

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通 信

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

February 2022 Vol. 31, No. 2

Recap: A Tale of Two Friends: A Brief History of Minnesota-Japan Relations (Online)



Prof. David Schultz

On January 27th, around fifty JASM members and friends gathered via Zoom for a fascinating program about the history of interactions between Minnesota and Japan. Our guide was David Schultz: a professor at both Hamline University and the University of Minnesota, a prolific writer and public

speaker, and like many Tsūshin readers, a JASM member. Professor Schultz provided an open and friendly introduction to this history, inviting participants to add questions and content to what will be an ongoing shared document. "This story is a work-in-progress," said Schultz.

In a nutshell: Our MN-Japan connections begin in the late 19th century. A Japanese immigrant living in Minnesota first appeared in the US Census in 1880, and railroad construction and completion brought some of the first Japanese people to Minnesota. The Minnesota-Japan connection actually strengthened because of World War II, and until 1970 Japanese were the biggest ethnic Asian group in Minnesota. Iron and grain products contributed to the earliest trade relationships, sending Iron Range ore and "Mill City" grain to Japan. Business and cultural ties have almost continually expanded, bringing us up to the present where more than 150 companies, dozens of educational and artistic groups, and thousands of individuals and families maintain our thriving friendship.

Professor Schulz highlighted some of the ways Minnesota welcomed Japanese Americans to our state during and after WWII. MN colleges and universities helped many Japanese students relocate and study during the war, and the Military Intelligence Service Language School (first in Savage and then at Fort Snelling) brought thousands of Japanese and Japanese American volunteers here to learn advanced Japanese. Some Language School attendees stayed or returned to Minnesota after the war and made their homes here.



Translators at the Military Intelligence Service Language School at Fort Snelling, 1945.

.....continues on page 4.

Upcoming: Digital J-Quiz 2022



On **Saturday, February 12th** high school students from across Minnesota and Wisconsin will be gathering for J-Quiz 2022 online, due to the COVID 19 pandemic.



This year, 74 students from seven high schools will compete using their knowledge of Japanese language and culture.

Despite the pandemic, our goal for J-Quiz hasn't changed: namely, to increase cultural awareness and understanding and to bring together students who have an interest in Japan.

Upcoming: Artist Talk "Water Flows, Life Blooms" with Mayumi Amada

We are excited to announce a webinar: "*Water Flows, Life Blooms*" by Mayumi Amada on **Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 6 p.m.**



Mayumi Amada will talk about her practice as a contemporary visual artist. Her talk will cover the content of her work, material use, and creative processes. You will also hear interesting background stories about her work.

Please register; click [here](#) today!

\$8: Non-Member

\$0: JASM Members

Fee is not refundable but is transferable. Please become a member to support JASM.

Mayumi Amada is a Minneapolis-based visual artist. She came to the USA to pursue her childhood dream to become an artist. She graduated from the University of Minnesota in 2006 with an MFA degree. Since then, she has been actively showing work nationally and internationally, including a solo exhibition at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Mayumi's website: <https://mayumiamada.myportfolio.com>

Letter from the JASM President



Bob Luck, JASM President

Greetings to everybody, and Happy Year of the Tiger!

I wish I had been born under the sign of a cool animal like a Tiger or even a Dragon, but alas, I am an Ox. Slow, and not particularly bright, but methodical and opinionated. Here is one of my opinions: JASM is an outstanding organization, and I am proud to be part of it! I had the honor of serving temporarily as JASM's President in the "Before" times (i.e. 2019), and I had so much fun that when Elizabeth announced her

retirement as President late last year, I submitted my nomination and was chosen by the Board to serve as JASM's President this year. In case we haven't met, here is what you need to know: My name is Bob Luck, alias Shiawase Taro, Blood Type A, 60 years old, living in Minneapolis. While in college, I met a young exchange student from Japan named Sahya Nakamura. I followed her to Japan, where we got married at the U.S. Embassy. We have divided our time between Minnesota and Japan since then, and we love both places, although I must confess to preferring Japan in the winter and Minnesota in the summer.

