

Japan America Society of Minnesota



通 信

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

March 2020 Vol. 29, No. 3

Recap: J-Quiz 2020



*Level IV winning team
from Harding High School*

On Saturday, February 15, JASM presented one of our exciting annual events, J-Quiz, at Normandale Community College in Bloomington. This year, 88 students participated, from six Minnesota high schools and one Wisconsin high

school. They competed by testing their knowledge of Japanese language and culture for a chance to win a trip to Washington, D.C. This competition is organized by JASM and the Minnesota Council of Teachers of Japanese (MCTJ), in cooperation with the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago.

The event began with an opening ceremony, following student registration. Rio Saito, JASM Executive Director, opened the event with a warm welcome. Next Ms. Hiroko Kikuchi from the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago encouraged the participating students for the competition. Teams of two to three students were then tested in various aspects of Japanese language and culture, including reading and writing, idioms, expressions, and listening.



*Tea ceremony presented by
Yukimakai*



*Taiko performance by
Harisendaiko*

J-Quiz not only allows students to test their Japanese skills; it also offers cultural presentations that both teach and entertain. This year, competitors and audience enjoyed a tea ceremony demonstration presented by Patricia Katagiri and Cynthia

Haskell, both from Yukimakai, and a taiko performance by Harisendaiko. Yukimakai showed us how to have a proper tea ceremony by serving sweets and tea to two of J-Quiz participants.

Recap: J-Quiz 2020 continues on page 2

Upcoming: Corporate Roundtable with Metropolitan Airports Commission

Please join us for JASM's first-ever Corporate Roundtable with the Metropolitan Airports Commission on **Thursday, March 26, 2020!** This event will feature a MAC 101 (Metropolitan Airports Commission) presentation by speaker Naomi Pesky, Vice President, MAC Strategy & Stakeholder Engagement followed by a guided tour of the baggage handling area and Airside Operations Center.



*Naomi Pesky,
Vice President, Strategy
and Stakeholder
Engagement*

In Ms. Naomi Pesky's role as vice president of strategy and stakeholder engagement at the Metropolitan Airports Commission, she oversees an in-house team of professionals who serve as strategy stewards to make sure the organization delivers on its mission, vision, and strategic plan. Specific functions in her division include strategic communications, strategic marketing, stakeholder engagement, air service development, strategic planning, and sustainability.

Ms. Pesky has held leadership roles in corporate and nonprofit organizations. Before joining the MAC, she was vice president of external relations at Hennepin Theatre Trust, a performing arts organization. Prior to that, she held leadership roles at The Saint Paul and Minnesota Foundations and General Mills. She distinguishes herself in brand management, new product launches, community engagement, fundraising, and revenue growth.

Ms. Pesky is an active leader in the community and serves on the board of Temple Israel in Minneapolis. She has a bachelor of arts degree from Northwestern University and a master's degree in business administration from the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan. She also was a 2012-2013 policy fellow at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. She lives in Minneapolis with her husband and two children.

The Corporate Roundtable will begin at 8:00am and is expected to end by 9:30am. It will occur behind the TSA security lines, so we advise you to arrive at the security line by 7:00-7:15 am. Further information will be provided to the registrants.

This event will be limited to 30 registrants, so please make sure to register quickly. Furthermore, the Airport requires that we submit our registrants' information in advance to provide security passes, so we will be unable to accommodate any registrants after March 18 at 4:00 PM.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Letter from JASM Board Member



*Kate Thersleff,
JASM Board Member*

My name is Kate Thersleff and I have been an active JASM Board Member since 2016. My interest in Japan started back in college. I was picking study abroad options and I ended up choosing to go and spend a year studying in Japan at Kansai Gaidai in Osaka. I knew after college that I wanted to go back, so I applied to the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program. I was accepted and from 2005-2008 I taught at several junior high schools in Kainan City, Wakayama. Go Kansai! I might be just slightly biased as to where I think the best region in

Japan is! I have remained an active member of the JET Program Alumni Association (JETAAMN) since returning from Japan. We exist to help new JETs returning find a community they feel welcome in as well as sharing with others the things about Japan that we all remember fondly.

One of my favorite JASM activities is, of course, Obon Festival (former the lantern lighting festival) at Como Park. Every year JETAAMN has a booth there. It's a great way to introduce friends to Japanese culture and reconnect with friends you always run into there. It is so nice to see a little piece of Japan take root and thrive here in Minnesota, and to know it is embraced by the local community, and people look forward to attending every year!

