

# Japan America Society of Minnesota



## 通 信

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

May 2021 Vol. 30, No. 5

### Passing of Ambassador Mondale



Dear Friends and Family of Japan America Society of Minnesota,

We were deeply saddened to learn that Ambassador Mondale has passed away. We are thankful for his dedication to his work as former ambassador to Japan and Vice President of the United States. He was a great friend. Together, we will continue celebrating his life and legacy through the Japan/America community.

JASM is in the process of creating a special Mondale tribute edition of the Tsushin. Please look for this special newsletter in your email inbox/mailbox soon.

Please visit [the guest book](#) on our website. It is open to everyone to read. To add your remembrances and messages of gratitude for Ambassador Mondale you need to be JASM member. Here is [the link](#) for members to use add amessage.

Rio Saito, JASM Executive Director

### Recap: 29th National Japan Bowl— Digital Japan Bowl II



From April 8-9<sup>th</sup>, the winners of this year's J-Quiz participated in the 29<sup>th</sup> National Japan Bowl, also known as *Digital Japan Bowl II*. As the name suggests, this year's Japan Bowl was once again

held online rather than in Washington D.C. because of the continuing pandemic. This fierce competition brought together a total of 202 students from 36 schools spread across 14 different states to demonstrate their Japanese cultural, historical, and language knowledge. This year's online platform was changed from Zoom to Hopin as it would allow the students to interact with each other more freely throughout the competition.



Shakopee High School Level III team  
at Digital National Japan Bowl

... continued  
to Page 2.

### Upcoming: Curator Talk for Exhibition Tour in Japan: Masterpieces from the Japanese Painting Collection



After six years of planning, a special exhibition of masterpieces from the Japanese painting collection of the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) opened at the Suntory Museum of Art in Tokyo on April 14, 2021. Despite rain, around 400 people attended the press preview the previous day.

Tokyo is the first of the four stops for the tour, organized by the Yomiuri Shimbun, which will bring the exhibition onward to Fukushima, Shiga, and Yamaguchi over the course of one year. The lead curator of the exhibition, Dr. Andreas Marks, the Mary Griggs Burke curator and head of the Japanese and Korean art department at Mia, will walk us through this exhibition on **Thursday, May 20th at 6 p.m.** via Zoom.



Please join us! **Register [here](#).**

**Free for JASM Member and \$8 for Nonmembers**



Dr. Andreas Marks is the Mary Griggs Burke curator and head of the Japanese and Korean art department at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. From 2008 to 2013 he was the director and chief curator of the Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture in California. He has a Ph.D. from Leiden University in the Netherlands and a master's degree in East Asian Art History from the University of Bonn, Germany. A specialist of Japanese woodblock prints, he is the author

of 16 books. In 2014 he received an award from the International Ukiyo-e Society in Japan for his research. He has curated exhibitions in a variety of media from pre-modern to contemporary art and visual culture at 38 museums. His next book on Hokusai's renowned Fuji series is scheduled to be published by Taschen this summer.

## Recap: 29th National Japan Bowl— Digital Japan Bowl II *continues...*



*Shakopee High School team of level II  
at Digital National Japan Bowl*

The first day of the competition consisted of all levels (2-4) separately attending a preliminary round, Q&A session, and conversation

round. On the second and final day, remaining preliminary rounds and final championship rounds were held for all levels. While preliminary rounds were taking place, students also had the opportunity to attend many live and pre-recorded cultural workshops as in Minnesota's online J-Quiz. These included tea ceremony, origami, calligraphy, and the *soran bushi* dance, as well as Edamame Champ and Onigiri Action workshops from Table for Two USA.

