

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通 信

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

May 2018 VOL. 27, No. 05

J-Quiz Winners Trip April 12-14

From April 12th-14th, the 11 winners of the 2018 J-Quiz competition (Shakopee HS Levels II and III as well as Harding HS Level IV) took an exciting trip to Washington D.C. where they competed in the National Japan Bowl and got firsthand cultural experience at the Sakura festival! The winners trip was a great opportunity for the students to meet and compete with likeminded peers from around the nation all of whom share an interest in Japan and the desire to learn more about the nation and its history. Bringing together over 240 students from around the country, the National Japan Bowl, tested the students through a wide variety of questions about Japan; topics ranged from facts about the arrival of Commodore Matthew Perry to class distinctions that existed in Edo Period Japan. In the language portions of the competition, the students were asked to express themselves in Japanese including through a short interview with a native speaker. The National Japan Bowl provided a good challenge to these winning students of J-Quiz and will surely inspire them to continue their studies with new resolve. The students also had a special visit with Senator Tina Smith who graciously welcomed them to Washington and spoke about her role as the newest Senator from Minnesota. At the Sakura festival, the students were able to gain unique cultural experience through their encounters with Japanese food, dance and music. The students were able to participate in a contemporary style Japanese dance exhibition.



Continued on page 4...

Save the Date: Harukaze 2018!



Sunday June 10th at 4:00 PM in the Park Square Theatre, marks the date and location of the 2018 Harukaze (Spring Wind) concert. Harukaze will feature the talented duo Cerulean Fire and the Sogetsu Ikebana group working to bring the sights and sounds of spring front and center!

Asako Hirabayashi, musician and composer of Cerulean Fire, will premiere of concerto for four harpsichords and strings that will be a unique performance for music lovers. The Sogetsu Ikebana group decorates the theater with beautiful Ikebana arrangements that are sure to embody the spirit of spring. Attendees will also be treated to performances by violinist **Margaret Humphrey** and conductor **Nobuyoshi Yasuda**. In addition to those performers, Harukaze will feature the following musicians:

Nobuyoshi Yasuda - Conductor	Coca Bochonko - Viola
Asako Hirabayashi - Harpsichord	
Margaret Humphrey - Violin	Huldah Niles - Violin
Gail Olszewski - Harpsichord	Tom Rosenberg - Cello
Josh Schwalbach -Bass	Elizabeth York - Violin

This year's Harukaze will be truly splendid for eyes and ears alike-save the date and spread the word about Harukaze 2018!

When: Sunday, June 10, 2018

3:00 p.m. Registration starts
(3:00 p.m) Ikebana Viewing
4:00 p.m. Program begins

Where:

Park Square
Theatre, 20 W
7th Place St., St.
Paul, MN 55102

Price:

\$15 Non-Member
\$10 JASM Member
\$5 Students (with ID)

Free: Age 6 and Under

To purchase tickets, please visit JASM website.



Letter from the JASM President



Dear JASM Members and Friends,

If there was ever a year where we could use a Harukaze (spring wind) this is the year! I hope to see you all at JASM's annual Harukaze concert on Sunday June 10 at the Park Square Theatre in St. Paul. Please save the date. Our performer will be the one and only Asako Hirabayashi. Asako San has

entertained thousands at JASM Shinnenkai's over the years and aficionados are still raving about her sold-out Yuki Onna opera performed for the 2015 Harukaze. The 2018 Harukaze will be the debut of Asako San's four harpsichord concerto. If you are wondering how many four-harpsichord concertos exist in western classical music, I believe the answer is two: Asako Sans' and the other is by J.S. Bach. This will be a beautiful, rare, historic concert composed by an amazingly talented, fellow JASM member. You do NOT want to miss this event, so make sure to reserve tickets, since they will sell quickly.

