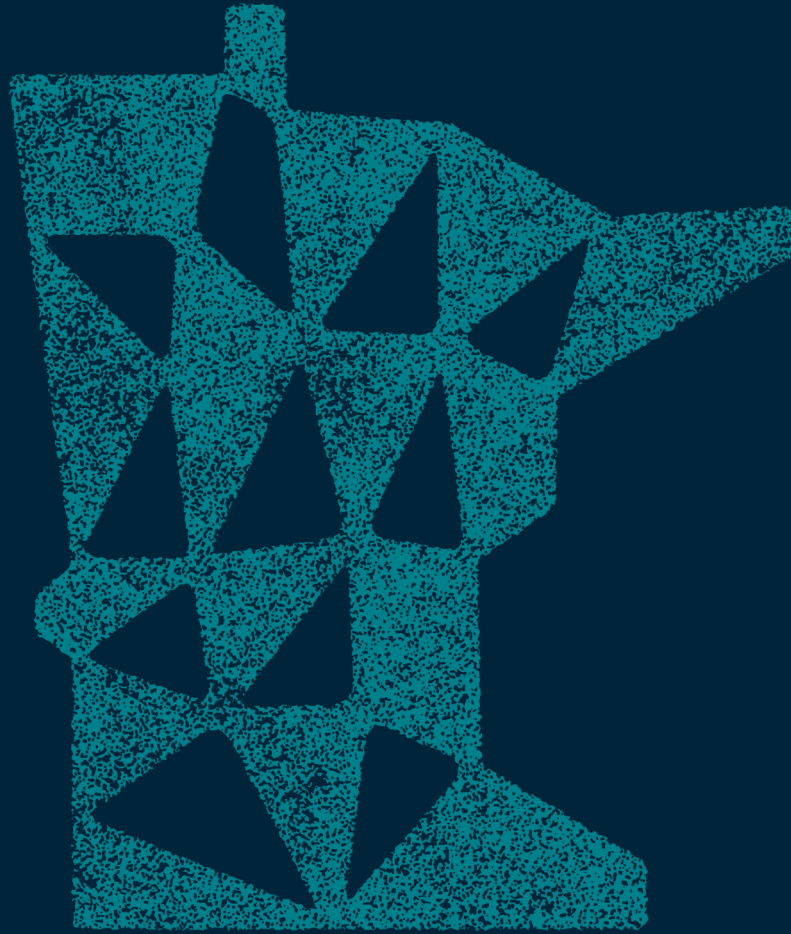


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2021 Annual Report
JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY
of MINNESOTA

A Letter from the President



Elizabeth Fehrmann
JASM President

Dear JASM family and friends,

It's been a year of ups and downs for the Japan America Society of Minnesota. We settled further into our virtual capabilities and conducted a number of successful events, and I'm proud of our team for their flexibility and resilience.

Unfortunately, we continued—and continue—to feel the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, even as the country and the world began to make progress toward mitigating the spread. While we here in Minnesota had the good fortune to have access to vaccines in the first half of 2021 and the incidence of the virus was trending sharply down by the end of July, we've seen a resurgence in the latter half of the year. As such, we make a commitment to all of you to continue to adhere to all CDC and Minnesota state pandemic guidelines as we conduct our future events to ensure the health and safety of our JASM staff, volunteers, and community.

In light of continued pandemic precautions, we successfully migrated several of our flagship JASM events to virtual platforms:

- J-Quiz – We hosted our annual high school Japanese language and culture competition via virtual platform “hopin” (pronounced “hop in”). While it was challenging to convert such an established in-person event to an all-virtual platform, all participants—students, teachers, and event planners and volunteers—demonstrated remarkable patience and persistence. Everyone pulled together to ensure that this important event could continue to offer the same opportunity to this year's students as it has for many, many other students over the years.
- Shinshunkai – We highlighted Japanese and Japanese American talent at our first-ever virtual “Shinshunkai” in the spring, drawing on contacts far and wide to bring you amazingly diverse expressions of both traditional and modern performing arts.
- Mondale Award & Scholarship Gala – This year was our second virtual Gala event. Instead of featuring a keynote speaker, we took the opportunity to feature the event's namesake, former Vice President Walter Mondale, and his many connections and contributions in the wake of his passing. We are honored to be able to continue to host this event in his name for many years to come in celebration of the Japan-Minnesota relationship and all those individuals who have contributed, are contributing, or will contribute their efforts to keep the relationship going strong.

Additionally, JASM Executive Director, Rio Saito, and Program Manager, Yoko Ueno, assembled an impressive slate of other events covering a broad range of topics, from arts to food to festivals to business relations. I'm proud of the team for pushing the boundaries of our “usual” events to offer some very unique experiences for our membership. For example:

- We rekindled an old friendship with our sister society in Japan, the America-Japan Society of Akita, through a kiritanpo-making lesson hosted live from Akita prefecture. I hope we can use this event as a model for how we create even stronger ties with our sister organization, as well as an example of how we can engage more with the people of Japan in real-time via our new accessibility platforms.
- Our very own golf experts, Marc Bleher and Tom Haeg, resurrected the JASM Charity Golf Tournament after many years of dormancy! With pandemic precautions still in place, this outdoor event was a perfect way to gather safely and spend quality time with fellow JASM members. It was a great restart to what I hope will—once again—become an annual JASM fall tradition.

