

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通信

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

August 2020 Vol. 29, No. 8

Recap: Play Taiko with Harisen Daiko!

On July 9th, JASM held a webinar with Harisen Daiko to learn how to play taiko together.

Taught by Harisen Daiko's lovely instructor, Ms. Julie Schramke, and assisted by Steven Sylvestre, we first learned a little about the history of taiko and taiko drums. Afterwards, so the participants could follow along with Ms. Schramke's demonstration of taiko, many created their own taiko drums using various household items such as pillows, wooden spoons, and even chopsticks. Then, we were instructed how to play the song *Raku*, an open source work composed by Chabo-san of Shidara Taiko.

We began by learning how to hit our taiko drums as we strung simple musical phrases together. Afterwards, we learned about the various movements made throughout taiko and about the *kiai* (気合), a short shout frequently featured in taiko and used in *Raku*. Ms. Schramke broke the song into parts to help make the song easier for everyone to learn. The song was played several times over to help everyone learn the habits of taiko. Of course, some had trouble and some excelled, but we all had fun learning *Raku* and the art of taiko together. We thank Ms. Schramke and members of Harisen Daiko for their time and effort in creating this musical opportunity! (See photos on page 6.)

Recap: Bookbinding - Create your own one-sheet "Magic Book"

On July 23rd, JASM held an online Zoom session with the wonderful Ms. Sheila Asato. She shared her journey with book arts, her experiences abroad, plus simple paper-folding exercises so participants could to create their own "magic books."

Ms. Asato first told us about her history with art and how it led her to book arts: an intimate art form that the viewer can not only look at but also hold. She displayed various types of books used to record dreams. These book styles include the meander, flag, and accordion, some with shoji-style windows. Ms. Asato next related her journey with book arts as part of "healing dreamwork" with students in Chiba, Japan. These techniques helped students recover from terrifying experiences in the 3/11 earthquake and tsunami. Ms. Asato also employs book arts and creative writing as a way to understand dreams.

After answering questions, Ms. Asato demonstrated how to create an *x book*, using a simple 8.5x11 sheet of paper and scissors. The folds and cuts became more difficult as we followed along, yet all were able to complete their book. The next lesson was the *pants book*, similar to the *x book*, with different folds and cuts. After numbering each page of the books, everyone could choose how to fill their books. We greatly appreciate Ms. Asato for sharing her time and creative experiences! (See photos on page 6.)

Upcoming: How do we find meditative moments in our everyday life?

Meditation is often described in the West as a means to calm our mind or to achieve some internal blissful state. How do we navigate this chaotic time in our lives and our world without ignoring our interconnectedness to it all? With presenters Rev. Todd Tsuchiya and Rev. Chiemi Renshin Onikura Bly, we will explore what meditation and internal reflection can mean from a Jodo Shinshu and general Buddhist perspective. Join us for a webinar on **Thursday, August 6 at 6:00 p.m.**

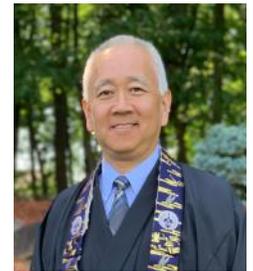


Reverend Chiemi Renshin Onikura Bly

Reverend Chiemi Renshin Onikura Bly
Raised in a Jodo Shinshu temple family in Fukuoka, Japan, Chiemi graduated from a Jodo Shinshu high school and college. She moved to the United States in 2000 and has lived in Minnesota for 20 years. She teaches Japanese language arts and social studies to high school students at the Minneapolis Japanese School. Chiemi was ordained in the Jodo Shinshu Nishi Hongwanji tradition in 2016. She is an Assistant Minister of the Buddhist Church of America, and serves at the Twin Cities Buddhist Association.

Reverend Todd Tsuchiya

Todd is a Minister's Assistant for the Twin Cities Buddhist Sangha, ordained in the Jodo Shinshu Nishi Hongwanji tradition in Kyoto, Japan and part of the Buddhist Churches of America. He was born and raised in Minnesota and is a retired dentist. You may have seen Todd playing the taiko in past Kogen Taiko performances and the shinobue (transverse bamboo flute) at JASM events.



