

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通 信

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

July 2016 VOL. 25, No. 7

Harukaze: a Remarkable Concert

On Sunday, June 12th, 2016, the Harukaze concert took place at Hamline University's Sundin Music Hall. The crowd was buzzing with excitement as they came through the door and the music hall quickly filled with people. The first half of the show consisted of music from the Modern, Neo-Romantic and Jazz/Contemporary eras and the second half of the program consisted of selections from the featured album "Kono Michi (This Road)- Japanese Folk Songs."

As the two musicians, Jacqueline Ultan and Gregory Theisen took their place on the stage, the audience fell to complete silence. Suddenly, the beautiful sounds of a cello and piano intertwined and filled the room. Then David Livingston took the stage with his flute and performed the composition "Soaring as One," which was composed by Gregory Theisen. The first half of the program closed with the talented trumpet player Takako Senn, and Gregory Theisen on the piano.

At intermission, delicious deserts were provided by Moko Cakes that consisted of puddings, *matcha* brownies, and *dango* (Japanese dumpling). JASM provided a raffle to win of a prize basket of wine through which many people partook in.

Vocalist Momoko Tanno opened the second half of the show by singing "Sakura." The rest of the show followed with Gregory Theisen, piano, Jacqueline Ultan, cello, and David Livingston, recorder/flute/saxophone, and Momoko Tanno as vocalist/jabisen.

The musicians all came together as one to engulf the audience into their beautiful melodic trance. At the end of the show, the crowd erupted in applause and cheering as the musicians received a standing ovation. The performance was truly a one of a kind experience and absolutely unforgettable.

(Continued on Page 3)



Performers of Harukaze Concert 2016

Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae to Speak at Mondale Gala, Nov. 5th- Save the Date!



Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae

JASM is very pleased to announce that His Excellency Kenichiro Sasae, the Ambassador of Japan to the United States, will be the keynote speaker at the 2016 Annual Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala. This will mark the 19th year of this important event that will be held at the Oak Ridge Country Club in Hopkins on Saturday, November 5th, 2016.

Ambassador Sasae assumed his post in Washington, D.C. in 2012. Prior to becoming Ambassador to the U.S., Ambassador Sasae was the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, the highest ranking civil servant in the Foreign Ministry of Japan. His distinguished career of 25 years with the Foreign Ministry began in 1974, and has included postings in Washington, D.C., London, and the Permanent Mission of Japan at the United Nations and International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland.

During the event, the Mondale Award for Japan Minnesota Partnership will be awarded to the nominee who has made outstanding contributions to the U.S. Japan relationship. Winners of the Mondale Scholarship will also be announced. Further details of the event will be provided in future issues of the *Tsushin*. The Mondale Gala will feature a Silent and Live Auction to raise money for the Mondale Scholarship program. Please save the date for this exciting event in November.

Date: Saturday, November 5th, 2016

Location: Oak Ridge Country Club in Hopkins

Tickets for this Gala will be available in the fall



Lt. Governor Tina Smith speaking at 2015 Gala



Honorary Dick Stahl (left) presented Matthew Welch with the Mondale Award at 2015 Gala.

Lantern Lighting Festival Volunteers Needed!



2015 volunteers from festival at JSAM Booth

We are looking for volunteers for this year's Lantern Lighting Festival and would greatly appreciate your help in making it a success! This is a great way for people who are interested in Japanese culture, meeting new people, and being part of a fun event. Volunteers are also compensated with free admission to the festival.

The Lantern Lighting Festival will occur on August 21st and there will be two shifts available for volunteers, one running from 1:30PM to 5:30PM, and one from 5:00PM to 9:30PM. If you are interested in working the later shift, please plan to arrive early, as last year many volunteers had difficulty arriving on time. The available booths to work are the Main JASM Booth, Calligraphy, Kingyo Sukui (Goldfish catching), Chopsticks Challenge, Yo-Yo Tsuru, and J-Quiz.



2015 volunteers at Kingyo Sukui booth

There will be an orientation for volunteers on Monday, July 25th from 6:00PM to 8:00PM where we will learn the Bon Odori dance and go over the specific duties of the various volunteer positions. If you are interested in volunteering, please be sure to check your email for a message relating to Lantern Lighting Festival Volunteering; this message will include a form which you **must** fill out if you wish to volunteer.

