

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通 信

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

April 2018 VOL. 27, No. 04

Preparations Underway for J-Quiz Winner's Trip to Washington

On April 12th-14th, the winners of 2018 J-Quiz competition will journey to Washington D.C. for an exciting opportunity to participate in the National Japan Bowl as well as experience the nation's capitol and attend the Sakura festival! This is an exciting time for the students who worked so hard to compete at J-Quiz and will now have the opportunity to take their studies to the next level and challenge students from around the country- we wish them the best of luck!



Shakopee HS Level II Winning Team



Shakopee HS Level III Winning Team



Harding HS Level IV Winning Team

The opportunity for these students to travel to Washington D.C. was made possible by the following sponsors:

**Daikin Applied Delta Air Lines Dorsey & Whitney
Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, P.C
Ron and Molly Leonhardt**

Satellite Industries Seiichi Suda Taiyo international

JASM is still accepting sponsorships for this event and we sincerely thank these sponsors for helping us provide this amazing opportunity to the hardworking winners of J-Quiz.

Save the Date: Corporate Roundtable April 25th!

JASM is pleased to welcome Eric Fung, President and Owner of United Noodles as the speaker for the Corporate Roundtable meeting to be held at Dorsey & Whitney, LLP on Wed. Apr. 25th. Mr. Fung will speak on the topic of "Perils of Orientalism. How Genuine Authenticity will Increase Multicultural Understanding



and Positively Affect a Businesses' Bottom Line". With his extensive interest and knowledge of Japanese culture, Mr. Fung will share how this concept has impacted his dealings with Japanese suppliers in his food business.

Eric Fung is the owner and operator of United Noodles, a pan-Asian supermarket and restaurant tucked away in the Seward neighborhood of Minneapolis. Mr. Fung was raised in the Twin Cities area, as well as Hong Kong and Shanghai, China. He received his B.S. from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Services and law degree from University of Maryland. Mr. Fung worked for the U.S. House of Representatives, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, as well as practiced mergers and acquisitions and energy regulatory law as associate at Dickstein Shapiro LLP. In 2011, Mr. Fung returned to Minnesota to purchase United Noodles from its founder, a retiring family friend. Since he took the helm, United Noodles has been recognized in countless local and national publications and shows, including City Pages' "Best International Grocery" Mr. Fung was also recognized as one of the Twin Cities' "40 Under 40" by the Minneapolis St. Paul Business Journal in 2015. In 2017 United Noodles joined JASM as a corporate sponsor as well.

As a second-generation Chinese-American and native Minnesotan, Mr. Fung understands the opportunities and perils of Asian-American businesses, as well as its potential significant impact on Minnesota's overall economic growth.

To make a reservation for this event, please visit

<https://www.mn-japan.org>

Harukaze June 10 2018 Save the Date

On Sunday June 10th at 4:00 PM in the Park Square Theatre, this years Harukaze "Spring Wind" concert will be held. For this Harukaze, the immensely talented duo Cerulean Fire will team up with the Sogetsu Ikebana group to provide a breathtaking audiovisual experience.

Asako Hirabayashi, one half of Cerulean Fire, will debut her four harpsichord concerto while the Sogetsu Ikebana group decorates the main hall of the theater with beautiful Ikebana arrangements that are sure to embody the spirit of spring. This year's Harukaze will be truly splendid for sound and sight. Save the date and spread the word about Harukaze 2018!

Harukaze is a major annual event of the Japan America Society (JASM) that provides a special cross-cultural experience. With a selection of western classical music performed by Japanese and American performers. The addition of Ikebana at the event broadens the artistic perspective of the program. JASM hopes that this experience contributes to a deeper understanding of Japanese arts and benefits the local community.



Price:
\$15 Non-Member
\$10 JASM Member
\$5 Students (with ID)
Free: Age 6 and Under

Japanese Holiday: Golden Week!

