

# Japan America Society of Minnesota



# 通 信

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

December 2017 VOL. 26, No. 12

## Saying Goodbye to 2017 with Annual Meeting and Bonenkai



年次総会と忘年会のお知らせ

JASM would love to see you at the 2017 Annual Meeting on the evening of Tuesday, December 19. We look forward to report on yet again a successful year and will also discuss the exciting opportunities we are working on for the new year! Please join us at Sakura Restaurant as we elect and welcome our new JASM board members and officers.

Following the Annual Meeting, please join us to celebrate the traditional end-of-year JASM gathering! This has been a favorite event for those who are missing the traditional end-of-year parties or Bonenkai in Japan. It is a wonderful way to celebrate with your co-workers and friends, to forget the past year and welcome the new year. New members will have a chance to mingle with long-term members at this fun event!

### When:

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017  
6:30 p.m.- Annual Meeting  
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Bonenkai

### Where:

Sakura Restaurant  
350 Saint Peter Street  
Saint Paul, MN

### \*2 Hour parking validation by Sakura at Lawson Ramp

11 W 5th Street, St. Paul, MN 55102 (Google Map)

### Price:

Annual Meeting – Free  
Bonenkai – \$23 Members, \$30 Non-members

## Welcoming the New Year with 2018 Shinnenkai Celebration on Jan. 14th



Ever want to visit Japan? Here is your chance to do it without having to buy a plane ticket! JASM is bringing the sights, tastes, and sounds of a Japanese New Year to Minnesota through our Shinnenkai celebration on Sun. Jan. 14, 2018.

Shinnenkai is JASM's annual New Year Celebration in which we hope that, by bringing the traditions of a Japanese New Year celebration to Minnesota, we can promote cultural exchange and new experiences in a fun environment. There will be cultural performances, delicious Japanese food, a silent auction, and children's activities as we hope to create a fun family atmosphere that allows people of all ages to come together and experience a Japanese New Year!

### When:

Sunday, January 14th, 2018  
4:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

### Where:

Washington Technology Magnet School  
In the Great Hall  
1495 Rice Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55117

*For more information, please visit the JASM website at [www.mn-japan.org](http://www.mn-japan.org) or call 612-627-9357*

Join this fun, traditional annual JASM New Year's Festival and start the New Year in style!

## Please Help JASM to Grow with a Donation During December!

The Japan America Society of Minnesota is in its 45th year as a Society with a mission to bring the people of Japan and the United States closer together through cultural, educational and business events and programs in Minnesota.

In order to continue to thrive as an organization, we need to grow by being flexible to changes in our community, try new ideas and reach out to new audiences. Everyone has a part in building and sustaining JASM into the future. Many of you have given a donation in addition to your annual membership. For these donations, we want to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation. For others, please consider giving JASM an end-of-the-year donation.

Your donations will help JASM to shore up financial reserves in order to sustain our organization into the future. Membership fees, as important as they are in demonstrating the wholehearted commitment by members, are not sufficient to cover all the expenses. Event admission fees also do not cover all the expenses incurred in maintaining the organization. JASM wants to expand our programming in order to grow and sustain the Society. Your donations make it possible for us to have events such as J-Quiz, the high school language and culture competition that is held every year in February. Your donations will help JASM to provide scholarships to students to compete in the competition. The funds will also go to sending the winning teams to Washington, D.C. to the National Japan Bowl and to experience the Sakura Festival. Please consider giving a year-end donation to JASM this month. Our goal is to raise \$5,000 for programming and events, such as J-Quiz.

You can do that by visiting the JASM website to make your donation during December 7-12 or send a check to the JASM office at the address provided below:

Please make checks payable to "JASM"

Japan America Society of Minnesota  
Riverplace Suite EH-131  
43 Main Street SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55414-1031

Thank you for helping JASM raise \$5,000 to support the J-Quiz program and other events in 2018.

Ben van Lierop  
JASM Executive Director

## 90 Years Later: MN's Japanese Friendship Doll Found

Japanese Friendship Dolls were dolls that were part of a program of goodwill between Japan and the United States. In 1927 after the United States sent over 12,738 friendship dolls, Japan reciprocated this gift by commissioning the best doll makers in Japan to create 58 friendship dolls to send back to the United States.

