

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通 信

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

November 2017 VOL. 26, No. 11

20th Annual Mondale Gala 2017: Sparkles with Honor and Generosity

On a warm October evening, the JASM community gathered at the Oakridge Country Club in Hopkins, Minnesota to celebrate the 20th Annual Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala on October 28, 2017. The evening provided a time to celebrate the relationship building that exists between Japan and Minnesota.

The program began with words of welcome by Sarah Walbert, emcee and former JASM Board Member. Richard Stahl, Honorary Consul of Japan in Minneapolis then introduced the Consul-General of Japan in Chicago, Naoki Ito who spoke about his joy in representing Japan to the Midwestern States, and gave the toast.

The keynote speaker, U.S. Senator Al Franken, was introduced by Ambassador Walter Mondale. Senator Al Franken spoke of the importance of the U.S.-Japan relationship, especially in the light of current events involving North Korea. Senator Al Franken also spoke of the US-Japan relationship not



Ambassador Mondale presents the award to Mirja Hanson.

only on an international front, but a domestic one as well; He noted that because of the current state of affairs from the U.S. White House, now more than ever the solidifying and strengthening of relationships between the U.S. and other countries, such as the U.S.-Japan relationship, is extremely important.

Senator Al Franken closed his speech by speaking of JASM's contributions to the building of the Japan-Minnesota partnership, and, most importantly, how individuals such as the 2017 Mondale Award recipient Dr. Mirja Hanson are contributing to this task as well.

The Mondale Award for Japan-Minnesota partnership was then presented by Ambassador Mondale to Dr. Mirja Hanson, former Honorary Consul-General of Japan at Minneapolis and past President of JASM. Mirja Hanson shared her gratitude on receiving the award and shared her experience growing up in Japan with her Finnish missionary parents. In receiving the Mondale Award, Mirja



U.S. Senator Al Franken giving the Keynote Speech.

Hanson said she was deeply grateful and she was reminded of the Japanese expression *Okage sama de* (because of you) in that she has received much from others in the Japan-Minnesota community.

During the dinner, both a silent and live auctions were held to raise money for the Mondale Scholarship program, and to provide support for future JASM programs. Generous donations were made by both individuals and businesses; airline tickets, pottery, and hotel vouchers were some of the items donated. Following the dinner, green tea sponge cake with chocolate mousse was graciously prepared by Tomoko Drake.

This year's Mondale Award Scholarship recipients were four distinguished students: Huyen Bui and Ezekiel Heling from the University of Minnesota, Morgan Christl from Concordia College - Moorhead, and Abbey Cipriano from Macalester College.

JASM President Marc Blehert then, who spoke of the impact of studying abroad in Japan, presented a video on the 2016 recipients of the Mondale Scholarship. Marc Blehert proceeded to close the ceremony by thanking everyone for their donations and contributions to the 2017 Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala. Takuzo Ishida and Friends also made sure to send the event off with a bang with a performance of "Tejime," the Japanese custom of ceremonial handclapping that's performed at the end of a special event to bring the event to a close.

JASM is grateful for all those who made donations to the Mondale Scholarship fund, and to all those who made this event happen. JASM is also sincerely grateful to all the volunteers, donors, and sponsors who contributed to the success of this event! We couldn't have done it without you!



Honorary Consul of Japan at Minneapolis, Richard Stahl greeting the audience.

Letter from the President



Dear JASM Members and Friends,

It has been quite a whirlwind September-October for JASM, bookended by two outstanding, major events – the welcome banquet for Ambassador Sasae and the 20th annual Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala. Holding events of this caliber is certainly a lot of work but truly demonstrates the strength of the Minnesota-Japan relationship. I could not be prouder of our JASM staff,

members and friends! Your dedication and support are much appreciated.

It was heartwarming to see how the community came out enforce to greet Ambassador Sasae at the September 13th banquet held in his honor at the St. Paul Hotel. This was Ambassador Sasae's first visit to Minnesota and he got to experience first-hand the positive impact that Japanese culture, art and business has on Minnesota. I am sure we left an impression and a very good one! I am still beaming with pride.

