



JSS News

Official Newsletter of Japanese Social Services

President's Message

By David Ikeda

Spring is finally here and we have quite a lot on the agenda now that the weather is improving.

First, our Holiday Drive was a great success. JSS made the Christmas season a little brighter for 29 families or 64 individuals with gifts of toys, food and clothing. The gifts as you know are all provided by the wonderful members of our community who deposited the gift items in the donation boxes set up in all of our partner churches and organizations who have always placed them in prominent locations in their buildings.

I must also thank the churches that participated in the Joy of Christmas Concert. We raised over a thousand dollars from this one event. I also have to thank them for a surprise donation which they collected recently at Easter.

On September 24, 2016, JSS will hold its first ever large fundraising event. Well-known Japanese pianists Etsuko Terada and Kikuo Watanabe will be performing a special concert at the prestigious Glenn Gould Studios. Please join us if you can and enjoy a wonderful performance as well as supporting JSS.

Upcoming programs include the Self-help group for single mothers.



David Ikeda, JSS President.

This is quite a successful and popular program whereby about 13 Japanese speaking mothers raising children on their own meet once a month to discuss and offer each other advice and support. The Mernaghs, a generous couple in our community, fund this program which has been going on for several years.

Also coming up is our Annual General Meeting set for Thursday, May 26, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. 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.

Our counseling staff have been very busy dealing with serious cases. JSS dealt with 54 cases of domestic violence in 2015 according to our counseling staff's statistics. The number is shocking since we have to be contacted by the abused or their friends before we get involved. Given that many Japanese do not call for help until things get very bad, the number of

victims may be much higher in the community.

If you can, please consider making a donation or helping us in some other way such as volunteering in one of our programs.

Charity Piano Concert

By Junko Yamamoto

Japanese Social Services will be holding its first ever charity concert featuring acclaimed Japanese husband and wife pianists Kikuo Watanabe and Etsuko Terada. They will be performing in Toronto on September 24, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. at the prestigious Glenn Gould Studio. The concert hall is famous for its excellent acoustics, so the pianists' skills and artistry will be on display at one of Toronto's best concert venues.

Ms. Terada and Mr. Watanabe currently live in Tokyo, although they have previously taken residence throughout the United States and Europe. Since 2000, Ms. Terada has made many recordings. She has performed extensively throughout Japan, Europe and at New York's Carnegie Hall (2013). Since 2000, she has been a professor at the Nihon University College of Art Graduate School in Tokyo. Mr. Watanabe has a very rich musical pedigree. His father was the renowned conductor

and founder of the Japan Philharmonic Orchestra Akeo Watanabe. In December 2015, Mr. Watanabe was awarded the prestigious Sibelius Medal, which is awarded to outstanding performers of Jean Sibelius' music. The award is particularly significant in that 2015 was the Finnish composer's 150th anniversary. Mr. Watanabe is serving as a professor in Tokyo at the Musashino Academia Musicae.

The performance in Toronto on September 24th will feature solo performances by the artists as well as duos with both Etsuko and Kikuo on stage together performing on two different Steinways. Although they have performed many times in many prestigious concert halls in North and South America, this will be their first performance in Toronto. The JSS Charity Concert promises to be an exciting and culturally enriching event which I hope you will attend.

As Fundraising Chair and organizer, I would like to welcome you to purchase tickets and attend this one time concert performance for the benefit of JSS. Ticket information will be forthcoming, so please check in on our website and follow future issues of JSS Online.

I would also like to thank the many people who are helping to organize and carry out the concert. I would also like to thank the Office of the Consul General of Japan, Shokokai and the JCCC, Torja, Bits, eNikka for serving as Supporters of the concert, as well as an anonymous major donor whose generosity is making this event possible.

Please mark the date of September 24, 2016 on your cultural calendar. You will be treated

to a wonderful cultural evening featuring world renowned talent as well as helping JSS.

Japanese Social Services Annual General Meeting

7:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 26th, 2016

at the
Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre

6 Garamond Court,
Toronto

All members
are invited to attend

There's a lot more information on the web. Check us out at <http://www.jss.ca> and on Facebook (as Japanese Social Services)

It is a great source of opinion and information written by experienced members, supporters and concerned persons. Our members are encouraged to contribute. Your opinions and views form an integral part of how we can best serve the community at large.

Spring/Summer Program Calendar

May 15:
Housing Seminar (with JAVA, JCSA)

May 29:
Raising Sexually Healthy Children (with ACAS, Hidamari Club)

June 1:
Seminar on Powers of Attorney and Wills

June 4:
Last (of 14) session of Incredible Years — parenting program associated with Toronto Public Health.

JSS News Acknowledgements

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Thanks also to the staff and volunteers.