

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通 信

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

June 2022 Vol. 31, No. 6

Upcoming: *Primavera*: JASM's 50th Anniversary Harukaze Concert 2022



To kick off JASM's 50th Anniversary year, the first big event is our Harukaze concert at Hamline University's Sundin Music Hall on **Sunday, June 12th at 3pm**. ([Google maps](#))

This year, we are honored to present three Minnesota artists: Rie Tanaka, pianist; Yuki Tokuda, classic ballet dancer; and Jesse Nummelin, cellist. They will perform a program entitled *Primavera*.

We are very pleased to have this wonderful performance as the kickoff for our year-long celebration of JASM's 50th anniversary. Please register today!

A face mask is required in Sundin Music Hall.

\$15: Non-member

\$10: Member

Tickets are not refundable but are transferable.

Sunday, June 12th 3:00pm-5:00pm
Sundin Music Hall at Hamline University

This event is sponsored by

Noriko Ishida

Makoto Ishii



NAIGAI INDUSTRIES, INC.



Ben & Chris van Lierop (in honor of Evan & Diane Williams)

About the artists continued on page 4.

Upcoming: Mia Curator Talk for *Minneapolis' New Clothes: Dressed by Nature—Textiles of Japan*



(Picture above) Japan, late 19th-early 20th century, Festival kimono decorated with carp ascending a waterfall made in Akita Prefecture (detail), cloth: cotton; shibori (shape resist), The John R. Van Derlip Fund and the Mary Griggs Burke Endowment Fund established by the Mary Livingston Griggs and Mary Griggs Burke Foundation; purchase from the Thomas Murray Collection, 2019.20.84

Please join us for a curator talk entitled *Minneapolis' New Clothes: Dressed by Nature: Textiles of Japan* on **Thursday, June 30 at 6:00 p.m.** on Zoom.

The Japanese archipelago is home to diverse cultures that make textiles in a kaleidoscope of materials and designs beyond the commonly known silk kimono. Dr. Andreas Marks, Head of Japanese and Korean Art at the Minneapolis Institute of Art, provides insight into the large special exhibition *Dressed by Nature: Textiles of Japan* that will be on view at Mia from June 25th until September 11th. For the first time, over 120 textiles from the Thomas Murray collection that the museum acquired in 2019 will be on view.

This exhibition will focus on the resourcefulness of humans to create textiles from local materials like fish skin, paper, elm bark, nettle, banana leaf fiber, hemp, wisteria, deerskin, cotton, silk, and wool. It will showcase rare and exceptional examples of robes, coats, jackets, vests, banners, rugs, and mats, made between around 1750 and 1930, including the royal dress of subtropical Okinawa, ceremonial robes of the Ainu from northern Japan and the Russian Far East, and folk traditions from throughout Japan.

[Register](#) today for the online curator talk!

Non-Member: \$8

Member: free

Registration fee is not refundable but is transferable.



Dr. Andreas Marks is the Mary Griggs Burke Curator of Japanese and Korean Art and director of the Clark Center for Japanese Art 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

...continued on page 2.

Message from Executive Director Rio Saito

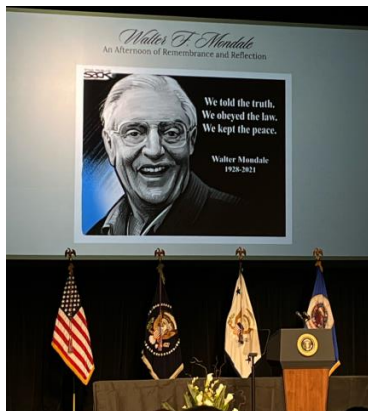


Dear JASM members, I hope you all are enjoying the beginning of springtime! Although this year seems like we have so much pollen in the air; thankfully, we all have masks!

