

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通信

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

July 2021 Vol. 30, No. 8

Mondale Award Nominations 2021



Ambassador Mondale awarding the Mondale Award 2020 (left) and the recipient, William Deef (right)

In 1997, Japan America Society of Minnesota created the *Mondale Award for Japan-Minnesota Partnership* to recognize outstanding contributions to the

building of understanding, cooperation, and respect between the people of Japan and Minnesota. The award was named for — and first presented to — Joan and Walter Mondale to recognize Mrs. Mondale's decades-long effort to promote the arts in both countries, and Ambassador Mondale's service as United States Ambassador to Japan. We will continue celebrating the life and legacy of Walter Mondale through the Japan America community.

JASM hopes to continue the distribution of this esteemed award this year. If you know someone who has dedicated their efforts to the continued benefit of the U.S-Japan relationship, please nominate them! All applications must be submitted either by email to jasm@us-japan.org or by filling out the form [here](#) by **Monday, August 16**.

Recap: Edamame Champ 全米エダマメ選手権



Ms. Mayumi Uejima-Carr (left) and Ms. Debra Samuels (right) at the presentation on soy

On the blistering hot afternoon of June 5th, JASM joined Table for Two and the Japan Society of Boston for #EdamameChamp, an annual spring campaign promoting healthy eating through Japanese cuisine, or *wa-shokuiku*, particularly through the use of soy. This free virtual event was made in part to support Table for Two in their quest to teach healthy eating habits to children everywhere.

After the greeting from Yuko Handa, Executive Director at the Japan Society of Boston, and Rio Saito, JASM Executive Director, participants enjoyed three program segments: *Presentation on Soy*, *Edamame Champ Competition*, and *Cooking Class using Soy (Miso Ramen)*.

Continues page 3...

Kamishibai/Storytelling with Minneapolis Ibaraki Sister City Association



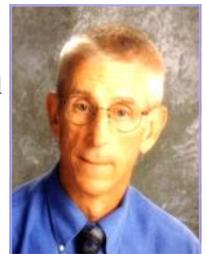
Discover kamishibai! Listen to stories accompanied by illustrations! Join JASM along with the Minneapolis Ibaraki Sister City Association (MISCA) for an evening of storytelling on **Thursday, July 8th, 6-7pm** via Zoom.

A form of storytelling originating from Japan, kamishibai (kah-mee-she-bye) stories are told through illustrated cards. The text of the story is located on the back of the cards where it is recited by the storyteller.

Three stories in English will be offered: *Momotaro the Peach Boy*, *The Mother Cat*, and *The Bamboo Princess*. This event is free for both members and non-members.

Karen Kersting will present the stories. Karen has enjoyed the adventure and enchantment of stories for as long as she can remember. Meeting new people and having the ability to travel enlivens her. Collecting and sharing stories bring her great pleasure. Being outdoors, spending time with her children and grandchildren (or anybody's children), making music or dancing to it: these fill her days with smiles.

Karl Reinhardt is the current president of MISCA. Karl joined the organization in 1989 when the soccer club he was coaching wanted to send a team to Ibaraki, Japan. Ibaraki had sent teams the previous three years to the USA Cup Soccer Tournament in Blaine. Karl's soccer club had provided homestays for the Ibaraki team members during their time in Minnesota. Through this exchange he developed a love for things Japanese. Although he no longer coaches soccer, he still plays two to three times a week. Karl is also a retired Minneapolis Public Schools mathematics teacher.



MISCA, established in 1980, is a non-for-profit organization established to build goodwill, friendship, and opportunities between two cities: Minneapolis and Ibaraki, Japan. Ibaraki is a city with a population of about 250,000 and is located between Osaka and Kyoto. Working together with Osaka (the third largest city in Japan), Ibaraki has developed strong biotech research and is home to large manufacturing plants including Matsushita and Toshiba. Among the activities MISCA sponsors are cultural, educational, sporting, artistic, and youth exchanges. The goal of these efforts is to provide a better understanding and appreciation of one another as we reach out to make new friends.

