

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通 信

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

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J-Quiz 2018: Students Compete and Bring the Heat!

Saturday, February 17th marked the 11th annual J-Quiz, a magnificent competition that pitted 119 students from 9 high schools in Minnesota and Wisconsin, against one another to demonstrate their knowledge of Japanese culture, customs and of course language. This year's J-Quiz was one of the largest ever due to the fact that Level I was added for four levels of competition instead of three. The students were competing for the chance to go to Washington D.C. where the winners will participate in the National Japan Bowl, attend the Sakura festival and do sightseeing in the nation's capitol.

J Quiz 2018 was a unique opportunity for local Japanese language students the only competition of its kind in the Upper Midwest was held at Normandale Community College. In addition to the competition, students participated in Japanese cultural presentations including demonstrations of *Kendama* by the Sweets Kendama Institute and *Iaidō*, the Japanese sword martial art by Seiyukan Dojo. Students were able to get hands on experience with aspects of Japanese culture they may not have known about before, enabling them to make positive associations with the language and culture.

JASM would like to sincerely thank all the contestants, judges, sponsors and volunteers for J-Quiz: without all the support, we would never have been able to host such an amazing event. Special thanks to Yuta Sano, who represented the Consulate General of Japan in Chicago, and to Dick Stahl, the Honorary Consul of Japan in Minneapolis, who attended. We hope J-Quiz will grow in popularity and that it will continue to enable local high school students to enjoy learning Japanese language and culture.



Winning team of Level 4 from Harding High School: J-Quiz 2018

J-Quiz Winners to go to Washington DC!

Most exciting for the winners of J-Quiz is the trip to Washington D.C. that is coming up in April. Students will have the opportunity to participate in the National Japan Bowl, a two-day competition that brings more than 200 students together from around the nation to test their knowledge of Japan. In addition to questions pertaining to Japanese language, culture and customs, the national competition also contains a conversational portion which tests the students' ability to communicate orally in Japanese.

When the students are not studying or competing, they will have the exciting opportunity to explore Washington D.C. and attend the Sakura festival on April 14th. Washington D.C. is home to many historical monuments and museums in addition to being a very diverse part of the country with so much to do and see. The Sakura festival is a huge celebration of Japanese culture that features groups from both the United States and Japan performing dances and playing music. There are exhibitors of Japan related businesses and local vendors offering Asian food. Through generous donations from sponsors, JASM is able to provide the winners of J-Quiz this fun and memorable experience of visiting the nation's capitol and competing at the National Japan Bowl!



Letter from the JASM President



Dear JASM Members and Friends,

On January 14th it was cold, snowing, and the Vikings were in the midst of winning, then losing, then miraculously winning a playoff game. Regardless of these obstacles, over 250 attendees braved the elements to celebrate the kick-off of 2018, the year of the Dog, at the JASM Shinnenkai New Years Party. 2018 also

marks the 46th year since JASM was established. My how we have grown! The Shinnenkai featured traditional and contemporary entertainers along with a fine array of Japan related exhibitors. The talent we have in our community is unbelievable! Of course, there was also plenty of delicious food for all to enjoy. What a fun way to start the new year for JASM, and there will always be next season for our Vikings...

In February we are treated to two significant championship events: First comes the Superbowl followed by JASM's J-Quiz Japanese Language and Culture high school competition. It would not be fair to make me pick my favorite JASM event, since I love them all equally, but if I was *forced* to choose, it just might be J-Quiz. The J-Quiz is an all-day educational event that culminates with a competition between the top teams in a pressure packed auditorium. The winning teams from each level earn a trip to Washington D.C. to compete in the National Japan Bowl – where they can then win a trip to Japan! Dedicated volunteers work for months to organize and plan this event. J-Quiz is an extra-curricular activity for the students and their Japanese Sensei's. Students sacrifice their free time to prep for the J-Quiz. I am always amazed to hear native Japanese speakers in the audience comment on the difficulty of the questions being asked to our very intelligent teenager competitors.

