

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通 信

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

February 2021 Vol. 30, No. 2

Upcoming: Virtual J-Quiz 2021

J-Quiz 2021 is right around the corner. On **Saturday, February 20th** high school students from across Minnesota and Wisconsin will be gathering online, due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Despite the situation, our goal for J-Quiz hasn't changed: namely, to increase cultural awareness and understanding and to bring together students who have an interest in Japan.

This year, 42 students of four schools will compete using their knowledge of Japanese language and culture. Viewing of this year's J-Quiz is limited to the participating students.



2020 Level 2 Winning Team from Shakopee High School

Save the Date: Virtual Corporate Roundtable North Dakota Edition

We are excited to announce this spring's corporate roundtable on **March 9th from 3pm-4pm**. This year, for the first time ever, we are holding the event with our neighbor, North Dakota, whose business relations with Japan have been thriving in recent years. We are looking forward to learning from these relationships and strengthening the bridge between the United States and Japan. The event will feature speaker Robert Sinner.



Robert (Bob) Sinner has spent his entire life in North Dakota. After graduating from North Dakota State University with a degree in agricultural economics, Bob joined the family farming operation. Before SB&B actively pursued an expansion into international business, Bob served on the executive committee of the United Soybean Board and as chairman of its International Promotion Committee. In 1989, SB&B expanded by creating an international business to supply food-quality soybeans and later other food-grade commodities directly to food manufacturers globally. Japan has been a primary market with some unique success in the tofu industry.

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Upcoming: Whiskey Tasting with Chris Uhde

JASM is pleased to announce a virtual whiskey tasting event taking place on **Thursday, February 25th at 6pm**. During the event, Chris Uhde will lead us in examining and tasting 5 types of whiskey. Included with registration will be whiskey samples that can be picked up from [South Lyndale Liquors](https://www.southlyndaleliquors.com) beginning February 11th.

Please note this event is for guests 21 years of age or older.



Mr. Chris Uhde

Chris Uhde (@whiskyredhead) is the Vice President for Impex Beverages. He is also the chief blender of Fukano Whisky, co-founder of the Southern California Whiskey Club (scwc.co) and the Scotch Expert for the United Scottish Society of Southern California. He has twelve years of experience in the spirits industry. In 2016, Chris was named Los Angeles's first "Voice of Whisky" by Los Angeles Magazine. Chris travels throughout the United States preaching the "gospel of fine whisky".

States preaching the "gospel of fine whisky".

Please sign up today! Click here to register: <https://mn-japan.org/event-4123518>

We are looking forward to seeing you there.

\$15: Non-Member
\$10: JASM Members

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

Featured Whiskey:

- [Tottori Ex Bourbon](#)
- [Ohishi Sherry](#)
- [Ohishi Brandy \(10 years old\)](#)
- [Kurayoshi 12](#)
- [Fukano Vault 2](#)

We would like to thank ImpEX Beverages for sponsoring this event as well as South Lyndale Liquors for their help with this event.



Note: Both "whiskey" and "whisky" are accepted spellings.

Meet Our Board Member: Joseph Montgomery



Joe Montgomery, new JASM Board

My name is Joe Montgomery and I have been a member of JASM since 2013. This year I was honored to join the JASM Board of Directors. I am very excited about the opportunity to serve the mission of JASM and to help expand its influence. I will be active in engaging with our members and working to grow our membership base and partnerships.

My involvement with Japan started as a student at Armstrong High School. Like many, I was fascinated by Japanese culture, primarily through anime and movies. Fortunately, I was able to take Japanese classes at Armstrong which were taught by Mike Smart, an early role model of mine. Japanese quickly became my favorite class and studying the language was something I truly enjoyed.

In my senior year of high school, I was encouraged to apply for and was awarded a Rotary Youth Exchange Program scholarship by the Golden Valley Rotary Club. I spent a year living with Japanese host families in Tokyo and attended Seikei High School which is part of Seikei University.

