

# Japan America Society of Minnesota



## 通 信

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February 2023 Vol. 32, No. 2



## J-Quiz

*Online Japan Trivia Event*

Hosted by  
Japan America Society of Minnesota

**Sunday, February 12th, 2023  
10AM-1PM(CT)**

Try fun quizzes to test your knowledge of Japan!  
Our goal for J-Quiz is to encourage people to continue their study of Japanese language and culture and have a place to share with like-minded people.

### J-Quiz will...

- be held on the online platform "Hopin"
- have 30 questions using Kahoot!
- have a College Fair: Find your place to continue learning!
- have cultural presentations: kendama and cooking demonstrations
- have Networking opportunities: meet with other Japanese learners
- be open and free for everyone



### Sample Quizzes

Q1: What do you call the meal you eat on New Year's Day in Japan?

- a. Kaiseki Ryori
- b. Osechi Ryori
- c. Shojin Ryori
- d. Jyubako



Q2: JPN: きのうは ( )  
ENG: It was cold yesterday.

Choose the correct adjective form from parenthesis.

- a. さむいです
- b. さむいでした
- c. さむかったです
- d. さむかったです



**Registration is now open!**

<https://www.mn-japan.org/event-4589002>



J-Quiz is free to participate, but JASM appreciates your donation.

Answer for sample Q1: b, Q2: c

## Message from Executive Director, Rio Saito



Dear JASM members,

I hope all of you are having a great start to the year 2023. During the holiday season, I was able to visit my family in Japan for the first time in five years. It was wonderful to see my friends and family and experience Japanese New Year celebrations. While I was there, even though I was fully enjoying the mild winter and the great food, I found myself missing the crazy cold

snowy winter of Minnesota.

We are excited to start the new year. JASM already had one wonderful online event with our program assistant and JOI coordinator Aiko Hatano, who resides in North Dakota. She gave a wonderful presentation on how Japanese people celebrate New Year's, plus a demonstration of Hanachozu flower arranging. Aiko has been working with us for a year now. Her JOI colleagues are spread out all over the United States! Aiko is helping us connect with other JOI coordinators to expand our circle of connections. In February, a JOI coordinator who has been working in Nebraska, Mariko Nagai, will give us a lecture on Japanese manners and customs. I would like to thank Aiko for connecting us with other JOI coordinators and the people of North Dakota.

This month we will have a new twist on another great online event: J-Quiz. If you have been following in the past two decades, you will find this year's J-Quiz to be different from the ones in the past. Until this year J-Quiz was only for Minnesota and Wisconsin high school students currently taking Japanese language classes. Starting this year, we are opening the door to anyone interested in Japanese language and culture. This new quiz is filled with questions regarding Japanese history, geography, current events, culture, language, and more. It is designed to be taken by anybody and everybody. Not only we are very excited about our new format for J-Quiz, but we are also very happy to announce our brand-new J-Quiz ambassador **Kana-chan**. Kana-chan was created by renowned Japanese illustrator Hiro Suzuhira. If you are a fan of Japanese anime and video games, you might have seen characters that she has created. JASM would like to thank Suzuhira-san for this

wonderful character, Kana-chan. 鈴平先生、ありがとうございます！

In the past few weeks, I came across a few former J-Quiz participants. They all have grown up, are successful in life, and spoke of J-Quiz so fondly. We would like to continue encouraging people who want to study Japanese language and culture to connect with JASM members. Please share the J-Quiz event information and invite your friends and family to participate. Of course, we are looking forward to seeing you there too!

*Rio Saito,  
Executive Director*

## Upcoming: JOI Talk: Japanese Manners and Customs (Online)



Please join JASM online on **Thursday, February 16 at 6:00 pm (CT)**. Mariko Nagai will talk about Japanese manners and customs and how they relate to those in the U.S. Participants can learn about manners and customs unique to Japanese culture in various situations and environments such as school, work, and public places. If you are interested in Japanese culture or in traveling to Japan one day, it will be a great opportunity to

learn about everyday ways of communicating!