My current job working at Allina Health in Health Information does not offer many ways to connect with Japan, and this is one of the things that I value about JASM. JASM creates these spaces and events that allow us to reconnect with Japan and also to connect with people who feel the same way that I do about Japan. Creating a vibrant community here in Minnesota is one of the amazing things that JASM does for us. I think that JASM is doing great work connecting Minnesota to Japan, and I hope to see all of you at an event soon!

Kate Thersleff
President, Japan Exchange and Teaching Program Alumni Association (JETAAMN), ALT, Wakayama-ken 2005-2008



Kate Thersleff (2nd from right) with JETAAMN in front of their shaved ice booth at the Obon Festival 2020 on Como Park

Recap: J-Quiz 2020, continued

Harisendaiko performed wonderful pieces that included an original piece created based on the popular anime *Attack of the Titans*.

Before the final rounds, the Level I winners were recognized onstage with certificates and prizes. The winners of J-Quiz Level I were Chandra Tran, Luth Kairulhuda, and Nick Nguyen from Shakopee High School.

Three teams of level II to IV students advanced into the final rounds. They took part in a game-show style competition in front of the audience. In the end, the top team of each level won a trip to Washington, D.C. to compete in the National Japan Bowl in April. Of 25 teams competing, three teams emerged as final victors. Starting this year, the new Ken Port Scholarship will support part of the Japan Bowl expenses for Level IV team winners.



Level I from Shakopee High School



*Level II from Shakopee High School
(Pic. Revised)*



Level III from Eastview High School

The winners of level II to IV are as follows:

Level II: Shakopee High School, Davonte Chounlamontry,

Alexia Mosbarger, Brooke Sorah

Level III: Eastview High School, Sydney Chen, Arianna

Rasmussen, Kaitlyn Wright

Level IV: Harding High School,

Calvin Yang, Zoe Hugart

JASM would like to congratulate not only the winning teams but also, all of this year's competitors. Students who participated at J-Quiz showed their studious efforts and passion along with their school pride from the beginning of the competition.

Note: JASM thanks J-Quiz sponsors and volunteers on page 5

Membership News

Thanks to the following new JASM members:
Mariquita Anderson, Deborah & Steve Yunger, Christine Schwarz, Marty Mooney

Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:
Laura Johnson, Lica Tomizuka Sanborn, Laura Moy, Keiko Young

Thanks to the following renewing Corporate members:
Daikin Applied, MTS Systems

The Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan



On February 19th, a reception to celebrate His Majesty the Emperor's birthday was held at the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago. This was for the birthday celebration for the Reiwa Emperor Naruhito, who turned 60 on February 23rd. Many people gathered around to celebrate his first birthday since his accession to the throne last May 1st. On April 30th, 2019, his father, former Emperor Akihito, stepped down after 30 years of his life as a symbolic monarch during a dramatic transformation of Japanese society: the Heisei era.

Celebration participants included representatives of Japan America Societies throughout the Midwest, representatives of the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago, and some representatives from Japanese prefectures such as Shizuoka and Ibaraki. The reception featured sake and tea samples as well as koto performances and tea ceremony demonstrations. To

represent Minnesota, Honorary Consul Dick Stahl and JASM Executive Director Rio Saito attended.

In Tokyo, Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako were originally scheduled to greet the public three times on Sunday morning from a balcony in the palace. However, the public birthday event was cancelled due to concern of spreading the new coronavirus. Emperor commented on his birthday: "This new coronavirus is a concern. I would like to send my sympathies to those who are infected and their families."

Photos by Consul-General of Japan in Chicago



Consul-General Kenichi Okada, Consul-General of Japan in Chicago

Looking for New Interns

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

- interested in Japan
- familiar with Microsoft Office programs
- able to work at least from May/June to the end of August
- an undergraduate student or recent graduate
- willing to work in a team and participate in JASM events

As JASM internships are unpaid, we offer meaningful work experience and intangible benefits. You can also develop a network of business and cultural contacts.

For more information regarding the details of each internship position, please visit our website at

<https://japanamericasocietyofminnesota.wildapricot.org/Internships-for-College-Students>

We hope new interns will join our team! If interested in applying, please email a resume and cover letter to: Yoko Ueno, Program Manager (yueno "at" us-japan.org)



Anime Detour 2019



Obon Festival 2019 at Como Park



JASM team with the artists at Harukaze concert 2019

Please thank our members with your support!

