Tohoku region, Daphne Iskos (second from left)

One of the activities that the Mondale Scholarship helped subsidize was a three-day-long trip to the Tohoku region that was dedicated to going to various sites to learn about disaster relief in the area, along with the programs Ashinaga has set up to help students who lost their parents in the region. During this

... continues on page 7

Arts and Culture Tour of Korea and Japan May 17-31, 2021 *



Namdaemun (South Gate) National Treasure
No. 1 of South Korea

I grew up in Korea and lived in Japan for 17 years as an adult. I have been fascinated by the cultures of both countries. In this tour, we will explore sites that exemplify the cultural characteristics of both societies. We will engage history and art, especially ceramics.

Some Highlights:

Korea

- Kyung Bok Palace, Seoul
- Changdok Palace and the Secret Gardens, Seoul
- National Art Museum, Seoul
- Namdemun (South Gate) Market, Seoul
- DMZ
- Icheon Ceramic Center
- Gyeongju, ancient capital of the Silla Dynasty

Ferry from Busan to Fukuoka, Japan

Japan

- Karatsu Kilns
- Arita, ceramic center with galleries, shops, and Ceramics Museum
- Accommodations at traditional ryokan in Beppu, hot springs resort
- Ferry to Shikoku
- Tour of Isamu Noguchi Gallery, Takamatsu
- Nara, Horyuji Temple
- Kyoto, Ryoanji (rock garden), Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion), and Kyomizu Temple

Tour Price: \$ to be advised per person based on double room occupancy for a minimum of 15 paying participants. Includes accommodations in first class hotels or best available, breakfast daily, 9 lunches and 5 dinners. Not included is air transportation from U.S. to Seoul and return from Tokyo.



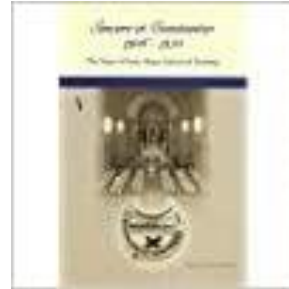
Nakazato Takashi, son of Nakazato
Tarouemon XII, Living National
Treasure of Japan

Ben van Lierop is organizing and will lead the tour. For more information, please contact benvanlierop@gmail.com.

*Tour dates may change consistent with U.S. State Department travel advisories for Korea and Japan.

Ben van Lierop

Tom Haeg's Book Review



Sincere et Constante; Virginia Simons Wentzel, Scientific Publishers, 2006.

I recently spent a week of surgery and recovery at the St. Mary's Hospital connected to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Their kindness, care, and professionalism exceeded all expectations. Upon discharge Ms. Wentzel's book somehow caught my attention.

Sincere is not complicated: just a simple story of nursing from 1906 to 1970 at the St. Mary's School of Nursing on the Minnesota prairie. Let's just call it an elongated school yearbook like a thousand others with nondescript names, mandatory graduation photos, and commonplace events. But then it hit me when the narrative turned to the school's history during World War II, and I had to pause while engulfed in that all too familiar "Kodak moment".

Under the Roosevelt Administration, more than 120,000 Japanese-Americans were interned in camps on the West Coast and in the West and Midwest. With his executive pen, Roosevelt effectively stripped Japanese-American people of their civil rights and relegated their citizenship status to undesirable. Their possessions were confiscated, and their dignity besmirched. Overnight, hysteria replaced reason.

Notwithstanding Executive Order 9066, and risking government and citizen backlash, Sister Antonia Rostomily, the St. Mary's School of Nursing's director during World War II, made a courageous effort to expunge the nonsense while instilling beneficence by actively recruiting nurses from the internment camps. She personally reviewed their applications, vetted them, and interviewed each of the Japanese-American women. She found their characters impeccable and their skills boundless. None were denied. In all, she admitted more than 42 Japanese-Americans from the camps into her nursing program. Coincidentally, some of the referrals actually came from the University of Minnesota, who denied acceptance because of Japanese heritage.

Although the school closed in 1970, we must not forget Sister Rostomily's courage and tolerance in standing up against the forces of bigotry and isolationism. But, then again, I was the benefactor of her influence during my recent hospital visit. I am convinced that her legacy was part of my recovery. After reading *Sincere* I now know where it came from.

Tom Haeg

For more information on this topic:

<https://www.startribune.com/japanese-american-nurses-traded-wwii-camps-for-rochester/572329192/>

<https://college.mayo.edu/about/alumni-center/saint-marys-school-of-nursing-alumni-association/about/>

Recap: Workout with Twin Cities Aikido Center

On Wednesday, September 16th, JASM held a webinar with the Twin Cities Aikido Center (TCAC) to help us learn about aikido and get in some exercise. The webinar was taught by Mick Cipra, Alan Smith, and Robert Gutierrez of the TCAC. What made the webinar even more interesting was that for each dollar donated to JASM, the instructors would do one *suburi* (sword cut). The total amount raised, and thus *suburi*, were \$285 total! Thank you to all who donated!



