

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通 信

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

May 2017 VOL. 26, No. 5

J-Quiz Winners Go to Washington D.C.

High school students from across the nations including three excellent teams representing Minnesota, converged in Washington D.C. for the 2016 National Japan Bowl on April 6th and 7th. The winning teams from Minnesota were: Cherlyn Lee, Ignatius Pham, Brielle Pineda (Level 2, Shakopee High School); Amelia Li, Matthew Runnels, and James Fuller (Level 3, Eastview High School); Taha Rizvi, Dana Flores, Cat-Thy Trinh (Level 4, Eastview High School). This year Level IV participants were able to compete in the finals and reached third place and also Level II participants were fifth place in their level.



Japan Bowl Teams in front of the Capitol Building

"Going to DC for the Japan Bowl was possibly the best travel experience I've ever had. Not only did I get to go out of state, but I got to do it with friends and incredible teachers. Japan Bowl was a challenging, but incredibly fun event that I'm glad I got the chance to partake in." DC "itself, though busy, was also a cool place to see and explore. I think my favorite part, though, was hanging out with old friends and making new friends during the trip." - Taha Rizvi

"I was very nervous about the competition. But when we got there, I was full of excitement!

The students from other schools made my experience in DC more special. We were competing with each other but at the same time we were friends with the same goal: we were really into learning all about Japanese! I hope I can try next year, but I'm a senior. It was one of my amazing memories of 2017. I thank JASM a lot, also Satoh sensei and my team:)" - Chaelyn Lee



Eastview Level 4 at the Championship Round



Teachers Competition

The National Japan Bowl is an academic competition that tests the students' proficiency in Japanese language and knowledge of Japan. This year teachers were also involved in a teachers competition as they competed with other teachers in teams of three: West

coast, East coast and Midwest

teams. Naomi Satoh, the Japanese teacher in Shakopee High School was a representative of the Midwest teacher and also Minnesota. Each question, students were very engaged in cheering on their teachers and also the teams. After the competition, students from Wisconsin had dinner with the students from Minnesota in time to bond and created new friendships. In addition to the National Japan Bowl, participants also experienced the capital city and explored Japanese culture through the Sakura Festival, one of the largest one-day Japanese cultural festival in the country.

Last year, students reported that "it was great to see so many people who are interested in Japan" and students felt energized to advance their Japanese studies. This year's students wrote the following comments:

"Going to Washington DC for National Japan Bowl was such an amazing experience. My team and I worked so hard and our efforts paid off, seeing as how we placed third out of the entire country! I'm so incredibly proud of everyone, and I can't express how grateful I am to our sponsors and JASM for allowing us to show the nation what we were capable of."

- Cat-Thy Trinh



Illustration by: Cat-Thy Trinh

Letter from JASM President

Dear JASM Members and Friends,

Spring is in the air, days are getting longer, and the school year will soon be coming to an end. Is there a better time to live in Minnesota? Is there a better time to be a member of JASM? As always, your one-stop shop for Japanese business, culture and educational programming.



Marc Blehert
JASM President

On April 19, JASM opened our Riverplace office to host the annual New Member Social. Over 45 individuals joined JASM over the last year. We are quite humbled and honored to have such strong interest in the organization. I am always excited to meet new members to learn how they discovered JASM, why they joined and their connection to Japan. I am always delighted at how fun and easy it is to strike up a conversation with a JASM member.

JASM's next major event will be the annual Harukaze "Spring Wind" concert. If you are looking for a spectacular event to introduce your friends, family, or jazz enthusiasts to JASM – 2017 Harukaze is IT!

This year's Harukaze performer will be the one and only Senri Oe. Oe San needs no introduction if you were living in Japan as a teenager in the late 1990's. In that case, you likely know all the words to his J-Pop hits. Back in the day, Oe San packed stadiums for his concerts and was a regular TV personality. Today, Oe San lives in New York City where he has reinvented himself as a jazz musician. We are overjoyed to welcome Oe San to Hamline University's Sundin Music Hall on June 7th to be regaled by his music. You do not want to miss this special event!

For over a decade, JASM has been working with local high schools to help foster the study of Japanese language through our annual J-Quiz competition. We are very proud of this event. This year, we are doubly proud, since the J-Quiz winners who travelled to Washington DC for the National Japan Bowl accomplished the best finish in the history of JASM. *Omedetou Gozaimasu* to the Shakopee and Eastview High School teams and their teachers! I hear the victorious students with remaining high school eligibility have already started their training to strive for higher honors at the 2018 Japan Bowl while inspiring the next generation of Japanese scholars. The rest of the nation's Japanese programs better be on the lookout. These outstanding Japan Bowl results are a testament to how far Japanese language and culture education has advanced at our local high schools. Special thanks to Delta Air Lines for their generous donation to fly the J-Quiz winners and their teachers to Washington DC.