As you may already know, JASM is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, and we are kicking off with the Harukaze Concert on June 12th with Rie Tanaka, pianist, Yuki Tokuda, ballet dancer, and

Jesse Nummelin, cellist. We are very excited to be able to enjoy these three wonderful performers in person with you — for the first time in almost 3 years. It is always our absolute honor to see very talented Minnesota artists perform.

The one thing that makes me sad is that we cannot celebrate our anniversary with Mr. Mondale. On May 1st, Mr. Mondale's memorial ceremony was held at the University of Minnesota's Northrop Auditorium. The auditorium was filled with people and the ceremony was truly a celebration of Mr. Mondale's life and achievements. We heard from Governor Tim Walz, U of MN President Joan Gable, Senator Tina Smith, Senator Amy Klobuchar, and more. President Joe Biden shared stories of time he spent with Mr. Mondale. Ted and William Mondale, sons of Mr. Mondale, spoke about their father. Lillian Hochman sang "Tomorrow" from the musical *Annie* (one of the Mr. Mondale's favorite songs). Everyone shared their love for Mr. Mondale, and we all left feeling very positive and hopeful. As I looked around the auditorium filled with known community, state, and national leaders, I felt rather small. At the same time, I recalled that when I had opportunities to talk to Mr. Mondale, he always made me feel that what we do for our community is no small thing. And I always left feeling positive and hopeful. It was a beautiful reminder of what JASM does and can do with our community. Thank you, members, for your support which makes everything happen.



We are preparing a few exciting projects to celebrate our 50th anniversary. Please keep reading our email notifications. We are slowly bringing back in-person events and we are so excited to be seeing you again. At the same time, we will continue to have online events as we have been reaching out to many people who live outside of the Twin Cities or are busy with their daily lives. Please continue participating in both types of events! We are here to serve as many people as possible.

Thank you very much for your continued support. I'm looking forward to celebrating JASM's 50th Anniversary year with you.

Rio Saito, JASM Executive Director

Upcoming: Mia Curator Talk for *Minneapolis' New Clothes: Dressed by Nature: Textiles of Japan* continues...

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 most recent book on Hokusai's renowned Fuji series was published by Taschen last summer. His next book will introduce 100 different types of Japanese demons and ghosts and is said to be released this autumn.

[Register](#) today!

Non-Member: \$8

Member: free

Registration fee is not refundable but is transferable.



Scan QR code and register!

JASM will be receiving a special discount code to the exhibition *Dressed by Nature:*

Textiles of Japan from our corporate member, Mia. Check out Tsushin email or our event announcement, and register our curator talk webinar before you visit the exhibition! You will be able to use the discount code to purchase tickets for the exhibit.

Mia
Minneapolis Institute of Art

Membership News (4/21 – 5/20, 2022)

Thanks to the following new JASM members:

Rebecca Jasper,
Benjamin and Sandra Pickhardt

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

John Babcock, Hisako Bickner, Hanna Brandt,
Daniel Dulas and Cheryl Hirata-Dulas,
Chris Griesse, Kyoko Haines, Jack Koepke,
Darryl and Yukiko Magree, Christopher Mincks,
Todd Newman, Jeff Peterson, John Reinartz,
John and Hiroko Shade, Lisa Shakerin,
Satoko Suzuki, Kenichi Tazawa, Maria Traxler

Thanks to the following renewing JASM Corporate members:

Red Wing Sister Cities Commission
University of Minnesota Department of Asian and
Middle Eastern Studies
Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, P.C.

Ben van Lierop received Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays



Mr. Ben van Lierop, former
Executive Director of JASM

JASM is very pleased to share the following news.

The Government of Japan announced on April 29, 2022, that former Executive Director of Japan America Society of Minnesota Ben van Lierop has received the **Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays** from the Emperor of Japan.