From start to finish, the students are brimming with excitement and genuine enthusiasm for Japanese. We should all be proud that JASM plays a role in educating, motivating and rewarding the next generation of Japan experts within our community. I hope we have several future college study-abroad Mondale Scholarship recipients amongst our high school competitors.

Planning and executing events like the Shinnenkai and J-Quiz require tremendous effort from our staff, interns and many generous volunteers. Thank you all for your hard work and devotion!

Drive safe. Days are getting longer, spring is on the way, Harukaze will be here before you know it!

See you at an upcoming event!

Marc Blehert

Japanese Holiday: Hina Doll's Day (雛祭り Hina-matsuri)



Doll's Day, or Hinamatsuri, is celebrated every March 3rd in Japan. Hinamatsuri is celebrated with platforms covered in a red carpet, which is used to display

ornamental dolls depicting Heian period court life. The dolls represent the Emperor, Empress, attendants, and musicians in traditional court dress of the Heian period.

The customary drink for the Hinamatsuri festival is shirozake, a sake made from fermented rice. Also served is a colored hina-arare, bite-sized crackers flavored with sugar or soy sauce depending on the region, and hishimochi, a diamond-shaped colored rice cake. Chirashizushi (sushi rice flavored with sugar, vinegar, topped with raw fish and various ingredients) is often eaten as well.

Families generally start to display the dolls in February and take them down immediately after the festival. Superstition says that leaving dolls past March 4th will result in a late marriage for the daughter.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinamatsuri>

Membership News

Thanks to the following New JASM Members:

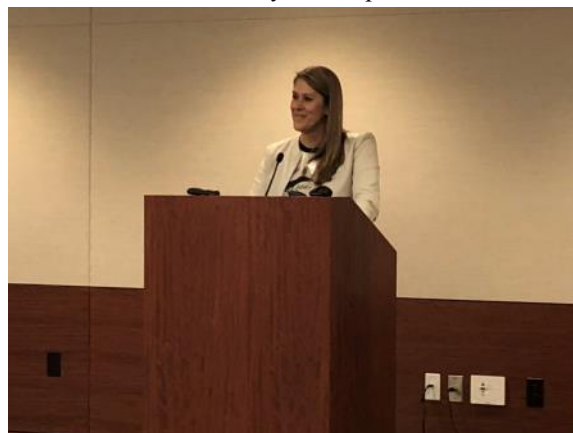
Alexandria Anderson
Keiko Foss
Tomoyo Rudin
Misako Sloan
Jessany Williams
Kashi Yoshikawa
Alfred Zdrazil

Thanks to the following Renewing JASM Members:

Kazue Amey
Robert and Hisayo Luck
William Strang
Keiko Young
Miaki Hakuba

February 21st Corporate Roundtable Recap

On February 21st, 2018, the JASM was honored to host its first corporate roundtable of the New Year featuring a engaging presentation by Ms. Gabrielle Gerbaud at the offices of Gray, Plant, Mooty. As Executive Director of the Minnesota Trade Office, Ms. Gerbaud has extensive knowledge of current Minnesota trade initiatives and her presentation focused on highlighting the current trade relationship between Minnesota and Japan and how that relationship will continue to be important in the future. With 96% of the world's population living outside the United States, it is no secret that exports are an essential element to the success of any economy. In Minnesota, as of 2016, an estimated 120,000 jobs were directly linked to exports, providing the state with significant employment and bolstering our economic integrity abroad. Exports to Japan were valued at 1.3 billion in 2017— up 30% from 2016. Japan is also Minnesota's 4th largest trading partner with our principal export being Optic and Medical devices; that segment comprises 32% of our exports to Japan and generates 434 million dollars in revenue. On the opposite side, Japan is Minnesota's 7th largest source of imports— primarily, Minnesota receives machinery from Japan at 33% of total imports or 146 million dollars. While our existing trade relationship is strong, Ms. Gerbaud noted the importance of continuing to educating businesses, especially those new to Japan, on the culture of Japan in an effort to facilitate more trade between our two nations. Ms. Gerbaud remained robustly positive about the Minnesota— Japan trade relationship: trade with Japan is rising and efforts to encourage more DFI or Direct Foreign Investment are underway. The corporate roundtable was a timely opportunity to gain more understanding into the ways Minnesota and Japan directly impact each other economically and we sincerely thank Ms. Gerbaud for her presentation!