Please click [here](#) to register.

**Mariko Nagai** is a Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) coordinator hosted by University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Mariko is originally from Fukuoka City in Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan, and she holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in intercultural studies from Seinan Gakuin University. Her first experience in the U.S. was as a high school student through a sister city cultural exchange program between Fukuoka City and Oakland, California. Inspired by this experience, she decided to join a month-long summer language school in Minnesota, as well as a study abroad program at Middle Tennessee State University during college, for two semesters.

Prior to serving as a JOI Coordinator, Mariko worked for six years as an English instructor and program coordinator, and two years as a conference organizer. It has always been a dream of hers to be a bridge between Japan and other countries, especially with the U.S., because of the experiences she had as a student. She has been engaging the university and greater Nebraska community while connecting with many people and strengthening their understanding of Japan as a JOI Coordinator.

[This event is free of charge, but JASM appreciates your donation.](#)



## Membership News (12/21 – 1/20/ 2022)

### Thanks to the following new JASM members:

Luci Grau, Zanne La Rosa,  
Frank Tsuchiya

### Thanks to the following renewing JASM members:

Sheila Asato, Michael E and Carol Johnson,  
Akiko Kilau, Steven Kreitz,  
Conrad and Charlotte Seibert



## 2023 Takuzo Ishida Memorial Scholarship for MN High School Students

Takuzo Ishida was a researcher, carpenter, chef, and bonsai enthusiast who served as President of JASM and Founder/Principal of the Minneapolis Japanese School. The Takuzo Ishida Memorial Scholarship was established in 2019 by Mr. Ishida's family and friends to recognize his contributions to the Japanese community in Minnesota and to support his passion for Youth Education.

The Japan America Society of Minnesota (JASM) will award the Takuzo Ishida Memorial Scholarship to a student enrolled in a Minnesota high school who wants to broaden their knowledge of Japan through a combination of study and travel.



### 2023 Timeline:

- Deadline for applications: **February 10, 2023**
- Finalists' interviews with scholarship committee members: **Feb. 10- March 9, 2023**
- Winner of the Scholarship will be notified: **March 10, 2023**

Please read about the requirements on our [website](#).

## Recap: JOI Talk: Japanese New Year Traditions and *Hanachozu* flower arranging (Online)



JASM held a Japanese New Year Traditions and *Hanachozu* flower arranging online event in collaboration with Aiko Hatano, JASM's program assistant and Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) Coordinator based at Mayville State University (and JASM's Program Assistant). At this event, Aiko discussed traditions such as New Year's cards. It is customary that in December, the Japanese postal service has a separation between New Year's cards and other mailed items. Aiko also described how December is a busy time for many people as they prepare to start a new year by cleaning their homes. Participants also learned

about New Year's decorations: *kagamimochi*, *shimenawa*, and *kadomatsu*.

Customary foods that are eaten on New Year's Eve include soba (which can symbolize longevity) and sukiyaki. On New Year's Day, *osechi* is a traditional meal that is served in a square container with several foods that all have their own meaning. *Mochi/Ozo-ni* is another New Year's meal that participants learned about.

Aiko also discussed *Hatsumode*, the practice of visiting a shrine or temple during the New Year. While visiting a shrine or temple, it is customary to wash one's mouth and hands at the *chozu-ya* before entering. It is a small structure that has a container of water and a ladle for people to do so. One will take the ladle with their right hand and fill it with water into their left hand and repeat on the opposite hand. They will then pour water into their cupped left hand and use the water to rinse their mouth.



Lastly, Aiko discussed *hanachozu*, a type of flower arrangement, and gave a small demonstration of arranging a *hanachozu*. *Hanachozu* uses the kanji for flower, hand, and water. It is a type of flower arrangement that is used for spiritual cleansing at shrines or temples in the *chozu-ya*. One can make their own *hanachozu* arrangement at home with the use of a container, water, and flowers, as Aiko demonstrated.

Thank you, Aiko-san for your informative presentation. Also, we thank those who attended and support JASM.

