

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通 信

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

November 2020 Vol. 29, No. 11

Recap: JASM Karate Dojo/ JASM 空手道場



Mr. Jerry Holt

JASM members gathered the night of October 8th for a unique webinar to learn karate and get a nice workout from home. This webinar was taught by Jerry Holt. Jerry-sensei has been practicing karate for over 45 years and currently teaches karate and kobudo at the White Bear Lake YMCA.

Our session began with Jerry-sensei introducing himself and what he teaches. He emphasizes Shourinryuu (小林流), of

which we learned one *kata*: a formalized sequence of movements both defensive and offensive in nature and frequently seen in many styles of karate.

The *kata* we learned is called *fukyugataichi*, a popular *kata* chosen for teaching children karate based on its simplicity compared to other *kata*. First, Jerry-sensei displayed proper form and some karate terminology. He emphasized the importance of keeping a flat fist and keeping the armpit closed when punching. Some terms he introduced include *zenkutsu dachi* (front stance), *shizen dachi* (natural stance), *musubi dachi* (attention stance), and, as attendees of our taiko webinar a few months back may remember, *kiai*, short shouts performed with some punches. We learned *fukyugataichi* together through repetition as we broke a sweat with each punch.

Once we were finished with the intro to *fukyugataichi*, Jerry-sensei answered questions and taught us a little bit about the other Okinawan martial art he teaches called *kobudo*, literally old martial way. Some of the questions answered addressed differences between Okinawan karate and mainland Japanese karate, the historical basis for each *kata*, and other Okinawan defensive arts.



Jerry-sensei showing tinbe-rochin (a shield and spear),

With *kobudo*, Jerry-sensei introduced various weapons and defensive tools frequently used in the art. These included the likes of the *tinbe-rochin* (a shield and spear), the *eku* (a type of oar), the *bou* (a long staff), and the *tonfa* (wood or metal bar with a perpendicular handle). He also mentioned *sunakake* when using *eku*, which is a sand throw that Okinawans would utilize for self-defense when using *eku*. We thank Jerry-sensei for this interesting karate webinar and for giving us all a wonderful workout!

Announcing Mondale Gala Keynote Speaker: Noriko Sanefuji



Ms. Noriko Sanefuji

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 Ms. Noriko Sanefuji, curator, researcher, and educator program producer at the Smithsonian National Museum of

American History.

Noriko Sanefuji is from Fukuoka, Japan and is a Museum Specialist at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History (NMAH). Her current and past projects derive from her areas of focus in Japanese American and Asian Pacific American history and culture. The most recent project was to co-curate the exhibition "Righting a Wrong: the Japanese American Experience in World War II" (2017) and its traveling exhibition (2019). Other exhibitions that she was involved in include "Congressional Gold Medal awarded to the Japanese American Nisei Soldiers of World War II" (2014); and "Sweet and Sour: The Americanization of the Chinese Restaurant" (2010).

Over the past fifteen years, Ms. Sanefuji has worked on the preservation of Asian Pacific American history and culture, organizing public programs and the collection of artifacts. In addition to working as a curator, researcher, educator program producer, and docent coordinator, Ms. Sanefuji spends her time promoting Asian Pacific American culture as a guest speaker, moderator, and panelist at various events throughout the United States.

Please join us to listen to the keynote speech of Ms. Noriko Sanefuji as well as for celebrating the Mondale Award and Scholarship winners!

The 23rd Annual Mondale Gala has been scheduled for **Friday, November 13th at 7:00 p.m.**

To register, please click [here \(23rd Mondale Gala website\)](#). For more details, click [here \(JASM website\)](#).

Registration fee: Everybody is welcome to join us free of charge. However, if you are able, please consider including our suggested donation amount of \$35 to help offset our production and programming costs.

We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Recap: MN Grassroots Forum



On the morning of September 26th, JASM hosted the 2nd annual Japan Minnesota Grassroots Forum over Zoom. The

forum gathered U.S.-Japan organizations in Minnesota to create the unique opportunity for local U.S.-Japan communities to brainstorm/exchange ideas for future collaboration, and discuss each organization's role in facilitating grassroots efforts between the United States and Japan. This forum was sponsored by Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.