Reverend Todd Tsuchiya

The Twin Cities Buddhist Sangha (TCBA) was founded in 1946 by Japanese American incarceration camp survivors and Military Intelligence Service veterans from Fort Snelling. They are a Jodo Shinshu group based in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, affiliated with the Buddhist Churches of America. Jodo Shinshu is part of the Pure Land tradition of Buddhism and has its origins in 13th century Japan. It developed as a teaching that included all of society, not just the educated elite of the day. It arrived in the US in 1899 along with the Japanese immigrant community. The TCBA currently meets every other week via Zoom, but in non-pandemic times they meet monthly at the Midtown YWCA in Minneapolis. They also hold monthly discussion sessions in Japanese using Zoom. For more information visit their [Facebook page](#), [website](#), and [YouTube channel](#).

Please register for the webinar today from [here](#). We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Upcoming: Yosakoi Dance Lesson: Bring Summer Festival to Your Home!



Picture provided by Kochi Yosakoi Ambassador KIZUNA International Team

Please join us for the webinar "Yosakoi Dance Lesson: Bring a Summer Festival to Your Home!" on **Thursday, August 20th at 6:00 p.m.**

Yosakoi is a unique style of dance that originated in Kochi prefecture, on Shikoku, the smallest of Japan's major islands. We are lucky to be taught in this webinar by the wonderful instructor, Ms. Maria Traxler, from the Kizuna International Yosakoi Team.

In the webinar Ms. Traxler will introduce Yosakoi dance and demonstrate it with a song. One of the defining aspects of Yosakoi is the use of *naruko*, small wooden clappers (see the image on the right) that are held by each dancer.



This is a family-friendly event. No prior experience is necessary to participate. Please wear clothes that are easy to move in. If you don't have *naruko*, you can use spoons or something similar, or just your empty hands.



Ms. Maria Traxler

Ms. Maria Traxler is a current member of the Kizuna International Yosakoi Team. She danced in the 2019 Kochi Yosakoi Festival as a Kizuna member, as well as in the 2015 Kochi Yosakoi Festival as a member of the Shimanto Town team Shimamuta.

**\$8: Non-Member
Free: JASM Members**

Fee is not refundable but is transferable. Please become a member to support JASM.

This class will be a fun way to get some exercise and learn about a regional dance of Japan. Please register today! We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Nominate for Mondale Award by August 12



Ambassador Mondale with 2019 Mondale Award recipient Patricia Katagiri

In 1997, the 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. 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@us-japan.org or filling out the form [here](#) by Monday, August 12.

Previous Mondale Award Precipitants:

- 2019 Patricia Katagiri
- 2018 Linda Hashimoto van Dooijeweert
- 2017 Mirja Hanson
- 2016 Stanislaw Skrowaczewski & Yoko Breckenridge
- 2015 Matthew Welch
- 2014 Warren MacKenzie
- 2013 Yoshie Babcock
- 2012 Inkie Brons
- 2011 Takuzo Ishida
- 2010 Dean and Masako Potter
- 2009 Dr. Charles Graham & Shirley Huskins
- 2008 Chris Rossow
- 2007 Hiroshi Yamashita
- 2006 KCC Japan Education Exchange
- 2005 St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee
- 2004 Diane & Evan Williams
- 2003 Kimi Hara
- 2002 Edson and Harriet Spencer
- 2001 Minnesota International Center
- 2000 Ruth Tanbara
- 1999 Akiko Sako
- 1998 N.L. (Neal) Gault, Jr., MD
- 1997 Joan and Walter Mondale

Membership News (6/20-7/20, 2020)

Thanks to the following new JASM members:

Kat Dalager, Walter Enloe, Dawn Erickson,
Utako Gotoh, Vicki and Bjork Ostrom,
Diana Soller, Chad Svihel

