

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通 信

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

January 2018 VOL. 27, No. 01

Goodbye, 2017, Welcome, 2018



2018: Year of the Dog!

新年おめでとうございます。
本年もどうぞ、よろしくお願い致します。皆様のご健康とご多幸をお祈り申し上げます。

The Japan America Society of Minnesota wishes you and your family a happy, healthy, prosperous, and peaceful new year!!!

January 1st, 2018 - JASM Team

2017 Annual Meeting and Bonenkai Recap:

JASM sent off 2017 with its Annual Meeting and Bonenkai on Tuesday, December 19th, 2017. The event brought together a much larger number of JASM members and non-members than in previous years that celebrated the ending of the old year and built a bridge between the peoples of Japan and Minnesota! Elizabeth Fehrmann was elected as the new Vice President of JASM. Our group filled the spacious upper banquet room of St. Paul's Sakura Restaurant and Bar with a mix of Japanese and English speakers. This was an excellent opportunity for people to network and the Sakura Restaurant and Bar graciously hosted the dinner with several meal options. JASM is thankful to their support and to all those who could participate and hopes to see you all at the 2018 Annual Meeting and Bonenkai!



Shinnenkai 2018 Goes Live on Sunday, January 14th, 2018



On Sunday, January 18th, JASM will present Shinnenkai 2018, an indoor New Year's Festival that celebrates traditions and cultural activities that take place at beginning of the new year in Japan. This event, the largest of its kind in wintry Minnesota, will be held at the Washington Technology Magnet High School on Rice Street, south of Highway 36 and just north of the Capitol building in Saint Paul. Be prepared to find this school tucked away off Rice Street with ample parking and for merry making in the "Great Hall" located on the north side of the high school facility.

Try your hand at a rice pounding demonstration, Mochi Tsuki, and listen to the ancient sounds of the koto by the musicians of Sakura-kai, followed by the pounding rhythms of Taiko Drums performed by the Taikollaborative crew. You will see the lovely movements of dancers, including one from a ballet performer and the talents of the young dancers of Thunder Wave, the ever popular student group from the Minneapolis Japanese School. Along the perimeter of the Great Hall sample the information and view the activities of Japan related organizations who are there to engage as well as to promote their approach to building bridges between Japan and Minnesota in 2018.

Calling All Volunteers! (Free Admission for Volunteers)

If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please visit our website: us-japan.org/shinnenkai2018 and sign up.

When: Sunday, January 14, 2018. 4:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Where: Washington Technology Magnet School, Great Hall, 1495 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55117

For more details, please see page 7 of the Tsushin.



Letter from the JASM President



Dear JASM Members,

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Thank you all so much for making 2017 such a memorable year for JASM! From the Shinnenkai to the Bonenkai, and all events in between, 2017 was an outstanding year. I hope you found the JASM events to be fun, informative and hopefully made some new friends. I know I did. I could not be prouder of the important, grassroots role JASM

fulfills for the community, bringing the people of Minnesota and Japan closer together.

In 2017, we celebrated the 45th anniversary of JASM and we certainly commemorated this achievement in style. We were privileged to be joined by the Honorable Kenichiro Sasae, Japanese Ambassador to the USA, for a grand banquet at the St. Paul Hotel. What a fine way to celebrate 45 years of JASM. This was the Ambassador's first visit to Minnesota and he was able to experience first-hand the positive impact that Japanese culture, art and business has on the region.

On a more micro level, JASM once again sent winning high-school teams from the three J-Quiz levels to the National Japan Bowl in Washington DC and we were able to raise enough funds to offer a record tying four Mondale Study Abroad Scholarships to local, deserving college students.

2017 was also a year of transition as we welcomed Yoko Ueno, our new Program Manager. If you have attended any events since the Obon Festival, you have benefited from her fine work. I would also like to offer a heartfelt welcome to JASM's new Vice President, Elizabeth Fehrmann. She is already energizing the Board with her ideas and ingenuity.

Now, on to 2018...