Starting on April 28th and continuing until May 6th, Golden Week is Japanese holiday in which workers across the country get time off to travel and take part in events and ceremonies across the country. Golden Week itself is a compilation of many different holidays; it begins with Showa Day, a celebration of Japan's Emperor Showa who reigned during World War II was the longest serving Emperor of Japan. Following Showa day, Japan celebrates the ratification of its postwar constitution on May 3rd- and then Greenery Day on May 4th, a celebration of nature and the environment stemming from Emperor Showa's own love of nature. After Greenery Day, Children's Day is celebrated on May 5th. Children's day is a festival that celebrates young children- you can often see carp streamers hung outside to wish young children strength and good fortune in their lives. With so many people receiving days off, Golden Week is naturally a time where trains, attractions and sites are incredibly packed. Despite the difficulty in travel, Golden Week is still a great time for Japanese people all over the country to enjoy some time off!



See page 5 for another Golden Week holiday article!

Membership News

Thanks to the following New JASM Members:

*David Indehar
Bradley Kunz
Sukanya Momsen
Andrew Morris
Misako Sloan
Mutsuko Yoshida
Kashi Yoshikawa*

Thanks to the following Returning Member:

Amy Bradford Whittey

Thanks to the following Renewing Corporate Member:

The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, LTD

Celebrating Community Leaders: Dick Stahl and Yoko Breckenridge

On March 1st at Macalester University's Weyerhaeuser Memorial Chapel, Dick Stahl and Yoko Breckenridge were presented with the Foreign Minister of Japan's Certificate of Commendation for their outstanding and continued efforts at strengthening the U.S-Japan relations in their communities. This event was hosted by the Consulate of Japan in Chicago and it recognized two distinguished individuals who have contributed their efforts to strengthening U.S-Japan relations. Yoko Breckenridge was recognized for her work in founding the Japanese language library located in South Minneapolis as well as her leadership and involvement with the Nihonjin-kai. Dick Stahl currently serves as the Honorary Consul of Japan in the Upper Midwest and he travels around Minnesota seeking to foster continued growth in the region and its relationship with Japan. Mr. Stahl also served as the president of JASM from 2010 to 2012. JASM sincerely thanks Yoko Breckenridge and Dick Stahl for their continued involvement in the community and congratulates them on the recognition of their exceptional service!



Consul General Ito Presenting Certificates of Commendation

Corporate Membership Spotlight: Mall of America



Since opening its doors in 1992, Mall of America® has revolutionized the shopping experience of tens of millions of visitors a year. A leader in retail, entertainment and attractions, Mall of America is one of the top tourist destinations in the country and is known around the world.

(<https://www.mallofamerica.com/about>)

Our key JASM contacts within the Mall of America are Senior director of International Tourism, Doug Killian as well as Senior Manager of Tourism Maya Hua.

Doug Killian and his team have been active in promoting tourism to Minnesota from Japan by featuring the Mall of America.

The Mall of America is a valued Sustaining Corporate member. Many thanks for their financial support of JASM, and to our key contacts for their continued help.

Please thank our members with your support!

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United Noodles

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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.

A Report from Japan by 2017 Mondale Scholarship Recipient Ezekiel Heling

Well, 5 months have passed since I first landed in Japan, and so far, what a time it has been. I am studying at Hitotsubashi University, which is located in western Tokyo's Kunitachi city, but am living in Kodaira city, in a dormitory building that also houses domestic and international students from Tokyo Gakugei University, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, and the University of Electro-Communications. I live on the 5th floor, in a single room equipped with a private half-bath and balcony, from which in the distance a beautiful view of the mountains can be seen.

My first night in Japan however, was spent at the Hotel Sunroute Plaza Shinjuku, the very same place I stayed at during my initial week's stay in Japan nearly 10 years ago. Actually, what's rather interesting is that the hotel itself was in the midst of celebrating its own 10th anniversary with a campaign titled "Best Smiles For You," thus it felt as if I was quite literally being welcomed back to Japan with a smile. After dropping my bags, I ventured to refresh my memory of the surrounding area. To be honest, I was pretty excited to try a teriyaki burger from the McDonald's around the corner. During my first trip to Japan, I couldn't speak any of the language, and being the picky eater that I am. I was leery of merely pointing to an item for fear of there being something in it that my taste buds might not have agreed with. Thankfully this time around I successfully placed my order in Japanese and received the country-exclusive sans mayonnaise! It was good, but I later discovered the iteration offered at Mo's Burger — an eatery I had heard so much about in Japanese textbooks — to be much better.

