

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通 信

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

June 2023 Vol. 32, No. 6

Upcoming: Harukaze 2023 *The Boy Who Drew Cats* by Asako Hirabayashi (in-person)



Japan America Society of Minnesota presents the world premiere of a new concert opera, *The Boy Who Drew Cats*, by award-winning composer **Asako Hirabayashi**, collaborating with award-winning visual artist **Mayumi Amada**.

Based on an ancient Japanese folktale, rewritten by Asako Hirabayashi, the story is about how children's perceived shortcomings can end up being strengths, leading to success in their lives. Instead of a realistic stage set for the opera, Mayumi

creates imaginary, spiritual, and abstract images on the stage to enhance the opera's message. Influenced by the spirit and ideologies of Buddhism, Mayumi draws upon the philosophy of Zen to give direction to the creation of her work.

Sunday, June 11th, 3pm

Tickets

\$15 (Nonmember)

\$10 (Member)

The ticket is not refundable, but is transferable.



Sundin Music Hall

(Hamline University, 1531 Hewitt Ave., St Paul, MN 55104)

Story, Libretto, & Music by Asako Hirabayashi

Stage Design by Mayumi Amada

Brian Arreola (Leading Tenor)

Kelvin Chan (Leading Baritone)

Timothy P. Faatz (Tenor)

Sullivan Ojala Helmbolt (Baritone)

Justin Staebell (Bass)

Momoko Tanno (Narrator)

Daria Adams (Violin)

Mira Frisch (Cello)

Ivan Konev (Piano)

Max Kuzmyak (Videographer)

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



Announcement: Mondale Scholarship 2023



JASM will award the Mondale Scholarship to selected 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 has continually promoted a deeper understanding of Japanese business, government, culture, and language

among corporate leaders and employees in America. The Japan America Society of Minnesota is proud to have this opportunity to assist Minnesota/North Dakota students in their quest for a study experience in Japan. It's a tradition that began in 1998.

The selection committee has the discretion to award up to \$2,000 for the 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.

July 20, 2023 - Application Deadline

July 31, 2023 - Send interview invitations to candidates

Aug 11, 2023 - Complete interviews of candidates

Aug 14, 2023 - Award scholarships

For more information, please visit our [website](#).

Recap: JASM 50th Anniversary Photo Exhibition



On Tuesday, May 3rd we gathered at the Mall of America for the reception for the JASM 50th anniversary photo exhibition. With the help of the Mall of America and photographer Steve Ozone, we created the photo exhibition featuring members of JASM past and present.

The reception opened with JASM executive director Rio Saito welcoming everybody by thanking people for being a part of JASM throughout the 50 years of the organization.
(more pictures to see on pages 2 and 8) .. continues on page 4.

Meet Our Board Member: Mio Ishida



Hello, everybody. I'm Mio Ishida and I started helping out JASM with bookkeeping a while ago, and then was asked to become the treasurer and a board member towards the end of last year. I hesitated at first due to my inexperience and having no accounting degree (My BA is in studio arts/ceramics), but now I am very glad I came on

board. I've met a lot of really lovely people and enjoy participating in many of the great events put on by JASM.

I was born in Japan, immigrated with my family to MN when I was five, went to Saturday Japanese School for about a decade, and spoke Japanese at home. I haven't been back to Japan too often, but have a trip planned for August, which I have been told is a month to be avoided due to the heat and humidity, but my little cousin is playing his violin at a big-time concert at Suntory Hall in Tokyo, and I don't want to miss it!

I've worked at the University of MN for a couple of decades in several departments, including the Carlson School of Management and currently at the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) in financial administration.

It's hard to pick a favorite JASM event, but I have enjoyed several Harukaze concerts, and the Obon Festival at Como is always fun. I would love to see JASM grow in membership and to see more members get involved in any capacity they can.

If you see me at a future event, please introduce yourself. I would love to meet you!

Mio Ishida, JASM Board Member



From left: photographer Steve Ozone, with Noriko, Mio, and Tetsunori Ishida, in front of their photo taken by Steve.

