

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通 信

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

October 2021 Vol. 30, No. 11

Mondale Award Recipient 2021: Sarah Walbert



Ms. Sarah Walbert
Mondale Award Recipient
2021

On behalf of the Mondale Award Committee, it is my pleasure to announce Sarah Walbert as the recipient of the 2021 Mondale Award for Japan-Minnesota Partnership. We are thrilled to honor Sarah for her significant contributions to building bridges between Minnesota and Japan as a professional, JASM leader, and volunteer.

Sarah's career has been devoted to strengthening Japan-American ties, including the last 12+ years serving in the Minnesota Trade Office as point person for expanding business relationships with Japan. Sarah has been a crucial advocate for strengthening

Minnesota-Japan ties with multiple state administrations. Her leadership has been key to bolstering Minnesota's stature in Japan while growing the number of Japanese companies that now have a presence in Minnesota.

Expanding business relationships with Japan has just been Sarah's day job. Sarah has been an active JASM member for 40+ years, including serving on the Board of Directors. Sarah worked with the JASM founders when our group aspired to expand by serving a more diverse audience to ensure relevance and sustainability. As a team leader, Sarah helped launch initiatives including 5:01 Club networking gatherings, the Business Breakfast, and the Tsushin Express mailing to keep members informed in the days before email. Sarah was part of the team that helped JASM hire our first Executive Director, helped develop a guidebook/support system for Japanese families moving to Minnesota, and was part of the initial bold outreach to Walter Mondale, sparking his long JASM affiliation.

Sarah continues to enrich the community as a tireless volunteer, sharing her years of cross-cultural expertise. Over time, you may have learned from Sarah as keynote speaker or panel member of a Corporate Roundtable or seen her smile as she worked at a JASM booth at an Obon Festival. When the tragedy of the 2011 earthquake struck, Sarah assisted with fundraisers and personal delivery of support and condolence letters to Japanese organizations affiliated with Minnesota.

Through the years, governors, CEOs, students, and strangers have all benefitted from Sarah's warm personality, positive outlook, and strategic insight in her altruistic mission to support the Minnesota-Japan relationship. *Omedetou Gozaimas Sarah San!!*

Marc Blehert, Chair, Mondale Award Selection Committee

JASM is very pleased to present the Mondale Award to Sarah Walbert in 2021. Everyone is welcome to join us to honor Sarah. For more information, see page 3. Learn more about Sarah Walbert on page 4.

Upcoming: Corporate Roundtable with Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, P.C.



Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, P.C. (HSML) is an intellectual property law firm based in Minneapolis. HSML focuses on patent, trademark, and copyright matters, including related counseling and

transactional work. From HSML's founding in 2005, a substantial amount of the firm's work has originated in Japan, including work directly with Japanese companies, with US subsidiaries of Japanese companies, and through Japanese patent law firms. HSML currently represents Japanese clients ranging from large multinational corporations to start-ups, universities, and individuals.

Please join us on **October 14th from 6-7pm** as HSML founding partner Doug Mueller will share information about the changing role of US intellectual property for Japanese entities. He will share insights on the challenges in establishing and growing business relationships in Japan in the service sector from a Midwest base. HSML partner Masako Yoshida will add her experience to fill the gap of business culture between the US and Japan.



Doug Mueller started his work in the intellectual property field shortly after graduating from university with a Bachelor of Science degree. He worked full time as a law clerk with a Washington, D.C. area law firm while attending George Washington University Law School. He spent several years after his graduation from GWU working in the D.C. area before joining an intellectual property firm in Minneapolis in the mid-1990's. In

2005, he and three others from that firm established HSML. Work with Japanese clients has been an important part of Doug's practice throughout his career. He has visited Japan dozens of times for business and regularly presents lectures on US patent law to clients and professional organizations in Tokyo and Osaka.



Masako Yoshida studied chemistry and graduated from Chiba University in Japan. Since starting her career at 3M Japan, she worked in the areas of pharmaceuticals, biochemical and medical devices, and licensing and international marketing thereof. She moved to Minnesota in November 2000. In 2004, she received a JD from William Mitchell College of Law and became a lawyer. After working for a German general law firm in Tokyo for two

years, Masako joined HSML in 2007. Since then, she has worked mostly for intellectual property issues of Japanese clients, particularly for their patents and matters involving patents.

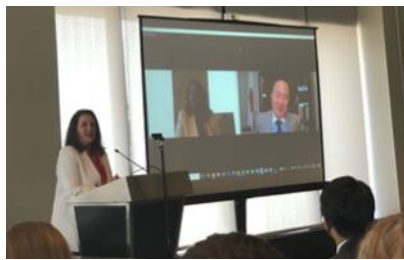
Please register [here](#). We are looking forward to seeing you there!