After Rio Saito, Executive Director of JASM, gave welcoming remarks, the Honorary Consul of Japan in Minneapolis, Ron Leonhardt, gave an introduction to the Consul-General of Japan in Chicago, the honorable Kenichi Okada. Though he could not personally attend, he presented a warm welcome. Next, though he could not personally attend, the Consul-General of Japan in Chicago, the honorable Ken'ichi Okada, presented a warm welcome video to the attendees of the forum. Afterward, each respective



Consul-General Kenichi Okada, Consulate General of Japan in Chicago

group that attended took turns introducing themselves and their group's future plans, many utilizing presentation slideshows. The groups that attended apart from JASM included JETAAMN (JET Alumni Association of Minnesota, represented by Greg Schuneman and Mario Acito), Mori no Ike (Hanna Brandt), SPNSCC (St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee, Maggie Quam and Amy Kelly), MISCA (Minneapolis-Ibaraki Sister City Association, Karl Reinhard), TCJACL (Twin Cities Japan American Citizens League, Vini Taguchi), and the University of Minnesota Japanese Teaching Program (Keiko Kawakami).



Honorary Consul of Japan in Minneapolis, Ron Leonhardt

After introductions were finished, the floor opened for each group to discuss current difficulties, what is working best, and to get a feel for the current climate of local U.S.-Japan communities. Topics varied greatly with many of them, of course, describing how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected operations. Other topics included the high variance in attendance when it comes to online events, the assortment of online events being conducted, being

more selective about the amount of time we spend online, possible ways to emphasize Japan in Minnesota to students, and anti-blackness in reference to recent events. Overall, it was a very productive and thought-provoking forum that helped develop a healthier synergy for U.S.

-Japan organizations in Minnesota. JASM extends great thanks to all those who attended. We hope to see you all next year!

Fredrikson
& BYRON, P.A.

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Takuzo Ishida Memorial Scholarship 2021

We would like to announce that the Takuzo Ishida Memorial Scholarship will not be offered in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will make an announcement the next, in 2021, about the 2022 scholarship.



Mr. Takuzo Ishida

Japan America Society of Minnesota will award the Takuzo Ishida Memorial Scholarship to a student enrolled in a Minnesota high school who wants to broaden their knowledge of Japan through a combination of study and travel. The target award is currently \$1000, but this may be adjusted in certain cases, at the discretion of the Steering Committee for the scholarship.

The awards are specifically to be used for travel to or within Japan before, during, or after the student's specified term(s) of study for a time period of one month or more. If you would like to make a contribution to the Takuzo Ishida Memorial Scholarship's endowment, please click [here](#).

Due to the pandemic, we will not be accepting scholarship applications for 2021.

Thank you very much for your support.

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[amazon smile](#)



Membership News (9/21-10/20, 2020)

Thanks to the following new JASM members:

E. Michael & Carol Johnson, John Whitebread

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

Richard & Katharine Fournier, William French, Chieko Millard, Karl Reinhard, Richard Telke, Kay Thomas, Junko Ueda, Michelle Watanabe, David & Anne-Lise Whitescarver, David & Tracy Wiese, and See Yang

Thanks to the following renewing Corporate members:

Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, P.C.

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

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



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

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



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

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.

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

シカゴ日本国総領事館 臨時領事事務所開設のお知らせ 10月～11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、サウスダコタ州、ウィスコンシン州及びミネソタ州に加え、10月16日からインディアナ州が対象州になりました。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12月以降も継続する予定です。12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28日 (水)
11月12日 (木)
11月25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](https://www.doubletree.com/hotel/oak-brook/) TEL:630 (472) 6000

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with your support!*

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



Report From a Mondale Scholarship Recipient 2019-2020: Son Phan

I'm currently a senior at Macalester College, studying Applied Mathematics and Economics. Coming into study abroad I saw it as a great opportunity, by first trying to become decently fluent at a language I've studied for a while, and second by trying out living in a completely different culture and atmosphere. My academic focus coming to Japan was solely Japanese language, through the CET Osaka program.



*Son Phan and his local roommate Jota Motoki (元木 條太)
at Byoudo-in (平等院)*

There were many special and unique factors about my two-and-a-half month stay in Japan. In general, my life in Japan felt very relaxed. A few things factored into this. One being that I'm used to much more intense academics at Macalester. That's not to say CET wasn't difficult, but studying *only* Japanese is much different from studying Math, Economics, and Japanese simultaneously. The atmosphere as well as the convenience of everyday living also played a role. Food and everything else I needed was covered by local restaurants, convenience stores, or a trip to the grocery store. Housing was covered similarly by the program. Everything in Japan just felt very laid back and not in a rush compared to my college life in America.

