

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通 信

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

December 2020 Vol. 29, No. 12

Recap: Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala 2020

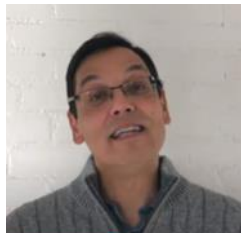


Ambassador Mondale awarding the Mondale Award 2020 (left) and the recipient, William Deef (right)

As we reach ever closer to the end of this unfathomable year, we celebrated one of JASM's biggest annual events. On the evening of November 13th, JASM held its 23rd annual Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala. Of course, due to the current pandemic, the gala was not held at the usual Oak Ridge Country Club in Hopkins but was instead live-streamed.



Consul-General Kenichi Okada



Honorary Consul-General of Japan Ron Leonhardt

The night began with introductory remarks by Clint Connor, Dorsey & Whitney partner and JASM board member. He emphasized the importance of creating cross-cultural connections, then introduced the second speaker, Ron Leonhardt. Ron is the new Honorary Consul of Japan in Minnesota. Consul-General of Japan in Chicago Kenichi Okada was next to give his greetings.



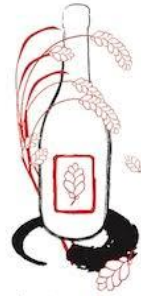
Ms. Noriko Sanefuji

Our keynote speaker for this gala was museum specialist Noriko Sanefuji of Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. Ms. Sanefuji strongly expressed the desire to be with us in Minnesota, preferring to use Doraemon's "anywhere door" to be here if it were possible. Her keynote address highlighted Asian-American communities, and she proclaimed that American history belongs to everyone. She noted that

many Asian-American communities across the U.S. have held webinars, history town halls, or online panels in 2020 – not to elicit fear or grief, but to help us heal and move forward – connecting the past to the present. Ms. Sanefuji also presented a video about Japanese-American incarceration during World War II and an exhibition that featured some of the art and artifacts from the internment camps.

Continues to page 3.....

Upcoming: Sake Tasting and Ceramic Talk: Thinking Outside the Bottle



Sake Story

Mia

Minneapolis Institute of Art

Please join our event, *Sake Tasting and Ceramic Talk: Thinking outside the Bottle*, Thursday, December 3 at 6 pm, which will be our second sake tasting experience. This time the event features sake expert Chris Griese from Sake Story, and art historian Dr. Andreas Marks, the Head of the Japanese and Korean Art Department at Mia (Minneapolis Institute of Art).

Chris Griese will discuss three sake selected for this event. Dr. Marks will showcase ceramic sake cups and will describe how they enhance the tasting experience. You can take part in the sake tasting if you purchase the selected sake from Surdyk's, one of our corporate members. You'll be able to taste the flavors and learn all about the sake selections from the comfort of your home. *Please note: this event is for guests 21 years of age or older.*

Dr. Andreas Marks shares these pre-tasting comments: "A beautiful, well-designed cup enhances the experience and pleasure of drinking. Sake is traditionally sipped from guinomi, small cups that demand frequent refilling. Masterpieces in miniature, these little cups condense the skill, technique, and personal style of a potter. Today, artists are free to innovate and push the limits of form, while others uphold tradition." Thursday's presentation will introduce guinomi made of stoneware or porcelain by nine living artists, including Fukami Sueharu, internationally renowned for his abstract sculptures, as well as Fukumoto Fuku, one of the leading women ceramicists today.

FEATURED SAKE

[Tsukinowa "Midnight Moon" Daiginjo, Iwate](#)
[Kitsukura "Taruzake" \(barrel-aged\) Honjozo, Nagano](#)
[Miyashita "Treasure Ship" Junmai Ginjo, Okayama](#)

The three sake to be featured in the event are available for purchase on the Surdyk's website (<https://surdyks.com/>). For the link to each item, you can click on the image or its name. There is no purchase necessary to attend the event. ***Please note that orders require a two-hour processing time, so orders placed two hours or less before closing time will not be available for pick-up until the following morning.*** Orders can be made through [Surdyk's website](#). For pick-up, please check the store's opening times (<https://surdyks.com/covid-19>).