Recap: JASM 50th Anniversary Photo Exhibition *continues...*



Membership News (4/21 – 5/20, 2023)

Thanks to the following new JASM members:

Jeff Albright, Gregory Cash, Kayako Dempsey, Shizuka Durgins, Heejin Hong, Yuka Shiotani, Peter Vesely

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

Micah and Chiemi Bly, Hanna Brandt, Frances Bressman Egan, Gretchen Dempewolf, Betty Tisel and Sarah Farley, Keiko Foss, Chris Griese, Katherine Hawkins, Jack Koepke, John Reinartz, Lydia Rose, Satoko Suzuki, Masanao and Theresa Takahashi, Kenichi Tazawa, David Toplan

Thanks to the following Corporate Members:

Taft, Stettinius & Hollister LLP
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Red Wing Sister Cities Commission
Satellite Industries, Inc.
Minneapolis Institute of Art
Tomodachi

Recap: New Member Social 2023 Welcome New JASM Members! (In-Person)



Picture left: JASM Executive Director, Rio Saito. Picture middle: Rio Saito explaining JASM activities. Picture right: JASM Board Member, Taku Nakaoka, Upsher-Smith/Sawai Pharmaceutical.

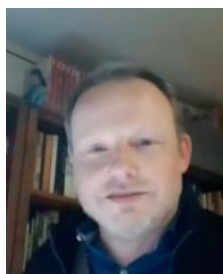
On Thursday, May 11th, JASM hosted our annual New Member Social. This year's social was special as it was the first New Member Social to be hosted in-person since 2019! New members who joined in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 were invited to attend. The event was held at the offices of Upsher-Smith/Sawai Pharmaceutical, one of JASM's corporate members, in Maple Grove.

In attendance alongside new members were JASM board members Taku Nakaoka of Upshe-Smith/Sawai Pharmaceutical, Peter Hill, and Jack Koepke, plus executive director Rio Saito, program manager Yoko Ueno, JASM volunteer Crystal Neff, and intern Chandra Colvin.

The event began with a presentation showcasing JASM's events of the past year. This included discussion of the annual J-Quiz and online webinars, which will continue online as JASM has welcomed participants from several states and countries. Executive director Rio Saito also highlighted upcoming online and in-person events for the summer and fall. New members also had the opportunity to introduce themselves and state their interest and/or connection to Japan. After the meeting, members socialized and got to know one another better while enjoying refreshments.

(More pictures to see on page 6 and 8)

Recap: Mia Curator Talk: The Art and Life of Fukuda Kodōjin: Japan's Great Poet and Landscape Artist (Online)



Dr. Andreas Marks

lifetime.

During the most recent Mia Curator Talk, which took place via Zoom on Thursday, April 20, we were joined by Dr. Andreas Marks (a frequent and long-time contributor to our Mia Curator Talks) for an in-depth discussion about the *Art and Life of Fukuda Kodōjin*. Fukuda Kodōjin is not a commonly known artist, but his works are incredibly impressive and bring a diverse range of styles that set him apart from many other Japanese artists, which range from abstract and monochrome to complex and vibrant. Today he is referred to as "Japan's great poet and landscape artist," and it is clear why when you experience his art. He was multi-faceted, skilled in poetry, painting, and calligraphy, and created more than 700 works throughout his

We began our discussion with a warm introduction from Rio Saito, executive director, before she gave the floor to Dr. Marks to share his knowledge and insights about the artist. Amazingly, Kodōjin's work has been a surprising discovery even for Dr. Marks, as the works are not widely shared throughout the world.



Moon over Azure Mountains, January 1899
Bachmann Eckenstein Japanese Art, Switzerland



Wedding photo of Kodōjin and Misu, 1900

... continues on page 4

*Please thank our members
with your support!*

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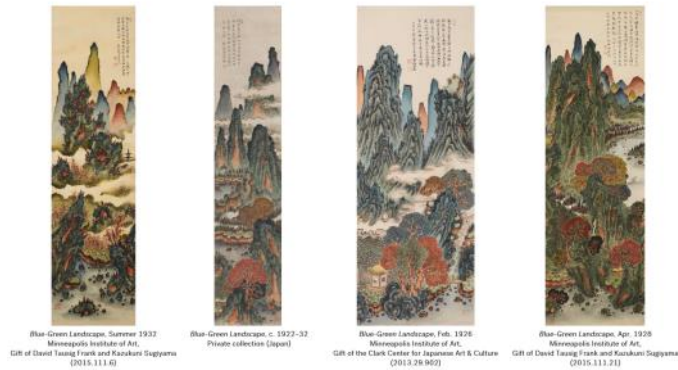
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Noriko Ishida
Ron and Molly Leonhardt
Bob and Hisayo Luck
John and Hiroko Shade

Recap: Mia Curator Talk: The Art and Life of Fukuda Kodōjin: Japan's Great Poet and Landscape Artist (Online) continues...



