

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通 信

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

November 2022 Vol. 31, No. 11

Recap: Enthusiastic Cheering Culture of Japanese Baseball Fans



Mr. Masaya Muneda

On Thursday, October 6th, JASM hosted an online event about baseball cheering culture in Japan. Special guests Mr. Masaya Muneda ("Masa"), an assistant professor at the National Institute of Fitness and Sports in Kanoya, and Mr. Yuma Miyashita, a former member of the Fukuoka Hawks cheerleading group and a current first officer for All Nippon Airways (ANA), introduced attendees to the wonderful world of Japanese baseball.

Mr. Masaya Muneda started off the presentation by giving a brief history lesson. Baseball was introduced to Japan in 1872 by Horace Wilson, who taught the game to his students while he was teaching English in Tokyo. Masa explained that since the beginning Japan has had a history of passionate cheering at baseball games, dating way back to 1903 when a match between Waseda University and Keio University was canceled due to excessive cheering.

In 1934, the Nippon Professional Baseball Organization (NPB) was officially established with a total of seven teams. Now there are two leagues within the NPB with a total of twelve teams that play 144 games per season.



Mr. Yuma Miyashita described his time as a member of a cheerleading group, or *ouendan*, while he was in college. *Ouendan* typically lead the audience in cheers using drums, trumpets, whistles, and flags. Each team has a fight song, but, in Japan, the *ouendan* also makes a fight song for each member of the team.



Mr. Yuma Miyashita

Each team will also have its own special cheers, such as the megaphone dances done by the Fukuoka Hawks, the squat dances done by the Hiroshima Carp, or the mixed chorus (or call and response) done by the Seibu Lions.

Thank you to everyone who could attend and to Muneda-san and Miyashita-san for sharing their experiences with all of us.

Lydia Rose, JASM Board Member

Mondale Gala 2022 Keynote Speaker: David Schultz



JASM is thrilled to announce that Professor David Shultz is the keynote speaker at the 25th Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala on November 19th.

Prof. David Schultz is presenting *A Story of Old and New Friends: Minnesota, Japan, and JASM*. Minnesota and Japan have

a friendship going back more than 130 years, supporting one another in good and bad times. This talk celebrates our friendship, highlighting the fiftieth anniversary of JASM, the legacy and memory of Vice-President and Ambassador Walter Mondale, the Mondale Scholarship, and the many past and future scholarship winners who have helped strengthen the relationship and cooperation between the people of Minnesota and Japan.

Prof. David Schultz is Hamline University Distinguished Professor of Political Science and University of Minnesota Professor of Law. A three-time Fulbright scholar, Prof. Shultz is the author of more than 45 books and 200 scholarly articles. He is also an enthusiastic supporter of JASM and of strengthening good will between Japan and Minnesota.

Please join us at the JASM gala!

Please click [here](#) or scan the QR code to purchase tickets.

Regular (register by Nov. 4)

\$155/ Non-member
\$130/ JASM member

Post-Deadline (register after Nov. 4)

\$175/ Non-member
\$150/ JASM member



The 2022 Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala will be held in person on **Saturday, November 19th, 6:30pm (Reception 5:30), at Oak Ridge Country Club in Hopkins.** (Address: [700 Oak Ridge Rd, Hopkins, MN 55305](#))

Dress Code: Business Attire or Kimono

Do you need Kimono dressing assistance? Please register [here](#).

The 2022 Gala will carry on the legacy of Ambassador Mondale who greatly strengthened the relationship between Japan and the United States and was an avid supporter of JASM. We will also celebrate JASM's 50th anniversary.

...continued page 2.

Letter from the JASM President, Bob Luck



On February 17, 2020, I got on a plane from Tokyo to Minneapolis, after having spent several weeks skiing in Hokkaido. COVID had just been declared a public health emergency and newspapers were filled with accounts of the Wuhan lockdown and the spread of the disease on the Diamond Princess in Yokohama. "This could be bad," I remember telling myself, "It could be weeks or even months before life goes back to normal." Little did I know. On March 11th, 2020,

the WHO declared COVID to be a pandemic, and a few weeks after that, Japan effectively barred entry to foreigners.

Japan began taking baby steps to open for travel this spring, and on October 11th, 2022, two-and-a-half years after closing its borders, it restored its pre-COVID immigration policies, allowing visa-free travel for citizens of the U.S. and many other countries. If you get a chance, visit Japan! The foliage in the mountains surrounding Tokyo will be changing color just as the last leaves drop off the trees in Minnesota. Fresh Sanma (Pacific Saury) and Mikan oranges have arrived in the shops. And with the yen/dollar exchange rate in the 140s, you can hardly afford not to go.

