

# Japan America Society of Minnesota



## 通 信

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

April 2022 Vol. 31, No. 4

### Takuzo Ishida Memorial Scholarship for Minnesota High School Students 2022



Takuzo Ishida was a researcher, carpenter, chef, and bonsai enthusiast who served as President of JASM and Founder/Principal of the Minneapolis Japanese School. The Takuzo Ishida Memorial Scholarship was established in 2019 by Mr. Ishida's family and friends to recognize his contributions to the Japanese community in Minnesota and to support his passion for youth education. (To read a special edition of the *Tsushin* dedicated to Mr. Ishida, please click [here](#). If you

would like to make a contribution to the Takuzo Ishida Memorial Scholarship's endowment, please click [here](#).)

JASM will award the Takuzo Ishida Memorial Scholarship to a student enrolled in a Minnesota high school who wants to broaden their knowledge of Japan through a combination of study and travel. The target award is currently \$1000, but this may be adjusted in certain cases, at the discretion of the scholarship steering committee. The awards are to be used for travel to or within Japan before, during, or after the student's specified term(s) of study.

#### Requirements

- Applicants must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0
- Applicants must attend a recognized education program in Japan whose duration is at least two weeks
- Applicants must submit the following:
  - Application form (click [here](#) for the form)
  - A typed essay of 500 words or less answering the following three questions:
    - Why do you want to study and travel in Japan?
    - What is your primary purpose for going to Japan?
    - How do you intend to spend the scholarship award?
  - Two letters of recommendation (for guidelines click [here](#))
  - A copy of the letter of acceptance you received from your Japanese host institution or program director, such as your teacher
  - Official transcript(s). You must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher to be eligible
- Request an official transcript to be sent from each high school you have attended to the following address: *Takuzo Ishida Memorial Scholarship Program, Japan America Society of Minnesota, P.O. Box 26639, Minneapolis, MN 55426*, or have transcript emailed to [jasm@mn-japan.org](mailto:jasm@mn-japan.org)

... continues on page 2.

### Upcoming: Webinar "Tattoo History" with Emi Nijiya

We are very excited to announce a new webinar: "*Tattoo History: A talk about the connections between Japanese and Western tattooing and the growth to today's tattoo industry*," by tattoo artist Emi Nijiya on **Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 6 p.m.**



How did tattooing originate in Japan and how did it become popular in the United States? We will look at the history behind Japanese tattoos and tools, compared to what the industry uses today. Tattoos are still considered taboo by many but have become more mainstream over the years. This talk will give you a brief look at how Japanese and Western tattooing are intertwined and have influenced each other and have grown to the flourishing industry of today.

Please register today!

Click [here](#) to register or use the QR code.

Non-Member: \$8, Member: free

*The ticket is not refundable but transferable*



**Emi** (they/them) is a half-Japanese and transgender tattoo artist who owns Jackalope Tattoo in Minneapolis, MN. Their shop, founded in 2013, employs eleven female, trans, or queer-identifying tattoo artists with various specialties. Emi has been tattooing for 11 years and specializes in black and grey portraiture, realism, gender affirming tattoos, 3D nipple tattooing (sometimes requested following breast reconstruction) and scar coverup tattoos. Over the years they have worked hard to create a tattoo shop that is a safe space for BIPOC, LGBTQIA+ people, women, and folks from all walks of life.

### MN Japanese Library Update



The MN Japanese Library will be closed until further notice for a renovation project. The library is not accessible; please do not try to enter until further notice.

## Message from Executive Director Rio Saito



Hello JASM members; I hope you all are doing well and enjoying the beginning of spring. A quarter of the year has already passed; I can't believe how quickly time flies these days! As you may already know, we had another successful J-Quiz in February. First, I would like to truly thank all of the teachers who work tirelessly to lead and support students. And this goes for both high school and college teachers. Thank you

for your work - your work truly is a huge part of bridge building between Japan and America. And I also would like to thank the volunteers for your support. Without you, we could not have the competition. Lastly, thank you so much to the J-Quiz committee for your dedication and hard work.

