

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通信

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

November 2021 Vol. 30, No. 12

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



On the chilly evening of October 14th, JASM was joined by international property law firm Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, P.C. (HSML) for our Corporate Roundtable event. HSML representatives shared their experiences with the ever-changing role of US international property with Japanese entities. Founded in 2005, HSML is a Minneapolis-based law firm focusing on patent, trademark, and copyright matters, much of which originate directly from Japan. They have represented a wide range of clientele, from large businesses and universities to individuals.



Opening the event was Doug Mueller, one of the founders of HSML. Doug introduced himself and described his experiences in intellectual property law (IP). He also introduced HSML and their main dealings within IP. He proudly noted that the firm has had extensive growth since its founding, particularly displaying the diversity and inclusivity of its staff. Additionally, HSML has had long-standing connections to Japan from the very start, with half of all patents through the firm being Japanese throughout. Next Masako Yoshida introduced the various staff present for the event, many of whom frequently work with Japanese clients.

After the staff was introduced, Doug continued to lay out a general sense of IP and the work IP registration entails. It is certainly complicated! Challenges can arise and law firms like HSML are there to work them out. Doug states that some of the challenges for Japanese IP in the case of patents when working internationally, for example, are the conveying of information despite language and cultural differences, and the varying quality of translation. There are, of course, many ways these challenges are addressed. Moreover, these Japanese entities have changed their approach over the years as more international ties are forged. Doug additionally noted challenges a US firm may have in developing work with Japanese clients as well as his key points in developing a successful relationship despite these challenges. He then handed the presentation back to Masako who quickly finished with some advice on properly communicating errors with Japanese partners, and some takeaways.



JASM would like to extend great thanks to Doug, Masako, and the various HSML staff present for giving such a thought-provoking and informative presentation. We greatly look forward to seeing the US-Japan relationships HSML will form next.

Upcoming: 2021 Virtual Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala: Remembering Ambassador Mondale



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 register today by clicking the link [here](#). Everybody is welcome to join us free of charge. However, if you are able, please consider including our suggested donation amount of \$35 or more to help offset our production and programming costs.

The gala will be streamed live online and include presentation of the **tribute to Ambassador Mondale**, the **Mondale Award**, and **Mondale Scholarship** along with the auction, the Fund-The-Scholar fundraising and more. Last spring, we sadly



U. S. Senator
Amy Klobuchar



Ambassador
TOMITA Koji



Consul-General
Hiroshi Tajima

lost Ambassador Mondale who had been a great inspiration to us for many decades, and we therefore decided to dedicate this year's gala to him. Instead of having one single keynote speaker we have invited several speakers to share their stories about Ambassador Mondale as a tribute to him. We are honored by the participation of Senator Klobuchar, Ambassador of Japan Tomita, and Consul-General of Japan in Chicago Tajima. We will also hear the story of a Minnesota war veteran who later went back to visit Japan because of an encouraging letter by Mr. Mondale. Please join us to remember the legacy of Ambassador Mondale.

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 visit [our website](#).

Recap: JASM Open Charity Golf Tournament



On Saturday October 9th, four teams competed in the JASM Open at stunning Pioneer Creek Golf Course in Maple Plain, Minnesota. It was an unseasonably warm October day with a light but steady breeze. A great day for golf! The tournament was a “scramble” format where each team member hits a tee shot. Then, the players decide which shot they like the best and hit their next ball from the selected spot. This continues until the team holes out. If you ever wonder how it feels to score like a scratch golfer, this format is for you! Birdies were plentiful and bogeys rare as each team completed an under-par round. Who says golf is a difficult, frustrating sport? Not when you are playing in a scramble with your JASM friends!

It was a tight match from start to finish. Three teams finished the front nine tied at one under and remained neck-and-neck throughout the back nine. As the competition intensified, the JASM golfers heated up, smashing drives, hitting greens, and draining birdies with greater frequency. There were zero combined bogeys on the back! The 2021 JASM Open went down to the wire and the championship was not settled until the final hole, a daunting 517-yard par 5 with a dogleg left and ample penalty opportunities. The team of **Randy Nelson, Joe Martyn and Toshi Metzger** combined for a clutch birdie on the 18th to finish at a stellar 5-under, grinding out a one stroke victory. It took a total team effort to tame the rolling fairways and challenging greens of Pioneer Creek. *Omedetou gozaimasu!*

Other contests that took place within the round were longest drive (men and women), longest putt, and closest to the pin on the 170-yard Par 3 number 8. These contests were won respectively by **Randy Nelson, Shizuka Durgins, Marc Blehert, and Toshi Metzger** - who missed a hole-in-one by about two feet!

Many thanks to the golfers who took part in this fun competition. All proceeds from the event go to benefit JASM. The goal is to grow participation and make this an annual event – so please be on the lookout for a save-the-date notification and plan to play in the 2022 JASM Open!