There was barely enough time to catch our collective breath when we all gathered once again in our finest kimono, suits and gowns for the October 28th Mondale Gala held at Oak Ridge Country Club. There is always a buzz in the air when we are joined by our Honorary Chairman, Ambassador Walter Mondale. However, there was an additional buzz with the man that currently fills Ambassador Mondale's former Senate seat, Senator Al Franken in attendance to deliver the keynote address. It was wonderful to see Dr. Mirja Hanson recognized as the Mondale Award recipient for her tremendous efforts to advance the Minnesota-Japan relationship, including serving terms as both the JASM President and Honorary Consul General. We owe Dr. Hanson a debt of gratitude for all she has done and continues to do for JASM.

Thanks to an outpouring of generosity from the attendees of the 2016 Mondale Gala, we were able to recognize four new recipients of Mondale Japan study abroad scholarships. This is the second consecutive year JASM has had the means to award a record-tying four scholarships to local, worthy college students. Money raised at the 2017 Gala should allow us to continue this outstanding trend.

Please be assured that your kind donations make a difference – more than you can imagine!

It is hard to believe that 2017 will soon be coming to an end. I wish you all an enjoyable Thanksgiving, then see you at the December Bonnenkai!

Marc Blehert

Cultural Awareness Through Tea

Tea has long been a beverage connecting other cultures together: tea was first introduced to Japan when Japanese priests returned from China to learn about its culture. With them, they brought tea seeds back. In the following centuries, tea has since become an important staple beverage in Japanese culture.

On Friday, October 6th, 2017, a tea ceremony event hosted by Pi Delta Psi Fraternity of the University of Minnesota in collaboration with the Japanese Student Association took place. Using traditional Japanese tea-making techniques, Pi Delta Psi achieved their goal of spreading Asian-American cultural awareness to the University of Minnesota. Over 40 people attended the event, eager to watch the demonstration on how to purify the tools, scoop the green tea powder into the bowl of hot water, and whisk the tea and serve. Japan Student Association secretary Shinichiro Mikawa said the event gave a platform for the student group and Pi Delta Psi, a historically East Asian-based fraternity, to introduce the art of making tea and promote Japanese culture.



Information taken from <http://www.mndaily.com/article/2017/10/spreading-cultural-awareness-through-tea>

Japan's Interest in Minnesota Companies

Recently, Minnesota-based companies have garnered the attention of Japanese companies. In September, 2017, Kyoto-based Murata Manufacturing declared its intent to purchase U.S. healthcare equipment startup Vios Medical for about \$102 million. Founded in 2012, Vios is a Minnesota-based upstart that applies information technology to the medical field. The startup is known for creating products that require just a tablet to use, taking away the need for costly medical equipment.

Also Minnesota-based, video game design and development company, Big John Games, has seen an increased demand from the Japanese video game market since June 2017. Big John Games game, "Cube Creator 3D," became the eighth best-selling downloadable game for the Nintendo 3DS in Japan ever, besting the sales of the game in the U.S. video game market. "Cube Creator 3D" caught the attention of multinational video game company, Nintendo, where Nintendo invited Big John Games to a meeting to discuss upcoming projects and partnerships.

Information taken from the following links:

(<https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Deals/Japan-s-Murata-to-acquire-US-medical-startup-for-102m>)

(http://www.postbulletin.com/news/local/japan-sales-lift-minnesota-video-game-developer/article_7ce60c0f-7f52-57aa-a6a9-841009d8ef99.html)

Corporate Spotlight: Medtronic, Inc.

Medtronic was founded in 1949 as a medical equipment repair shop by Earl Bakken and his brother-in-law, Palmer Hermundslie. Today, Medtronic is the world's largest medical technology company. Medtronic operates in more than 140 countries worldwide.



Medtronic

Medtronic has six main business units, which develop and manufacture devices and therapies to treat more than 30 chronic diseases, including heart failure, obesity, urinary incontinence, Down's syndrome, obesity, chronic pain, spinal disorders and diabetes.

Medtronic's mission statement is "Contributing to human welfare by the application of biomedical engineering to alleviate pain, restore health, and extend life."

JASM is thankful to Medtronic, Inc. for its financial support as a Corporate Sustaining Member.

(This information was taken from <http://www.medtronic.com/us-en/about.html>)

Please thank our members with your support!