Letter from JASM President



Elizabeth Fehrmann,
JASM President

Dear JASM friends and family,

We're well into summer and, thus far, we've seen very hot, dry conditions more typical of late summer or early fall, and it's taking its toll. As a gardener, I've struggled to keep some of my newly-planted flower beds healthy, to some degree of success, though nothing I started from seed this year has survived the blistering early-season heat. I'll have to try again next year, I guess. In the meantime, I hope everyone is staying cool and hydrated!

On the COVID-19 front, we are making progress toward putting the pandemic and its effects behind us, but we still have work to do. For instance, out of an abundance of caution, Como Park will not be hosting an Obon Festival celebration on its usual scale; instead, they will conduct a smaller evening event specifically to float the remembrance lanterns. JASM, for its part, is continuing to host events virtually — like the upcoming Kamishibai event with the Minneapolis Ibaraki Sister City Association — while we start to explore ways to get back together for in-person events. It's been a tumultuous year, but throughout, JASM staff and volunteers have done their best to support all of you and further the JASM mission as effectively and safely as possible. I think it's fair to say that we are looking forward to congregating, celebrating, and growing with you in person again soon!

In other news, the JASM board has begun execution of our strategic plan. Taking a fresh look at our mission and how best to fulfill it is right at the top of our to-do list, followed closely by how best to engage with you, our membership, and afford you more opportunities to get involved with the organization. I know we have an enthusiastic and talented membership, and we're excited to find new and different ways of connecting the know-how within our community with the people who want to know both inside and outside our community.

Finally, folks in Tokyo are well into the final stages of preparation for the opening of the 2020(1) Summer Olympics, with the opening ceremony scheduled for July 23. I distinctly remember seeing (what must have been) several members of the planning committee sporting shirts bearing the Olympic rings logo on a train in Tokyo back in the summer of 2018, which — in its own small way — speaks to the sheer amount of effort that goes into hosting the event. Even with lingering coronavirus restrictions in place, I'm glad to see things are moving forward and I wish the competitors and their coaches and support staff the best of luck!

Until next time,
Elizabeth Fehrmann



Recap: Know Me Kai: Welcoming New JASM Members



Know Me Kai: Welcoming New JASM Members 2021

On Thursday, June 10 we held *Know Me Kai: Welcoming New JASM Members* on Zoom.

After her welcoming remarks JASM Executive Director Rio Saito provided an overview of JASM's activities held throughout the year by showing pictures to the new members. Then each member had an opportunity to introduce themselves, talk about their connections to Japan, and exchange opinions about other subjects.

We were happy to get to know the new JASM members and to connect them with existing members. Also, we were delighted that former JASM Executive Director Darryl Magree could join us.

After the event JASM gave away masks that won the *Mask Up 2020: U.S.-Japan Face Mask Design Contest* that the Japan Foundation for Global Partnership had launched.

Membership News (5/21-6/20, 2021)

Thanks to the following new JASM members:

Katherine Hawkins, Steven Nelson

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

Michael Akin, Baby Asano-Hanson, John Babcock, Holly Brackett, Charles Breer, Suzuko Erickson, Naomi Fujioka, Brittany Greaner, Chris Griese, Thomas Haeg, James Hagen, Kyoko Haines, Riley Hanson, Catherine Hunter, Jay Ihlenfeld, Kathryn Klibanoff, Michael Migliacio, Hiroshi & Eriko Nakato, Michael & Sakiko Nilan, Jeremy Pierotti, Karen Sandness, John & Hiroko Shade, David & Olivia Smith, Alan Touchberry, Maria Traxer, Kotaro Tsuno

Thanks to the following renewing Corporate members:

JETRO Chicago
Minneapolis Institute of Art

2021 Obon Festival Cancelled

We would like to inform you that the Obon Festival 2021 has been officially cancelled this year due to COVID-19. The decision was made with everyone's safety in mind, since we do not feel comfortable enough yet to get together with what would likely be a minimum of 10,000 people.



We are looking forward to seeing you at the Obon Festival 2022!