My time in Japan - while only a year long - was arguably the most formative year of my life and I am incredibly grateful for that experience. In addition to the deep cultural and language immersion I got from living with my host families and attending school as a full-time student, this experience also provided me with a new perspective of the people and the world around me. I had many Japanese friends as well as many friends from countries around the world while I was there. Learning how to communicate with people who spoke other languages and came from different cultures is an experience that I leverage in many ways to this day.

While I keep in contact with friends in Japan, I am not able to travel there as much as I'd like. Being a member of JASM and participating in events, volunteering and now serving on the board, allows me to connect with my experience and promote the programs and scholarship opportunities JASM provides. If you have not yet participated in an event or volunteered at one, I encourage you to do so!

Professionally, I am passionate about helping organizations grow through relationship-building, marketing, and partnerships. I am currently the VP of Growth for Lola Red, a public relations agency in Minneapolis, MN.

I hope we can all connect in the coming year!

Joe Montgomery

Save the Date: Corporate Roundtable North Dakota Edition *continues...*



Bob serves as President of both SB&B Foods, the company marketing entity, and Identity Ag Processing, the state-of-the-art processing company, with two locations. In 2007, SB&B Foods received the North Dakota Exporter of the Year Award. Then in 2009, SB&B was presented with the North Dakota Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Bob currently also serves as president of SSGA (Specialty Soya & Grains Alliance), [a national association of identity-preserved agriculture food ingredient suppliers](#). He has been and remains active in a variety of civic, state, regional, and national organizations including the North Dakota Trade Office board of directors and the National Agriculture Transportation Coalition advisory board. His three sons are also involved in the business.

Available in Japanese, the [Web Labo Co-op](#) offers more information about Japanese products which have been made in part by North Dakota farmers, including a tofu variety named after Bob Sinner. Bob also guest-blogs on the site.

\$8: Non-Member

Free: JASM Members

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

This event is sponsored by the National Association of Japan America Societies (NAJAS).



Membership News (11/21-12/20, 2020)

Thanks to the following new JASM members:

Conrad & Charlotte Seibert, Lica Tomizuka Sanborn

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

Joshua & Emily Jabas, Ariel Kaiser,
Karen Harwerth, Steven Kreitz,
Reid Mandel, David Mixon,
Laura Moy, David Swanlund

Thanks to the following renewing Corporate members:

Voyager Group Inc

JASM Fundraising Opportunity with “ShopWithScrip”

2020 was a challenging year for JASM, along with most nonprofit organizations across the country. Thanks to your generous support during these troubling times, JASM has been able to forge forward, fulfilling our mission of building bridges between the people of Minnesota and Japan. However, as a small nonprofit focused on education, arts, and cultural services, JASM remains very vulnerable.

We are asked every day to make charitable donations to worthy causes from limited resources. However, this is not another request for a donation. Well, kind of... What if there was a way to help raise funds for JASM just by leading your normal life, making standard purchases? Well, there is!

With the RaiseRight mobile app by ShopWithScrip you can help raise money for JASM doing everyday activities, like buying groceries, gas, shopping on Amazon, or getting your morning Caribou or Starbucks. This is done by buying gift cards for local merchants via the app. You receive the full value of the card while a percentage is also donated to JASM.

I am amongst a couple JASM members who have been using this service for several months and find it a fun, fast, and easy way to support JASM while I go about my daily life. With just one or two of us taking advantage of this fundraising activity, the impact is understandably small. But what if 10, 20, 50, 100 members chipped in? That would make a HUGE impact and help secure the survival of JASM long into the future.

Please give me a call or send me an email if you are interested in learning more about how you can help support JASM via your daily purchases!

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

*If you would like to order physical gift card through ShopWithScrip,
please contact jasm@us-japan.org
Please click [here](#) to download the flyer below.*



The everyday way to make an impact every day

Join us in raising money for our organization simply by using gift cards where you're already shopping. It's easy, rewarding, and fits perfectly into your busy life.

