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ON THE WEB.

WE'RE NOW AT

WWW.CJST.ORG

CJST News

The Canada-Japan Society of Toronto

CJST SETS NEW COURSE

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE RETURNS... MEMBERS SIGN ON AT JAPAN FOUNDATION MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 17, 2000

In response to membership interest in becoming more involved in the workings of the Society, the CJST has returned to its committee structure of days gone by. On the coldest night of the year approximately 30 members defied the elements and made their way to the Japan Foundation and there were no outward signs that their attendance was based solely on the wine and finger-foods that awaited them.

The following slate of committees, together with the inaugural member list for each, has been established:

1. Communications Committee, responsible for the newsletter communications generally. John Le Blanc, Ken Bole, Annette Goulin and Adrienne Young.
2. Social Committee, responsible for overview of operation of Ichi-moku-kai and other membership gatherings and special events. Jason Ying and Alan Bresgi.
3. Cultural Committee, responsible for organization of cultural events of interest to membership. Fumiko Shiba and Jeff Harju.
4. Business Committee, responsible for organization of business related events of interest to our members. Tristan Cammaert, Trevor Fencott, Craig Martin, Fumiko Shiba and Don Waters.
5. Golf Committee, responsible for the organization of the CJST Golf Tournament. Rob Tran with assistance from Rob Bracey, Tristan Cammaert, John Le Blanc and Jeff Harju.
6. Membership Committee, responsible for membership relations, recruitment of new members and keeping membership records. Eiko Shaul, Scott Rutherford and all board helpers.

This list is incomplete and we like it that way. We do not want anyone to get the impression that all the spots are filled or that all the work has been done. It has only been a couple of weeks since the meeting took place but already we have several events in the works with fresh new ideas brought forward by the Business and Social Committees.

If you would like to join any of these committees contact us at our e-mail address (cjst@mailcity.org) and we will put you in contact with the committee chair to get things rolling. Remember, volunteer organizations like ours only work when its members pitch in and make it work.

John Le Blanc

Membership News!

Welcome to the following new CJST members who joined our Society in 1999:

Anwyll, Joe;
Bothwell, Patrick
Cho, Sonny
Davis, Billie Jo
Doi, Mike
Echizen, Ken
Fencott, Trevor
Goulin, Annette
Harju, Jeff
Ichida, Yoshi
Iguchi, Hiro
Izumi, Mike
Kasuya, Hatsue
Kawana, Norikazu
Luter, B.
Mah, Sandra
Mine, Yoshihiro
Mixon, Lee
Nozawa, Ken
Ota, Makiko
Parkinson, David
Sato, Fumie
Sato, Hisaaki
Shimakawa, Chiaki
Tanaka, Kenji
Tanaka, Min
Tunnah, David
van Gootheest, Dorothy
Vander Stoep, Stephen
Wong, James
Yanagisawa, Sachiko
Ying, Jason
Young, Darryl

(If we missed anyone here, our sincere apologies and please let us know so we can correct our records.) Also, thank you to all renewing members.

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 fee is 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:

A note from our Membership Committee

As Director of Membership, I would like to thank all the members, new and renewed, for your support of the CJST in 1999 and into 2000. We had great response to renewal of memberships last year by individuals and corporations, and also welcomed more than 30 new members. Arigatoogozaimasu!!
Eiko Shaul, *Director of Membership*

CJST Directories are Ready (in fact, you should have received one with this newsletter.... Unless you are reading this on our website in which case...) (enough already!!! - ed.)

Now, the hot off the press news is that the 'CJST Year 2000 Directory' has been delivered (it's the red-covered book that just dropped out of the envelope and fell on the floor). Many thanks to Ken Boles for his work with the advertisers, formatting, inputting, editing etc., etc. Thanks also go out to Eiko Shaul and Scott Rutherford for working with Ken to get all the information right in providing the membership specifics. One last "arigato" to the companies and organizations who chose to advertise in the directory. We are sure that the directory will be of great use for our members, and we encourage you to let us know any ideas and suggestions for future editions.

Access Japan 2000

The Consul General of Japan in Toronto, Hara Satoshi, has invited the CJST to be a part of a celebration of Japanese culture to be presented for six weeks from September 23 to November 5, 2000. The events that make up the celebration will primarily be organized and hosted by Japanese and Japanese Canadian institutions in Ontario. Both traditional and contemporary Japan, including its culture, arts, society, festivals, economy and business, will be showcased during this event. It is envisaged to offer a prominent banner under which local Japan-related organizations, associations, societies and institutions, either Canadian or Japanese, can organize and promote their events. The Consul's aim is to make Japan - its people and society - more visible and accessible to the Canadian public during the six week period highlighted above. The promotional program will include a grand opening, and will undoubtedly catch the attention of many people in Ontario.

