

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通 信

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

February 2017 VOL. 26, No. 2

Shinnenkai 2017 Takes Wing in St. Paul



Obi-Tying demonstration

On Sunday, January 15th, JASM's members, friends, and community leaders kicked off the new year

at JASM's annual Shinnenkai Celebration at Washington Technology Magnet School in St. Paul, MN for the first time. Shinnenkai is an annual New Year Celebration in which we hope to bring the traditions of a Japanese New Year celebration to Minnesota. For Minnesotans who were unable to celebrate the New Year in Japan, JASM brought the culture and festivities of Japan to Minnesota! From the art of rice-cake pounding to experiencing Japanese art and entertainment, people from all over Minnesota experienced authentic Japanese traditions.

Fitting for a Japanese New Year, the event was filled with delicious Japanese food thanks to Tomoko Drake, Minnesota Oyaji Club (MOC), Moko Cakes, JK's Table, and Suishin Japanese Cuisine Restaurant. For the first 200 members, each was offered free *ozouni* soup: a traditional Japanese New Year dish eaten to celebrate hope for the year ahead. *Sushi, dango, taiyaki, mochi, sukiyaki*, and many other delicious Japanese cuisine choices were also available to enjoy.

While attendees were appreciating their Japanese meal, several lively performances occurring on the stage. Musical artists filled the venue with the sounds of koto music by Sakura Kai, JKPM with J-Pop, and taiko drumming from Mu Daiko. In addition to the music, impressive exhibitions – including rice-cake pounding (*mochitsuki*), *kendama* demonstration by Sweets Kendamas, Obi-Tying demonstration by Kimono Studio, and many more – were occurring throughout the event.

For those who were redecorating for the New Year, many Japanese items were also available to purchase at the JASM Market! Generously donated items such as Japanese trinkets, chinaware, zodiac animal statues, and even a Samurai helmet were sold at the JASM market!

(Continued on Page 4)



Mochi Pounding Demonstration

J-Quiz: Hits the Ground Running

Time is ticking as February is here and J-Quiz is in the air! J-Quiz is the Upper Midwest Japanese Language and Culture Competition will be held at Normandale Community College on Saturday, February 18th. This annual competition is a collaborative event that JASM presents with the Minnesota Council of Teachers of Japan and with the support of the Consulate General of Japan in Chicago. J-Quiz tests the understanding and knowledge of Japanese language and culture in three high school levels: Level II, Level III and Level IV. Throughout this competition, students use all their knowledge from months of preparation with the guidance of their teachers. This competition will begin with registration at 7:30 a.m. and the final rounds at 12:30 p.m. The final round will be open to the public along with the cultural sessions that will occur at 9:40 a.m. and 10:40 a.m. JASM will take the first place winners in each level to the National Japan Bowl in Washington D.C. to compete as Minnesota representatives. During the trip, students will also be able to enjoy the newly blossomed cherry blossoms and attend the annual Sakura Festival – the biggest event to show Japanese culture in the nation as it celebrates the friendship between United States and Japan. JASM's annually held competition will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the essay writing (*sakubun*), preliminary round, and cultural events. The final round of the competition will be held in the auditorium in the Fine Arts Building at 12:30 p.m.

J-Quiz is not only for the students and their teachers participating, but also other people who are interested to learn more about Japanese Culture or cheer on friends and family that are competing. During this event, there will be a two cultural events that are free and open to the public and will be held during 9:40 a.m. and 10:40 a.m. Come check out this event and afterwards cheer on your family and friends or just come watch the final rounds of J-Quiz at 12:30 p.m.! We invite everyone to check out the cultural presentations and also watch these students show their knowledge for the final competition.



Minnesota students under cherry blossom tree

**Saturday, February
18th, 2017**

**Normandale
Community College
9700 France Ave S,
Bloomington, MN 55431**

More information about
J-Quiz on page 2.

Japan's Regenerative Medicine Market: Opportunities for Minnesota Companies



In 2014, the Japanese government implemented major regulatory reforms which dramatically shortened the approval process for regenerative therapies. The government also now allows businesses other than hospitals and research institutes to produce cells for medical use. With the world's fastest approval process specifically designed for regenerative medicine, foreign companies are now considering Japan a potential location for clinical trials.

There are also new business opportunities emerging for foreign companies as Japan develops its regenerative medicine-related infrastructure. Representatives from JETRO, the Japanese government's economic development organization, will detail the status of these reforms and talk about how American companies are taking advantage of Japan's new business climate at an event organized with Medical Alley Association on February 9th.

