

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通 信

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

December 2022 Vol. 31, No. 12

Recap: 25th Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala: JASM's 50th Anniversary



(Left) Dr. Mirja Hanson awarded Gayle and Judith Fleming the Mondale Award 2022 (Right) Flower arrangement by Sogetsu Ikebana

On the chilly and windy evening of November 19, the JASM community gathered at the Oak Ridge Country Club in Hopkins to celebrate the 25th Annual Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala. It was our first in-person gala after two years of COVID-19 safety procedures. Around 150 participants got together to celebrate the relationship that exists between Minnesota and Japan. It was wonderful to see old and new JASM friends in person.



Chuck Chan

The program began with welcoming remarks by Charles Chan, emcee and Mondale Scholarship Committee chair. Charles thanked Sweets Kendamas for their entertaining performance and Asako Hirabayashi for her amazing piano playing. Then, there was an



Consul-General Hiroshi Tajima greeting the audience

interruption by Rio Saito, JASM executive director, and Joshua Smith of Sweets Kendamas, who began to play kendama. In fact, it was a fun fake interruption to introduce Joshua and announce that kendamas were included in the silent auction, donated by Molly and Ron Leonhardt. Charles then continued to introduce Consul-General of Japan in Chicago Hiroshi Tajima, who proposed a toast.

After dinner started, Rio Saito and JASM's Vice President Joseph Montgomery had the pleasure of presenting certificates of recognition to sponsors. The keynote speaker for the event, Dr. David Schultz, professor of political science at Hamline University, spoke about the friendship between Minnesota and Japan which goes back more than 130 years. Celebrating this friendship, he highlighted the 50th anniversary of JASM, the legacy and memory of Ambassador Walter Mondale, the Mondale Scholarship, and the many scholarship winners who have helped strengthen the relationship and cooperation between the people of Minnesota and Japan.



Dr. David Schultz

Dr. Mirja Hanson, Mondale Award Committee member and former Honorary Consul of Japan in Minneapolis, presented this year's Mondale Award for Japan-Minnesota Partnership to Gayle and Judith Fleming in recognition of their hard work and dedication to fostering good US-Japan relations through the activities and services in the Yukimakai Tea Ceremony Association and the Minneapolis-Ibaraki Sister City Commission, as well as

... continued page 4

Upcoming: Annual Meeting and Foreign Minister's Commendations



limited capacity, it is a member-only event.

At the meeting, we will reflect on the year as a whole and look ahead to next year. We'll discuss additional ways we can further JASM's mission and will hold elections for board members.

After the annual meeting, Consul-General Tajima, Consulate-

The end of the year is just around the corner. It is time for JASM's annual meeting. The Annual Meeting will be held in person on December 13th at 6:30 pm at MGK Insect Control Solutions. Because there is



Consul-General Hiroshi Tajima

General of Japan in Chicago, will award JASM the **Foreign Minister's Commendation**.

As this is held on private property, you must register in advance to enter the building. Since the event capacity is limited, registration priority will be given to voting members.

Please register [here](#). (Only members can access the web page.)

Please contact jasm@mn-japan.org to check on space availability if you wish to bring a guest.



Message from Executive Director Rio Saito



Dear friends and family of Japan America Society of Minnesota,

We are at the end of the year yet again and I hope you are having an exciting time getting ready for the new year. In 2022, we brought back a few in-person events as well as new events, and we are so grateful to have been able to join you at these events.

This year we learned how important it is to be connected with people and how impactful that is. At every event, there were always people that I met in person for the first time, even though I felt like I have known that person for a very long time, and there were people that I contacted for the first time in a long while, just to check in. And every time I connected, it always made me feel warm just to be able to have a conversation with the people who support building JASM together.