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NDSU-Emily Reynolds Historic Costume Collection
U of MN Dept. of Asian Languages and Literatures, Japanese Language Program
Winona State Univ. Global Studies Dept.

Japanese Art Exhibitions at Minneapolis Institute of Arts

Now through June 28, 2018, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts is hosting two exhibitions on contemporary Japanese lacquer sculptures and Japanese ink paintings:

Since the Neolithic era, artisans in East Asia have been crafting Lacquerware, which was (and still is) prized for its sheen and lustrous beauty. Thirty works by 16 artists encompass this original exhibition of contemporary Japanese lacquer sculpture. As the only collection in the world to feature this incredible new form, they have all been extracted from the illustrious Clark Collections at Mia.

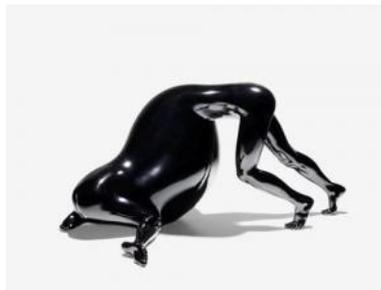
Born in China to Japanese parents, Minol Araki (1928-2010), a distinguished industrial designer, was also a prolific painter with a strong foundation in East Asian painting traditions. Active professionally in New York and Taipei, Araki created an immense body of ink paintings that reimagined tradition and conjoins East and West. Painted by Araki, the ink painting exhibition at Mia portrays landscapes, dragons, snow monkeys, and lotus ponds, and is depicted upon five tremendous compositions that consist of mid-career, large-scale works, each of which stretches more than 70 feet.

(For both Exhibitions):

Location: MIA's Target Wing

Admission: Free

Dates: October 8, 2017 - June 28, 2018



Japanese Lacquer Sculpture

2017 Mondale Gala: Thank You

Thank You!

The Japan America Society of Minnesota wholeheartedly appreciates the donors for their generous gifts toward the silent and live auctions that provide for the Mondale Scholarship. JASM would also like to thank everyone who attended the 2017 Mondale Gala.

Cheers to the Planning Team!

Award Committee

Richard Stahl
John Babcock
William Strang

Videographer

Steve Blehert

Scholarship Committee

Marc Blehert
Chuck Chan
Michiko Kato Dressen
Takuzo Ishida

Cuisine

Tomoko Drake

Emcee

Sarah Walbert

Gala Planning Committee

Marc Blehert, Chair
Clint Conner
Takuzo Ishida
Richiko Kamata
Ron Leonhardt
Shannon Meyer
Ben van Lierop
Yoko Ueno

Floral Arrangement

Ikebana Sogetsu Group

Kimono Assistance

Tomoko Silbert
Tomoko Stubbings

Music

Asako Hirabayashi

Samantha Chase
Charles Daoheuang

Photographer

Dan Dennehy

Table Decorations

Ikebana Sogetsu Group, Flower Arrangements
Keiko Martin, Ceramic Vases

Bonsai Display

Takuzo Ishida



Corporate Sponsors:

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Thank you!

The Japan America Society of Minnesota is grateful to these sponsors for their financial contributions that made the 2017 Mondale Gala a success.

Membership News

Thanks to the following
Renewing JASM Members:

Daniel Carballo, Bob Leidlein, Kathryn Klibanoff, Diana Lynne

Thanks to the following
New JASM Members:

Matthew Murphy, Patricia Kaufman, Karen Schiller, Thomas Draeger, George Frambo, Katie Severt, Brita Olmstead, Austin Baker, Sheryl Hogg, Debbie Hanson

Thanks to the following
Renewing JASM Corporate Member:

Kiku Enterprises, Inc.

Thanks to the following
New JASM Corporate Member:

United Noodles

Taiko Artist Eien Hunter-Ishikawa Comes to Minnesota

TaikoArts Midwest welcomed guest artist Eien Hunter-Ishikawa as a performer during their Taiko Tuesday Concert on October 17th, 2017, at the North Garden Theatre in Saint Paul Minnesota. Eien Hunter-Ishikawa is a musician and educator based in Portland, Oregon specializing in in drumset, Taiko, percussion, and shinobue. Born in Japan, Ishikawa's interest in taiko as a child solidified when he joined a youth taiko ensemble directed by Saburo Mochizuki, a founding member of Tokyo's pioneering taiko ensemble Sukeroku Daiko. Currently, Ishikawa is a member of contemporary taiko quartet On Ensemble.