Finally, congratulations to Rio Saito, JASM's outstanding Program Manager for the past three years. We are sad to announce that Rio has left JASM for a position with Toin Corporation but excited for her bright future. Anyone who has worked with Rio on the planning and execution of events can attest to her expertise and professionalism. Rio has helped take JASM to new heights for which we are incredibly grateful and will continue to build. Thank you Rio!

See you all at Harukaze!

Corporate Roundtable Shines Light on Minnesota

JASM held its first Corporate Roundtable for 2017 on Wednesday, April 19th with a panel discussion by Shiro "Don" Katagiri, Owner and President of Kiku Enterprises Inc, and Doug Killian, Senior Director of International Tourism for the Mall of America at the office of Gray, Plant, Mooty, Mooty and Bennett, P.A. The topic was "Minnesota as a Tourist Destination for Japanese" Both gentlemen talked of their experiences in promoting Minnesota as a destination to the Japanese travel market.

Doug Killian mentioned that the Mall of America remains the largest indoor shopping and entertainment center in the nation with over 40 million tourists visiting the mall annually. In the early days, business groups from Japan wanted to study the unique mall concept. People from Japan now want to experience something different from Japan and in a safe environment.

Don Katagiri mentioned that the MOA was born out of the vision of Bloomington for fun, family entertainment. Cities in Japan sent groups to study the mall concept. The tour groups have left, but tourists still come. Now travelers are interested "moku teki ryoko" traveling to enjoy a unique experience. What makes Minnesota unique? Discussion centered on what makes Minnesota special. Once one company promotes a destination, other companies will follow with the same destination in their tour offerings.

We want to thank Don Katagiri and Doug Killian for their presentations on a fascinating subject and to express appreciation to Gray, Plant, Mooty for hosting the event.

Membership News

Thanks to the following
Renewing JASM Members:
Joseph Montgomery

Thanks to the following
New JASM Members:
Jennifer Hinds
Linda Singh
Robert Ombengi
Stephen Henderson
Yuki Suzuki

Thanks to the following
Renewing JASM Corporate Members:

Deloitte Tax, LLP
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JETRO Chicago
Mall of America
St. Paul Saints Baseball Club
Satellite Industries
Taiyo International
U of M - Asian Languages & Literature Dept.
Zen Chiropractic

Harukaze 2017 - Former Japanese Pop Star Coming to Twin Cities



**June 7th, 2017
Doors Open at 7:00 PM
Performance at 7:30 PM**

**Hamline University
Sundin Music Hall
1536 Hewitt Avenue, B1801
Saint Paul, MN 55104**

The Japan America Society of Minnesota hopes to serve as a bridge between the peoples of the United States and Japan through a high quality annual performing arts. The annual event will be held on Wednesday, June 7th 2017 in Sundin Hall at Hamline University. This year we are honored to have Japanese pop star and current Jazz Pianist Senri Oe, performing his jazz piano album. This event is sponsored in part by Delta Airlines. Please save the date for an unforgettable concert.

The Japan America Society of Minnesota hopes to celebrate cross-cultural experience by presenting an artist who built a successful pop career in Japan and started a new musical journey as a jazz pianist in the United States.

**JASM Member: \$15
Non-JASM Member: \$20
Students, Pre-K through High School : \$10
6 and under: \$5**

JASM is honored to be part of his new musical journey and provide Jazz music to the community.

Check out the JASM website for more information and to purchase tickets.

Please thank our members with your support!

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Minneapolis Institute of Art
NDSU-Emily Reynolds Historic Costume Collection
US China Business Connection
U of MN Dept. of Asian Languages and Literatures, Japanese Language Program

Corporate Membership Spotlight:

LINDQUIST

Founded in 1946, Lindquist and Vennum P.L.L.P is a Minneapolis-based law firm of over 150 attorneys who provide an array of services to their clients, covering mainly corporate finance, transactions, and litigation. Since their founding, Lindquist and Vennum has spread throughout the Upper Midwest and Mountain regions, as well as having practices internationally.