JASM has been opening up, too. Zoom presentations helped to get our community through the pandemic, and they have helped us to expand our presence outside the Twin Cities metro area. I expect we will maintain our robust online presence as we expand our in-person events. But there is no substitute for doing things face to face! The Obon festival in August was a highlight of the summer. This year, we are sending a record five Mondale Scholars to study in Japan. And, in a few weeks, we will hold the annual Mondale Gala in person.

The Gala is a special opportunity to reconnect with old friends, hear about what is going on between Minnesota and Japan, learn about the activities of our Mondale scholars, and recognize the recipient of the Mondale Award for Japan-Minnesota Partnership. This year's recipients, Gayle and Judith Fleming, have been active in Japanese gardening, tea ceremony, Sister City events, and student exchanges. And I probably missed a few other activities! We will also be able to recognize Sarah Walbert and Bill Deef, the "virtual" winners of the award in 2020 and 2021. The Gala is also the key fundraising event for Mondale scholarships. It was your generosity that allowed us to award a record number of scholarships in 2022, and we hope to continue that in 2023. After a tough couple of years, it will be a special event, and I hope you can attend.

Bob Luck
JASM President



Mondale Gala 2022 continues...



2022 Mondale Award
Recipients, Judith and
Gayle Fleming

At the gala there will be a keynote address, appearances by previous Mondale Scholarship recipients, a fundraising auction, and dinner. We will also present the Mondale Award for Japan-Minnesota Partnership to Judith and Gayle Fleming. Please join us in honoring the Flemings.

Due to COVID, we have not been able to recognize **Bill Deef** and **Sarah Walbert**, the award winners in 2020 and

2021 respectively, as well as scholarship recipients, in person. Therefore, they will also be recognized alongside the 2022 winners at this year's gala. Please join us to celebrate the award and scholarship recipients as well as JASM's 50 years of strengthening Minnesota-Japan relations.



Bill Deef, 2020



Sarah Walbert,
2021

Sponsorship

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always ahead

Take/Bamboo Sponsorship



Ume// Plum Tree sponsorship



Membership News (9/21 – 10/20/ 2022)

Thanks to the following new JASM members:

Birgt Kantor, Karen Yngve

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

Michael and Yoshie Babcock, Marc Blehert,
Deborah Huskins, Donald and Abby Marier,
Jackie Moes, Tony and Eriko Pfannenstien,
Ark Prpich and Sarah Walbert, Tom Robbins,
Jack Sattel and Karen Sontag-Sattel,
Jutta Thompson, Junko Ueda, Michelle Watanabe,
Masako Yoshida

Thanks to the following renewing JASM Corporate members:

Mall of America
Metropolitan Airports Commission

Conferment Ceremony In Honor of Ben van Lierop Recipient of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays



Consul-General Tajima handed the award to Mr. van Lierop

On October 20, 2022, former Executive Director of JASM, **Ben van Lierop**, received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays by Consul-General Tajima of the Consulate General of Japan in Chicago.

The award is in recognition of “Mr. van Lierop’s continuous contribution of strengthening the Japan-U.S. relationship as well as promoting mutual understanding between the two countries during his 12 years as Executive Director of Japan America Society of Minnesota (JASM).” We congratulate Ben-san on this prestigious award.

The reception took place at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. For more pictures, please see page 8.



*(From left) Ron Leonhardt, Honorable Consul-General of Japan emceeing the ceremony
Consul-General Tajima, Mr. van Lierop, and his family members
Former Honorable Consul-General of Japan, Dick Stahl and former President of St. Paul-Nagasaki
Sister City Committee, JoAnn Blatchley giving their remarks*

JETRO Chicago Networking Event

On September 29, at The Gleacher Center in downtown Chicago, JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization) held its networking event, and JASM Executive Director Rio Saito was there! Many guests from throughout the Midwest attended, including the Executive Directors of JAS of Chicago and JAS of Indiana. The event opened with a greeting by emcee Kevin Kalb, Business Development Specialist of JETRO Chicago. Kevin introduced Mr. Ralph Inforzato of JETRO Chicago. Mr. Inforzato announced that he is retiring from JETRO Chicago after 38 years of service. He was followed by Mr. Hiroyuki Nemoto, who is the incoming Chief Executive Director of the JETRO Chicago office. Mr. Nemoto shared his excitement about being a part of the Midwest Japan-America community.