Corporate Benefactor Members

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Sawai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.
Taiyo International

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Minnesota Council of Teachers of Japanese
Minnesota Orchestra
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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.



Sawai Upsher-Smith M&A Story – A Case Study April 10, 2020
沢井製薬・アップシャースミス M&Aケーススタディ

This program was held in English last October as Corporate Roundtable and succeeded in gaining positive reaction from the audience, leading its revival in Japanese on Friday, April 10.

A program *in Japanese* about Sawai Pharmaceutical's acquisition of Minnesota-based Upsher-Smith Laboratories presented by Mr. Kenzo Sawai, Chairman of Upsher-Smith.

- Agenda:**
- 9:30 – 10:00 Registration
 - 10:00 – 11:00 Presentation and Q&A
 - 11:00 – 11:30 Networking

Price: This event is free of charge, sponsored by the Minnesota Trade Office. We ask that you register below.

- Event Audience:**
- Japanese-speaking business community in Minnesota.
 - Non-native speakers of Japanese who have ties to Japanese business are also welcome.

Event Organizer: Minnesota Trade Office in collaboration with the Japan America Society of Minnesota (JASM).

Direct Questions (in Japanese or English) to either:

Sarah Walbert, *Regional Trade Manager*, Minnesota Trade Office - sarah.walbert@state.mn.us | +1-651-259-7482

Rio Saito, *Executive Director*, JASM - riosaito@us-japan.org | +1-612-627-9357



Mr. Kenzo Sawai, Chairman of Upsher-Smith

テーマ：『沢井製薬・アップシャースミス M&Aケーススタディ』* *この講演は日本語で行われます

講演者：沢井製薬株式会社・Upsher-Smith Chairman 澤井健造氏

日時：令和2年 4月10日(金曜日) 午前9時半~ 11時半

参加費：無料

会場：ベスト・バイ 本社 (Best Buy Headquarters)

7601 Penn Ave So, Richfield, MN 55423 (Highway 494沿い)

対象：ミネソタ州の日本人ビジネスコミュニティ、また日本語を話すことができる日本関連ビジネス関係者

主催者：ミネソタ州貿易事務局 (Minnesota Trade Office) 並びにミネソタ日米協会 (Japan America Society of Minnesota)

お申込みはこちらのリンク (<https://eventactions.com/eareg.aspx?ea=Rsvp>) からお願いいたします。

*お席に限りがございますので、ご興味のおありの方は是非早めにお申し込みください。

ご質問等ございましたら、お気軽にミネソタ日米協会の齋藤りお riosaito@us-japan.org 612-627-9357, またはセラ・ウォルバート sarah.walbert@state.mn.us 651-259-7482までお問い合わせください。

講演会開催の背景について：2017年5月にミネソタ州のUpsher-Smithが沢井製薬株式会社に10億ドル以上で買収されました。澤井健造氏のリーダーシップのもと、会社のさらなる飛躍に向けて2つの会社、システム、文化を融合させるため、沢井製薬株式会社は熱心にそして創造的に邁進されています。この成功談について、澤井氏による英語での講演会を昨年10月3日にミネソタ日米協会と共催したところご盛況をいただきました。そこで、4月の澤井氏ミネソタ再訪に伴い、今回は日本語での講演会依頼をしたところ快諾いただき、このイベント開催の運びとなりました。このまたとないチャンス、皆様お見逃しの無いよう、奮ってご参加ください。お待ちしております。

ミネソタ州貿易事務局 セラ・ウォルバート
ミネソタ日米協会 齋藤りお

JASM Thanks J-Quiz Sponsors and Volunteers

JASM extends our heartfelt gratitude to those who gave their support to make this event possible.