Athersys, Inc. Chairman and CEO Gil van Bokkelen will also share his views on the Japanese market and discuss his company's strategic partnership with the Japanese company Healios.



Japan External Trade Organization

JASM is pleased to collaborate with JETRO and Medical Alley in presenting this event on new medical technology in Japan!

This event is FREE, however you must register to attend!
To register go to www.medicalalley.org .

**Thursday, February 9, 2017
4:00 PM – 6:30 PM**

**Medical Alley Association
4150 Olson Memorial Highway
Golden Valley, Minnesota 55422**

More information and a full agenda of the event can be found at the Medical Alley Association website.

J-Quiz - Program Schedule

****This Schedule is subject to change.*

8:00 a.m. — Opening Ceremony
9:40 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. — Cultural Class
10:40 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. — Cultural Class (Repeat)
12:30 p.m. — Final Rounds, Closing Ceremony, and Award Presentation



2016 Shakopee High School Participants

This year's cultural class will include a Karate Demonstration and a *Furoshiki* (Wrapping cloth) Workshop!

The Final Rounds, Karate program, and *Furoshiki* (wrapping cloth) Workshop are free and open to the public to observe. Cultural Programs and the Final Rounds will be held in the Lorenz Auditorium in the Fine Arts Building.

If you are a parent or friend that would like to support your student, ask them what time their finals will occur.



2016 Level II Final Round Participants

Membership News

Thanks to the following
Renewing JASM Members:

Miaki Habuka, Lica Sanborn & Family, Kazue Merritt, William Farmer & Family

Thanks to the following
New JASM Members:

Ben Allard, Christy Michiko, Ikemoto Naoka

Thanks to the following
Renewing JASM Corporate Members:

Gray, Plant, Mooty, Mooty & Bennett, P.A.,
Nagomi-Ya Senior Living

Unique Arts and Architecture Tour Happening: May 2017

The Japan America Society of Minnesota in cooperation with the Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts is organizing a special tour to Japan, May 11-24, 2017.

This 12 night/13 day tour will begin in Kyushu on May 12th and end in Tokyo on May 24th, 2017. It will be featuring traditional and contemporary crafts, architecture and gardens along with visits to pottery sites and art studios not usually included on such tours. In this trip, we will start in Kyushu continue to Takamatsu, Osaka and end in Tokyo. We will visit individual pottery studios where talented ceramic artists produce both traditional pots and sculpture which break with the past, a center for basketry and the premier fabric designer in Japan. We will not only explore "off the beaten" areas of Japan where ancient arts are still being produced in rural settings, but also metropolitan areas of Japan where traditional arts and contemporary expressions co-exist in an urban environment.



Japanese ceramic dish

This unique tour is for people who are fascinated by the arts of Japan, and who cherish the opportunity to explore with a spirit of adventure and discovery. Ben Van Lierop and Emily Galusha, director emerita of the Northern Clay Center (Minneapolis) and member of the Board of Directors of the Bray, will be co-leaders of the tour.

Airfare is not included. Tour members can arrange their own transportation from any city in the United States and Canada to Japan, and return.



Japanese potter examines his art work.

The cost for the 12-night/13-day tour of Japan is: \$7,500 for double occupancy and \$8,400 for single occupancy.

The tour is limited to 20 participants. In order to join the tour, a reservation and deposit must be received by **February 3rd, 2017. Final payment is due March 3rd.**

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE ONLINE.

Go to the JASM website for more information!

Corporate Membership Spotlight: Hamre, Schumann, Muller & Larson, PC



Hamre, Schumann, Muller & Larson, PC is a law firm who is engaged in the practice of international and domestic intellectual property (IP) law in patent, trademark, copyright, internet & computer law and many more. Currently they have expanded to counsel and represent both domestic and international clients in licensing & technology transfers, anti-counterfeiting measures both in the U.S & globally, IP due diligence in business transactions, and etc. HSML is

dedicated to the intellectual property needs of businesses and individuals not only in the United States, but also internationally. Committed to diversity and inclusion within the practice of law, they are a minority-owned and controlled firm who are recognized by the local Bar Association and the National Asian-Pacific American Bar Association.

HSML has been a very supportive corporate member of JASM. Since 2010, we greatly appreciate their generous financial support and loyal membership.

(This information was taken from www.hsml.com)

Please thank our members with your support!