Please sign up today! We are looking forward to seeing you there.

\$15: Non-Member. \$10: JASM Members.
Fee is not refundable but is transferable.

Message from Executive Director Rio Saito



Rio Saito
JASM Executive Director

Hello, friends and family of Japan America Society of Minnesota,

I hope you are safe and well. We are coming to the end of a very difficult year that we are still enduring, but I would like to use this opportunity to thank everyone who has still stayed and supported JASM.

When pandemic started in March, we were just scared and confused, and not sure of what we were supposed to do. When the murder of George Floyd happened a few months after, we really looked at ourselves and said, "we need to do something for the community." We took our role as "a bridge" to connect people and culture more seriously than ever this year. We have never been prouder and more privileged to be able to serve you and build community with you.

In eight months, we held 21 online events from a Japanese-only COVID-19 lecture, to a Sake and the art of ceramics combined lecture, with hope that we can be a place for people to connect in this difficult time. Thank you to all the presenters who gave us lessons and lectures to keep us educated and moving together. We also made one post a day on various social network services to show that we are still here and functioning because of your support.

Even though it has been a strange and difficult year for all of us, it also has shown us how much we are well-supported by our members. The number of the membership renewals and new memberships is higher than ever, and many of you also made generous donations when renewing or registering for events. For our virtual Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala, so many of you gave to support scholarships and JASM's operations. We are overwhelmed with joy. We feel that all the work we put in together paid off well. Also, I cannot forget to thank all the volunteers who have been helping us with JASM office operations.

The JASM staff also would like to thank the most supportive board in the world. When I was feeling lost, the board members were there to reach out, and offered their help. To be able to feel that we are not in this alone kept us going, and we know we can keep going as a community organization with that continuing support.

My first year as the new Executive Director, I had to learn a lot. My second year came with the pandemic and social anguish and we had to improvise and invent things. And both years have been great with some growing pains, and I am grateful. I do not know what my third year will bring, but I am not too worried because of the great support of JASM members, volunteers, and board members. Please continue to be a part of this organization and let people know that because of you, we have an organization like Japan America Society of Minnesota, still here and thriving.

Rio Saito, JASM Executive Director

Congratulations to Ron Leonhardt, Newly Appointed Honorary Consul of Japan in Minneapolis



Honorary Consul of Japan
Ron Leonhardt

On August 1st, 2020, the Government of Japan appointed Mr. Ron Leonhardt, a former Japan America Society of Minnesota Board Member, as the new Honorary Consul General of Japan in Minneapolis.

As a JASM board member Mr. Leonhardt served as: a judge of the annual J-Quiz, the competition for high school students in their knowledge of Japanese language and culture; was on the committee for the Annual

Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala; and hosted artists from Japan to introduce them to Minneapolis and its culture. Furthermore, he supported the JASM office as our HR person. He was instrumental in identifying and assigning the critical responsibilities of each JASM team member.

Mr. Leonhardt was born to a German Japanese father and Portuguese mother in Kobe, Japan in 1966. He and his older sister are considered second generation foreigners, born and raised in Japan. After graduating from the American High School, he attended Georgetown University. He worked for Fuji Bank in New York for three years as a young professional. Then he completed a graduate degree in international business at Columbia University. He is the Director of HR for Zinpro Corporation and served on the JASM Board of Directors for a total of 18 years.

Mr. Leonhardt will undoubtedly continue to serve the communities of Minnesota and Japan very well as the newly appointed Honorary Consul of Japan in Minneapolis. Please join us in our excitement in congratulating Mr. Ron Leonhardt for this appointment.

Membership News (10/21-11/20, 2020)

Thanks to the following new JASM members:

Jeromy Thotland, Paul and Virginia Fehrmann

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

Clint Conner, Peter Dyste,
William & Yuriko Farmer, Elizabeth Fehrmann,
Motoko Hioki & Kurt Rempe, Inchan Hwang,
Susan Jacobsen, Akiko Kilau,
Tom and Clare Larkin, Donald and Abby Marier,
Saiko McIvor, Fusako Muro,
Kate Thersleff, Masako Yoshida

Thanks to the following renewing Corporate members:

Murata Vios Inc.
MGK Company Inc.

