

# Japan America Society of Minnesota



## 通 信

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

July 2022 Vol. 31, No. 7

### Mondale Scholarship 2022-2023 Applications Open



The Japan America Society of Minnesota (JASM) will award the Mondale Scholarship to select undergraduate students enrolled in Minnesota colleges and North Dakota State University who want to broaden their knowledge of Japan through a combination of study and travel. Former Ambassador Mondale continually promoted a deeper understanding of Japanese business, government, culture, and language among corporate leaders and employees in

America. JASM is proud to again have this opportunity to assist Minnesota/North Dakota students in their quest for a study experience in Japan. The scholarship program has been active since 1998.

The selection committee has the discretion to award up to \$2,000 for each scholarship. The awards are specifically to be used for travel to or within Japan before, during, or after the student's specified term(s) of study. ... continued page 3.

### Mondale Award Nomination 2022



In 1997, Japan America Society of Minnesota created the Mondale Award for Japan Minnesota Partnership to recognize

outstanding contributions to the building of understanding, cooperation, and respect between the people of Japan and Minnesota. The award was named for — and first presented to — Joan and Walter Mondale to recognize Mrs. Mondale's decades-long effort to promote the arts in both countries, and Ambassador Mondale's service as United States Ambassador to Japan. We will continue celebrating the life and legacy of Walter Mondale through the Japan America community.

JASM hopes to continue the distribution of this esteemed award this year. If you know someone who has dedicated their efforts to the continued benefit of the U.S.-Japan relationship, please nominate them! All applications must be submitted either by email to [jasm@mn-japan.org](mailto:jasm@mn-japan.org) or by filling out the form [here](#) by **Monday, August 16**. Find the criteria description [here](#).

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



Photo by Ryan McCaughtry

On Sunday, June 12 at Sundin Music Hall at Hamline University JASM hosted three Minnesota artists: cellist Jesse Nummelin, pianist Dr. Rie Tanaka, and dancer Yuki Tokuda who performed *Primavera* to kick off JASM's 50th Anniversary. Their performance was truly breathtaking to say the least. Jesse and Rie-san's cello and piano music meshed perfectly and complemented the graceful movements of Yuki-san. Each

element of the performance was in balance, and it was clear that the audience was hooked from beginning to end, clearly thirsting for just one more piece as the performance came to a close. Moreover, *Primavera* provided a special cross-cultural experience because it combined elements of western classical music with elements of Japanese tradition and culture.

The program was composed of seven pieces that varied in genre as well as style and theme. In each piece the audience was able to clearly understand the passion, emotion, and energy of the three artists. One of the themes of the performance, as explained by Rie-san, was hope. *Primavera* first came into development in fall 2020 when Rie-san and Yuki-san could not collaborate with each other in person due to COVID-19. Instead, they persevered and worked on this program via Zoom meetings. *Primavera* remained an emblem of hope for the day that they would be able to perform together. After over two years of canceled Harukaze concerts, they finally were able to do so.

..... continued on page 3.

## Recap: Corporate Roundtable with Dr. Yukiko Naruoka, AgriPro/Syngenta



On June 8th JASM hosted Yukiko Naruoka from AgriPro/Syngenta over Zoom for a presentation on wheat breeding. Tremendously knowledgeable, and moreover, skilled at conveying information in an accessible manner, Yukiko-san gave an overview of the wheat breeding process from start to finish. JASM members and friends

were able to get a better understanding of the process that produces the wheat that is essential for the bread, noodles, desserts, etc. that we enjoy daily.

Originally from Japan, Dr. Naruoka graduated from Montana State University with a Ph.D. in plant genetics and breeding. She completed a postdoctoral assignment at Washington State University where she was involved in wheat research that focused on identifying novel disease resistant genes and developing molecular markers for the Pacific Northwest. She has been working with Syngenta since 2016 as a spring wheat breeder developing new spring wheat cultivars in both conventional and hybrid wheat breeding programs for the Northern Plains.



*In a nutshell:* Wheat is essential in Japan, the United States, and throughout the world. Just think about all the delicious Japanese food that incorporates wheat - from ramen to takoyaki. To satisfy its high demand for wheat, Japan often imports wheat from foreign countries, with the US being the largest exporter of wheat to Japan. Fun fact: Over 90 percent of Japan's wheat comes from abroad with 50 percent of imports coming from the US! AgriPro/Syngenta wheat varieties have been consistently dominant in the wheat industry and particularly in the northern plains region, accounting for 30-40

percent of total market share. The northern plains (mainly North Dakota but also extending into northwest Minnesota and Montana) specializes in spring wheat, one of two types of wheat found in the US. Dr. Naruoka works as a spring wheat breeder, developing new breeds which eventually find their way to our plates. The goal of a wheat breeder as explained by Dr. Naruoka is to

“deliver producer-desired wheat varieties with greater economic returns that the industry accepts in terms of quality.” She further broke down a series of sub-goals including: 1. High production yield

2. High protein content 3. Good resistance to disease, insects, etc. 4. High quality for milling and baking. Dr. Naruoka went on to guide us through the breeding process which takes a whopping 10 years from start to finish. The breeding programs begin with a “cross” (think of it like a father and mother wheat meeting each other). This initial cross is then multiplied, tested, and continually selected for quality until a final breed emerges after 10 years. Dr. Naruoka concluded the presentation by giving us a glance at the future, particularly the development of hybrid wheat which seeks to improve economic yield and return.