A family can earn over **\$1,000** per year

Shop and earn with over 750 top brands

- Gas
- Grocery
- Clothing
- Dining
- Entertainment
- Home Improvement
- Travel
- Retail

See all available brands at ShopWithScrip.com

How it works

- Buy physical gift cards, eGift cards, and reloadable gift cards at face value on ShopWithScrip.com or the mobile website, MyScripWallet.com.
- Easily pay online and earn a rebate between 2% and 16% that immediately goes toward funding for our organization.
- Use your gift cards for your everyday shopping.

Start earning today

- Join our program by creating an account on MyScripWallet.com or ShopWithScrip.com.
- Enter our organization's enrollment code:
- Link your bank account to enroll in online payments and place your first order.

Have a question? Contact our coordinator at:

“Scrip is different because we aren't selling stuff that people don't want or need and we're not spending any extra money.”
Nicole, Byesville, OH

*Please thank our members
with your support!*

Corporate Benefactor Members

Anime Twin Cities, Inc.
Daikin Applied
Delta Air Lines, Inc.
MTS Systems Corporation
Sawai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.
Taiyo International

Patron Members

Dorsey & Whitney LLP

Corporate Sustaining Members

Arctos Law PLLP
Deloitte Tax, LLP
Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, PC
Japan Lifeline Co. Ltd.
Mall of America
Medtronic, Inc.
Metropolitan Airports Commission
MGK, Inc.
Minnesota Council of Teachers of Japanese
Naigai Industries U.S.A. Inc.
The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd.

Corporate Contributing Members

Briggs and Morgan, P.A.
IACE Travel
Murata Electronics/Vios Medical Inc.
Satellite Industries, Inc.
Surdyk's Liquor & Cheese Shop
UMEI

Partners in Service

JK's Table
Kiku Enterprises, Inc.
Minnesota Trade Office
Origami Restaurant
Sakura Restaurant
Saint Paul Saints Baseball Club
Saji-Ya Restaurant
Suishin Restaurant
Tomodachi
Zen Healing Center

Nonprofit Members

Concordia Language Villages
Economic Club of Minnesota
Global Minnesota
JETAA Minnesota
JETRO Chicago
JP Network, St. Cloud State University
KCC-Japan Education Exchange
Macalester College Asian Language & Culture Department
Minneapolis Japanese School
Minneapolis Institute of Art
Minnesota Orchestra
Mu Performing Arts
NDSU-Emily Reynolds
Historic Costume Collection
Twin Cities Aikido Center
UMN Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
University of North Dakota-Grand Forks
Winona State University Global Studies Dept.



臨時領事事務所開設のお知らせ (2月分)

新型コロナウイルス感染に伴い、当館管轄10州のうち、アイオワ州、カンザス州、ミズーリ州、ネブラスカ州、ノースダコタ州、サウスダコタ州、ウィスコンシン州、ミネソタ州及びインディアナ州にお住まいの方が当館にお越しいただくことが実質的に困難になる中、当館ではこれらの州にお住まいの皆さまを対象に領事サービスの提供を継続するため、以下のとおり臨時事務所を開設します。

新型コロナウイルス感染拡大防止の観点から、臨時領事事務所は完全予約制になりますので、利用をご希望の方は必ず事前に電話でご予約をお願いします。

なお、新旅券受領の方につきましては、旅券仮申請書類が当館到着後にご予約願います。当日のご予約のない場合、上記の観点等から、入場をお断りすることがあります。

また、ご来場の際にはマスク着用をお願いするとともに、使用する筆記具について、可能な限りご自身の筆記具（黒色ボールペン）をご持参いただきますようお願いいたします。

領事臨時事務所開設につきましては、必要に応じて3月以降も継続する予定であり、3月以降の予定は決まり次第お知らせします。

【予約方法】

当館開館日の受付時間内に下記の電話番号宛に電話で予約をお願いします。

電話番号：312 (280) 0400

【注意】

旅券等の申請書類等を郵送申請する場合は、着実な事務処理の観点から、下記の「申請書類等を郵送する場合の当館必着日」までに届くよう時間に余裕を持って申請をお願いいたします。