Recap: Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala 2020 continued...

After Ms. Sanefuji's keynote address, Clint Connor introduced Ambassador Walter Mondale for the presentation of the Mondale Award (named for Ambassador Mondale and his wife, Joan). This year, the Mondale Award was awarded by Ambassador Mondale himself to William Deef for his hard work and dedication in bringing Minnesota and Japan closer together through tourism and destination marketing.

The presentation of the Mondale Award was followed by the first half of the live auction and fundraising. This year, we had the pleasure being led by Liz Weatherhead of Kurt Johnson Auctioneering for this important part of the program. Next, JASM President Elizabeth Fehrmann awarded the 2020 Mondale Scholarship to this year's two recipients, Claire Restad and Lydia Rose. We also watched a video to hear about some of the



Samantha Vang, Minnesota State Representative, District 40B (left) and Rio Saito, JASM Executive Director (right)

experiences all four 2019 Mondale Scholarship recipients had in Japan. We even got to hear how one past Mondale Scholar, Samantha Vang, has used her experience abroad to grow and recently, to become a Minnesota State Representative in District 40B. Ms. Vang expressed her gratitude to JASM for allowing her to have such a meaningful experience abroad. Liz Weatherhead then led the second half of fundraising,

specifically to fund the Mondale Scholarship.

The program then shifted to sponsorship appreciation/remarks by JASM Executive Director Rio Saito and then to closing remarks by JASM President Elizabeth Fehrmann. As viewers may have noticed during the broadcast, we experienced a technical malfunction and were not able to proceed with Mr. Don Katagiri performing *tejime*, a special clapping tradition, for the closing ceremony. We sincerely apologize to Mr. Katagiri and all of the attendees. The link to the intended *tejime* by Mr. Katagiri is posted here: <https://youtu.be/N9hfOnFCCCA>. Don't miss it! It is very special.

We would like to give special thanks to the following sponsors of this year's gala:

Matsu/Pine Tree Sponsor

Dorsey & Whitney, LLC

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Daikin Applied

Taiyo International, Inc.

Ume/Plum Sponsor

**Kurt Johnson Auctioneering Inc.
Medtronic, PLC**

Special Thanks to

The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership

This event was made possible through the generous contribution of our sponsors.

Thank you to all of the viewers for attending this year's gala. We are incredibly thankful for all of the contributions and unwavering dedication to JASM and our associated events, especially this past year. It is thanks to all of you that JASM is able fund scholars, put on events, and succeed in hosting this gala every year. We most definitely look forward to another fantastic year with all of you.

***The Japan America Society of Minnesota sincerely appreciates
the efforts and contributions of these individuals:***

Award Committee
Marc Blehert, Chair
Richard Stahl
John Babcock
Mirja Hanson

Scholarship Committee
Elizabeth Fehrmann
Charles Chan, Chair
Michiko Kato Dressen
Mirja Hanson

Gala Outreach Committee
Marc Blehert
Bob Luck, Chair
Joseph Montgomery
Ben van Lierop

Gala Planning Committee
Kat Dalager
Elizabeth Fehrmann,
Chair
Motoko Hioki
Michiko Smith

Banner Design
Brad Hale

Tejime
Don Katagiri

Gala Auction Committee
Marc Blehert
Motoko Hioki, Chair
Michiko Smith

Emcee
Clint Conner

***Please thank our members
with your support!***

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Daikin Applied
Delta Air Lines, Inc.
MTS Systems Corporation
Sawai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.
Taiyo International

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Satellite Industries, Inc.
Surdyk's Liquor & Cheese Shop
UMEI

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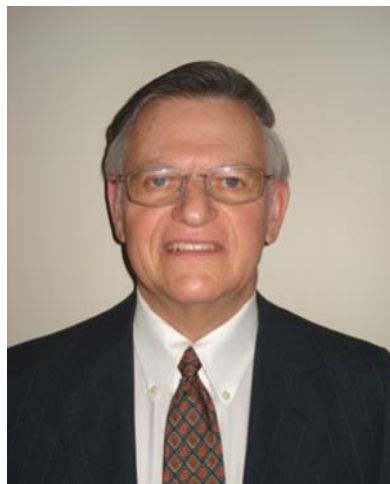
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Kiku Enterprises, Inc.
Minnesota Trade Office
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Saint Paul Saints Baseball Club
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NDSU-Emily Reynolds
Historic Costume Collection
Twin Cities Aikido Center
UMN Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
University of North Dakota-Grand Forks
Winona State University Global Studies Dept.