We have an outstanding Board of Directors, and I'd like to briefly introduce you to our Board Members:

Joe Montgomery has been on the JASM Board for one year and serves as our Vice President. He has been very active in communicating with members, and there is a decent chance that you may have gotten a call or email from Joe in the past. Joe is a native Minneapolitan, having attended Armstrong High School and the U of M. In between, he spent a year in Tokyo as a Rotary Scholar; he claims that was the most formative year of his life. Joe works in Public Relations and lives in South Minneapolis.

Yoko Torigoe has been on the Board for two years and serves as our Treasurer. In an era of remote work, Yoko wins the prize for being the most remote. She used to live in Minneapolis, but she has since relocated to Los Angeles! Her heart is still in Minnesota, though, and she continues to manage our finances and file our taxes while making us jealous of that Southern California weather.

Michiko Smith is in her second three-year term on the board and has been active organizing our signature events such as the Mondale Gala and J-Quiz. If you are interested in Kyoto, you should talk with Michiko, because that's her hometown! She's been in Minnesota since 2000 and works for Daikin as a market research analyst.

Motoko Hioki works as a Program Manager at the Minnesota Historical Society's James J. Hill House and Alexander

Ramsey House. Motoko has two young children and enjoys taking them to JASM events to share Japanese culture and tradition. Her appreciation for these events resulted in her becoming a JASM board member in 2019. As a board member, she has helped plan the Mondale Gala and J-Quiz. Motoko grew up in Nagoya, which she claims beats out Osaka for the title of comfort food capital of Japan. She attended Kyoto Women's University before moving to the United States to attend George Washington University, where she received her M.A. degree in Museum Studies.

Tom Whaley has been a JASM member for 15+ years. He is a part-owner of the St. Paul Saints, and he came to his interest in Japan through baseball. He arranged for the Saints to tour Japan and play several exhibition games, including a game with the Miyazaki Golden Golds, owned by the famous Japanese comedian "Kinchin" Hagimoto.

Saiko McIvor is a new board member. Without revealing her age, I can tell you that she first came to the U.S. as a High School Rotary Student the same year that Jimi Hendrix, Santana, and The Who played a concert in a little town in New York named Woodstock. She enjoyed her experience so much that she returned to the U.S. for college, got married, and worked first as a nurse and then as an immigration lawyer. Saiko loves to socialize and is looking forward to the "After" when we can safely meet in person.

Sukanya Momsen is new to our Board, but not to JASM! Like Joe Montgomery, she attended Armstrong High School and studied Japanese. She competed in J-Quiz while in high school, and interned at JASM as the Media Relations Coordinator when she was at the U of M. Sukanya also studied abroad in Japan while in high school, and taught English in Japan between high school and college. Sukanya graduated from law school in 2016, works as an attorney, and recently served as President of the Minnesota Asian Pacific American Bar Association. She continues her studies of Japanese to this day.

Kat Dalager is our final new board member. As far as we know, she is the first *Nisei* on the board. Her mother is Japanese, and her father (what else?) is Scandinavian American. Kat works in public relations and she has produced the virtual Mondale Gala for the past two years. She had so much fun working on the gala that she jumped at the chance to join our Board and have even more fun.

I think our board members are a great cross-section of the JASM membership, and I look forward to working with them to fulfill our mission of connecting Japan and Minnesota. One of my goals this year is to encourage members to volunteer with JASM, whether it be planning events, preparing food, doing a cultural demonstration, or serving on the Board. If you are interested in volunteering, please get in touch with us! I look forward to meeting you at one of our virtual events, and (fingers crossed) at an in-person event in the near future.

Bob Luck, JASM President



Consul General Grassroots Caravan to Casselton, North Dakota

On January 13th, Consul-General of Japan in Chicago Hiroshi Tajima and his team came to North Dakota to visit companies related to Japan and meet Governor Doug Burgum.