Japanese college students, when they're not studying, didn't seem to have many big hobbies like some students in the U.S have. This made me take things a little bit more slowly and do things that weren't necessarily goal-oriented. I frequently went out to explore, or researched and visited interesting shrines or temples. It was challenging for me to go with the flow and slow down. The main goal during my time in Japan became learning to just try out new and interesting things. This is in contrast to my life in America where most of my everyday tasks can trace back to a goal or deadline such as an assignment or grade, a job, graduate school, or money.

I had a hard time adjusting back to a more intense mindset coming home. It's not good to be too intense and only do things to benefit some greater plan, but it's also terrible to fall into a cycle of being too lax to find that plan and stick to it. I'd say that I'd like to be in the middle, leaning a bit towards the intense side. This was surprising to me that my main takeaway from Japan didn't really have to do with the people or the culture at all but just the atmosphere of a more peaceful life. I wouldn't mind a life like this, but I know that for now I have a lot more I need to do and accomplish before I would accept a more laid-back way of life.

Making friends with the CET housemates was a great experience. I got to see where they came from in life, what expectations they had for the future, and how they saw people like me. It wasn't long before we grew close, and the time in Osaka became a valuable experience. I felt much more open in Japan, perhaps because of being Asian and having everyone look similar to me! I also became very comfortable going out, trying new things, and simply exploring the city instead of staying cooped in my house or the library studying. It sounds too simple to sum it up like this, but I got to see what my life would be like if my life didn't revolve around work.

I did well in my Japanese courses and also tried very hard to apply my language skills to natural speaking and writing outside of class. I took the opportunity to talk to not only CET roommates but their mutual friends and learned a lot of Japanese through reading articles and listening to music. It was challenging to find a natural balance between speaking very casually with friends and a more holistic understanding of the language, including formal *keigo* and longer forms. Becoming adept at switching between casual and formal was a challenge! I got much better just through trying and failing a lot.

It is a shame that I couldn't stay for the entirety of the study abroad program due to the influence of COVID-19, but I think I made the most out of the time I had in Osaka. There were many new places and perspectives I was introduced to, not to mention the leaps and bounds I made in terms of the language.



Son Phan with a few study abroad roommates as well as local roommates at the nearby Aikawa (相川) park

I hope to visit Osaka and more of Japan in the near future as well as revisit the friends I made there. And I want to maintain my Japanese language skills. Having already self-studied through reading and music, I will continue to do these things despite not being in Japan. I would like to wholeheartedly thank JASM and the Mondale Scholarship for supporting me through this journey. My study abroad in Japan has changed my life in more ways than I can say.



Please scan QR code (left) to register for the Virtual Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala.

Report from a Mondale Scholarship Recipient 2019-2020: Audrey Johannes

My name is Audrey Johannes and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, and currently a third-year international student at Sophia University (上智大学).

Last September, I moved to Shinkoiwa (新小岩), a city in the Tokyo metropolitan area near Chiba, to begin a year-long study abroad. Although this chapter of my life in Japan only started in September, this has not been the first time I've lived there.



Audrey Johannes (second from left) and my host family, Miwa, Minori, and Takashi, at Disney Tokyo

In the summer of 2013, I began my first time as an exchange student through the 4-H/Labo International Exchange Program. Through that program I was placed with the best possible host family in Japan. The two months I spent with my host family changed my life, and since the day my host sister and I said goodbye in tears, I have impatiently waited to return. Fast-forward to September of 2019, as I stepped foot back in Tokyo: I

shed a few tears of relief as everything in the Haneda Airport immediately brought back every detail.

I had decided to come back to Japan as a college student for reasons both personal and academic. Personally, I wanted to reconnect with my host family. Sending Facebook messages and care packages wasn't enough. Academically: I attend the University of Minnesota as a Political Science major with an emphasis in Global Politics. I had already completed the University's foreign-language requirement with Spanish, so I decided to take two years of Japanese, knowing I'd most likely return to Japan, and that it might differentiate myself from other job candidates in the future. Thankfully, those two years have paid off. When I started attending Sophia, I was surprised at how many of the other exchange students knew very little Japanese at all. Many of them took Japanese classes for the first time at Sophia. Although I could definitely improve my Japanese, I wanted to focus more on taking classes that I wouldn't have the opportunity to take back home: Japanese Law in Comparative Perspectives, or Japanese Politics. Taking these classes will help me understand my major better in a global perspective, rather than only learning about the law and politics from an American standpoint.