However, for a long time only 45 of these dolls remained. With the help of Minnesota librarian Maggie Snow and author of "The Friendship Doll", Kirby Larson, three of these friendship dolls have been located, one of which is the friendship doll that was sent to Minnesota 90 years ago. The doll's name is Miss Miyazaki.

It all began when Maggie Snow read the author's note of Kirby Larson's "The Friendship Doll," in which the author's note stated which dolls were still missing, one of which was Minnesota's friendship doll. Snow realized that the library where she worked, the Hennepin County Library, had a doll collection. It was during this time that the library was in the process of creating a digital inventory of its items that Miss Miyazaki was found.

However, time had not been kind to Miss Miyazaki. Her face was falling off, and her body had been affixed to a base. Despite this, her kimono is still in great condition as it has not faded. Miss Miyazaki was then sent to Japan for repair, where the grandson of her creator made the necessary repairs. Miss Miyazaki was returned to Minnesota, where she now resides in the Minnesota Historical Society.

Information taken from: <http://www.twincities.com/2017/11/05/she-arrived-in-1927-and-then-disappeared-what-happened-to-minnesotas-friendship-doll/>



Miss Miyazaki

## Membership News

Thanks to the following  
Renewing JASM Member:

Martha Hardesty

Special Thanks to the following JASM Members  
For donating to the Major Gifts Legacy Campaign:

Michael and Yoshie Babcock  
Dick and Carol Stahl

## 2018: Year of the Dog



Dog

With 2017 coming to a close, we say “goodbye” to the rooster and “hello” to the dog. Those born under the year of the dog were born in 1982, 1994, and 2006. Along with 2018, 2030 will also fall under the year of the dog.

The original story of the zodiac is a Chinese legend; the legend has it that the Jade Emperor (The Emperor in Heaven) was to designate animals as calendar signs if they were to compete in a race. The first twelve animals to cross the finish line were to be signs of the calendar, and the order in which they finished in the race would be the order of the calendar.

Up until the late 19th century, Japan followed China’s lunar calendar, the calendar in which the zodiac is observed. Although this story is a Chinese legend and holds no religious significance in Japan, the zodiac is still a part of contemporary Japanese culture - it is observed within the Japanese New Year. However, Japan did make a few unique changes to the zodiac that differ from the original Chinese zodiac. For example, the Dog uses a different kanji (戌 instead of the usual 犬), highlighting its importance. The Snake also isn’t read as the Japanese *hebi*, but is instead read as *mi*. Another difference is that in Japan, the Pig is known as the Boar (*inoshishi*) instead, as the boar is indigenous to the Japanese mainland.

Information taken from: [https://www.japan-zone.com/culture/chinese\\_zodiac.shtml](https://www.japan-zone.com/culture/chinese_zodiac.shtml)

## Corporate Spotlight: United Noodles

United Noodles is a family-owned and operated supermarket that has been serving the community for over 40 years.

United Noodles sells everyday essentials like bread, milk, and eggs, as well as a variety of items from China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, India, Sri Lanka, Hawaii, and more.

United Noodles has a fully stocked meat and seafood department and a produce department filled with conventional and hard-to-find fresh fruits and vegetables.

The popular **Unideli** restaurant inside the store has gained a cult following for its ramen, BBQ pork, and creative weekly specials. In the fall of 2015, Unideli was featured on *Diners, Drive-ins and Dives* on the Food Network.

JASM is grateful to United Noodles for its financial support as a Corporate Sustaining Member. We are pleased to welcome Eric Fung and his team to the JASM community.

(This information was taken from <http://www.unitednoodles.com/>)



*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:

Bowman and Brooke, LLP  
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.  
Lindquist & Vennum, PLLP  
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  
Osaka Roseville 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.

## Preparing for the New Year in Japan

In Japan, there are a number of ways to prepare for the New Year. Bonenkai is a celebration that takes place, usually between co-workers and friends, as a way to forget the woes and troubles of the past year. Bonenkai is usually celebrated through drinking large amounts of alcohol.