New Year decorations

- Shimenawa (しめ縄)
- Kagamimochi (鏡餅)



**JOI PROGRAM**  
JAPAN OUTREACH INITIATIVE

*Please thank our members  
with your support!*

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Winona State University Global Studies and World Languages



## North Dakota News: NDSU Japan Club is Now Official!

North Dakota State University (NDSU), one JASM's institutional members in North Dakota, now has an official Japan Club.



*Japan booth was the most popular! at the Go Global Fest on September 8th*

and Consul-General Japan in Chicago event "Rhythm of Japan", so it was a great opportunity to invite and connect NDSU students!

Sakurako and I set up a table to demonstrate Japanese calligraphy. While I was at the booth, I met NDSU students Shaila Johnson and Arnold Samuel Miranda. I met Shaila at the *Fargo Meets Japan* event; she has just started her studies at NDSU in the Fall semester. Shaila and Arnold really love Japanese culture and stopped by our booth a couple of times. As we chatted, I suggested that they form a Japan Club, and they thought it was a great idea. Their



*Aiko demonstrates Calligraphy; Sakurako welcomes people.*



*Japan Club booth was a most popular at Go Global Fest at NDSU on January 18*

eyes opened wide, and they were very excited. As I am not an official part of NDSU, Arnold & Shaila figured out the process to start an NDSU club. They needed 15 students to sign up to make it happen. I connected them with Sakurako, and they worked

together. Now they have enough members, plus Professor Derek Lehmberg as an advisor. On January 18th, at the Spring 23 Student Involvement Expo, they set up a table as the official Japan Club! Now more than 35 students have joined a Discord group for the club. Fifteen people showed up for the first in-person meeting on January 23.

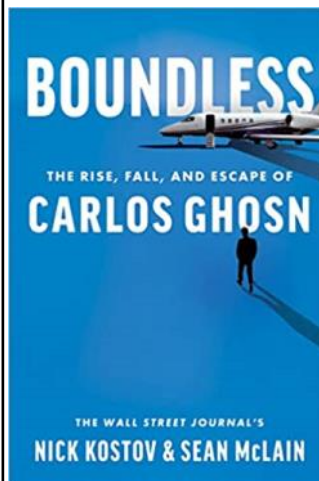
In Discord chat, there are chat boxes with tags such as language learning resources, music, movie-tv, travel, culture, and announcements. These chat boxes are very active! They have just started, but please keep an eye on NDSU Japan club activities via Instagram: @japan\_club\_ndsu.

*Aiko Hatano, JASM Program Assistant*



## Tom Haeg's Book Review

***Boundless: The Rise, Fall, and Escape of Carlos Ghosn*; Nick Kostov & Sean McLain; Harper Business, 2022; 299 p.**



Carlos Ghosn commandeered the Renault-Nissan Alliance from 2005 to 2018. The global automobile relationship was without precedent, unique and successful, rescuing the Nissan brand from near bankruptcy while catapulting the French car company onto the world stage. It was Ghosn's: he made it; he led it. He became an overnight corporate celebrity in Japan as manga-style comics portrayed him in samurai poses. And then...

One day, as he returned to Japan in a company jet, he was abruptly

whisked away by the authorities: passport confiscated, handcuffs applied. Ghosn was jailed, de-robed, strip searched, and tortured by Japanese prosecutors. Ghosn was initially denied legal counsel, deprived of his right against self-incrimination, placed in solitary confinement, unreasonable bail was applied, excluded from exculpatory evidence, illegally interrogated, often placed incommunicado, no speedy trial, rarely granted spousal communications, no opportunity for interlocutory motions, no habeas corpus, unable to file affidavits of prejudice, no bills of particulars, serial prosecution. And that's just the beginning.

Kostov and McLain, two excellent Wall St. Journal reporters, collaborated to write this spellbinding narrative of hubris in a modern-day Greek tragedy. It culminates in a Hollywood-esque escape from justice (or, in Ghosn's words: "escape from injustice"). During a rare house arrest lull, he secretly arranged to hide in a home-made wooden music box to be smuggled onto a private jet: destination Lebanon, his ancestral homeland. Yes, this really happened. He now remains there as a fugitive because Japan placed an Interpol warrant for his arrest. Lebanon has no extradition treaty with Japan.

