

Japan America Society of Minnesota



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

August 2022 Vol. 31, No. 8

Upcoming: Obon Festival 2022



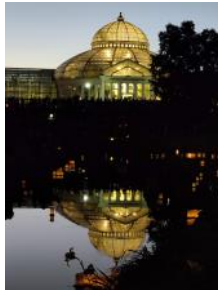
Obon Festival 2019

After two years, the 2022 Japanese Obon Festival is finally back! Please join us at **Como Park on Sunday, August 21 from 3 PM to sundown** for a celebration of Japanese culture and tradition. There will be food, singing, dancing, martial arts, and of course, lantern lighting! This is a family-friendly event, perfect for people of all ages. Beginning this year, attendees will

be required to prepurchase tickets [online](#).

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

metro
regional
arts
council



2022 Obon Festival T-shirt: volunteer and receive one free!



The image designed by Cecilia Ouyang

Thank you to all of those who have signed up to volunteer at the 2022 Obon Festival. We are still looking for volunteers for the second shift from 5-9:30 pm. Please see details on our website by clicking [here](#).

Please note that all volunteers need to attend a mandatory volunteer workshop via zoom on Thursday, August 11 at 6 pm to be briefed with the necessary information before the festival.

The image above will be printed on T-shirts for JASM volunteers! The T-shirts will be available to purchase after 7 pm at the main booth on the day of the Obon Festival. Volunteer and receive your shirt as soon as you check in at the festival!

Save the date for the 2022 JASM Charity Golf Scramble



FORE!!! JASM will be holding our annual charity Golf Scramble Tournament at Pioneer Creek Golf Course in Maple Plain, MN, on **Saturday, September 17th** at 1:00pm. ([705 Copeland Rd #9787, Maple Plain, MN 55359](#))

This tournament will follow a scramble format where the best ball per foursome is the one that counts. Regardless of your handicap, all teams have a shot at a birdie on every hole in a scramble. All tournament proceeds will benefit JASM's operations and programming.

Please invite your friends, family, and co-workers to this safe, fun outdoor event!

The tournament is limited to 18 foursomes. You can arrange your own foursome, or we'll get one for you.

In the event of inclement weather, the tournament will be rescheduled.

Saturday, September 17

Tee off at 1:00pm

Registration and check-in begin at 12:00 noon. Please arrive no later than 12:30pm.

Registration fees

On August 19 or before August 19

\$75/\$90 (JASM member/non-member) per person

After August 19

\$100/\$115 (JASM member/non-member) per person

Registration deadline is September 9th.

You will receive a confirmation email after the completion of your registration.

Registration includes:

- Driving range
- Golf cart
- Green fees
- Prizes and lots of fun!!

If you have questions, please contact:

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

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

Letter from the JASM President



Many of us in the Japan-America community are still processing the tragic assassination of former Prime Minister Abe last month. I was struck by a comment I heard from a Japanese person who viewed the funeral procession as his hearse drove through the streets of Tokyo. She said something to the effect that although there were many people who disagreed with his policies, the outpouring of support, well-wishes, and flowers from the citizens of Japan showed that he was

respected. Respect is one of the Japanese values that I admire the most, and I feel it would be great if we Americans could develop more of a culture of respecting others for their good faith, despite our disagreements.

Late August is bittersweet for me because the days start to grow shorter, signaling the end of summer. Fortunately, there are two great features of Minnesota that ease the pain of seeing summer slip through our grasp. First, September is beautiful! Unlike Japan, where the

dreaded 残暑 (ZANSHO = lingering summer heat) persists during the whole month of September and often well into October. Second, we have our very own O-BON festival! After two long years of COVID it will be great to get back together at Como Park, enjoy an authentic Japanese cultural experience, and, if the spirit moves us, honor our ancestors.



Bob Luck's daughter Marisa getting encouragement from Mom during a watermelon splitting event at an O-Bon festival in Tokyo—nearly 30 years ago!

One of my privileges as President of JASM is serving on the selection committee for the Mondale Award. This is the biggest award we give out in Minnesota, and it is one of the most prestigious and long-lasting awards for strengthening the Japan-US connection in the country. I can think of lots of people I would like to nominate, but since I help select the winner, I must recuse myself. All of you Tsushin readers, on the other hand, are free to nominate a deserving candidate. Don't delay — nominate today!