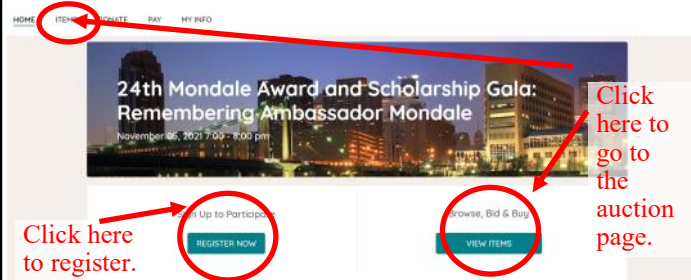
Marc Blehert

JASM would like to thank all the participants of the charity golf tournament for your support. We would also like to thank Tom Haeg and Marc Blehert, who made this charity event successful. We appreciate your dedication to supporting Japan America Society of Minnesota.

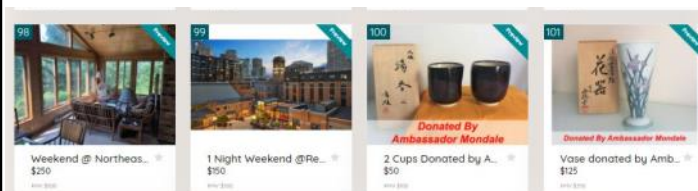


Silent Auction Items are on Preview!

If you already have checked [the website of the 24th Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala](#), you might have noticed that there is a silent auction fundraising page. Please take a look at it. There are only previews available of some items but we are updating the site daily!



We are delighted that so many exciting items were donated by local business supporters and individuals. Bidding on these items is another way to help JASM. You can also make donations for the Mondale Scholarship on the auction page.



Please feel free to participate in the silent auction even without registering for the gala. We are looking forward to your participation in the auction as well as the [24th Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala](#) !

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 (9/21-10/20, 2021)

Thanks to the following new JASM members:

Deborah Huskins, Megan Lambrecht, Yoko Liberman,
Jackie Moes, HouPha Vang

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

Sharon Bigot, Marc Blehert, Yoko Breckenridge,
Jeffrey DuBois, Phaeton Holland,
Bob and Hisayo Luck,
Riley and Saiko McIvor, Chieko Millard,
Fusako Muro, Richard Telke, Kay Thomas,
Jutta Thompson, Junko Ueda,
Ben and Chris van Lierop, Masako Yoshida

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

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.

The origin of my love affair with Japan and its history is hard to pinpoint. I've always loved history and often liked to look at it from a different -- read that as a non-US/Eurocentric -- lens. But I think that the first 1990s interactive encyclopedia cd-rom might have solidified my interest, as it enabled me to hear the language, since it functioned as an "OG" DuoLingo or Rosetta Stone. We were a few years behind in technology, being in rural Minnesota, and nearly half a decade away from reliable internet, but it didn't matter; I was engrossed. So much so that I needed to study abroad in Japan. NEEDED to. And once I got there, I didn't want to leave till my curiosity was satisfied.



ALT Undokai



English Club Fairytale Set



Thriller Dance

I ended up in Nagasaki Prefecture, Sasebo City, on the JET program. I would soon learn how it was not your standard JET placement, as the US 7th Naval Fleet is stationed there. On top of that, for two out of my four years on JET, my kid sister was also stationed there on the USS Essex as she served her first international duty station. By day I was an Assistant Language Teacher, and at night and on weekends, I was able to do so much in my community. My unique Navy base connection allowed me to help military personnel and their dependents navigate their time in Japan through a local non-profit group, and at the same time share some fun US cultural things with locals. The group had me making Thanksgiving turkey in a small convection oven; this was a miracle seeing as I had never done any of that before. Conversely, the higher than expected "foreign" presence enabled me to realize many things about the world and how cultural misunderstandings and the past compound and impact the present and future. I won't go into too much detail as those stories are best shared over a cup of sake.



BOE English Workshop_Omura



Thanksgiving Day Decorations



Hokkaido Snow Festival

Due to my placement at a highly academic combined junior and senior high school, I had my students really have fun with their language studies. The English Club wrote and acted in fairytale remixes for the Cultural Festival; students hosted a cultural summit during a class trip to China using English as a communication bridge (albeit a political one); and I created English-speaking circles during lunch. In speaking circles, students got to pick the discussion topics, and felt comfortable enough with me to ask some hard-hitting questions.

I came back to Minnesota with a renewed passion for cross-cultural cooperation and equity work. The JET program and the opportunities I jumped on truly did change the course of my life. I went from rural country-kid to world traveler and global equity warrior. I am fortunate enough that I get to work in the international sphere as both a study abroad and international student manager at a Twin Cities university. I would highly recommend the JET program for students looking for something that can change their lives. Not only are the work-related benefits excellent (salary, health insurance, paid-time-off), you also can make a mark on the world and allow yourself to grow as well. I will never forget my time on JET and thankfully, with my involvement at my job and through the JET Alumni Association of Minnesota, I don't think I ever will!

