



JSS NEWS

Official Newsletter of Japanese Social Services

Spring / Summer 2018

President's Message

By David Ikeda

Spring took a long time to come to the GTA. It feels like it was just a few weeks ago when I was still scraping off ice from my car. However, through it all we were quite busy at JSS. And I have both good and not so good news to report.

Regarding the latter, it is with a heavy heart that I have to report the departure of Haruo Sato from the Board of Directors and our e-newsletter editor in chief. Although he was quite new to the job I think you all can agree he did a fabulous job putting out JSS Online. Unfortunately for us he returned to Japan this spring for a new job posting. Although it is an opportunity for him personally, we will miss his presence on the board, the newsletter, and also his organizing of the Joy of Christmas Concert, the latter being a great fundraising event for JSS.

Luckily for us we have a new board member, Meaghan Tanaka, who has taken over the role as editor and all around organizer of the e-newsletter. We thank and congratulate her on her new post and again

express our deep thanks to Haruo for all of his work for this organization.

On other fronts we completed our annual Holiday Drive. Thanks to the generosity of our community as well as our faith-based institutions and community partners, we were able to brighten the holidays with toys clothes and Japanese food items to 32 families including 36 children. I would especially like to thank our volunteer coordinators Kyoko Bezcool, Ayami Kim, and Maki Mori who organized the Drive as well as the many volunteers who helped divide and distribute the donated items.

Our AGM has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 13, 2018, at 7:00 at the JCCC. The room has yet to be determined but signs will be posted. If you are a member and if you can, please join us. Your support and suggestions are most welcome. Light refreshments will be provided.

Toronto Challenge 2018

By David Ikeda

The Toronto Challenge is set for Sunday, June 10, 2018, and JSS is once again participating as one of the registered community partners. The annual event is in its 26th year and is one of our most important fundraisers.



Senior board member Tokugi "Toke" Suyama annually solicits funds from friends and supporters.

This year's walk will start rain or shine at 9:00 am. For those of you who do not know, the Toronto Challenge is an official fund raising event run by the City of Toronto for community groups like ours that help seniors and provide services for those in need. The event comprises a

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5 km run, a 5 km walk and a 1 km walk through downtown Toronto. Participants will do one of the races which will begin at City Hall.

Walkers like Toke-san, in the days preceding and after the race will ask for pledges of money for JSS from members of our community. If you want to sponsor Toke-san or any of our other "walkers," please make your cheques payable to Japanese Social Services and mail them to our address. Make it clear in the memo on the cheque that the funds are for The Toronto Challenge. JSS like in all previous years will report the funds collected to the City and issue you a tax receipt. Our address, postal code and telephone number can be seen in this Newsletter. The forms and information about the walk or run can be found on the Toronto Challenge website at: www.toronto.ca/challenge. Once again, thanks for your support.

On counselling

by *Takanori Kuge*

The number of senior clients has been increasing year by year. In 2015, the number of senior clients who used counselling service was 9 on the monthly average. The number went up to 12 in 2016. Last year this number further went up to 16.



Many of those clients and/or their caregivers (family members/friends) made the initial contact to JSS to make inquiries about JSS's friendly visiting program, Konnichiwa Program. And more often than not, especially when those "visited-to-be" have cognitive decay, their caregivers also become our clients.

This means that Konnichiwa Program also plays an important role to reach out the people who need further professional support than just "friendly visiting," although the program's main purpose is to provide the visits to prevent and alleviate isolation.

Japanese Social Services

Annual General Meeting

7:00 p.m.
Wednesday,
June 13th, 2018

at the
Japanese Canadian
Cultural Centre
6 Garamond Court, Toronto

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

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

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

JSS News Acknowledgements

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Thanks also to the staff and volunteers.