AgriPro/Syngenta key stations in the US



We want to extend a huge thank you to Dr. Naruoka for giving us this insightful presentation on her work as a wheat breeder.



## Membership News (5/21 – 6/20, 2022)

### Thanks to the following new JASM members:

Mayumi Amada, Tara Bianchi, Sarah Coomber, Amy Dickerson, Benjamin Hawkins, Crystal Neff, Susie Osaki Holm, Lydia Rose

### Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

Holly Brackett, Charles Breer, Gretchen Dempewolf, Dawn Erickson, Tom Haeg, Katherine Hawkins, Jay Ihlenfeld, Donald Klein, Kathryn Klibanoff, Joseph Montgomery, Shuzo Murakami, Steven and Yukari Nelson,

### (Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:)

Michael and Sakiko Nilan, Bjork and Vicki Ostrom, Jeremy Pierotti, David Schulz, Elizabeth Simmer, William Strang Masanao and Theresa Takahashi, Jeromy Thotland, David Toplon, Alan Touchberry, Helen Traux, Ben and Christine van Lierop

### Thanks to the following renewing JASM Corporate members:

Daikin Applied



## Mondale Scholarship 2022-2023 Applications Open *continues...*

### Scholarship Program Timeline

#### July 21 - Application Deadline

- Aug 1 - Send interview invitations to candidates
- Aug 12 - Complete interviews of candidates
- Aug 15 - Award scholarships

The application process consists of the completion and submission of the following items:

Application form: [Google Form](#) / [PDF Form](#)

1. Official college/university transcript(s) from all institutions attended\*\*
2. Cumulative GPA 3.0 or higher
3. Two letters of recommendation. These letters should come from a faculty member or a member of the applicant's community of residence who knows the applicant well and who can attest to the applicant's desire to spend time studying and traveling in Japan.\*\*
4. An essay that addresses these questions: Why do you want to study and travel in Japan? What is your goal for this experience? How do you intend to use the scholarship dollars? The essay must be no longer than two double-spaced typewritten pages.
5. A copy of the letter of acceptance from the intended program of study in Japan.
6. The selection committee will review all applications and select finalists for interviews. These interviews will be held in during late July. Applicants unable to participate in the interview process may be disqualified by the selection committee.

\*\*These materials need to be sent directly to JASM from the institution and/or an individuals via email [jasm@mn-japan.org](mailto:jasm@mn-japan.org) or mail to JASM, P.O. Box 26639, Minneapolis, MN 55426

We are very excited to support selected students' study abroad experiences!



*Tatiana Gust, Mondale Scholarship recipient 2017–2018*

*Please thank our members with your support!*

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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 and World Languages



## Recap: *Primavera*: JASM's 50th Anniversary Harukaze Concert 2022 *continues...*

The beauty of their performance lay not only in the sweet harmonies of the piano and cello, or the grace of Yuki-san, but also in the perseverance and determination of these three amid hard times. There could not be a more fitting message as we continue to slowly move forward from the pandemic whilst still carrying the challenges it presented us with.

This event was made possible due to generous contributions by

**Noriko Ishida**

**Makoto Ishii**



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



*Photo by Ryan McCaughtry*

JASM would like to extend a special thank you to the individuals and organizations listed above, since Harukaze would not have been possible without them.

Finally, we would like to extend a huge thank you to Jesse Nummelin, Dr. Rie Tanaka, and Yuki Tokuda for sharing their beautiful work with us, instilling feelings of spring and new beginnings, and setting the tone for JASM's 50th anniversary celebrations.

## JASM 42 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 42 years ago from the JASM newsletter.



### TSUSHIN

NEWSLETTER • JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA  
Vol. I, No. 5 June 1980

#### MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE

Membership directories are now available to members of the Japan America Society of Minnesota (JASM). Directories were distributed to members who attended the 8th annual dinner meeting. The rest of the members received their directory with this mailing. The pocket-sized directories list members' names, addresses and telephone numbers.

New members who have joined since the directory's publication will be listed in the newsletter. Please make any changes in your own directory.