In the end, those who finished in the top three in their level in the preliminaries advanced to the championship round. The team finishing first in Level IV will be awarded a one-week trip to Japan, global health conditions permitting. Livestreamed on YouTube for the world to watch, the finals began with a video from all sorts of Japan-related people wishing the

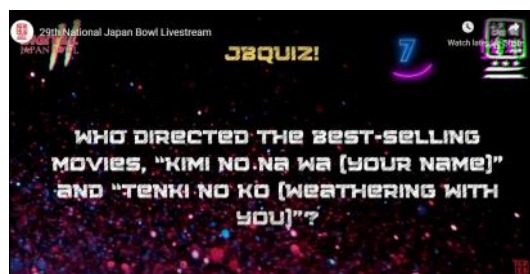


*Ms. Mirai Nagasu*

competitors the best of luck, including Her Royal Highness Princess Takamado, Olympic Bronze Medalist Mirai Nagasu, and officials from various Japan-America societies, including our very own Rio Saito. Unfortunately, no MN J-Quiz finalists advanced to the championship round. We look forward to hearing about their experiences participating in the national competition.

JASM would like to express gratitude to all the sponsors supporting the J-Quiz winners' participation in the Digital National Japan Bowl. (See the list above right.) We also appreciate organizers of this year's Japan Bowl for their dedication and hard work, which made this year memorable for students once again. And, of course, we would like to congratulate all this year's participants from J-Quiz for their resolve and diligence in furthering their own knowledge of

Japanese. Conditions permitting, we sincerely hope to be able to go to Washington D.C. next year!



## Thank You for Your Support!

*We are grateful to these generous sponsors for supporting JASM J-Quiz winners' participation in Digital Japan Bowl 2021:*

**Dorsey & Whitney, LLP**

**The Japan Foundation — Los Angeles**

**Ron Leonhardt**

**Taiyo International, Inc.**

**Temple University, Japan Campus**

**Saji Ya Restaurant**

**The Ken Port Scholarship** supports Japan Bowl expenses for Level 4 team winners.



*Japan Bowl participants, level 4, from Memorial High School, Eau Claire WI*

## Membership News (3/21-4/20, 2021)

### Thanks to the following new JASM members:

Melissa Dunlap, Yoshiki Funasaka, Tia Gage, Benjamin McDonald, Emi and Renate Nijiya, Laura Pueringer, Helena Shimizu

### Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

Yoko Breckenridge, Keiko Doi, Frances Egan, Asako Hirabayashi, Magara Maeda, Marty Moony, Lisa Shakerin, Kathy Snell, Michelle Watanabe

### Thanks to the following renewing Corporate members:

Saint Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee  
JK's Table  
Minnesota Trade Office



## Upcoming: Know Me Kai: Welcoming New JASM Members

Please join us for an online **Know Me Kai** event to welcome new JASM members, on **Tuesday, June 10 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.**

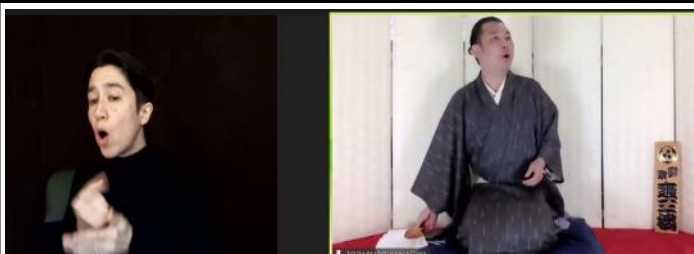
We encourage everyone to attend with your favorite refreshments at hand. This event will help you get to know JASM a little bit better and become acquainted with other Japan enthusiasts in Minnesota and surrounds. Know Me Kai is a play on the Japanese expression *nomikai* which is the name of informal social gatherings which often involve drinking.

This is JASM member-only event. Please register [here](#). We are looking forward to meeting you online!



*New Member Social 2020*

## Recap: Rakugo by Tozaburo Yanagiya: Shinshunkai (新春会) Part 2



*Ahycodae, sign language interpreter (left)  
and Tozaburo Yanagiya III (right)*

he prefers to be known, was brought to us by CEO and President of B-Bridge International Inc. Hiro Masumoto. Zabu-chan's goal is to perform and spread laughter throughout all 50 states in the US. American Sign Language interpreting service was provided for English portion by Ahycodae and Rosalinda Estrada-Alvarez.