Bob Luck, JASM President

Mondale Award Nominations: Deadline Approaching



Do you know someone who has helped build an environment of understanding and respect between Japan and Minnesota? Nominate them for the Mondale Award for Japan-Minnesota Partnership! This award has been presented annually by JASM since 1997 to individuals and organizations that have shown success in bringing together the cultures of Minnesota and Japan.

The award was named for former Vice President Walter Mondale, who served with distinction as the U.S. Ambassador to Japan, and Joan Mondale, for her dedication to promoting the arts in both areas. The nomination form for the Mondale Award is due by August 15th, 2022.

Please click [here](#) for a list of criteria for the Mondale Award and [here](#) to nominate someone.

You can find a complete list of awardees by clicking [here](#).

We cannot wait to receive your nominations!

Membership News (6/21 – 7/20, 2022)

Thanks to the following new JASM members:

Tara Bianchi, Clint Conner, Tom Dietz,
Carson Freund, Kim Habig, David Mixon,
Susie Osaki Holm

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

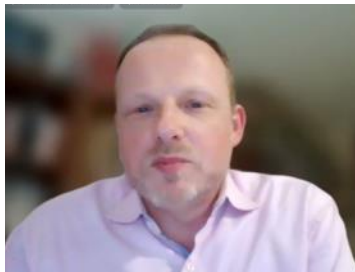
Michael Akin, Robert Atendido, William Deef,
Michiko Kato Dressen, Michael Erickson,
Naomi Fujioka, Katherine Furleigh,
Brittany Geaner, Nobu and Megan Hashizume,
Seikei Hibino, Gloria Kumagai,
Katrina Little, Hiroshi and Rika Nakato,
Elisheva Perelman, Chieko Rogers, Steven Savitt,
David and Olivia Smith, Luke Walbert

Thanks to the following renewing JASM Corporate members:

Kiku Enterprises Inc.
Murata Vios Inc.



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



On Thursday, June 30 JASM was delighted to host Dr. Andreas Marks virtually for an exclusive curator talk on the *Dressed by Nature: Textiles of Japan* special exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia). Dr. Marks is the Mary Griggs Burke Curator of Japanese and Korean Art at Mia, and this special exhibit simply would not have been possible without him. It was a special treat for JASM members and friends to get to personally hear about many of the textiles and other pieces on display from the very mastermind behind the entire project.

In a nutshell: When we think of Japanese textiles, our minds naturally gravitate towards beautiful and elegant silk *kimono*. Many museums across the globe have great collections displaying these *kimono*. However, these *kimono* were primarily restricted to the aristocracy and are not representative of the breadth and depth of Japanese textiles as a whole.

This is essentially what Dr. Marks wants to showcase through the *Dressed by Nature* exhibit. Rather than showcasing typical silk *kimono*, the exhibit opts to highlight the wide range of textiles and their various uses, as well as the people who wore them. Each piece in the exhibition shows the resourcefulness of the people who created them (primarily anonymous women) for the purpose of survival and or comfort. The pieces range from robes and coats to banners and mats made between 1750 and 1930.



Kaparamip
thin trade cotton with white
appliqué
Ainu people
Late 19th century
Cloth: cotton, cotton appliqué and embroidery
35.5 x 47 in (90.2 x 119.4 cm)



The textiles on display range from elm bark fiber used by the indigenous Ainu people of Hokkaido to banana leaf fiber utilized by the people of Okinawa. Roughly quoting Dr. Marks, *Dressed by Nature* is not only a feast for the eyes, but also incredibly educational because viewers can learn about the stories and materials behind each textile.

In his presentation, Dr. Marks followed

the general structure of the exhibit itself. The *Dressed by Nature* exhibition will be open to the public until September 11, so please check it out if you haven't already! You won't regret it! In partnership with Mia, JASM is offering a discount code to purchase tickets. By using the code **DRESSED BY JASM**, both members and friends will be able to purchase up to 4 tickets at 50% off the regular price. You can purchase tickets by going to [the Mia exhibition website](https://www.mia.edu/exhibitions/new-clothes-dressed-by-nature).