Our first in-person event since the pandemic was the Harukaze concert in spring. We had a wonderful performance by Rie Tanaka, Yuki Tokuda, and Jesse Nummelin. The performance of those three were fantastic and it made me so happy to hear people being so appreciative of their excellence, but also it was like a reunion for everyone. In the summer, we brought back the Obon festival at Como Park. We had 7000 attendees this year, and there was so much love shown to our organization as well as to Japanese culture in general. We could feel that energy coming through from all the attendees and volunteers. Even though it was a long day, we weren't mentally tired at the end and left each other saying "see you next year."

When we were planning for the in-person Mondale gala, I must be honest, I was worried about the outcome. It is our most

important fundraising event of the year and what if people didn't come back to join us this time? I am very happy to say I did not need to worry at all. The way everyone showed up, met, and reunited made us all feel so great. This year in particular, felt so special to me, maybe because we still felt the presence of Mr. Mondale even though this was our first gala in person without him. It assured us that we can continue his legacy as a group. Also, I would like to thank everyone who helped us make the gala happen. Without you, we could not have this event at all. Thank you.

We are also very excited about the plans we have for next year. We've been hosting J-Quiz over two decades. We are now updating its structure, so that we can invite more people who are interested in learning Japanese language and culture. We are continuing the online competition to invite people beyond Twin Cities, even out of Minnesota, and continuing the college fair and cultural demonstrations. The quiz will be more trivia-style, so that anyone who is interested in Japanese at any level can participate. With the new J-Quiz structure we are hoping to reach more people and learn Japanese language together.

Another event that we are very excited about is Harukaze 2023 in June. We have received a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board to have Asako Hirabayashi's original concert opera at Sundin Music Hall. Asako-san has been incredibly supportive of JASM, and we are honored to be able to work with her and to share her talent with our community.

JASM had a wonderful year in 2022, and as we continue our 50th year, we are looking forward to strengthening our community with you. We are looking forward to continuing having so much fun with you. Thank you again.

Rio Saito
Executive Director
Japan America Society of Minnesota

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!



Membership News (10/21 – 11/20/ 2022)

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

Tom and Clare Larkin, Yoko Liberman,
Riley and Saiko McIvor, Marty Mooney,
Fusako Muro, Etsuko Pederson, Karl Reinhard,
Richard Ryan

Thanks to the following renewing JASM Corporate members:

MGK Company

Recap: Smart Agriculture and its Benefits

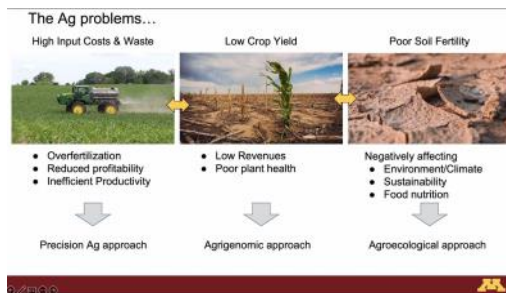


Katsutoshi Mizuta

On October 27, 2022, JASM hosted an online event about “smart agriculture.” The speaker was Katsutoshi Mizuta. He is originally from Japan and earned his master’s degree at the University of Florida. Now he is working as a PhD researcher at the University of Minnesota. He is also a member of a non-profit organization called United Japanese researchers Around the world (UJA). The newsletter (in Japanese) is available [here](#).

His interests started with food and

sustainability. He detailed how in agriculture, there are three main problems we might consider: 1. input costs & waste, 2. low crop yield, and 3. poor soil fertility. Mr. Mizuta is researching how to make the soil better and reduce labor for farmers, with technology. His main project is located in both Minnesota and Indiana.



The goal of smart agriculture is using technology to make agricultural devices work remotely and reduce the farmer’s physical job. We need agriculture for food so it must be sustainable, with less pollution in groundwater, rivers, and the ocean. And nutrition management is needed so that farming can be efficient and profitable.



Seiya Wakahara

Mr. Mizuta was joined by Seiya Wakahara, a Ph.D. student at the University of Minnesota Precision Agriculture Center. Mr. Mizuta’s is focus on corn and Mr. Wakahara is focused on potatoes. Mr. Wakahara shared some pictures of sensors used in his research. Analyzing the data to determine what nutrients will help the plants grow better and faster is fascinating.