The firm helps emerging businesses to situate themselves for success as well as helping established companies to maintain a competitive edge. Lindquist and Vennum's clients rely on them for everything from tax advice to counseling on raising capital, negotiating alliances, and mergers/acquisitions of other organizations. As a mid-size organization like many of its clients, Lindquist and Vennum is able to offer the personal attention typical of smaller firms as well as the resources and experience typical of its larger counterparts.

In addition to their work as a professional enterprise, Lindquist and Vennum has been a strong advocate of working within its communities, most often through uncompensated legal services to less fortunate members of society through pro bono efforts. In 2015, 100% of the firm's attorneys logged a collective 9,000 pro bono hours. Through this work, Lindquist and Vennum has been able to become an instrumental player in improving its communities.

JASM is very happy to have Lindquist and Vennum as one of its Sustaining Corporate Members.

New JASM Intern: Jared Miller



Hello, my name is Jared Miller. Ever since I was a child, I have been fascinated with learning about the history of the world. However, it was only in high school that the beautiful nation that is Japan was introduced to me. Ever since, Japan and its history and culture have continued to grow on me. Now I am a Japanese History major, and the many fascinating

discussions I have had about Japan have only served to solidify my interest. After applying for an internship with the Japan America Society of Minnesota, I have come to realize the importance of informing the rest of the country about the great relations that Japan and America have created. As the next Media Coordinator after Heejin, I am excited to continue to provide you, our members, with only the best stories and information in future editions of the Tsushin.

Asian Pacific Heritage Day

On April 22nd from noon to 4pm the Minnesota Historical society held their Lions, Puppets, and Parades Family Day at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul. The event was organized to celebrate diversity, friendship, and unity with the Asian Pacific communities of the Twin Cities. They did this by focusing on traditions to help people connect with one another and with other communities.

Some of the events available at the festivities included creating dragon puppets, learning about traditional Chinese lion dancers, and participating in a parade. The many performances and displays featured organizations and people from the Cambodian, Filipino, Karen, Japanese, and Vietnamese communities in the area.

This event helps to prepare for and commemorate Asian Pacific Heritage Month, which has been designated to be the month of May. Asian Pacific Heritage Month was created in 1977 to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese citizen to the United States on May 7, 1843 as well as the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. Nationally, the month is celebrated by many Asian Pacific and Asian American ethnic groups through activities such as dancing, traditional meals, and appreciation of history.

The unity of the many Asian communities throughout the Twin Cities as well as in greater Minnesota was the theme of the event. JASM was pleased to participate and honor the bonds that the people of Minnesota and Japan have created, bonds which allow events such as this to meet with great success.

J-Quiz Winners Go to Washington D.C.



Shakopee Opening Ceremony

"Being able to go to D.C. and participating in the Japan Bowl was an unforgettable experience. While we studied really hard for the competition, the interview round was tough but we did well during the competition. The questions were really diverse which helped us learn about Japan more.

We also got to travel around D.C. and see the Capitol Building and attend the Sakura Matsuri. Overall, my team and I had tons of fun and learned a lot from this opportunity and we can't thank JASM and our sponsors enough for giving us the chance to participate."—Ignatius Pham

"I thought the Japan Bowl was awesome! Getting to Washington DC was kind of bumpy, but it was really worth it! I loved how Pikachu was there to greet you once you arrived at the center! The actual competition was intense- it was so cool to see how many people and teams showed up to give it their all! I honestly did not feel too pressured this time around (except for maybe the speaking part of the event). And finally, the Sakura Matsuri the day after the Japan Bowl was really nice! Overall, the Japan Bowl was a really great experience and is something I will not forget!" - Brielle Pineda

"I really enjoyed the whole experience.

Minnesota's J-Quiz was well organized, but I was even more impressed by how smoothly the trip to DC went. I didn't have to worry about anything. I'm impressed with how well JASM organized the travel plans and kept everyone in line.

I'm also very grateful to the sponsors who paid our expenses. We only needed to be present, which allowed my teammates and I to focus on the competition and do our best. Overall, Japan Bowl was engaging, the festivities were great, and the trip was as flawless as it could have been."

- Matthew Runnels



Eastview Opening Ceremony

JASM extends our heartfelt gratitude to the generous sponsors who made this trip possible:

Daikin Applied, Delta Air Lines, Inc., Dorsey & Whitney, Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson P.C., Mall of America, Satellite Industries, Inc., Seichi Suda of Akita, Japan, and Taiyo International, Inc.

