

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通信

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

November 2023 Vol. 32, No. 11

Takuzo Ishida Memorial Scholarship 2023

JASM will award the Takuzo Ishida Memorial Scholarship to a student enrolled in a Minnesota high school who wants to broaden their knowledge of Japan through a combination of study and travel. Applications will be open on December 1. Please click [here](#) for details.



Timeline:

- Start accepting applications: **December 1, 2023**
- Deadline for applications: **January 1, 2024**
- Finalists' interviews with scholarship committee members: **During January 2024**
- Scholarship winner will be notified: **February 2024**

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

Please read "Note from the Takuzo Ishida Memorial Scholarship Recipient 2022: Walter Barlow" on page 3.

Upcoming: JASM Fundraiser Chirimen and more 2.0

Sunday, November 19, 1pm-7pm

Asia Mall

12160 Technology Dr.,
Eden Prairie, MN 55344



We have received a generous donation of chirimen suits and a variety of items from Yukari Tokiwa-san to support JASM.

The chirimen suits are one-of-a-kind, designed by [Hitoshi Tamura of Shisendo](#). They are gently used, and in very good condition/quality.

Chirimen is a plain-woven silk crêpe made of high twist raw silk yarn. It is a soft fabric that doesn't crease easily, and its signature crimped surface texture (*shibo*) is what distinguishes chirimen from other silks. Chirimen is a very popular fabric not only in Japan, but all over the world.

Tamura has slowed production lately, so it is becoming more difficult to find his work, but you can have it with just a \$50 donation.

You will receive one piece of chirimen clothing with each \$50 donation. If you would like to have a matching jacket and skirt, you would need to donate \$100.



[Here are examples](#) of the type of items you will see at the fundraiser. As this is the second fundraiser, we may or may not still have the same items as in the preview. The photos represent just a tiny portion of what we have. Please take a look.

Save the Date for the Annual Meeting



2022 Annual Meeting at MGK Company, JASM corporate member

It is time for JASM's annual meeting. The Annual Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 13th at 6:30 pm** at the offices of JASM corporate member [Taiyo International, Inc.](#)

Please mark your calendar!



Tamura's work is typically sold for \$300 a piece or more.

At this special Asia Mall event, we will offer:
Over 70 pairs of shoes,
Over 30 handbags,
Over 200 pieces of Ready to Wear,
Over 200 pieces of Chirimen, and
Over 50 scarves.

Continues on page 2.

Recap: Elevating the Art of Gyotaku with Dwight Hwang (Online)



Our most recent event, “Elevating the Art of Gyotaku with Dwight Hwang,” took place on October 11. Dwight Hwang joined us online for an in-depth talk about the traditional Japanese method of “printing” fish, known as *gyotaku*. The technique, which dates back to about 1837 and the Samurai Age, is preserved and expanded upon

through Dwight’s unique approach and commitment to the craft of using sumi ink to paint sea life (and other interesting forms) and print them on calligraphy paper, essentially mimicking the process of stamping. Dwight’s story and work has received national and international acclaim and is sought after by marine biologists, scientific organizations, museums, and many others. If you were unable to attend, here are some interesting facts about the process itself, and Dwight’s story and artistry, as well as info on you can find his work.



Hawaiian Squid, 2022 & Detail

Dwight’s interest in *gyotaku* stemmed from a life long passion for the arts and drawing. During his time working in Tokyo animation studios as a storyboard artist, Dwight took up fishing in rivers,

which he enjoyed tremendously. Fascinated by fish of all kinds, he would admire the fish he caught as well as the *gyotaku* prints on the walls and ceilings of the tackle shops he visited, which he likened to fossils of sorts on paper. This is an art that fuses his many interests and passions.



Dwight honed his technique through years of practice – he says, much like a sushi chef will cook rice for many years to become an expert in their craft. *Gyotaku* is a craft that requires much patience but is incredibly rewarding. Dwight’s work is especially unique in that he incorporates other organic forms and materials into his work, such as plants, birds, seeds, and even people, weaving their incredible stories into his art.

Continues on page 4.



Octopus Pair, 2022

Upcoming: JASM Fundraiser Chirimen and more 2.0 *continued...*

Anyone who donates \$200 or more will receive one pair of shoes or a handbag for free.

This is a great chance for you to own beautiful chirimen clothes. You can wash them in the washing machine -- and no wrinkles!

All of the pieces are in a range of size **6-10**.

Shoes are size 6 or so.