*Osouji* (大掃除) is another Japanese custom in which a big cleaning takes place before the year's end. This cleaning can take place in the workplace or home, where hard-to-reach places are cleaned (especially getting rid of dust). Traditionally, *osouji* was a purification ritual in preparation for the New Year's god, *Toshigami-sama*. Today, *osouji* symbolizes a fresh spirit and a new beginning. *Osouji* takes place in December, and used to begin on December 13th, but now people are starting even as late as December 31st.

The end of December and beginning of January are the busiest times of year for Japanese post offices. This is because the New Year's custom called *nengajo* (年賀状) New Year's Postcard, takes place. It is tradition to send these postcards to friends and family, similar to Christmas cards in the West.

Another custom is to create and eat rice cakes (*mochi*). *Mochi* are made before New Year's Day and eaten during the beginning of January. Another food that is eaten during the New Year's celebration is *osechi-ryori* (御節料理 or お節料理). This is a selection of dishes that are sweet, sour, or dried so that they can stay fresh without refrigeration. There are many variations of *osechi*, with some varying by region.

*Otoshidama*, the custom of giving money to children, also takes place on New Year's Day. Money is given in small decorated envelopes called *pochibukuro*. It is common for children to receive ¥10,000 or more.

For many decades, it has been customary to watch *Kohaku Uta Gassen*, which airs on NHK on New Year's Eve. The show features two teams of music artists competing against each other.

Finally, the custom of *Hatsumoude* (初詣) is when a shrine or temple is visited as a way to wish for one's good luck or prosperity to the gods.



The custom of *Hatsumoude*, visiting a shrine or temple

## Trial Classes and Enrollment Interview at Minneapolis Japanese School

平成 30 年度ミネアポリス日本語補習授業校 園児・児童募集  
<http://www.minneapolisjapaneseschool.org/>

クラス	対象年齢*	体験入学	試験・面接	募集期間
おひさま組 (親子教室)	満 2 歳	希望者見 学可能	1 月 27 日	平成 29 年 11 月 6 日～ 平成 30 年 1 月 13 日
幼稚園 年少組	満 3 歳	1 月 14 日	1 月 20 日 (面接)	平成 29 年 11 月 6 日～ 平成 29 年 12 月 15 日
小学部 1 年	満 6 歳	2 月 10 日 (年長組体験・試験・面接)		平成 29 年 11 月 6 日～ 平成 30 年 1 月 31 日

対象年齢\*は平成 30 (2018) 年 4 月 1 日時点での年齢です。

参加をご希望の方は、松本 [seito@minneapolisjapaneseschool.org](mailto:seito@minneapolisjapaneseschool.org) までご連絡ください。

### Trial Classes and Enrollment Interview at Minneapolis Japanese School

Class	Date of Birth	Trial Class	Interview & Examination	Application Deadline
Parent and Toddler Class	4/2/2015～ 4/1/2016	Request Available	1/27/2018 (Interview Only)	1/14/2018
Preschool Class	4/2/2014～ 4/1/2015	1/14/2018	1/20/2018 (Interview Only)	12/15/2017
1st Grade	4/2/2011～ 4/1/2012	2/10/2018		1/31/2018

If you are interested in attending, please contact Mai Matsumoto at [seito@minneapolisjapaneseschool.org](mailto:seito@minneapolisjapaneseschool.org)

## Christmas in Japan

In Japan, Christmas is not a national holiday, nor does it have any of the religious connotations associated with it. Instead, Christmas is marketed as a romantic holiday, similar to that of Valentine's Day. Christmas is often spent, especially by young couples, by going on a date. Hotels and Restaurants are often booked up on Christmas, as these are popular ways for couples to spend Christmas together.

KFC (Kentucky Fried Chicken) is also extremely popular in Japan to have as a Christmas meal. It all goes back to the 1970s, when Osaka's historic World Expo established names like McDonald's and KFC at a time when American fast-food was unheard of in Japan. Four years later in 1974, KFC pushed a Christmas marketing campaign called “クリスマスにはケンタッキー” (Kentucky for Christmas) that was so successful that since then KFC is the quintessential Christmas meal in Japan.

Illuminations are also extremely popular in Japan, which consists of Christmas lights decorated everywhere



across the country, ranging from small street decorations to huge extravaganzas.