October 14th from 6-7pm, Non-Member: \$8, Member: free

2021 NAJAS Conference in Denver

JASM's Executive Director Rio Saito attended the National Association of Japan America Societies (NAJAS) Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado from August 31st to September 2nd. Last year's meeting was cancelled, so it was a rather exciting meeting for all the participants. Due to the pandemic, each society was allowed to have just one participant per organization, so it was a smaller than usual gathering.

On the first day, the participants were invited to the residence of the Consulate General of Japan in Denver. The Consulate General Midori Takeuchi welcomed the participants. This event was the last event for the CG Takeuchi, as she was assigned to a different country as an ambassador. She is one of 12 female Japanese ambassadors serving today. (Women make up 10% of the current cohort of Japanese ambassadors.)



The first two days consisted of lectures. For the first time the conference was hybrid (in-person and online), so participants heard from not only Congresswoman Diana DeGette, T.R. Reid (former Washington Post Tokyo Bureau Chief), and

Joseph Young (former Chargé d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy in Tokyo), but also Ambassador Koji Tomita from Tokyo and more.

The last day of the conference focused on Japan America societies' operations. The presidents and directors of the societies shared their experiences during the pandemic and discussed what the future may look like.

The representative of the Center for Global Partnership of Japan Foundation described their activities and how they can offer support. During the afternoon workshops, participants discussed donor relations in the post-pandemic environment, post-pandemic programming plans, and reaching new audiences. The NAJAS conference also included attending a baseball game together followed by networking in a more casual environment. It was wonderful to gather with people who have been going through the same struggles and be supportive to each other.

Rio Saito, Executive Director



24th Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala



We are pleased to announce that the 2021 Virtual Annual Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala has been scheduled for **Friday, November 5th at 7:00 p.m.**

Please mark your calendar.

The 24th Mondale Gala will pay tribute to Ambassador Mondale who greatly strengthened the relationship between Japan and the United States and was an avid supporter of JASM. *The Mondale Award* was created 24 years ago as a way to recognize individuals who walked in Amb.

Mondale's footsteps in their outstanding achievements in continuing to build the bond between Japan and Minnesota. At the same time, the Mondale Scholarship was created to provide financial support for students studying in Japan so that they could enhance their experiences while there.

The Gala will be streamed online. Registration will open soon. Please click [here](#) to visit our website.

Become a JASM Member

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.

Membership News (8/21-9/20, 2021)

Thanks to the following new JASM member:

Heidi McCalla

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

Kazue Amey, Michael and Yoshie Babcock,
Paul and Michiko Buchanan, Diana Burry,
Norman Butler, Jonathan Dane, Bill Deef,
Scott and Louise Fritchie, Peter Gavin,
Susan Jacobsen, Jean Jarvis, Jo Kirkman,
Christina Kunz, Jan Magree,
Kari Shepherdson-Scott,
Richard Stahl, Kazuyoshi Taniguchi,
Linda van Dooijeweert, Keith Vargo

Becoming Global Citizens: A Story from the JET Alumni Association of MN (JETAAMN)

The Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program is a competitive employment opportunity that allows young professionals to live in Japan. As a short series in the JASM newsletter, we would like to introduce you to JETAAMN (Jet Alumni Association of Minnesota). We will explore JETAAMN members' experiences and explain what JETAAMN is doing today.



Karu Kun

presented me with the chance to join my junior high classes as "Karu-kun". I shed my wet clothing and dressed in a dry student jumpsuit! It was Karu-kun who always raised his hand to answer questions in English class but needed the students' help understanding why he was always wrong with his English answers. That day remains one of my best memories of teaching in Japan because of turning an otherwise miserable day into something fun with the right attitude.

A second would-be challenge was the language barrier. Studying and practicing new phrases with my patient coworkers was a consistent boost to my confidence, but there were still many moments I felt I either wasn't learning enough or just coming up short for communicating with the people around me. Fortunately, I had enough encouragement to continue my efforts and pursue chances for cultural immersion, such as the 寄居町北條祭り -Yorii Machi Houjou Matsuri-Yorii Town Samurai Festival. Imagine my surprise when I found out I was going to be the Taisho leading the International Team, and that part of that experience included making a speech to a crowd in Japanese! Those same friends encouraging me in my studies quickly practiced some older Japanese phrases with me, and I forged another of my favorite memories in Japan by keeping the right frame of mind.