The CJST has been invited to apply to be part of the "Access Japan 2000" program. We have been asked if we would organize something specifically for this period. Our event(s) would benefit with the increased promotion received by being under the "Access Japan 2000" banner and we would be furthering the CJST's mandate by working with other similarly focused groups. We must apply to the Secretariat before April 15 to have our event(s) considered for the program.

Any ideas? What would you, as CJST members, like to see us undertake for the Access 2000 initiative? We would be more than happy to hear you ideas. Contact us at the address just to the left of this column and give us your ideas.

Personal Stories:

The Rice Program - Feeding Homeless People in Tokyo By Annette Goulin

What began as a one-time, pre-Christmas good deed soon became a regular activity in my busy schedule. I was a full time English teacher but also a volunteer with a group of other foreign women at the Franciscan Chapel Center in Minato-ku making onigiri (rice balls) for homeless people in Tokyo.

The existence of homeless people is something that not everyone likes to acknowledge but they are a reality in Tokyo as they are in major cities all over the world. In central Tokyo these men and women are seen wandering through streets and parks, searching in trashcans, sleeping on cold concrete and squatting in cardboard structures. They are not violent or harmful to society. Police and JR staff claim they are an eyesore and remove them from stations, a common sleeping place at night, early in the mornings before the commuter rush. In Tokyo, I have never seen a homeless person asking for spare change like I have in North American cities.

The Rice Program or Rice Patrol, as it is also known, is one of the many outreach charity programs at the Franciscan Chapel Center, Catholic Church. It is completely funded by the community and run by a network of over 200 volunteers, mostly ex-pat wives living in Tokyo, from the United States, Canada, England, France and the Philippines, who have chosen to join a huge effort to make a difference to some hungry people. Volunteers make and deliver onigiri to the homeless of Shinjuku and Asakusa, seven days a week, every day of the year. The FCC basement kitchen is a perfect venue for this project. The church is two minutes from Roppongi Crossing so it is convenient for the large foreign population that lives in the area. Large pots of rice are made in rice cookers at night and every morning a team of foreign women spend about an hour and a half making the rice into onigiri then box and pack them in preparation for delivery. Another team of volunteers does that. Triangular cutout boards, aprons, gloves and other supplies make the job easier.

Each completed onigiri is placed in a small plastic box then wrapped with a rubber band and packed into paper shopping bags. Over 400 people are fed a day. Deliveries are made very early in the morning, just before the trains start running, to Shinjuku and in the evening to Asakusa, near Sumida Park. Delivery volunteers arrive to a long line of hungry homeless people waiting patiently rain or shine. They stand in line often hours before hoping for a front position which means they can then rejoin the back of the line for a second serving. But, the lines are getting longer and this is not always possible.

Feeding the homeless has been a goal of FCC for the past 14 years. A Catholic priest named Father William DeBiase started the Rice Program in October 1986. He was approached by two female parishioners who wondered if there was something that they could do for the homeless people that they had recently seen at a nearby park. They began by buying onigiri for 25 people using a parish charity fund. A week later they

investigated a similar homeless situation in Shinjuku Station area. Cardboard houses were a reality even then. Soon the number of people they were providing food for on a daily basis was up to 100. Ten original volunteers increased gradually as did the cash donations for the purchase of rice and supplies. The Rice Program grew and filled a definite need in central Tokyo. According to Father Bill, the Rice Patrol is a work of God.

The Program Co-ordinators keep the program going smoothly: They run 'Rice Sunday' once a month asking for parishioners' donations, purchase supplies, do PR, fund raising and more. Dona, a co-ordinator, is very passionate about the program and feels it is a good chance to make a difference. I have enjoyed working alongside her and felt inspired. Her inspiration to help in the fight against worldwide hunger came from a popular American folk singer, the late Harry Chapin, who founded the World Hunger Organization in Washington. She even met him in person. For her, it proves that people big and small are helping in this global problem. Dona knows that we are filling a need but ultimately would like to see that need end. She is now organizing groups of international children and their teachers to help with making and delivery on weekends throughout the school year. This is an opportunity to educate a new generation. They are both interested and fascinated. Cash donations also come from people that are not related to the church, FCC Women's Group and local embassies. They are proud to be a part of this ecumenical effort involving several churches and many people.

The Tokyo Union Church, an interdenominational church in Omotesando, has a similar project running in conjunction with FCC. They provide onigiri for about 65 homeless people of the Shibuya area six days a week, up from the 35-40 they were feeding daily a year ago.