For those unfamiliar, *rakugo* is a traditional Japanese art of comedic storytelling known for the storyteller singlehandedly portraying an entire cast of characters with only gestures, their voice, and a paper fan (扇子, *sensu*) and hand towel (手拭, *tenugui*) as props. As Zabu-chan pointed out, there are many ways in which one can show different activities and expressions with just these two props.

Zabu-chan's first two stories were in English and called "The Monkey" and "The Zoo," respectively. In "The Monkey," a man tries communicating with a monkey to find out how a car crashed as the monkey was seemingly the only witness. In "The Zoo," a man is in need of a job and ends up taking a position acting as a tiger at a zoo. The third story was in Japanese and called *Toki-soba* (時そば). It is an older story originating in the 18<sup>th</sup> century where a man tries swindling his way to cheaper soba by asking for the time while counting up his change.

In the afternoon of April 18<sup>th</sup>, JASM held its second portion of its Shinshunkai (新春会), or spring festival, bringing *rakugo-ka*, or *rakugo* storyteller, Mr. Tozaburo "Zabu" Yanagiya III to perform three separate *rakugo* tales, two in English and one in Japanese. "Zabu-chan," as

JASM would like to offer huge thanks to Zabu-chan and Masumoto-san for bringing Minnesotans such warm laughter on a chilly April day.

This event was sponsored by Metro Regional Arts Council.

**metro  
regional  
arts  
council**



*Rakugo with Tozaburo Yanagiya, 4/18/2021  
Japan America Society of Minnesota*

*Please thank our members  
with your support!*

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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.



## Recap: Kiritanpo Lesson with the America-Japan Society of Akita



Ms. Yuko Suzuki (left) and Ms. Sanae Sato (right) from the America-Japan Society of Akita, making kiritanpo

On the evening of April 8<sup>th</sup>, the America-Japan Society of Akita (秋田日米協会), JASM's sister association, graciously held an online event for us centered on *kiritanpo*, one of their prefecture's specialty rice dishes. Akita prefecture, located in the Tōhoku Region in northern Honshu, is home to many specialty foods with *kiritanpo* among their most widely known.

Our presenters rose early in the morning to present to JASM in the Minnesota evening! America-Japan Society of Akita president Kyotaro Matsushashi opened by giving a warm welcome to everyone. He mentioned that many of those in his organization have connections to Minnesota! Next, he introduced the friendly chefs, Yuko Suzuki and Sanae Sato.

The recipe itself is fairly simple. Mash some freshly cooked rice with a mortar and pestle. Make an oblong rice ball (shaped like a small hotdog bun) and wrap it around a stick of some sort – one-use chopsticks work nicely. Sauté the rice-on-sticks with some oil. Prepare broth and vegetables. Some of the ingredients such as burdock root and maitake mushrooms are hard to come by in the US, but as mentioned, they aren't absolutely necessary for the dish to be tasty, and substitutes are available.



Ms. Yuko Suzuki, Ms. Sanae Sato, and Mr. Kyotaro Matsushashi from the America-Japan Society of Akita



After quizzing the audience on various aspects of Akita while waiting for the broth to come to a boil, the dish was finished! We know we can speak for many who attended when we say the finished product looked absolutely mouth-wateringly delicious. We extend many

thanks to the America-Japan Society of Akita for holding this delightful event for us and hope to deepen our friendship even further as time goes on.

## Toward Authentic Cultural Experience, Sanae Tomita, Japanese teacher at Shakopee High School

Thanks to the JASM network, the Japanese community is becoming more accessible for young people studying Japanese at school. JASM also helps teachers facilitate communication and collaboration between students and community beyond the school setting. Here is a report about students' learning experiences in an intermediate-level class that has been newly added at Shakopee High School this year with support from the Japan Foundation.

In a lesson about job hunting, students had the opportunity to have a mock internship interview in Japanese with real people who kindly offered to help. Prior to the interview, students learned about various cultural practices and perspectives regarding job hunting and looked at the similarities and differences between Japan and the US. They looked at job ads in recruitment magazines, wrote a resume using the Japanese *irekisho* form, and practiced phone conversations using *keigo* honorifics to make an appointment for an interview.

