

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通信

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December 2021 Vol. 30, No. 13

Recap: 2021 Virtual Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala: Remembering Ambassador Mondale



As the end of another tumultuous year approaches, we look back to one of JASM's largest annual events. On the evening of Friday, November 5th, JASM held the 24th annual Mondale Scholarship and Award Gala. The event was streamed live online, free for all to view.

As many of us are already aware, we sadly lost Ambassador Mondale earlier this year. For decades he was a great inspiration, and as such this year's gala was wholeheartedly dedicated to him. Rather than inviting a single keynote speaker, several speakers were invited to share their stories of how Ambassador Mondale impacted their lives, as a tribute to him. The wonderful flower arrangement on display during the event was made by the Sogetsu Study Group, led by Yoshie Babcock.

JASM Board Member and host Joe Montgomery led off the gala with a brief rundown of the night's programming. He handed off the reins to Honorary Consul-General Ron Leonhardt, who introduced brand-new Consul-General of Japan in Chicago Hiroshi Tajima and his impressive background in international relations. Consul-General Tajima provided a welcome video where he noted he had heard Ambassador Mondale embodied the best of the Midwest. The Consul-General very much looks forward to strengthening relationships in his honor.



Next, Joe emceed the heart of the event: the various heartfelt tributes to the late Ambassador Mondale expressing the tremendous impact he has had upon each speaker. First up was Minnesota U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar, who described Ambassador Mondale as

"scrupulously honest." She shared that her first job in Washington had been an internship at Ambassador Mondale's office and how grateful she is towards him as a mentor. She closed with a look to the future, with an emphasis on the importance of the Mondale Scholarship and handing off the torch to the next generation.



Immediately following Senator Klobuchar was the current Ambassador of Japan to the U.S. Koji Tomita. Ambassador Tomita recalled frequently working with Ambassador Mondale while in Japan and the kindness he radiated even well after his retirement. Prior

to giving his condolences, he made sure to emphasize honoring Ambassador Mondale by following in his footsteps and ensuring our strong ties well into the future.



The next speaker was Kent Calder, the Interim Dean of the John Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. Mr. Calder served as special advisor to Ambassador Mondale when he was ambassador in Japan and has many fond memories of him. He highlighted Ambassador Mondale's

great impact on U.S.-Japan relations, his understanding of grassroots diplomacy, and, above all else, his respect for others at the heart of his persona. Mr. Calder said he is more than honored to have known Ambassador Mondale.

The gala also held the delight of a story from a World War II veteran's daughter, Mary Tomes. Ambassador Mondale motivated her father, Arthur Tomes, to return to Japan many decades after the war. With Ambassador Mondale's encouragement, Mr. Tomes gained the confidence to return to Japan and give a beautiful speech on making peace and reconciliation. Gala viewers also heard stories of Ambassador Mondale from a past executive director of JASM, Ben van Lierop; the current executive director of JASM, Rio Saito; and a former associate of the Ambassador at Dorsey & Whitney, Chris Bercau. From his strong work ethic to being the hero of many, every speaker shared warm, fond memories of Ambassador Mondale. We are all inspired to build lasting relationships in his footsteps.



Once the tributes were complete, it was time to present the Mondale Award. Presenting the award this year was Marc Bleher, Chairman of the Mondale Award Selection Committee. He and everyone at JASM were honored to present this year's

Mondale Award for Japan-Minnesota Partnership to Sarah Walbert for her unwavering support for bridging Japan-Minnesota relations. Sarah has been an active JASM volunteer for over 40 years and secured many strong international business ties throughout decades of work. In her acceptance speech, Sarah admitted that "We can't all be a Walter Mondale, but you keep nurturing the seeds until one day you realize they've taken on a life of their own and grown into something meaningful." Some of those seeds planted grew into what we know as the Mondale Scholarship Program, and the prominence of JASM in Japan-Minnesota relations continuing to be nurtured to this very day. We thank Sarah for her resilience and inspiration for helping to create this amazing community.

