

# Japan America Society of Minnesota

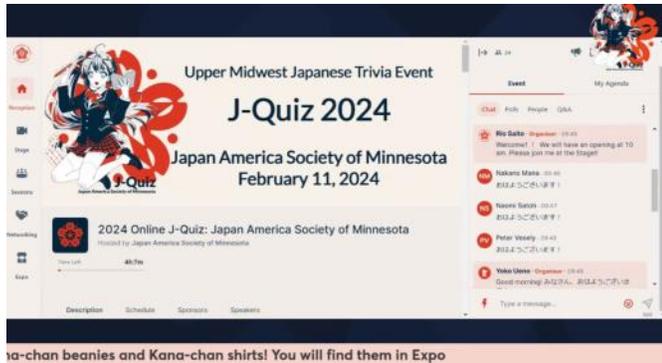


# 通信

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

March 2024 Vol. 33, No. 3

## Recap: J-Quiz 2024 (Online)



community and cultural appreciation, and we have seen a greater interest in the event than in previous years, which is exciting!

Executive Director, Rio Saito, opened the program with welcoming remarks and expressed appreciation for support of the event by attendees and its sponsors, which included Dorsey & Whitney LLP, Ron and Molly Leonhardt, Taiyo International, Inc., and Temple University, Japan Campus. The arrival of JASM's new beanies was also announced, and in case you missed this exciting news, you can support JASM by ordering your very own Kana-chan beanie [here!](#) Several beanies were donated and raffled off courtesy of Ron & Molly Leonhardt, Taiyo International, and Dorsey & Whitney LLP during the event!



Welcome to J-Quiz!

This year, participants were split into five groups, or *rooms*, aptly titled after a specific Japanese dish, including *Ramen*, *Tenpura*, *Sushi*, *Shabu Shabu*, and *Unagi*.

... continued on page 3



Quiz time!

Another successful J-Quiz event was held online this month on Sunday, February 11th. The quiz has gained popularity throughout the Midwest region as a way to connect with individuals interested in Japanese culture and language. While the main event is a quiz testing participants' knowledge of Japanese language and culture, the format is less about competition, and more about supporting those who wish to learn Japanese and become more familiar with Japanese culture in general. The quiz, which consists of three parts—questions, answers, and trivia—is a fun and engaging way to support participants on their learning journey. We also hope that it keeps them motivated to keep practicing, as learning any new language is always challenging!

Starting last year, J-Quiz was opened to participants of all ages and backgrounds (previously open only to high school students). This new format aligns with JASM's greater mission to cultivate

## Upcoming: Furoshiki Demo with Kazumi Kataoka (Online)



Please join us for "Furoshiki Demo" with Kazumi Kataoka on **Thursday, March 21 at 6:00 p.m.** on Zoom.

In this presentation, Kazumi Kataoka will introduce us to the world of furoshiki, and how it can be used in everyday

scenarios.

Furoshiki come in many sizes, but if you have one that is around 30 x 30 inch (give or take a few), it would be ideal for practicing.

Ticket Price  
**\$8 for Non-Members**  
**Free for Members**



Kazumi Kataoka

**Kazumi Kataoka** has lived in Minnesota for more than 20 years. She is a furoshiki enthusiast and wants to promote the use of furoshiki as an alternative to wasteful wrapping paper and plastic bags. She founded a website called "[BAGSTITUTE.COM](#)" and spreads awareness on how multifunctional and versatile a furoshiki is.

**Please support JASM to continue to help us further our mission and make events like this possible.**

## Message from Executive Director



Hello friends and family of JASM. I hope you are enjoying this non-winter weather. We do complain about the snow every year, but when we don't have it, we kind of miss it, don't we?

JASM had a great start to 2024. Our second annual online J-Quiz was received very well. Everyone left with smiles on their faces, and we received very nice evaluations through the post-event survey. We are very excited to see people motivated to learn more about Japan. If you

have not joined us, please mark your calendar for next year. Online J-quiz 2025 will be on February 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are curious about the questions, please check out JASM's YouTube channel. We have a mock quiz attended by JASM members and board members. You can see people having a great time learning together. We would like to thank J-Quiz Committee members, Jeff DuBois-sensei, Miho Nagai-sensei and Naomi Satoh-sensei as well as the teachers who made the questions, Akiko Matsumoto-sensei and Fumiko Matsumoto-sensei. Importantly, we also have to give a huge thank you to Dorsey and Whitney, Molly and Ron Leonhardt, Taiyo International and Temple University Tokyo for their generous sponsorship. Because of all of you, we were able to have this great event.