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Winona State Univ. Global Studies Dept.

Shinnenkai 2017 Takes Wing in St. Paul



Kitchen Crew and their amazing food

Those fascinated in more traditional Japanese art experienced tea ceremony performances (*otyakai*) with Susukikai, the beautiful *ikebana* creations of the Sogetsu Study Group, and mastering the *kendama*. Through the Bloomington Sister City Organization, Concordia Language Villages, Nihonjin Kai, Twin Cities Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), Nagomi-Ya Senior Living, and St. Paul Sister City Committee, community building between the cultures of Minnesota and Japan were promoted. Exhausted by all these amazing events and delicious food, Zen Healing Center offered free massages to relax and then jump back into the exciting festivities this event had to offer.

Shinnenkai also brought many Japanese exhibitors, performers, and demonstrators together in one large room, the “Great Hall”, in order to help teach others about the culture of Japan. The great success of this event is thanks to the support of our donors, performers, exhibitors, and volunteers. The generosity and support that was received is truly appreciated. JASM looks forward to making the next Shinnenkai just as exciting, and hopes to see you there in 2017!

**JASM would like to give
Sun
Foods
heartfelt thanks to the
following groups and
individuals that made this
event possible.**



Donors: Blaze Pizza, Concordia Language Village, Grand Jeté, Mall of America, Sweets Kendama

Food Donors: Asian Foods, Sun Foods, Tomoko Drake & Friends, Tomodachi

Emcee: Paul Tice

Entertainment: Sakura Kai, JKPM, Mu Performing Arts

Exhibitors: Concordia Language Villages, Kimono Studio by Rin, Nagomi-Ya Senior Living, Nihonjinkai/Japanese Library, Sogetsu Study group, Susukikai, St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee, Sweets Kendamas, Twin Cities Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), Zen Healing Center

Food: JK's Table, Minnesota Oyaji Club (MOC), Moko Cakes, Tomodachi, Suishin Restaurant

Kitchen: Emiko Adair, Mizuho Castle, Michiko Christian, Tomoko Drake, Kaz Kuroki, Ruth Kuroki, Ayumi Malin, Jacob Malin, Madeline Malin, Miyuki Nichols, Sean Nichols, Mami Russell, Noah Russell, Naomi Satoh, Yoshi Satoh, Tomoko Silbert, Shoji Suzuki, Makoto Takada, Saya Yamamoto, Megumi Yamamoto

Volunteers: Erin Bator, Jessica Bemlott, Kayla Duane, Catherine Florendo, Sahara Isse, Takehito Kamata, Lenneth Strikefield, Xeng Thao, Hannah Thompson, Masako Yoshida

JASM Office Team: Ben van Lierop, Rio Saito, Ben Allard, Hafid Darbaki, Heejin Hong, Syndey Michael

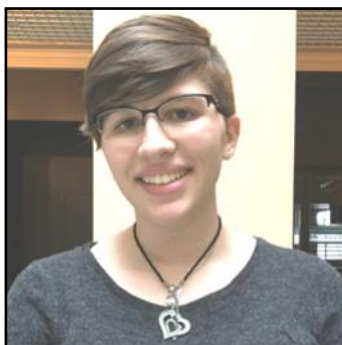
JASM Shinnenkai Committee Members: Chris Armacost, Richiko Kamata, Hiroshi Nakato

Also Thanks to: Gregory Cottles for the background music



Thanks to Tomoko Drake & her Kitchen Crew for preparing delicious Japanese food!

はじめまして！ New JASM Intern: Sydney Michael



Hello! My name is Sydney Michael, and I am the new Event Coordinator at JASM. I'm from a very small town in southern Wisconsin, so small that the population of the Twin Cities is over 650 times the size of my hometown! I'm currently a freshman pursuing a degree in Japanese at the University of Minnesota and a minor in Teaching English as a Second Language. My goal is to go to

Japan to teach English after I graduate.

I have a very strong love of Japanese artwork and culture. When first started appreciating Japan and it's history, I was too young to realize that all my interests were connected! I studied karate during elementary school. My favorite puzzle is Sudoku. I've love origami and have been working my way to 1,000 paper cranes. One of my favorite pieces of artwork is *Kanagawa Oki Nami Ura* by Hokusai Katsushika, and my favorite plant is the sakura. I enjoy watching Japanese animation, and I am a fan of everything from *shoujo* to *shounen*. I have a strong appreciation for the art of the tea ceremony and the art of bonsai. I keep a small rock garden on my desk. All these things about Japan independently interest me, so when I first discovered JASM I was immediately hooked! My goal as a JASM intern is to continue to foster my love of Japan, and to educate and encourage native Minnesotans to appreciate it as well!

