

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通 信

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

May 2019 Vol. 28, No. 5

Recap: J-Quiz Winners' Trip to Washington, D.C.



All the trip participants 2019

Despite heavy snow, Delta Air Lines safely flew winners of the 2019 J-Quiz competition to Washington, D.C. where they competed in the National Japan Bowl and attended the National Cherry Blossom Festival from April 11th– 13th. This year the J-Quiz second place winner of Level 4, Southwest High School, took the trip instead of the first place winner, Memorial High School--team B because Memorial was unable to make the trip. Also, Shakopee High School Level 2 students, who narrowly lost at the tie-break, decided to go to the National Japan bowl as well. They ended up winning fifth place nationally! Eastview High School Level 2 students won sixth place. Congratulation to both teams!

We would like to thank all the sponsors who made this trip possible: Daikin Applied; Dorsey & Whitney; LLP, Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, PC; Aki Ito; Ron Leonhardt; Mall of America; Seiichi Suda, Taiyo International, Inc.; and

Here are some reflections from Southwest High School:

“Attending the 2019 National Japan Bowl was an amazing opportunity. Beyond the content of the competition, I was able to build life skills including teamwork, confidence, and travel smarts. Meeting people from around the country, as well as Mexico, was an experience I really enjoyed. It was out of my comfort zone to start conversations with other students I had never met before, but I made a special effort to ask people about their schools and their study of Japanese. I found I had many hobbies and interests in common with most of the students, which was validating and interesting. The competition encouraged me to continue studying Japanese language and culture even more than I had previously. Seeing the dedication other students put into their studies motivated me to match their enthusiasm. There was so much to learn, especially about culture, that I didn't know much about, and it was very interesting. I want to spend more time learning about Japanese authors and artists in particular. I am thankful to the Japan America Society of Minnesota and all of our sponsors for giving my peers and me the opportunity to compete in Japan Bowl. I wholeheartedly enjoyed my time in Washington, D.C., and I will remember this experience for the rest of my life.” -

Josephine Spanier
“I attended the Japan Bowl in 2019, and I believe that my experience there has changed me for the better. My exposure to people who are passionate about some of the same things as I am but



One of the cultural demonstrations at the National Japan Bowl 2019

Continued on page 2...

Upcoming: Corporate Roundtable with MGK



*Steve Gullickson,
President, MGK*

JASM is organizing a Corporate Roundtable with Steven Gullickson (President) and Randy Nelson (CFO) of McLaughlin Gormley King Co., Inc. (MGK). They will be discussing “The History of the MGK/Sumitomo Chemical Relationship and the Impact of the Acquisition on Business Processes.”

MGK, A solid member of the “Minnesota Mittelstand” and managed by the same family for four generations, is located in Golden Valley. MGK is intensely focused on insect control solutions.

Sumitomo Chemical, an industrial behemoth with \$20 billion in revenue and 30,000 employees, is headquartered in the world's largest city (Tokyo), with product lines that range from plastics to electronics to agriculture to pharmaceuticals.

This might sound like a corporate version of “The Odd Couple” but MGK and Sumitomo have a successful relationship that extends back decades and culminated in the acquisition of a majority of MGK by Sumitomo in 2012. How did this happen, and how do the two companies work together?

If you are involved in a Minnesota-Japan corporate relationship you won't want to miss this talk at MGK. Steve and Randy have a terrific amount of experience between them and will share with you what has worked and what hasn't, how they have succeeded, and what they are doing now to pave the way for future growth in their business.



*Randy Nelson,
Vice President, MGK*

A light buffet (continental breakfast) will be provided.

You Need to RSVP if you plan on attending the event.

Please RSVP [here](http://mn-japan.org/2019/04/corporate-roundtable-friday-may-17th-steve-gullickson-randy-nelson/) or go to our website:

<http://mn-japan.org/2019/04/corporate-roundtable-friday-may-17th-steve-gullickson-randy-nelson/>

Friday, May 17, 2019

7:30 a.m. Registration
8:00 a.m. Program begins
8:45 a.m. Q & A session
9:00 a.m. Program ends

At MGK Insect Control Solutions

8810 10th Ave N, Minneapolis, Mn 55427

(Link to [Google Map](#))

Meet Our Board Member: Clint Conner



*Clint Conner
JASM board member*

My name is Clint Conner. I am a partner at the law firm Dorsey & Whitney LLP where I am in the trial group and focus on patent litigation. I have been a JASM Board member since 2016. I help coordinate events like our annual Shinnenkai and Obon Lantern Lighting Festival, engage in fundraising efforts, emcee certain JASM events, and do things like run errands to help ensure we have what we need for our events. I also

recently helped negotiate a new lease for JASM's office.