If you have attended a JASM event since 2006, odds are you received a smile and personal greeting from Ben van Lierop. Well, after 12 outstanding years as JASM's dedicated Executive Director, Ben will be retiring at the end of June. We cannot thank Ben enough for all he has done for JASM. Ben has poured his heart and soul into JASM's mission of building bridges between the people of Minnesota and Japan. The results of his tireless efforts have been truly remarkable. Under Ben's visionary leadership, the scope and reach of JASM events has grown, corporate membership has dramatically increased, and he has raised over \$100,000 in major gift commitments to ensure JASM has a bright future. Ben's perpetual positivity and enthusiasm have been contagious as he has inspired many lives in our community. Happy, healthy retirement Ben!

I am excited to announce that JASM's next Executive Director will be Ms. Rio Saito. Rio San is a very familiar face, having served as JASM's Program Manager for three years from 2014 to 2017. We are ecstatic to welcome her back to the JASM office! Rio embodies the JASM mission, making Minnesota her home since moving here from Japan as a college student. Rio is a kind, thoughtful, dynamic leader with a passion for educating people about anything Japan related. Rio brings a new energy and perspective to JASM which will further enrich and expand this wonderful organization. Please welcome Rio San to her new role!

JASM leadership is dedicated to our ongoing grassroots efforts to forge friendships across the Pacific while providing inspirational, educational and fun programs for the community.

See you at an upcoming event!

Marc Blehert
JASM President

2018-2019 Mondale Scholarship!

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 instituted 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.

The application deadline for the Mondale scholarship is approaching quickly! If you are an undergraduate student enrolled in a Minnesota college or university scheduled for a Japan study program or you know someone who is, spread the word and complete the application posthaste!

Membership News

Thanks to the following New JASM Members:

Dawn Edlund

Keiko Foss

Thanks to the following Corporate Member renewals:

Asian Language and Literatures

Briggs and Morgan P.A.

Economic Club of Minnesota

Hubbard Broadcasting

Japanese Language Program

Japan Lifeline Co. LTD.

JETRO-Chicago

JK's Table

Minneapolis Institute of Art

Minnesota Trade Office

Naigai Industries

Saint Paul Saints

Satellite Industries

U. of MN Department of Asian Languages and Japanese Language Program

Corporate Roundtable

On April 25th 2018, JASM hosted the second corporate roundtable of the year at the offices of Dorsey and Whitney LLP with featured speaker Eric Fung. Mr. Fung is the President of United Noodles and he lead the attendees in a constructive discussion about the welfare of Asian businesses in Minnesota and how to remove the ills of orientalism from the way businesses conduct their operations.

Orientalism stems from a mindset prevalent during times of rampant imperialism; it makes no attempt at understanding the features of culture instead seeking to portray them as bizarre, mystical or strange. Naturally, this is a detrimental mentality for the health of Asian businesses in general. Mr. Fung paid special attention to the importance of globalization and evolution in modern business; with an ever connected and changing world, Asian businesses must focus on delivering authenticity as well as avoid becoming 'stuck in time' by refusing to keep up with more contemporary practices.

A key element of this corporate roundtable was the desire for dialogue and discussion after his presentation, Mr. Fung turned the attendees into participants by answering questions and furthering the discussion beyond just the food industry and into other prominent industries as well.

JASM sincerely thanks Eric Fung for his stimulating presentation.



Mr. Fung pictured (center) with Ben van Lierop (left) and Marc Blehert (right)

Please thank our members with your support!

Corporate Benefactor Members

3M Company
Daikin Applied
Delta Air Lines, Inc.
MTS Systems Corporation
Sawai Pharmaceutical, Co. Ltd.
Taiyo International

Patron Members:

St. Jude Medical, Inc.

Corporate Sustaining Members

Anime Twin Cities, Inc.
Deloitte Tax, LLP
Dorsey & Whitney, LLP
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
Gray Plant Mooty, Mooty & Bennett, PA
Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, PC
Hubbard Broadcasting, Inc.
Japan Lifeline Co. Ltd.
Mall of America
Medtronic, Inc.
Metropolitan Airport Commission
MGK, Inc.
Naigai Industries U.S.A. Inc.
The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd.
United Noodles

Corporate Contributing Members

Briggs and Morgan, P.A.
Microbiologics, Inc.
Nagomi Ya Senior Living
Sysco Asian Foods
Satellite Industries, Inc.
Wanner Engineering, Inc.