【開設日】

●2021年2月11日（木）（申請書類等を郵送する場合の当館必着日：2月1日（月））

●2021年2月25日（木）（申請書類等を郵送する場合の当館必着日：2月16日（火））

【開設時間】

10時30分から12時15分及び

13時15分から15時まで

【会場】

Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Chicago Oak Brook
1909 Spring Road
Oak Brook, IL 60523
TEL:630(472)6000

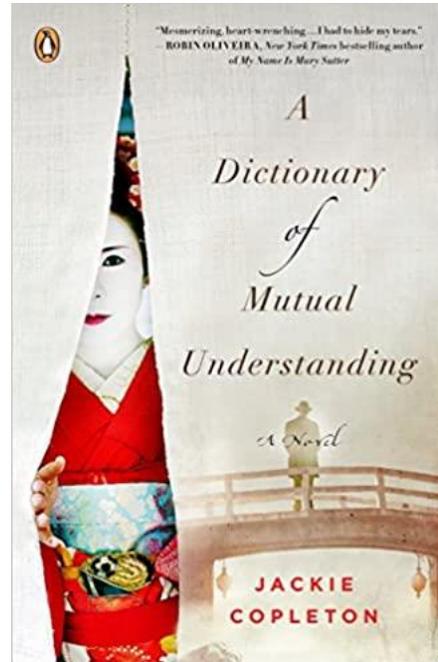
当館連絡先

Tel: (312) 280-0400 (24 時間対応) (注)

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

(注) コロナウイルス感染症予防のため、現在業務体制を縮小しております。平日午前9時15分から午後5時までは音声案内に従って操作しますと担当部門につながります。土曜・日曜・祝祭日、平日午後5時以降、翌日午前9時15分まで（事件、事故、その他緊急の用件）は、音声に従って操作しますと、閉館時の緊急電話受付につながります。

Tom Haeg's Book Review



A Dictionary of Mutual Understanding; Jackie Copleton, Penguin Press, 2015; 292 pages.

Our narrator-protagonist, Amaterasu Takahashi, self-reflects on life and family in Nagasaki when an unannounced visitor enters her home 40 years after the August 1945 tragedy. The visitor: a disfigured man who claims to be her grandson. The plot begins with initial disbelief and an instinctive refusal to accept him as her grandson: he was presumed dead in 1945. The plot thickens when she realizes she must confront her dubious past.

The allegory continues via a stream of memory flashbacks, diaries, and sealed letters evoking family, loyalty, love, secrets, and redemption. As an atom bomb survivor, we observe her hopeless attempt at mental repression — commonly exhibited by survivors to avoid shame. We further learn that Amaterasu's struggle to recall has a cathartic effect on healing her emotional wounds, just as her grandson must struggle with his physical disfigurement. What is interesting is that neither is guilty; they are both innocent victims and survivors. Regardless, their mutual need is to allay shame (“...the Japanese live in a typical shame culture...”).

This is Copleton's debut novel. Her clever use of fiction magnifies imagery and emotions while she remains true to historical facts for credibility. She adroitly organizes the book into distinctive chapters entitled with Japanese cultural traits (e.g., ‘An Arranged Marriage’ or ‘Sharing an Umbrella’ accompanied by dictionary-like texts) to provide narrative structure. While it is written in English for a Western reader to learn about Japan, I would not be surprised to hear a native's reaction after reading it: “You know, that's right, I had no idea.” It was that good.

Tom Haeg

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**

Calendar

February

J-Quiz 2021, Feb. 20

Whiskey Tasting with Chris Uhde, Feb. 25

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	\$20
Household	\$50 (2 adults plus children under 18)

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

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.

Japanese Conversation Clubs



The Japanese Speaking Club is an informal meeting for those wishing to practice Japanese. We encourage those just beginning the language as well as native speakers to participate to meet new people, discuss experiences in Japan, or simply to speak Japanese.

This group currently meets regularly over Zoom. For more details, send an email to group coordinator Will Etkin: will.etkin@atgmail.com

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



J | A | S | M

JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY
of MINNESOTA

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通信

Tsūshin
February 2021

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@us-japan.com

New JASM Logo Variations