2017 Mondale Scholarship Applications

Attention to all students studying Japanese language and culture! Do you want to study abroad in Japan? **The Japan America Society of Minnesota will be accepting applications for the 2017-2018 academic year Mondale Scholarship in June!**

JASM will award the Mondale Scholarship to Minnesota undergraduate students enrolled in Minnesota colleges and universities who want to broaden their knowledge of Japan through a combination of study and travel. JASM will offer up to \$4,500 in scholarships for the academic year. The selection committee has the discretion to award up to four \$1,000 scholarships or three \$1,500

scholarships. **Applications must be postmarked or emailed no later than Monday June 19th, 2017.**

Applicants must:

1. Complete application form (available online)
2. Send official college/university transcript(s)
3. Earn a cumulative GPA 3.0 or higher
4. Send two letters of recommendation
5. Write an essay that addresses why you want to study and travel in Japan and your goals for this experience
6. Send a copy of the letter of acceptance from the intended program of study in Japan
7. Have a program length of one month or longer



The selection committee will review all applications and select finalists for interviews. These interviews will be held in the JASM office in mid-July, 2017.

For more information and required application materials, please visit www.mn-japan.org



Annual New Member Social

On Wednesday, April 19th, JASM hosted the annual New Member Social to welcome those who have become members in the past year. The program was held at the JASM office. The event started with some introductions from both the JASM team and new members, which allowed them to get to know some of the faces behind the program, and for us to get to know them. Everyone shared their personal connection to Japan, which led to some exciting discussions of study abroad and college in Japan.

There was a lovely sushi dinner, and the rest of the evening was filled with conversations of growing up in Japan, reminiscing about time spent there, and recommendations and advice for those who dream of going. In addition to our new members, we were joined by JASM President Mark Blehert, Board Member Hiroko Shade, Executive Director Ben van Lierop, Program Manager Rio Saito, and the office interns. JASM would like to thank all of our new members for becoming a part of this community, and we hope to see all of you at our events in the future. May your connection to Japan and Minnesota grow ever stronger.



Tom Haeg's Book Review

The Meaning of Ichiro; Robert Whiting; Warner Books, 2004, 318 pages. \$25.95.

Robert Whiting's classic book, *You Gotta have Wa*, followed American Major League ballplayers' migration to Japan in the latter half of the 20th century. He chronicled their shock and amazement encountering a feudalistic clubhouse governance, a *bushido* work ethic in practice and ubiquitous 'never-a-dull' moments playing before raucous fans enticed by scantily clad cheerleaders. "Toto, we're not in Yankee Stadium anymore." Staying focused on the sport, he keenly observed an inverse trend slowly developing, - migration of Japanese ballplayers to the Major Leagues in the 1990s and continuing into the 21st century. The archetype trailblazer of this reverse migration was none other than the great one, Ichiro Suzuki, who represents the quintessence of all Japanese sports' figures that would even make a samurai proud.

The Meaning of Ichiro adopts the same platform as *You Gotta Have Wa* to reveal how ex-pat Japanese ballplayers in America suffered same and similar cultural frustrations playing in a system relying more on individual responsibility rather than group reinforcement, abbreviated hours of practice and an elongated 162 game season. Whiting expands the Ichiro thesis by tracing the ball playing careers in America of Ichiro disciples: Hideo Nomo (Los Angeles Dodgers), Don Nomura (players' agent), Hideki Irabu (New York Yankees), Alfonso Soriano (by way of the Dominican Republic; New York Yankees); Tsuyoshi Shinjo (New York Mets), Shigetoshi Hasegawa (Anaheim Angels), Masato Yoshi (New York Mets), Kazuhiro Sasaki (Seattle Mariners), Tomokazu Ohka (Boston Red Sox, Montreal Expos), Kasuhisa Ishi (Los Angeles Dodgers), Hideki Matsui (New York Yankees), Kazuo Matsui (New York Mets). And more.

There are several reasons why the Japanese ballplayers are attracted to American baseball: the challenge of playing in an elite league, the looseness of the playing system, freedom to dictate higher salaries, enhanced commercial endorsements and the preference of playing on natural grass to extend playing careers. And, *Meaning* does an admirable job to expose all of the backroom, sausage-making dealings by agents, baseball executives and government bureaucrats to create this most unique two-way traffic of players. In the end, we learn that the opportunities for all players on both sides of the Pacific to showcase their talent on foreign shores has a symbiotic effect for them, the franchises, the fans and the game of baseball.