A few of the guests who congratulated Mr. Inforzato on his retirement included Mike Barhorst, Former Mayor of Sidney, Ohio; Alex Kaneko, Sr. Business Development Consultant, MEDC; and Consul General Hiroshi Tajima. CG Tajima also presented Mr. Inforzato with the Foreign Ministry Commendation at the event for his service throughout the Midwest.

Before the networking portion of the event, Mitsukuni Baba, the Executive Director of Japan America Society of Chicago; Theresa Kulczak, the Executive Director of Japan America Society of Indiana; and JASM’s Saito made a special toast to congratulate Mr. Inforzato and welcome Mr. Nemoto.



Ralph Inforzato giving a speech



JETRO Chief Executive Director Hiroyuki Nemoto



Rio Saito giving a toast speech



Ralph Inforzato receiving Commendation of Foreign Ministry

*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 and World Languages



JASM 28 years ago: 1994

As part of our 50th anniversary celebrations, we would like to show you (or let some of you remember) a tiny part of the past. Here's a glimpse of how it was 28 years ago (1994) from the JASM newsletter.



Dear members:

Greetings to all of you as the leaves fly and a new season slides into place.

Summer Events:

Egekvist Memorial Scholarship Fund

The summer brought sadness as well as joy to our Japan-America community. I want to remember and

recognize the life and death of Bill Egekvist, Former Honorary Consul General, long-time JASM Board Member and a pioneer in East-West relations. Throughout his many roles, jobs and positions with companies and government, he worked tirelessly to bring Japanese and American people and stakeholders to joint action and agreement. Our sympathies and best wishes to Margaret Egekvist, his wife and life companion. The Board approved the creation of the Egekvist Memorial Scholarship Fund in response to donations received in Bill's honor. The fund will be dedicated to support young students who wish to learn at Concordia's Mori No Iike Japanese Language Village.

New Book

A new book co-authored by many founding members is out. Call the office to access a copy of "Reflections: Memoirs of Japanese American Women in Minnesota". Congratulations to Editor John Nobuya Tsuchida and contributors Haruko Hashimoto, Joyce Hirabayashi, Alice Matsumoto, Mary Ogura, Martha Oye, Tai Shigaki, Gladys Stone, Esther Suzuki, Ruth Tanbara, Yoshi Tani, Maye Uemura, Kimi Yanai, Toshiko Yoneji and Mary Yoshida.

Japan at the State Fair

The Oriental Pavilion held two Japan Days during which local dancers, koto players and drummers spread goodwill about Japan to hundreds of fair-goers from around the Midwest. Thanks to Linda Van Dooijeweert, Jane McGregor, Dan Rolf, Sansei Yonsei Kai dancers, Mikaharu-Kai dancers, Hiroko Boerger Dance Group, Sachiko Friese and the Kogen Taiko Group for volunteering their time and talents.

On the diplomatic front...

Our new Consul General at the Chicago Consulate is Mutsuyoshi Nishimura and his wife spent some time on the boundary waters before a visit to the Twin Cities. He along with the Kuren delegation were guests at the October 5-01 Club held on the top floor of the IDS building. Also, Ambassador Mondale met with several

BUSINESS BREAKFAST speaker, Dr. Tokuo Noguchi, a professor and economist from Tokyo.

The Challenge: Society Self-sufficiency

First Board Meeting

Our new Board of Directors opened the new year at the first meeting held in September. The team is committed to providing a rich array of programs for all ages, statewide outreach, constant information, Japan resources and activities while positioning for long-term service.

Top Priority

As you know, top priority is to build a support base that allows JASM to thrive on its own means. Thanks to the three-year grant from the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, JASM has been able to grow in quality of services and quantity of members. We have increased membership from some 200 to over 400. We are delighted with over 35 corporate members who joined soon after the category was created last year. One more year of grant support is left. I hope I am correct in my belief that the membership can and will make the self-sufficiency goal happen.

The Strategy: Each One Reach One

It is time to spread the news that the Japan America Society is their one-stop access to Japan news, events, contacts, friends and much more. Although my childhood in a Finnish, Lutheran missionary family in Japan taught me "never to be a burden to others or create "meiwaku" and "keep to yourself", I proudly reject my learned traditions to ask for YOUR help in getting the message out to the Japan-Minnesota community. We need Each One to Reach One new member this fall. Here's how you can join in the miracle:

Renew your membership soon...perhaps at a higher level.