Please visit our website, or contact Lantern Lighting Festival Coordinator Joe Druckman by phone at (612)-627-9357 or email at jasm.interns@gmail.com to learn more about this exciting opportunity!

Letter from the President

Dear JASM Members & Friends,

This past week I attended the annual Japan Midwest Forum at the Consulate-General in Chicago. This is one of my favorite times of the year to get together with the other Japan America Societies in the Consulate's ten-state jurisdiction (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin). It is a time to share, relate, network, and bounce ideas off one another of things that work or don't work to bring home to our respective organizations. This year was no exception in quality or engagement. Through two days, we heard from the Consul-General Iwado and representatives from the Japan Embassy in Washington D.C., JETRO, and the Japan Foundation, with the keynote remarks from Peggy Parfenoff of World Chicago.



Liz Brailsford
JASM President

Our main activity was to participate in four rounds of a wonderful World Café (www.theworldcafe.com/) broken out into small groups. In the first round, we first discussed what we'd like to share about Japan with our communities; common answers were: Japanese food and drink, how Japan is one of our strongest trading and business partners, onsen, the beauty of Japan – even Japanese toilets came up! In the next round, we then discussed how we could share these great aspects of Japan with our local areas; we responded with webinars, cooking classes, a Japanese movie and/or book club, Japanese restaurant nights, culture festivals, social media, sharing through our networks, etc. Then in the third round, we talked about what other organizations existed with which we could collaborate to hold these events. Discussions brought forth ideas of local sister city organizations, the Consulate, JETRO, universities, other Japan-related organizations like JET Alumni Associations, etc. And finally, each group presented their findings of their small group's responses to the previous three rounds. The World Café really spurred on thoughts on how we can broaden our networks here at home and spread the word of Japan. We hope to bring home and implement some of the ideas shared in our brainstorming; my mind is churning...

I hope to see you at the upcoming Lantern Lighting Festival in August. Additionally, check out our website for other fun summertime events. See you there!

Warmest regards,

Liz Brailsford
JASM President



Harukaze- Continued from Page 1



Takako Senn playing the trumpet

Comments from Attendees

Dick Stahl, Honorary Consul of Japan at Minneapolis kindly shared his experience from the Harukaze concert with us, *“The JASM Spring Wind Concerts keeps getting more and more exciting, year by year. My favorite selection is difficult to pick, but, it would have to be the recorder. I am amazed that such a small instrument can produce such great music. My wife was most impressed by the vocal*

presentations. Intermission featured a variety of

tasty snacks- Thanks Tomoko! I especially enjoyed the fruit parfait.”

William Patterson, one of JASM board members, also shared his experience with us, *“Our Society was very fortunate to enjoy a world class Harukaze musical concert. At the intermission, there were delicious refreshments and desserts, provided by Tomoko Drake. Our personal favorite performer among these outstanding stars was Momoko Tanno, in part because the following Sunday she was the soloist at a church we attended, and we had a chance to meet her in person. The concert organizers arranged an engaging mix of western classical music and Japanese folk songs that had been given an American twist. A prolonged standing ovation was given to the five musicians, all of them Minnesota residents. They were sugoi. We are indebted to 3M, Naigai Industries, Takuzo and Noriko Ishida, and Makato and Akiko Ishii for their sponsorship and support.”*



Tomoko Drake of Moko Cakes with friends

We thank the artists' for all of their hard work and putting on a magnificent show. Thank you also to Tomoko Drake of Moko Cakes and friends for the delicious treats, our sponsors for making this event possible, and to attendees for sharing this moment with us.

Corporate Membership Spotlight: St. Jude Medical



ST. JUDE MEDICAL™

St. Jude is a global medical device company committed to transforming the treatment of expensive epidemic

diseases to promote longer and better lives. Their disease-management approach and comprehensive solutions help customers improve patient outcomes, maximize operational efficiencies and reduce costs. They are inventors, driven by a passion for saving and improving lives through medical technology. Ever since a patient received the first heart valve from St. Jude Medical, it became a product that changed the industry. This product quickly became the gold standard and it has challenged the status quo. Through internal breakthroughs and strategic acquisitions, St. Jude Medical builds product portfolios to transform disease management and meet customers' needs.