Partners in Service

JK's Table
Kiku Enterprises, Inc.
Minnesota Trade Office
Origami Restaurant
Sakura Restaurant
Saint Paul Saints Baseball Club
Suishin Restaurant
Tomodachi
Zen Healing Center

Nonprofit Members

Concordia Language Village
Economic Club of Minnesota
Global Minnesota
Greater MSP
JETAA Minnesota
JETRO Chicago
KCC-Japan Education Exchange
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 Membership Spotlight: Naigai Industries



"Naigai Industries, Inc. has developed trusting relationships with customers by providing its comprehensive expertise, from planning, development, after-sales service and environmentally sound solutions to providing advanced technologies. As customer needs diversify, we focus all our creativity on creating the best solutions, which include lower costs for our customers. Furthermore, our one-stop support system integrates services, from review, research, planning, design, construction and measurement to maintenance. Everything we do through these efforts is done to earn customer trust."
<http://www.naigai-industries.co.jp/english/expertise.html>

Our key contacts within Naigai industries are Yasuaki Fujita, manager of Naigai's American branch and the company President, Hayashi Katsumasa.

Naigai Industries is a valued Sustaining Corporate member. Many thanks for their financial support of JASM and to our key contacts for their ongoing assistance.

St. Paul Resettlement Committee

In October of 1942 whilst World War II raged in two regions and the interment of Japanese-Americans was well underway, the St. Paul Resettlement Committee was born in Minneapolis to help those leaving interment camps relocate and begin life again after having nearly everything taken from them by the U.S. Government. After being interned, many Japanese-American families lost their homes and possessions; parents lost their jobs and livelihoods leaving many internees in a very difficult position. At this time, the St. Paul Resettlement Committee rose up to provide Japanese-American internees a new chance in Minnesota where they could build new livelihoods and grow a community in the twin cities.

In true Minnesota fashion, the Japanese-Americans who came to Minnesota found help from a variety of sources within the state-the YWCA and YMCA (Young Women's and Men's Christian Associations respectively) helped provide people with short-term lodging while Universities such as Macalester, Hamline, St. Thomas, and Bethel did their part by accepting Japanese-American students, providing jobs as well as fundraising and genuinely welcoming these new Minnesota residents.

In December of 1945 a new initiative to provide lodging for the former internees and the St. Paul Resettlement Hostel was opened. The hostel was the product of significant effort from a group of people dedicated to looking out for one another-generous residents of the St. Paul community helped raise money for the hostel and Japanese-American soldiers stationed at the nearby Fort Snelling contributed their efforts to furnishing the hostel. Ultimately, the hostel was discontinued in 1948 since the number of Japanese-American coming to Minnesota had decreased by then.

The St. Paul Resettlement Committee is a testament to the mindset that permeates Minnesota- looking out for others even when no one else does. Minnesotans everywhere should be proud to live in a place where an organization like the SPRC could come about and enact so much positive change for a group of people that desperately needed a second chance.



Residents of the St. Paul Resettlement Committee Hostel at Christmas dinner, ca. 1946.

You can read more about the St. Paul resettlement committee by following this link: <http://www.mnopedia.org/st-paul-resettlement-committee>

J-Quiz Winners Trip continued...

While the winners' trip participants were preparing to return home, Minnesota was greeted with one last storm from a bitter winter. As a result, the return flight was cancelled and the trip ended up lasting another two nights! We are glad that the participants were able to make it back safely through the generosity of our sponsors.

Some of the J-Quiz winners trip participants had the following to say about this year's competition:



Natalia (left), Tanner (middle), and Tina (right) at J-Quiz

Natalia Castillo (level 2), *Shakopee High School*

"Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to explore more about Japanese culture through JASM and the Japan Bowl. For me it was a first time visiting DC as well as going on a plane so I have many new memories and experiences that I can share with others. Again thank you so much!"