Please join us for this unique fundraising opportunity at Asia Mall and support JASM!

Huge Thank-you to Asia Mall for providing JASM with space for this event!



Membership News (9/21 – 10/20, 2023)

Thanks to the following new JASM members:

Benjamin Coler, Nancy Kosciolk,
Kyoko Nagayasu, Donna Winberg,
Anne Young

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

JoAnn Blatchley, Marc and Amy Blehert,
Susan Jacobsen, Birgit Kantor,
Bob and Hisayo Luck,
Mark Prpich and Sarah Walbert,
Maggie Quam, Karl Reinhard, Richard Talke,
Junko Ueda, Ben and Christine van Lierop

Thanks to the following Corporate Members:

Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.

Note from the Takuzo Ishida Memorial Scholarship Recipient 2022: Walter Barlow



Going to Japan had always been a dream of mine, and in June of 2023 I was finally able to fulfill that dream by going with my school on a trip that would change my life. I got to experience traveling abroad for the first time and was able to use the language that I had been learning for the past 4 years. It was amazing meeting so many people and going to places such as the Gundam Factory and the Pokémon Center.

But easily the best part of my two-week school trip was getting the awesome privilege of doing a home stay with a Japanese family in Oshu City in Iwate Prefecture. While there, a few classmates and I went to a specialty school called Mizusawa 1st High School where I was able to attend classes and club activities with the students there.



This whole experience, looking back on it now, is like a dream. But I was almost unable to go on this trip due to my family's recent financial struggles. I am forever grateful to the Ishida family and to JASM for their support, gifting me the funds necessary to go on such a trip. I used the scholarship money to cover the remainder of the trip expenses that I was only able to cover half of myself, so without them I wouldn't have been able to have this experience. The memories I made

while in Japan will last a lifetime, and I hope that the future recipients of this scholarship will be positively impacted just as much as I have been.

Walter Barlow, Takuzo Ishida Memorial Scholarship recipient 2022



Please thank our members with your support!

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Noriko Ishida
Bob and Hisayo Luck
John and Hiroko Shade

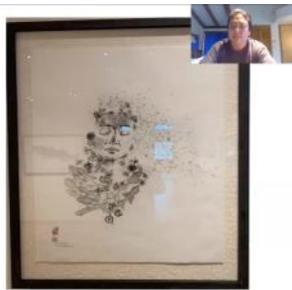
Recap: Elevating the Art of Gyotaku with Dwight Hwang (Online) *continued...*



Octopus- Red and Brown, 2023

Today, Dwight practices his art full time and is a sought-after gyotaku artist with work exhibited around the world. It is a profession and expression of art that he enjoys immensely to this day. Not only does it allow him to do what he loves for a living, it has given him the opportunity to travel the world with his family.

Dwight's work will be featured at the Minnesota Marine Art Museum in the exhibit *From Sea to Paper: The Gyotaku Prints of Dwight Hwang* through January 7, 2024. You can also visit his website and view his collection of work here: <https://www.dwighthwang.com>



Human Portrait- Dashed Wishes, 2021

We'd like to thank Dwight Hwang for sharing his time, story and art with us. A big thanks as well to our members and donors – we appreciate the support!

Crystal Neff, JASM Program Volunteer

MMAM MINNESOTA MARINE ART MUSEUM

Advertise in the Tsushin!

Advertisement Rates

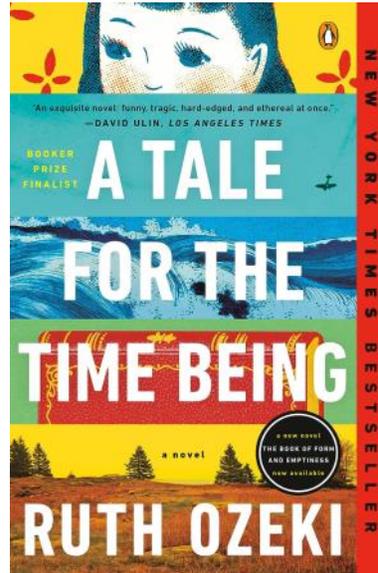
Style	Size (height x width)	Cost/issue
1/4 page	5 x 3.5 in	\$50.00
1/2 page	7.5 x 5 in/3.5 x 10 in	\$90.00
Full page	7.5 x 10 in	\$150.00
Classified	80 character line (minimum 2 lines)	\$10/line

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

Tom Haeg's Book Review

A Tale for the Time Being; Ruth Ozeki, Viking Penguin Books, 2013.