While we've seen some wonderful successes this past year, we've also encountered a few setbacks. Obviously, by far, the biggest blow came with the news of The Honorable Walter Mondale's passing in April. Former Vice President Mondale held many important roles in the Minnesota and United States government and changed innumerable lives over the course of his 93 years. We at JASM will always be indebted to him for his generosity and unwavering dedication to ambassadorship through engagement in and facilitation of cross-cultural exchange between Japan and Minnesota. Both he and Joan were tireless advocates for that effort, and we can never thank them enough for their contributions to JASM, Minnesota, the United States, and Japan.

In closing, last year I was “cautiously optimistic” for how JASM would be positioned to adapt and expand to meet the current and future needs of our community in light of the societal shift due to the pandemic and other factors. I'm happy to report that, as I wind down my third year as President of the Board, I'm very optimistic about our organization and the opportunities I see ahead of us! We've already taken several steps toward reinventing who we are and what we do, and I'm confident that the JASM staff and leadership team will find even more new and exciting ways to connect with and support you, our membership.

Thank you all for your continued support and engagement, and best wishes for 2022.

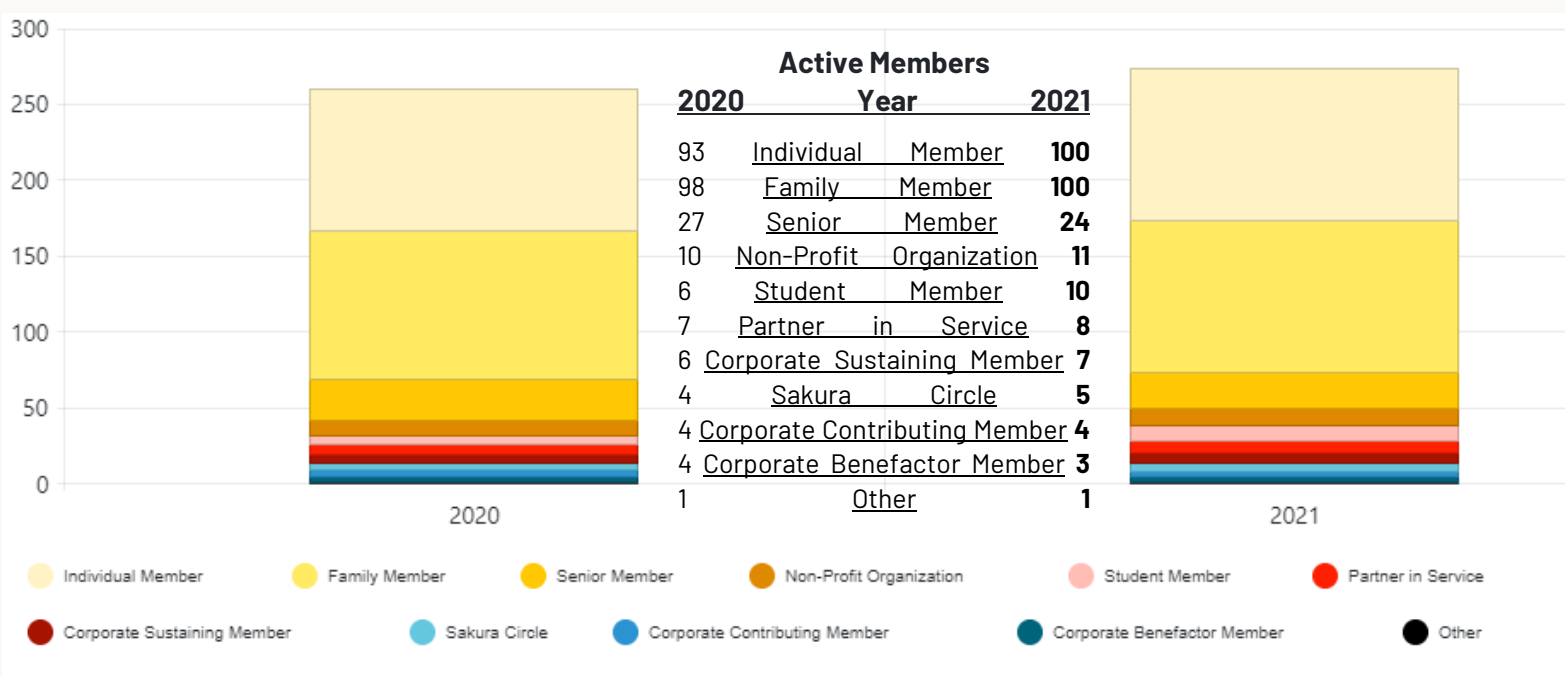
Warm regards,

Elizabeth Fehrmann, President of the Board

Financial Report

	Jan.- Nov. 2020	Jan.- Nov. 2021
Membership	\$37,874	\$27,750
Donations	\$31,986	\$8,819
Grants	\$18,300	\$66,770
Programs	\$34,559	\$4,600
Banking & Investment	Insignificant	-
Publication Revenue	\$972	\$50
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>\$123,691</u>	<u>\$123,691</u>
Employees	\$79,598	\$79,386
Office	\$18,868	\$7,902
Programs	\$21,216	\$13,547
<u>Total Expense</u>	<u>\$119,682</u>	<u>\$100,835</u>
<u>Net Income</u>	<u>\$4,009</u>	<u>\$7,154</u>

Membership



*All figures are as of 12/15/21

JASM Events in 2021



All of the following events were held online due to the COVID-19 Pandemic unless indicated.