After choosing the organization based on their interest for a mock interview, students researched how they might contribute as an intern there. They discussed what questions might be asked, and how to be successful in an interview. They watched a YouTube video to understand interview manners and expectations in Japan and roleplayed in class. The mock interviews with community members were conducted asynchronously using an online video recording tool. Some students had to tackle questions they were not prepared for, but that was also part of their learning.



Ms. Rio Satio,  
JASM executive director



Mr. Kayamori joined from Tokyo

Using Japanese with people in the community gives our students a stronger purpose for learning and sense of achievement. It allows them to test their skills and visualize themselves as a life-long language learner. Lena, who interviewed with Ms. Saito said, "I had a genuine interest in her job, and it was very fun to answer her questions." Jack, who interviewed with Mr. Kayamori said, "[The experience] helped me expand upon my Japanese knowledge and language. Maybe someday I will interview there!"

I'd like to thank the following people who supported our students' learning as interviewers. I hope to "see" you and many others from the JASM community in class!

Ms. Midori Drake (Daikin Applied)  
Ms. Lisa Homstad (Concordia Language Village)  
Mr. Yutaka Kayamori (Kurita America)  
Mr. Ron Leonhardt (Zinpro Corporation)  
Ms. Kaylene Ruwart (Concordia Language Village)  
Ms. Rio Saito (JASM)  
Mr. Peter Weeks (JET alumni, Shakopee High School)  
Mr. Tetsuya Yamada (University of Minnesota)

Sanae Tomita, Japanese teacher at Shakopee High School



## U of M Students Earn Top Awards at Japanese Speech Contest



Top: Jingyao Liu (left), Jacob Novak (right)  
Bottom: Kayla Lovegren (left), Rafael Avelar (right)

On Saturday March 27<sup>th</sup>, the thirty-fifth annual Japanese Language Speech Contest was held by the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago. For the first time, the contest was held online.

A rehearsal was held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the University of Minnesota. The rehearsal was well-attended, not just by students, but by Asian & Middle Eastern Studies department chair Christine Marran and many Japanese residents from the area. As is the custom, members of the audience questioned the speakers to help them practice for questions from the judges. The four students participating were Jingyao Liu, Jacob Novak, Kayla Lovegren, and Rafael Avelar.

At the online competition on March 27<sup>th</sup>, all four students delivered strong performances. They swept 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> prizes!

Jingyao Liu received 1<sup>st</sup> Prize for her speech “Grandpa’s Tomato Tofu,” in which she reflected on her relationship with her grandfather and how her grandfather expressed love and affection through his cooking.

Jacob Novak took 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize with a speech entitled “My Experience After Losing My Father,” in which he described how reading a Japanese novel helped him to recover from the sadness and pain of his father’s death.

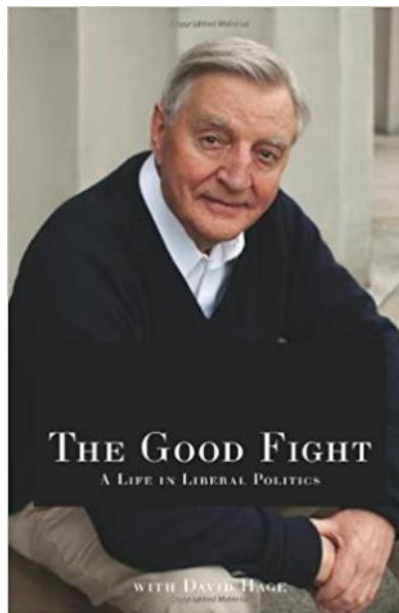
Kayla Lovegren’s speech “The Story of a Strict and Annoying Older Sister” earned her 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize. In the speech Lovegren recalled the happiness of discovering the depth of her siblings’ gratitude toward her, despite her failure to become the perfect big sister.

