On Thursday, October 15, 2015, JASSI hosted its 34th Anniversary Benefit Dinner at the Yale Club of New York City. This event featured a silent auction, a beautiful performance by soprano Asako Tamura, and live “Emoji” name art performance by Taisan Tanaka. Ambassador Reichiro Takahashi of the Consulate-General of Japan in New York gave an anniversary speech and commended JASSI on its continuous contribution to the Japanese community for 34 years. JASSI was thrilled to present its Community Leadership Awards to Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc. and W & E Hospitality, Inc. to acknowledge their contributions to the Japanese community in New York. Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc. has been supporting the community for over 20 years as a member of Tomo no Kai (Friends of JASSI). W & E Hospitality, Inc. has been providing the annual New Year Osechi & Karaoke Luncheon to JASSI’s senior members for over 25 years at East Japanese Restaurant. The event was a great success, drawing over 125 attendees. JASSI deeply appreciates our attendees; volunteer members; our Benefit Dinner supporters; and generous auction donors such as Mikimoto (America) Co., Ltd., Citizen Watch Company of America, Inc., Kenro Izu, The Kitano Hotel New York, SEIKO USA, and Shiseido Americas Corporation.

JASSI 34周年記念チャリティーディナー

2015年10月15日(木), JASSIは創立34周年を迎え、イーブルクラブにてチャリティーディナーを開催しました。イベントでは、サイレントオークションを始め、ソプラノ歌手の田村麻子さんによる美しいソプラノの歌声や絵画家田村太山さんによる墨絵文字などが披露されました。在ニューヨーク日本国総領事館の高橋礼一郎ご夫妻にご出席いただき、大使から日系コミュニティに貢献して34周年を迎えたことに対するお祝いの言葉を頂戴しました。また、JASSIを通しての日系コミュニティへの多大な貢献を感謝し、Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc.とW & E Hospitality, Inc.にコミュニティ・リーダーシップ・アワードを進呈しました。Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc.はJASSI友の会会員として20年以上にわたり日系コミュニティをサポートされており、W & E Hospitality, Inc.はJASSIシニアの皆様に25年以上にわたりお節とカラオケ・ランチ会をイーストレストランにて開催してくださっています。当日は125名様の出席をご賜り、盛大なイベントとなりました。このイベントの収益金は全てJASSIの運営に使われます。ご多忙の中ご出席いただいた皆様、サイレントオークションにご寄付していただいた皆様（高額商品ご提供者様:Mikimoto (America) Co., Ltd., Citizen Watch Company of America, Inc., Kenro Izu, The Kitano Hotel New York, SEIKO USA, Shiseido Americas Corporation）、ボランティアの皆様、並びにご支援いただいた企業・団体の皆様に心よりお礼申し上げます。

Other Silent Auction Donors / その他のオークション品物ご提供者様

Volunteer Appreciation Party

On Tuesday, August 18, 2015, JASSI held a Volunteer Appreciation Party to show appreciation and applaud our volunteer members. Our volunteer members dedicate their time and effort to help us with event assistance, Friendly Visits, translation, preparation and mailing newsletters and donation letters, and office work. Twenty-four volunteer members joined for the day, and we awarded Certification of Appreciation to each member. We would like to also thank other volunteer members who could not attend the event.

Fundraising Seminar “Brain Mechanism”

On Wednesday, November 4, 2015, JASSI hosted its first fundraising seminar. A neuroscientist, Dr. Masayuki Sakamoto, PhD, was invited as a guest speaker to talk about “Brain Mechanisms, Memory, and Alzheimer’s Disease.” Among forty-three participants, a number of questions were raised. The seminar participation fees were donated to JASSI to provide social services to the community. We will regularly host such seminars, inviting guest speakers who are specialized in their fields. Please join us and learn something new or something you are interested in while helping people in need!

JCOP Grant Award Ceremony

On Friday, December 11, 2015, JASSI received a JMSA Community Outreach Program (JCOP) 2015 Grant, hosted by Japanese Medical Society of America (JMSA). This grant enabled us to increase access to medical care for the uninsured by informing and educating members of the Japanese community about health insurance options and available healthcare services. (Photo by JMSA)

AAF Meeting with NYC HRA Commissioner

On Thursday, February 25, 2016, as one of the leaders of Asian-serving non-profit organizations, JASSI joined a meeting, organized by Asian American Federation (AAF), with Commissioner Steve Banks of NYC Human Resources Administration to talk about the need for more language access services for HRA's programs. *We have “I Speak…” cards at our office to request for free interpretation services from HRA. Please come by if you need one!