SB&B team, Consul-General team, JETRO Chicago, North Dakota Trading Office team, and Aiko Hatano, JOI coordinator

The Consul-General team included Hiroshi Tajima, Consul-General Japan in Chicago; Haruka Sakamoto, Consul in Chicago; Ron Leonhardt, Honorary Consul of Japan in Minneapolis; Ralph Inforzato, JETRO Chicago; and Tsubasa Hashimoto, JETRO Chicago.



Loading soybeans packages to trucks at the SB&B facility in Casselton, ND

The North Dakota delegation included Drew A. Combs, North Dakota Trade Office in Bismarck; Lindsey Warner, North Dakota Trade Office in Fargo; Yuuka Taniguchi, Dickinson State University; and me, Aiko Hatano, Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) coordinator.

We visited the soybean company SB&B in Casselton, North Dakota. (SB&B = Sinner Brothers & Bresnahan.) SB&B has been a family business since 1906 and is now on their fifth generation of ownership. Company president Robert B. Sinner, company partners Scott M. Sinner and Todd R. Sinner, and new employee

Zack warmly welcomed us during our visit.

SB&B started to export soybeans to Japan in 1989. They continue to export soybeans and wheat to large areas of Japan. Coop-Kyushu even markets a special brand called "Bob-san's Tofu". You may remember that Bob-san, the president of SB&B, was a presenter for a JASM online event last year.

The company has an interesting facility used to select soybeans and separate them to pack each product. Each package has a number; numbered packages are piled up in storage cupboards. I could see that each worker is proud of their quality non-GMO soybeans and their global business. The process to determine that the soybeans are identity-preserved (not genetically modified) is strict and impressive.

Personally, since I worked at a Japanese trading company in the past, I was especially interested in the logistics around shipping from North Dakota to Japan. SB&B uses multiple transportation methods to export their products.

As they try to maintain strong business ties with Japanese companies with which they have worked for a long time, they do not have any transactions with China. I guess this business style is like a traditional Japanese company. And they keep up great relationships with local farmers, too.

Knowing how to obtain quality soybeans for Japanese soy foods such as tofu, miso, and natto is interesting, and I hope North Dakotans will also learn more about healthy and delicious Japanese foods.

Aiko Hatano, Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) Coordinator



Special gifts from SB&B

*Please thank our members
with your support!*

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Daikin Applied
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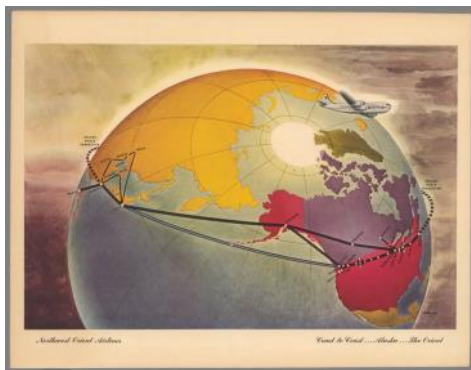
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NDSU-Emily Reynolds
Historic Costume Collection
Twin Cities Aikido Center
UMN Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
University of North Dakota-Grand Forks
Winona State University Global Studies Dept.



Recap: A Tale of Two Friends: A Brief History of Minnesota-Japan Relations (Online) *continues...*



Vintage poster of Northwest Airlines Another highlight: The first post-war commercial flights from the US to Japan began with Northwest Orient Airlines and originated in Minneapolis. Aviation advances helped forge many new ties in business, diplomacy, and tourism between Japan and Minnesota. Northwest even helped Japan found its first postwar commercial airline, JAL.

After wrapping up the presentation with a brief description of the many Minnesota-Japan business connections and a reverent nod to Ambassador Mondale, Professor Schultz opened the Q&A segment.

Many more topics came up in the presentation, and fascinating questions remain. Prof. Schulz offered up suggestions for research possibilities, such as: Who was that first Japanese immigrant listed in the US census? What were some gestures by Minnesotans that made students at the Military Intelligence Service Language School want to make their permanent home here? Who were some Minnesotans who spent significant time in Japan before World War II? Event participants chimed in with their own questions and knowledge. Many thanks to Professor Schultz for introducing the history of the friendship between Minnesota and Japan!