Today, St. Jude Medical is a global corporation with 18,000 employees in 40 countries, including Japan. With the 40-year history of transforming patients' lives, they are positioned more than ever as a leader dedicated to treating expensive epidemic diseases. From being founded in 1976, they have grown from a small Minnesota company to a global leader with operations worldwide. Former President of JASM, David Smith, and Darryl Magree, former JASM Executive Director, both serve St. Jude in Japan.

St. Jude Medical has been a very supportive corporate member of JASM. We greatly appreciate their generous financial support.

(information taken from official website <https://www.sjm.com/>)

Please thank our members with your support!

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Twins Game Group Outing

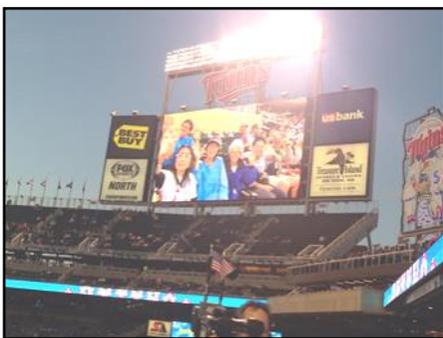


JSAM members cheering on the Twins

On Tuesday, June 7th, JASM had a great time at the Twins game. We had a good turnout filled with a fun time of meeting new people, and catching up with fellow JASM members. The Twins played the Miami Marlins. The game started out with the

Marlins taking the lead, but the Twins quickly caught up with the Marlins for a tied score of 4-4. Brian Dozier, from the Twins, made a homerun and the Twins celebrated their victory with the final score of 6-4.

Ichiro Suzuki also did a great job for the Marlins as JASM baseball fans admired his talent. JASM hopes to have more Twins games outings in the future. We thank everyone who was able to attend the game to cheer on the Twins!



JSAM members on Jumbotron

Join the JASM Fundraising Campaign – Help JASM to Grow!

In his inauguration speech of 1961, President John F. Kennedy inspired a whole generation of young Americans with the words, “Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country.”

At this time in the history of our nation, it is increasingly important to build international understanding and cross-cultural awareness. JASM is serving that role in Minnesota, and we want to provide events and activities that support the JASM mission. While membership dues are vital, additional donations are needed for JASM’s growth and development.

You can help JASM meet its budget by contributing a donation during our mid-year fundraising drive that will be held July 11-17. Here is what your money will go to;

- A donation of \$100.00 will help pay for the entertainment at the Lantern Lighting Festival
- A donation of \$50.00 will help to pay for the rental of the sound system at the Shinnenkai
- A donation of \$25.00 will make it possible for onestudent to attend J-Quiz
- A donation of \$15.00 will pay for a guest to come to the Shinnenkai.

Look for more information in the coming weeks leading up to the fundraising drive on July 11-17. Help us make this work for JASM’s future.

Email to: jasm@us-japan.org or call: 612-627-9357

Membership News

Thanks to the following Renewing JASM Members:

Ann Van de Winckel, Todd & Kyoko Zaun, Barbara Shields, Donald & Kyoko Klein, Tadako Pratt, Jack & Karen Sattel, Koichi & Yvonne-Marie Shiozawa, Betsy Linehan-Skillings, John Babcock, Tom & Jeanne Tamura, Michelle Norman, Bob Leidlein, Sharon Bigot, Michael & Yoshie Babcock, Sachiya & Hitomi Isomura, Lynda Bohn, Diane Carter, Daniel Carballo, Keiko Young, Deborah Yungner, Sarah Walbert, Nobby & Megan Hashizume, Steven Ray, Jan Magree, Jon Wilbrecht, Kaye K Matsumoto, Aki & Carol Yonehara, Miyuki & Mitch Baron, Lisa Shakerin, William Paterson

Thanks to the following New JASM Members:

Kazumasa Otani

Thanks to the following Renewing JASM Corporate Members:

U of MN Dept. of Asian Languages and Literatures,
Japanese Language Program, Sakura Restaurant

Japanese Professional Group Report



JPG meeting at Saji-Ya

On May 25st, 2016, JASM hosted the bi-monthly JASM Professionals Group (JPG) at Saji-Ya. JPG is an event that provides interaction for business professionals through social events and gatherings. At JPG,

fellow professionals can engage in conversation by sharing their experiences and interests as they relate to Japan from both a personal and professional perspective. The room quickly filled with liveliness as self-introductions and further conversations occurred. JPG played a key role to connect a variety of Japanese culture-loving professionals as the exchange of business cards occurred during the meeting.

May’s JPG was a great success as participants were able to share their professional interests with Japan while enjoying Japanese cuisine. JASM believes that JPG meetings help establish personal connections between participants as well as allow them to build a network in the business field. The next JPG meeting is scheduled on May 25th. We would love to see even more people at the next JPG!

New JASM Intern: Erin Bator

Hi! I'm Erin Bator, and I'm the new Membership Coordinator intern at JASM. I'm from Cleveland, Ohio, and I am going to be a senior comic art major at Minneapolis College of Art and Design. I enjoy writing, and drawing comics, mainly fantasy and science fiction stories about finding family. I currently am creating an ongoing webcomic called *Crimson Wings* about a mutant teenage boy struggling to live a normal life in a pre-apocalyptic world. I'm also starting up a comic about magical 1920s gangsters. I dream to one day create my own comic or novel series, while also having a job in an animation studio. Because of my comic work, I currently have a love of wings, aviation, and dandelions. My hobbies include playing video games, drawing comics, reading comics, karate, and petting my cat, Luna.



The more I write, the more curious about the world I become. I really love traveling and learning about other cultures. The world is such a huge and diverse place, I enjoy learning about it and trying to portray it as much as I can. It is a goal of mine to visit and see as many places as I can in my life. I have a large interest in Japanese art and culture, and hope to visit one day. I don't know how to speak very much Japanese yet, but I will begin studying it in the fall. Until then, I will try my best. I'm looking forward to being a part of this team. Wish me luck!

New JASM Intern: Joe Druckman



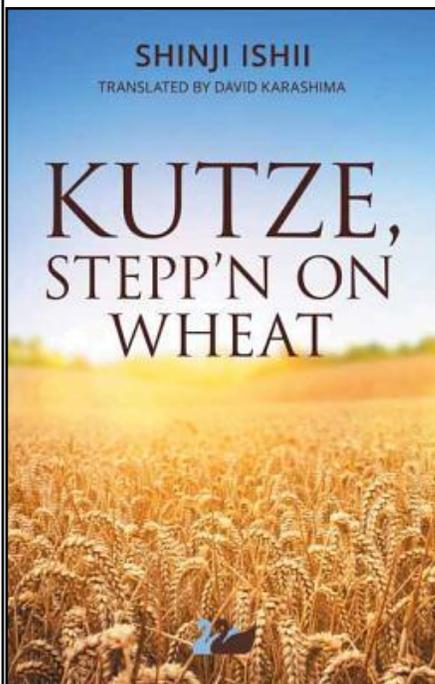
Hello, my name is Joe Druckman, and I am the Lantern Lighting Festival Coordinator for 2016. I'm a rising sophomore at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, where I plan to major in Art History, with a focus on Japanese art. I am very interested in medieval Japanese history, art, and religion, particularly in regards to painting and Buddhist and Shinto architecture. Next Spring I will study abroad in Kyoto for 10

weeks on an art history program. After taking a course on Buddhist art during my first year of college and speaking with my professor about other topics in Japanese art, I became hooked on art history, and I'm excited to combine my Japanese language skills with my growing interest in art history. I find that Japanese culture and society are often misunderstood or romanticized in American culture, so I hope that by working with JASM I can help to build cultural connections and mutual understanding between Japan and America. In the past I have participated in JASM activities such as J-Quiz and volunteered at the Lantern Lighting Festival, and I look forward to working with JASM to help make this year's lantern lighting festival a great success.