In his 4<sup>th</sup> Place speech “How to Build Tomorrow’s World,” Rafael Avelar talked about his initial struggles as a Brazilian residing in Japan, and how those struggles led him to a deeper understanding of cultural differences and of the need to work for international understanding.

The speeches were very well received by the panel of judges, and one of the judges even teared up when listening. After the contest was over, the U of M Japanese Program received a letter from the Consulate General of Japan praising how powerful the speeches were and expressing admiration for all four speeches. Congratulations to all the contestants. We are excited about this year’s exceptionally strong showing, and we hope that these orators’ success will inspire students who watched the rehearsal and followed the progress of the contest to try competing themselves.

Marnie K. Jorenby, Lecturer, University of Minnesota

## Tom Haeg’s Book Review



*The Good Fight: A Life in Liberal Politics*; Walter Mondale, Simon & Schuster; 2010.

This *Tsushin* column was launched nearly 11 years ago with a review of Mr. Mondale’s autobiography, *The Good Fight*. He wrote an honest and insightful portrayal of his lifelong political career spanning six decades and three branches of government: judicial (attorney general), legislative (senator), and executive (vice-president and ambassador). I recall his self-deprecating narrative style, which draws the reader in to the issues he encountered during his career. Rather than write a 2.0 reprise-review, let me instead share with you a glimpse of Ambassador Mondale’s generosity and kindness, that to me are his measure.

For ten consecutive years my wife, Sue, and I coordinated visits to Minnesota by more than 700 second year students from Kaisei Gakuin High School in Muroran, Hokkaido. Every year their Minnesota visit included an invitation and personal reception by Mr. Mondale at his downtown law offices. He would begin each session with a welcoming speech followed by questions/answers and then a photo opportunity. He was terrific. Well, one year we thought it would be nice to include an essay contest. The winning Japanese student would be announced by Mr. Mondale and the prize, a hardcover, 500-page English dictionary (you know, the kind requiring a forklift to haul) autographed by the Ambassador, would be handed to the winner. When the time arrived for him to present it to the successful essayist, Kako Nagaya, he precipitately paused, smiled, and did a Jack Benny double-take to announce: “This dictionary is the same one given to me when I grew up as a young boy in Ceylon, Minnesota!” There was a pregnant pause followed by an eruption of applause by the Japanese students. The moment was precious.

Nagaya-san went on to be class valedictorian, graduated with honors from Sofia University, and is now pursuing a journalism master’s degree in Japan. Without hesitation I guarantee that this dictionary is a fixture on her desktop, and her photograph with Mr. Mondale is a permanent wall attachment in her Muroran family home.

These receptions, and many, many more, speak volumes about Mr. Mondale’s character. He found the time in his busy schedule to reach out to these Japanese students and he knew how to relate to them at their level. He made them feel welcomed, special, and at ease.

What a gentleman. He will be missed.

Tom Haeg

## 臨時領事事務所開設のお知らせ(5月分)

新型コロナウイルス感染に伴い、当館管轄10州のうち、イリノイ州を除く他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。

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領事臨時事務所の開設につきまして、6月以降も継続する場合には、その予定が決まり次第お知らせいたします。

### 【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。

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### 【開設日】

2021年5月27日(木)(申請書類等を郵送する場合の当館必着日:5月13日(木))

### 【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】

Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Chicago Oak Brook  
1909 Spring Road Oak Brook, IL 60523  
TEL:630(472)6000

### 【当館連絡先】

Tel:(312)280-0400(24 時間対応) (注)、Fax:(312) 280-9568  
Email:ryoji1@cg.mofa.go.jp

(注) コロナウイルス感染症予防のため、現在業務体制を縮小しております。平日午前9時15分から午後5時までは音声案内に従って操作しますと担当部門につながります。土曜・日曜・祝祭日、平日午後5時以降、翌日午前9時15分まで(事件、事故、その他緊急の用件)は、音声に従って操作しますと、閉館時の緊急電話受付につながります。