The J-Quiz committee jumped onto the planning of the 2023 competition right after this year's competition, to update and improve the program. We would like to continue learn and grow to be able to better support teachers and students. One of the highlights of this year's J-Quiz was to have more schools from Wisconsin participating in the competition. This is one of the advantages of having an online competition: neighboring states' schools can participate. We would like to have another online J-Quiz in 2023 to invite more schools from outside Minnesota. Hopefully this will motivate more students to learn more. What I cannot forget to mention is how much we appreciate the event sponsors, who believe in the cause and care so much about education. These young people will be your future wonderful workforce. Please continue your support for raising the future of Minnesota and our region.

We are continuing our effort to keep having events online, while slowly introducing in-person events as well. As 2022 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of JASM, we are planning to have special events starting this June. (As the record shows, JASM was registered to be a nonprofit organization in July of 1972.) Throughout this year, we would like to continue having online events with an emphasis on cross-cultures. We will be sharing upcoming events with you as soon as details are set.

As we celebrate our anniversary, we would like to thank everyone who came before us and paved the way for us, and we would like to share what the future holds. Please join us to continue the journey of bringing our cultures together.

*Rio Saito*  
Executive Director



## Takuzo Ishida Memorial Scholarship for Minnesota High School Students 2022 *continues...*

The selection committee will review all applications and select finalists for in-person or online interviews. Applicants unable to participate in the interview process may be disqualified by the selection committee.

**Please note:** Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident currently enrolled at a Minnesota high school. The awardees will be asked to provide a written report on their experience while in Japan upon completion of their program, and to make a personal appearance at a Japan America Society of Minnesota function during the semester after their travel is completed. Scholarship awards are generally not considered taxable income if used for tuition, books, or other similar educational expenses. Award recipients should consult with a tax advisor to understand their potential tax liability.

### 2022 Timeline:

- Announce the scholarship: **March 1, 2022**
- Start accepting applications: **March 1, 2022**
- Deadline for applications: **April 15, 2022**
- Finalists' interviews with scholarship committee members: **April 15-30, 2022**
- Winner of the Scholarship will be notified: **Early May, 2022**



## Membership News (2/21 - 3/20, 2022)

Thanks to the following new JASM members:

Meaghan Fors, Becky Sippel

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

Christine Faust, Karen Harwerth,  
Nobby Hashizume, Andy Morris,  
Chelsie Willett

Thanks to the following renewing JASM Corporate members:

Voyager Group Inc

## Upcoming: New Member Social 2022

*This event is for new JASM members only.*  
**Welcome new JASM Members!**



*Picture: Participants of "Know Me Kai: Welcome JASM Members 2021"*

Please join us for the *New Member Social 2022* on **Wednesday, April 20 from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.**

This event will help you get to know JASM a little bit better and become acquainted with other Japan enthusiasts in Minnesota and surrounds.

**Register today!** (*This event is for new JASM members only. To register you should be signed in JASM website.*) If you are not a member yet, please [join](#) us!

We are looking forward to seeing you online!

*Please thank our members  
with your support!*

### **Corporate Benefactor Members**

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### **Nonprofit Members**

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Minneapolis Japanese School  
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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 and World Languages

## ***Kamoda Shōji: The Art of Change* at Minneapolis Institute of Art**

(From Mia website: [Kamoda Shōji: The Art of Change](#))



*Kamoda Shōji, Japanese, 1933-1983, Jar (detail), 1971, stoneware with red and green painted glazes, 4 1/2 x 6 1/2 in., Collection of Joan B. Mirviss and Robert J. Levine*