In fact, there have only been two other exhibitions of his work to date, while the third (also the first in the U.S.) is here now in Minneapolis at the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia).

The artist Kodōjin was born in 1865 in Wakayama, Japan. It is believed that his work became known within niche communities throughout Kodōjin's travels. In the late 1920s, he developed a "fan club" of sorts, which included often prestigious members of society, such as politicians, industrialists, etc. This became known as the "Kodōjin Society" which likely included about 90 members. An interesting fact: Kodōjin would often use different aliases for different works and times, which could contribute to there being extant works still unknown, and which wait to be discovered or identified.

There are many fascinating stories to discover through Kodōjin's paintings and poetry, and we encourage you to visit the Minneapolis Institute of Art to view an impressive collection of 60 works to learn more about the art and life of the artist. The book The Art and Life of Fukuda Kodōjin: Japan's Great Poet and Landscape Artist, by Dr. Marks, is the first publication about Kodōjin in English and is an in-depth exploration of the artist's life, and can also be purchased at Mia.

For those interested in viewing this exciting and first-ever exhibit of the artist in the country, you can do so now through July 23rd at the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

We'd like to thank Dr. Andreas Marks for his continued support of JASM, offering a unique view into often otherwise obscure Japanese history and art.

We'd also like to thank our members, attendees, and JASM supporters who continue to show up with enthusiasm for these events. We love that we can share the history and culture of Japan with others in a meaningful and engaging way.

Crystal Neff, JASM Program Volunteer

Mia
Minneapolis Institute of Art

Recap: JASM 50th Anniversary Photo Exhibition continues...



Steve Ozone greeted the group next. He spent a whole year creating the series of beautiful portraits. Before the group toured the photo exhibition, JASM president Bob Luck also addressed participants.

The photographs are on the north wall of the large food court in the Mall of America, where thousands of people will walk by it every day. The participants enjoyed the wonderful photographs, taking pictures in front of them and reuniting/meeting with old and new JASM members in person. The photographs are so great, and it is especially delightful to see so many Japanese people pictured on the wall of such a popular place as the Mall of America.

There are so many more people who have been supporting JASM over these past 50 years, who are not in the photographs. JASM is still here only because of all those who have been with the organization, and we would like to thank all of you from the bottom of our hearts.

The exhibition was originally scheduled to be up until the end of May, but it is extended to be there throughout June. If you have not seen it, please make sure to visit MOA and see the photos. Also, the MOA generously offered to give JASM members a coupon book when you visit. Please contact Rio at executivedirector@mn-japan.org to let her know when you'll go and how many people will visit, and she can arrange with the mall.



Former Board Members: From left: Mirja Hanson, Paul Sherburne, Sarah Walbert

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



North Dakota News: Grand Forks Japan Fest!



Please join us at the [Grand Forks Japan Fest](https://fb.me/WdEKHnUA) at Town Square Market (1 S 3rd St, Grand Forks, ND 58201), on Saturday, July 8th from 10 am to 1 pm. Grand Forks is located 80 miles north of Fargo.

This small festival will be held at the Farmer's Market in Grand Forks, hosted by Aiko Hatano, Japan Outreach Initiative Coordinator at Mayville State University, and Kara Hung, Grand Forks - Kanuma Exchange Coordinator. The stage performances will include karate by Shotokan Karate YMCA Grand Forks, Radio Taiso and Bon Dance by kids, Soran Bushi (Japanese fisherman's) Dance by the Japanese Cultural Association/University of North Dakota, Koto performance by Sarah Coomber (JASM member), and Japanese Calligraphy demos by May Negron (UND student). Eric Eff/Superjuice, DJ of The Russian Predicament and a part of Anison Hijack/Radio Free Fargo will be MC during the stage performance. Activity booths will include origami, face painting, Japanese toys, Japanese foods, and more.