Alan Smith, sandan (left), Mick Cipra, yondan, and Robert Gutierrez, nidan (right)

The webinar started interactively. Cipra-sensei gauged audience knowledge on questions such as who the founder of aikido was and what other martial arts we have heard of. Next, we learned about the kanji that compose “aikido” (合気道). Next, we learned some of the basics around aikido. Of this we learned that aikido is a non-competitive sport and a largely contact-driven sport, thus making it difficult to practice during a pandemic. We finished the lecture portion with information about the TCAC

and a recent exchange program the dojo has participated in.



Mick Cipra, yondan (left), Alan Smith, sandan, and Robert Gutierrez, nidan (right)

After the slides were finished, Smith-sensei took over and gave instructions on basic aikido movements, the audience following along each step of the way. We began

by doing stretches to warm up the entire body. Next, we did a swing-up exercise, using our arms as the name suggests. After this were front rolls, back rolls, and a hybrid between the two.

Once the warm-up was finished, Gutierrez-sensei took command and taught us *suburi* exercises. Of course, many did not own wooden swords and thus used things such as broomsticks, lightsabers, or nothing at all. Gutierrez-sensei broadly instructed proper etiquette, *suburi*, and foot movements as we all got our exercise for the night.



Robert Gutierrez, nidan (right)

We once again thank those who donated and, of course, those at the Twin Cities Aikido Center for their instructions, giving us all another way to work out while we are at home, and for pushing through all 285 *suburi* throughout the webinar!

講師募集のお知らせ

ミネアポリス日本語補習授業校は

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

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【授業日】

毎週土曜日 午前9時頃～

【勤務開始（予定）※応相談】

2021年4月頃～

【その他情報】

講師報酬は当行規定に準じて支払われます

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少しでもご興味やご質問ございましたら、講師担当の井上

Koushi@minneapolisjapaneseschool.orgまでご連絡ください

皆様からのご応募を心よりお待ちしております

Volunteer: Jameson Carter Collins



Jameson Carter Collins at
Kegon Falls in Nikko-city,
Tochigi Prefecture, Japan

Hello everyone! My name is Jameson “Carter” Collins. I was the membership coordinator intern for JASM last fall. I am returning to help write reports on events for the Tsushin and help out where I can. I graduated from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities in May 2019, majoring in Asian Languages and Literatures and had plans to go to Japan for graduate school in April this year on scholarship, but various things happened, and I was not able to attend.

Currently I’m searching for any opportunity that lets me eventually return to Japan, whether it be for work or study. The rest of my energy goes toward JASM, furiously looking for jobs, and studying Japanese (I passed N2 last December!).

I have had an interest in Japan for quite some time because of popular media like anime. Now, I voraciously research Japanese popular culture and rural tourism. I have always found it interesting how many Americans perceive Japan through anime. I wonder how influential those perceptions are when it comes to tourism?

I might be having difficulties during these strange times, but I really want to help JASM succeed through all of it. So, I decided to take action and volunteer now in any way I can. As an aside, please donate to JASM if you can! I know your help can really make a difference in keeping JASM strong.

Report From a Mondale Scholarship Recipient 2019-2020: Daphne Iskos *continues*

trip, I learned a lot about the details of the devastating earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan on March 11, 2011. While we went to several informational sites such as the Tohoku University Disaster Prevention Center (東北大学災害科学国際研究所), the outing that stayed with me most was our visit to Okawa elementary school. Okawa elementary school is infamous for its failed evacuation during the March 11 tsunami. The students and teachers inside the school were told to evacuate before the tsunami hit the school. This should have been no problem, because mere feet from the school there is a massive hill big enough for the entire school of students to climb and be safe from raging water. However, the evacuation manual for the school hadn't been updated for years, and after losing precious time arguing about which place to evacuate to, the teachers decided to not evacuate the students to the hill. Instead, they tried to go to the place mentioned in the evacuation manual, which was on higher ground but far away. En route to this outdated evacuation site, the tsunami wave hit and swept away the students and teachers. Only one teacher and a few students survived. Seeing the devastation on the face of our tour guide (one of the parents of the lost children), I understood the importance of Ashinaga's mission to support bereaved families all the more, and it was a really powerful moment.