The 2018 JASM calendar will kick-off at 4:00pm on Sunday, January 14 with our annual Shinnenkai New Year celebration. It will once again be held in the Great Hall at the Washington Technology Magnet School in St. Paul. Please mark your calendar to come out of the cold and join the festivities. Bring your family and friends! There will be Japanese themed entertainment, food and activities for all ages to enjoy. Let the Year of the Dog begin!

As JASM embarks on our 46th year, I am thankful for our strong leadership under Executive Director Ben Van Lierop and the wise council provided by our extraordinary Board of Directors. There is much work to be done to ensure JASM continues to grow and thrive for another 45 years. Onwards and upwards!

I wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful 2018 and see you at an upcoming event!

Marc Blehert
JASM President

Japanese Speaking Club Grows with New Location

The Japanese Speaking Club was organized as a place where people could meet and share their mutual interest in Japan. Current owner Greg Cottles lived in Japan from 1997 to 2001, where he studied Molecular Genetics at Kyoto University. In addition to helping people improve upon their Japanese language skills, Greg's main goal for the Japanese Speaking Club is to help further friendship between Japanese and American people.



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 Corner Coffee in Uptown Minneapolis to meet new people, discuss experiences in Japan, or simply to speak Japanese. Come when you can, leave when you must.

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

NEW Place: Corner Coffee (www.corner.coffee/uptown)

1414 W 28th St, Minneapolis, MN 55408

Membership News

Thanks to the following
Renewing JASM Members:

Jamie Grimm, Matt & Nichola Schoenfelder,
Miechelle Norman, Erin Tamaki

Thanks to the following
New JASM Members:

Frances Bressman Egan, Kathleen Thersleff, Todd
Newman

Thanks to the following Renewed Corporate
Members:

MGK Company, Inc., Concordia Language Villages,
Suishin Restaurant, Gray, Plant, Mooty, Mooty &
Bennett, P.A.

Traditional Craft, Contemporary Design: Exploring Old and New Japan May 18–30, 2018



The Japan America Society of Minnesota (JASM) and the Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts (Bray) are sponsoring a special tour to Japan in May 2018 for lovers of traditional and contemporary crafts, architecture and gardens.

This tour will visit sites and studios not usually included on such tours—traversing from Kyushu in the south to Takamatsu, Kyoto and on to Tokyo. We will visit pottery studios where talented ceramic artists produce both traditional pots as well as pots and sculpture which break with the past, along with a center for basketry and the

premier fabric designer in Japan. We will explore numerous examples of ancient architecture as well as some of the best examples of architectural design by noted contemporary Japanese architects. This special tour is for people who like to travel with a spirit of exploration and adventure, open to the unexpected and the chance encounter.

The tour has been organized and will be led by Ben van Lierop, Executive Director of JASM, and Emily Galusha, Director Emerita of Northern Clay Center and member of the Board of Directors of the Bray.

For details, please visit the website of the Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts: http://archiebray.org/japan_tour.html

***The tour is presently sold out, and are now being taken on a space available basis. For more information, please contact Ben van Lierop at 612-627-9357 or send an email to jbvanlierop@us-japan.org.

*Please thank our members with
your support!*

Corporate Benefactor Members

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Macalester College Asian Language & Culture Department
Minneapolis Japanese School
Minneapolis Institute of Art
Minnesota Orchestra
NDSU-Emily Reynolds Historic Costume Collection
U of MN Dept. of Asian Languages and Literatures, Japanese Language Program
Winona State Univ. Global Studies Dept.

Corporate Spotlight: Wanner Engineering, Inc.



Founded in 1973, Wanner Engineering, Inc. manufactures high pressure, sealless pumps with “proven performance and reliability” in some of the strongest industrial equipment and process applications.

Since Wanner Engineering Inc.’s founding in 1973, Wanner Engineering, Inc. has founded a name for itself internationally, such as establishing the international Wanner Engineering Ltd. in the UK in 1985. In 2004, Wanner Engineering, Inc. established Wanner Pumps Ltd. in Hong Kong. Wanner Engineering, Inc. expanded to Shanghai, China in 2007. Wanner LATAM was also established in São Paulo in 2013.