... continued on page 2

Message from Executive Director Rio Saito



Rio Saito
JASM Executive Director

Hello, Japan America Society of Minnesota members: another year is about to end. Even though we are still amid this pandemic and having uniquely difficult challenges, I have been reflecting on the things I am grateful for. Primarily among those: faithful JASM supporters, including JASM Corporate and Individual members, volunteers, and board members. Also, we have been having more attendees at our online events from outside of Minnesota; so to

newcomers: welcome and thank you!

This year we held many events with new connections that we have made throughout the years. For example, we had our first whiskey tasting in February, and in March we had a corporate roundtable with a speaker from North Dakota for the first time. We also celebrated Shinshunkai with ten different performers from throughout Minnesota (plus Tennessee and Tokyo). One of the highlights of the Shinshunkai was having a Japanese American drag king perform. It is one of our goals to have more representations from diverse groups and we are so honored that Damian Nijiya performed for us. In April, we had an event with our sister organization, America-Japan Society of Akita. Just like the event with a speaker from North Dakota, this is one of the silver linings of being in the midst of a pandemic: it made it easy for us to connect with people outside of Minnesota, and even the U.S., via the internet. All the performers as well as the participants of the events are extremely valuable for the wellbeing of our organization. We are very happy to be able to still serve you and continue building community together.

Next year will mark JASM's 50th anniversary. We will be celebrating throughout the year, beginning in Spring 2022. We also plan to look back and appreciate everybody who has been there to build a path for us, as we continue strengthening this wonderful organization that was passed on to us. We are looking forward to celebrating with you. I wish you all a wonderful new year, and I'm looking forward to having more fun together with you. Thank you again for your support!

Rio Saito
Executive Director



Recap: 2021 Virtual Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala: Remembering Ambassador Mondale *continues...*

The presentation of the Mondale Award was followed by the first part of the live auction to help fund JASM and Fund-The-Scholar. This year's live auction and fundraising was led by JASM member Kat Dalager.

Next, JASM President Elizabeth Fehrmann gave an update on the Mondale Scholarship. Regrettably, JASM was unable to award a scholarship for 2021-22 due to continuing travel restrictions; however, we hope to be able to present an award for the 2022-23



academic year. We next heard from one of last year's recipients of the Mondale Scholarship, Lydia Rose, who described the experiences made possible

through the scholarship. Lydia was able to take an online course and receive a taste of Japan through the program via many episodes of cross-cultural communication. The night ended with the second half of the live auction, sponsorship appreciation/remarks, and *tejime*, a special clapping tradition, led by Mr. Don Katagiri.

We would like to give great thanks to the sponsors of this year's gala (see the list on page 3). We also want to thank the companies and individuals who donated items for the silent auction (please see page 4), and those who participated in bidding.

Thank you to everyone for attending this year's gala. We are incredibly grateful for all the contributions and unwavering enthusiasm for JASM and our events, particularly over the past two years. With your help, JASM can fund scholars, organize and hold events, and host a wonderful gala every year. Thank you all for remembering the legacy of Ambassador Mondale with us.

Membership News (10/21-11/20, 2021)

Thanks to the following new JASM members:

Etsuko Pederson

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

William and Yuriko farmer,
Paul and Virginia Fehrmann,
Tom and Clare Larkin, Jonathan Wiese

Thanks to the following renewing Corporate members:

Suishin Restaurant
MGK Company Inc.
Surdyk's Liquor and Cheese

**Sponsors and Supporters:
2021 Virtual Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala**

We would like to give special thanks to sponsors of this year's gala:

Special Thanks to



Matsu/Pine Tree Sponsor



Take/Bamboo Sponsors



Ume/Plum Sponsor



This event was made possible through the generous contribution of our sponsors.

We are incredibly thankful for all contributions and unwavering dedication to JASM and our associated events, especially this past year. It is thanks to you that JASM is able fund scholars, put on events, and succeed in hosting our gala every year. We look forward to another fantastic year with all of you.