The next morning I made my way to the Kodaira campus dormitory, with my luggage — three suitcases and a backpack — that made for a combined total weight of 170 lbs in hand. As you can imagine, this was quite challenging, but thankfully at the final transfer station I met another exchange student who offered to pull one of them for me. I was anxious to check-in because I had tickets to see my favorite musician, Japanese singer Ayumi Hamasaki, in Yokohama that evening. My last trip to Japan predominantly revolved around realizing my long-held dream of one day witnessing her tour live, and with that experience of attending her 10th anniversary concert remaining still as one of my most cherished memories, it was surreal to say the least that I was about to start my year in Japan by attending a pre-celebratory show for her 20th anniversary.

events and to be surrounded by people who hold these same interests.

Speaking of music, tonight we are having our February floor party, and everyone who lives on this floor of the building, after making and sharing in a meal, will be going together to karaoke for the first time. I myself have never experienced karaoke the way they do it in Japan, and thus it is something I have been looking forward to for some time. The last floor party we had was in December, which was really great. For that one, I baked a traditional recipe of cookies I got from home, and had everyone participate in gift giving under the guise of "Secret Santa." I am one of only two westerners on my floor, with everyone else being of Chinese, Korean or Japanese descent. It was rewarding getting to teach them my traditions and having so much fun sharing in them together. I can only hope for the remaining 6 months to be just as satisfying.



2018-2019 Mondale Scholarship!

The Japan America Society of Minnesota (JASM) will award the Mondale Scholarship to Minnesota undergraduate students enrolled in Minnesota colleges and universities who are scheduled for a Japan study program and want to broaden their knowledge of Japan through a combination of study and travel. The selection committee has the discretion to award the scholarship in either \$1,000 or \$1,500 amounts. The awards can be used for travel to or within Japan or for a special research project in Japan.

Application materials for the 2018-2019 Mondale Scholarship must be emailed/postmarked by June 11th, 2018.

Application materials:

- Application Form (available at mn-japan.org)
- Official college/university transcript(s) from all institutions attended
- Cumulative GPA 3.0 or higher
- Two letters of recommendation. These letters should come from a faculty member or a member of the applicant's community of residence who knows the applicant well and who can attest to the applicant's desire to spend time studying and traveling in Japan.
- An essay that addresses these questions: Why do you want to study and travel in Japan? What is your goal for this experience? How do you intend to use the scholarship dollars? The essay must be no longer than two double-spaced typewritten pages.
- A copy of the letter of acceptance from the intended program of study in Japan.



Christian Grande 2016-2017 Mondale Scholarship Recipient

New Member Social in April

On April 24th at 6:00 PM, the JASM will hold its New Members Social to thank those members who have joined JASM in the past year as well as provide an opportunity for members to network and meet



others in our community. This event is registration only and our new members will receive an invitation through email which will also contain the registration information. This year, we would

also like to open up the New Members Social to those interested in becoming members of JASM. We are encouraging our new members to bring along their friends who are interested in or considering becoming a member of JASM in the future.

Refreshments and food will be served

If you are interested in learning more about JASM membership by attending this event, please call us or email us to receive more information.

yueno@us-japan.org

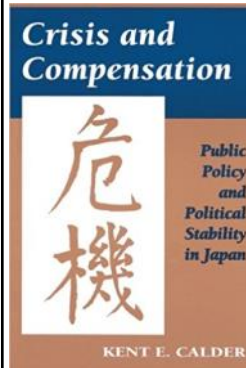
May 5th is Kodomo no Hi!