Ms. Gabrielle Gerbaud presenting at the 2018 Corporate Roundtable

Corporate Membership Spotlight: Deloitte Tax

Deloitte.
デロイト トーマツ

One of the oldest and most trusted accounting firms on the planet, Deloitte is a behemoth corporation and their subsidiary Deloitte Tax is specifically focused on assisting clients with those issues and regulations that pertain to taxes. Deloitte has been around for nearly 180 years with the original branch opened in the United Kingdom in 1845. Since then Deloitte has made it their goal to assist clients with goal setting, fiscal responsibility and financial analysis. Deloitte currently operates in service of more than 6000 private companies including more than 80% of the

companies present on the Fortune 500. Additionally, Deloitte employs about 245,000 people in 150 countries and territories and yet despite the growth the company has experienced, it still takes pride in the unified culture that is present in each branch from New York to Tokyo. Deloitte Japan notably created initiatives to spur the redevelopment and recovery of small businesses in the aftermath of the great Tohoku earthquake of 2011. The company provided pro-bono services which included fundraising, training and help with overseas expansion to Japanese startups in an effort to help boost the Japanese economy in the long term.

Shannon Meyer, is our key contact at Deloitte tax and he currently serves on the JASM Board as Treasurer. We are so thankful to have his assistance and support not only as our treasurer but as a representative of Deloitte Tax, LLP

<https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/pages/about-deloitte/articles/about-deloitte.html>

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your support!*

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Winona State Univ. Global Studies Dept.

"Speaking of Home" Exhibit

"Speaking of Home" will transform four of Saint Paul's public skyways into a monumental public artwork, exploring the meaning of home among first-generation Minnesota immigrants. Located in the downtown commercial epicenter, the six-month installation comprised of 58 larger-than-life translucent photographs will resemble an architectural lightbox.

The multi-year project was initiated by international public artist, designer and social innovator Nancy Ann Coyne in partnership with the City of Saint Paul and four private properties including Alliance Bank Center, US Bank Center, Town Square, and the Securian Building. The project has been funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Minnesota State Arts Board.

"Planning for this project began long before the more recent immigration policies became a national discussion, and long before downtown Saint Paul residents and businesses raised concerns over the security in the skyways," said Nancy Ann Coyne, Speaking of Home principal. However, it is more relevant than ever. Coyne names two goals: first, the project's materials and overall design endeavor to create a place for new Americans' voices and histories, which are often overlooked and marginalized in greater society; second, the public installation's intention is to re-imagine the skyway system at the epicenter of the city's commerce and retail area, and expand its use.

JASM member Yoko Breckenridge is featured in this exhibit! Come and learn her story at the Saint Paul Skyway now through March 8th, 2018.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.minnesotamonthly.com/Events-Pics-Calendars/Calendar/index.php/name/Speaking-of-Home/event/25689/>



New JASM Intern: Mason Williams

Hello Tsushin readers! My name is Mason Williams and I am the new Media Relations Coordinator at the Japan America Society of Minnesota. Currently a sophomore studying International Business and Japanese at the University of St. Thomas, I am incredibly honored to be contributing at the JASM and I look forward to working on the upcoming Tsushin issues this year. In the future, I want to work in Japan and I've been studying Japanese for about a year and a half. I was able to go to Japan in January and at that time I visited Tokyo, Yokohama, Kyoto, Hiroshima as well as Miyajima and Nara. I was struck by the natural beauty of Japan and how welcoming the people were- my amazing experience there further pushed me towards working to maintain the U.S.- Japan relationship in my own way. I look forward to writing the Tsushin for you all and contributing to the JASM team—よろしくお願ひします!



Why BE Coy When You Can SEE Koi?



Do you own any carp or are you interested in keeping koi? Good news! The Upper Midwest Koi Club's regular meetings will resume in March 2018. Membership is due March 1st, 2018, and an email message will be sent out with a Paypal link. If you are interested in becoming a

member, please email membership@uppermidwestkoiclub.org.