I am interested in JASM because I am fond of Japanese culture, and JASM's mission is to help bridge the cultural divide between Japan and Minnesota. I am blessed to have a connection to Japan. I was given an opportunity to relocate with my family to Tokyo and join a Tokyo outpost for a U.S.-based law firm. I had never been to Japan before. What started as a two-year commitment blossomed into a five-year adventure. Those were some of the most memorable years of my life. It makes me happy to say that my two older daughters' earliest memories were made in Japan and my youngest daughter was born at Aiiku Hospital in Tokyo. One of the main reasons why my family chose to stay for a half-decade was the wonderful Japanese culture.

Setting aside specific traditions, I see a lot of overlap between Japanese and Minnesotan culture. Both cultures value a strong work ethic, respect for others, strong families, and humility. I hope to help JASM continue to grow and foster greater understanding and familiarity between the people of Japan and Minnesota. The Japan-Minnesota relationship is currently important to both sides. I think we can increase the importance of the relationship by continuing to provide learning opportunities to raise cultural awareness.

My favorite event each year is the Mondale Gala, in part due to the presence of Mr. Mondale himself. It is our most important event in terms of fundraising and I always look forward to bidding on fantastic auction items, eating great food, seeing beautiful kimono, and talking with friends old and new.



Clint Conner emceeing at the Ambassador Sasae Welcome Banquet, 2017 (left) and at the Mondale Gala 2018 (right)

Recap: J-Quiz Winners' Trip in Washington, D.C. continued...

come from all over the nation, as well as outside of the United States, taught me to be a better communicator and heightened my desire to continue my study. I will not be able to attend the Japan Bowl next year, because I will be entering Japanese 5. However, what I can do is help the new Japanese 4 students prepare for the competition. I am looking forward to sharing my experiences with them and the community that I live in so they can hopefully be inspired to look into another culture and try to learn about it, as citizens not only of the United States, but the world as well. Our countries are very close, and it is to everyone's benefit to try to become more knowledgeable about things outside of one's bubble, in an age where everyone is connected. This experience opened my eyes to a whole world of things that I have yet to learn about Japan. I have never been more excited to study this language and culture." -*Maura Nafziger-White*



Eastview team and Kyoko French, their teacher (right) at the Lincoln Memorial

went to Chinatown for dinner and ate Mongolian BBQ, which I love. The next day we walked around the capitol and saw important national monuments. The cherry blossom festival was very hot and crowded and I got sunburned pretty heavily and it hurt a lot." -*Noah Hunsicker*

"Since Japan Bowl is an academic competition, our administrative team recognizes the value of Japan Bowl and is very supportive. It is a great event for helping the Japanese program to be more visible at our school and across the district. If JASM had not organized J-Quiz, we would never have access to the national Japan Bowl, financially or otherwise.

Students can better understand their Japanese level by participating in Japan Bowl. The participation is motivating my students to study harder to improve their Japanese language skills and has a great impact in their desire to learn about Japanese culture and history. We really appreciate the support for the Japanese program, not only at Southwest High School, but also across Minnesota.

It is impossible for some students to afford participation in these competitions without sponsors' help. The support from donors makes our students' dreams come true. Thank you for your generosity, which enabled our students to participate in this wonderful educational experience.

-*Kyoko French, Japanese Teacher at Southwest High School*

Membership News

Thanks to the following new JASM members:

Nikole Stolf, Seiko Shastri, Nicholas Jibben, Riley Hanson

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

Terry Cureton, Jeanette Cureton, Robert Luck,
Daniel and Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, Keiko Foss

Thanks to the following renewing Corporate members:

Daikin Applied, Economic Club of Minnesota, JK's Table,
Minneapolis Institute of Art, Satellite Industries, Inc.,
Tomodachi, University of Minnesota, Department of Asian
Languages and Literatures, JETAA MN, Winona State University

Recap: New Member Social



Attendees of New Member Social 2019

Ueno, and the office interns David Arcand and Momoko Ishikawa in attendance.