Betty Tisel, JASM member and volunteer

Membership News (12/21, 2021-1/20, 2022)

Thanks to the following new JASM members:

Amarja Baktiwale, Hafid Darbaki, Mary Deschamp, Catherine Hunter, Amy Kelly, Izumi Mueller, Vinh Phung, Joji and Leina Tamaki

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

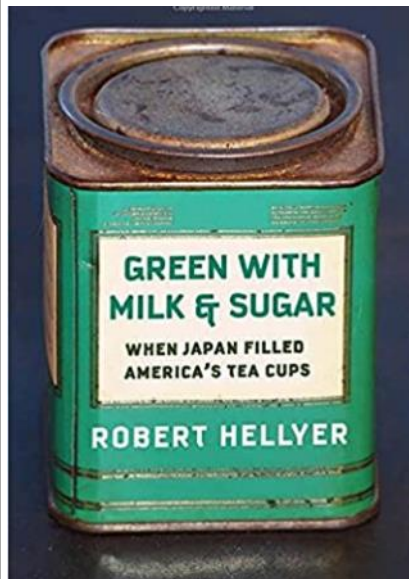
Sheila Asato, E. Michael and Carol Johnson, Steven Kreitz, Reid Mandel, Michelle Norman, Lica Tomizuka Sanborn, Conrad and Charlotte Seibert, Erin Tamaki, Marie Thorsten

Thanks to the following renewing JASM Corporate members:

Sawai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd

Tom Haeg's Book Review

Green with Milk and Sugar: When Japan Filled America's Tea Cups; Robert Hellyer, Columbia Press; 2021



"Fragrant cups of that gentle stimulant... sustained me through the writing of this book."
- Robert Hellyer

I submit: Robert Hellyer is trustworthy, reliable, and authentic on the subject of green tea. He has the pedigree: his great-great-grandfather Frederick Hellyer ran tea processing factories in Kobe and Shizuoka as early as 1860. His background: erstwhile faculty mentor at Tokyo University and currently an associate professor of history at Wake Forest University. Taste:

although he does not admit to tea snobbery, he apparently is a tea snob, but in a good way. Yup, he knows the subject so well that he pontificates on just about every tea grown in the world. How? He has drunk them all, so I think he has one hand on the pulse of tea and the other on a teacup.

Green is a research tome (283 pages) for everything green tea (*Camellia sinensis*): where it is grown, what is grown, how it is grown, why it is drunk, who drinks it now and who drank it in the 19th century, *ad infinitum*. The book comes equipped with all the data and trivia you will ever possibly need on the subject. The tale is cleverly woven through civil wars, world wars, depressions, and terms of Japanese prime ministers (the most). Hellyer candidly announces his goal: "...to explain how tea tells a very American and especially Midwestern story of connections with Japan and other Asian states." He does this while interposing his family's contributions in the trans-Pacific tea trade.

One interesting claim deals with an abrupt change in the appetite of tea consumption from green to black tea. There was a perception that black tea, grown in South Asia (India and Ceylon), was "carefully prepared under white supervision," while green tea, grown in North Asia (China and Japan), was not. This was when the British Empire included South Asia, so they were not shy about using any marketing tool to merchandise tea grown under their auspices. While support for the claim is basically anecdotal, it reveals that the tea trade is anything but linear and demands further examination.

As a part of this review, I called up Mr. Hellyer and found him very engaging and receptive. My first question: "What tea would you have if invited to afternoon tea today?" Answer: "Sen-cha." And, "Whatever happened to your family tea business, Hellyer & Co.?" Answer: "Sold to the Japanese but they graciously maintain the name Hellyer in its title." Sometimes you just have to ask.

Tom Haeg

Greetings from North Dakota, Aiko Hatano



Hello, I am Aiko Hatano, Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) Coordinator based at Mayville State University in North Dakota. Mayville is about an hour north of Fargo. I started working with JASM in January 2022! And I am really excited to share Minnesota resources with North Dakota.

The JOI program was designed by the Japan Foundation and the Laurasian Institution to increase interest in and understanding about Japan, and to forge stronger links between people and communities in the U.S. and Japan — like JASM does.