Another reason you should visit Grand Forks for this event is on the eve of Japan Fest, Friday, July 7th, there will be a FREE Japanese movie night at The Empire Arts Center (415 DeMers Avenue, Grand Forks, ND 58201), which is a traditional theater located in downtown Grand Forks. The movie is "Dad's Lunch Box" 「パパのお弁当は世界一」, borrowed from Japan Foundation. The time schedule is to be determined. This event venue is sponsored by Mayville State University.

There is no sister city with Japan in North Dakota, but Grand Forks used to be a sister city with Awano city, Tochigi. After Awano city was absorbed by Kanuma city, they called the relationship a friendship city. Aside from there being a small commemorative Japanese garden at Sertoma Park, this relationship is not well known, so we would like to make it better recognized. Hopefully host families will volunteer once an exchange program is revived.

Grand Forks is a bit far from the Twin Cities, but if you've never come to North Dakota, this is a chance and the reason for you to come! At the farmer's market, there are many local vendors so you can experience Japanese culture and North Dakota local items at the same time!

For more information and to keep an eye on updates, please visit and click on *going/interested* on our Facebook event page. <https://fb.me/WdEKHnUA>

Aiko Hatano, JASM Program Assistant

Tom Haeg's Book Review

Ardent Women; Sr. Olivia Forster, OSB; Liturgical Press, 1997; 226 pages.

Ardent Women is mostly a detailed history about a confederation of nuns admitted to Benedictine monasteries. Its relevance beyond religious cloisters may appear distant to the average JASM reader. But I found myself pausing, not about the text, but the author. I needed to examine the 'rest of the story'. Once, even Walter Mondale, a contemporary of the author, asked me: "I've heard of this Olivia. Who was she?" Let me explain.

Our author, Sr. Olivia, born in 1924 on a North Dakota dairy farm, one of twelve children, entered the novitiate during World War II at the Order of St. Benedict, a monastery in St. Joseph, MN. At this time, nuns in her monastic community were in China performing works of mercy for a starving population when the Japanese Imperial Army jailed them in an internment camp. When the atomic bomb dropped in 1945, they fled to Taiwan to escape invading Soviets. While in Taiwan, Douglas MacArthur, the Supreme Allied Commander in Japan, declared the right of Japanese girls to an education. The nuns then left for Tokyo en route to Minnesota. One evening they woke to a knock on their convent door by a person kneeling *seppuku* style, a knife to his gut. They recognized him as their camp guard. A brute. He begged for their forgiveness, which of course they gave. Well, this made all the papers in Japan including in Muroran in Hokkaido. After reading this and learning about the nuns' education skills, the town bargained: "If you come to teach in Muroran, we will build you a school." They did.

Olivia succeeded these nuns and was assigned to the school in Muroran. Without a degree in education and no business experience, she was teacher and principal of the school for over 25 years. All her students graduated, she met payroll every week, and complied with every rule and regulation promulgated by the Ministry of Education in Tokyo. Japanese language? No problem, she was self-taught and became fluent in Japanese. Her salary: \$0.00.

She eventually came back to Minnesota. Then, at age 87, Olivia returned to Hokkaido. Former students and teachers thronged Narita airport and the Muroran school to greet her. The mayor of Muroran, who wasn't even alive when she was principal, heard about her return and proclaimed 'Sr. Olivia Day' in Muroran. A tree was planted in her honor.

Olivia died in 2017 and is buried at the St. Ben's cemetery. Current students of the Muroran school who visit Minnesota ask to visit her grave. They sprinkle water on it. Water brought from Hokkaido.

Now, here's the counterintuitive kicker to *Ardent Women*: while it is devoted to Catholicism, Olivia's life in Japan was not; instead, she celebrated tolerance for all religions. She especially assimilated Japanese families' Shinto and Buddhist rituals, beliefs, and holidays into the school's Christian curriculum. Here she was: a woman professing to a single monastery who joyfully found hope and fulfillment in ecumenical diversity, over 5,000 miles away from where she first milked cows as a little girl.

Oh, yes. Every night before she went to bed, right up to her death, she read the Bible...in Japanese.

