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DECEMBER 1999

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AND ...

LOTS MORE

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK US OUT

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CJST News

The Canada-Japan Society of Toronto

CJST CHARTING NEW COURSE

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE RETURNS... MEMBERS ARE CALLED TO A MEETING AT THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, JANUARY 17, 2000, 6:30 PM

The Board of Directors has decided to call a meeting of interested members to outline a new course for the CJST. In our November Board meeting we discussed the fact that many members have expressed an interest in "getting involved" in the workings of the Society but that we lacked the structure to offer them the opportunity to do so effectively.

Our proposed solution is to bring back the committee structure and to encourage more members to get involved with the workings of the CJST. The plan is to establish a slate of committees that will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

1. Communications Committee, responsible for:
 - the newsletter and notification of events to membership and others
 - communication with other organizations
2. Social Committee, responsible for:
 - overview of operation of Ichi-moku-kai
 - other membership gatherings and special events
3. Cultural Committee, responsible for:
 - organization of cultural events of interest to membership
4. Business Committee, responsible for:
 - organization of business related events of interest to our members
5. Golf Committee, responsible for:
 - the organization of the CJST Golf Tournament
6. Membership Committee, responsible for:
 - membership relations, recruitment of new members and keeping membership records

By establishing this committee structure, it is our hope that involved members will feel more of a connection with the area(s) that drew them to the CJST in the first place. Ideally, each committee will be comprised of at least 3 members with an upward limit of around 6. Each committee will select a chair and that individual will be responsible for reporting to the Board.

The plan is based on the approach that the concentration and focus fostered by the individual committees will provide a feeling of "ownership" of tasks that will be rewarding to individuals involved and beneficial to the entire membership.

The meeting will take place at the Japan Foundation, 131 Bloor St. West, on Monday, **January 17, 2000 at 6:30 PM**. RSVP to the Events Hotline 406-CJST (2578).

CORPORATE MEMBERS

In our last Newsletter we provided an incomplete list of our corporate members. The following is our current list of Corporate members - your continued support of the CJST is greatly appreciated:

Aon Reed Stenhouse Inc.
 Bank of Nova Scotia
 Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (Canada)
 Canon Canada Inc.
 Cassels, Brock and Blackwell
 City of Toronto
 Deloitte & Touche
 Denso Manufacturing Canada, Inc.
 Fasken Campbell Godfrey/Fasken
 Martineau
 Japan National Tourist Organization
 KPMG LLP
 Ministry of Economic Development,
 Trade & Tourism
 McMillan Binch
 Mitsubishi Canada Ltd.
 NSK-RHP Canada Inc.
 Panasonic Canada Inc.
 Royal Bank of Canada
 Subaru Canada Inc.
 Yusen Air & Sea Service (Canada) Ltd.

As we are bringing you the 2000 CJST Directory in the new year, our much too long individual list will not be included here.

Please check the address label on your CJST mailings. If the date in the upper, right-hand corner has passed or is near, your membership fees are due

FEES: INDIVIDUAL - \$40; STUDENT - \$20;
 FAMILY - \$50; SENIOR - \$20; JET ALUMNI - \$30
 CORPORATE - \$350 (INCLUDES 10 DESIGNATED
 MEMBERS OF YOUR FIRM).
 SEND YOUR CHEQUE, PAYABLE TO THE
 CANADA-JAPAN SOCIETY OF TORONTO,
 BOX 327, STATION A
 TORONTO, ON M5W 1G3
 TEL. (416) 406-CJST (2578)
 FAX (416) 955-1842

CJST NEWS:

ICHI-MOKU-KAI AT MEGUMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT DECEMBER 2, 1999

Megumi Restaurant declared smashing success for CJST's relaunch of Ichi-moku-kai!!! With an estimated 70 guests out for the CJST's "First Thursday Party" there is no other conclusion to be reached - we have a new home for our most popular event and we couldn't be happier. After months spent in limbo, the Society and Megumi struck a deal whereby we have been able to bring our members a great location to meet every month and great deals on food and drink. The reviews from those in attendance were uniform in their positive tone - "We'll see you next month" being the most popular response.