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

Hisako Bickner, Holly Brackett, Charles Breer,
Bruce and Tomoko Drake, Michiko Kato Dressen,
Elizabeth Tisel and Sarah Farley,

(Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:)

Nobby and Megan Hashizume, Jay Ihlenfeld,
Robert and Reiko Imrie, Keiko Kawakami, Donald Klein,
Shuzo Murakami, William Paterson,
Tony and Eriko Pfannenstien,
Sarah Walbert and Mark Pripich, Setsuko Rittmiller,
Jack Sattel, Mark Savin, Diana Soller,
Sanae Tomita, Keith Vargo, Luke Walbert

Thanks to the following renewing Corporate members:

Kiku Enterprises, Inc

Upcoming: JASM Summer School Series
(ミネソタ日米協会 サマースクールシリーズ)

この度、ミネソタ日米協会では、講師に永井 裕子(ながい ひろこ)先生をお招きし、サマースクールを開催することになりました。このサマースクールは、週に1回、5週間(計5回)に渡って行われます。授業は全て日本語で行われ、小学生対象となっております。各授業によってテーマや対象の学年が異なりますので、下記のイベント詳細をご参照ください。

※中高生、大人、日本語を勉強されている方々も大歓迎ですが、小学生を中心としたクラスのため、クラス内での発言や質問をお控えください。ご協力のほど宜しくお願い致します。

We are excited to have the Summer School Series for you to experience various school subjects in Japanese with Nagai-Sensei from Memorial High School! The JASM Summer School Series is composed of 5 lectures and will take place once a week for 5 weeks.

All lectures are offered only in Japanese. This series is intended for elementary school students. However, if you are a Japanese learner, you are very welcome to observe the class. For more details, please check descriptions below.

JASM サマースクール：各クラス内容

	教科	対象	内容	準備するもの
第1回 (7/29)	終了 理科	低学年	かぶとむしたんけん! ずかんをもって、森にたんけんにいこう! 「ずかん」って面白いんだ。いろいろな虫の絵をかいてみよう。	紙 えんぴつ クレヨン
第2回 (8/5)	社会	中高学年	ウェブサイトで広告! 好きな写真を組み合わせて作れるよ。この世の中からなくなってしまうかもしれない魚(この中のどれかな?:まぐろ、うなぎ、ふぐ)について広告を作ってみよう	なし
第3回 (8/12)	総合	低学年	おうちでけんきゅう おうちでできることいっぱいあるよ。何してあそぼ?	なし
第4回 (8/19)	テクノロジー	中高学年	スクラッチプログラミングに挑戦! まずは、自動販売機ってどんな仕組みか知っている? それも実はプログラミングなんだよ。	なし
第5回 (8/26)	—	誰でも	(仮)夏休みパーティ! 夏休みに発見したこと、作ったものをみんなに紹介しよう!	なし

申し込みは、[JASMのウェブサイト](http://www.mn-japan.org)で受け付けております。(www.mn-japan.org) 皆様のご参加をお待ちしております。



Hiroko Hiroko

永井裕子 (Hiroko Nagai) 先生

1995年より、ウイスコンシン州オークレア市立メモリアル高校で日本語を教える。毎年6月には高校の生徒たちを連れて20日間の日本旅行。この旅行は19回行っており、ホームステイ、高校訪問、小学校でのボランティアそして各地の観光名所を回るといったプログラム。(Japan Trip website <www.nagaisensei.com>参照) また、毎週土曜日の日本語補習授業校では4年生を担当。元気な小学生と多感な高校生を相手に奮闘中。趣味は、マラソン。毎年10月第一日曜日に行われるTwin Cities Marathon (42.195キロ) に12回参加。イベントで皆様にお会いできるのを、楽しみにしております!

*Please thank our members
with your support!*

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UMN Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
University of North Dakota-Grand Forks
Winona State University Global Studies Dept.