I imagine that if *Meaning* has a second printing, Whiting would do well to draw attention to the recent and somewhat unique annulment between the Minnesota Twins and their only Japanese ballplayer, Tsuyoshi Nishioka in 2012. In voluntarily waiving his \$3 million dollar salary for the 2013 season with a mere \$250,000 buyout, Nishioka blamed only himself for his failure to produce at the plate and trip in the field, commenting: "I would like to thank the Twins for helping me fulfill my dream of playing in the Major Leagues. I take full responsibility for my performance which was below my own expectations. I know that only through struggle can a person grow stronger. I appreciate all the support the team and fans in Minnesota have shown me." Interesting. -Tom Haeg

復活祭

東北大震災直後に生まれた初孫の1/2コロンビア人1/4日本人のエマーちゃんが「早朝の礼拝に行ってきたの」きっちり10時SKIPEで笑顔を見せた「貴女のイースターカード有難う字も書けるのね絵も素敵.ごめん私11時の教会なの」空は日本晴れビバルデーの4季を車の中で楽しみながらミネソタ高速道路#77を走る“You had a great life”...本当に? 「蒼穹の昴」ビバルデーは中国の宣教師にならず音楽家になった浅田次郎著1504頁、「人間はなぜ生きるか?」トルストイ,神様に罰せられて下界へ送られた天使の話.キリスト教を通しての良い本だ.私の一生のMentor木村晋村長は論語とカールヒルテの幸福論読む人 5歳児子が「お父様が誰かが人の悪口を言い始めたら家に帰ってきなさいといったから俺帰る」と言い、小学5年生の娘が「4時! 晩御飯を作らなくちゃあだから私帰る」といった。

下男,女中,母親も居る地主様は村人どころか我が子達が尊敬する人間だった大学時代彼のニックネームは「Saint-聖者」. 「キリストを求めて」CNNで復活祭を見ながら思う.信ずる者は幸いなり...キリスト、木村晋、ガンジー、共通点はいずれも静かな言葉を使って話し大勢の



人が随った。「蟹は甲に似せた穴を掘る」と聞く。テレビで番組の洪水、「5人寄ると?」(漫画本の盥回しをする日本人が正解-世界のジョーク本) 良書、考えさせられる,知識を得る本

を読むは個人の選択能力.高等教育を受け定年退職迄収入確保の安全の人生か? 学歴無く貧困と戦い続けた - か? 同じ時間を生き抜いたとしたら 後者の退屈しない人生が幸運だったのでは? 選ばれた信者が幸せか? 罪深い(SinFul)の波乱の中で幸せを求めた俗人か等. 仏教徒で毎晩仏壇の前に座り父の読む教本を聴かされた私は復活祭の礼拝へと突っ走る車の中で考える.幸せとは何か?



Yoko Breckenridge

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Chicago Speech Contest

On Saturday, March 25th, four speech finalists from the University of Minnesota attended the Thirty-First Annual Japanese Language Speech Contest at the Japanese Consulate General of Japan in Chicago. Shane Sletten (currently enrolled in 4th year Japanese) received the Japan Airlines Award. Eva Yau (currently enrolled in 3rd year Japanese) was awarded the Illinois Association of Teachers of Japanese (IATJ) Award. Feng Xiong (currently enrolled in 3rd year Japanese) and Eric Campbell (currently enrolled in 2nd year Japanese) received the Bonjinsha Award. Congratulations!!!



Left to Right: Eva Yau, Shane Sletten, Eric Campbell, Feng Xiong.

Vacation! Golden Week

Golden Week is soon to arrive, and the Japanese people are getting ready for some well-deserved vacations and holiday festivities. Golden Week This year is structured to be a 5 day holiday period from May 3rd – May 7th, and people will be flooding out of urban centers on their way to various destinations.

As a result of the National Holiday Laws passed in 1948, Japan had 4 holidays spaced within 7 days of each other. During this period the travel and tourism industries of the country would spike, and the week was eventually dubbed “Golden Week” based off of the popular radio lingo “golden time,” which denotes the period with the most listeners.

The National Holidays which make up Golden Week are: Showa day (April 29th), when the birthday of former Emperor Showa is celebrated; Constitution Day (May 3rd), which was the day in 1947 when the new postwar constitution was put into effect; Greenery Day (May 4th), which celebrates the environment and nature; and Children’s Day (May 5th), when parents pray for the future success of their children.

JASM would like to wish all of our friends over in Japan safe travels and happy holidays!



Carp Streamers on Children’s Day

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

June

June 7th: Harukaze Jazz Concert
with Senri Oe

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 _____

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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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Contributing.....	\$100+
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
May 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.