Meanwhile, there will be a small program of a lantern release on the pond at Como Park this year. The date and details will be announced later on the [JASM website](http://JASMwebsite.com).

The annual Obon Festival, the largest Japan-related festival in Minnesota, usually takes place in Como Park in August. Modeled after summer festivals held across Japan, it features stage performances, cultural demonstrations, activities, handicrafts and souvenirs, and, of course, Japanese food.

中止のおしらせ

Please thank our members
with your support!

Corporate Benefactor Members

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

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
Origami Restaurant
Sakura Restaurant
Saint Paul Saints Baseball Club
Saji-Ya Restaurant
Suishin Restaurant
Tomodachi
Zen Healing Center

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 Language & Culture 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 Dept.

Recap: Edamame Champ 全米エダマメ選手権 continued...



Presentation on Soy, of course, focused on soybeans and their vital role in Japanese cuisine, particularly that of *edamame*. Along with a spicy edamame recipe, we were presented with various facts about soybeans, including which countries produce the most, plus popular foods they are used in such as miso soup, tofu, and everyone's favorite.... *natto!*

The *Edamame Champ Competition* let viewers put their chopstick skills to the ultimate test. With a time limit of one minute, challengers tried their best to make as

many circles with *edamame* as possible before time was up. A creative competition was also done to see who could create the most inventive shape in two minutes. The winners were invited to the final Edamame Champ Competition on Saturday, June 12.

The final portion of the event, *Cooking Class using Soy*, taught us all how to make delicious bowls of miso ramen for the whole family using soy. Some followed along while others simply watched, but we could all agree that the food looked absolutely delicious in the end.

JASM would like to thank Table for Two and the Japan Society of Boston for partnering with us, and everyone who joined us for this thoughtful, creative event.



TABLE FOR TWO



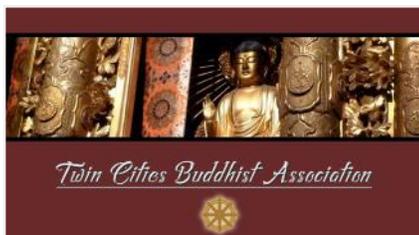
THE JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON



Upcoming: A Story of Obon with Twin Cities Buddhist Association Sangha

Obon is an annual summer festival that commemorates our ancestors. It gives us an opportunity to express our gratitude to our family and friends who have gone before us. We most often associate Obon with *Bon Odori*, or folk dancing, accompanied by the sounds of taiko drums. At the Obon celebrations in Como Park, we enjoy delicious food, celebrate Japanese culture, and release beautiful lanterns in the Japanese garden at night. It is a festive yet contemplative time to gather with our families.

Please join us as Reverend Todd Tsuchiya and Reverend Chiemi Renshin Onikura Bly from **Twin Cities Buddhist Association Sangha** explain the origins of Obon and the history of how it has been celebrated in Japan, the US, and locally here in the Twin Cities, on **Thursday, July 22nd at 6 p.m. via Zoom**. [Please sign up by clicking here](#).



Twin Cities Buddhist Association Sangha (TCBA):

TCBA was founded in 1946 by Japanese American incarceration camp survivors and

Military Intelligence Service veterans from Fort Snelling. TCBA is a Jodo Shinshu group based in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, affiliated with the Buddhist Churches of America. Jodo Shinshu is part of the Pure Land tradition and has its origins in Japan in the 13th century. It developed as a teaching that included all of society, not just the educated elite of the day. It arrived in the US in 1899 along with the Japanese immigrant community. The TCBA currently meets every other week via Zoom, but in non-pandemic times they meet monthly at the Midtown YWCA in Minneapolis. They also hold monthly discussion sessions in Japanese using Zoom. For more information, please check the TCBA website from [here](#).



Reverend Todd Tsuchiya

Reverend Todd Tsuchiya is a Minister's Assistant at TCBA and ordained in the Jodo Shinshu Nishi Hongwanji tradition in Kyoto, Japan and part of the Buddhist Churches of America. He was born and raised in Minnesota and is a retired dentist. You may have seen Todd playing taiko in past Kogen Taiko performances and the shinobue (transverse bamboo flute) at JASM events.