Although Ishikawa only performed on October 17th, TaikoArts Midwest is having two more Taiko Tuesday Concerts this year on November 17th, 2017 and December 5th, 2017.



For more information, please visit <http://aapress.com/arts/taikoarts-midwest-welcomes-eien-hunter-ishikawa/>

November Holidays in Japan

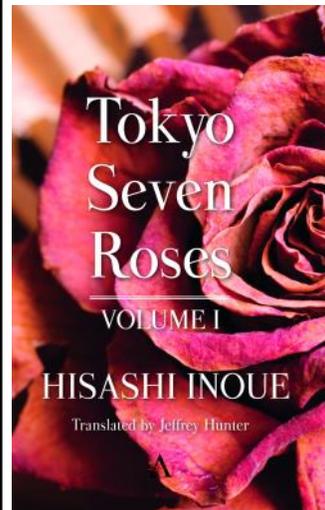
The month of November contains two national holidays celebrated in Japan: Culture Day (*Bunka no Hi*) and Labor Thanksgiving Day (*Kinrō Kansha no Hi*).

Culture Day takes place on November 3rd, and is celebrated by promoting culture, the arts, and academic endeavor. Local and prefectural governments use this day to hold art exhibits, culture festivals, and parades. Culture Day was first held in 1948, to commemorate the announcement of the post-war Japanese constitution on November 3rd, 1946.

Labor Thanksgiving Day takes place on November 23rd, and is an occasion for commemorating labor and production and giving one another thanks. Events are held throughout Japan, such as the Nagano Labor Festival. This event encourages people to think about issues affecting peace, human rights, and the environment.



Tom Haeg's Book Review



Tokyo Seven Roses (Vol. I); Hisashi Inoue (translated by Jeffrey Hunter), Anthem Press, 2013.

Here's an understatement: 1945 was unkind to Japan. The cynic responds: you get what you deserve. You want a totalitarian, expansionist military government, good, then take the baggage, too. Incendiary bombs are falling all over the place. People are starving. The Empire is contracting. Pretty desperate times.

But, into this abyss enters our protagonist, Shinsuke Yamanaka, a parochial Tokyo fan maker of little merit, whose diary narrates, -and explains, his plight and the plight of his fellow residents who must suffer squalor and 'bear the unbearable'. Inoue accomplishes this in an entertaining and somewhat Chaucerian leitmotif writing style. It is part historical fiction mixed with gentle humor and topped with a plaintive olive.

Yet this strange literary cocktail succeeds and is extremely effective to draw out the humanity amidst sordidness. The diary format (...May 11...May 13...October 17...) is the story line and moves along well. It resonates because the characters are not static. Their interactions morph into a dramatis personae of theater. This is no coincidence since the playwright craft is Hisashi Inoue's (1934-2010) first love and forte. He is an award-winning Japanese scriptwriter, playwright, -and then novelist. He is the recipient of the 1972 Kishida Kunio Stage Drama Award and Naoki Award and the 1981 Seiun Prize.

We begin the book by snooping into one's diary and end by sitting with an audience while the curtain of the play comes down. With applause. Meanwhile, we get a history lesson, a moral lecture and vaudevillian anecdotes. Very clever.

-Tom Haeg

Fun Times at the 2017 Mondale Gala!



Trial Classes and Enrollment Interview at Minneapolis Japanese School

平成 30 年度ミネアポリス日本語補習授業校 園児・児童募集
<http://www.minneapolisjapaneseschool.org/>

クラス	対象年齢*	体験入学	試験・面接	募集期間
おひさま組 (親子教室)	満 2 歳	希望者見 学可能	1 月 27 日	平成 29 年 11 月 6 日～ 平成 30 年 1 月 13 日
幼稚部 年少組	満 3 歳	1 月 14 日	1 月 20 日 (面接)	平成 29 年 11 月 6 日～ 平成 29 年 12 月 15 日
小学部 1 年	満 6 歳	2 月 10 日 (年長組体験・試験・面接)		平成 29 年 11 月 6 日～ 平成 30 年 1 月 31 日