Since the classes at Sophia are taught in English, and I live in group house where most people speak English, I wanted to still improve my Japanese. To do this, I tried to make friends who spoke minimal English, and spend as much time as I can with these friends and my host family (with whom I only speak Japanese).

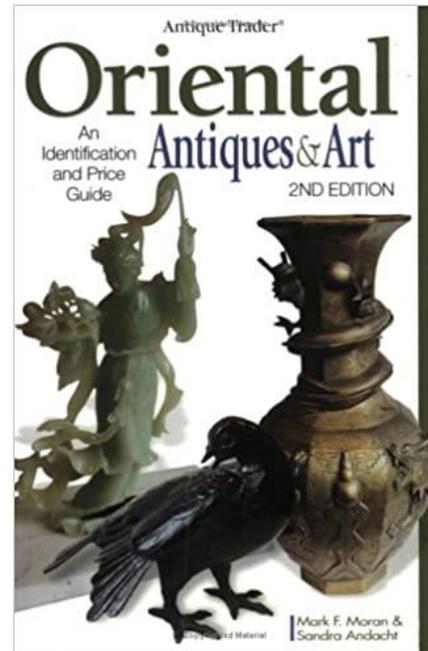
... continues on page 7



Her host sister, Minori, and Audrey Johannes in traditional kimono (着物) at Sensoji (浅草寺), in Asakusa, Tokyo

Tom Haeg's Book Review

Oriental Antiques and Art [2nd Ed.]; Mark F. Moran & S. Andacht; Krause Publications; 2006; 528 pages.



One of the longest-running and most popular programs on the PBS television network is *Antiques Roadshow*. Its appeal is family nostalgia, historical context and, uh, greed. It seems that we never cease to be amazed by the alchemist's dream: getting something for nothing. And appraisal by theater delivers.

Using this formula, the JASM collector will certainly find this appraisal book useful. Your attics and basements are probable repositories for miscellaneous Japanese objects heretofore regarded as just stuff. Think again. To your great surprise, after reading Moran's book, you, too, may be an unbeknownst wealthy beneficiary of a gift, inheritance, or something you picked up on a whim in a Japanese antique store while waiting for a train. "I had no idea!"

Although the book's range is Asia, it describes mostly Japanese collections. It covers just about everything: cloisonné, fans, tea ceremony articles, paintings, apparel, ceramics, and more. There are over 500 photographs, a healthy glossary, and a generous index. Every item has a clever historical narrative and assigned monetary range. There is even a chapter devoted to ephemera including items meant to be discarded after use. Imagine this: the value of a ticket on one of the first *shinkansen* trains? Or how about a 1938 Kyoto fold-out map? Find it or sell it and you may become wealthy.

So, next spring when you attend Yoko Breckenridge's *Nihonjinkai* yard sale, take along a copy of this book: you might just discover a diamond (or jade) in the rough.

Mr. Moran, a former Rochester, Minnesota resident, is a retired author and antiques appraiser now living near Iola, Wisconsin. Ms. Andacht is on the faculty in the Appraisal Studies Program at George Washington University.

-Tom Haeg

Report from a Mondale Scholarship Recipient 2019-2020: Audrey Johannes *continues*

Since I have been to Japan a few times before, I am used to the culture and most of the ways it's different from the US. I am well-acquainted with stares, as a white, tall, blonde American, and people are routinely surprised when I reply easily in Japanese. Yet one of the biggest surprises I have consistently faced is how many of the deeper societal differences I had failed to recognize in previous visits.

The first time I left Japan, I had been so overwhelmed with the politeness and consciousness of society. I thought Japan was superior to the US, and I often found myself disliking and even resenting my own country for being, in my mind, obnoxious, disrespectful, etc. It was as if the two worlds were the exact opposite of one another, and that was what I thought I was prepared for going into this academic year.



