

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通 信

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

January 2023 Vol. 32, No. 1

Happy New Year 謹賀新年

HAPPY NEW YEAR



旧年中は大変お世話になりました。
本年もよろしくお願いいたします。

We wish you a very happy holiday season
and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

JASM Team



2022 Annual Meeting & Foreign Minister's Commendation



Consul-General Hiroshi Tajima, left and JASM Vice President, Joe Montgomery, right

On Tuesday, December 13th, JASM held its annual meeting at MGK Insect Control Solutions (a JASM corporate member). The evening was filled with momentous events.

The meeting began with JASM Vice President Joe Montgomery recapping the events of the year. We have had a busy year, from Harukaze (our first in-person event in two years) to the return of the Obon festival and our continuation of online events (please see the [Annual Report 2022](#)).

...continued on page 4

Save the date for the NEW J-Quiz! Everyone is welcome!



On Sunday, February 12th, JASM will host J-Quiz 2023. Please save the date! The new and updated JASM's J-Quiz 2023 is for anyone of any age who is interested.

One of JASM's important missions is to support those who want to learn Japanese and get to know Japan better. And we know there are so many of you, always studying and reading about Japan. As we reach the 50th anniversary of our organization, we created this new Japan-focused trivia challenge for people of all ages learning about Japan.

Our goal for J-Quiz is to increase cultural awareness and understanding and to bring together people who have an interest in Japan.

What is the new J-Quiz?

There will be 30 questions regarding Japan and Japanese language. The participants can try fun quizzes to test knowledge of Japan! This event will also include information about colleges that offer Japanese classes, plus cultural exhibition videos where experts will share their knowledge and skills with us. With Hopin's "networking" function, you can meet and chat with people who are learning Japanese and share ideas or ask questions!

This competition is free for participants, but JASM appreciates voluntary donations. Stay tuned for registration details!

Letter from the JASM President



Greetings from Kamakura! My wife and I decided that instead of joining those North-South snowbirds who spend their winters in Florida or Arizona, we would become East-West snowbirds and escape to Japan. Not that they don't have a version of winter here. The old house we are renting is drafty and we find ourselves huddling at the kotatsu in the morning until the heater gets an assist from the sun. Yesterday I went hiking in the hills known to locals as the "Kamakura

Alps" and noticed for the first time that there was frost on the ground. I expect little sympathy from the bold souls who endure the blizzards and subzero temperatures of the North Star State. Nor do I deserve it: the camellias are blooming in our garden beside a brilliant red Japanese Maple which shows no sign of dropping its leaves anytime soon.

I have always been impressed by the depth of the connection between Japan and Minnesota. On this visit to Japan, I discovered that JASM has a mirror image: the [Minnesota Japan Society](#). This organization started out as an alumni club for the University of Minnesota in 1984, and later expanded to welcome anybody in Japan with an interest in Minnesota. The society holds three big events each year: a flower viewing party, a summer festival, and a Christmas party. I missed the Christmas party, but I had lunch with Harumi Iwanami, the president of the society, who shared the enclosed photo with me. Harumi-san also told me she had been in Minnesota in September to accept an award on behalf of the society as the U of M's [2022 alumni network of the year](#). Please join me in congratulating them!



MN-Japan Society Christmas party

Speaking of awards, thanks to the JASM members who braved a snow-and-ice storm on December 13th to greet Consul General Tajima who awarded us a commendation from the Foreign Minister of Japan. You also elected five new directors: Peter Hill, Mio Ishida, Jack Koepke, Andy Morris, and Taku Nakaoka. These new members of our board will add energy and fresh ideas to JASM, and I look forward to working with them in the Year of the Rabbit!

Bob Luck, JASM President

2023 Takuzo Ishida Memorial Scholarship for MN High School Students

Takuzo Ishida was a researcher, carpenter, chef, and bonsai enthusiast who served as President of JASM and Founder/Principal of the Minneapolis Japanese School. The Takuzo Ishida Memorial Scholarship was established in 2019 by Mr. Ishida's family and friends to recognize his contributions to the Japanese community in Minnesota and to support his passion for youth education.



JASM will award the Takuzo Ishida Memorial Scholarship to a student enrolled in a Minnesota high school who wants to broaden their knowledge of Japan through a combination of study and travel.

The details for the application will be announced **January 10th, 2023**, on our [website](#).

Please note:

Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident currently enrolled at a Minnesota high school. The awardees will be asked to provide a written report on their experience while in Japan upon completion of their program, and to make a personal appearance at a Japan America Society of Minnesota function during the semester after their travel is completed. Scholarship awards are generally not considered taxable income if used for tuition, books, or other similar educational expenses. Award recipients should consult with a tax advisor to understand their potential tax liability.