#### GOLF TOURNEY IN JULY

Tee-off is noon for the Society's Third Annual Golf Tournament July 13 at Keller Golf Course near Highways 36 and 61 in St. Paul.

Interested members should sign up soon, because there is a limit of eight foursomes. Entry fee is \$5.

For more information, contact tournament chairman Sam Honda. Sam also would appreciate hearing from any members about donations of merchandise that could be used as prizes for the golfers.

#### PICNIC AT PARK

Society members can wear their yukata to this year's obento picnic at the new Japanese garden in Como Park in St. Paul. The picnic is tentatively scheduled Sunday, July 20. More information will be sent to members in a later mailing.

#### JAPAN ON EXHIBIT

Turn of the century Japan is the subject of a photography exhibit Aug. 14-Sept. 21 at the Minnesota Museum of Art, 305 St. Peter, St. Paul.

The collection documents the period 1854-1905. European as well as Japanese photographers trained their lenses on Japan's landscape and people, capturing on film a culture caught between feudalism and the modern age.

The American Federation of Arts, in collaboration with the Japan House Gallery in New York, organized the collection. Curator Clark Worswick selected the 150 vintage photographs for inclusion in the exhibit, his third which focuses on Asian photography.

The collection, which is on a year long nationwide tour, opened at Japan House last December.

Members of the Japan America Society of Minnesota are invited to a special showing of the exhibit September 12. Dr. Jerry Fisher of Macalester College will talk briefly about the history of the era, following a dinner meeting co-sponsored by the Society with the St. Paul Nagasaki Sister City Committee and the museum.

Details will be sent to members in a separate mailing.

#### FUJI PHOTOS EXHIBITED

"The Many Faces of Fuji," an exhibit of color and black and white photographs of Mount Fuji by the Japanese photographer Koyo Okada, continues through June 8 at the Bell Museum of Natural History.

The museum is located at 17th St. and University Ave. S.E. in Minneapolis. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.



## Upcoming: Smart Agriculture and its Benefits (in-person event)



JASM is pleased to announce an in-person event: "Smart Agriculture and its Benefits" with Katsutoshi Mizuta at University of Minnesota Borlaug Hall on **Thursday, July 28th at 6:30 pm.** ([Google maps](#))

Smart agriculture has demonstrated its great possibilities to enhance crop productivity, economic returns, and environmental quality. The farmers use various sensors and data to optimize fertilizer application, irrigation, and soil nutrient leaching. This presentation reviews some advanced practices and technologies implemented in the US and world. A drone flight will follow to be demonstrated in a field nearby.

**Katsutoshi Mizuta PhD**, originally from Japan, is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Minnesota Precision Agriculture Center. He is leading a multistate precision nitrogen management research project in collaboration with Purdue University. He received his BS in environmental engineering in 2014. He also received both his MS in soil and water sciences (SWS) in 2016 and his PhD in SWS (minoring in food and resource economics). He also has experience in research from a local to regional scale with cutting-edge technologies (machine learning; proximal, airborne, and satellite remote sensing) based on big data from soil, crops, biome, climate, terrain, and geology.

Register [here](#) today!

**\$10: Non-member**

**\$5: Member**

*The ticket is not refundable, but transferable.*

## Looking for Volunteers

### Volunteers needed for 2022 Obon Festival!

We are looking for volunteers on  
**Sunday, August 21 at Como Park!**

To make the Obon Festival successful we need your help! Please join us to help support JASM booths and have fun while doing it.



Here are the volunteer positions we are looking for:

- Calligraphy
- Kingyo Sukui
- Yo-Yo Tsuru
- Japanese Quiz
- Balloon Makers
- Main Booth



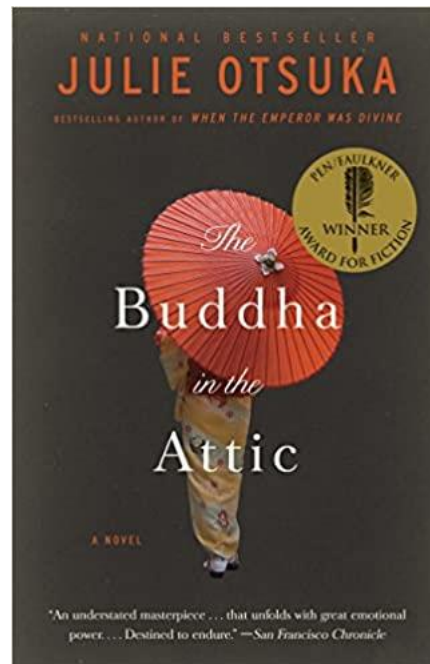
Scan QR code or click link in description for more info and sign up!  
<https://mn-japan.org/event-4860466>



**We are looking forward to working with you!**

## Tom Haeg's Book Review

*The Buddha in the Attic*; Julie Otsuka, Anchor Books, 2011; 129 pages.