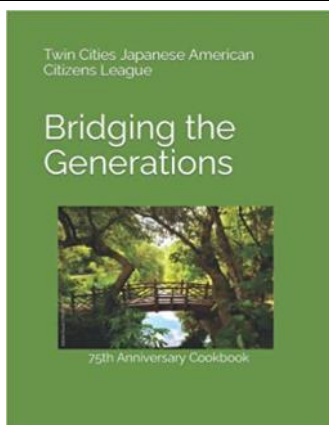
Even for people who think they might not be interested in agriculture technology, once we know it's really about *food*, it makes the topic more relevant and fun to learn about! After the

presentation, there were many questions and a great back-and-forth discussion between the presenters and attendees.

JASM appreciates these professionals giving us a glimpse of their important work.

Aiko Hatano, JASM Program Assistant

Twin City JACL Releases its 75th Anniversary Bridging the Generations Cookbook



[Twin Cities Japanese American Citizens League](#) has released its 75th Anniversary [Bridging the Generations Cookbook](#), now available on Amazon.

“This commemorative cookbook was written and published in honor of the Twin Cities Japanese American Citizens League’s 75th Anniversary. The title, *Bridging the Generations*, was chosen because the recipes in this book span generations of Japanese Americans: Issei, Nisei, Sansei, Yonsei, and Gosei.

We dedicate this cookbook to the Twin Cities Japanese American Citizens League members past and present, and hope it provides pleasant memories of friends and family for years to come.”

This is a perfect holiday gift for you, your family, and friends!

Please thank our members with your support!

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Minnesota Orchestra
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Twin Cities Aikido Center
UMN Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
University of North Dakota-Grand Forks
Winona State University Global Studies and World Languages



Recap: 25th Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala: JASM's 50th Anniversary *continues...*

their passion for hosting students from Japan. The Flemings expressed their sincere gratitude and humbly received the award.

During dinner, both a silent and a live auction were held to raise money for the Mondale Scholarship and future JASM programs. Generous donations had been made by both individuals and businesses. This year's auctioneer was JASM board member Kat Dalager, and she also conducted the "Fund the Scholar" donation appeal after the Mondale Scholarship presentation was led by Charles Chan.

This year's Mondale Scholarship recipients were five distinguished students: Maya Green from the College of Saint Benedict, Aly Hayashi, Joshua Marine, and Alex Saros from Macalester College, and Chon Sarah Thao from St. Olaf

College. Lydia Rose, Mondale scholarship recipient 2020–21, was present at the gala and is now on JASM's board of directors. Following the dinner, guests enjoyed "rice flour Mont-Blanc-style rolled cake with chestnut cream" graciously prepared by Tomoko Drake.

As the event ended, Charles thanked everyone for their donations and contributions to this 25th Mondale Gala. A JASM tradition, Don Katagiri made sure to send the event off with a bang through a performance of *tejime*, the Japanese custom of ceremonial hand clapping.

JASM is grateful to all of those who made donations, bid at the auctions, and to those who made this event happen. It was fantastic to see you all in person!

Special Thanks

25th Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala was made possible through the generous contributions of our sponsors.

Matsu/ Pine Tree Sponsors



Take/ Bamboo Sponsors



Ume/ Plum Sponsors



Kevin & Kathleen Hollahan



JASM would like to thank the following donors for their generous gifts to the 2022 Live and Silent Auctions. (Alphabetically ordered)

Billy Sushi	Radisson RED Minneapolis
Café Latte	Saint Paul Saints
Coastal Seafood	Surdyk's Liquor & Cheese Shop
Crystal Lake Golf Club	Sweets Kendamas
Daikin Applied	Three Rivers Park District
Delta Air Lines	Twins Baseball
Dieterle, Natsuko	Wild Hockey
The Duluth Zephyr	Ron and Molly Leonhardt
Fujioka, Naomi	Minneapolis Institute of Art
Hyatt Regency Minneapolis	Strang, Bill and Lee
Kado no Mise	New France Wine Company
Minnesota Timberwolves and Lynx	Sake Story
Minnesota Vikings	The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra
Oak Ridge Country Club	Science Museum of Minnesota
Okome House	Surly Brewing
Luck, Bob	
Pioneer Creek	