**December 11, 2021 - April 17, 2022**

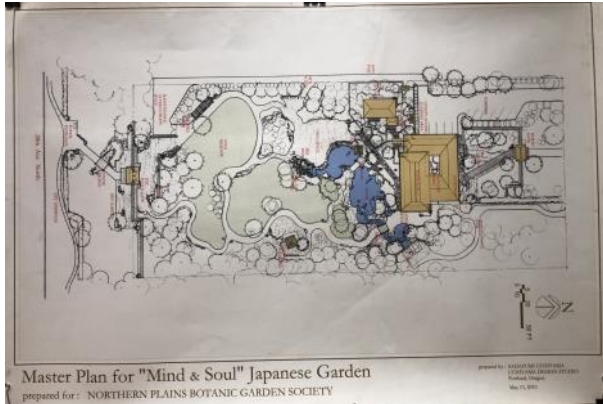
Cargill Gallery  
Free Exhibition

Kamoda Shōji (1933–1983) became one of Japan's most celebrated potters. His groundbreaking approach to the interplay among material, form, and surface helped revolutionize the way Japanese artists approached ceramic production. Inquisitive, thoughtful, and tireless, Kamoda was driven to innovate and experiment. His astonishing output and creativity garnered him a considerable following in Japan, and more recently in the United States. Despite his untimely death at the age of 49, this admiration continues today. This exhibition, the first outside of Japan, features nearly 50 works from 10 private American collections and spans the breadth of his brilliant artistic career.





## New Japanese Garden Taking Shape by Aiko Hatano



On Saturday afternoon March 19th, I met Mr. Vern Hunter. Vern is a Japanese garden committee member of the Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society. He is eager to go forward with the master plan for the "Mind & Soul" Japanese Garden at the Northern Plains Botanic Garden, Fargo, ND. If you've been to the Rourke Art Museum in Moorhead, MN, you must have seen the picture of "Garden of MIND & SOUL," designed by world-known Japanese garden architect Sadafumi Uchiyama. We discussed ways to improve this plan and how we could cooperate to have Japanese cultural events at the garden in the future. I believe that one of the first steps is to let local people know about the connection between North Dakota and Japan.



Did you know that the monument at Fargo's Hector International Airport was donated by a Japanese corporation? The company was called Fujitekko at the time of the gift; now its name is Univance Corporation. Univance used to have a Fargo office, but not anymore. The monument, a sundial, was given to the city of Fargo to commemorate the centenary of the state of North Dakota, in 1989. It's located across the drive from the airport's main

doors, near the flagpoles. Although everyone who arrives at the Fargo airport passes the monument, few know that it was donated by a Japanese company.

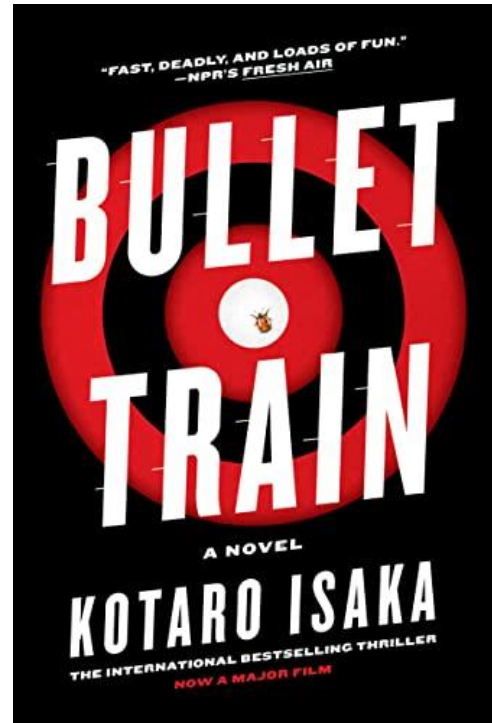
I am interested in the history of business relationships between North Dakota and Japan. If you know anything about this history, please share with us.