I enjoyed being a part of the Thursday morning onigiri-making group. I attended faithfully every week I could. It always tried to fit it into my schedule and worked my job around the volunteer work. I met and formed friendships with some incredibly capable women. We enjoyed lively conversations about our lives as foreigners, culture, news and travel as the work got done. All this while knowing we were doing something good for the less fortunate.

We take our basic needs of food, shelter and water for granted most of the time. There are over 3000 homeless people in Metro Tokyo and the numbers are rising. Sometimes it is difficult to think of or understand the plight of our fellow human beings who are homeless in one of the richest cities in the world. Maybe some are content not to be a part of the pressures of regular society, some are sad and some are lonely. But all of them are hungry. This is why I was so glad to learn about this community program in which helped to provide food. It was very rewarding.

The Canada-Japan Trade Council & JETRO in cooperation with the
Consulate General of Japan, Industry Canada, The Japan Society, Canada-
Japan Society
of Toronto and Ontario Exports Inc. requests the pleasure of your company
at a conference on

CANADA-JAPAN TRADE & E-COMMERCE

Royal York Hotel
100 Front Street West, Toronto, Ontario
Wednesday, **February 23, 2000**
Registration 8:00 AM
Business Session - Quebec Room 9:00 AM
Luncheon - Territories Room 12:30 PM

PROGRAMME FEATURES

Klaus H. Pringsheim, President, Canada-Japan Trade Council

Nobuhiko Yoshida, Executive Director, JETRO-Toronto

Koichi Mori, General Manager, Standardization, Strategic Planning Division, Fujitsu Ltd.
Trends in the Japanese IT Market

Mariko Fujiwara, Director, Hakuhodo Institute of Life & Living
Consumer Internet/e-commerce trends in Japan

Dr. Jim Tiessen, McMaster University and Dr. Ken Coates, University of New Brunswick
Canadian e-commerce exports to Japan

Rachel Howe, Managing Partner, CyberSpace Japan
Internet use and online commerce in Japan

Luncheon Address by: Richard Simpson
Director General, E-Commerce Task Force, Industry Canada

REGISTRATION FEE: \$50 (includes luncheon, GST R106837362)

R.S.V.P. by February 18 to Linda Julien, Canada-Japan Trade Council, by
Telephone, facsimile or email

Cheques are payable to the Canada-Japan Trade Council

For further information contact the Council at:

Tel: 613-233-4047

Fax: 613-233-2256

email cjtc@magi.com

“OTHER” NEWS FROM JAPAN: AN IDIOSYNCRATIC VIEW OF WHAT YOU HAVE MISSED IN YOUR NEWS ABOUT JAPAN - OR NOT....

Collected and edited by Adrienne Young

Update on the platform-shoe crisis. CJST readers may remember our report of two recent deaths in Japan, both attributed to wearing of platform shoes. Osaka police are attempting to minimize the risk: they announced last week that they believe wearing platform shoes impairs breaking capability. If tests are positive, they intend to ban drivers from wearing platform shoes. The *Daily Telegraph* reports Japanese drivers are already banned from wearing slippers and geta.

Japan's first hostile takeover. Tokyo-based M&A Consulting launched a hostile bid for Shoei Co., an electronic parts and real-estate company with tied to the Fuyo keiretsu. MAC owns 2.8% of the company and is dissatisfied with its 1.5% return on assets. It is offering ¥1000/share, a 14% premium when the offer was announced. Shoei's major shareholders include Canon (holds 11.3% of Shoei shares), Yasuda Mutual Life (10%) and Fuji Bank. All three are members of the Fuyo keiretsu. As of early February, the Shoei board is opposing the bid, Yasuda has rejected the offer, and share price has since increased to ¥1,170, suggesting MAC's bid has little chance of success. Nevertheless, we're interested. MAC is a corporate acquisition vehicle set up by Mr. Yoshiaki Murakami, now 40 and an ex-MITI official. He says Shoei managers "have absolutely no concern for shareholders ... they think they're still salarymen at Fuji Bank." Furthermore, if this deal fails, Mr. Murakami says he is still preparing to make hostile bids for four or five other companies that he thinks are less profitable than they could be. A recent study by Nikko Salomon Smith Barney suggests he shouldn't have much difficulty finding targets: Nikko reports that as of December 1999, more than 50% of companies listed on the Tokyo Exchange's 1st section had a market capitalization less than their official book value. Mr. Murakami says Japan is the only country where this happens, and "the market has become quite warped."

Sega launches robot dog. Sega Toys Ltd. unveiled a robot dog in January. Poo-Chi is 17 cm high, moves its ears and legs, has six moods and eyes that light up in a heart shape. He retails for ¥2,980 – considerably cheaper

than Sony's AIBO robot dog. AIBO was launched last June and costs ¥250,000. Despite the very attractive price differential, equity analysts are somewhat skeptical of Sega's ability to compete with Sony. Our favorite quote: "One cheap dog does not make a stock." OK. So perhaps I won't buy Sega stock just yet. But is anyone going to Tokyo in the near future? I *want* that dog...