The event started with some introductions explaining JASM events and activities. Everyone introduced themselves and shared their personal connection to Japan, which led to more in-depth conversation when the large group program ended and social time began. JASM would like to thank all of our new members for becoming a part of this community and we hope to see you at events in the future.

On Tuesday, April 23, JASM hosted the annual New Member Social to welcome those who have become members in the past year, as well as their friends who are interested in JASM activities. The event was held in the Garamond Conference room in Riverplace near the JASM office.

In addition to the new members, there were JASM President Elizabeth Fehrmann, Board Members Motoko Hioki and Robert Luck, Executive Director Rio Saito, Program Manager Yoko

Please thank our members with your support!

Corporate Benefactor Members

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

Patron Members

Dorsey & Whitney, LLP

Corporate Sustaining Members

Arctos Law PLLP
Deloitte Tax, LLP
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
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.
Satellite Industries, Inc.
The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd.
United Noodles

Corporate Contributing Members

Briggs and Morgan, P.A.
Murata Electronics/Vios Medical Inc.
Nagomi Ya Senior Living

Partners in Service

JK's Table
Kiku Enterprises, Inc.
Minnesota Trade Office
Origami Restaurant
Sakura Restaurant
Saint Paul Saints Baseball Club
Saji-Ya Restaurant
Suishin Restaurant
Surdyk's Liquor & Cheese Shop
Tomodachi
Zen Healing Center

Nonprofit Members

Concordia Language Villages
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 Council of Teachers of Japanese
Minnesota Orchestra
NDSU-Emily Reynolds Historic Costume Collection
Twin Cities Aikido Center
UMN Dept. of Asian Languages and Literatures, Japanese Language Program
University of North Dakota-Grand Forks
Winona State University Global Studies Dept.



Corporate Spotlight: Twin Cities Aikido Center

合気道
Twin Cities Aikido Center

Twin Cities Aikido Center (TCAC), founded in 1976, is one of the Midwest's oldest and largest Aikido dojos. Located in the Saint Anthony Park neighborhood of Saint Paul, TCAC is a volunteer-run, non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to promoting the study the of Aikido. Chief Instructor Calvin Blanchard (5th Dan, Shidoi) coordinates and oversees all teaching.

ABOUT AIKIDO: Developed by Morihei Ueshiba (O'Sensei) in Japan, Aikido is a non-competitive, defensive martial art that emphasizes redirecting an attacker's energy and learning to fall and roll safely. Aikido technique is a metaphor for a way to lead your life: avoid confrontations, harmonize

with unavoidable ones, and maintain grace under pressure.

ADULT PROGRAM (ages 16+) *7 days a week:* Since Aikido emphasizes redirecting energy over using physical strength, the art is suitable and adaptable to men and women of various ages and abilities. Ranks progress from 6th kyu through 1st kyu, and then on to the dan ranks (black belt). Each rank test, which is non-competitive, asks students to demonstrate skills they have acquired during training.

YOUTH PROGRAM (ages 7-16) *Thursday, Saturday:* Students in youth classes learn physical coordination, self-confidence, and cooperation. Parents may join youth classes for a fee or can sit and watch. The Youth Program ranking system includes colored belt testing.

EXCHANGE PROGRAM: Alternating summers, TCAC hosts a week-long cultural exchange program with high school students from Osaka, Japan. One summer, students from Osaka come train at TCAC and stay with local host families. The following summer, TCAC members visit and train with the students in Osaka.

COMMUNITY: TCAC hosts social events for members including potlucks, movie nights, road trips to seminars, and coffee at the dojo following morning classes.

AFFILIATION: TCAC is a member of the United States Aikido Federation (USAF) and operates under the guidance of Yoshimitsu Yamada Sensei (8th Dan, Shihan). USAF is recognized by Hombu Dojo in Japan, home to Aikido's principal teacher, Doshu Moriteru Ueshiba, the grandson of O'Sensei.