Sakura Journey

COVID stress, but also to remind myself of the lesson in attitude that I learned during my stay in Japan. We can change the challenges we are facing today if we have the right attitude. And so with renewed appreciation for all the times I heard it said in Japan: *Ganbatte!*

Karl Hoeschen

My name is Karl Hoeschen, and from 2010-2013 I had the pleasure of teaching in the elementary and junior high schools in East Chichibu Village, Saitama Prefecture. This experience prompted me to turn events first appearing as challenges into positive, life-changing opportunities. The first of these experiences was learning my options for getting to work: a bus costing 480 yen one way or biking the 8.8 km up into the mountains. Embracing this as an opportunity, I got myself into the best shape of my life. One rainy morning that caught me off guard also



Karl the taisho

Not all of the challenges were simple, however. The 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami took place during my first spring in Japan. This unprecedented disaster meant having many important discussions regarding our decision to return to Japan or to join the large number of "fly-jin" breaking contracts and permanently leaving the country. Ultimately, we decided to trust scientific evidence provided by experts and return to Japan. Our ongoing situation with COVID demands a similar mindset. I often find myself reflecting on my time in JET; first as wistful nostalgia to escape my

Please thank our members with your support!

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Twin Cities Aikido Center
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University of North Dakota-Grand Forks
Winona State University Global Studies Dept.



Mondale Award Recipient 2021: Sarah Walbert *continues...*



Ms. Sarah Walbert
Mondale Award Recipient
2021

Sarah Walbert is the Minnesota Trade Office Regional Trade Manager for the medical and biopharma industries, and for Japan, Korea, and Southeast Asia. While encouraging and facilitating trade, her responsibilities include helping Minnesota companies to identify and develop export strategies and opportunities in the international marketplace. She has led Minnesota delegations annually to the largest medical industry shows in the world. In addition, Sarah hosts delegations from abroad and is a point person for multinational Japanese firms who are looking at new expansion opportunities. Sarah speaks and reads Japanese.

Prior to state government, her private sector experience includes 20 years in strategic planning, negotiations, and new business development with a US-Japan management consulting firm. She held various management positions with American Express International in New York and overseas and opened its tours to China.

Sarah has volunteered on a variety of boards such as Courage Kenny Foundation, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation Lending Committee, and JASM, as well as that of the California-Japan start-up Kinovate Life Sciences. The University of Minnesota named her the first awardee for the Design of Medical Devices Conference Outstanding Volunteer for her many years of creating global connections.

Sarah holds a Master of International and Public Affairs from Columbia University in New York and received her B.A. summa cum laude in history from Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

JASM is very pleased to present the Mondale Award to Sarah Walbert in 2021. Everyone is welcome to join us to honor Sarah. For more information, please read page 3 or visit [our website](#).

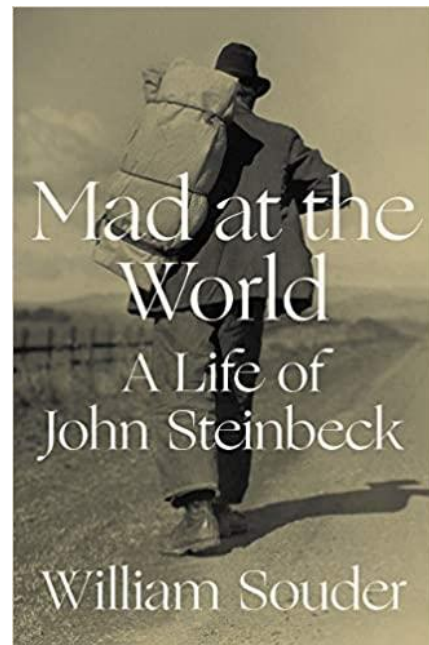
Community Outreach: Anime Fusion



On Friday - Sunday, October 22 - 24, JASM will greet Anime Fusion visitors at the JASM booth in the Crown Plaza Hotel in Plymouth. Anime Fusion is an annual nonprofit convention run by volunteers from the Twin Cities fan community. The organization is dedicated to bringing the classic favorites of anime back into the spotlight alongside the newest titles fresh from Japan. Due to the COVID-19 Anime Fusion 2021 has limited attendance to prevent overcrowding. If you will be there, please visit us!

Tom Haeg's Book Review

Mad at the World: A Life of John Steinbeck; William Souder, Norton Press, 2021.



Author William Souder, a native Minnesotan, spent months at the Steinbeck Library in California reading and gathering documents to sketch this biography of John Steinbeck. His insights are superb, his writing excellent, and his nuances illuminating. By his own admission, the difficulty he experienced was editing: there was so much more he wanted to include but could not.

