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**2023 Annual Report**  
**JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY**  
**of MINNESOTA**

## A Letter from the President



*Bob Luck, JASM President*

To a casual observer, Japan and Minnesota have little in common. Japan is a tectonic over-achiever—if you like mountains, volcanos, and earthquakes, you are in the right place. Minnesota has some of the oldest rocks in the world, and the only people who claim we have mountains are the ski resort operators. Japan has 120 million people crowded into an area not much bigger than Minnesota; Minnesota has just under 6 million. Japan has four seasons; Minnesota has two: winter and summer. Okay, I'm exaggerating, we do occasionally get a week or two of Spring and Fall.

Dig a little deeper, though, and you will see that our peoples have much in common. Some of the traits that stand out to me are politeness and humility, commitment to education, reverence for nature, and punctuality. Japan and Minnesota are two of the few places in the world where you can show up 5 minutes early for an event and find you are the last to arrive! These similarities in our personalities are the foundation of a deep connection between Japan and Minnesota. JASM's mission is to strengthen this connection.

Here is what stood out for me in 2023:

- Our Harukaze Spring Concert, featuring the World Premier of an Opera based on a Japanese fairy tale "The Boy Who Drew Cats". Composed by Minnesotan Asako Hirabayashi and performed by Minnesota artists, it was entertaining for adults, kids and cats! The only negative reviews came from a few disgruntled mice.
- The Summer O-Bon festival in Como Park. Forecasts of extreme heat failed to materialize, and over 8000 visitors came out on a lovely August day to enjoy a taste of Japanese culture, a nearly 20% increase over 2022. JASM hosted booths featuring Calligraphy, Water Balloon Yoyos, Goldfish scooping (with plastic fish—no animals were harmed!) and quizzes on Japanese language and culture. Walking around the park, I was amazed to see the number and variety of Japan-related organizations active in Minnesota, from **A**rchery to **Z**en.
- Our annual Mondale Award and Scholarship Dinner. We celebrated the accomplishments of our 2023 winner, Dick Stahl, and learned from State Representative Samantha Senser-Mura about how growing up as a Sansei influenced her approach to public service. Thanks to generous contributions from our members and supporters, we were able to double the value of the scholarships we provide, and we awarded scholarships to three students this year. We can't wait to hear about their experiences at next year's dinner.

In addition to the keynote events listed above, we maintained a strong and consistent presence in Business, Culture, Education and the Arts. Whether it was the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the resumption of the nonstop Delta flight to Haneda, the Twin Cities Anime Convention, an impromptu Yosakoi Dance Lesson in the Walker Sculpture Garden, or online presentations of bookbinding and landscape art, JASM was there!

JASM's achievements are due to support from a whole constellation of partners. Among others, these include:

- The Japanese Consulate in Chicago. They help us to develop programs, support businesses and secure financial support, as well as hosting a Forum that brings us in touch with Japan-related organizations throughout the Midwest. This year, we bid farewell to Consul-General Hiroshi Tajima and welcomed new Consul-General Jun Yanagi. We are also indebted to Honorary Consul-General Ron Leonhardt, who ably facilitates the Consulate's activities in Minnesota.
- Our staff. To quote Reggie Jackson, Rio Saito and Yoko Ueno are the straws that stir the JASM drink. They organize our events, mobilize our volunteers, apply for grants, and stay in constant touch with a wide array of stakeholders.
- The JASM Board. We have a strong 12-member board who set the direction for JASM, make sure there is enough money to pay our bills, and roll up their sleeves to volunteer at events.
- JASM members. We are a member-supported and member-driven organization. Some of our members provide major financial support, some of them volunteer to organize and run our events, and some do both. Some of our members were among the JASM founders back in 1972 and are still active. Others just joined us in 2023 and are already making an impact. If you have an interest in Japan and are not yet a JASM member, please join us!

Thank you to all our members, partners, and supporters for making 2023 a great year. I look forward to working with you in 2024.

*Bob Luck, JASM President*

## Financial Report

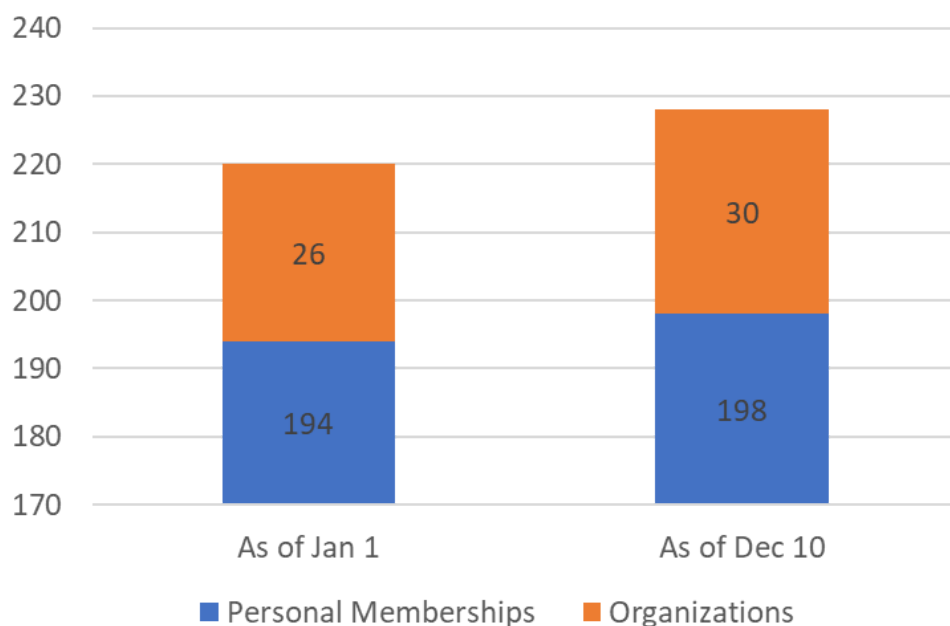
JASM prepares its financial reports on a calendar year basis. Below you can find our income statements for 2021 and 2022, along with our account balances. Our 2023 income statement will be available in April.