はじめまして！ New JASM Intern: Hee Jin Hong



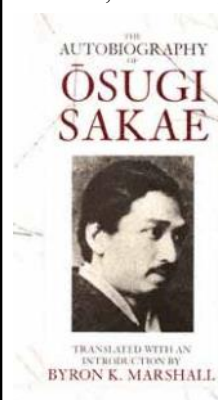
Hello, my name is Hee Jin Hong and I am the new Media Relations Coordinator. I was born in South Korea, but moved to Minnesota when I was 5 years old. I am a freshman currently studying at the University of Minnesota for Computer Science and East Asian Languages and culture focused on Japanese.

As a kid I enjoyed making Japanese food which was the beginning step on my interest to

Japanese. I have been studying Japanese since high school and have been continuing to study the language since then. Through Japanese I have met many incredible people who have the same passion about this wonderful language and created everlasting friendships. I have participated in several JASM activities such as J-Quiz, Shinnenkai, and many more. With JASM, I had the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. to attend the National Japan Bowl. Each time, I've learned many new experiences about Japan and I'm always fascinated to learn more whether it is the language or culture. I am very excited to work with the Japan America Society of Minnesota and be apart of this wonderful organization.

Tom Haeg's Book Review

The Autobiography of Osugi Sakae; Translated by Byron K. Marshall; University of California Press; 1992.



Osugi Sakae (1885-1923) was the most identified anarchist in Japan during the early twentieth century, a period concomitant with brutal, military-driven governments hell bent on expansionary visions. They required total commitment from its citizenry. Notwithstanding the Meiji Constitution, there was little opportunity to enact legal reforms. Total obedience to the emperor and unquestioned patriotic duty to the

state enforced by an absolute military government were typical. Dissent was not tolerated. It was a ruthless and threatening atmosphere. In short, a breeding ground for anarchists.

Byron K. Marshall is a scholar in East Asian Studies and former faculty member at the University of Minnesota. In this academic role he had his hand on the pulse to painstakingly translate Sakae's exact words. It is obvious to the reader that his interest in Sakae in particular and Japan in general fuels this delightful translation. He dutifully follows Osugi's text providing alternatives only with clearly marked footnotes to avoid interpretation confusions.

The *Autobiography* is surprisingly remarkable for its somewhat peculiar *leitmotif*. While reading chapter after chapter I patiently waited for vitriol to levitate and explode all over the place to express Sakae's expected outrage against injustice and social disparities. None. Nil. Compare: *Mein Kampf*. Instead, Sakae-the-anarchist calmly, passively and serenely recalls his life experiences and observations (parents, girlfriends, classmates, etc.) thereby leaving the reader to consider and judge for themselves. He does not engage in insult, venomous language and undue vilification to illustrate his cause. For example, instead of using abusive language, he cleverly relies on irony to expose societal hypocrisy. And, to the contrary, he is quite self-deprecating: "By nature I almost never take a drink and have never in my entire life paid for a prostitute. My disposition is so timid that in reality I always lose even when wrestling with a lady." I ask, 'Does this sound like your everyday anarchist?' Although the technique makes it difficult for the reader to connect the dotted lines, -Sakae....terrorist, it does in the end reveal a rather amusing profile which is more plausible.

Osugi Sakae, along with his lover/partner, Noe Ito, and his nephew were arrested, beaten and murdered in 1923 while in prison by military police in what was known as the Amakasu Incident. He was only 39.

-Tom Haeg

1 BR Apartment for rent \$700

インターネットに写真と広告が出たとたんに電話攻めになった。(安すぎた!) 10日間に75人もの希望者が来たのだ…がまだ空き家なのである。ミネソタナイスという言葉がある様に、おっとりした人間が多く安定した社会だと感じていたのだが、此処にも社会の底辺に生存する人が大勢いるのだった。種々の社会福祉関係者から「家賃は保証します」との口上で施設にいるホームレス者斡旋係からの交渉電話だ。読者に聞きたい「一体無職、ホームレス者はどうしてそうなり、どんな人達か?」私は長年、人間無差別主義を叩き込まれて来た不動産セールスで、失業者とか破産者達を気の毒には思うけど見下げる態度は絶対しない。どん底は経験者だから(終戦直後3人の弟妹を 餓死させたし、州試験の通訳の謝礼として包んだ\$5が全財産の1/3だった)が…向上心のない福祉金乱用者は多いのはどうも。