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP information: FREE Trial Class

Adult \$60

Student (with student ID) \$30

Youth (ages 7-16) \$25

Parent in Youth Class \$25

For more information, please visit <http://www.tcaikido.com>

By Katherine Ruether

Harukaze Shamisen Concert, July 28, 2019

This year's Harukaze "Spring Wind" concert will be held on Sunday, July 28th at 3:00 pm in Sundin Music Hall at Hamline University in St. Paul. Join us at this unique shamisen concert!

Momokusu Iwata, aspiring Tsugaru shamisen player, will be performing with **Ayatoshi Oikawa**, gifted pianist, to bring you an exciting cross-cultural experience.

Shamisen is a traditional Japanese instrument. Tsugaru Shamisen was born in the northern part of Japan as a musical instrument for blind performers. Momokusu plays it to capture contemporary Tokyo. His "Shamisen Tokyo" project covers wide range of musical expressions from folk songs, classic to smooth jazz.



Momokusu Iwata

playing loudly to get the attention and praise of people. Listening to Momokusu's interpretation, and finding it "too delicate," some old-fashioned players commented, "Your shamisen is not Tsugaru shamisen. Your shamisen is Tokyo shamisen." Momokusu has decided to be true to himself. He has named his own project as "Shamisen Tokyo."

Ayatoshi Oikawa played his first solo piano concert in April 2018 and currently plays throughout Japan with various accomplished Japanese artists.

Momokusu Iwata won the Tsugaru shamisen world competition in 2017; however, he was critiqued by the Tsugaru shamisen orthodoxy for his delicate playing style. The shamisen was designed to be played loudly with no amplification. The instrument was created and improved by blind performers in the Tsugaru area (Aomori prefecture, northern Japan). They developed techniques for



Ayatoshi Oikawa



Momokusu Iwata
YouTube Page

[https://
www.youtube.com/
channel/
UCd6ONsRI-
yII5YKARd0zVStw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd6ONsRI-yII5YKARd0zVStw)

Harukaze
Sunday, July 28, 2019
3:00 PM

Hamline University
Sundin Music Hall
1531 Hewitt Ave, St Paul, MN 55104

Tickets
\$25 Nonmember
\$20 JASM Member
\$10 Student (with ID)\$5 Age 6 and Under

Mondale Scholarship for Study in Japan



Mason Williams, a 2018-2019 Mondale Scholarship recipient

The Japan America Society of Minnesota (JASM) will again award the Mondale Scholarship to undergraduate students enrolled in Minnesota colleges and universities who are scheduled for a Japan study abroad program and want to broaden their knowledge of Japan through a combination of study and travel. Starting in 2019, JASM is inviting students at the University of North Dakota as well as North Dakota State University to apply for this scholarship

as well. The selection committee has the discretion to award up to \$1,500 to each scholarship winner. The award can be used for travel to or within Japan or for a special research project in Japan.

Application materials for the 2019-2020 Mondale Scholarship must be emailed/postmarked to JASM office.

Applications will be accepted starting May 1

Application deadline June 1

Application materials:

1. Application Form (available at mn-japan.org)
2. Official college/university transcript(s) from all institutions attended
3. Cumulative GPA 3.0 or higher
4. 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.
5. 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 money from the scholarship? The essay must be no longer than two double-spaced typewritten pages.
6. A copy of the letter of acceptance from the intended program of study in Japan.
7. The study abroad program must be at least one semester long (14-16 weeks).



OR Code to JASM
Website for Mondale
Scholarship info

[http://mn-japan.org/
programs/mondale-
programs/mondale-
scholarship/](http://mn-japan.org/programs/mondale-programs/mondale-scholarship/)



Tatiana Gust, a 2018-2019 Mondale Scholarship recipient

MN Grassroots Development: The Saint Paul–Nagasaki Sister City Committee (SPNSCC)



Former SPNSCC President Elizabeth Simmer with two of the Junshin singers from Nagasaki

On December 7, 1955, just ten years after the end of World War II, the mayors of Saint Paul, MN, and Nagasaki, Japan signed the first Sister City agreement between any city in the US and any city in Asia. Sixty-four years later, the relationship is still going strong. Both SPNSCC and its Nagasaki equivalent, NSPSCC, are led by volunteers who believe in cultural exchange and especially in international friendship.