Tom Haeg

Cherry Trees Celebration (Saint Paul Nagasaki Sister City Committee)



Japanese dancing and taiko drumming will welcome guests to the 11th anniversary of the Gift of Cherry Trees from Japan to St. Paul on Saturday, June 10. Activity tables for young and old sponsored by JACL, JASM, and other related groups. Special guests from the Japanese Consulate in Chicago and local and state officials. Free and family friendly.

June 10, 2023, 9am-11:30am

Free family-friendly event

Location: Como Park, by the Cherry Trees at the Global Harmony Labyrinth and Butterfly Lot

History

In 2012, the 100th anniversary of the gift of cherry trees to Washington, DC, the Japanese government generously donated groups of twenty cherry trees to thirty-six American cities. St. Paul was chosen in large part because of the almost 60 year history of being sister city with Nagasaki. Bill Pesek, SPNSCC board member and landscape architect with the Parks and Recreation Department, arranged for them to be planted near the Mannheimer Memorial in Como Park, beginning to tie the Global Harmony Labyrinth, the restored lily pond, and the Charlotte Ordway Memorial Japanese Garden together. The trees were planted and dedicated on June 9, 2012. Honored guests included Ichiro Sawada, Deputy Consul from Chicago, Representative Betty McCollum, plus city council members, former Mayor George Latimer, and Mayor Coleman. Sansai Yonsei Kai performed two sakura dances. Leo Hansen performed the shakuhachi flute at the ceremony and guests were greeted at the Japanese Garden by western flute player Ryusuke Jono.

在シカゴ日本国総領事館からのお知らせ

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。

This is a notification from the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago.

総領事館の領事窓口をご利用の皆様へ

当館の領事サービスをご利用いただき誠にありがとうございます。

当館領事窓口時間に関し、当地における新型コロナウイルスの感染状況及び管轄地域内の経済・社会活動の再開状況をふまえ、新型コロナウイルス感染症に係る緊急事態が解除されましたので、5月18日(木)から当館領事窓口時間をコロナ前の窓口時間に戻すことといたします。皆さまにより良質な領事サービスを提供できるよう引き続き努めてまいります。どうかよろしく御理解のほど、お願いいたします。

【領事窓口受付時間】

○現行の短縮した窓口時間：土曜・日曜・祝祭日を除く毎日10:00～12:15、13:15～15:00（電話対応時間：09:15～12:15、13:15～17:00）

*但し、在外選挙人名簿登録関係の申請・届出等については、09:30～12:15、13:15～16:00にて領事窓口にて受付可能。

○5月18日(木)から施行

新型コロナウイルス前の窓口時間：土曜・日曜・祝祭日を除く毎日09:30～12:15、13:15～16:00（電話対応時間：09:15～12:15、13:15～17:00）

当館連絡先

Tel: (312) 280-0400 (24時間対応)

Fax: (312) 280-9568 Email: ryoji1@cg.mofa.go.jp

Recap: New Member Social 2023 Welcome New JASM Members! (In-Person) continues..



Ad: Japanese Treasures Garage Sale!

Japanese Treasures Garage Sale!



Decades' worth of a family's collection

WHAT: Kitchenware, Kimono, Linens, Books, Fans, Origami, & more...

WHEN: June 9-10 FRI-SAT 9am to 3pm

WHERE: Alley of 1685 Hillcrest Ave, St Paul
(first alley south of Ford Parkway)

CASH ONLY



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)

Japan America Society of Minnesota
P.O. Box 26639, Minneapolis, MN 55426

Individual Membership

Sakura Circle Membership \$1,200+
Individual \$50
Student \$30
Household \$75
(2 adults plus children under 18)

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.

Save the Date for the 2023 JASM Charity Golf Scramble



2022 JASM Charity Golf Scramble participants

JASM will be holding our 3rd annual charity golf scramble event on **Saturday, September 23** 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.

Registration fee:

Early Bird price through August 23

\$90: Non-member, \$75: Member

From August 24 to September 16

\$115: Non-member

\$100: Member

Please click [here](#) to register
or scan the QR code.



For further information, please contact:

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

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



J | A | S | M

**JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY
of MINNESOTA**

P.O. Box 26639
Minneapolis, MN 55426

jasm@mn-japan.org
www.mn-japan.org

通信

June Tsūshin
2023

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 Events



Recap: JASM 50th Anniversary Photo Exhibition