Also, this year's Upper Midwest Koi Club's Koi Show will be held at Bachman's on Lyndale, August 3-5th, 2018. Come check out some beautiful Koi!

For more information, please visit: <http://www.uppermidwestkoiclub.org/home.html>

Ore Exports Up: Minnesota Rocks!

Japan and Minnesota: Ore Exports

Ore Exports have shot way up in the third quarter of 2017 in Minnesota.

According to the Department of Employment and Economic Development, they are up 770 percent which is equivalent to \$135 million.

The main reason for the increase is renewed interest from the markets in Canada and Japan.

Overall exports of all products in the state have now reached \$5.4 billion, the highest its been since 2014.

“Minnesota exports are having a strong 2017, with sales up eight percent through the first nine months of the year,” said DEED Commissioner Shawntera Hardy. “That’s good news for the economy because exports support an estimated 120,000 jobs in the state.”

National Foundation Day (建国記念の日)

National Foundation Day is a public holiday in Japan that is celebrated on February 11th. In 1873, Japan switched from the traditional Japanese calendar to the Gregorian calendar. During this time, the enthronement of Japan’s first emperor, Emperor Jimmu, was named a national holiday and named Kigen-setsu. February 11th was determined as the day of enthronement by calculating the date in the solar calendar corresponding to the date recorded in the Nihon Shoki (“The Chronicles of Japan”), Japan’s first history compiled on imperial orders.

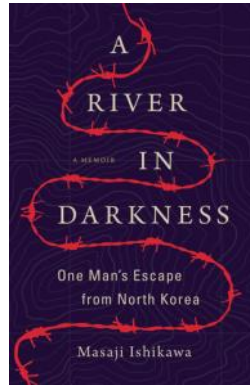
Before World War II, government offices and schools throughout Japan held many different kinds of celebrations on Kigen-setsu. But after the war, the holiday was abolished. However, in 1967 the holiday was brought back as National Foundation Day and was made a national holiday.

Information taken from: <http://web-japan.org/kidsweb/explore/calendar/february/kenkoku.html>



Tom Haeg's Book Review:

A River in Darkness; Masaji Ishikawa, Amazon Crossing, 159 pages; 2017.



The recent Winter Olympics in Korea was sparingly punctuated with ceremonial gestures of reunification between North and South Korea. Don't be disappointed if Masaji Ishikawa does not share the feigned sentiment you saw on television. You see, he has been disillusioned before by shallow gestures of the North.

A River in Darkness is a memoir account of the sheer brutality exhibited by North Korea against its own residents for over a half century. Ishikawa was born in Japan but emigrated in 1960 to North Korea with his naïve Korean father and remonstrating Japanese mother. Expecting to find a workers' paradise, he experienced sheer hell, -“...we weren't allowed to think for ourselves or take any initiative. The penalty for thinking was death.” His journals detail the utter inhumanity he and his family endured in the North. While he was able to escape in 1996 to relocate back to Japan, his family was not as fortunate. Their whereabouts remain unknown. Most likely dead.

A River in Darkness was initially published in 2000 and first available in English in late 2017. Although not the most definitive work on North Korea, it is perhaps the most insightful because of its eyewitness testimony. The most comprehensive work on North Korea was published in 2014 by the United Nations Commission of Inquiry to completely expose the massive scale of human-rights violations by this rogue regime. While Ishikawa's accounts are revealing on many levels, we must not forget that his family's fatal return to North Korea was actually a bizarre collusion by North Korea, Japan and the International Red Cross in a seemingly benign attempt to avoid prejudice against Koreans in Japan by resettlement in North Korea. It is estimated that more than 93,000 Korean residents in Japan were “repatriated” to North Korea. Quite sad.

When we watch the Winter Olympics on television, we must not allow ourselves to be fooled again by the vain North Korean propagandists and their state-sponsored acts of duplicity.