All figures are in \$000s.

	2021	2022
Revenue	\$130	\$153
Expenses	\$116	\$155
Net Income	\$14	\$-2

## Membership

JASM members provide vital financial and volunteer support. For information on joining, please visit [japanamericasocietyofminnesota.wildapricot.org/Join-JASM](http://japanamericasocietyofminnesota.wildapricot.org/Join-JASM)



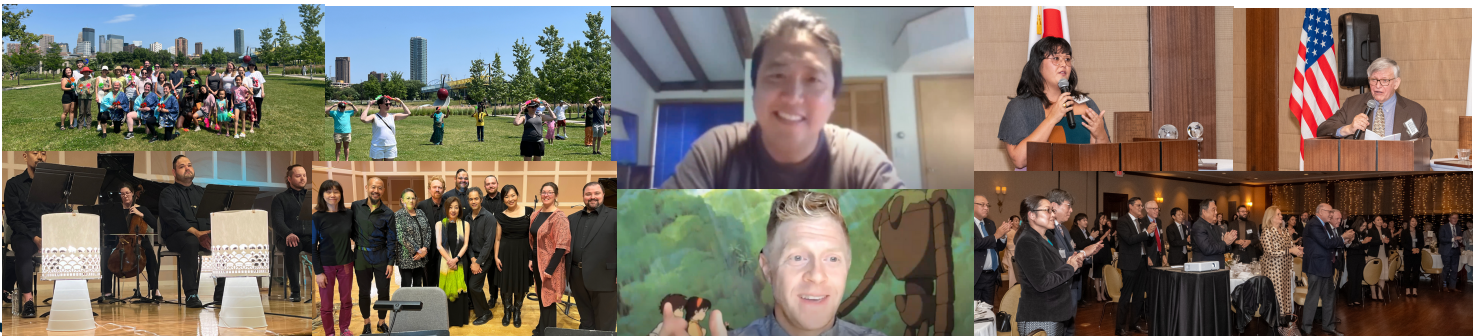


# JASM Events in 2023



January 26	JOI Talk: Japanese New Year Traditions and "Hanachozu" flower arranging with Aiko Hatano (Online)
February 12	Online J-Quiz 2023
February 16	JOI Talk: Japanese manners and customs with Mariko Nagai (Online)
March 9	Live from Japan, Artist Talk: the Fine Art of Bookbinding with Yo Yamazaki (Online)
March 30	Live from London, Artist Talk: Flora Inspired Ceramics of Hitomi Hosono (Online)
April 13	Corporate Roundtable with the Metropolitan Airports Commission (In-person)
April 20	Mia Curator Talk: The Art and Life of Fukuda Kodōjin: Japan's Great Poet and Landscape Artist (Online)
May 5-31	50th Anniversary Photo Exhibition (In-person)
May 11	New Member Social 2023 (In-Person)
May 23	Reception for JASM Members: 50th Anniversary Photo Exhibition (In-Person)
May 25	Meet the Authors: Constance Hays Matsumoto & Kent Matsumoto, co-authors of "White Ashes" (Online)
June 11	Harukaze 2023 "The Boy Who Drew Cats" by Asako Hirabayashi (in-person)
July 9	Summer Festival Dance Workshop: Bringing Japanese Summer to the Sculpture Garden (In-person)
August 20	2023 Japanese Obon Festival (In-person)
September 14	Ghibli Park: Encounters with Totoro and Laputa's Robots with Dr. Jeff DuBois (Online)
September 17	Chirimen (and more) Fundraiser (In-person)
September 23	2023 JASM Charity Golf Scramble (In-person)
October 11	Elevating the Art of Gyotaku with Dwight Hwang (Online)
November 4	2023 Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala (In-person)
November 19	Chirimen (and more) Fundraiser 2.0 (In-person)
December 13	2023 Annual Meeting (In-person)

Visit our event page: <https://www.mn-japan.org/Events>





## Board

### Honorary Directors

The Honorable Jun Yanagi  
Mr. Ron Leonhardt  
Mr. Richard Stahl  
Mr. Mirja Hanson