Saturday May 5th marks this year's Kodomo no Hi (子供の日) a Japanese holiday that centers on children and includes a variety of events for families all across the nation. Kodomo no Hi is a day about strengthening and celebrating childhood; families hang up koi streamers proportional to the number of the children in the house. The koi streamers are meant to bring good luck and fortune to children. Koi are revered for their strong will and spirit- families hope to convey similar traits upon their little ones. Kodomo no hi was originally known as *Tango no Sekku* or 'Boys Day' however in 1948, the day holiday was transformed into a day for both boys and girls. Despite this transition, Kodomo no Hi still contains elements that focus on boys: for example, households may display samurai armor or figurines as another way of wishing strength upon the boys of the home. and in some ways it stands in contrast to *Hina Matsuri*, a holiday in March with more emphasis on girls. Kodomo no Hi is a wonderful holiday that sees Japan celebrate its youth in a spectacular fashion!



Tom Haeg's Book Review:

Crisis and Compensation (Japan 1949-1986); Kent E. Calder, Princeton University Press, 1988, 557 pages. *Circles of Compensation* (Japan 1986-2016); Kent E. Calder, Stanford Press, 2017, 320 pages.



Author Kent E. Calder has never resided, studied or even taught in Minnesota. Nonetheless, he may claim a distinct academic connection to us. While Walter Mondale was U.S. ambassador to Japan, Calder served for several years as a Special Advisor to the American diplomatic team serving in Tokyo. His role: providing scholarly historical perspective on the Japanese political economy.

Crisis, and its reprise, *Circles*, are in-depth, intellectual approaches to better clarify the patent inconsistencies and nuances of Japan's so-called 'bifurcated' economy. 'Bifurcated' is a Calder coined term to better describe sui generis Japanese dichotomies: import versus export policy, small versus large business, liberal versus conservative politics, etc. The former covers the period 1949-1986, the latter 1986 to 2017.

His initial thesis in *Crisis* is predicated upon an exhaustive research of Japanese economic disruptions and how they affected political will. In *Circles*, Calder takes a more geometrical approach by assigning individuals to circles, that is, seven cooperative groupings of bureaucrats, economists and politicians, who in turn dictate corporate and state responses to major issues.

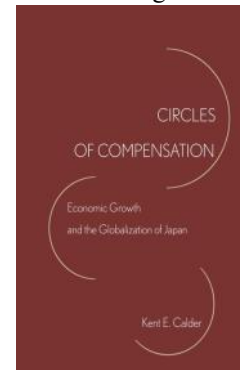
In both works Calder does an admirable job of exposing patent inconsistencies in Japan which we in the West may find somewhat odd and bewildering. For example, in *Circles*, we learn that the post-War dominant political party, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), is neither liberal nor democratic; instead, it is the conservative party catering to small businesses and farmers. In *Circles*, we learn more about Japanese economics by observing individual responses to critical fiscal issues of investment and innovation. For example, Japanese individuals will tend to act cautiously when acting alone, but will behave with unbridled risk-taking bravado when encircled by a collective.

Calder is currently the Director of the Japan Studies Program at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies and is a distinguished Edwin O. Reischauer professor.

-Tom Haeg

"*Crisis of Compensation*" is a JASM library book; contact us if you are interested in borrowing the book.

jasm.interns@gmail.com



日露戦争 児島襄 1/10/1994

「とうとう 読んじゃった！」文春文庫8巻 約4,000ページ司馬遼太郎「坂の上の雲」の登場人物、乃木大将、東郷元帥、旅順港、大連、203高地、日本軍スパイ沖、横山の名が出てくる・・・75年前に学校の休憩時間に手鞠撞きで歌った、

「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師營・・・」彷彿と思ひ浮かぶ北満一フルギ村の日本軍鉄橋守備隊とロシア軍陸戦地跡の広い野原と日本軍大が狼の群れになり出沒していた森林。日本兵が掘った蛸壺壕は草で覆われ、学校への細道は野アヤメの花が咲いていた。