Membership News (11/21 – 12/20/ 2022)

Thanks to the following new JASM members:

Steve and Cece Cope, Autumn Anderson,
Bekah Lindstrom,
Ben Picone, Midge Ruhl

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

Elizabeth Fehrmann, Paul Fehrmann,
Phaeton Holland, Tom & Clare Larkin,
Bekah Lindstrom, Nancy Lunning,
Reid Mandel, Izumi Mueller

Thanks to the following renewing JASM Corporate members:

Satellite Industries, Inc.
Friends of Normandale Japanese Garden
Taiyo International, Inc.
Surdyk's Liquor & Cheese Shop

JOI Talk: Japanese New Year Traditions and Hanachozu Flower Arranging (Online)



Please join JASM's first online event of 2023 on **Thursday, January 26th, at 6:00 pm (CT)**. Aiko Hatano, Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) Coordinator based at Mayville State University (and JASM's Program assistant) will share Japanese New Year traditions and demonstrate *Hanachozu* flower arranging.

Please register today by clicking [here](#).

Aiko Hatano is from Kanagawa, Japan. She has been dispatched as a JOI Coordinator in North Dakota since the summer of 2021. She has been working with JASM part-time remotely since January 2022. The JOI Program is funded by the Japan Foundation to promote understanding of Japanese culture in the regions which have relatively few Japanese resources.

There is no school having in-person Japanese classes nor a Japan America Society in North Dakota yet, but Aiko is hoping to be a pioneer to encourage Japanese cultural awareness in ND through learning through JASM's events.

Hanachozu is a type of floral decoration created by floating flowers on the surface of the water in a *chozu* (a basin with dippers). You may find them at temples or shrines in Japan.

This is an easy style of flower arrangement you can try at home. Aiko will demonstrate. You are welcome to prepare a bowl (the size doesn't matter), your favorite flowers, scissors, and water to create your own display together with Aiko!

[This event is free of charge, but JASM appreciates your donation.](#)



JASM 18 Years Ago: 2005

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 18 years ago (2005) from the JASM newsletter.



Minnesota Regional Japan Bowl

JASM first took part in Japan Bowl in 1999, soon after the United States-Japan Foundation helped the Japan America Society of Washington DC turn its local competition into a nationwide program. The organizers, volunteers, and students alike had a lot to learn in the first few years, but thanks ongoing efforts at the regional and national level, Japan Bowl has grown into a rite of passage for students learning Japanese—in effect the State High School Japanese Tournament—which lets them demonstrate their knowledge in this challenging academic subject.

This year's Minnesota Regional Japan Bowl at Apple Valley High School brought together 137 students from 15 high schools in Minnesota and western Wisconsin, together with their teachers and 55 volunteers. Working in teams of two or three, the students wrote a descriptive essay and then—using a quiz bowl format—answered questions in Japanese or about Japan. The top three teams at each level then competed head to head in the final round. The winners were 2nd year students Alissa Berdahl, Tom Grathwol, and Emma Valentine from Minnetonka High School; 3rd year students Geoff Pederson, Chanoknun Suriyamongkol, and Vu Truong, and 4th year students Song Vang, Peter Vue, and Komyung Yokoi from Patrick Henry High School (pictured above with JASM president Takuzo Ishida). These students will take part in the National Japan Bowl on Saturday, March 26, 2005.

JASM would like to thank Apple Valley High School for hosting the event, Andersen Windows for its generous sponsorship, and the United States-Japan Foundation for its ongoing grant support. Also many thanks to the Japan-America Society of Washington DC, the Minnesota Council of Teachers of Japanese, lead organizer Satoru Kitano, volunteer coordinator Takeshi Terada, and the individual volunteers who made the event run smoothly.

Please thank our members with your support!

Corporate Benefactor Members

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

Corporate 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 Vios Inc.
Satellite Industries, Inc.
Surdyk's Liquor & Cheese Shop
UMEI

Partners in Service

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

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 Languages & Cultures 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 and World Languages



2022 Annual Meeting & Foreign Minister's Commendation *continues...*



JASM Treasurer Mio Ishida reviewed JASM's financials, followed by the introduction of five incredible candidates for JASM's board. Based on the results of the vote, we are happy to announce that all five candidates will be joining the board this upcoming year. Welcome board members Peter Hill, Mio Ishida (who will also continue as JASM's treasurer), Jack Koepke, Andrew Morris, and Taku Nakaoka! We are looking forward to seeing the experience and talent each of them will bring to the board and to JASM as a whole.



With that, the meeting was adjourned. Next, Consul-General Tajima and Honorary Consul Ron Leonhardt joined attendees for the presentation of the Foreign Minister's Commendation. JASM is so grateful to the Consul-General for taking the time to come in person and present JASM with the Foreign Minister's

Commendation, and for the honor that this award represents.

This was followed by a wonderful saxophone performance by Azusa Hirao. Then guests were able to celebrate this past year together while enjoying sushi, gyoza, and other dishes provided by JASM Corporate Member, JK's Table.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend and celebrate with us. We would also like to take a moment to thank MGK, Inc. and Randy Nelson for making this event possible by allowing us to use their facilities.

Thank you to the JASM community for all the time and effort you have put in over the past 50 years. We are so thankful for all of you who have volunteered your time and resources to furthering our mission. Here's to a wonderful year and to many more to come. Kanpai!