Her father, her host parents, and Audrey Johannes at Odawara (小田原) Castle in Kanagawa (神奈川)

Be it my improved Japanese language skills, or continued studies in college, or simply being older, there is much I have come to learn about the differences between Japanese and American culture and society. Speaking generally, in my view, Japanese society is much more conservative and refined than the American one — and the same is often true for individual people. In Japan, it is expected that the opinions and values of the greater society come before those of the individual, meaning individuals are not supposed to do things that would interfere or disrupt the lives of others. This can be seen in the way that people avoid conflict, are hesitant to speak up about a matter of opinion, or even the general manner in which people speak more quietly or politely. Compare this to the US, where from a young age we're taught that if you have an opinion, say it loud and say it proud! In American society, less emphasis is placed on the collective, and personal goals and dreams are valued. In some of my classes, as one of few foreigners, I seem to do all of the talking — not because I particularly want to, but because many of the Japanese students are reluctant to speak. Upon bringing this up with some of the students, they have shared that all throughout school (before university), there was always a right

or wrong answer, and you weren't encouraged to speak if you didn't know for sure you were correct. In our current classes, the subject matter is less focused on correct vs. incorrect, and is often abstract and complex. Politics and the power dynamics of international and domestic mechanisms simply don't adhere to some kind of equation with a nice, absolute answer.

While I have gained much knowledge and experience, the true star of my time in Japan has been my host family. When I first came back, I was worried that the relationship might not be as strong as it once was. Any thought of that fades away each time I spend eating family dinners and having sleepovers with my host sister. As I said before, they are one of the biggest reasons I chose to return, and why I feel my life here is so special. Many foreigners here only interact with other foreigners, since it is difficult to breach the line that lies between Japanese and non-Japanese. I think few foreigners are able to truly connect with Japan and the Japanese society, and I am so grateful and lucky to have had a chance to do so, which never would have happened without my host family.

In that regard, I would also like to extend my personal thanks to the donors of the Mondale Scholarship. This scholarship has allowed me to reconnect with some of my favorite people in the world, while also giving me the chance to gain an outstanding education and broader knowledge that will hopefully carry through to a career in international affairs. I am humbled by the generosity that made all of these opportunities possible and look forward to strengthening the connection between Japan and Minnesota, Japan and the United States, and cross-cultural connections all over the world.



Her friends from the international share house on a day trip to Enoshima (江ノ島) on a hot summer day

**To support the Mondale Scholarship program,
please register for the Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala.**

<https://JASMmondale2020.givesmart.com>

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1/4 page	5 x 3.5 in	\$50.00
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Classified	80 character line (minimum 2 lines)	\$10/ line

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

November

Virtual Mondale Gala 2020, Nov. 13th at 7 pm

Japan America Society of Minnesota

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

Name _____

Name (2nd adult of a household membership) _____

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Phone _____

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Individual Membership

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Sustaining.....	\$500+
Contributing.....	\$100+
Individual	\$30
Student	\$20
Household	\$50 (2 adults plus children under 18)

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

Become a JASM Member online

Support our mission and become a member!

1. Go to mn-japan.org
2. At the top, hover over 'Support' then click on 'Join'
3. Select your membership type and read the benefits and instructions.

You can also become a member using your smartphone.

Japanese Conversation Clubs



The Japanese Speaking Club is an informal meeting for those wishing to practice Japanese. We encourage those just beginning the language as well as native speakers to participate to meet new people, discuss experiences in Japan, or simply to speak Japanese.

This group currently meets regularly over Zoom. For more details, send an email to group coordinator Will Etkin: will.etkin@atgmail.com

Check out another conversation group: **Twin Cities Japanese Conversation Meetup Group** (<https://www.twincitiesjapaneseconversation.com/>)

Note: This is a private group. In order to join, a questionnaire must be completed at the web site linked above.

The goal of Twin Cities Japanese Conversation Meetup is language fluency in either Japanese or English. This group is for Japanese language learners who want to improve their Japanese speaking skills or/and native Japanese speakers who want to improve their English speaking. Those who just want to help out are also welcome.

Parts to the meetup: 自己紹介 (self-introductions), 質疑応答 (questions and answers about language) and 会話練習 (conversation practice).

Meetings: Edina (Monday), Minnetonka (Thursday), Saint Paul (Saturday).

Since March 16 the group is holding all meetings online.

For any question about this group, please email Mariquita Anderson: mariquita@twincitiesjapaneseconversation.com

Japan America Society of Minnesota



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www.mn-japan.org

通信

Tsūshin
November 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)

October Webinars



Grassroots Forum 2020



Recap : JASM Karate Dojo/ JASM 空手道場

Register Today!