Congratulations! Order of the Rising Sun Conferred upon Mr. Richard Stahl



Mr. Richard (Dick) Stahl

Order of the Rising Sun Conferred upon Mr. Richard E. Stahl in Minnesota for Outstanding Contribution to Japan-US Relations

*Japan Information Center
dispatch:*

On November 3, the Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2020 Autumn Decoration, which is conferred by the Emperor of Japan.

From Minnesota, Mr. Richard E. Stahl has been recognized for his outstanding contribution to the Japan-US relationship:

Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette for Mr. Richard E. Stahl, Former Honorary Consul of Japan in Minneapolis

As the Honorary Consul of Japan in Minnesota for 5 years, Mr. Stahl made invaluable contributions to the Japan-Minnesota relationship by facilitating exchange through Japanese culture, economy, and a variety of other fields. He also actively collaborated with the Japan America Society of Minnesota and their activities as their former president. In addition, he worked hard in promoting the sister city relationships between Minneapolis and Ibaraki city, as well as St. Paul and Nagasaki city. Mr. Stahl also passionately supported Japanese residents living in Minnesota.

Mr. Stahl also provided great support of the Japan-United States relationship in Chicago. Mr. Stahl served in senior leadership positions with the Japan America Society of Chicago from 1983 to 2000. He was Executive Vice President of the Society for most of the 1990's. In addition, he was Executive Vice President of The Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan for 12 years. As such, he was the most senior American working with a Japan Bank in Chicago.

The remarkable achievements of the recipient represent the diversity and depth of the relations between Japan and the United States.

For more information, please contact the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago at 312-280-0400.

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JAPAN INFORMATION CENTER 737 North Michigan
Avenue • Suite 1000 • Chicago • Illinois 60611
www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp

End of Year Fundraising: Kimono Silk Masks and more!

JASM is excited to begin fundraising via our web shop. We are offering beautifully-crafted kimono silk masks and various other items with your donation. Please click [here](#) to view the store on our website.

Kimono Silk Masks: With a donation of \$20, JASM will ship you one handmade mask upcycled from authentic silk kimonos. This is a fitted mask with a cotton lining and a removable nose wire. It also includes elastic ear loops with adjustable toggles. The individual mask fabric color and pattern you will receive is a surprise! The masks are hand-wash only, and can be washed with or without the wire inside the mask.



Shipping to anywhere within the U.S. is included, and the donation is non-refundable.

The kimono silk masks were created by JASM member Sarah Farley.

Extra materials needed were donated by Masako Yoshida, JASM Board member.

Please stay tuned for other various items in JASM Marketplace page on our website!

New Intern: Abbie Scheunemann



Abbie Scheunemann

Hello! My name is Abbie Scheunemann, and I have just begun working as an event coordinator intern for JASM. I am very excited to begin working with such a wonderful organization. I recently graduated with a double major in International Studies and Teaching English to Speakers of other Languages (TESOL) from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in May of 2020. My plans for after graduation, like

many other graduates this year, drastically changed because of the coronavirus. In the summer of 2020, I was supposed to move to South Korea to teach English; however, this opportunity has been postponed until conditions improve globally. When I received this news, I began to search for local opportunities where I would still be able to interact with the international community. Very quickly, I found a job teaching English online and love it! Shortly after starting my job, I came across this internship opportunity at JASM and wanted to learn from and contribute to an amazing organization to help promote Japanese culture here in Minnesota.

Since high school, I have been intrigued by Japanese cinematography, language, and other cultural aspects of Japan and southeast Asia. In my spare time, you can find me trying to cook various Japanese dishes, but usually I just end up making something simple like *omurice*. In college, I became friends with many international students from Japan who taught me a lot about Japanese history and what life is like in Japan. I am very excited to begin my time here at JASM and want to thank JASM for giving me this wonderful opportunity!