In this historical fiction novel, we follow Japanese mail-order brides (mostly adults, some children) migrating to America from Japan at the turn of the century, romantically tethered to a dream and the word (uh, con) of for-profit Japanese marital matchmakers. These *nakoudo* – go-betweens – come right out of central casting. They are nothing more than conniving racketeer labor agents preying on the vulnerable, peddling low-end, menial jobs in America. We learn about the migrants' plights, squalors, and dreams. They were confused, used, and abused. It isn't pretty, but it's real.

While *The Buddha* is billed a novel, it better resembles a serial memoir wrapped in a travelogue. And don't expect a plot because there is none. We follow our migrant women right up to World War II to see how they were affected by the forced incarcerations in West Coast camps, too. The storyline tracks their struggles against gender inequality and racial stereotypes.

Otsuka's writing style is quite distinctive, adopting a first-person plural narration. It seems terse yet quite poetic with a unique cadence ("On the boat... On the boat..."). It symbolizes revelation, defiance, and resilience. Its language is direct without obfuscation. In fact, I don't recall even a one metaphor.

*The Buddha* was regarded as an eagerly expected sequel to Otsuka's award-winning novel, *When the Emperor was Divine*. And it does not disappoint. It was a National Book Award finalist for the Best Book of the Year.

*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.*



*FMJ Origami Meet n Greet on April 9th*

Although there is no Japan America Society in North Dakota, there is a local community for sharing Japanese language and culture in Fargo. It is called Fargo Meets Japan (FMJ).

Fargo Meets Japan started as a Facebook group three years ago, created by Minami and Conrad Klinkhammer. Originally, the group focused on free Japanese language learning for interested community members. Over time classes shifted to include music, media, games, and much more. Today Fargo Meets Japan hosts a range of events, classes, and experiences to help Fargo-Moorhead residents connect with the local Japanese community, every other Saturday afternoon. The organization also supports local Japanese Americans, helping them celebrate



*FMJ Field Trip - Hidden Teaching Okinawan Karate Dojo on May 9th*

and explore their heritage. FMJ has hosted several field trips, such as going to Karate dojo or joining Taiko drumming performances. Please follow the FMJ page and group on Facebook!

FMJ is working on hosting a Japanese cultural festival at Fargo's Broadway Square from 1-5pm on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. We are inviting several performers related to Japanese culture from the local area and calling for volunteers. Also, we will have Japanese food by Sushi Burrito Cafe in downtown Fargo. Please follow our update on the Fargo Meets Japan Facebook page!

*Aiko Hatano, JASM Program Assistant*



Left: Join FMJ  
Facebook group!

Right: Like FMJ  
Facebook page!



## JASM New Intern: Aravindh Subramanian

Hey folks,

My name is Aravindh Subramanian. I am a rising senior at Carleton College studying Japanese. I am super excited to be interning with JASM this summer as an event coordinator. I wasn't really interested in Japan until I began studying it in college, but through learning the language I naturally became interested in Japanese culture as well. I am looking forward to expanding my understanding of Japanese culture and interacting with the Minnesota Japanese community.



I am originally from New Jersey (I still do not know why exactly I came up to the coldest state in the continental US for college, but here we are!) Some of my hobbies/interests other than Japanese include track and field, eating anything sweet, and going on long walks.

I am not totally sure what I want to do post-graduation, but I think I want to live in Japan for some time. I am thinking about applying to the JET program to teach English next year. After all, there is no way I am going to let all the kanji that I have learned go to waste!

Overall, I'm really looking forward to working with JASM and building connections with all of you this summer!

よろしくおねがいします！

## 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**



## 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!

## 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

## *Dressed by Nature: Textiles of Japan at Minneapolis Institute of Art*

JASM received a discount code to visit the new special exhibition *Dressed by Nature: Textiles of Japan* which will be on view at the Minneapolis Institute of Art, our corporate member, from June 25th through September 11.

You can use the discount code (50% off) to purchase 4 exhibition tickets per transaction.

Code: **DRESSED BY JASM** (For purchases, please visit Mia's website [here](#))

(From Mia website: [Dressed by Nature: Textiles of Japan — Minneapolis Institute of Art \(artsmia.org\)](https://www.artsmia.org/exhibitions/dressed-by-nature-textiles-of-japan) )



(Picture left) 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

**June 25, 2022 - September 11, 2022**

Target Gallery, General Admission \$20; Mia member \$16; Investor+ Free; Youth 17 and under Free

The Japanese archipelago is home to extremely diverse cultures that made clothing and other textile objects in a kaleidoscope of materials and designs. 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.



J | A | S | M

JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY  
of MINNESOTA

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www.mn-japan.org

通信

Tsūshin  
July 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)*

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