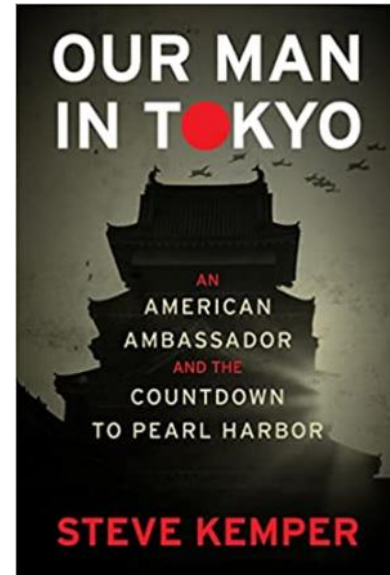
Lydia Rose, JASM Board Member



From left: Honorary Consul Ron Leonhardt, Saxophonist Azusa Hirao, and JASM Vice President Joe Montgomery

Tom Haeg's Book Review

Our Man in Tokyo; Steve Kemper, Mariner Press, 2022; 408 pages.



One of the lingering debates in American diplomacy is assessing blame within the State Department for the failure to avoid war with Imperial Japan. Author Steve Kemper resurrects the controversy by examining the diary of U.S. ambassador to Japan Joseph Grew, plus embassy correspondence, diplomatic dispatches, intelligence intercepts, and newspaper journals to surmise blame. And, oh boy, there was plenty of blame to go around.

First, Grew. Was he just a naïve diplomat who entertained cultural attractions to Japan while ignoring *realpolitik*? Second, Cordell Hull, Secretary of State (and Grew's boss). Was he preoccupied with Europe with no time to pay attention to Grew's advice (e.g., arrange a summit in 1940 between President Roosevelt and the Japanese Prime Minister)? Third, the bureaucrats. Were they driven by their own inertia to maintain their territory by separating Grew from the State Department? And more.

I found this book thrilling and believable on a personal level because of my contacts with two former U.S. ambassadors to Japan, Walter Mondale (Clinton appointee) and Bill Hagerty (Trump appointee). Mr. Mondale related to me the constraints of the office, the chain of command, duties, etc. Mr. Hagerty spoke about his traveling orders, the limits of the office, responsibilities, etc. Their versions are consistent with Kemper's description of Ambassador Grew.

So, a closure question to this conundrum is this: was war inevitable between Imperial Japan and America? If you ask me, under the circumstances, probably yes. Imperial Japan was already at war in the Pacific for over a decade and the concessions sought by the U.S. were unattainable.

Steve Kemper, while not an historian, is a nationally respected author who currently teaches writing and journalism. He has a Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut.

Tom Haeg

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

Sakura Circle Membership \$1,200+

Individual\$50

Student\$30

Household\$75

(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.

シカゴ領事館からのお知らせ：領事出張サービスのお知らせ：ミネソタ州ブルーミントン市

実施日 2023年 2月 26日（日曜日）

時間 09:30～12:15 13:15～16:00

会場 Country Inn & Suites by Radisson at Mall of
America 2221 Killebrew Drive, Bloomington, MN 55425
TEL: 612-255-0555

- ◆ 領事出張サービスでは、パスポートの交付及び各種
証明書の交付のみを予約制で行います。
- ◆ パスポート交付は、2023年2月10日（金）ま
でに、旅券郵送仮申請要領 ([https://
www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/files/100217088.pdf](https://www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/files/100217088.pdf)) に
したがって当館宛に旅券申請書及び必要書類等を郵送
していただいた上で、当館で事前審査を行った方に
限ります（事前に予約のみを行うことはできません
のでご注意ください）。旅券郵便仮申請につきましては
は、当館領事班まで電話にてご連絡いただくか、当
館ホームページ「遠隔地居住者による郵送仮申請
([https://www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/
con_pass_enkaku.html](https://www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/con_pass_enkaku.html))」をご参照ください。

- ◆ 交付の対象となる証明書は「在留証明、出生証明、
婚姻証明、離婚証明及び旅券所持証明」となりま
す。当館ホームページ（下記）を参照の上 必ず当館
まで事前 に Email にて申請してください（証明申請
前の事前予約のみを行うことはできませんのでご注
意下さい）。【当館ホームページ】 [https://
www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/
con_certificate_j.html](https://www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/con_certificate_j.html)
- ◆ パスポート及び証明書の手数料は当日会場で現金に
てお支払いいただきます。クレジットカード、パーソ
ナルチェック、デビットカードは利用できませんの
で ご注意ください。

在シカゴ日本国総領事館 領事班

Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago

737 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1100 Chicago, IL 60611

電話番号：312(280)0400

E-mail: ryoji1@cg.mofa.go.jp

ホームページ: [https://www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/
itprtp_ja/index.html](https://www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtp_ja/index.html)



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
January 2023

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

2022 Annual Meeting & Foreign Minister's Commendation