Shō Royal Family Collection,
Naha City Museum of History

Finally, JASM would like to extend a huge thank you to Dr. Marks who was kind enough to provide JASM members and friends with a personal tour through the *Dressed by Nature* exhibit. Dr. Marks' knowledge and insight brought a new dimension to the already stunning exhibit.



Farmer's short coat (hanabishi) for winter
Late 18th-early 20th century
Cloth: cotton, silk, wool, paper (double layer), oshibori
(decorative reinforcement stitching), indigo dye

Please thank our members
with your support!

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World Languages





Hiroshima Nagasaki

TIME OF REMEMBRANCE
2022

**Friday,
August 5th**

Lyndale Park
Peace Garden
Lake Harriet
Minneapolis

7:00 p.m. Commemorative Tea Ceremony
Yukimakal Tea Study Group

**Saturday,
August 6th**

Lyndale Park
Peace Garden
Lake Harriet
Minneapolis

7:30 a.m. Remembering the Peacemakers
Sadako and the 1000 Cranes told by
Larry Johnson
Bell-ringing by Veterans for Peace

8:15 a.m. Moment of Silence
Procession to Peace Garden Bridge
Music by Stringbeans

**Monday,
August 8th**

Global Harmony Labyrinth
In Como Park
St. Paul
(Sister City of Nagasaki)

7:00 p.m. Nagasaki Commemoration
"Bowl Full of Peace"
Meditation led by Nancy Hyvarinen
Greetings from the mayors
Walking the labyrinth
Guest musician

The Minnesota Peace Ribbon will be displayed at the August 6 and 8 events.

Please bring your own chair to these events; masking is optional at these outdoor events.

The Hiroshima Nagasaki Commemoration Committee offers these events to the community to encourage reflection on the past and hope for the future through action in the present. It calls for the total abolition of nuclear weapons throughout the world as one measure of ensuring a just and lasting peace.

Support from Veterans for Peace, Chapter 27, Women Against Military Madness (WAMM) and the Saint Paul - Nagasaki Sister City Committee.

For further information:

www.stpaulnagasaki.org | MSPHNCC@gmail.com | 952.261.3891

Reflection on the Past. Action in the Present. Hope for the Future.

Recap: YOSAKOI Dance Workshop: Bringing Japanese Summer to the Sculpture Garden



It was a sunny hot day on Sunday, July 27 when we got together for the Yosakoi dance workshop at the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden. Yosakoi is a unique style of dance that originated in Kochi prefecture, on Shikoku, the smallest of Japan's major islands. It was taught by Maria Traxler, MinneSo Dance, who guided us first through some steps of the dances and then taught the next movements step by step. No matter what your skill level was, everyone was able to participate and have a good time. It was a free event sponsored by the Metro Regional Arts Council. Participants were not only the registrants but also the passers-by who were going to or coming from the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden.



(From right) Maria Traxler, Lida Traxler, Daniel Neuburger, in the beautiful Yosakoi costume with Naruko, hand clappers in hands.



Burnsville International Festival



Michiko Smith showing how to fold a samurai helmet

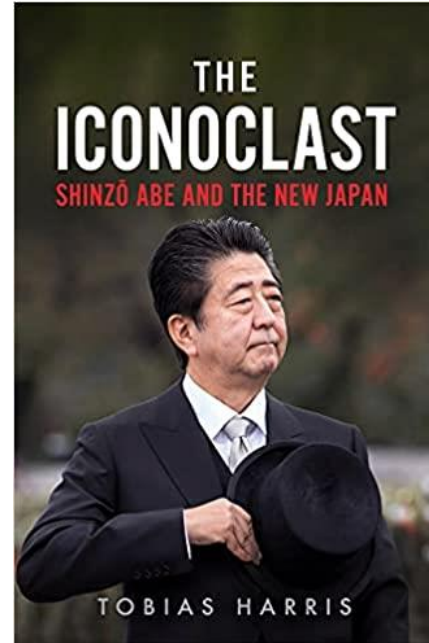
JASM participated in the International Festival of Burnsville Cultural Exhibit and Flag Ceremony on July 16, 2022, at Burnsville's Nicollet Commons Park.