Pottery, Temples & Gardens - an Immersive Tour Experience of Art and Culture in Korea and Japan

New Tour Dates: October 4-18, 2021*



The old exists with the new in the center of Seoul

Engage with other tour participants in exploring the historical, cultural, and artistic contributions of Korea to Japan. Recent events, including the Covid-19 pandemic, in Northeast Asia, have caused concern and stimulated renewed interest in the historic relationship between Korea and Japan. I am excited to offer this tour to JASM

members and their friends who enjoy cultural exploration and a sense of adventure.

Some Highlights:

Korea

Kyung Bok Palace, Seoul
Changdok Palace and the Secret Gardens, Seoul
National Museum of History, Seoul
Leeum Samsung Museum of Art, 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 and museum
Stay at traditional ryokan in Beppu hot springs resort
Ferry to Shikoku
Tour of Isamu Noguchi Gallery, Takamatsu
Nara, Horyuji Temple complex
Kyoto, Ryoanji Temple (rock garden)
Miho Museum, Sagawa Museum of Art near Lake Biwa

Tour Price: \$5,800.00 per person based on double room occupancy for a minimum of 15 paying participants, maximum 24 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.

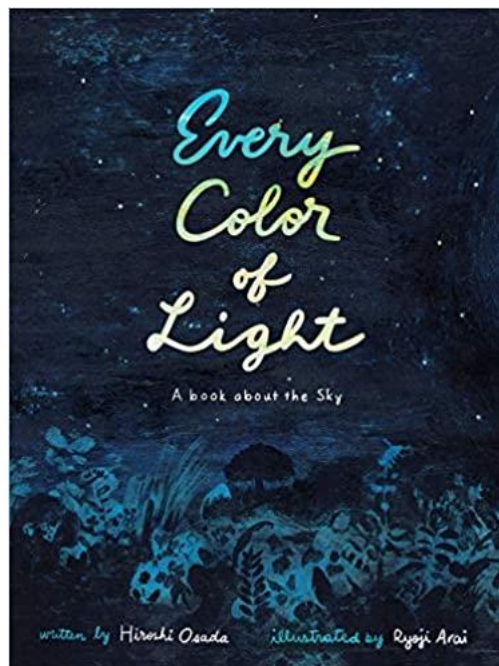


Horyuji Temple, Contains Some of the World's Oldest Wooden Buildings, Nara, Japan _from Wikipedia

Ben van Lierop is organizing and will lead the tour. Keith J. Williams, Art and Ceramics Professor at Concordia University, Saint Paul, has been asked to serve as the "Artist in Residence" on 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.

Tom Haeg's Book Review



Every Color of Light: A Book about the Sky; Hiroshi Osada, Enchanted Lion, 2020; 38 pages.

This holiday season if you scamper around the mall (or surf the internet) searching for the perfect gift for a child, you will be wise to keep your choices simple, useful, and entertaining. No batteries, no assembly, 'one size fits all.' Here is a suggestion: *Every Color of Light*.

This 38-page Japanese children's book, translated by David Boyd with artwork by Ryoji Arai, is a delightful kaleidoscope of imagery from the course of a day, sure to ignite any child's (or adult's) imagination. Example: "Look, it is raining/ Pitter-patter, pitter-patter/The rain gets louder. /Wetter and wetter, the blues darken. /So do the greens." The text and colorful illustrations will remind you of a nostalgic hike through a bucolic Japanese forest. Osada's subliminal aim is to jump-start a child reader to experience a heightened sense of awareness of nature. And the book delivers. Sun streaming through porous clouds; water ponds glimmering with light; palettes awash with color. Our author wants the child to engage all senses: tactile, seeing, smelling, or hearing, to appreciate everything nature offers without holding back.

The genius of children's literature is to sound a profound adult theme while entertaining the child. There is a monochromatic Goethe quote; it goes something like this: "There is strong shadow where there is bright light." In other words, while experiencing nature things may not exactly appear as they are; you must dream beyond the nearness. In more words, don't let the obvious cause gloom, look beyond for the good. The lesson: it is okay to eschew the shadow and consider the light.