Tom Haeg's Book Review

Kutze, Stepp'n on Wheat; Shinji Inji, translated by David Karashima; Thames River Press, 2014; 248 pages.

"I knew nothing about stepping on wheat." [Opening line to *Kutze*]



Inji Shinji was already a Japanese super-star fiction writer, -(e.g., See: *Once Upon a Swing* [2000]), before bringing out *Kutze* in 2002. He was a four-time finalist for the prestigious Mishima Yukio Prize. In 2003 he received the Tsubota Literature Award for *Kutze*. But it was more than a decade before it was translated into English by David Karashima, a critically acclaimed

Japanese-English translator. *Kutze* was adapted for the musical stage with an engagement at the prestigious Setagaya Public Theatre in west Tokyo.

Kutze is an adolescent coming-of-age tale following our adolescent hero, Cat (he mimics cat meows) as he grows up in a seaport town, through back alleys, in elementary school, warehouses and elsewhere before arriving in the big city. The portrayal is one of the indefatigable protagonist, Cat, who eventually secures redemption by vocalizing feline yowls to rescue his seaport town from a plague of rats. In the process we are introduced to a broad cast of characters, -a frustrated mathematician father, a musically gifted grandfather, Kutze, et. al. There are traces of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, a dash of Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*, and just a pinch of Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. Quite the literary recipe and genre.

Although I was not disappointed, *Kutze* was barren of any distinctive cultural or geographical connections to Japan. The scenes are generic, the people common. Anywhere, anyone. The home-town seaport has no name. Even his father and grandfather are nameless, -just Dad and Grandfather. Only the character, Kutze, has a name. There were also no Japanese word links. Instead, Inji relies on rich metaphors and intriguing imagery to sustain the reader's attention to empathize with the main character in a universal manner. Perhaps there is a method to this minimalist madness.

After reading *Kutze*, I probably knew less about "...stepping on wheat..." than before picking up the book. But, that's okay. My ignorance about wheat was more than made up by the sheer pleasure of its literature.

-Tom Haeg

「人生は多彩な出会いの連続」

「魅力的な女性は話し上手」永崎一則 三笠書房。中国人の薯畑で捕まって銃口を突き付けたソ連兵他の避難民安全の為人身御供と捧げられた日本人女性へ通うソ連兵サーシャを子供たちは歓迎したニコニコして甘い物を持って来るからだ。時には徹夜で働いた飴工場、日本人引揚で明日から来られませんかと言ったら「シャンニゾーマバン？」私の顔を覗き込んで囁いた中国人工場主。(お前に恋して居るたら如何する?) 終戦後満州での出会い12才



杉本ともよさん
人生最後の贈り物
12月2日2015年
DVD-200本
週刊誌は「和家のお婆ちゃん達へ」
確かに頂きました。

あれから70年最近出逢ったAnokaのキヨ子さんは同じく満州牡丹江から母と娘二人の引揚者90歳?年寄りボケと言われる身でも思い出話は明確で語る。「人生に躓いた時話を聞いて呉れる人がいたら自殺者にはならなかつたらう」「しまった」は一方向的に喋りブレーキが利かなかった時 魅力的な視覚でなく心理的印象である事、好い方ですねの言葉は確かに美貌や衣装ではなく話が合う人(多弁家でなく聴き上手のことだ)「人生に手遅れはない」二見道夫 三笠書房。ミネソタ日本語図書館を遠いロスアンゼルスから支援を続けて下された杉本ともよさんが4月2日16に亡くなられたとご主人からE-Mailがありました。顔も年も知らないまま続いた過去「10年間の出会い」心から有難うございました。貴女は私の人生で忘れえぬ人です。



Yoko Breckenridge

612-839-0008

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New JASM Intern: Catherine Florendo



Hello! My name is Catherine Florendo, I'm JASM's new event coordinator. I grew up in Eagan, MN and I attend the Minneapolis College of Art and Design majoring in illustration. I was born in Guam and lived there for four years, and one of my early memories is playing Nintendo games on the first PlayStation system with my Dad, and I've been a

Nintendo fan since. Another early memory is watching Studio Ghibli's "Kiki's Delivery Service" on repeat for a long time, and I think that's where not only my passion for art began but also my interest in Japanese culture, animation and art.