Our goal now is to keep the momentum and bring Ichi-moku-kai back to its glory days of the past. The new location offers the perfect space for our informal gatherings. For those of you were unable to make it out allow me to describe it... The bar section of Megumi is reserved for our exclusive use from 6:00 PM (until whenever the last person leaves) on the first Thursday of every month. The space allows for relaxed conversation without the intrusions of pounding music or other patrons who are not CJSTers (Karaoke is allowed but only after 9:00 PM).

Thanks go out to everyone who made this happen and **we look forward to seeing everyone on January 6, February 3 and every first Thursday thereafter in the year 2000!!!**

2000 CJST DIRECTORY

Every year the CJST compiles information about our membership and puts it together in a handy, user-friendly format that keeps you in touch with other CJSTers.

Eiko Shaul, who works overtime to keep our membership database updated, and Ken Bole, who never outgrew his Macintosh love affair, have teamed up to produce the CJST Y2K Directory, which will be distributed free to all (paid up) members in early 2000.

Our Directory includes information about the CJST, a brief history of our special events, lists of corporate and private members, with contact information, a business service directory, and related advertisements. This is an excellent resource for the Japan-Canada community.

To place an ad, contact Ken Bole at (416) 396-2269, or fax (416) 439-8822. If you need to check the status of your membership or update any information, please leave a message for Eiko Shaul at (416) 406-2578 or fax (416) 544-0253. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to get your name out there!

CONSUL GENERAL HARA SPEECH TO THE CJST -- October 18, 1999

Consul General Hara Satoshi delivered a fascinating examination and comparison of Japanese and Western cultures to CJST members gathered at the Japan Foundation on Monday, October 18. The interactive approach taken by Mr. Hara resulted in reminiscing and recollections of past experiences and current interpretations - drawing on his own early experiences with western culture and then encouraging the audience to share their experiences relating to the values and culture of the Japanese people.

Conversations around the wine table continued long after the formal end of the presentation as the subject matter inspired thoughtful discourse. Once again, our thanks go out to Consul General Hara for taking time out of his busy schedule to speak with the CJST members. We look forward to our next opportunity to benefit from Mr. Hara's involvement with our Society.

Personal Stories:

THE SEARCH FOR THE LAST "HARRO!"

I have been to Japan 7 times in the last 18 years. I recently returned after a four-year absence. My first trip was the most memorable; in addition to the standard wonders, I remember the tatami-ed room at the temple in Koyasan, with beautiful garden view -- and TV (the modern way to eliminate internal dialogue?). Walking through the mountain cemetery, breathing the pure air, meditating on Kobo Daishi, I came across the huge monument put up by an insecticide company in memory of its billions of victims. Nothing however for the victims of the Pacific war ... Although the insecticide company continues to kill, so perhaps "sincere regret" is not the answer.

On my many trips to Japan, I found myself approached - and sometimes surrounded - by little kids eager to practice "Harro!". Sometimes endearing, sometimes obnoxious, it came to symbolize Japan. Yet on this summer's travels, day after day went by without the signature tune I had come to expect. Was it internationalization? Women in saris pushing baby carriages; Caucasians in jacket and tie joining the commuters going to work. Or was it the pervasive Anglicization demonstrated by the "Fork Music Cafe" or the housewife with 2 little ones in tow at the supermarket, wearing a T-shirt that politely requested "Please make love to me"?

On that first trip, my epiphanous moment came when, after spotting a tall blonde fat American striding along with Hawaiian shirt, explorer's vest, and complicated cameras, I giggled and whispered to my Japanese companion, "Gaijin!". It has been years since I provoked that reaction.

Gone too are the gaggles of giggling girls, rhythmically raising hand to mouth. I often wondered what they would do

if one held down both of their hands and then told them a joke. Would their faces betray the simultaneous play of two emotions, much beloved by Kabuki fans?