Wanner Engineering, Inc.’s motto is: “When we say “Simply Built to Last,” we mean it!”

Wanner Engineering, Inc.’s main product lines include Hydra-Cell (patented in 1972 by William Wanner, Sr.), Vector, and Stan-Cor pumps.

According to Wanner Engineering, Inc.’s website, “Hydra-Cell seal-less pumps are designed, built, and tested in the Wanner Engineering 80,000 square foot facility in Minneapolis, Minnesota. We have more than 40 years of experience serving manufacturers, processors, and commercial or institutional organizations, including many major global companies.”

JASM is honored and grateful to have Wanner Engineering, Inc. as a Corporate Contributing Member.

Information taken from <http://www.hydra-cell.com/about-wanner-engineering/>

Coming Up: 2018 J-Quiz on Feb. 17th, 2018

J-Quiz is an event for High School student teams from all over the upper Midwest to compete using their knowledge of Japanese Language and Culture. Increasing cultural awareness and understanding is one of JASM's main goals, and by bringing together young people with an interest in Japan, we hope to encourage the next generation of Japan experts!

J-Quiz is a one-day event that takes place in February at Normandale Community College, and involves High Schools from Minnesota and Wisconsin. Students utilize their Japanese skills to write compositions, participate in cultural activities, and compete against the other schools to win the Grand Prize, a trip to the annual Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington D.C., and a chance to compete in the National Japan Bowl.

Everyone is welcome to watch the Final Rounds in the afternoon on February 17th. For more information, please contact the JASM office at 612-627-9357.



Photos from the 2017 annual J-Quiz



The Emperor's Birthday 天皇誕生日

The Emperor's Birthday is a national holiday in Japan that is currently celebrated every December 23rd, as that is Emperor Akihito's Birthday. During the reign of Emperor Hirohito (Showa period, 1926-1989), the holiday was celebrated on April 29th.



Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko

On December 23rd, a public ceremony takes place at the Imperial Palace, where the normally private gates are open to the public for the ceremony. Also, only on this day and January 2nd are the public permitted to enter the inner grounds of the Imperial Palace. On this day, the Emperor and Empress, including other members of the Imperial Family, appear on a palace balcony to acknowledge the public congratulations of crowds waving tiny Japanese flags. It is a special moment for the people of Japan to formally greet their highnesses, the Imperial family.

Information taken from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Emperor%27s_Birthday

Coming of Age Day 成人式

Coming of Age Day is a Japanese holiday that is held annually on the second Monday of January. It is held in order to congratulate all those who have become adults in the past year (20 years old is the age in which one becomes an adult). In Japan, 20 is the legal age for one to gamble, drive, and smoke. Festivities include coming of age ceremonies held at local and prefectural offices, as well as after-parties among family and friends.

Coming of Age ceremonies have been celebrated in Japan since at least 714 AD, when a young prince wore new robes and hairstyle to mark his passage into adulthood. Coming of Age day was marked as an official holiday in 1948 to be held on every January 15th. However, in 2000 Coming of Age day was changed to the second Monday of every January because of the Happy Monday System.

Aside from parties with friends and family, attending a local shrine is a popular activity that is done on Coming of Age Day. Most women wear *furisode* on Coming of age day, while young men wear Western clothes or *hakama*.



Young women wearing *furisode* on Coming of Age Day

Japanese Home Accessory Store Opens

In November, Japanese home accessory store Umei Boutique opened in Minneapolis. Umei Boutique is a Japanese-inspired home accessories store with a selection consisting of ceramic tableware and vessels, linen towels, napkins in a traditional Japanese blue and white palette, rice bowls hand-painted with the Chinese zodiac animals, and much more. The selection has goods curated from all over the world, from rainbow-hued glasses made in Italy to silk velvet pillows from Turkey. Founder Susan Brouillette says that opening Umei Boutique came from her love of bringing home goods back from Japan after coming back from business trips there.