Kate Meyer

Please thank our members with your support!

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Taiyo International

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Metropolitan Airports Commission
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JETRO Chicago
JP Network, St. Cloud State University
KCC-Japan Education Exchange
Macalester College Asian Languages & Cultures Department
Minneapolis Japanese School
Minneapolis Institute of Art
Minnesota Orchestra
Mu Performing Arts
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.



令和4年度(2022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29日	2月5日 (面接)	令和3年 11月1日～ 令和3年 12月31日
幼稚園 年少組	満3歳	1月15日	1月22日 (面接)	令和3年 11月1日～ 令和3年 12月31日
小学部 1年	満6歳	-	2月12日 (試験/ 面接)	令和3年 11月1日～ 令和4年 1月22日

対象年齢は令和4年4月1日時点での年齢。参加をご希望の方は、
ナバン seito@minneapolisjapaneseschool.org までご連絡ください。
(今年度は体験入学は対面、試験・面接はオンラインでの開催です。)

Trial Classes and Enrollment Interview at Minneapolis Japanese School

Class	Date of Birth	Trial Classes	Interview & Examination	Application Deadline
Parent and Toddler class	4/2/2019 ～ 4/1/2020	1/29/2022 2	2/5/2022 (Interview only)	12/31/ 2021
Preschool class	4/2/2018 ～ 4/1/2019	1/15/2022 2	1/22/2022 (Interview only)	12/31/ 2021
1st Grade	4/2/2015 ～ 4/1/2016	-	2/12/2022	1/22/2022 2

If you are interested in attending, please contact
Chizu Nabhan at seito@minneapolisjapaneseschool.org.

Community Outreach: Anime Fusion



David Arcand, former JASM intern



Rio Saito, JASM
Executive Director

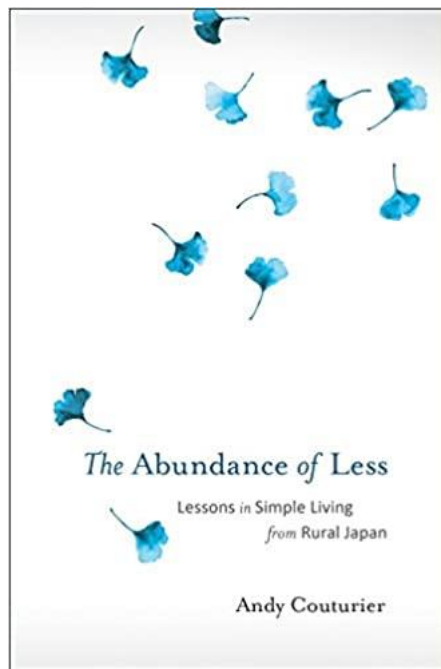
JASM greeted many Anime Fusion visitors at the JASM booth in the Crown Plaza Hotel in Plymouth from Friday to Sunday, October 22 - 24. Volunteers Ted Yang (who also helps us at the Mondale Gala) Friday and Sunday; David Arcand, former JASM intern on Saturday; and Motoko Hioki, JASM board member on Sunday all helped to promote JASM and its mission.

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 from Japan.



Tom Haeg's Book Review

The Abundance of Less: Lessons in Simple Living from Rural Japan; Andy Couturier, North Atlantic Press, 2017 [revised edition]; 432 pages.



First there was Marie Kondo (*The Life-Saving Magic of Tidying Up*) telling us to jettison extra clothes; now there is Andy Couturier telling us how to return to nature in rural Japan. As consultants, there is meaningful merit in their advice.

Abundance is a compilation of interviews with ten Japanese men and women who have withdrawn from the workaholic schedules of urban Japan to adopt bohemian lifestyles in bucolic Japan. One thing they all have in common is an ethos of anti-consumerism fashioned on sustainability sans monetary constraints. In other words, they live by their wits. In more words, they do what they want to do, not what someone else wants them to do.

While the ten interviewees are all interesting people in their own right, and I would not hesitate at the opportunity to have lunch with any one of them, the text suffers from redundancy due in large measure to their identical traits and attitudes. And they all seem to reject the same thing (conformity) and accept the same thing ("just leave me alone"). This is fine, except that I got the impression that Couturier was just throwing them marshmallow questions hoping to get the answer he already wanted (or at least what his publisher wanted). To that point, we are told that they were all seemingly influenced by their living experiences in India and other parts of Asia, not perforce Japan. I found this somewhat difficult to accept, which then begs the question: why didn't our author make at least a perfunctory attempt to question their attitudinal origins? I suspect that if he did, he would have discovered more influences within Japan that he simply overlooked.

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 New Interns



events

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

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

November

2021 Virtual Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala:
Remembering Ambassador Mondale, Nov. 5

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

JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY
of MINNESOTA

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通信

Tsūshin
November 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

October Event



JASM Open Charity Golf Tournament



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