Upcoming: Irankarapte: An Introduction to Ainu Culture in Japan with Dr. Christina M. Spiker

We are delighted to announce a webinar about the Ainu, an indigenous people of Japan, by Dr. Christina Spiker, a Visiting Assistant Professor of Art and Art History at St. Olaf College, on **Thursday, September 3 at 6:00 p.m.**



Irankarapte is an Ainu greeting. While often translated as “hello,” it means “allow me to touch your heart.” The Ainu are an indigenous people of Japan with their own language, religion, and cultural identity. Together with Dr. Christina Spiker, we will explore the development of Ainu culture and history through art, language, and material artifacts.

This webinar will examine both historical and contemporary aspects of Ainu culture, including the surprising ways that Ainu and American history intersect in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. We will also explore the recent 2020 opening of the new national museum dedicated to the Ainu in Shiraoi, Hokkaido, and Ainu representation in popular media.



Christina M. Spiker is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Art and Art History at St. Olaf College. She received her Ph. D. in Visual Studies from the University of California, Irvine with a specialization in modern Japanese art and visual culture. Her dissertation explored turn-of-the-twentieth-century representations of the indigenous Ainu in Japan. Her research continues to investigate how their specific histories intersect with

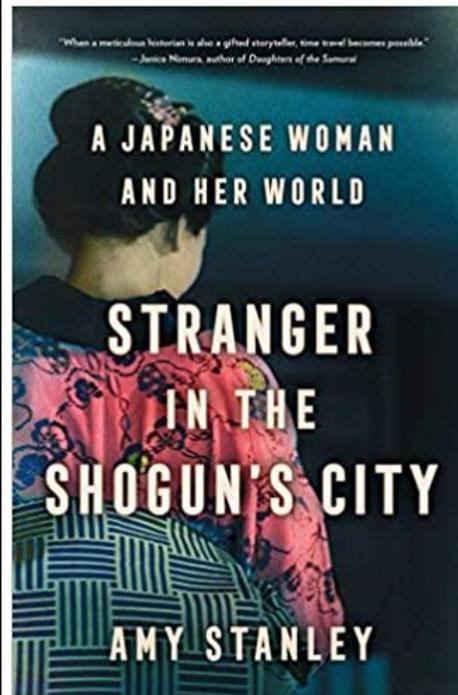
theories of globalization, modernity, and travel from the late nineteenth century until today. She published “‘Civilized’ Men and ‘Superstitious’ Women: Visualizing the Hokkaido Ainu in Isabella Bird’s *Unbeaten Tracks*, 1880” in *Gender, Continuity, and the Shaping of Modernity in the Arts of East Asia, 16th-20th Centuries* (Brill, 2017) and is the creator of the online project *Mapping Isabella Bird: Geolocation and Unbeaten Tracks in Japan* (1880). Her latest research includes examining contemporary Ainu visual representation in Japanese anime and manga.

\$8: Non-Member
Free: JASM Members

Fee is not refundable but is transferable.
Please become a member to support JASM.

Please mark your calendar and join us to learn about the Ainu.

Tom Haeg’s Book Review



Stranger in the Shogun’s City; Amy Stanley, Scribner Press, 2020; 324 pages.

Amy Stanley, a history professor at Northwestern University, while doing some East Asian research, stumbled upon handwritten correspondences reposed for over two hundred years in the dusty cobwebs of the Nigata Prefectural Archives. They were handwritten early in the 19th century, chronicling the life-learning experiences of our protagonist, Tsuneno, and her

family. Along with family records they provide keen insight into the culture and mores of middle-class Japan.