As I journeyed northward in Tohoku this time, I scanned the faces of little children but no interest appeared. I was as familiar as Donarudo Dukku. Well, some things hadn't changed: the tour guide in Yamagata - clearly an alumnus of some Japanese version of the British radio programme "Just a minute" - spoke continuously for three hours saying absolutely nothing of interest. Allotting plenty of time for group photos, she said we had no time for the museum at Dewa Sanzen; after all, "You can see Buddhas elsewhere!" Sneaking off, we were surrounded by unique, extraordinary statues I fancied charged by the meditations of innumerable yamabushi (mountain ascetics). But yet in contemporary Japan, I learned, even the abbot of a yamabushi temple must retire at a fixed age, to make room for younger priests.

Continuing northward, I stayed in a ryokan deep in the mountains near Kuroishi, so far away from modern civilization it did not even have electricity and still had a rotenburo (outdoor mixed bath). But here too, my presence was unremarked.

Giving up hope, I dozed on the train to Hirosaki, remembering the apple wine at Towada-ko that pleasantly ended my years of teetotaling. And then it happened -- I heard the shy voice of a doll-like creature: "Harro!" it whispered, "Harro!". At last! I smiled at the waif. "Hello!", I exclaimed, "Konnichiwa!" She darted back to the safety of her mother but she had made my day.

The "Harro!" is not yet extinct - seek and ye shall find.

Frank Tall

JAPANESE LEGAL NEWS:

Victory in Japanese Discrimination Fight

Ana Bortz, a Brazilian journalist, took on Japanese discrimination of foreigners in the courts after being escorted out of a Hamamatsu jewelry store because the store had a policy of refusing to serve people of her nationality. The judge hearing the case, Tetsuro So, ruled that "[t]his was an illegal act against an individual." He awarded Ms. Bortz the equivalent of US\$47,000 and stated that "ejecting the plaintiff from the store merely because she was Brazilian was unfair."

The case goes much further than Ms. Bortz's fight with the jewelry store. Other foreigners living in Japan are hailing the victory as an invaluable precedent in their antidiscrimination struggle with the Japanese legal system.

The New York Times Service reports that Japanese laws do not protect foreigners from unequal treatment. Judge So had to rely on the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination for the basis of his decision. Japan signed the Convention in 1996, (31 years after its adoption) becoming the 148th country to do so. Because the judgment is based on international law, it cannot be appealed under Japanese law.

In another fight against discriminatory Japanese laws, foreign embassies have convinced the Japanese government to drop its requirement that all foreign residents be fingerprinted.

Sadako Ogata, the well respected United Nations high commissioner for refugees, has been a rare voice for change in Japan. "Japanese people are relatively monoethnic... we live under the illusion of one ethnic race, one culture. A monoethnic island of prosperity



CJST Japanese Shopping Guide for the Holiday Season!

Kimono Mystique - "Japanese gift and tea room"
 98 Avenue Road (on the west side of Avenue Rd.,
 between Bloor and Davenport) (416) 926-0264
 This is not just a store to shop. It is also a place where
 you can relax and enjoy a cup of tea (maccha too) with
 'ohagi' and other goodies listening to soothing music. If
 you wish to have something more substantial than 'ohagi,'
 you can also enjoy maki sushi, inari sushi and udon! The
 store has a wonderful collection of traditional Japanese
 textile for table cloths and place mats and, of course, a
 collection of kimonos. It has, among many craft and
 ceramic products, paraphernalia for 'chanoyu', lovely
 casual clothing made of traditional Japanese material and
 T-shirts designed by the owner. The store will be open
 until Christmas but will be closed until the end of
 January. The owner will be in Japan searching for
 interesting items for the store. (Eiko)

Cocoro - "Ladies fashions and gifts from Japan"
 3334 Yonge Street (on the west side of Yonge, several
 blocks north of Lawrence Ave.) (416) 932-0556
 For people who live away from downtown area, this store
 is in a convenient location. It is close to Hwy 401 as
 well. The store has a variety of women's clothing,
 including 'hadagi' and socks, for those who have problems
 finding smaller sizes as well as for regular sizes. The
 designs and the details of knitted items are something you
 will find only among Japanese products. It also sells
 chinaware, clocks, some "Kitty chan" and Pokemon
 products, origami papers and a variety of craft products.
 (E)