Tanner Olsen (level 2), *Shakopee High School*

"Thank you so much for making this trip possible! I was very honored to compete with such talented students from across the country! It was clear that they all had worked very hard to get to the National level. I had the opportunity to try Japanese calligraphy, do Japanese dances, and attend Washington D.C.'s Sakura Matsuri! This trip was such a fun learning experience for me, and I sincerely thank any and all who made it possible."

Tina Pham (level 2), *Shakopee High School*

"Thank you so much for making this trip possible and giving me an opportunity to learn more about the Japanese languages and culture. It was my first time travelling to Washington D.C and I was able to create so many amazing memories with others students as well as learn many new things about the Japanese language and culture, such as calligraphy and dances. Thank you to all who made this trip possible!"

Harding High School (level 4)

"The National Japan Bowl 2018 was such an amazing experience. It was an opportunity to engage in the Japanese language and culture with like-minded peers from all over the United States. We had so much fun exploring many places in Washington D.C. such as the Lincoln Memorial and the National Mall. It was a great honor to meet Sen. Tina Smith and ask questions about leadership her role representing the state of Minnesota. The wagashi class was very engaging and we got to try our hands a traditional Japanese culture. Making Japanese sweets is much harder than you might expect! We plan to keep on learning about Japanese language, culture and history for as long as we can. Arigatou gozaimashita!"

Japan Tour

The Japan America Society of Minnesota (JASM) and the Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts (ABF) are organizing an arts tour to Japan in May 2018 for lovers of traditional and contemporary crafts.

This tour will visit various sites and studios in Kyushu, Takamatsu, Kyoto and Tokyo. The tour of 23 members will also include visits to pottery studios where talented ceramic artists produce both traditional and contemporary pots and to the premier fabric designer in Japan. The tour will also seek to explore examples of ancient architecture and some of the best examples of architectural design by noted contemporary Japanese architects.

Emily Galusha, board member of the Archie Bray Foundation and Ben van Lierop serve as co-leaders for this tour.



AniMinneapolis- May 25th-27th

Do you love anime, Japanese culture and the people who share those interests? If so, you'll be right at home during AniMinneapolis, the annual anime convention that brought in over 5,000 attendees to play videogames, show off cosplay and much more in 2017. AniMinneapolis is a family friendly event that brings together anime and Japanese culture enthusiasts to share in their mutual interests and celebrate those interests in a variety of different ways. This year, you can look forward to a convention that features a cosplay competition, an exhibit hall featuring tons of merchandise both official and fan-made as well as nightly dances, video game tournaments and so much more! This year's convention will be held at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis and registration is currently open: be sure to register soon as prices will increase as the event grows nearer. Find some friends and head to AniMinneapolis for what will surely be a very memorable weekend!



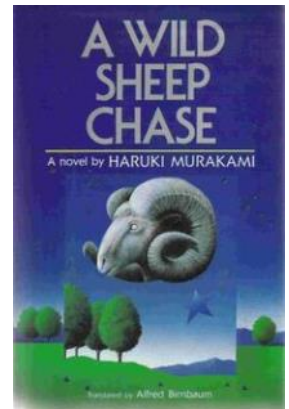
Tom Haeg's Book Review:

A Wild Sheep Chase; Haruki Murakami, Kondansha Press, first published in 1982, translation 1989 by Alfred Birnbaum; 299 pages.

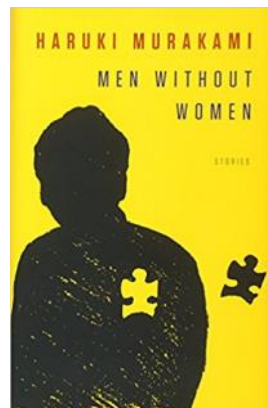
Men without Women, Haruki Murakami, Knopf Publishers, first published in 2014, translation 2017 by Theodore Goossen and Philip Gabriel; 228 pages.

The most prolific Japanese fiction writer for the last half-century is (drum roll, please) Haruki Murakami. His universal appeal is reflected in some amazing statistics: his works translate into 50 languages, sales measure in the millions and his scribe longevity dates to 1979.