In the news release from the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago it is written that "Mr. van Lierop has strengthened the Japan-U.S. relationship and promoted mutual understanding between the two countries during his 12 years as Executive Director of the Japan America Society of Minnesota (JASM). He successfully managed JASM's finances. He promoted Japanese culture in the Midwest by coordinating festivals and delegation programs. He nurtured

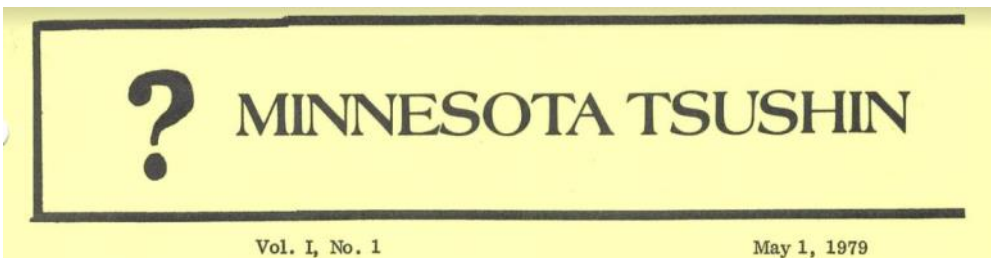
young people with interests in Japan. In addition, he supported an active exchange among Japanese and U.S. government leaders. "

Congratulations, Ben-san, on this prestigious award!



JASM 43 years ago

As part of our 50th anniversary celebrations, we would like to show you (or let some of you remember) a tiny part of the past. Here's a glimpse of how it was 43 years ago from the JASM newsletter.



NEW NEWS IS GOOD NEWS

We hope you enjoy reading this first issue of Minnesota Tsushin, the newsletter of the Japan America Society of Minnesota (JASM).

As you might know, tsushin means communication. The Minnesota Tsushin is designed to do just that--communicate items of interest to JASM members quarterly, beginning with this May 1 issue.

Society members are encouraged to share their insights and imagination. For example, the staff is looking for a logo for the newsletter. Please help us fill the box in the heading. The staff also would appreciate hearing from members about the type of news they want included in this newsletter.

The JASM Board of Directors will adopt an official logo and format at its June meeting. Before that date, please send your ideas to: Pam Fricke,

the organizations hosting the event, are invited to join Tuesday evening's festivities to help make this a memorable highlight of our Nagasaki visitors' tour.

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

New officers and executive committee members of the JASM were announced at the group's 7th annual meeting in March.

They are: W. Soren (Bill) Egekvist, honorary chairman; Ruth (Mrs. Earl) Tanbara, chairman; Kimi (Mrs. Sam) Hara, vice chairman; James V. Aldridge, president; Akiko (Mrs. Yoshio) Sako, vice president; Pamela R. Fricke, vice president; Kay Kushino, secretary; Shirley (Mrs. William) Huskins, membership secretary; Sumi Teramoto, treasurer; Maynard B. Hasselquist, past president; and Rev. Andrew N. Otani, chaplain.

FESTIVAL OF NATIONS

More than 40 ethnic groups will delight

Please thank our members
with your support!

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Winona State University Global Studies and World Languages



Upcoming: *Primavera*: JASM 50th Anniversary Harukaze Concert 2022 *continues...*



Jesse Nummelin started Suzuki cello at age three with the Aber Suzuki Center for the Arts in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. He completed a Bachelor of Arts in cello performance at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, studying under Dr. Lawrence Leviton, and then received a Master of Music degree at Arizona State where he worked as teaching assistant to Professor Thomas Landschoot. He currently serves as the assistant principal cellist of the Des Moines Symphony and has performed with the Phoenix Symphony, Tucson Symphony, South Dakota Symphony, and Duluth Superior Symphony, among others.

A passionate chamber musician, Jesse most often performs with his wife and pianist Rie Tanaka as *Duo Ihana*. He is a founding member of the Stone Arch String Quartet and does studio recording for indie films and singer/songwriters in the Twin Cities. His versatile musical talent led him to premiere several compositions with string quartet at the Museum of Musical Instruments in Phoenix, AZ, as well as performing on a series of jazz recordings through the Folger Institute with acclaimed artists Allison Eldredge and Tom Landschoot.