J-TOWN

3160 Steeles Ave. Units 8-11, Tues to Sat, 10-7. Sun: 11-6
 Just off the 404 west on Steeles. Has a few Japanese stores
 grouped together. A jewelry shop, bread shop, grocery store,
 videos and sushi. A little hard to see as it is at the back of a
 complex. Just west of a Toyota dealership and located behind
 a terrible all-you-can-eat restaurant. (M)

Sanko

730 Queen St. West, Toronto

(416) 703-4550 10-7 (closed Tuesdays)
 Good for stocking stuffers! Grocery store. (A)

THE JAPANESE PAPER PLACE

887 Queen St. West (416) 703-0089

GREEN TEA DESIGN

Harbourfront Antique Market
 390 Queens Quay West (416) 651-8069
www.greenteadesign.com

Expensive and gorgeous Korean, Chinese and Japanese
 furniture. (Put me on your shopping list for this place! ☺
 - Margaret)

NIKKEI BOOKS

(owner: Jennifer Hashimoto)
 74 Delaware Ave.
 (416) 538-1377
j.hashimoto@sympatico.ca

THINGS JAPANESE

159 Harbord St.
 (416) 967-9797
 Very small but worthwhile.

HOUSE OF TEA

1017 Yonge St.
 (416) 922-1226
 Not Japanese but carries a wide variety of Japanese teas.

UTSUWA-NO-YAKATA THE ART OF JAPANESE TABLEWARE

505 Hwy 7, just west of 404
 (905) 881-5550
 My favourite place for inexpensive and pretty
 dinnerware. (M)

List compiled by Eiko Shaul, Adrienne Young and Margaret
 Buckworth

“OTHER” NEWS FROM JAPAN: AN IDIOSYNCRATIC VIEW OF WHAT YOU HAVE MISSED OVER THE LAST MONTH OR SO...

Collected and edited by Adrienne Young

Restructuring Nissan,

October 23, 1999

The Economist has been keeping an eye on Carlos Ghosn – and we will too, over the next few months. Japan-watchers may recall that Nissan has not been doing well of late. It has been doing so badly, in fact, that it has lost money four out of the past five years and recently had to accept a ¥643bn (C\$9.3bn) equity injection from Renault, ceding control to Renault management. Mr. Ghosn is a Brazilian of Lebanese origin and best known for working to turn Renault around. Mr. Ghosn’s plans for Nissan are harsh: he intends to cut 21,000 jobs in the next 2 years (most in Japan), close 5 Japanese factories, cutting capacity from 2.4 million vehicles a year to about 1.65 million. For those of you with friends in the industry, he’s expected to close the Murayama assembly plant, the Nissan Shatai factory in Kyoto and the Aichi Kikai Minato plant in Nagoya in 2000. After that, it’s the Kurihama engine plant in Kanagawa and the Kyushu engine shop in Fukuoka in 2001. Will gaiatsu succeed where Japanese management could not? Stay tuned...

Platform Shoe Craze Claims Second Death in Japan,

November 2, 1999

Reuters News Service reports a passenger died in a car crash on Monday after the 25-year-old driver couldn’t brake on time. *Reuters* reports her 3” platform heels got in the way. Earlier this year a 25-year old nursery school teacher died after falling off her 5” platform sandals. *Reuters* reports platform shoes are most commonly worn by artificially tanned teens wearing skimpy skirts, glittery eye shadow and dyed silver-blond hair.

Japanese police find mummified corpse in hotel,

November 13, 1999

Reuters News Service reports police have found the mummified body of a 66-year old man, dressed in a bathrobe, in a hotel near Narita airport. *Reuters* says the mummy (who apparently smelled quite strongly) was with his wife and son (both alive) when the police entered the room. The three were members of a sect called Life Space.