Invite a friend, colleague or relative to be a member. Is there someone you know who:

...just visited Japan?

...is studying about Japan?

...is "encountering" Japan in work matters?

...grew up with you in Japan?

Give them a call and/or contact the JASM office for a Tsushin Express, brochure or membership form to follow-up the request.

Introduce us to a company or organization with Japan needs or connections. The Executive Director will be happy to follow-up with information and materials!

Attractive prizes will be raffled in late winter. Each new member as well as the inviting member will be entered in the raffle.

Yoroshiku onegishimasu! Good luck with your ventures. I thank you ahead of time for your help in growing the Japan-America community.

Sincerely,

Mitja Hanson
President

Membership Drive Announced

JASM announces an ambitious membership drive and incentive raffle. The JASM Board of Directors recently launched a major incentive to achieve one of its long-range goals — membership growth designed to reach "2000 by 2000!" (2,000 members by the year 2000!)

It's a lofty goal but it is attainable if approached step by step. Current membership, as of September 30, 1994, stands at 424 individual members and 23 corporate members. The goal by year-end 1994 is 700 (655 individual members and 45 corporate members). For year-end 1995, the goal is 813 (759 members and 54 corporate members). This reflects a 15 percent growth rate next year. Upon meeting the '94 and '95 membership goals, the same 15 percent rate for the balance of the century will enable us to succeed in reaching "2,000 by 2000!"

New Members to Win Prizes

Effective October 1, 1994, new members of the Society will be eligible to receive significant prizes ranging from round-trip travel, hotel accommodations, restaurant gift certificates, merchandise and more. The prize drawing will be held in early spring of '95 in conjunction with a newly created family-style JASM event.

You are Eligible, Too!

As current members, you are eligible too — in several ways! First, you may have your name placed in the drawing by renewing your membership prior to the close of the Membership Drive for '95. If your membership does not expire before then, you may renew early in order to be eligible. Also, if you upgrade your membership level upon renewal you will have your name placed in the drawing a second time. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we have chosen an "each one, reach one" strategy to achieve our '95 membership goal. For every new member you recruit, your name is placed in the drawing!

Do yourself and JASM a Favor

As you can see, opportunities abound to increase your chances of winning one, or more, of the fabulous prizes which will be available. You can easily have your name placed in the drawing multiple times. The more new members you introduce to JASM — bringing us closer to our goal — the more chances you have to win.

In doubt about your renewal date or whether or not a friend is currently a member? Simply call the JASM office at 627-9357 to find out. Thanks for your past support and active involvement in this exciting

New Membership Dues Structure Effective October 1, 1994

Student, Individual and Household Members

1994. The primary change is reflected in the redefining of basic memberships to be either an "Individual" membership or a "Household" membership. Adults (those 19 and older) may join JASM as an Individual at the previous \$30 level. Two adults (and all children 18 and under) living at the same address may join the society as Household members for \$50 — a savings of \$10 over the cost of two Individual memberships. Student memberships remain at \$10. These are designed for individuals currently enrolled in secondary or post-secondary schools, who are not included in a Household membership.

Contributing, Sustaining and Patron Members

Those individuals and families wishing to support JASM and its programming at higher amounts may continue to do so at the Contributing, Sustaining and Patron levels. These categories are designed to provide opportunities for JASM supporters to contribute monetarily to JASM's mission. Contributions beyond the basic membership levels are tax deductible. Consult your financial advisor for details specific to your situation. For the first time a range for these higher levels of support have been established.

Dues go primarily to cover society operating expenses, primarily production and distribution of Tsushin and Tsushin Express and basic office overhead.

Benefits of Membership

Benefits of membership include subscriptions to Tsushin and Tsushin Express, reduced fees for JASM events, special invitations to members only functions, use of the JASM resource database and reference library at no charge, and more.

New Membership Dues

Individual Membership:

Patron \$1,000 and above

Sustaining \$500 and above

Contributing \$100 and above

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

Individual \$30

Student \$10

Corporate Membership:

Benefactor \$5000

Patron \$1000

Sustaining \$500

Contributing \$250

Please see the
enlarged image of
the membership fee
from 1994

JASM Membership Fee Increase

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of JASM's founding, we express deep gratitude for all your support in advancing JASM's mission to promote mutual understanding, friendship, and partnership between Japan and Minnesota. We could not do this critical work without dedicated members like you.