I used Japanese every day I was in Japan. The majority of the students living in the dorm were Japanese, so any communication with them was in Japanese. There was also a daily communal cleaning of the dorm, in which the language inevitably spoken among the multilingual cleaning teams consisting of interns, Japanese students, and AAI students, ended up being Japanese. This immersion in Japanese continued via the two-hour long commute from the outskirts of Tokyo (Hino City) to the Ashinaga office, which is deep in the heart of the city (Akasaka-Mitsuke). Of course, all of the announcements and signage on the train are spoken or written in Japanese. Similarly, the people around you at the station and on the streets are speaking Japanese. And naturally, when picking up lunch at a convenience store or restaurant, all interactions with the staff were in Japanese. However, all of the above instances aside, I used my Japanese the most when interacting with co-workers and translating Japanese to English and English to Japanese during my official translation intern hours at the office.

Before interning at Ashinaga, I had never done translation work in a professional environment, so I also learned a lot about technique and relevant skills while I was on the job. For instance, I learned what kind of clarifying questions were important to ask when communicating with the people that had requested the translation, and how to effectively overcome technical challenges when I received a particularly difficult document to translate. I also worked on learning more words so I could increase my efficiency when translating, and as a result

my overall translation speed increased a lot over the course of the internship.

When I look back on my internship with Ashinaga, I see an experience that will help my future endeavors in many ways. Most obviously, my time at Ashinaga was my first official translation work experience, which is crucial for my resume, as I would like to try working in translation in the future. Secondly, this internship was instrumental to visualising what it would be like to work in Japan in the future, something I had previously been very curious about. Working from the Ashinaga office exposed me to Japanese work etiquette and gave me an idea of what the everyday life of a future career in Japan might look like for me, which is very valuable knowledge as I continue to figure out what my ideal workplace looks like. Thirdly, on a more personal level, this internship taught me how to be more

outgoing. By nature, I am quite shy, but as a result of constantly being around new people I got used to making friends fast, and as a result I feel like my social skills progressed. This is a skill that will help me make connections and find good jobs in the future.

Lastly, this internship allowed me to develop my connection to Japan by giving me an avenue to meet new people. In my opinion, it is people who make a place. Without the opportunities I had as a result of the internship (namely, living in a dorm and interacting with employees in the Ashinaga office), I likely would not have been able to form half as many friendships as I did. What's more, this is an experience I could have only had in Japan. Thus, knowing that Japan is a unique place where I met so many amazing people and formed lasting friendships makes me feel a special affection towards the country and inspires me to come back in the future.

Even though my plan to study at Sophia University was interrupted due to the pandemic, I feel that I lived a study

abroad experience during my internship at Ashinaga. Though I have harbored an interest in the Japanese language for years prior to being able to visit Japan, my internship gave me a chance to visit for the first time, allowing me to form an in-person connection to Japan that will likely stimulate a lifelong curiosity about the country's culture. I am extremely grateful for having the Mondale Scholarship as it allowed me to explore more than I would have and certainly deepened my exposure with outings and trips such as the one I took to Tohoku. With graduation just around the corner, I am disappointed that I will not have an opportunity to go on a formal study abroad program during my college career. However, I cannot wait to see what my future holds, as I suspect that it will bring me back to Japan sometime soon.



6/7 of the Ashinaga Tokyo 2020 Interns celebrating the birthday of President Tamai (in the middle, in pink T-shirt), the founder of Ashinaga, Daphne Iskos (right side of President Tamai)

Japan America Society of Minnesota



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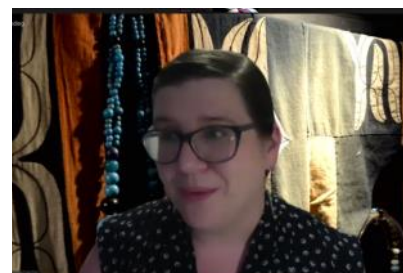
Tsūshin
October 2020

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)

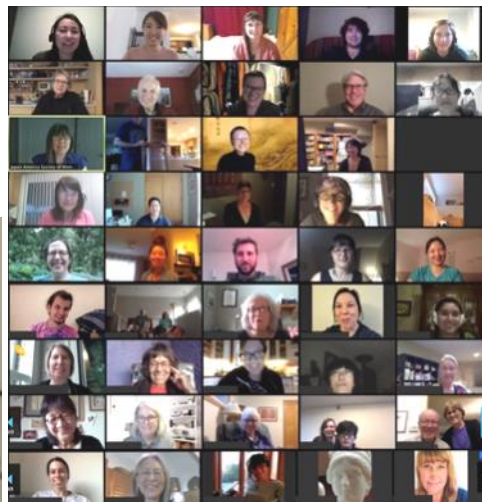
September Webinars



JASM Brunch Talk: The Story of Soy Sauce



Irankarapte: An Introduction to Ainu Culture in Japan with Dr. Christina M. Spiker (above and bottom)



Workout with Twin Cities Aikido Center