Japanese ceramics at Umei Boutique

(Information taken from <http://www.minnesotamonthly.com/Blogs/Twin-Cities-Style/Umei-Boutique-Brings-Japanese-Style-to-the-North-Loop/>)

U.S. Debut of “Godot Has Come” Presented in Japanese in Minneapolis

On December 5th and 6th, 2017, The University of Minnesota Department of Theatre Arts and Dance and Theatre Office Natori presented “Godot Has Come.” “Godot Has Come” is a play written by contemporary Japanese playwright Minoru Betsuyaku. It is a tribute to Samuel Beckett’s play “Waiting for Godot.” Minoru Betsuyaku is considered one of the founders of Japanese “theatre of the absurd” and his writing, “Godot Has Come” included, is exemplary of the so-called “nonsense genre.” He has been a prominent writer in postwar Japan, with much of his work focusing on the aftermath of World War II in Japan.

This production has previously toured in Paris, Berlin, Dublin, Moscow, and Sibiu.

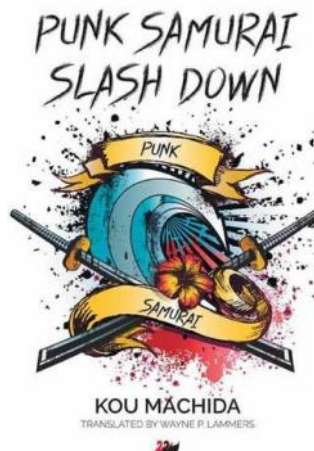
“Gadot Has Come” was presented entirely in Japanese (with English subtitles) at the University of Minnesota.



<https://www.broadwayworld.com/minneapolis/article/US-Debut-of-GODOT-HAS-COME-Presented-in-Japanese-In-Minneapolis-20171116>

Tom Haeg’s Book Review:

Punk Samurai Slash Down; Kou Machida, Thames River Press, 2014, translated by Wayne P. Lammers.



Kou Machida, today an aging, 55-year old Japanese punk musician star, seemingly wrote Punk Samurai with a curious and somewhat weird bent to shelve conventional literature theories and instead “...doing things based on your own individuality and sensibilities.” Fine. But, there are obvious reasons and rules why we have these conventions. And to summarily dismiss them, well, sorry, it just doesn’t work for me, ... Dude. The work suffers as a result.

Machida sets his story in Edo-period Japan. An innocent, elderly (“...quite worn out...”) man and his blind (“...picture of health...”) daughter set out on a religious pilgrimage. They are confronted by Junoshin Kakiri, a ronin (freelance samurai), who cold-heartedly (“...slash, brought it [sword] down in an angled stroke that cut the old man from right shoulder to left hip...”) slays the man on a mere suspicion of belonging to a rival cult. The plot thickens when a civil war breaks out in the kingdom polarizing the two dominant leaders, -one is an academic unable to fight against a martial-arts expert unable to think, who emerge from rival samurai houses.

The initial murder scene is of course intended to shock (this is punk, you see), yet the succeeding gore simply becomes numb, repetitive and quite unsustainable for 268 pages. While Machida prides himself for his intuitive approach to fiction, he unfortunately relies on clichés (“...talk is cheap...”, “Your wish is my command.”, “...tables are turned...”, ad nauseum), a plethora of exclamation marks and just plain old ‘on the nose’ idioms (“How could this have happened?”) in an irreverent attempt to tell the story.

To be fair, there is a residue of credit where due. Punk Samurai does have character development, a scattering of symbolism and a melodramatic plot, - even though the admitted punk author supposedly eschews literary character development, symbolism and melodramatic plot. He is still recognized in Japan as a famous punk singing artist, actor and poet and has scored with erstwhile award-winning novels, -Kussun Daikoku (1996), Kiregire (2000) and Kokuhaku (2005). He has a distinct audience and perhaps some redeeming values which unfortunately are lost on me. So, in the unforgettable words of Seinfeld’s sidekick George Costanza, perhaps ... “It’s not you, it’s me.” Maybe.