There was no trial and the writers do not pass judgment on Ghosn's innocence or guilt. Neither do we. You can decide this. Rather, the book exposes an autocratic prosecutorial bias in Japan that denies basic human rights otherwise afforded an accused in a liberal democracy. It makes the Star Chamber seem like a high school mock trial, revealing a timid judiciary either unwilling or unable to rein in an out of control, hell-bent criminal justice (uh, again, "injustice") system. Or more eloquently said by an esteemed Tokyo University law professor: "Japan should be utterly ashamed of this institution. I am."

The authors' writing style is journalistic, factual, and translucent. No clunky verbiage, a comfortable read. It contains over 267 citations to authenticate claims. Additionally, they wrote this while maintaining their daily reporting duties for the Wall St. Journal; Kostov in Paris covering business and finance, McLain in Tokyo covering Japanese car companies.

*Tom Haeg and Bridget Haeg\**

*\*Bridget is the daughter of JASM member Tom Haeg. They are both attorneys.*



## Ad: For Sale: Vintage Hinamatsuri Doll Set (5 tiers)



**For Sale: Vintage Hinamatsuri Doll Set (5 tiers)**  
Includes dolls, utensils, furniture, red fabric runner etc. Excellent condition. Brought over from Japan in the early 1950's. Still in the original shipping boxes.



Price: \$600/OBO  
Location of the Set: Roseville, MN  
For questions or more pictures contact: Phil, pmr001@gmail.com



## JASM 16 Years Ago: 2007

As part of our 50th anniversary celebrations, we would like to show you (or let some of you remember) a tiny part of the past. Here's a glimpse of how it was 16 years ago (2007) from the JASM newsletter.

### J-Quiz!

On Saturday March 3rd, JASM will be hosting the long-awaited J-Quiz 2007 at Eastview High School. This High School Japanese Language and Culture Competition will gather over 130 high school students from more than 15 high schools from Minnesota and Wisconsin. There are three levels, and the champion teams will win a trip to Washington, D.C. to observe the national Japan Bowl and the famous Sakura Festival. We believe this competitive experience will encourage students to enhance their endeavor in Japanese language and cultural studies. To all the participating students, ガンバ  
レ! Good luck!



Level 3 Eden Prairie students from 2006 MN Japan Bowl

## New Intern: Chandra Colvin



Hello readers! My name is Chandra Colvin, and I am a new intern at JASM. I will be working as an Event Coordinator intern this spring semester. This is an organization that I have been hoping to work with for some time now! I attend St. Cloud State University and have recently returned from studying one semester in Akita at the international university. Akita reminded me of Minnesota, although it had more snow than I had thought it would! It was very

beautiful and my time both inside and outside of the classroom was enjoyable. My favorite Akita food is kiritampo. It is so delicious. Since my time in Japan felt so short-lived, it is my hope to return for graduate school in the future.

My interest in Japan began when I was in middle school. I loved Japanese media such as music and animation. It wasn't too long after my introduction to these things that I began to research the history and culture of Japan. This is where my love for learning about the interconnected world began. I am majoring in both Mass Communications and Global Studies to pursue my passion for connecting the world through media. I am looking forward to working with JASM and to promoting Japanese culture in Minnesota.

I am also looking forward to helping create memories for you all. This is an opportunity that I am grateful for; thank you JASM!



J | A | S | M

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## 通信

Tsūshin  
February 2023

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)

### JOI Talk: Japanese New Year Traditions and Hanachozu flower arranging (Online)

New Year decorations

- Shimenawa (しめ縄)
- Kagamimochi (鏡餅)

Happy New Year!

AKEMASHITE OMEDETO GOZAIMASU

HANA CHOZU  
はなちょうず  
花手水  
Flower Hand Water