***The Japan America Society of Minnesota sincerely appreciates
the efforts and contributions of these individuals:***

Award Committee
Marc Blehert, Chair
Richard Stahl
John Babcock

Emcee
Joseph Montgomery

Scholarship Committee
Elizabeth Fehrmann
Charles Chan, Chair
Michiko Kato Dressen
Mirja Hanson

Tejime
Don Katagiri

Gala Outreach Committee
Marc Blehert
Bob Luck, Chair
Joseph Montgomery
Ben van Lierop

Video Editor
Ted Yang

Flower Arrangement
Sogetsu Study Group

Gala Auction Committee
Marc Blehert
Motoko Hioki, Chair
Michiko Smith

Gala Planning Committee
Kat Dalager
Motoko Hioki
Michiko Smith

Auctioneer
Kat Dalager

***Please thank our members
with your support!***

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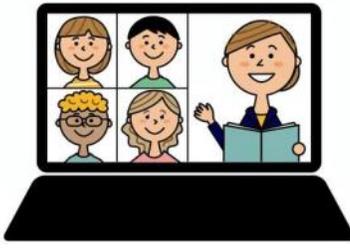
JK's Table
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Minnesota Trade Office
Sakura Restaurant
Saint Paul Saints Baseball Club
Saji-Ya Restaurant
Suishin Restaurant
Tomodachi
Zen Healing Center

Nonprofit Members

Concordia Language Villages
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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 Dept.



Upcoming: Annual Meeting 2021



The end of the year is just around the corner. It is time for JASM's annual meeting. Usually, after the meeting we convene our end-of-year celebration, Bonenkai, but we will not be hosting it again this year. Therefore, we would like to call attention to JASM members only, to join

us for the annual meeting online on **Wednesday, December 15 at 6 p.m.**

Please register by clicking [here](#).

At the meeting we will be reflecting on the year as a whole and looking forward to next year's 50th Anniversary. We'll discuss additional ways we can further JASM's mission.



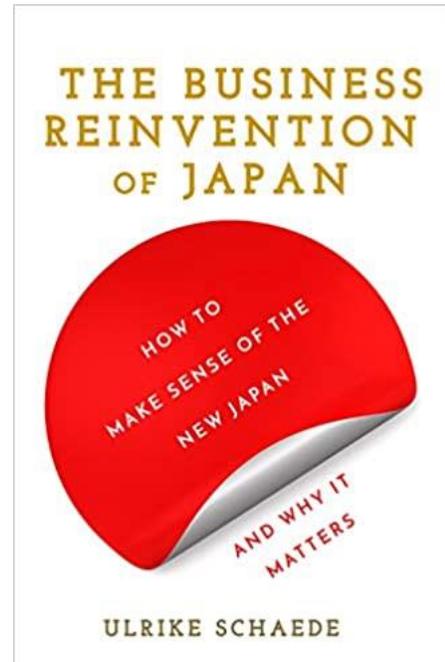
The Donors of the Silent Auction for 2021 Virtual Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala

The Japan America Society of Minnesota would like to thank the following donors for their generous gifts to the 2021 Silent Auction.

Ambassador Walter Mondale
Bob Luck, JASM Board Member
Crayola Experience Mall of America
Crystal Lake Golf Club
Dakota
Fortune Fish and Gourmet
Great Lakes Aquarium
ImpEx Beverages
JASM Board Member
Kado no Mise
Kyatchi
Masako Yoshida, JASM Board Member
Michiko Smith, JASM Board Member
Minneapolis Institute of Art
Minnesota State Fair
Modist Brewing Co.
Motoko Hioki, JASM Board Member
Naomi Fujioka
Parley Lake Winery
Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel, The Depot
Ron and Molly Leonhardt
Saint Paul Saints
SAJI-YA
Sake Story
Sakura Restaurant
Surdyk's Liquor & Cheese Shop
Surly
The Radisson Blu Mall of America
Three Rivers Park District
Tippy Sake

Tom Haeg's Book Review

The Business Reinvention of Japan: How to Make Sense of the New Japan and Why It Matters; Ulrike Schaeede, Stanford Business Books, 2020.



Japan, Inc. lost over 7 trillion dollars in market value in the 1990s. Overnight it was challenged by a formidable Asian rival, some 1.4 billion Chinese, who threatened its dominance as the world's leading export-driven economy. Its demographics were out of whack. Its public debt was an embarrassment. Its traditional corporate culture was stale. Time for a change.