In 2022 alone JASM put on around 20 events throughout the year - business roundtables, discussions of art, festivals, and celebrations of our community via the Mondale Gala. Member fees make these events possible.

Within JASM's next 50 years, we will continue to develop programming and resources, broaden our membership base, and expand our corporate partnerships. There is much to be done and as a nonprofit organization, donations and fees go directly to operations and staffing and are vital to enable this work.

Beginning in January 2023, JASM will be introducing membership fee increases. This represents the first time JASM has adjusted its fees since 1994. The new pricing structure prioritizes accessibility - especially for students - and value for our members and their families.

	Current	New (January 1st, 2023)
Student	\$20	\$30
Individual	\$30	\$50
Family	\$50	\$75

Increases go into effect January 1st, 2023, and we encourage you to renew your 2023 membership prior to the increase!

We are deeply thankful for your continued support.

Joe Montgomery, JASM Vice President

JASM Membership Fee 1994

New Membership Dues

Individual Membership:

Patron \$1,000 and above

Sustaining \$500 and above

Contributing \$100 and above

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

Individual \$30

Student \$10

Corporate Membership:

Benefactor \$5000

Patron \$1000

Sustaining \$500

Contributing \$250

Tom Haeg's Book Review

Kura: Prophetic Messenger; Richard Bresnahan, Kura Book Publishing LLC, 2021; 219 pages.



In August 2021, Richard Bresnahan, artist-in-residence at St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota, completed installing his *kura* sculpture for the Jon Hassler Sculpture Outdoor Garden on the Abbey grounds. This book defines the mission, traces the design process, and identifies everyone who contributed to this collaborative masterpiece. And I do mean everyone: over 60 pages naming artisans, tradesmen, benefactors, influencers, and even initial gainsayers! Yes, quite remarkable.

Bresnahan's work ethic and inspiration for creating the sculpture is tethered to his four-year apprenticeship in a pottery studio near Nagasaki, Japan, over 40 years ago. The studio has been in the same family for more than 13 generations. Can you imagine what he learned there? You don't have to: you see it in his *kura*. The Japanese studio introduced him to minimalism, a form-follows-function mantra, and a heightened appreciation of natural resources in artistic creativity. It taught him tolerance, patience, and humility. And moxie.

Matthew Welch, Minneapolis Institute of Arts Deputy Director/Chief Curator, points out in his editorial essay that a *kura* is traditionally known as a raised-floor granary dating back to the *Jomon* Era (13,000 to about 1,000 BCE). It gained attention when food became associated with divine significance -- "a gift from heaven" -- and merged into Shinto rites. Bresnahan apparently saw no dissonance in merging a Shinto tenet into a sculpture on a Benedictine venue. Instead, he found it complementary. Perhaps, we recognize this *wa*, too, when we say grace before a meal.

Kura was the recipient of the 2022 Nautilus Book Award in the photography and art division. The publication is limited to only 2,500 copies. My copy? If you must know, it will be donated at the Silent Auction during JASM's Mondale Gala this November. Value? Let me put it this way: if Joan Mondale were still alive, it would be ensconced in her library.

Tom Haeg

North Dakota News: Grand Forks - Kanuma Friendship City



Lantern at Sertoma Japanese garden gifted from Awano city

Right now, there are no official sister city relationships between North Dakota and Japan. But Grand Forks has a special type of relationship with the city of Kanuma, in Tochigi Prefecture. Grand Forks and Awano began a sister city relationship in 1997 but after the larger city, Kanuma, absorbed Awano, the nature of the relationship became one of a "Friendship City," demonstrating the unique bond between these two communities. In the spirit of a sister city relationship, the Sertoma Japanese Garden was developed for the people of Grand Forks as a gift from the city of Awano.

Another highlight of this Friendship City relationship is the homestay exchange program (which has been suspended during the pandemic). Each year junior high school students from Kanuma stay with families in Grand Forks, or North Dakotan high school students travel to stay with families in Kanuma. While visiting, the students attend classes, tour the region, and create bonds that will endure a lifetime. The exchange program is starting to plan for an exciting fall 2024 relaunch to accept visiting Japanese students in Grand Forks from Kanuma city. It is hoped that this Friendship City relationship will be more active and that the people of Grand Forks will feel closer to Japan.

Haley Blixt is a student at Mayville State University who visited Kanuma in 2018. We sat down for a Q&A to learn more about her experiences.