A couple enjoying a Christmas lights display

## “Courage and Compassion” theme of WWII Japanese-American Exhibit at Ft. Snelling

In July of 2017, Go For Broke National Education Center launched a traveling exhibition entitled *Courage and Compassion: Our Shared Story of the Japanese American World War II Experience* through a partnership with 10 communities across the United States. Funded through a Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant, the traveling exhibition will tour these 10 communities starting in the summer of 2018 through the summer of 2019. Narrating the harrowing tales of Japanese Americans during and immediately after WWII, this exhibit will feature the untold stories of bravery, integrity, and extraordinary support of Japanese Americans during that tumultuous time. This exhibit will be held at the Historic Fort Snelling Visitors Center. Exact dates for this event are not available yet.

For more information, please visit [http://www.goforbroke.org/visit/traveling\\_exhibit/index.php](http://www.goforbroke.org/visit/traveling_exhibit/index.php)

## 3M Opens Design Center in Tokyo: A Comparison with 3M in Minnesota

Maplewood-based 3M Co. recently opened a new 3M Design Center in Tokyo, a hub to accelerate the growth of design across the manufacturer’s Asian markets. 3M Japan is one of 3M’s largest subsidiaries. The design of this new Design Center based in Tokyo contrasts with the headquarters based in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Although the design of the office in Tokyo is contemporary, it reflects many Japanese cultural elements, such as consisting of shared tables and work stations that are common in Japanese office designs. Its style is meant to encourage the

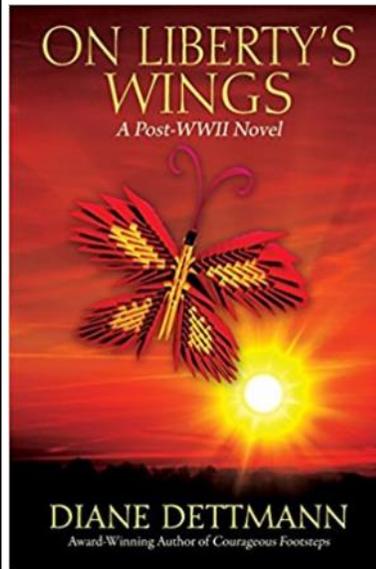
collectivist workplace efficiency that is desired in Japan. In comparison, the headquarters located in Saint Paul is designed differently from



the office in Tokyo. The headquarters innovation lab features more individual cubicles, as the American workplace culture can be quite individualistic. 3M headquarters also features a Minnesota theme throughout the office, consisting of industrial motifs and cabin-style design.

Information taken from <https://www.bizjournals.com/twincities/news/2017/10/05/two-takes-on-innovation-comparing-3ms-new-tokyo.html>

## Tom Haeg’s Book Review:



*On Liberty’s Wings*: a post WW II Novel; Diane Dettmann, Outskirts Press, 2017; 262 p.

*On Liberty’s Wings* is the final tome in Dettmann’s trilogy of historical fiction tracing the Sakamoto family’s struggles to assimilate into a multi-cultural society before, during, and after World War II, notwithstanding prejudice and bigotry. Similar to her two previous works of the trilogy, *-Courageous Footsteps* and *Yazu’s Quest*, the focus of the novel is as much about the civil rights tensions in post-war American society in general as it is about the family in particular. Even though it took her almost five years to complete the three works, her writing style remains delightfully consistent.

Dettmann, a JASM member, enjoys writing about themes that provide succor to the human spirit. There are persistent, reminding refrains of forgiveness, optimism and endurance that enable the Sakamoto family to survive in a manner whereby the struggles they sustain forge strength instead of weakness. And when they experience shame, -racial taunts, slurs, ignorance, their reactionary patience and calm demeanor converts the offenders’ insults into goodness. Her protagonists do not wallow in spite or hate. They rely instead on love and understanding. So, the book is as much about moral reflection (who we should be) as it is historical fiction (who we are).

The book curiously ends with the celebration of the birth of the family’s next generation, -Thomas Haro Nakahara. Perhaps Dettmann is planning a quadrilogy. Stay tuned.