JASM sincerely appreciates the efforts and contributions of these individuals:

Gala Planning Committee	Kat Dalager
	Saiko McIvor
	Michiko Smith
Floral Arrangement/ Table Decorations	
	Sogetsu Ikebana Study Group and Keiko Martin
Dessert	Tomoko Drake
Kimono Assistance	Tomoko Stubbings
Pre-gala Performance	Asako Hirabayashi
	Sweets Kendamas
	Don Katagiri
Tejime	Neva Dalager & Kevin Dietz
Audio Equipment	Ted Yang
Program Design	Rio Saito
JASM Executive Director	Yoko Ueno
JASM Program Manager	Bob Luck, Chair
Mondale Award Committee	John Babcock
	Mirja Hanson
	Elizabeth Fehrmann
Mondale Scholarship Committee	Charles Chan, Chair
	Michiko Kato Dressen
	Mirja Hanson
	Bob Luck

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 more than 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 1997. 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.

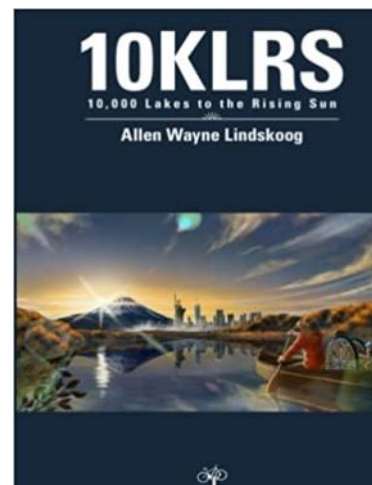
Joe Montgomery, JASM Vice President

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

10KLRS [10,000 Lakes to the Rising Sun]; Allen Lindskoog, 2022, 339 pages.



The benchmark for a foreigner's observations of post-war Japan is Fosco Maraini's *Meeting with Japan* (1959, translated from the Italian). His insights were remarkable, his cross-cultural nexuses insightful, and his biases shameless. It was a Book of the Month Club best-seller, and the awards are too numerous to mention here. In other words, he set the bar for this genre; in more words, *ichiban*.

And then along comes a middle-aged whippersnapper ex-pat from Minnesota who is going to tell you all about Japan, too, but in an episodic narrative style "...with little or no reverence to a strict chronology..." so that you would not commit the same mistakes he did. And he is going to make it funny with a wisp of self-deprecation balanced with Western swagger, with a moral to the story to boot.

Did he succeed, well, yes, he did, thank you. Going back to the bar (*supra*), Lindskoog fills in its vacuum with nuances passed over by Maraini (e.g., see: chapters on hospitals, salarymen, funerals, etc.). He describes his length of stay in Japan, his Japanese wife and son, and his brave attempt learning the Japanese language to probate his reporter status and authenticate his remarks. His style of writing is somewhat conversational without *ad nauseam* quotation marks, with a cadence reminiscent of a television travelogue. And this is okay. As Seinfeld's observations are to comedy ("Did you ever notice..."), perhaps Lindskoog's look-and-see method is to travel commentary. As the well-known pundit and philosopher, Yogi Berra, once said, "There is a lot you can see by just looking." Perhaps intuition is entitled to more due.

In his Epilogue there is a moral to the story: *gamen*, enduring the seemingly unbearable with patience and dignity. Lindskoog is not shy about reminding us, through a charming parable, of this most endearing Japanese quality of life. Very well said.

10,000 is available in both eBook and paperback formats. Lindskoog resides with his wife and son in Tokyo. He is a university teacher.

Tom Haeg

JASM 24 years ago: 1998

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 24 years ago (1998) from the JASM newsletter.