The premise is simple, although odd and coincidental. A Hello Kitty lunchbox (think: a bobbing corked bottle) is washed ashore on a British Columbia beach as part of the oceanic drift following the 2011 *tohoku* tsunami. Its contents: a hand-written diary by a 16-year-old transplanted, bullied, suicide-prone American girl living in Tokyo with Japanese parents. The reader of the diary: a Canadian of Japanese ancestry. And now the plot thickens: figuring out the diary.

The diary's progression is the basis of the story line. We learn about forbidden topics of Japanese culture, family dynamics, dreams, schemes, Zen Buddhism, a 104-year-old Japanese great grandmother Buddhist monk, a decision by a kamikaze pilot in World War II whether to follow orders or morally abort a doomed mission. There is a 'whodunit', a 'why or why not' and a 'how come' to move the dialogue. The diary's voice becomes a cryptic platform for the mystery. If that isn't enough, to balance the diary the author creates a separate narrative by our Canadian protagonist on this side of the ocean.

Complicating the reading are non-linear chronologies which at first seem awkward but make sense in the end if you remain committed to the plot. Although at first this was difficult to follow, it added an important historical perspective to the story. Yet what remains perplexing, at least to me, is that Ozeki apparently tries to wrap everything up by somehow combining (some may say 'force feeding') her personal Zen Buddhism practices with quantum mechanics to reveal the diary's truth. Now there's a strange bedfellow (I told you it was odd). Yet it somehow succeeds in bringing closure, with a bent for the bizarre. Said in other words: metafiction surfaces to blur the boundaries between fact and fiction.

A Tale received the Los Angeles Times award for Best Fiction in 2013 and was named the first recipient of the Yasnaya Polyana Literary Award for best Foreign Novel of the 21st Century. It has been translated into 30 languages, so someone assuredly is reading it. Ozeki currently teaches literature at Smith College.

Tom Haeg

2024 Haiku Contest: The Minneapolis Ibaraki Sister City Association



The 2024 Haiku Contest is now accepting entries!

This year's theme is "tomo (友)" which means "friend".

Entries must be received by 11:59 pm on Wednesday, December 13, 2023.

The contest is open to students in grades K – 12 that attend a Minneapolis Public School. There is also an Adult category that is open to any adults living or working in Minneapolis. Entries are due by 11:59 pm on Wednesday, December 13, 2023.

Entries can be submitted as follows
Via [Google Form](#) (Best)
Via email to: misca.info@gmail.com

Remember that how wonderful your poem may sound to the MISCA judges, if it doesn't follow the 5-7-5 syllable pattern it will be rejected!

Last year we received over 600 entries. In January, MISCA board members will do an initial judging of all entries and select what they feel are the best 30 Haikus in each age category, K-5; 6-8; 9-12 and Adults, to send on to Ibaraki for final judging. The top eight winners in each category will receive their awards at the Annual Haiku Contest Ceremony to be held sometime in April of 2024.

We look forward to reading all of your amazing Haiku!



November 19
JASM Fundraiser: Chirimen and more 2.0

December 13
Annual Meeting 2023

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.

領事館より

オンライン申請時における領事手数料のオンライン決済導入のお知らせ

This is a message from Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

【本メールは、通常、お住まいの国・地域を管轄する在外公館から送信している領事メールとは異なり、在留邦人の皆様に向けたご案内であるため、外務本省からお送りしています】

7月10日から、お住まいの国・地域を管轄する在外公館において、旅券等をオンラインで申請した方（現地時間7月10日（月）午前0時以降に受理したオンライン申請が対象）については、これらの領事手数料のオンライン決済（クレジットカード/デビットカード）が可能となります。

オンライン申請の対象となる申請の詳細は、申請予定の在外公館ホームページをご確認ください。

<オンライン決済の概要>

1 手数料

円貨建て（現金払いの場合は現地通貨となります）

- 2 利用可能なクレジットカード
VISA、MASTER、AMERICAN EXPRESS、DINERS、JCB
- 3 利用可能なデビットカード
VISA、MASTERがついているものに限られません。

4 決済手数料
無料。ただし、日本以外で発行されたカードの場合は、カード会社により、別途、手数料がかかる場合があります。

5 領事窓口でのクレジットカード決済はできません。オンライン上での手続きをお願いします。

■ 領事手数料のクレジットカードによるオンライン決済について

https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/toko/page22_004053.html



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通信

November 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

October Events