-Tom Haeg

## 2017 Minnesota Nihonjinkai



We worked hard "Obon Matsuri" Nihonjin-kai Booth Como Park



We Enjoyed Afton River Cruise Oct 15th Good Foods Good



We "Thank You" for your supports Gifts to Us from Near and Far



We miss you Our Old friend: Sakae Hinataya-san (on the left) pictured with Barabara Shields.

Let us be a good place to get together: Minnesota Nihonjin-kai 2018

612-839-008

yoko@yoko4home.com



## Study Abroad Film Festival Features St. Paul Woman's Time in Japan

A St. Paul woman's short film about her study abroad in Japan is one of three finalists in IES Abroad's 2017 Study Abroad Film Festival.

Wennicha Yang, made the three-minute film titled "The Journey of Healing in Japan," while studying holistic healing in Japan earlier this year as a student at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities.

The winner — who will be announced at the first-ever IES Abroad Film Festival event Nov. 1 at Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art — will receive a \$1,500 cash prize as well as a one-year distribution deal with Indistry TV — a new subscription streaming service.

IES Abroad uploaded Wennicha Yang's film to their YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehUDz-I9DII>



Information taken from <http://www.twincities.com/2017/10/26/st-paul-womans-film-is-finalist-in-study-abroad-film-festival/>

## Okinawa and Minnesota Coming Together

With an extensive history, karate has long been practiced in Okinawa, as karate originated in the Ryukyu Kingdom. In Lonsdale, Minnesota, the Lonsdale Karate Club and White Bear Area Isshinryu Karate and Ryukyu Kobudo Shimbukan recently hosted twelve instructional sessions between Lonsdale and White Bear Lake that featured Okinawa native Akamine Hiroshi-sensei, a ninth degree black belt and president of Karate and Ryukyu Kobudo associations under his family lineage. Akamine Hiroshi is recognized as a living cultural treasure in Japan for his mastery. Akamine-sensei's instruction included the more traditional karate and Ryukyu Kobudo, a weapon-based martial art system. This was Akamine-sensei's third trip to Lonsdale since 2010. His frequent visits are a result of his relationship with Tim Jurgens, co-owner of Lonsdale Karate, who was a liaison officer for Akamine's association. Jurgens also served as the initial contact for students around the globe interested in training in the revered system



Sai, a traditional weapon used in Okinawa

Information taken from [http://www.southernminn.com/lonsdale\\_area\\_news\\_review/sports/article\\_077af610-4b11-5c14-8830-7a817a79599f.html](http://www.southernminn.com/lonsdale_area_news_review/sports/article_077af610-4b11-5c14-8830-7a817a79599f.html)

# Advertise in the Tsushin!

## Advertisement Rates

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

Ad production and design available in both Japanese and English for an additional charge. Deadline for completed ads and classifieds is the 20th of every month.

**Questions? Contact  
the JASM Office  
Tel: 612-627-9357  
jasm@us-japan.org**

## Japan America Society Calendar

### January

**14th: Shinnenkai**

\*If you would like to let JASM know about an upcoming event, email us at [jasm.interns@gmail.com](mailto: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 the **Espresso Royale Café** in Downtown 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:** Espresso Royale Café

1229 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55403



## 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](mailto:Yoko@yoko4home.com)

Nihonjin-kai monthly meeting on 2nd Monday, at noon, at 4231 Bloomington Ave S Minneapolis, MN 55407

## Become a JASM Member online!

*Support our mission and become a member!*

1. Go to [mn-japan.org](http://mn-japan.org)
2. Click on 'Membership' at the top
3. Select your membership type and read the benefits and instructions.

You can also become a member using your smart phone!

## Japan America Society of Minnesota

- Membership Application    Change of Address  
 Tax-deductible Donation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name (2nd adult of a household membership) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make an additional tax-deductible donation of \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make checks payable to JASM)

### Individual Membership

Patron.....	\$1,000+
Sustaining.....	\$500+
Contributing.....	\$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



Riverplace EH-131  
43 Main Street SE  
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jasm@us-japan.org  
www.mn-japan.org

## 通信

Tsūshin  
December 2017

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](mailto:jasm.interns@gmail.com))*