-Tom Haeg

2017年12月ミネソタにて

私のコンピューターには706軒の日本人関係家族が存在し 793人へE-メールが届きます2017は永く活躍され愛された久子 Wendtさんと栄雛田屋が亡くなられた事を悲しみます。楽しかったのは日本人会一行でAfton河の舟遊びをした10月15日「よく働きよく遊べ」2018年もまたできますように！！日本語図書館も奉仕者グループの手によって益々整然と管理されており感謝感激の状態です。有難うございます！数日前に沢山な東北地震津波時の新聞を図書館へ置いて行って下さった方は何方でしょうか？大変良いコレクションなのできれいにまとめて大勢の方が観覧できるようにするつもりです



やれやれやっと写真のコピーを入れることができました!!! 今にもっと上手に早くできるように願っております。では皆さん2018年もどうぞよろしくお願いいたします。日本人会、日本語図書館、名案、質問がありましたら下記の電話番号E-mail=Yoko@yoko4home.com. です。私がミネソタで不動産セールスであることもお忘れなく住宅、Commercial もしております。(アメリカでは不動産会社は殆ど売買で日本の様に貸家、貸店舗業務はしておりません) 毎土曜日の午後、毎月第二月曜日12時より日本人会が日本語図書館であります。

4231 Bloomington Ave S Minneapolis, MN 55407 です

Yoko Breckenridge
612-839-008
yoko@yoko4home.com



COLDWELL BANKER
BURNET



Trial Classes and Enrollment Interview at Minneapolis Japanese School

平成 30 年度ミネアポリス日本語補習授業校 園児・児童募集

<http://www.minneapolisjapaneseschool.org/>

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

対象年齢*は平成 30 (2018) 年 4 月 1 日時点での年齢です。

参加をご希望の方は、松本 seito@minneapolisjapaneseschool.org までご連絡ください。

Trial Classes and Enrollment Interview at Minneapolis Japanese School

Class	Date of Birth	Trial Class	Interview & Examination	Application Deadline
Parent and Toddler Class	4/2/2015～ 4/1/2016	Request Available	1/27/2018 (Interview Only)	1/14/2018
Preschool Class	4/2/2014～ 4/1/2015	1/14/2018	1/20/2018 (Interview Only)	12/15/2017
1st Grade	4/2/2011～ 4/1/2012	2/10/2018		1/31/2018

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

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



2018: Year of the Dog!

Shinnenkai 2018

Japanese New Year Celebration

Sunday, January 14th, 2018 4:00-8:00 PM

Washington Technology
Magnet School
Great Hall

1495 Rice St.
St. Paul, MN 55117



The Japan America Society of Minnesota is bringing you
Shinnenkai - the traditional Japanese way of welcoming
the New Year!



Live Entertainment all Evening!

There will be *Koto* music, Kendama, belly dancing, J-pop dancing,
classical ballet, Taiko, delicious food, and much more! There will be
activities the whole family can enjoy!

Advanced Ticket Price (until Jan. 11, 2018)

\$13: Non-JASM Members

\$10: JASM Members

\$8: Seniors (65+ &

College Students (with ID)

\$5: 18 yrs & under

Free: Children (5 yrs & under)



Family Package (Up to 2 adults and 2 children in the
same household)

\$25: Non-JASM Member

\$20: JASM Member

At the door:

* Tickets will be \$2 extra

*Free admission with new membership!



Please visit our website www.mn-japan.org to purchase tickets
via PayPal now or call our office to pay with credit, or write a
check and make it payable to "JASM"

Japan America Society of Minnesota

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通信

Tsūshin
January 2018

The Japan America Society of Minnesota is a non-profit, non-political association engaged in bringing the peoples of Japan and the United States closer together in mutual understanding, respect, and cooperation. Through programs and interchange, it endeavors to promote an appreciation of cultural, educational, economic, public, and other affairs of interest to both peoples. Membership in the society is open to individuals, corporations, and other organizations interested in furthering its programs.

The Japan America Society of Minnesota is a member of the National Association of Japan-America Societies.

(Please report any inaccuracies you find in this publication to jasm.interns@gmail.com)

JASM 2017: A Year in Review in Photos