Students from Grand Forks in Kanuma, wearing yukata. Haley is fourth from left in back row. The buffalo statue was a gift from Grand Forks to Kanuma/Awano.

Aiko: What inspired you to apply for the exchange program between Grand Forks and Kanuma?

Haley: I applied for the exchange program because I was very interested in traveling, Japanese culture, and Japanese pop culture like video games and anime.

Aiko: What are your best Kanuma memories?



Students experienced Kanuma Akimatsuri 2018. Haley is third from the right in the front row. Please visit this Youtube video to learn more about Kanuma Akimatsuri!
<https://youtu.be/8wRqVHy--jE>

Haley: The best memories I had while in Kanuma were trying new-to-me foods and drinks. Every day I tried something new and delicious. During my visit, whenever we walked by a vending machine, someone in my group would buy something new and everyone would try it.
...continued on page 7.

令和5年度（2023年）ミネアポリス日本語補習授業校 園児・児童募集

<http://www.minneapolisjapaneseschool.org/>

4月からの幼稚園及び小学部の新入生を募集します！

クラス	対象年齢	体験入学日	試験/面接	募集期間
おひさま組 親子教室	満2歳	1月21日	1月28日 (面接)	令和4年 10月31日～ 令和7年 1月14日
幼稚園 年少組	満3歳	1月14日	-	令和4年 10月31日～ 令和5年 1月7日
小学部 1年	満6歳	-	2月4日 (試験/ 面接)	令和4年 10月31日～ 令和5年 1月28日

対象年齢は令和5年4月1日時点での年齢。参加をご希望の方は、ガッドボイス seito@minneapolisjapaneseschool.org までご連絡ください。

Trial classes and Enrollment Interview at Minneapolis Japanese School

Class	Date of Birth	Trial Classes	Interview & Examination	Application Deadline
Parent and Toddler class	4/2/2020 ～ 4/1/2021	1/21/2023	1/28/2023 (Interview only)	1/14/2023
Pre-school class	4/2/2019 ～ 4/1/2020	1/14/2023	-	1/7/2023
1st Grade	4/2/2016 ～ 4/1/2017	-	2/4/2023	1/28/2023

If you are interested in attending, please contact Ayako Gadbois at seito@minneapolisjapaneseschool.org.

JASM Seeks New Interns



JASM is currently searching for new interns. We are looking for individuals who are:

- Interested in Japan
- Have a familiarity with SNS and Microsoft Office programs
- Undergraduate students or recent graduates
- Willing to work flexible hours (10-25hrs) and participate in JASM events

As JASM internships are unpaid, we offer meaningful work experience and intangible benefits. The networking opportunities introduce interns to influential individuals working within Japanese-related businesses and organizations. For more information regarding details on a specific position, please visit our website at mn-japan.org/Internships-for-College-Students.

If interested in applying, please email a resume and cover letter to: Yoko Ueno, Program Manager; ProgramManager@mn-japan.org. We are looking forward to working with you!

North Dakota News: Grand Forks - Kanuma Friendship city *continues...*



Consul-General Tajima visited the Sertoma Park, Japanese Garden on September 25th. Aiko Hatano, JOI coordinator at Mayville State University & Shunsuke Aoki, JOI coordinator at Dickinson State University

There is a vending machine on every street corner, so we tried lots! Coffee Coke, Calpico, and melon soda were very popular with my group. Whenever we went to restaurants, we would order lots of different foods and we would all share so we could try everything.

Aiko: How did the exchange program make an impact on you? What did you feel after you came back to North Dakota?

Haley: The exchange program was the most amazing thing I have experienced. I became very close with my host family, and I was lucky enough to host my host sister at my house the next year. We still talk four years later! When I came back to Grand Forks, I was sad because I wanted to stay longer, but I plan on going back to visit my host family and to be an English teacher.

Aiko Hatano, JASM Program Assistant

Japan America Society of Minnesota

- ☐ Membership Application ☐ Change of Address
- ☐ Membership Renewal ☐ 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)

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

Individual Membership

Patron.....	\$1,000+
Sustaining.....	\$500+
Contributing.....	\$100+
Individual	\$30
Student	\$20
Household	\$50
(2 adults plus children under 18)	

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.

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@gmail.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 and/or 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, 2020 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
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通信

Tsūshin
November 2022

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



Conferment Ceremony In honor of Ben van Lierop

Enthusiastic Cheering Culture of Japanese Baseball Fans