February 20	J-Quiz
February 25	Whiskey Tasting with Chris Uhde
March 9	Corporate Roundtable: North Dakota Edition
March 14	Shinshunkai (新春会)
April 8	Kiritanpo Lesson with America-Japan Society of Akita
April 18	Rakugo by Tozaburo Yanagiya: Shinshunkai (新春会) Part 2
May 20	Mia Curator Talk for Exhibition Tour in Japan
June 5	Edamame Champ 全米エダマメ選手権
June 10	Know Me Kai: Welcome JASM New Member
July 8	Kamishibai/Storytelling with Minneapolis Ibaraki Sister City Association
July 22	A Story of Obon with Twin Cities Buddhist Association Sangha
August 15	2021 Mini Obon Festival (in-person)
August 17	Shinshukai Summer Throwback
October 9	2021 JASM Charity Golf Tournament (in-person)
October 14	Corporate Roundtable with Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, P.C.
November 5	Virtual Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala: Remembering Ambassador Mondale
December 15	Annual Meeting

Visit our event page: <https://mn-japan.org/Events>



Board

Honorary Directors

The Honorable Kenichi Okada	Consul-General of Japan in Chicago. <i>until July</i>
The Honorable Hiroshi Tajima	Consul-General of Japan in Chicago, <i>from Aug.</i>
Mr. Ron Leonhardt	Honorary Consul of Japan in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota
Mr. Richard Stahl	Former Honorary Consul of Japan
Mr. Takuo Takase	Honorary Trade Representative
Mr. Hiroshi Yamashita	Former Honorary Trade Representative

Emeritus Directors

Mr. John Babcock
Mr. Marc Blehert
Ms. Elizabeth Brailsford
Ms. Irene “Inkie” Brons
Ms. Sheila Cooke
Mr. William Deef
Dr. Mirja Hanson
Mr. James Hoffman
Ms. Shirley Huskins
Mr. Takuzo Ishida
Mr. Geoff Klaverkamp
Mr. Kenneth Port
Mr. David Smith
Mr. Richard Stahl
Mr. William Strang

Officers

Ms. Elizabeth Fehrmann
President
Ms. Yoko Torigoe *Treasurer*
Ms. Masako Yoshida *Secretary*

Board of Directors

Mr. Clint Conner *until July*
Ms. Motoko Hioki
Mr. Bob Luck
Mr. Joseph Montgomery
Ms. Michiko Smith
Mr. Tom Whaley

Staff

Ms. Rio Saito	Executive Director
Ms. Yoko Ueno	Program Manager

Corporate Membership and Donations

*JASM would like to thank its generous members and those who have made financial contributions.
It is because of their support that the U.S-Japan relationship is strong in Minnesota.*

Sakura Circle

Mirja and Sam Hanson, Noriko Ishida, Molly and Ron Leonhardt, Robert and Hisayo Luck, Hiroko and John Shade

Corporate Benefactor Members

Daikin Applied, Sawai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., Taiyo International

Corporate Patron Members

Dorsey & Whitney, LLP

Corporate Sustaining Members

Fredrikson & Byron P.A., Mall of America, Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson PC,
Japan Lifeline Co. Ltd., Mall of America, MGK Inc., Naigai Industries USA Inc.

Corporate Contributing Members

Satellite Industries Inc.

Partners in Service

JK's Table, Kiku Enterprises Inc., Minnesota Trade Office, Saji-Ya Restaurant,
Suishin Restaurant, Surdyk's Liquor and Cheese Shop, Saint Paul Saints Baseball Club,
Tomodachi, Voyager Group Inc.

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Macalester College Asian Language & Culture Department, Minneapolis Institute of Art,
Minnesota Foreign-Trade Zone 119, Red Wing Sister City, St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee,
UMN Department of Asian Languages and Literature Japan Language Program,
Winona State University Global Studies and World Languages Department

Individual Donors

(\$100 or more)

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William Deef
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Elizabeth Fehrmann
Paul Fehrmann
Sam and Mirja Hanson
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Deborah Huskins
Noriko Ishida
Ichiro Katsuki
Jo Kirkman
Ron and Molly Leonhardt
James Hagen
Bob and Hisayo Luck
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Jan Magree

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Fusako Muro
Randy Nelson
Naomi Oshiro
Alan Peterson
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David and Olivia Smith
Michiko Smith
William and Lee Strang
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Kenichi Tazawa

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