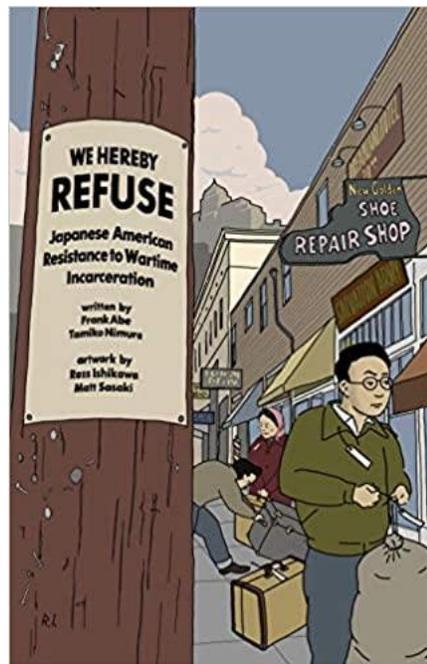


Reverend Chiemi Renshin Onikura Bly

Reverend Chiemi Renshin Onikura Bly: Raised in a Jodo Shinshu temple family in Fukuoka Japan, Chiemi graduated from a Jodo Shinshu high school and college. She moved to the United States in 2000. Chiemi has lived in Minnesota for 20 years. She was ordained in the Jodo Shinshu Nishi Hongwanji tradition in 2016. She is an Assistant Minister of the Buddhist Church of America, and serves at the Twin Cities Buddhist Association.

We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Tom Haeg's Book Review



We Hereby Refuse; Frank Abe and Tamiko Nimura, Chin Music Press, 2021.

An unfortunate misconception in World War 2 is that all Japanese Americans incarcerated by President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066 were compliant, submissive, and obsequious during their unlawful arrests and imprisonments. Not so.

We Hereby Refuse is a graphic novel which dispels this myth through the narratives of three relatively unknown yet courageous people: Jim Akutsu (refused the draft), Hiroshi Kashiwagi (refused to sign a bogus loyalty oath), and Mitsuye Endo (refused to leave the camp to maintain her status as a plaintiff litigant). It is illustrated in a graphic novel (manga) format by artists Ross Ishikawa and Matt Sasaki.

At first, I thought that its cartoonish style could be a distraction to the squalor unlawfully suffered by the inmates: the loss of due process, confiscated personal property, denial of basic liberties. Was manga a proper medium to depict their plight? (Could a cartoon be made of Dachau?) But after reading the book (a quick read I might add) I found myself reading it again and then again. It was compelling and dignified in treating the subject matter with respect. Never mind that it may not wind up as a tome in some historical archive; it effectively told a forgotten and deserving story about civil resistance during war, without the usual revisionist trappings. The history was accurate, the events appropriate, and the people credible.

This book was published with financial assistance from the United States Department of Interior to preserve and interpret the sites where Japanese Americans were detained.

-Tom Haeg

Advertise in the Tsushin!

Advertisement Rates

Style	Size (height x width)	Cost/issue
1/4 page	5 x 3.5 in	\$50.00
1/2 page	7.5 x 5 in/3.5 x 10 in	\$90.00
Full page	7.5 x 10 in	\$150.00
Classified	80 character line (minimum 2 lines)	\$10/ line

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 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)

Calendar

July

Kamishibai/Storytelling with Minneapolis Ibaraki Sister City Association, **July 8 at 6 pm**
A Story of Obon with Twin Cities Buddhist Association Sangha, **July 22 at 6 pm**

Become a JASM Member online

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@at@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 or/and 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
of MINNESOTA

P.O. Box 26639
Minneapolis, MN 55426

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

通信

Tsūshin
July 2021

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@us-japan.com

JASM June Events



Edamame Champ 全米エダマメ選手権: Miso Ramen Cooking Class with Debra Samuels



Know Me Kai:
Welcome
JASM New
Members 2021