Event Hosts

Normandale Community College
Minnesota Council of Teachers of Japanese
Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago

Sponsors



Dorsey & Whitney, LLP
Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, PC
The Japan Foundation— Los Angeles
Kiku Enterprises, Inc.
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LocalizationGuy
The Ken Port Scholarship
Taiyo International, Inc.
Temple University, Japan Campus
Saji Ya Restaurant
Hiroko and John Shade
Seiichi Suda

Cultural Session Presenters

Tea Ceremony Demonstration: Yukimakai
Taiko Performance: Harisendaiko

Volunteers

J-Quiz Planning Committee Co-Chairs:
Michiko Kato Dressen, Hiroko Shade

J-Quiz Planning Committee:
**Kyoko French, Motoko Hioki, Keiko Kawakami,
Naomi Satoh**

Question Preparation:
**Hiroe Akimoto, Michiko Buchanan, Michiko Kato Dressen,
Miaki Habuka, Keiko Kawakami, Ritsuko Larson,
Fusako Muro**

Volunteer Coordinator: **Motoko Hioki**

Judges:
Michiko Buchanan, Hiroe Akimoto, Ron Leonhardt

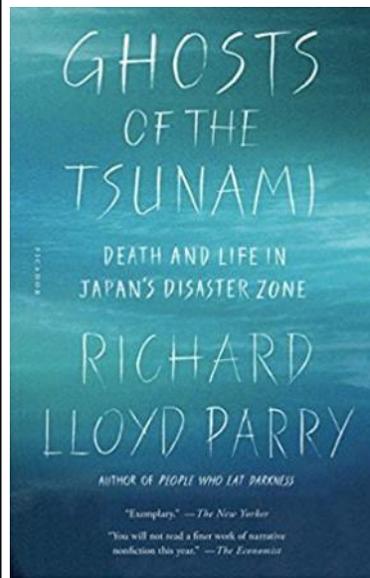
Food Service Coordinator:
Ryo Hamasaki, Sachiyo Nishi, Keiko Martin

Lunch provided by: **Suishin Restaurant**

Moderators, Timekeepers/Proctors, Graders, Scorers:
**Aaron Aguilar, Marc Bleher, Michiko Kato Dressen, Keiko
Emmett, Elizabeth Fehrmann, Lowell Feldhahn, Carson
Freund, Samuel Hadtke, Marnie Jorenby, Keiko Kawakami,
Diane Li, Jacob Lindhal, Desmond Mack, Akiko Matsumoto,
Jared Miller, Ayumi Mita, Fusako Muro, Sheryl Patricelli,
Neena Peck, Ignatius Pham, Tina Pham, Hue Phung, Steve
Savitt, Satoko Suzuki, Akie Takasu, Kenichi Tazawa, Lily
Tran, Debbie Wang, Doua Yang, Racheal Youngs**

Thank you for your dedication.

Tom Haeg's Book Review



Ghosts of the Tsunami;
Richard Lloyd Parry;
Farrar, Straus and Giroux,
2017; 295 pages.

March 11, 2020 will be the ninth anniversary of the most horrific disaster in Japan since 1945: the 2011 Tohoku tsunami. To commemorate the loss of more than 18,500 victims and 200,000 homeless, memorials and moments of silence will be conducted throughout Japan. While you may not be available to participate in the ceremonies, here is a book to help you recall and pay your respects.

Richard Lloyd Parry, a foreign correspondent with the London Times, had lived in Japan for sixteen years when the disaster occurred. He was in Tokyo and immediately self-dispatched himself to Tohoku to cover the story. He knew the country and had his hand on its pulse.

Ghosts is a reflective account of the tsunami victims and their families. He interviewed survivors, walked the region, conducted academic research, and, most importantly, asked questions. He had no agenda; he only wished to reveal the truth. He focuses on a village school that failed to heed the tsunami evacuation protocol. This negligence resulted in the needless loss of scores of schoolchildren. He pursues cryptic clues showing that Japanese culture contributed to the cover-up, resulting in a rare court victory for the surviving families.

Parry befriends a Buddhist priest who exorcised ghosts of the tsunami. The author is not shy in describing the squalor (“...children had been found all around, thrown up against the hollows of the hill...”). His observations on the local relief responses were quite revealing: “Everything was eased by the instinctive Japanese aversion to anything that could be judged messy, selfish, or otherwise anti-social. And all of it was achieved in an atmosphere of good humor and generosity, which sometimes bordered on the ridiculous.” Notice the “absolutes” he used: *everything, anything, and all*. Award-winning journalists’ wordcraft is not normally given to absolutes. But this was not a normal story, and Parry is no ordinary journalist, so his professional excesses are forgiven.

Although he writes in a newspaper chronology typical of a “just the facts” style, his immersion into the victims’ pathos reveals a captivating story of both humanity and calamity. He defines and ferrets out a struggle deserving of a forgiving consolation on a national level.

So, on March 11, 2020, while you pause to recall where you were nine years ago, I sincerely recommend you read *Ghosts* if only to remember and pay your respects.