Yet one item of omission is odd. Steinbeck had a long association with migrant causes, and he detested bullies. Growing up in the Salinas Valley, he was aware of the farms owned and canneries operated by Japanese migrants. So, it came as a surprise that Souder didn't include one of Steinbeck's most-inflective moments in his career.

In 1945, a group of concerned citizens in the Salinas Valley signed a petition to welcome home Japanese recently released from government internment camps. It was published in the *Monterey Peninsula Herald*, with John Steinbeck a contributing drafter and keynote signer. Although anti-Japanese sentiment -- especially in California -- remained strident, Steinbeck didn't care; he was unwavering. He had his hand on the pulse and could immediately sense right from wrong. So, with his newly acquired reputation as author of *The Red Pony*, *Of Mice and Men*, and *The Grapes of Wrath*, he risked it all to welcome back the Japanese families. He saw them like other similarly situated migrants mistreated by *de jure* bullies. It was a profile-in-courage moment, and a biography without it is remiss to take his full measure.

All JASM members who are sons and daughters of Japanese migrants to Minnesota will unhesitatingly connect with Steinbeck's literary approach. By better understanding the man and his causes, one will heighten an awareness and appreciation for their parents' and grandparents' struggles to reach America.

Tom Haeg

海外滞在者の運転免許証の更新に係る特例について

在シカゴ日本国総領事館からの海外在住者へのお知らせの転写です。

海外に中長期にわたり滞在されている方におかれましては、今般の新型コロナウイルスの世界的な感染拡大の状況において、日本の運転免許証の更新に関してお困りのことであろうかと存じます。

このたび、警察庁より、運転免許証の更新について、海外に滞在されている皆様が活用可能な手続を一覧で公表いたしましたため、お知らせいたします。

警察庁ホームページ「海外滞在者の自動車運転免許証の更新に係る特例について」

https://www.npa.go.jp/bureau/traffic/menkyo/kaigai_tokurei.html

＜措置のポイント（一部抜粋）＞

- ・海外赴任中の方は、更新期間前でも、一時帰国の際に更新することができます。（リンク先画像2枚目）
- ・期限内に更新できなかった場合でも、以下の2つのいずれかにより、帰国後スムーズに免許の再取得ができます。

1 免許が失効して帰国した際も、外国で免許を取得している方は、視力など簡単な検査のみで日本の免許を取得することが可能です。（画像3枚目）

2 外国で免許を取得していない方は、失効後3年以内で、帰国後1ヶ月以内であれば、更新と同じ手続で免許を取得することが可能です。（画像4枚目）

- ・また、外国等で取得した国際運転免許証等を所持することによって、日本の免許を受けることなく（日本に上陸したときから1年間）、日本で運転することが可能です。

（画像4枚目）

- ・これらに加え、新型コロナウイルス感染症対策の一環として、有効な運転免許証をお持ちの方は、事前に郵送等で申請いただくことで、運転・更新可能期間を3ヶ月間延長することも可能です（繰り返して申請することも可）。

（画像2枚目）

このような状況下で皆様にはお手数をおかけいたしますが、ご理解・ご協力のほど、お願いいたします。

詳しくは、各都道府県警察の運転免許センターにお問い合わせください。

当館連絡先（在シカゴ日本国総領事館）

Tel: (312) 280-0400（24時間対応）（注）

Fax: (312) 280-9568

Email: ryoji1@cg.mofa.go.jp

（注）新型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。

JASM Seeks for New Interns



JASM is currently searching for new interns. We are looking for individuals who are:

- Interested in Japan
- Have a familiarity with SNS and Microsoft Office programs
- Undergraduate students or recent graduates
- Willing to work flexible hours (10-25hrs) and participate in JASM events

As JASM internships are unpaid, we offer meaningful work experience and intangible benefits. The networking opportunities introduce interns to influential individuals working within Japanese-related businesses and organizations. For more information regarding details on a specific position, please visit our website at mn-japan.org/Internships-for-College-Students.

If interested in applying, please email a resume and cover letter to: Yoko Ueno, Program Manager; ProgramManager@mn-japan.org. We are looking forward to working with you!

Calendar

October

JASM Charity Golf Tournament, Oct. 9
Corporate Roundtable with Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, P.C., Oct. 14

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)

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**



J | A | S | M

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通信

Tsūshin
October 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@mn-japan.com

2021 NAJAS Conference in Denver



38 Japan America Societies in North America



Conference presentations included a panel (right) featuring James Ulak (United States-Japan Foundation)/Masaya Shimoyama (Japan Foundation)/Satohiro Akimoto (Sasakawa USA)/Yasuhiro Uozumi (Keidanren)/ Peter Kelly (NAJAS)



In front of the residence of the Consulate General of Japan in Denver with the Consulate General Midori Takeuchi