And there is good reason for this success. He remains loyal to seminal themes of surrealism, melancholy, fatalism and just good-old fashion observations revealing everyday contradictions. While his main characters (some even remain nameless) are morally ambiguous, he creates just enough redeeming values to attract and retain the reader.



Sheep represents a clever and somewhat incredulous plot that develops characters while exposing historic snippets of a disgusting Japanese history (see: Class A war criminals) in World War II. Its Kafkaesque milieu translates easily to the non-Japanese reader, too. He accomplishes this in a diary feat of sustained imagination and mystery.



Men without Women, Murakami's latest tome, is a collection of select short stories. Here he departs from his established novella format while connecting blues themes about men who have somehow, someway, -and sometime, lost their women by neglect, by cunning to other men or by death to the grim reaper. These woebegone, trauma-laden tales of alienation are created by and result in bizarre and puzzling circumstances. The traditional Murakami aficionado reader will not be disappointed by the format change. And neither were the critics. For example, four of the stories were published in the New Yorker magazine even before they were released in their 2017 English publication version.

A Wild Sheep Chase is currently available for check out at the JASM Library for members only.

-Tom Haeg

How to Prepare A House for Sale

The real estate market is hot! Minnesota's Metro7 counties economy must be good. Spring is always busy time for realtors, but why? All chain of moves are influenced by children's school period. Parents are concerned that children need time to adjust to a new environment, new home, new friends, school etc. The trends have been the same for the past 40 years.....but the content has changed! Newspaper ads and drive by yard signs let the public know there are a homes for sale. We tell sellers "Cannot See, Can not Sale" and recommend that sellers trim down front landscape trees for the home to be visible from the street. Now, home buyers receive homes to consider in their e-mail at 6:30AM every morning. Buyers can check each of them with a cup of morning coffee and contact their realtor to make an appointment to go see it. However buyers tend to choose their next home by emotion. They must **feel that this is their home** not other person's Here are the some tips for "How to Prepare a House for Sale."



- 1) In every room, hide personal IDs photos, awards mails/bills.
- 2) Take down all Items from walls, and shelves and make a pile in center of room.
- 3) Sort items in 3 boxes. Take with you. Give away, Sell/discard
- 4) Change all interior light bulb to LED 100W. (Include Garage)
- 5) Paint strong colored wall paint, to off white (**Never. Choose Pure White: it makes interior Hospital like Cold feeling**)
- 6) Replace all tired out bathroom and kitchen towels—Fresh look.
- 7) Remove the following odors from the house: cigarettes, pets, cooking spices especially Chinese foods, curry, garlic are must be taken cared.
- 8) Buyers are buying the spaces (Do not show off your treasures.)
- 9) Only display items that are there to make the house look better
- 10) Always open drapes to maximum to let natural light in the house.
- 11) First impressions do last! Front must be clear, clean. no junks.
- 12) Show how you take care of this home by a neatly cared lawn . Some seller had soft classic music of FM Station on. Others had a small plate of cookies with "Please help yourself " note made welcome feeling . Idea is presenting "We loved this home, Hope you feel the same" message....clean, specious, loveable feeling of display will be sure to ensure success when selling your home. Every day I am showing homes but never meet to seller but their agent are saying the same. There are the booklet "Renovation Dos and Don'ts" by "Bottom Line 's Home Maintenance Help" is interesting book.

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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2500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

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Summer 2018 – registration is open through May 25

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Intermediate Japanese I: June 11 – July 13

Intermediate Japanese II: July 16 – August 17

Fall 2018 – registration is open

Five Levels: Beginning Japanese – 5th year Japanese

Many time slots to choose from

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Visit U of M ONE STOP to register: <https://umn.edu>

Questions? Contact: buch0119@umn.edu

Michiko Todokoro Buchanan




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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.

*Advertisements are 10% off for JASM Members
A 1 year Ad subscription guarantees one month for free!*

**Questions? Contact
the JASM Office
Tel: 612-627-9357**

Japan America Society Calendar

May

*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 Still for Sale!

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)

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Individual	\$30
Student/Senior	\$20
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通信

Tsūshin
May 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 Winners Trip!