House Foods Corp. Patents Curry,

November 28, 1999

Reuters News Service reports House Foods Corporation (makers of House Curry) is trying to take out a patent on curry. HFC’s patent application lists Makoto Hirayama and Sachiyo Ohashi as inventors of curry, and provides a basic recipe. Indian foodies say it is NOT a good recipe, and the government of India is reported to consider the application “a matter of concern.” Under WTO rules a patent of this kind would allow Messrs Ohashi and Hirayama to claim royalties on all curry and curry products entering Japan.

Entrepreneurial Spirit Flourishing in Tokyo,

November 29, 1999

The Guardian’s Jonathan Watts reports two new street performers busking in Tokyo. “The flatterer” charges ¥100 for a minute of compliments. “What a stunning couple you make! You look so great together, I can feel tears of envy welling up in my eyes...” “Let me guess – you’re a model, right?” Mr. Takaya Mizuno is 24 and is in his last year at Keio. Unable to get a more traditional type of job (the job market is still difficult), he has taken the entrepreneurial route. Start-up expenses: he borrowed ¥2,500 from his mother to start his own flattery company. If you’ve had a particularly bad day, you might prefer to check in with Mr. Akira Hareruya. Mr. Hareruya charges ¥1,000 to be punched in the head for one minute. We believe he offers a ladies’ discount. Mr. Hareruya is a former boxer.

In the Tradition of the Suzuki Parsley,

December 2, 1999

The Far Eastern Economic Review’s Nury Vittachi reports Daihatsu has come out with a new four-door hatchback with fold-flat back seats. They’ve called it “The Naked”. Sigh. There are still so many things about Japan we just *don’t* understand... FEER says it has a nice body, though.

WHAT'S COMING UP

CJST Events at a Glance

Thursday January 6, 2000 - ShinenKai/IchiMokuKai

Megumi Japanese Restaurant, 9 Church St. (just below Front). 6:00 PM ~. Members and friends are invited to a Y2K compliant evening at Megumi Japanese Restaurant to help us ring in the New Year with a few drinks and some senlightened conversation. This will be our second Ichi-moku-kai at Megumi and judging by the success of the re-launch held on December 2 this should be a good one.

Monday January 17, 2000 - Membership Meeting for Committee Selection

(see page 1 for further details)

6:30 PM at the Japan Foundation

Thursday February 3, 2000 - Ichi-moku-kai

Megumi Japanese Restaurant, 9 Church St. (just below Front). 6:00 PM ~
And EVERY first Thursday thereafter...

We'll let you know details of other
upcoming events as soon as the dates are finalized

WANT ADS...

Japanese Teacher Wanted

We are looking for an experienced Japanese language teacher for Saturday morning children's classes beginning mid-January. Please fax resume and cover letter to Naoko Ono at (416) 439-8822.

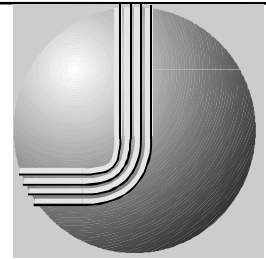
Nisei Wanted

My name is Chika Sonobe. I am in the fourth year of Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan and studying the relations between language and culture. For the purpose of writing my graduation thesis on the culture of second generation Japanese-Canadians, I am sending you this e-mail to ask you if you could give me any information. I was wondering if you could introduce me to a second generation Japanese-Canadian who would help me with the questionnaire. The questionnaire concerns the manner in which language is used by Japanese-Canadians. I am looking forward to hearing from you. Please respond to: li009968@lt.ritsumei.ac.jp

REMINDERS

The deadline for the CJST Directory 2000 update is December 17, 1999. If we do not receive an update from a member with current membership status, we will use the information currently in the CJST database. If you have any questions regarding the directory update, please call (416) 406-2578 or email: cjst@mailcity.com
Thank you, Eiko Shaul, Director of Membership

To advertise an event or make an announcement to appear on this page, contact Annette Goulin at: agoulin@hotmail.com or the CJST general address cjst@mailcity.org



CJST NEWS

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We welcome comments, suggestions and contributions you may have on Japan and related topics for this publication.

Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not of the CJST or its board of directors.

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