Fund-raising boom. *The Economist* reports demand for high-tech IPOs is "white-hot" in Japan this year. That's a good thing because Japanese companies need money. *The Financial Times* is blunt: "put crudely, Japanese companies have run out of money... Japan is facing a liquidity crisis". With Japanese banks consolidating and less willing to lend large sums at low rates based on old keiretsu ties, Japanese companies have had to become more creative in sourcing funds – issuing stocks and bonds, securitizing assets, sourcing venture capital and M&A financing. Fortunately, funding appears to be somewhat easier to source in many of these areas, particularly for start-ups. *The Economist* reports that a stock exchange listing on the TSE no longer requires at least two years' profits. The TSE is launching two new markets for high-tech startups in 2000: Mothers and Nasdaq Japan. Finally, underwriters and venture capital firms seem to be more interested than they were in the past. New York's Hambrecht & Quist (a well known technology underwriter) has moved in, Nikko has tied up with Salomon Smith Barney, becoming significantly more start-up friendly, and Goldman Sachs Japan has formed a high tech venture capital fund with Kyocera. Result: most analysts expect a boom in IPO activity in 2000. Where *The Financial Times* reports 60 companies raised a record US\$65bn on the TSE last year HSBC expects about 250 IPOs in Japan in 2000. *The Economist* expects many of these will be high-tech companies listing on Mothers and Nasdaq.

Got story you would like to see a news item for Adrienne's column? Forward it to her by e-mailing cjst@mailcity.org and clearly mark the e-mail as addressed to Adrienne Young.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

CJST Events at a Glance

February 23, 2000 - Canada Japan Trade E-Commerce Seminar, Royal York Hotel, 8:30 AM -12:30 PM, \$30 for luncheon only -\$50 for ½ day seminar and lunch - call (613) 288-4047 for details and RSVP by February 18. (check page 4 of this Newsletter or our website for more details).

Thursday March 2, 2000 - IchiMokuKai, Megummi Japanese Restaurant (9 Church St. just south of Front St.), 6:00 PM - ~ Come on out and enjoy an evening of socializing with other CJST members in the relaxed surroundings of the bar section of Megummi (stay to your right when entering).

Monday April 3 - Team Canada v.s. Team Japan, Women's World Hockey Championships, 7:00 PM Hershey Centre in Mississauga. If you are interested please contact Alan Bresgi at 416-223-6089 or e-mail Alan@servicekiosk.com by March 15 to and reserve a spot. Please call a.s.a.p. so we can try to book group tickets when they go on sale!

Other Events of Interest

February 16, 2000 - Kodo Master Taiko workshop, JCCC, 6-8:00 PM, \$20members \$25non-members.

February 19-20, 2000 - Katari Storytelling Group, JCCC, 19th-English, 20th-Japanese, 4-6:00 PM, all ages, call Y. Tanaka (416) 386-0287.

February 16, 2000 - Nishikawa Ensemble Canada Tour, Music Gallery, Japanese music using traditional instruments. \$10-15

February 18-20, 2000 - KODO Drummers of Japan, Massey Hall, 8:00 PM (18th, 19th), 2:30 PM (20th), \$40-55, reserve tickets - call (416) 872-4255.

February 22-26, 2000 - H*Art* Chaos, Premiere Dance Theatre, "Japan's #1 dance export", 8:00 PM, \$20. 207 Queens' Quay W. Toronto (416) 973-4000.

www.harbourfront.on.ca

February 23, 2000 - (Adult) Storytelling with Cathy Miyata & Guests, Japan Foundation, 131 Bloor St W, Ste 213 (416) 966-1600 www.jftor.org.

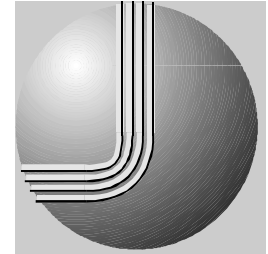
March 3-4, 2000 - Japanese Language Speech Contest, University of Toronto. Call Consulate General's Office, (416) 363-5488 or check out the website: www.japanccg-toronto.org for details.

March 4, 2000 - Haru Matsuri/Spring Festival, JCCC, all day family event.

March 11-12, 2000 - Dance Okinawa, Premiere Dance Theatre, classical and popular dance pieces with dancers and musicians, 11th 8pm, 12th 2pm, reserve tickets 207 Queens' Quay W. Toronto (416) 973-4000.

March 18-19, 2000 - Kids Festival, JCCC, see Pokemon, Kitty-chan and more!

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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