Aiko Hatano  
JOI Coordinator



## Tom Haeg's Book Review

*Bullet Train*; Kotaro Isaka, Overlook Press, 2010 [English translation, Sam Malissa, 2021]; 415 pages.



Venue in this mystery thriller is an eponymous shinkansen departing Tokyo Station for Tohoku. It is boarded by five criminal hitmen intent on murdering, kidnaping, and otherwise commit miscellaneous bodily harm as the train passes through Ueno, Omiya, and Sendai stations, destined for Morioka.

Our protagonists (I use the term loosely) are five contract assassins, seemingly unrelated, conducting sociopathic schemes while traveling at 250 kilometers per hour. I say they are unrelated until they are related: and there's the plot. We just have to wait for the train to arrive in Morioka to see how all their shenanigans are connected.

Despite their sheer evil ("His desire to do violence is palpable"), they are hilariously funny in their blunders and hysterically farcical in their ineptness. Similarities to the Coen brothers' villains abound. What sustains our interest is their absurdity in the moment. We simply cannot believe that this could happen in Japan in general and on an iconic *shinkansen* in particular. We are also amused by the character study of the criminal mind, worthy of a Hitchcock cinematic analysis.

The movie *Bullet Train*, based on the novel, is in the can and will be released in July 2022, starring Brad Pitt and Sandra Bullock (Lady Gaga unexpectedly withdrew, really, that's true). All aboard!

Tom Haeg

## Japan America Society of Minnesota

- Membership Application    Change of Address  
 Membership Renewal    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  
P.O. Box 26639, Minneapolis, MN 55426

## 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  
jasm@mn-japan.org**

## Become a JASM Member

*Support our mission and become a member!*

1. Go to [mn-japan.org](http://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.

## Calendar

April

Webinar "Tattoo History" with Emi Nijiya,  
April 28, 2022

## 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"at"[gmail.com](mailto:will.etkin@gmail.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, 2020 the group is holding all meetings online.**

For any question about this group, please email Mariquita Anderson: [mariquita"at"twincitiesjapaneseconversation.com](mailto:mariquita@twincitiesjapaneseconversation.com)



J | A | S | M

JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY  
of MINNESOTA

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[www.mn-japan.org](http://www.mn-japan.org)

通信

Tsūshin  
April 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](mailto:jasm@mn-japan.com)

(From Mia website: [Art in Bloom 2022 — Minneapolis Institute of Art \(artsmia.org\)](http://artsmia.org) )



**Art in Bloom is back in bloom at Mia**

**April 28 – May 1, 2022**

Mark your calendars: Art in Bloom, the annual celebration of art and flowers, presented by the Friends of the Institute, will take place April 28-May 1, 2022. This year's event will be held in person.

Free and open to the public, Art in Bloom exhibits imaginative floral interpretations of selected works of art from Mia's permanent collection, created by more than 100 individual and commercial florists. Over the course of the four-day festival, everyone is invited to experience the floral beauty and fragrance throughout the museum, enjoy a lecture or demonstration, and attend the preview party or free docent tour.

Related events:

[Art in Bloom Preview Party — Minneapolis Institute of Art \(artsmia.org\)](http://artsmia.org), Wed., April 27, 2022 at 5:30 pm

[Flower Power: Floral Themes in Art with Lisa Michaux, PhD — Minneapolis Institute of Art \(artsmia.org\)](http://artsmia.org), Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 11:00 am

[Live In Bloom: Floral Demonstrations by Bachman's — Minneapolis Institute of Art \(artsmia.org\)](http://artsmia.org), Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 1:00 pm

[Art in Bloom Family Event — Minneapolis Institute of Art \(artsmia.org\)](http://artsmia.org), Sun., May 1, 2022, 10:00 am to 1:30 pm

***JASM corporate member Mia has several Japan-related events and exhibits now through September. We thank Mia for their ongoing support! Several JASM members and local ikebana and bonsai groups participate in Art in Bloom every year.***