As an educator, Jesse has served as a faculty of cello at the Aber Suzuki Center for the Arts at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point in 2016. Other schools where he used to teach include Arizona State University, City of Lakes Waldorf School, the Saint Paul Conservatory, and Music Connection in Forest Lake. He currently teaches private cello lessons at Mount Olivet School of Music.

Native of Osaka, Japan, **Dr. Rie Tanaka** is a prizewinner of international and national competitions in Japan and the U.S. She won the MTNA Young Artist Competition in the West Central Division, Minnesota and Wisconsin, as well as a Schubert Club Competition (1st), Chautauqua Piano Competition (Finalist, Commissioned Piece Award), and Rosenstock International Piano Competition (Special Judge's Award). She was featured on Minnesota Public Radio, Wisconsin Public Radio, StarTribune, among other local and regional channels.



Rie often collaborates with her husband, cellist Jesse Nummelin, as Duo Ihana. She is a co-founder of Mirage Performing Arts, a collaborative group of musicians and ballet dancers. She has performed with members of the Minnesota Orchestra, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Phoenix Symphony, South Dakota Symphony Orchestra, and many other notable musicians.

Rie has been an advocate for musicians' wellness. As a certified yoga instructor, she has led yoga and lectures at the Rebecca Penney Piano Festival, Green Lake Chamber Music Camp, Saint Paul Chamber Music Institute, and Minnesota

International Piano Camp. She presented at music teacher associations in the states of Minnesota, South Dakota, and Washington.

Rie received her Master and Doctor of Music degrees in Piano Performance at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, studying under Professor Alexander Braginsky, and Bachelor degree from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, studying with Dr. Raffi Besalyan. She currently teaches piano at the Mount Olivet School of Music and Macalester College, and has her private studio in Mound, Minnesota.



Yuki Tokuda is originally from Japan, and was trained under Mikiko Dei, Hideo Fukagawa, and Jun Ishii, internationally recognized dancers, teachers, and competition judges. She moved to the United States in 2000 to continue her training in New York.

Ms. Tokuda has danced professionally with USA Ballet, Peoria Ballet, and the Metropolitan Ballet, and she was principal dancer at Continental

Ballet for 7 years. With diverse training in classical, contemporary, modern and jazz, she is an international guest dancer and collaborator with many companies. She has an expertise in pointe work, partnering, and company etiquette, and enjoys teaching aspiring dancers.

Ms. Tokuda trained at the Joffrey Ballet School in New York, and at Steps on Broadway as one of the first International Visa Program students. She also trained with the Boston Ballet and the Connecticut Ballet. She has performed many principal roles in *Giselle*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *Coppelia*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Ms. Tokuda teaches at Minnesota Dance Theatre and Interlochen Center for the Arts and is a certified Pilates teacher. She is a recipient of Minnesota State Arts Board and St. Louis Park Arts & Culture grants. Her choreography was chosen for a Choreographer's Evening at Walker Arts Center, Wayzata Symphony Orchestra, Wooddale Church, Japan America Society of Minnesota, and Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists. She is the designer and owner of Yukitard, a custom leotard company.



Internship for College Students



Obon Festival 2019

Are you interested in a career in international business or international relations? Do you have an interest in Japan or speak Japanese? If the answer is yes, the Japan America Society of Minnesota (JASM) has an opportunity for you!

Hours per week: 20-25. We work from home and meetings take place online except for in-person events. Currently we look for some event coordinators and a media coordinator who could participate in in-person events.

Please find details on our website (<https://mn-japan.org>)

We are looking forward to working with you!

Save the date for the 2022 JASM Charity Golf Scramble



JASM will be holding our 2nd annual charity golf scramble event on **Saturday, September 17** at **Pioneer Creek Golf Course** in Maple Plain, MN.