対象年齢*は平成 30 (2018) 年 4 月 1 日時点での年齢です。

参加をご希望の方は、松本 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 Class	Interview & Examination	Application Deadline
Parent and Toddler Class	4/2/2015～ 4/1/2016	Request Available	1/27/2018 (Interview Only)	1/14/2018
Preschool Class	4/2/2014～ 4/1/2015	1/14/2018	1/20/2018 (Interview Only)	12/15/2017
1st Grade	4/2/2011～ 4/1/2012	2/10/2018		1/31/2018

If you are interested in attending, please contact Mai Matsumoto at
seito@minneapolisjapaneseschool.org

Language Partners for Japanese Language Program at U of MN

The Japanese Language Program at the University of Minnesota is seeking conversation partners!

日本語会話パートナー (ボランティア) 募集!

日本語を勉強している学生の会話パートナーになっていただけませんか。ミネソタ大学日本語科では、日本語会話パートナーを探しています。日本語を母国語とする方だけでなく、お仕事などで日本語を日常的に使われている方、ご協力いただくと大変ありがたいです。日本語の会話だけでも結構ですし、学生の得意とする他の外国語との交換 (例えば、会っている時間の半分は日本語で、あとの半分は英語で会話、など) という形でも結構です。ミーティングの回数、時間、場所、などは学生と相談して決めていただきます。詳細は、ミネソタ大学日本語科 Michiko Todokoro Buchanan までお問い合わせください。

Michiko Todokoro Buchanan

buch0119@umn.edu

Japanese Language
Program

Department of Asian
Languages and
Literatures

[https://cla.umn.edu/
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Asian Languages & Literatures

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Classified	80 character line	\$10/ line (min. 2 lines)

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**

Japan America Society Calendar

December:

Bonenkai and Annual Meeting

If you would like to let JASM know about an upcoming event, e-mail us at jasm.interns@gmail.com

Japanese Speaking Club

The Japanese Speaking Club is an informal meeting place for those wishing to practice Japanese. We encourage those just beginning the language as well as native speakers to gather at the **Espresso Royale Café in Downtown Minneapolis** to meet new people, discuss experiences in Japan, or simply to speak Japanese. Come when you can, leave when you must.

Date/Time: Every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. (however, most people do not show up until 3:30)

Place: Espresso Royale Café



1229 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55403

月例日本人会のお知らせ

毎月日本語図書館で日本人会の昼食会 (Monthly Nihonjin-kai) を行っています。電話などでお誘い合わせの上、お友達やお知り合いと一緒においで下さい。可能の方はどうぞ料理を1品ご持参願います。ミネソタ州在住の日本人達で良い事を考え、ご馳走と日本語で楽しい時間を持ちましょう。

日程：毎月第2月曜日正午より

場所：日本語図書館

(4231 Bloomington Ave S., Minneapolis, MN 55407)

また、毎週土曜日午後2時から、日本語図書館のお手伝いして下さる方の集まりがあります。是非ご参加ください。この図書館には、漫画や宗教誌約25000冊や約2500本のビデオDVDがあり、希望者にはセルフサービスで日本人会と同じく無料で貸出しています。お問い合わせは下記までどうぞ。

Yoko Breckenridge

Cell phone: (612) 839-0008 E-mail: Yoko@yoko4home.com

Nihonjin-kai monthly meeting on 2nd Monday, at noon, at 4231 Bloomington Ave S Minneapolis, MN 55407

Become a JASM Member online!

Support our mission and become a member!

1. Go to mn-japan.org
2. Click on 'Membership' at the top
3. Select your membership type and read the benefits and instructions.

You can also become a member using your smart phone!

Japan America Society of Minnesota

- Membership Application Change of Address
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Name _____

Name (2nd adult of a household membership) _____

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City _____

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E-mail _____

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I would like to make an additional tax-deductible donation of _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

(Please make checks payable to JASM)

Individual Membership

Patron.....	\$1,000+
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Individual	\$30
Student/Senior	\$20
Household	\$50
(2 adults plus children under 18)	

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Japan America Society of Minnesota



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通信

Tsūshin
November 2017

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.interns@gmail.com)