JASM Executive Director Rio Saito and Board Member Michiko Smith introduced JASM activities and showed the visitors how to make a samurai helmet (kabuto) with newspaper. It was great to see many people walking around with our samurai helmets!



Tom Haeg's Book Review

The Iconoclast: Shinzo Abe and the New Japan; Tobias Harris; Hurst & Company, 2020; 423 pages.



Former Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe was assassinated by a lone gunman on July 8, 2022, while campaigning in Nara for a fellow LDP party member running for office in the Diet. News of the tragedy shocked Japan in particular and the world in general.

Abe served with distinction two separate terms as Japanese prime minister. In both terms he resigned citing poor health and scandals. In his first term he was one of the youngest to hold the office; in his second term he was the longest serving prime minister (although the bar for longevity is not exactly high for Japanese prime ministers). He will be forever associated with the label Abenomics in directing the Japanese economy in difficult times.

The Iconoclast is noteworthy because it was the first biography of our subject originally written in English (now translated into Japanese). Harris lived and worked in Japan and is quite capable of pontificating on Japanese culture, parties, and politics. He is not shy about reminding his readers about Abe's checkered pedigree. Abe's grandfather, Kishi Nobusuke, himself a former prime minister, was a Class A war criminal after World War II who served time in prison before parlaying his skills convincing the Allies he would stop the advancement of communism if only he could re-enter politics (huh, where have I heard that before?). During his reign he shamelessly courted oligarchs who today would make Putin seem like a boy scout.

Although the text is thorough and definitive, at times it seems to rely too heavily on Abe's own memoirs which are self-serving, and dated newspaper clippings which lack intimacy. Nonetheless, the character of the man and the depth of his accomplishments are adequately recited.

Funeral services for the immediate family and friends were arranged immediately after the assassination. A state funeral is planned this fall.

Tom Haeg

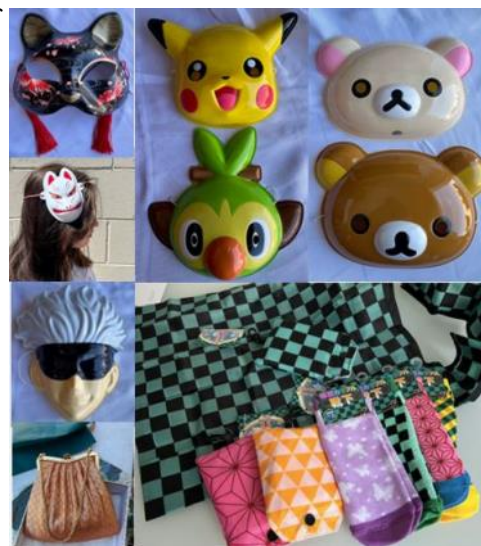
Obon Festival Sneak Peek: Items at the JASM Main Booth



We are very excited to show you some of the items you can purchase at the JASM main booth during the Obon Festival.

The picture on the left shows handmade purses by Ms. Hiroko Ikeda for which the materials and shipping costs were donated by Ms. Yoshimi Saito in Japan (thank you so much!). Please visit our main booth to take a look at them as well as the festival masks and the many other Japanese items that were donated by our members and friends. Find yourself a treasure!

For information about the Obon Festival please read page 1 or visit [our website](#).



North Dakota News: Japanese American History in Carrington

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 continue this occasional series.



Photos and the original flag in those days at Foster County Museum

Back on May 11th, I was invited to Carrington, a small town located 50 miles south of Devils Lake in North Dakota for a meeting to discuss the future Rainbow Gardens commemorative project.

Rainbow Gardens was opened by Japanese immigrant Harry (Taiju) Hayashi in the 1930s. It included the region's first motel, constructed around a lush Japanese-style garden complete with fishponds, a stream, and waterfalls. A cafe and pavilion were also on the Rainbow Gardens site. No one is yet sure how Harry ended up in Carrington.



Harry Hayashi

This was a very sad story: Hayashi was interned at Fort Lincoln prison camp in Bismarck during World War II. He was arrested only because of his Japanese nationality. All his assets were seized and his business was shut down. His family was left (temporarily) with no father.