校長と次席、両先生日本兵二人の全校生徒20人の学校だった。下級組クラスからオルガンと先生の歌う童謡が聞こえ上級組 5-12年生までは敵国アメリカと野戦ごっこが仕込まれた。

テストの成績が低い生徒は銃の柄で頭を殴られた・・・現代の地球上で想像も出来ない事も一つ3歳児洋子は中国人少年の子守の自転車載せられて行った大公園の広場では殺人が見世物だった生裸体に跨がった男が大刀で首から腹部下まで切下げ腹腸を掴み出して群衆に見せた殺された男は誰なのか警察？も止める者もいなかったショウが目に残る。10歳-5年生、街角で占領軍ロシア兵を追っかけて手製の煙草売りをした。

少収人はお正月が来る迄の4ヶ月間に弟妹三人が餓死した。

「贅沢言うな、人間食べないと死んでしまう小さな死体はミカン箱に入れ氷解するまで林に隠し春に男手で穴に埋められた何処かは知らない何時か土地開発の大機械が小さな骸骨達も掘出すだろう・・・これは太平洋戦争の歴史の塵になった無罪な命達。日露戦争は日本もロシアも膨大な人命が群がる蠅の様に殺された。此の本は東大の戦史研究家の手によってその無残さが克明に描かれている平和な地球上、豊かな文明国。恵まれた環境にある現在でも。読んで自分の心に書き留めておく価値のある一冊だと思う。どうして戦争は起きるのか？

日露戦争の始点の様な政治的経緯が報道機関が始まっている。一方中国、韓国からの経済的強化が日本、アメリカのそれを圧迫している事実が目に見える。日本人よアメリカ人よ！現状に甘んじてばかりではいけない。学べよ、考えよ、地球上の国は生存競争が続き「歴史は勝者によって作られる」が・・・争うのでなく協和で存在する関係でありたい人類存続の手段として。貴方の名案は？何処から始めますか？案外毎日の手近い処にあるようです。面白可笑しい本も良いでしょうが考えさせる本も読んでください。

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



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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下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

Unique Mia Photo Exhibit Now Open

The Minneapolis Institute of Art recently opened an exhibit of photographs taken by Naoya Hatakeyama. Hatakeyama hails from Rikuzentakata, a small town in Northeastern Japan that was hit particularly hard by the March 11th earthquake 7 years ago. Hatakeyama is known for his captures of the destruction in Tohoku as well as his impressive photographs of quarry explosions. Hatakeyama sought to focus on both the beauty and tragedy in the things he photographs; from the quarry explosions, to the earthquake pictures to those he takes in Tokyo. 7 years after the earthquake, Hatakeyama has taken around 8,000 photos of the disaster, the recovery and the aftermath. The Hatakeyama exhibit is open at the Minneapolis Institute of Art from March 4th to July 22nd and it features 90 of his works on display. Additionally, this exhibit is Hatakeyama's first in the United States. As if any more convincing was needed, admission to this marvelous exhibit is free! Take some time to see the marvelous works of Naoya Hatakeyama while you still can!



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

April

J-Quiz Winner's Trip to Washington: April 12th- 14th
New Members Social: April 24th
Corporate Roundtable: April 25th

*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



Dolls Need a Home

The JASM is currently selling 3 dolls in need of a brand new home!



Pictured Center: Hakucho-Hime/Swan Dance doll; Approximately 18 inches in height- **\$60**

Pictured Left: Dancing woman in pink kimono with fan and black obi, with plum flower and butterfly hair ornaments. Approximately 15 inches in height. - **\$35**

Pictured Right: Dancing woman in red butterfly pattern kimono with fan. Approximately 15 inches in height. - **\$25**

If you are interested in purchasing all three dolls, please contact us: we are willing to negotiate prices for the full set.
jasm@us-japan.org

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.....\$300+
Individual\$30
Student/Senior\$20
Household\$50
(2 adults plus children under 18)

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通信

Tsūshin
April 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)

Congratulations Yoko and Dick: Ganbatte J-Quiz Teams!