Consul-General of Japan in Chicago  
Honorary Consul of Japan In Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota  
Former Honorary Consul of Japan  
Former Honorary Consul of Japan

### Emeritus Directors

Mr. John Babcock	Mr. James Hoffman
Mr. Marc Blehert	Ms. Shirley Huskins
Ms. Elizabeth Brailsford	Mr. Takuzo Ishida
Ms. Irene "Inkie" Brons	Mr. Geoff Klaverkamp
Ms. Sheila Cooke	Mr. Kenneth Port
Mr. William Deef	Mr. David Smith
Ms. Elizabeth Fehrmann	Mr. Richard Stahl
Dr. Mirja Hanson	Mr. William Strang

### Officers

Mr. Bob Luck	<i>President</i>
Mr. Joseph Montgomery	<i>Vice President</i>
Ms. Mio Ishida	<i>Treasurer</i>

### Board of Directors

Ms. Kat Dalager  
Mr. Jeffrey DuBois  
Mr. Peter Hill  
Mr. Jack Koepke  
Mr. Taku Nakaoka  
Mr. Andy Morris  
Ms. Michiko Smith  
Mr. Tom Whaley

### Staff

Ms. Rio Saito	Executive Director
Ms. Yoko Ueno	Program Manager

**Corporate Members** -Membership \$500 and over



# Donations

JASM would like to thank its generous members and those who have made financial contributions. It is because of their support that the U.S-Japan relationship is strong in Minnesota.

\*in-kind donation    \*\*in-kind and cash donation    ☉ Company Match    bold/italic: Corporate and Sakura Circle Membership

## Over \$4,000

**Daikin Applied**  
**Taiyo International, Inc.**

## Over \$3,000

**Dorsey & Whitney, LLP**  
**Sawai Pharmaceutical Co., LTD.**  
Yukari Tokiwa Nelson \*

## Over \$2,500

**MGK Company**

## Over \$2,000

Naomi Fujioka \*\*  
**Sam & Mirja Hanson**  
**Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, P.C.**  
**Noriko Ishida**  
Medtronic ☉  
**Miller Milling Company**  
**Minneapolis Institute of Arts \*\***  
Oak Ridge Country Club \*  
**Satellite Industries**  
**John & Hiroko Shade**

## Over \$1,000

Mike and Yoshie Babcock  
Chris Bercaw & Mary McKelvoy  
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Yuko Heberlein \*  
Kado no Mise \*  
Young-Nam Kim  
**Robert & Sahya Luck**  
**Naigai Industries, Inc.**  
Ben & Chris van Lierop

## Over \$500

Bill Deef  
David Franke  
Ron & Molly Leonhardt

## (Over \$500)

**Murata Vios Inc.**  
New France Wine Company \*  
Origami Restaurant Uptown  
David Schultz  
**St. Paul Saints Baseball Club \*\***  
**Taft, Stettinius & Hollister LLP**  
Sarah Walbert & Mark Prpich  
Zinpro Corporation ☉

## Over \$250

Ben Allard  
Billy Sushi  
Natsuko Dieterle \*  
**JET Alumni Assoc. MN \*\***  
**Kiku Enterprises**  
Saiko McIvor  
Alan Peterson  
Lydia Rose  
Jim & Kyoko Rosenborough  
Dick & Carol Stahl  
Masanao Takahashi  
Betty Tisel & Sarah Farley  
**Tomodachi**  
Voyager Group  
**Metoree**

## Over \$100

Michael Akin  
Gretchen Anderson  
Paul Anderson  
Lionel & JoAnn Blatchley  
Marc & Amy Blehert  
Paul Bockenstedt  
Charles Breer  
Paul & Michiko Buchanan  
Coastal Seafoods/Fortune Fish & Gourmet \*  
Crystal Lake Golf Club \*  
Kat Dalager  
Tom Dietz  
Michiko Kato Dressen

## (Over \$100)

Daniel Dulas  
Shizuka Durgins  
Gordon Erickson  
Keiko Foss  
Scott Fritchie  
Susie Osaki Holmes  
Peter Hill  
Mio Ishida  
**JETRO Chicago**  
Kinoko Kids \*  
Lise Kojima  
Darryl & Yukiko Magree  
Minnesota Orchestra \*  
Hiromi Mizuno  
Andy Morris  
moto-i Ramen and Sake House \*  
Taku Nakaoka  
Johm Nelson  
Randy Nelson  
Shinya Nishi  
Yu Nishiwaki  
Okome House \*  
Rupesh Petel  
**Red Wing Sister City Commission**  
Shinri Sada  
Sake Story \*  
Scott Schiefelbein & Naomi Oshiro  
Scott & Yuko Smith  
David Smith  
Katsu & Yoko Toda  
Twins Baseball \*  
Tom Whaley  
Joseph Wiltse & Melissa Amom  
World Sake Imports \*  
May Wu  
Koji Yoshitani

**Contact Us:**

[jasm@mn-japan.org](mailto:jasm@mn-japan.org)  
P.O. Box 26639  
Minneapolis, MN 55426