I also had the privilege of visiting Takeda Pharmaceuticals to introduce JASM in detail. Takeda has a very long history and is a prominent company in the world. It is great to have such an important Japanese company here in Minnesota. We would love to work together in the future. If you know any companies who might want to get to know JASM, please send them my way. I would love to meet with them.

At the same time, you may have seen this in the newspaper, Sawai Pharmaceuticals is leaving Minnesota. We are very sad to see them go but wish the best for their future endeavors. Also, we would like to thank them for their support since the moment they arrived in Minnesota. We had a few events at their beautiful building, and they took very good care of JASM. We will be forever thankful for your support. Thank you.

I would like to continue to outreach to the companies, schools, and different Japan-related groups. I am also planning to visit all 7 Sister Cities throughout Minnesota (a few of them are very close by). The sister cities are bringing back their programs, and some started visiting their Japanese counterparts. I truly admire the sister cities members for their continuing dedication to connecting our beloved cultures together.

Lastly, JASM was awarded the Nonprofit Infrastructure Grant Program (NIGP) by Propel Nonprofit. This grant will allow me to have training as an Executive Director of a nonprofit organization and better serve JASM. I am very grateful for and excited about this opportunity. This grant will last for two years and I will continue to receive training for that duration of time.

I hope you are as excited about this year as I am. Please check out the volunteer calendar to see when we will need your help. Working with you is one of my favorite parts of being the Executive Director of JASM.

*Rio Saito, JASM Executive Director*

## JASM Seeks New Interns



JASM is currently searching for new interns for summer. We are looking for individuals who are:

- Interested in Japan
- Have a familiarity with SNS and Microsoft Office programs
- Undergraduate students or recent graduates
- Willing to work flexible hours (10-25 hrs per week) and participate in

### JASM events

As JASM internships are unpaid, we offer meaningful work experience and intangible benefits. The networking opportunities introduce interns to influential individuals working within Japanese-related businesses and organizations. For more information regarding details on a specific position, please visit our website at [mn-japan.org/Internships-for-College-Students](http://mn-japan.org/Internships-for-College-Students).

If interested in applying, please email a resume and cover letter to: *Yoko Ueno, Program Manager; ProgramManager@mn-japan.org*.

We are looking forward to working with you!



# March\*



### Membership News (1/21, 2023 – 2/20, 2024)

#### Thanks to the following new JASM members:

Adam Myhand

#### Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

Jameson Collins, Aaron Eastwood,  
Akiko Kilau, Mary MacKelvoy, Andy Morris,  
Robin Sorenson, Marie Thorsten

#### Thanks to the following Corporate Members:

Daikin Applied

Dorsey & Whitney LLP

Mall of America

## Recap: J-Quiz 2024 (Online) *continues...*



We used the same application, Kahoot! as last year for the quiz itself and RingCentral, formerly Hopin, which proves to be a very user-friendly and engaging way to support the event.

A big thank you to our room moderators this year, who facilitated the questions and answers. Those individuals include Jeffrey DuBois, Ryuto Hashimoto, Kennosuke Hayashi, Miho Nagai, Mana Nakano, and Naomi Sato. They did a fantastic job of engaging with our participants and keeping the atmosphere fun and light-hearted!



*Keynote Speaker,  
Sydney Michael*

Following the quiz, we were joined by our guest speaker, Sydney Michael, joining us all the way from Japan (it was 2:30am for her and she did a great job!). Sydney served as JASM's event coordinator in 2017, and now resides in Yamaguchi Prefecture and serves as a Coordinator for International Relations through the JET Programme. Sydney shared her experience in the program with participants, and offered advice and tips for those interested in following a similar path. She did an excellent job of engaging the audience, answering questions, and offering a wealth of information and resources to support Japanese language learners and those interested in working toward a career in Japanese and International Relations.

The event also included a cultural video by Kazumi Kataoka, a resident of Minnesota and furoshiki enthusiast. Her video promoted the use of furoshiki as an eco-friendly alternative to wasteful wrapping paper and plastic bags.

And, every year, a college fair is included in the program to support learners' search for Japanese language programs throughout the Midwest. Local Japanese language groups and facilities are also included in the college fair to provide diverse learning and engagement opportunities for participants depending on their interests and goals. This element of the program has also been a great way to cultivate relationships with local colleges and universities, and JASM's broader community.

The event concluded with Rio Saito's closing remarks, thanking everyone who attended the event, as well as our volunteer Senseis, guest speaker, and sponsors. It was another successful event enjoyed by many!

