



JSS NEWS

Official Newsletter of Japanese Social Services

President's Message

By David Ikeda

I am very pleased to report that the Charity Concert for the benefit of JSS was a huge success. If you do not remember, renowned Japanese husband and wife pianists Kikuo Watanabe and Etsuko Terada performed a duo piano concert at the prestigious Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto on September 24, 2016.

The concert was the first major charity event ever done in the history of the organization. As such I must thank our fundraising chair Mrs. Junko Yamamoto and her committee for the hard work to carry out such a monumental undertaking and to congratulate them for the success of the event.

Mrs. Yamamoto is a great leader and a veritable force of nature who kept up the spirits of the committee up and kept pushing us all to reach the next sales target right up to the night of the concert as well as meet and encourage our sponsors and donors to come on board.

I must also thank Mrs. Sachiko Kagitomi who as cousin to the pianists gave Junko the idea of the concert fundraiser and sold many tickets. Mr. Keiichi Kubo of Shokokai brought many Shokokai members to come to the concert as well as find sponsors for the event. I believe that this is

the first time a member of Shokokai has participated so closely on a JSS event. Althony Liliefeldt as always donated his wonderful creative skills and talents, and designed all of our promotional materials and program. Marion Yanase helped immeasurably in the editing of all of our written materials as well as planning how the concert should proceed. Our newest board member Michelle Chibba had the very difficult task of coordinating the evening and dealing with the Glenn Gould Studio management and staff. My father, Sid Ikeda also helped sell many tickets.

And what can I say about our wonderful volunteers who helped at the event and with promotion and ticket sales using platforms unfamiliar to me such as Facebook. Thank you B Nation for your volunteers and promotion. Also, I would like to thank our staff for coping so well with extra work, planning and accounting which helped make the event go so smoothly even though it was our first ever big event.

Finally I have to thank all of you who came out to the concert and supported JSS again. From what I heard the event exceeded everyone's expectations. So my heartfelt appreciation to the artists who came from Japan and performed so well.

On behalf of the staff, board of directors, volunteers and clients, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

On Counselling

*By Takanori Kuge
JSS Counsellor*

JSS has been providing counselling services to clients for almost three decades. Being the only available counselling and social work agency where services are offered in both English and Japanese in the GTA or even in the province of Ontario, the issues that are brought forward for consultation, understandably, extend to all areas of the human experience.

It is also quite common for clients to have multiple concerns. For example, a client seeking assistance with his or her child's management may also have marital difficulties as well as depression.

Depression is now recognized as a medical disorder in the same way that diabetes and heart disease are medical disorders. Such cases, when they come to our attention are usually referred to the family doctor for further referral to a psychiatrist who would be responsible for treatment, mainly with medication. Unfortunately, there is no Japanese-speaking psychiatrist to whom referrals can be made and it is again the role of JSS to provide support and interpretation services for such clients. It should be noted that we also have clients who have neither a family doctor nor OHIP coverage, which complicates the matter even further.

Many of our clients have had the experience of holding down jobs and

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being generally self-sufficient while living in Japan. Once in Canada, some of them suffer adjustment difficulties such as being overwhelmed by their inability to communicate their views adequately in English, or being confused by unfamiliar cultural practices. Helplessness, frustration and depression begin to set in.

In some cases, the clients' sense of self-worth is so damaged that assisting them to regain self-confidence becomes the issue. Such clients often become very dependent on the counsellor during the initial period before they are able to show motivation and initiative in dealing with their issues. Contacts with such clients can be very time-consuming but by the same token, it is extremely rewarding to see positive results.

Counselling constitutes an important part of the services provided by JSS. Working with clients so that they are able to achieve their optimum level of functionality may be seen as a goal that is perhaps too lofty and overly idealistic. It is for us however, a goal for which it is well worth striving.

Be Aware! Online Rent Scam

By *Chie Takano Reeves*

JSS has received many phone calls regarding residential rental issues and conflicts with landlords. The following is an example of one of the cases. We have the consent from the victims to write about it here.

A person browsed the classified ads online (e.g. Kijiji, Craigslist) and contacted a landlord by email. This "landlord" replied and told this person

that he will mail the key after receiving the deposit as he is a physician living in the United Kingdom. The person sent the deposit via Moneygram, a worldwide service that requires only the names of the sender and recipient as well as the reference number to transfer and receive money.

Later, the "landlord" notified the person by email to confirm that the key has been mailed out, but this person never received it. It may seem legitimate when the confirmation emails were sent out from the landlord's "broker" as well, who pretended to be an employee of DFS Worldwide, a real UK-based company. The names used as the "landlord" and the "broker" were the same ones used in similar cases that came to JSS. In one of those cases, we know that the money was actually picked up in the UK.

JSS will hold a tenant rights seminar on Sunday afternoon, November 20, 2016 at the University of Toronto, with the support from Downtown Legal Services. For more details and registration, please contact Chie (416-385-9200 | jss.outreach@gmail.com).

Chie Takano Reeves is a member of JSS's staff as Community Outreach Worker.

JSS Annual Holiday Drive 2017

JSS again asks for your support to help make some Japanese in Toronto or Japanese Canadian's holiday a little brighter this year.

Non-perishable food, new toys and clothing can be dropped off at the bins at various community organizations

from Nov 12 to Dec 11. This year, we are making a special request for monetary donations (\$\$) so we can fulfill our client's particular needs. Please visit or mail in your cheques to the JSS office listed on the cover. *Please indicate that this donation is "for Holiday Drive."

Thanks and Happy Holidays!

**There's a lot more
information on the web.
Check us out at**

**<http://www.jss.ca>
and on Facebook
(Japanese Social Services)**

**Check out our new online
newsletter: <http://jss.ca>
and press the English Icon**

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