Through the years, SPNSCC has held many signature events, including, with JASM, the Obon Festival at Como Park, the Gift of Cherry Trees from Japan in 2012, the Return of the Sword in 2013, the Hiroshima Nagasaki Peace Exhibition at Landmark Center in 2015, and Urban Expedition to Japan at the Landmark Center in 2018. The SACHIKO scholarship assists students from Metropolitan State University attend a peace and environmental institute at Nagasaki University each summer.



The cherry tree planting at the gift of trees celebration 2012

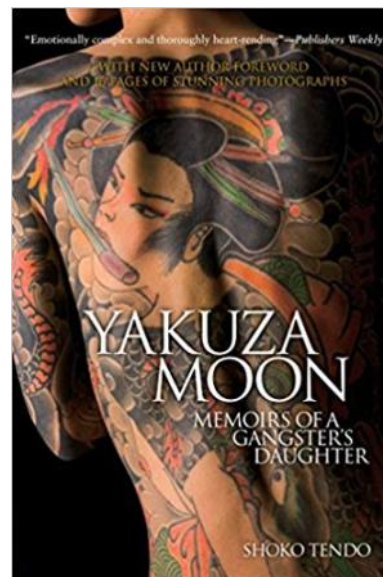
Although the most important exchanges are people to people, whether it be tennis players or orchestra members, there are several visible symbols of our sister city relationship in both St. Paul and Nagasaki. The Como Ordway Japanese Garden, designed by ninth generation master gardener Masami Matsuda from Nagasaki, is the most famous. Also in Como Park are the grove of cherry trees, a gift from the government of Japan in 2012, and the Global Harmony Labyrinth. In the Peace Park in Nagasaki are the sculpture Constellation Earth by Minnesota sculptor Paul Granlund and a ¼ size replica of the Vision of Peace statue in the St. Paul City Hall, presented by the St. Paul Rotary Club in 2012.

SPNSCC will sponsor a trip to Japan, with three days in Nagasaki for its famous Okunchi Festival, in October 2020. St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter will lead the official delegation celebrating 65 years of friendship. Join us at the Cherry Tree Celebration on June 1 and Obon in August. Connect: www.stpaulnagasaki.org spnscc@gmail.com

*By JoAnne Blatchley,
President, Saint Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee*

Tom Haeg's Book Review

Yakuza Moon: Memoirs of a Gangster's Daughter, by Shoko Tendo. Kodansha International Publisher; 2008 paperback edition. Louise Heal, translator. 195 pages.



The yakuza, the Japanese equivalent of the mafia, is a notorious and brutal organization dedicated to underworld crime in Japan. Its operations include but are not limited to the illegal manufacture and distribution of narcotics, gambling, prostitution, extortion, counterfeiting, and usury. It is ruthless and unrepentant. There are no redeeming values associated with it. It is just plain evil.

Shoko Tendo grew up as a daughter of a mob boss in this despicable abyss. Her first-person narrative format reveals the horrors she and her family endured while her father conducted his illicit craft. While she was raised in what appeared to be a comfortable and wealthy home, she still suffered the slings and arrows of discrimination from schoolmates, teachers, and neighbors, resulting in a subtle yet distinctive societal banishment. Her family then falls into a bottomless pit of debt, further compromising her morals and damaging her psyche. She is raped, drugged, and abandoned. Yet she survives to courageously tell this remarkable, awe-inspiring story of redemption.

While some of the language is crude and the conversations are somewhat discursive, we give Tendo a free pass because we sense her mental struggles to bravely recall repressive memories of brutal victimization during her adolescence.

This 2008 paperback edition account contains an epilogue by Manubu Miyazaki, "How Full is the Moon?", reiterating similar yakuza family experiences. He is a best-selling Japanese author. His epilogue was a clever touch on the part of the publisher to provide support validating Tendo's memoirs and create believability.

Yakuza Moon is available to JASM members in the JASM Library.