We would like to thank the following supporters for their tremendous effort.  
Without their help JASM could not hold a successful J-Quiz 2024.

**Jeffrey DuBois, Fumiko Matsumoto, Miho Nagai**  
*Question Preparation*

**Jeffrey DuBois, Niho Nagai, Rio Saito, Naomi Satoh, Yoko Ueno**  
*J-Quiz Planning Committee*

**Kazumi Kataoka, Joshua Grove**  
*Cultural Segment—Sweets Kendamas*

This event is made possible thanks to sponsors:

**Dorsey & Whitney LLP**  
**Ron and Molly Leonhardt**  
**Ken Port Scholarship**  
**Taiyo International, Inc.**

*Please thank our members  
with your support!*

### **Corporate Benefactor Members**

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

### **Corporate Patron Members**

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MGK, Inc.  
Minnesota Council of Teachers of Japanese  
Naigai Industries U.S.A. Inc.  
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Minneapolis Institute of Art  
Minnesota Orchestra  
Mu Performing Arts  
NDSU-Emily Reynolds  
Historic Costume Collection  
Red Wing Sister Cities Commission  
Twin Cities Aikido Center  
UMN Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies  
University of North Dakota-Grand Forks  
Winona State University Global Studies and World Languages

### **Sakura Circle Membership**

Sam and Mirja Hanson  
Noriko Ishida  
Bob and Hisayo Luck  
John and Hiroko Shade

## Meet Our Intern: Finnigan Lewis



Finnigan Lewis

Hello everyone! My name is Finnigan Lewis, and I am a new intern at JASM. I will be working as an Event Coordinator intern this year. I go to Macalester College in St. Paul, and recently returned from a semester studying abroad in Nagoya at Nanzan University. I loved my short time in Nagoya and would love to return at some point in the future, either to work or for graduate school. It's a beautiful city that despite being typically underrated by tourists, has so many interesting things to do. One of my personal favorites was visiting the Atsuta

Jingu shrine complex, and I also got to try some Nagoya regional specialties, such as miso katsu. Since Nagoya is located nicely between the Kyoto/Osaka area and Tokyo, I also was able to do a lot of travel to explore other parts of Japan.

I became interested in Japan back in high school. Like many people, my first introduction to the language and culture was through pop culture like anime and manga. The language was what caught my interest first since it's so unique, especially when compared to the languages that high school students in the United States are typically able to take classes for. Through learning the language and becoming friends with the Japanese students at my school, I quickly gained a broader appreciation of Japanese culture, deciding finally to major in Japanese in college alongside Linguistics. I love sharing the things I have come to love about Japan with the people around me, which I do partly through working at Mori no Ike, a Japanese immersion summer camp here in Minnesota.

I hope that I will be able to continue to help promote Japanese culture even more through working with JASM this year! I'm grateful for this opportunity and look forward to working with everyone here. Thank you!

## Advertise in the Tsushin!

### Advertisement Rates

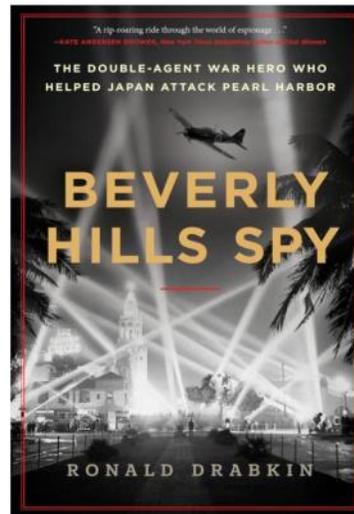
Style	Size (height x width)	Cost/issue
1/4 page	5 x 3.5 in	\$50.00
1/2 page	7.5 x 5 in/3.5 x 10 in	\$90.00
Full page	7.5 x 10 in	\$150.00
Classified	80 character line (minimum 2 lines)	\$10/line

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  
jasm@mn-japan.org**

## Tom Haeg's Book Review

*Beverly Hills Spy: The Double-Agent War Hero Who Helped Japan Attack Pearl Harbor*; Ronald Drapkin, Morrow Press; 2024, 272 pages.



Just when you think you know everything about something, a disrupter emerges to shatter your conclusions. *Beverly Hills Spy* is one. Here's why.