Enjoy a fun day of competition with friends while supporting JASM. This event is limited to 72 participants.

Look for registration details in upcoming Tsūshins and emails.

For further information, please contact:

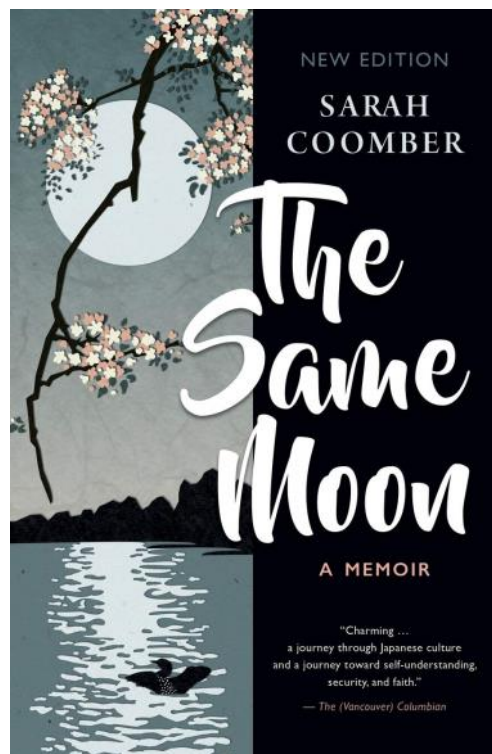
Tom Haeg, 612-940-3351
tomhaeg@msn.com

Marc Blehert, 763-280-2108
mblehert@yahoo.com



Tom Haeg's Book Review

The Same Moon; Sarah Coomber, Camphor Press (New Edition), 2020.



Moorhead, Minnesota native Sarah Coomber bares all in this riveting non-fiction/travelogue/memoir revealing her encounters in Japan: first as a foreign high school student and then as a Japan Exchange Teacher (JET). Now, I know that there are a lot of other journals and disquisitions by other well-qualified *gaijin* ready to share their astute observations about Japan, but what makes this one unique is her perspective: she was student and *sensei*, i.e., working both sides of the counter. This volume offers keen, authentic insights.

She spices her journal with trysts brimming with unrequited love, cultural shocks, and self-healing therapies to cope with loneliness and nostalgia while living in a small, rural, isolated village (uh, *machi*). Oftentimes she found herself compromised by the stifling Japanese bureaucracy ("I had no purpose there... Now and then I read a sentence... It could be any half-wit standing there."). To combat this she set out to change attitudes and re-make values. She undertakes gritty efforts to take special umbrage at the plight of the Japanese woman, the accepted practice of *uchi* (those inside) and *soto* (those outside), and the ubiquitous etiquette formalism which any naïve newcomer confronts *ad nauseum*.

The takeaway: What we learn here is a clearer meaning of tolerance. We must accept others as similar to, not different from ourselves. What we share in common is more important than what distinguishes us. Inclusion not exclusion. Said in another, eponymous way: it's the same moon seen in Moorhead as it is in Japan.

Tom Haeg

North Dakota News

JASM would like to showcase Japan-related activities in North Dakota, where there is no Japan America Society or similar group. To support and put our neighbors in the spotlight, we started this new occasional series.



On the evening of April 15th, I hosted a North Dakota Japanese gathering at Sushi Burrito Cafe in Fargo. Although I have been living here North Dakota for only months, thirty-six participants attended including extended family members and the Fargo Japanese garden committee. I expected to get a maximum of 10 people and booked a party room for 20. However, a week before this event more than 30 people had registered and I quickly needed to find a different venue. Thanks to Sushi Burrito Cafe in downtown Fargo for offering the entire restaurant, we were very comfortable setting up for this private event. The greatest thing was that there were various people who have lived here for times ranging from 3 months to more than 40 years! Attendees also included students from North Dakota State University, University of North Dakota, Dickinson State University, and Minnesota State University Moorhead.