I am from Kamakura in Kanagawa prefecture. My interest in connecting people in Japan with other countries began as a child, hearing stories of my grandmother working at the British



Embassy as a Japanese calligraphy teacher. While I was in university, I had many experiences of cultural exchange, including studying English in Dublin for four weeks one summer, joining the International Student Conference, and taking a Japanese language education course. After graduating, I worked at a Japanese trading company and oversaw U.S. beef imports, which increased my interest in working in the U.S.

I believe that sharing our experiences is one of the first steps to understanding our cultures and getting closer to each other.

If you know any North Dakota communities, businesses, or groups which are interested in Japanese culture, please share the information with me. I would love to visit them. And I hope I can meet you soon in the future!

どうぞよろしくおねがいします。

Aiko Hatano in her office at Mayville State University in North Dakota



Aiko Hatano in her office at Mayville State University in North Dakota

海外在留邦人向けオンライン医療相談及び精神カウンセリング・サービス提供事業のご案内

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。

—2/2/2022—

現在、非常に多くの皆様からお申込を頂き、待ち時間が発生しております。

2月1日（火）から海外在留邦人向けオンライン医療相談及び精神カウンセリング・サービス提供事業の予約受付を開始しておりますが、予想以上に多くの皆様からお申込みをいただき、待ち時間が発生しております。現在、皆様に円滑にご予約いただけるよう、早急に調整を行っております。お申込みいただいた皆様には大変申し訳ございませんが、今しばらくお待ちいただきますようお願い申し上げます。なお、これからご予約される皆様におかれましても、しばらくお待ちいただく可能性がございますが、何卒ご理解賜りますようお願い申し上げます。

—1/31/2022—

全世界の在留邦人の方々を対象に、無料でオンラインによる医療相談・精神カウンセリングサービスを実施しますので、ぜひご利用下さい。

新型コロナウイルス感染症の世界的な感染拡大により、病院へのアクセスが制限されるなど健康面で不安を抱えていらっしゃる在留邦人（※）の方々に対して、無料でオンラインによる医療相談・精神カウンセリングを、2月1日から3月31日まで実施することとなりました。

本事業は、世界のタイムゾーンに対応して24時間、無料で日本人専門医によるオンラインでの医療相談・精神カウンセリングをご利用いただくことが可能です（事前予約制）。ご希望される方は、下記のサイトから予約をお願いいたします。

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本事業に関するご質問については、本事業の受注者である株式会社 Medifellowにて受け付けておりますので、下記のメールアドレスまでお問い合わせください。

dr-fellow-contact@medifellow.jp

※本事業では、海外に居住中または一時滞在中の日本国民及びその家族（一親等内かつ外国人を含む）が対象となります。

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(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。



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通信

Tsūshin
February 2022

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

January Event

Saint Paul and Nagasaki First Sister Cities

- The Saint Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee (SPNCCC) was commissioned as the first Japanese-American city partnership in 1955, providing the international sister city affiliation enacted by Congress during the Eisenhower administration.
- Saint Paul Mayor Joseph E. Dillon officially met the Mayor of the city of Nagasaki, Japan, to inaugurate the Sister City relation.



SAINT PAUL - NAGASAKI
SISTER CITY COMMITTEE



This is only the beginning of the story of Japan and Minnesota. What can you add to it?



War Brides

- Significant male to female ratio leads to encourage and support migration of Japanese women who married American men in the military
- War Brides club meets in the Japanese Center through the late 1950s



Minnesota's Japanese Population Soars

Minnesota Japanese (US Census)

- 1940—41 individuals
- 1950 1,049 individuals
- In 1950 Minneapolis had 670 Japanese-Americans
- In 1950 Saint Paul had 184 Japanese-Americans



Japanese American Citizens League in Minnesota

- Formation in 1946 of the Twin Cities Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League
- Reverend Daisuke Kitagawa helps form Japanese religious organizations and groups
 - Four Minneapolis Churches
 - Twin Cities Buddhist Association
 - Twin Cities Independent Church
 - Rainbow Club (for young newly married Japanese couples)