A goal of mine is to learn Japanese, and travel to Japan to fulfill a promise I made with my Japanese friend in high school that we would meet again in Okinawa. I will be taking Rio Saito's Japanese class at MCAD this fall semester and I'm looking forward to learning more from Rio.

I'm a big fan of cats and dogs, due to my families allergies we can't have any so when pets are near I get extremely excited. I also like things that are small and cute. I really like drawing, and owning plants. I have a cactus named Piccolo (yes, the Dragon ball Z character not the instrument). I enjoy baking desserts with my younger sister who wants to be a pastry chef especially because I love eating sweets.

I'm really excited to be working with JASM, and I'm happy to be a new addition to the team!

St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Cherry Blossom Festival



Sansei Yonsei Kai performing Cherry Blossom dance

The Saint Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee celebrated 60 years of friendship between St. Paul and Nagasaki on June 4th at Como Park in St. Paul. This event celebrated the gift of Como Park's Sakura trees from the

Japanese government by planting two additional cherry trees in Como Park.

Councilperson Amy Brendmoen was the guest speaker, and the celebration hosted many events and activities for all ages to enjoy.

The Sansei Yonsei Kai Dancers performed a traditional Japanese dance to "Sakura" and Taiko drumming was also performed by the Taiko Collaborative. Both performances performed expertly and instantly captured the audience's attention. There were many different types of crafts including

cherry blossom branch making and water color painting. The refreshments matched the cherry blossom theme and were enjoyed by all.



Sansei Yonsei Kai and Taiko Collaborative

Advertise in the Tsushin!

Advertisement Rates

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

Ad 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
Tel: 612-627-9357
jasm@us-japan.org**

Japan America Society Calendar

July

If you would like to let JASM know about an upcoming event, e-mail us at jasm.interns@gmail.com

Japanese Speaking Club

The Japanese Speaking Club is an informal meeting place for those wishing to practice Japanese. We encourage those just beginning the language as well as native speakers to gather at the **Espresso Royale Café** in Downtown Minneapolis to meet new people, discuss experiences in Japan, or simply to speak Japanese. Come when you can, leave when you must.

Date/Time: Every Saturday at 3:00 p.m.

Place: Espresso Royale Café
1229 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55403

For more information, visit www.meetup.com and search for the key words "Japanese speaking club"



月例日本人会のお知らせ

毎月日本語図書館で日本人会の昼食会 (Monthly Nihonjin-kai) を行っています。電話などでお誘い合わせの上、お友達やお知り合いと一緒においで下さい。可能の方はどうぞ料理を1品ご持参願います。ミネソタ州在住の日本人達で良い事を考え、ご馳走と日本語で楽しい時間を持ちましょう。

日程：毎月第2月曜日正午より

場所：日本語図書館

(4231 Bloomington Ave S., Minneapolis, MN 55407)

また、毎週土曜日午後2時から、日本語図書館のお手伝いしてくださる方の集まりがあります。是非ご参加ください。この図書館には、漫画や宗教誌約25000冊や約2500本のビデオDVDがあり、希望者にはセルフサービスで日本人会と同じく無料で貸出しています。お問い合わせは下記までどうぞ。

Yoko Breckenridge

Cell phone: (612) 839-0008 E-mail: Yoko@yoko4home.com

Nihonjin-kai monthly meeting on 2nd Monday, at noon, at 4231 Bloomington Ave S Minneapolis, MN 55407

Become a JASM Member online!

Support our mission and become a member!

1. Go to mn-japan.org
2. Click on 'Membership' at the top
3. Select your membership type and read the benefits and instructions.

You can also become a member using your smart phone!

Japan America Society of Minnesota

- Membership Application
- Change of Address
- 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/Senior	\$20
Household	\$50
(2 adults plus children under 18)	

Japan America Society of Minnesota
43 Main Street SE Suite EH-131
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Japan America Society of Minnesota



Riverplace EH-131
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www.mn-japan.org

通信

Tsūshin
July 2016

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.interns@gmail.com)

Harukaze Concert 2016