I set up this gathering because I am organizing a Japanese cultural event in Fargo in July, and need some interested people to help out. I am based in Mayville, a small town, and there are no Japanese folks in my area. After the weather got better, I was able to reach out to some Japanese in the Fargo-Moorhead area. I tried to make more connections. People I met often said “I have only a few Japanese friends here in North Dakota.” So, nobody expected this event to have such a good turnout!

At the event, the Japanese garden committee and Facebook community group “Fargo Meets Japan” passed their information to all participants and everyone got acquainted. We all enjoyed this casual meeting and exchanged our local information.

With these people's kind support, we will host a Japanese cultural event at Broadway Square in downtown Fargo on Sunday, July 31st. Save the date!

Aiko Hatano, Japan Outreach Initiative Coordinator



海外に在留されている邦人の皆さまへ

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。

日頃より、当館の領事サービスにご理解、ご協力いただきありがとうございます。

今回は海外に居住される国民年金第3号被保険者の方に対する大事なお知らせです。

既に所属勤務先等から案内がなされていると存じますが、令和2年4月1日に施行された医療保険制度の適正かつ効率的な運営を図るための健康保険法等の一部を改正する法律（令和元年法律第9号）により、国民年金第3号被保険者（健康保険や共済組合員の被扶養者として認定されている配偶者）の要件として国内居住等の要件が追加されました。

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※ 特例要件

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- 2 外国に赴任する被保険者に同行する者
- 3 観光、保養又はボランティア活動その他就労以外の目的で一時的に海外に渡航する者
- 4 被保険者が外国に赴任している間に当該被保険者との身分関係が生じた者であって、2と同等と認められる者
- 5 1～4のほか、渡航目的その他の事情を考慮して日本国内に生活の基盤があると認められる者

本件は所管している厚生労働省によりますと、日本年金機構において、住民基本台帳の個人番号情報に基づいて、令和2年4月以降に国外転出した方を確認する事務処理を開始しており、この結果、海外居住が確認された国民年金第3号被保険者について、特例要件に該当する旨の届出（第3号被保険者関係届）の提出がない場合には、個別に周知されることなく資格喪失処理手続が行われることとなります。

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※ 手続きの詳細はこちらからも確認いただけます。

（日本年金機構HP）（<https://www.nenkin.go.jp/service/kounen/tekiyo/hihokensha/kyojuyoken.html>）

当館連絡先

Tel: (312) 280-0400（24時間対応）（注）

Fax: (312) 280-9568

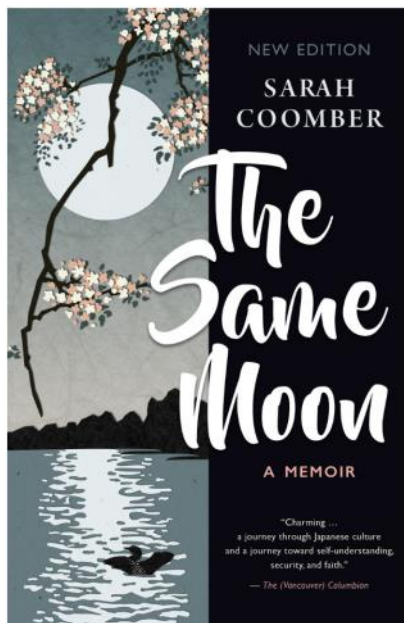
Email: ryoji1@cg.mofa.go.jp

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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
 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.

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@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@twincitiesjapaneseconversation.com



J | A | S | M

JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY
of MINNESOTA

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www.mn-japan.org

通信

Tsūshin
June 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

May 2022



(Top left) Nihonjin Kai members and Rio Saito, JASM Executive Director, back row right, at the monthly potluck lunch

(Bottom images from Ambassador Mondale's Memorial Service)

Left: President Joe Biden

Middle: Mr. William Mondale, Mr. Mondale's son

Right: The scene at Mr. Mondale's memorial service