Japan America Society of Minnesota



43 Main St. SE, EH 131, Riverplace, Minneapolis, MN 55414-1002, 612-627-9357, 612-379-2393 FAX
E-MAIL: jasm@us-japan.org WEB: <http://www.us-japan.org/jasm>

KNOWLEDGE ❖ INFORMATION ❖ COMMUNICATION

TSUSHIN

The Tsushin is a quarterly membership publication of the Japan America Society of Minnesota

SUMMER 1998

VOL. 8, NO. 30

JASM Awards Mondale Scholarships

The Japan America Society of Minnesota awarded the first-ever Mondale Scholarships for study abroad in June. Three Minnesota college students received \$1,000 each to enhance their exchange experience in Japan.

Jesse Spitzack studies culinary arts at Hibbing Community College, and will make his first trip to Japan next fall as an

exchange student at the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MNSCU)-Akita campus. He plans to use his scholarship to learn Japanese well enough to work as an apprentice under a Japanese chef.

St. Cloud State University pre-medical student Maria Dorothy "Duffy" Murphy plans to study Japanese organ donor programs this summer to enhance her studies at the

Named for former Vice President and Ambassador Walter F. Mondale and Joan Mondale, the awards will be presented each year to undergraduate students attending a Minnesota college or university who plan to study and travel in Japan during the academic year. JASM welcomes tax-deductible contributions to the Mondale Scholarship Fund. Please call or write the JASM staff for details.



Executive Director Kathryn Kilbanoff (L) and JASM Vice President Bill Deef (R) with Mondale Scholars Jesse Spitzack and Jenelle Ehalt.

MNSCU-Akita campus. Duffy will serve as a volunteer at the Cornea Center Eye Bank in Chiba.

Jenelle Ehalt, a sophomore art and Asian studies major at St. Olaf College, will travel to Japan for the first time this fall. She will attend Waseda University in Tokyo and study how art is used and viewed in Japan through site visits to museums, galleries, and studios across the country.

JASM honored the awardees at its June 5:01 Club event at the Minneapolis Town Hall Brewery. The scholars' families and friends joined JASM members to celebrate their achievement and wish them "bon voyage and *gambatte*." ❖

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JASM NEWS

5:01 Clubs Soar

Attendance at recent 5:01 Clubs has reached record numbers! In April, over 50 JASM members and friends gathered at the Embassy Suites Minneapolis Downtown for tea sandwiches and chocolate-covered strawberries. Afterwards, the group continued the fun at the Target Center watching the World Figure Skating Championships Men's Finals. Music filled the air at the May 5:01 Club co-sponsored the Saint Paul Civic Symphony. Symphony members treated JASM participants to an evening of chamber music and an elegant sushi buffet at the Macalester College Alumni House. The Symphony will perform in Japan in October at the request of the mayor of Nagasaki. In June, JASM members said "*Kampai*" (Cheers!) at the Minneapolis Town Hall Brewery, the Twin Cities newest brew pub. JASM awarded the Mondale Scholarships during the party.

Business Breakfast Informs

Don Hilber, economist at the Norwest Corporation spoke to members of the corporate community on the topic, "From Bubble to Big Bang and Beyond: What is Happening in the Japanese Economy?" Participants gathered early on May 14 at the Regal Minneapolis Hotel for a discussion of Japan's economy and its importance to the economies of the United States and Minnesota. Mr. Hilber gave a comprehensive overview of the Japanese and American export markets, and set the

JASM NEWS continued page 2

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 Clas- ses	Interview & Examination	Application Deadline
Parent and Tod- dler 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.

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)

**JASM membership fee will
increase next year for the first
time since 1994. Please read
the article on page 5 and renew
your membership today!**

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.

25th Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala





J | A | S | M

JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY
of MINNESOTA

P.O. Box 26639
Minneapolis, MN 55426

jasm@mn-japan.org
www.mn-japan.org

通信

Tsūshin
December 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

25th Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala: JASM's 50th Anniversary