-Tom Haeg

A Word from Nihonjinkai

I'm excited to tell you about this, as most, if not ALL of our Nihonjinkai members will be part of this wonderful project. From the creators of the documentary *Fall Seven Times, Get Up Eight: The Japanese War Brides*, there is now an ambitious full-fledged history project in the works: **War Bride Experience**. The War Bride Experience (WBE) consists of four parts:

1. Traveling exhibition

The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service is investigating funding to build an exhibit on Japanese war brides that would travel the US - including to communities that are far from major museums. If all goes well, we'll be reaching out to you to help create this one-of-a-kind exhibit with family treasures.

2. Educational curriculum unit

We've applied for grants to create a free, downloadable course for middle and high school students, to be developed by Stanford University's Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE).

3. Expanded film

Our original short film was just the start! Filming began in 2018 with a grant from the Japan-United States Friendship Commission, and we are continuing to gather photos, video, research, and other artifacts to paint a fuller picture of the life and times of the war brides - and what it all means for us today.

4. Oral history archive

We're now seeking a permanent archival home at a university for more than 100 interviews with war brides and their families. (Yoko Breckenridge's story is featured along with Hiroe Hosna and Hiroko Roberts, the mother of Karen Harwerth, our fundraiser organizer).

See Kathryn Tolbert's Instagram account for photos and story captions that carry an emotional punch in less than 400 words. Follow her @kathryn.tolbert or view them at: <https://instagram.com/kathryn.tolbert>.

We are looking forward to supporting this larger effort in the near future! These women deserve recognition!



Don't forget to join our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1644814705588014/>

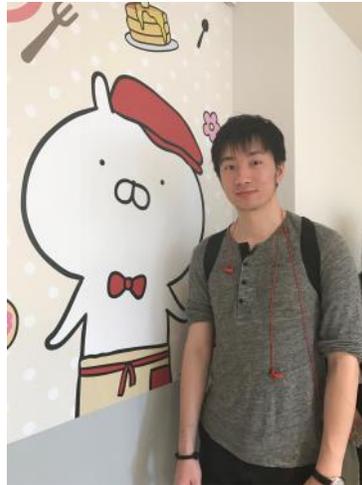


Photo by
Ackerman + Gruber

Yoko Breckenridge
612-839-0008



New Intern: Jiayi Xu



Jiayi Xu

Hi everyone!
My name is Jiayi Xu. I am the new Membership Coordinator at JASM. I am an expat partner. I came here last August because my wife was transferred here from Japan.

I was born and raised in Suzhou, China, and lived there until age 23. After that, I went to Japan because I liked the *Case Closed* stories featuring Detective Conan.

I spent about five years in Tokyo including taking a master's degree course and working in a trading company. I am so happy because I didn't expect I would get a chance to come to the United States. I am enjoying the beautiful outdoors and "Minnesota Nice".

It is a great opportunity and honor for me to be a part of JASM. I am excited and I will make use of all my skills and experience.

I will be in Minnesota until the end of 2022. I hope the Timberwolves can make the playoffs before I leave.

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: ybreckenridge@cbburnet.com

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

Japanese Conversation Clubs



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 at least 3:30.)

Place: Corner Coffee
1414 W 28th St, Minneapolis, MN 55408
(Just east of Hennepin Avenue South)

Check out another conversation group: **Twin Cities Japanese Conversation Meetup Group** <https://www.meetup.com/Twin-Cities-Japanese-Conversation-Meetup/> on Meetup!

Note: This is a private group. In order to join, a questionnaire must be completed at the web site linked above.

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 or/and 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).

Meeting Place: Edina (Monday), Minnetonka (Thursday), Saint Paul (Saturday).

If you're new to this group, please show up at the beginning of the meetup for self-introductions.

For any question about this group, please email Mariquita Anderson: mariquita@twincitiesjapaneseconversation.com

Calendar

March

Corporate Roundtable, March 26

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/10 x 3.5 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**

Become a JASM Member online

Support our mission and become a member!

1. Go to mn-japan.org
2. At the top, hover over 'Support JASM' then click on 'Join'
3. Select your membership type and read the benefits and instructions.

You can also become a member using your smartphone.

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	\$20
Household	\$50
(2 adults plus children under 18)	

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Japan America Society of Minnesota



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

通信

Tsūshin
March 2020

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 2020