## ヘイトクライム通報窓口 (シカゴ総領事館便りミネソタ州のみ抜粋)

当館管轄 10 州と在留邦人が多く住む地域のヘイトクライム通報・相談窓口は以下のとおりです(4月20日時点)。なお、下記は人命にかかわる緊急事態に対応する窓口ではありません。人命にかかわる危険が生じている場合などの緊急時には、911にご連絡ください。

### 1 州

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Minnesota Department of Human Rights

<https://mn.gov/mdhr/intake/consultationinquiryform/>  
1-833-454-0148

### 2. 地方自治体

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612-673-3012

Woodbury

Woodbury Police/Public Safety  
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Minnesota Department of Human Rights

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Richfield Richfield Police Department  
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Minnesota Department of Human Rights

<https://mn.gov/mdhr/intake/consultationinquiryform/>

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Tel: (312) 280-0400 (24 時間対応) (注)

Fax: (312) 280-9568

Email: [ryoji1@cg.mofa.go.jp](mailto:ryoji1@cg.mofa.go.jp)

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## Calendar

### May

Curator Talk for Exhibition Tour in Japan: Masterpieces  
from the Japanese Painting Collection  
May 20 at 6 pm

## Now Hiring - JK's Table

Join our team!! We are looking for a helper who is willing to learn!! No experience required but general kitchen skills are a plus. Part time, 3-4 hours during lunchtimes on M-F. 日本語話せる方、大歓迎!!



### JK's Table

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## Japan America Society of Minnesota

- ☐ Membership Application   ☐ Change of Address  
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(Please make checks payable to JASM)

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Student .....\$20  
Household .....\$50  
(2 adults plus children under 18)

Japan America Society of Minnesota  
P.O. Box 26639  
Minneapolis, MN 55426

## Japanese Language Lab Instructor

The Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, is seeking a part-time language lab instructor for the 2021-2022 academic year, September 1, 2021 - May 31, 2022. Language Lab Instructors teach small-group sections that supplement Japanese language courses taught by a professor. Our department is committed to inclusive teaching and learning in all of our classes.

### Qualifications

- B.A or higher
- Teaching experience at the college level is preferred but not required
- Advanced proficiency in all modalities of Japanese and English
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills

To apply, please send a cover letter, vita, an audio recording introducing yourself in both Japanese and English, and at least one recommendation letter to Katie Scott ([scottc@macalester.edu](mailto:scottc@macalester.edu)). Review of applications will begin May 10, 2021 and will be ongoing until the position is filled.

Additional details are available [here](#). Department information is available on our [website](#).

Macalester College is a highly selective, private liberal arts college in the vibrant Minneapolis-Saint Paul metropolitan area, with a population of approximately three million people and home to numerous colleges and universities, including the University of Minnesota. Macalester's diverse student body comprises over 2000 undergraduates from all 50 states and the District of Columbia and 95 nations. The College maintains a longstanding commitment to academic excellence with a special emphasis on internationalism, multiculturalism, and service to society. As an Equal Opportunity employer supportive of affirmative efforts to achieve diversity among its faculty, Macalester College strongly encourages applications from women and members of underrepresented minority groups.



**MACALESTER**





J | A | S | M

JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY  
of MINNESOTA

P.O. Box 26639  
Minneapolis, MN 55426

jasm@us-japan.org  
www.mn-japan.org

## 通信

Tsūshin  
May 2021

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@us-japan.com](mailto:jasm@us-japan.com)

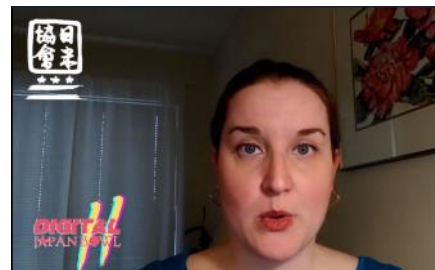
## JASM April Events



*Kiritanpo Lesson with the America-Japan Society of Akita*



*Rakugo by Tozaburo Yanagiya: Shinshunkai (新春会) Part 2*



*29th National Japan Bowl—Digital Japan Bowl II*