Tsuneno was the daughter of a Buddhist priest living in the Japanese rural village of Ishigami. From an early age she was taught, disciplined, and cajoled (perhaps threatened, too) into arranged marriages. She obeyed, three times (the first when she was only 12!), followed by three divorces. Then, after some sober reflection, Tsuneno flees Ishigami and escapes to the city of Edo (now Tokyo). She jettisons all the rituals and expectations of her adolescence to adopt freedoms in her newly acquired runaway abode. In Edo, she can “dream of escape for the rebellious, discontented, and desperate women who felt they had nothing else to lose.” The plot thickens when she meets Chikan (a loser) who deserts her, but supposedly finds redemption in yet another marriage (the fourth, but this time unarranged) to Hirotsuke. Well, what a shock, this, too fails and she returns to Ishigami as the prodigal daughter. And, like the tolerant biblical father, she is accepted back home. But, wait, she maintains correspondence with Hirotsuke who invites her back to Edo, they reconcile, and she remarries. Like a classical Italian opera (or maybe a TV soap opera), they live together until she falls ill and dies in 1856.

The book’s premise is probative because it is based on reliable documents. The non-fiction narration is believable, the character development intriguing, and the storyline charming. The collation of letters and family records unravel deserving themes of dynasty, tolerance, struggle, and redemption. It allows us to witness how the seeds of the Meiji Restoration were actually sown by Tsuneno and other lesser-knowns to awaken Japan from years of isolation. Be prepared for some counter-intuitive, revisionist interpretation of old Japan.

Tom Haeg

Japanese Conversation Clubs



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 **Corner Coffee** in Uptown Minneapolis to meet new people, discuss experiences in Japan, or simply to speak Japanese. Activities are now suspended until local nonessential businesses reopen.

Date/Time: ONCE CORNER COFFEE REOPENS, Every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. (however, most people do not show up until at least 3:30.)

Place: Corner Coffee
1414 W 28th St, Minneapolis, MN 55408 (Just east of Hennepin Avenue South)

Check out another conversation group: **Twin Cities Japanese Conversation Meetup Group** (<https://www.twincitiesjapaneseconversation.com/>)

Note: This is a private group. In order to join, a questionnaire must be completed at the web site linked above.

The goal of Twin Cities Japanese Conversation Meetup is language fluency in either Japanese or English. This group is for Japanese language learners who want to improve their Japanese speaking skills or/and native Japanese speakers who want to improve their English speaking. Those who just want to help out are also welcome.

Parts to the meetup: 自己紹介 (self-introductions), 質疑応答 (questions and answers about language) and 会話練習 (conversation practice).

Meetings: Edina (Monday), Minnetonka (Thursday), Saint Paul (Saturday).

Since March 16 the group is holding all meetings online.

For any question about this group, please email Mariquita Anderson: mariquita@twincitiesjapaneseconversation.com

Calendar

August

How do we find meditative moments, August 6

JASM Summer School Series, Aug. 5, 12, 19, and 26

Yosakoi Dance Lesson, August 20

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

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**

Become a JASM Member online

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.

Japan America Society of Minnesota

- Membership Application Change of Address
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Name (2nd adult of a household membership) _____

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Phone _____

I would like to make an additional tax-deductible donation of _____

Amount Enclosed: _____
(Please make checks payable to JASM)

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Individual	\$30
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Household	\$50
(2 adults plus children under 18)	

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通信

Tsūshin
August 2020

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)

July Webinars



Play Taiko with Harisen Daiko!



Ms. Julie Schramke



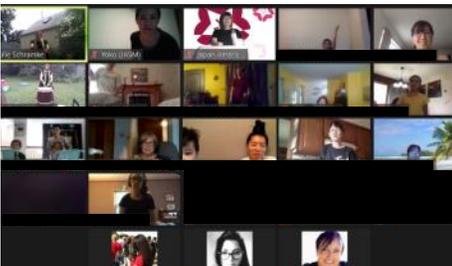
Ms. Sheila Asato



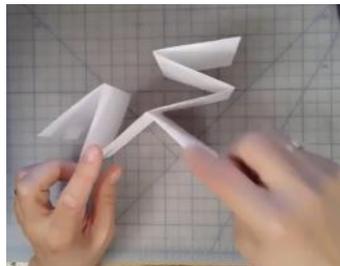
Mr. Steven Sylvestre



Bookbinding: Create your own one-sheet "Magic Book"



Play Taiko with Harisen Daiko!



Bookbinding: Create your own one-sheet "Magic Book"