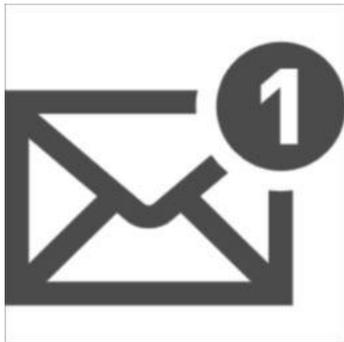
Schaeede opines that the catalyst for change was a healthy reexamination of its place on the global supply chain. As a result, it decided to distance itself from the cheap economies dependent on consumer products with low margins. Japanese businesses began to search for enterprises in the supply chain that stressed business-to-business items with advanced technological advantages without sacrificing *kaizen*. Said in another way: while Japan may not be the assembler of the iPhone, it still is a significant contributor to its components and technology. Schaeede refers to this approach as the aggregate *niche strategy* to non-consumer products to catapult Japan's growing global manufacturing network.

While reading this book, I came across a *Wall Street Journal* article, "The Toshiba Split: A Farewell to Poor Japanese Management". I found it curious that its author did not allude to Ms. Schaeede's reinvention theories. Instead, it cited deep-rooted inefficiencies, productivity failures, and corporate governance lapses. So, while the two approaches may differ (remember, the authors are economists), they do agree on the outcome: "This is itself a very new condition for Japan, Inc., and one that holds out some hope for revival, gradually or suddenly, in Japan's lagging economy."

Tom Haeg

JASM's Email Addresses Changed

Have you already updated our email addresses?



We would like to share JASM's new email addresses.

JASM general email: jasm@mn-japan.org
 Rio Saito: executivedirector@mn-japan.org
 Yoko Ueno: programmanager@mn-japan.org

The old email address with @us-japan.org will be completely inactive starting January 1st, 2022. Please save the new addresses in your contact list!

Thank You for the Donation: Hormel Foods, LLC



On Monday, November 22, the JASM team visited the Spam Museum in Austin, MN to receive Spam products that the company, Hormel Foods, LLC kindly donated. Please watch for our future event with Spam! We thank Hormel Foods for the generous donation and community support!



令和4年度 (2022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29日	2月5日 (面接)	令和3年 11月1日～ 令和3年 12月31日
幼稚園 年少組	満3歳	1月15日	1月22日 (面接)	令和3年 11月1日～ 令和3年 12月31日
小学部 1年	満6歳	-	2月12日 (試験/ 面接)	令和3年 11月1日～ 令和4年 1月22日

対象年齢は令和4年4月1日時点での年齢。参加をご希望の方は、
 ナパン seito@minneapolisjapaneseschool.org までご連絡ください。
 (今年度は体験入学は対面、試験・面接はオンラインでの開催です。)

Trial Classes and Enrollment Interview at Minneapolis Japanese School

Class	Date of Birth	Trial Classes	Interview & Examination	Application Deadline
Parent and Toddler class	4/2/2019 ～ 4/1/2020	1/29/2022	2/5/2022 (Interview only)	12/31/2021
Preschool class	4/2/2018 ～ 4/1/2019	1/15/2022	1/22/2022 (Interview only)	12/31/2021
1st Grade	4/2/2015 ～ 4/1/2016	-	2/12/2022	1/22/2022

If you are interested in attending, please contact
 Chizu Nabhan at seito@minneapolisjapaneseschool.org.

Calendar

December

Annual Meeting (Virtual), Dec. 15

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	\$10/line (minimum 2 lines)

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
jasm@mn-japan.org**



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JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY
of MINNESOTA

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通信

Tsūshin
December 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@mn-japan.com

24th Mondale Award and Scholarship Gala: Remembering Ambassador Mondale



Marc Blehert
Chairman, Mondale Award Committee



Ron Leonhardt
JASM Former Board Member



Joe Montgomery
JASM Board Member



Mary Tomes
Daughter of WWII Veteran, Arthur Tomes



Ben van Lierop
JASM Executive Director 2006 - 2018



Chris Berkaw
Former Associate of Walter Mondale



Kat Dalager
JASM Member



Rio Saito
JASM Executive Director



Elizabeth Fehrmann
JASM President