Frederick Rutland, an English pilot, was the first person to fly off a watercraft. His mission: gather intelligence on German naval operations in World War I. He was heralded a national hero and then parlayed his fame after World War I by retiring from the British navy to take a job in Japan as a consultant for aircraft carrier design. He returned to England to pursue sales, but he found it listless and boring. In 1932 the Japanese military re-connected with Drabkin, hiring him to gather sensitive information about United States military operations on the West Coast and Hawaii while living in Beverly Hills cavorting with celebrities and military brass. They paid dearly for his advice, more than ten times the salary of an Imperial admiral. But what began as a consultancy agreement turned into espionage. It culminated in infamy on December 7, 1941. He justified his misdeeds by acknowledging that the information he transmitted was already in the public realm and/or that he never perceived Japan as a military threat. Wrong on both counts. To be direct, he was a spy for the Imperial military. The British counter-intelligence agency M15 was aware of his operations but chose not to cooperate with the Federal Bureau of Information (FBI). The FBI was closing in on him but entertained designs to use him as a double agent.

After World War II, Rutland was expelled from the United States, imprisoned in England and committed suicide in 1949 although some still believe he was murdered instead.

Much of the book's revelations are traced to recently declassified government files under the Freedom of Information Act that Drapkin tapped into during his scholarly research. The work is part biography, part history, and part non-fiction. At times he over-extends the truth with imagined dialogue. A kind reader will grant him license in this area since clandestine operations of counter-intelligence sleuths aren't exactly a surfeit of verbatim transcripts.

Tom Haeg

## JASM Fundraising Opportunity with “RaiseRight”



Raise funds by buying gift cards from RaiseRight to pay for your everyday shopping and spending year-round. Groceries, dining out, home improvement, and everything in between. It's the most convenient and effective way to fundraise

because earning becomes part of your everyday life. Plus, gift cards are great for helping you to set and keep a weekly budget.

It's never been easier to create opportunities for what matters most to you. No extra money spent. No extra time wasted.

### How it works:

Buy gift cards at full value from 750+ brands. Pick from eGift cards and physical gift cards.

Earn up to 20% on every gift card you buy.

Use gift cards at full value for your everyday purchases.

Watch your fundraising account grow throughout the year, thanks to the brands that give back to support your community!

### Get started today!

Create a free fundraising account on the RaiseRight mobile app or at RaiseRight.com.

Have questions or need our organization's enrollment code? Contact: [jasm@mn-japan.org](mailto:jasm@mn-japan.org)

## Japanese Conversation Clubs



### Minneapolis Japanese Conversation Club (formerly “Japanese Speaking Club”)

The Minneapolis Japanese Conversation Club is an informal

group for those wishing to practice Japanese – all skill levels welcomed! The group also encourages native Japanese speakers who wish to practice their English to join, in addition to chatting in Japanese. Emphasis is placed on free talk, so participants can cover a wide range of conversation topics.

We encourage those just beginning the language as well as native speakers to participate to meet new people, discuss experiences in Japan, or simply to enjoy speaking Japanese with one another.

The group meets bi-weekly on Saturday afternoons at Corner Coffee Uptown, with Zoom meetings between in-person meet-ups. Schedules are posted to the group's Facebook page, at the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/minneapolisjapaneseclub/>

In-person meeting Location: Corner Coffee Uptown, 1414 W 28th St., Minneapolis, MN 55408

*\*Note: A short questionnaire is required prior to joining.*  
For more details, send an email to group coordinator Will Etkin: [will.etkin@gmail.com](mailto:will.etkin@gmail.com)



Check out another conversation group: Twin Cities Japanese Conversation Meetup Group (<https://www.twincitiesjapaneseconversation.com/>)

The goal of Twin Cities Japanese Conversation Meetup is language fluency in either Japanese or English. This group is for Japanese language learners who want to improve their Japanese speaking skills and/or native Japanese speakers who want to improve their English speaking. Those who just want to help out are also welcome.

Parts to the meetup: 自己紹介 (self-introductions), 質疑応答 (questions and answers about language) and 会話練習 (conversation practice). All meetings and study groups are held in *Discord*.

### Current Schedule:

Su 8:30-10a N5 Study Group, Genki Lesson 10

M 7-8p N3の勉強会、「とびら」という教科書での第1課

W 7-8p 日本語会話, alternating weeks of in-person and virtual meetups

Th 7-8:30pm N3の勉強会、「とびら」の第7課

*\*Note: Proficiency in Hiragana is required prior to joining the group.*

For any question about this group, please email Mariquita Anderson: [mariquita@twincitiesjapaneseconversation.com](mailto:mariquita@twincitiesjapaneseconversation.com)



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通信

March Tsūshin  
2024

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@mn-japan.com](mailto:jasm@mn-japan.com)

### February Events