Tom Haeg

A Word from Yoko Breckenridge

MN Nihonjinkai meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at noon. We host a pot-luck-style lunch at the Japanese Library and ask everyone to bring a dish to pass if they are able to do so.

This past month's meeting was exceptionally lively! I think we were all so excited to have the snow gone, and we knew we only had a brief opportunity to "celebrate" before the next storm hit. We enjoy food, fellowship and have a lot of fun at our meetings.

We meet again Monday, May 13th at noon. Please join us! If you have any donations for our upcoming garage sale on June 29 (rain date: July 13) please drop them off at the library during the meeting, or any Saturday afternoon between 2-4 p.m.

If you need items picked up, please call Mike & Karen Harwerth at 612-747-0340. You can also email: krosharwerth@centurylink.net.

THANK YOU!

Happy Mother's Day to all!



Photo by
Ackerman + Gruber

Yoko Breckenridge
612-839-0008



Reiwa, Japan's New Era

His Majesty the Emperor Akihito of Japan abdicated on April 30. His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince acceded to the throne on May 1. The new era 令和 (Reiwa), meaning "Beautiful Harmony," has begun in Japan. Emperor Naruhito said in his first speech, "I swear that I will act according to the Constitution and fulfill my responsibility as the symbol of the State and of the unity of the people of Japan, while always turning my thoughts to the people and standing with them."



*Japan's new Emperor
Emperor Naruhito*

(Picture and quotation: NHK World Japan)

領事出張サービスのお知らせ

平成31年度5月、6月の領事出張サービスを下記のとおり実施する予定です。出張サービスでは、在外選挙人名簿登録申請のほか、旅券の申請・交付、在留届(変更届)、各種証明の申請、戸籍・国籍に関する届出を取り扱っています。

6月13日(木) ミネソタ州イーガン (旅券仮申請受付期限: 5月30日)

時間 9時30分から 12時15分まで 13時15分から 16時まで

会場 **Quality Inn and Suites** 1950 Rahnclyff Ct. Eagan, MN 55122

(「在シカゴ総領事館Eメールマガジン」より抜粋)

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 Nihonjinkai) 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 opgr

(Nihonjin-kai monthly meeting is every 2nd Monday at noon. The meeting is held at 4231 Bloomington Ave S. Minneapolis, MN 55407).

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 (minimum 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

May

Corporate Roundtable with MGK, May 17, 2019

June

Cherry Tree Celebration by Saint Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee, June 1, 2019

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
(Just east of Hennepin Avenue South)



For questions, comments, or concerns, please contact JASM at jasm@us-japan.org or 612-627-9357

Thank You: Mami Russell and Tomoko Drake



Mami Russell (left) and Tomoko Drake (right)

Tomoko Drake is a long-time JASM member and dedicated volunteer who organized the JASM food booths at major events. After retirement as JASM food manager last year, she now assists Mami Russell who will now lead the food volunteers.

Mami has also been helping at JASM food booths for years.

Here is a message from Tomoko Drake: *I became an active member of JASM when Mr. Ishida invited me to join the board a few decades ago and found so many American members were working hard for the relationship of the two countries. I quickly learned that I was not much of a help when it comes to financial matters, but there was something I could help with and that was food.*

Once we realized that our beef yakiniku booth was well accepted at the Como Lantern Lighting Festival, it became my annual task to lead my friends in organizing the Beef Bowl booth every year. I was fortunate to have many good friends through the Minneapolis Japanese School who enjoyed working hard on this project year after year. I believe we, the parents and the children, all learned the joy of volunteering, and we were all young then. I am thankful that one of our good friends from the Japanese School, Mami, is willing to take over the leadership position of JASM's food projects.

Thank you, Tomoko-san and Mami-san for your huge contributions to the community through JASM. Your authentic Japanese cooking makes many people happy and solidifies the bond between Japan and Minnesota!

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.....	\$100+
Individual	\$30
Student/Senior	\$20
Household	\$50
(2 adults plus children under 18)	

Japan America Society of Minnesota
43 Main Street SE Suite EH—131
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Japan America Society of Minnesota



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Fax: 612-379-2393
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www.mn-japan.org

通信

Tsūshin
May 2019

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)

J-Quiz Winners' Trip to Washington, D.C. 2019