-Tom Haeg

「日露戦争」児島襄

児島襄氏 1923年生まれ東大法学大学院卒戦史研究科のあなたは只今94歳何処においでですか？日露戦争発端の1900年から118年後の今、北米ミネソタに生きる当時の娘年齢の女が感激しつ貴方の本に読み耽っていることをお伝えしたいのです。2才から引揚者で帰日した12才までの満州生活10年間がいかに過去85年の人生に強く記憶されているか！日露戦争陸戦跡に小学校4-5年生で両親は日本軍鉄橋守備隊をお客の食堂を、私は日本兵を校長、次席とする全校生徒20人の学校へアヤメの花咲く野原の小道を塹壕に落ちないように野生になった日本軍用犬の群れに出会わないようにと通学し、本の一部に記されている日本軍スパイ沖、横山氏を英雄と讃える額を朗読最敬礼して学校に入りました。授業休憩時間には「旅順開城役なりて、敵の將軍ステッセル、乃木大将と会見の処は何処？水市営…」ああ、なんていうことでしょう75年前に歌った手鞠歌や英雄として額に入れられていた沖、横山兵が日本軍スパイとして満州人僧侶に変装して活躍していたところへ学校の遠足として訪れました。体育時間では野戦ごっこ傘型散開、抱腹前進、白旗でモールス信号、抱える銃は軍の本物。学科試験で成績が悪いと先生から銃でぶん殴られました。5年生から高等科2年までは1クラス。地理・社会科は白紙に鉛筆一筆書きで敵国アメリカ合衆国、五大湖とその名前を、ミネソタ州のの主要産物は玉蜀黍、大豆、小麦が正解でした。75年後住む身になるは考えられなかった。戦後放浪生活中にロシア語でソ連兵にたばこを売り、中国人の菓子製造卸工場で日本人商人との間に立って通訳をしてご褒美に一握りのお菓子をポケットに入れてもらった10才。飴包みの従業員だった敗戦国の子供。母子家庭、9人の収入不足は4ヶ月に3人の弟妹が餓死した。「神様洋子はまだ生きております助けて下さい」と便所で泣いたのも日露戦争の延長だったのか？軍服のソ連兵が、寝ている枕元から父が買ってくれた万年筆と私の眼鏡を持って行った。兵隊でも「金目の物を奪う」貧しい民族なのだ。

Yoko Breckenridge
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yoko@yoko4home.com



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A Special Thanks to our J-Quiz 2018 Sponsors!

The J-Quiz is organized by the Japan America Society of Minnesota in cooperation with the Minnesota Council of Teachers of Japanese. JASM would also like to thank the following supporters:

Minnesota Council of Teachers of Japanese
Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago

We are also grateful to the following generous sponsors:

Mr. Seiichi Suda of Akita Japan

Sajiya Restaurant and Sakura Restaurant

Dunn Brothers Coffee Northloop

Temple University, Japan Campus



Minnesota Artist Unites Cultures Through Art - Exhibit Opens in Japan

On November 2nd, 2017, Minnesota artist Anne Labovitz's exhibit "122 Conversations/Person to Person: Art Beyond Borders" opened at Isumi City Hall, Ohara Isumi-City, Japan.

The exhibit is a five-year cultural-social engagement initiative focusing on the culture and people of Duluth, Minnesota's Sister Cities (DSCI). The project was envisioned to serve as a catalyst for positive social change one person at a time, according to the artist. The goal of the project – and its multiple international venues – is to serve as a cross-cultural exchange to foster caring as a political act.



Scrolls from Anne Labovitz's art exhibit

The vibrant painted scrolls that make up the dominant element of the exhibition meld 60 artist-led interviews involving ten residents from each of Duluth's six sister cities, including the mayor of each city. The large-scale paintings were created by Labovitz in her studio and are inspired by the spirited interview exchanges. The work chronicles the essence of human interaction—listening to each other and responding—through palimpsest (layers and layers of writing and mark making until the original content is obscured) paintings and video created from the shared experiences

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2017/11/prweb14860436.htm>

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

March

*If you would like to let JASM know about an upcoming event, email 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 **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)

Place: Corner Coffee

1414 W 28th St, Minneapolis, MN 55408



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

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1. Go to mn-japan.org
2. Click on 'Membership' at the top
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Japan America Society of Minnesota

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通信

Tsūshin
March 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)

2018 J-Quiz Competition