Every Color is the pith of children's literature: saying what is simple, useful and entertaining.

Tom Haeg

臨時領事事務所開設のお知らせ（12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、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、ミネソタ州及びインディアナ州が対象州に指定されています。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。必要に応じて来年1月以降も継続する予定です。1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下記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

【注意】

旅券等の申請書類等を郵送申請する場合は、着実な事務処理の観点から、臨時領事事務所開設日の10日前までに届くよう時間に余裕を持って申請をお願いいたします。

【開設日】

12月9日（水）（申請書類等を郵送する場合の必着日：11月30日（月））

12月22日（火）（申請書類等を郵送する場合の必着日：12月11日（金））

【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

令和3年度（2021年）ミネアポリス日本語補習授業校 園児・児童募集

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

4月からの幼稚園及び小学部の新入生を募集します！

クラス	対象年齢	体験入学日	試験/面接	募集期間
おひさま組 親子教室	満2歳	1月31日	2月6日 (面接)	令和2年 11月13日～ 令和3年 1月2日
幼稚園 年少組	満3歳	1月16日	1月23日 (面接)	令和2年 11月13日～ 令和3年 1月2日
小学部 1年	満6歳	2月13日	2月13日 (試験/面接)	令和2年 11月13日～ 令和3年 1月30日

対象年齢*は令和3年4月1日時点での年齢参加をご希望の方は、ハワード seito@minneapolisjapaneseschool.org までご連絡ください。
(今年度は体験入学・試験・面接オンラインでの開催です。)

Online trial Classes and Enrollment Interview at Minneapolis Japanese School

Class	Date of Birth	Trial Classes	Interview & Examination	Application Deadline
Parent and Toddler class	4/2/2018～ 4/1/2019	1/31/2021	2/6/2021 (Interview only)	1/2/2021
Preschool class	4/2/2017～ 4/1/2018	1/16/2021	1/23/2021 (Interview only)	1/2/2021
1st Grade	4/2/2014～ 4/1/2015	2/13/2021		1/30/2021

If you are interested in attending, please contact Midori Howard at seito@minneapolisjapaneseschool.org.

amazon smile

Upcoming: Annual Meeting 2020

The end of the year is just around the corner. It means that it is time for JASM's annual meeting. Usually, after the meeting we convene our end-of-year celebration, Bonenkai, but in this COVID year we will not be hosting it. Therefore, we would like to call attention to JASM members only, to join for the annual meeting on **Tuesday, December 15 at 6 p.m.**



At the meeting we will be reflecting on the year as a whole and looking forward to next year and new directors will be elected. We'll discuss additional ways we can further JASM's mission.

JASM members will receive the invitation by email.

Help bring joy this season

Buy your gifts at smile.amazon.com
or with AmazonSmile ON in the app
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Advertise in the Tsushin!

Advertisement Rates

Style	Size (height x width)	Cost/issue
1/4 page	5 x 3.5 in	\$50.00
1/2 page	7.5 x 5 in/3.5 x 10 in	\$90.00
Full page	7.5 x 10 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

December

Sake Tasting, Dec. 3 at 6 pm
Annual Meeting, Dec. 15 at 6 pm

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	\$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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通信

Tsūshin
December 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)

23rd Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala



Clint Connor

Member, JASM Board of Directors



The Honorable Walter Mondale

Former Vice President of the United States and Ambassador to Japan



Kenichi Okada

Consul General of Japan at Chicago



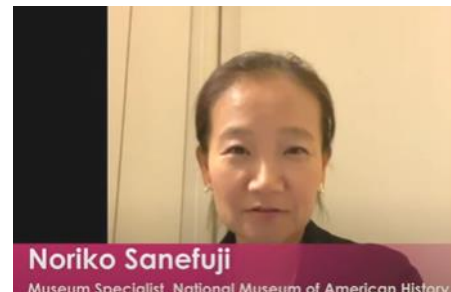
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Senior Vice President of Public Affairs, Meet Minneapolis



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Noriko Sanefuji

Museum Specialist, National Museum of American History



Ron Leonhardt

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Rio Saito

Executive Director, Japan America Society of Minnesota