「財政的に成功したいと願うなら、アパート住まいをやめて自分の家を買いなさい。まずCreditを良くし、Nest Eggを作るために煙草と外食をやめて貯金箱に入れなさい。政府は初心家に親切です。Know How は私が専門家です、何でも教えてあげます。毎月の家賃が洋子を金持ちにさせるのは口惜しいでしょう? 我が家を買うと毎月払いは自分のものになり、政府は貴方の所得税まで減らしてくれるのです。新大統領トランプは、18歳の時学校のパレードでニューヨークのMarcy Store を見上げて「こういう建物を持たなくちゃ」と決心して実行に移し、今の様に不動産王と呼ばれる大金持ちになったのです。貧乏でよく働くテナントには、つい母親の様な事を云う地球の表面は大きくならず、そこに住む人口は、増える時需要と供給の理は不動産に投資を考えながら実行する勇気の有無が将来を決めるのです。



Yoko Breckenridge

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“Fall Seven Times, Get Up Eight: The Japanese War Brides”



Panel discussion

On Saturday, January 21, JASM and the JET Alumni Association of Minnesota co-hosted a film screening and panel discussion at the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia). The film was “Fall Seven Times, Get Up Eight: The Japanese War Brides”. The event opened with a screening of

the 30-minute film, followed by a panel discussion and reception. Kay Thomas, former director of International Student and Scholar Services of U of MN, was the moderator of the discussion and panelists were Lawrence Farrar, a career diplomat posted in Japan five times, and Professor Hiromi Mizuno, associate professor of history at the University of Minnesota.

The documentary was both educational and emotional, and the audience had some wonderful questions for our panelists. Attendees ranged from those with little knowledge of the Japanese war brides to those with personal connections to the Japanese war brides. This blend of backgrounds could be seen both in the panel questions, and in the conversations that occurred during the reception. JASM would like to thank the panelists for sharing their time and expertise, and for our gracious hosts: the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Additional thanks to the JET Alumni Association of Minnesota and Sasakawa Peace Foundation, without whom this program would not have been possible.



Panel with JASM and JETAAMN representatives

Love is In the Air



As Valentine's Day draws near, ladies in Japan are preparing to buy their chocolates to give to men. Valentine's Day is celebrated across the world through exchanging of gifts and cards with loved ones. A common way to celebrate this love filled holiday is to buy gifts to your coworkers, friends and family, and lovers. In Japan, this holiday is taken with a slight

twist in that it is paired with another day, one month later (March 14th), called “White Day” when those who received a valentine reciprocate. Just on Valentine's Day, Japanese people purchase about half of the chocolates sold annually. Depending on whether or not the male is just a friend or coworker or if he is who they have a crush on, they buy *giri*-chocolate or *honmei*-chocolate. *Giri*-chocolate is translated as obligatory chocolates where it is given to bosses, friends, coworkers, or other males that are not a person of interest. These chocolates usually are inexpensive and are not of the high quality. Compared to *giri*-chocolates, *honmei*-chocolates are the favorite chocolates that are either homemade or chocolates that are high quality and perfectly packaged. *Honmei*-chocolates are meant for girls to be able to give to a man to confess their love and hope that they will receive gifts back one month later.



Advertise in the Tsushin!

Advertisement Rates

Style	Size	Cost/issue
1/4 page	5 x 3.5 in	\$50.00
1/2 page	5 x 7.5 in	\$90.00
Full page	10 x 7.5 in	\$150.00
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

February

February 3rd - Arts Tour reservation deposit due date

February 9th - Japan's Regenerative Medicine Market:
Opportunities for Minnesota Companies

February 18th - J-Quiz

*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.

Place: Espresso Royale Café
1229 Hennepin Ave.,
Minneapolis, MN 55403



For more information, visit www.meetup.com and search for the key words "Japanese speaking club"

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ご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くだ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
☐ 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)

Individual Membership

Patron.....	\$1,000+
Sustaining.....	\$500+
Contributing.....	\$100+
Individual	\$30
Student/Senior	\$20
Household	\$50
(2 adults plus children under 18)	

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通信

Tsūshin
February 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.

Scenes from Shinnenkai 2017