After his release from the prison camp, Harry returned to Carrington. He was not going to give up! Harry opened a new café — the Miami Grill — and the menu was very authentic Asian-style food. But Rainbow Gardens fell into ruin as no one was maintaining the property. He eventually received his



Rainbow garden 1930s

trying to revive Rainbow Gardens to uplift the memory of how he had such a big impact in the small town.



The future rainbow garden site

citizenship papers — a few months after his death from an accident in 1954.

Although only a few local people remember Hayashi's family, the Carrington community is

In March 2022, a new plan was devised to honor the memory of the Hayashi family with a Japanese garden and interpretive center. In

collaboration with

the Carrington Chamber of Commerce, the Carrington Economic Development office, the city of Carrington, the Carrington Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Foster County Historical Society, and the Carrington Garden Club, a Board of Directors was formed under the name of Carrington Rainbow Gardens.

If you want to learn more about the Hayashi family, you can find the photos and resources from the website of Foster County Historical Society here: https://sway.office.com/EfltAs9xbDqa1Rf4?fbclid=IwAR0De7o_LfeuLegrQhPSUBD7dL5bE4Dx-DNPg_Bzqabq8gvbWQRHI3Z0Buk The Foster County Museum also has great materials from that era. Stay tuned as this exciting project develops!

Aiko Hatano, JASM Program Assistant

JASM 41 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 41 years ago from the JASM newsletter.

TSUSHIN

NEWSLETTER • JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

September 1981

JAPANESE ART EXHIBIT OPENS OCT. 14

Japan/Collectors' Choice, a benefit exhibition for the Japan-America Society of Minnesota and the St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee will open with a preview reception for members and guests Oct. 14 at Gallery St. Paul at the Commodore, 79 Western Ave. N., St. Paul, Minn.

The exhibition of more than 50 works from private Minnesota collections presents the remarkable genius and craftsmanship of Japanese artisans over several generations. Spanning some five centuries, the exhibit contains paintings, prints, ceramics, and works in wood, metal and cloisonne.

The Gallery Saint Paul in cooperation with the above organizations is sponsoring the exhibition with funding in part by the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations.

Invited guests to the reception from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14 will include the collectors and members of the local Japanese American organizations. Guests will receive invitations in late September.

Japan/Collectors' Choice will be on exhibit Oct. 15 through Nov. 13, open to the public Tuesday through Friday from 2 to 5 p.m.

For additional information, please call Betty Runyon at 698-2481 or 699-8050.

JAPANESE ARTIST-POTTER TO ARRIVE

Dayton Hudson Jewelers invites members of the Japan-America Society to attend a preview party Friday, Oct. 16 to view a new collection of Gen-emon pottery.

This is Gen-emon's second visit to Minneapolis. The artist-potter, a Buddhist monk from Arita, Japan, has returned with a collection he designed for the Dayton Hudson stores. He is known best for his sake and tea sets.

Reiko Weston's restaurant Fuji-Ya will provide refreshments for the evening.

HARA IS NEW PRESIDENT

New officers for 1981-82 are: Kimi Hara, president; Bill Egekvist, honorary chairman; Jim Aldridge, chairman; Akiko Sako, vice president; Fred Riebe, vice president; Oliver Bongard, vice president; Sumi Taramoto, treasurer; Evelyn Szregda, secretary.

SOCIETY CO-HOSTS WISEMEN TALK

Edson W. Spencer, chairman and chief executive officer of Honeywell, Inc., and Robert S. Ingersoll, former ambassador to Japan, will address the topic "The Future of U.S.-Japan Relations" Wednesday, Oct. 21.

WISEMEN SPREAD STORY

"Playing hardball with the Japanese doesn't get us anywhere. We must caution against scapegoating and any efforts to embarrass the other country," said Robert S. Ingersoll, former U.S. Ambassador to Japan, speaking May 11 to delegates to the Associated Japan-America Societies conference in Chicago.



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JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY
of MINNESOTA

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通信

Tsūshin
August 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

July 2022



YOSAKOI Dance Workshop: Bringing Japanese Summer to the Sculpture Garden



Burnsville International Festival



Burnsville International Festival



Minneapolis' New Clothes: Dressed by Nature—Textiles of Japan



- 5 galleries:
- Travel
- Firefighters
- Festivals
- Indigo
- Materiality / Techniques