Volunteer Appreciation Party

2015年8月18日(火)、JASSIでボランティア活動をしていた方々に対し感謝の気持ちを込めて、ボランティア感謝会を開催しました。ボランティアの方々にはイベントのお手伝いを始め、フレンドリービジット、翻訳、ニュースレターや寄付金依頼文の郵送準備、カフェワークなど多方面でご活躍いただいています。当日は24名のボランティアの皆様にご参加いただき、一人一人に感謝状を贈りました。ご出席いただけなかったボランティアの皆様にもこの場を借りてお礼申し上げます。

随筆「脳と記憶のメカニズム」

2015年11月4日（水）、JASSIは「いつまでも健康な脳を保つため知っておくべきこと」と題したセミナーを開催しました。脳科学の専門家である坂本雅行博士が、講師として脳と記憶のメカニズムやアルツハイマー病などの脳疾患についてお話していただきました。43名の参加者からは多くの質問が飛び交う活発な質疑応答が行われました。今後もJASSIでは専門家をお呼びし、役立つ有料セミナーを定期的に開催する予定です。セミナーに参加することで、新しい分野や興味のある分野を学びながら、コミュニティへの支援に繋がります。是非ご参加ください。

JCOP 助成金授与式

2015年12月11日（金）、JASSIは米国日本医師会（JMSA）が主催する助成金授与式にてJMSA Community Outreach Program（JCOP）2015年度助成金を受けました。この助成金により、保険未加入日本在住コミュニティーの皆様でも利用できる医療福祉の紹介、健康保険への加入のお手伝いを、必要に応じて医療機関を利用できるように支援することができます。

多言語対応の強化・推進に関する会合

2016年2月25日（木）、Asian American Federationが企画した多言語対応に関する会合で、アジアコミュニティを支援する主な非営利団体の一つとしてJASSIが出席し、ニューヨーク市的人材管理（HRA）ステージブ・バンクス局長とHRAのプログラムへの日本語対応の重要性について話し合いました。HRAのサービス利用の際に無料通訳を付けてもらえる“I Speak…”カードがJASSIにありますので、ご希望の方はご連絡ください。
HOTLINE PROGRAM  ホットラインプログラム

JASSI’s Hotline Program provides free information and referral services for those who are under 60 years old through phone, email, and in-person counseling. Crisis intervention, case assistance, advocacy, and companion services to court and other government agencies are provided as needed. During the first half of this fiscal year (July 1 - December 31, 2015), we handled 1,003 cases to help 460 people. The most common inquiries were ObamaCare followed by public health insurance such as Medicaid and the Essential Plan, women’s health issues, legal issues, governmental system, public benefits and entitlements, health-related issues, and visa problems. 71% of those people required assistance in Japanese. A case example includes:

**HOTLINE**

Mrs. A (40s), who recently lost her husband, contacted JASSI for health insurance consultation. JASSI’s enrollment counselor/social worker explained about the Marketplace plans and helped her family enroll in health coverage suitable for their financial situation. The social worker will follow up with Mrs. A to talk about Survivors Benefits and other public entitlements and benefits she is qualified for.

JASSI also provides case assistance to those who are 60 and older through its Senior Program. During the first half of this fiscal year, the Senior Program staff handled 860 cases, assisting 260 people. The most common inquiries for seniors were public health insurance such as Medicare and Medicaid, public benefits and entitlements, health-related issues, and visa problems. 62% of the seniors required assistance in Japanese. A case example includes:

**SENIOR LINE**

Mr. B (60s) who has a preexisting medical condition lost his Medicare prescription coverage due to his failing to pay premiums. Mr. B was not able to maintain his health without his prescribed medicine and needed to reenroll in his prescription coverage. However, his insurance company told him that he could not reenroll in his plan because the Medicare Open Enrollment Period had ended. JASSI staff contacted the Medicare Rights Center to find a way to enroll him in prescription coverage and recommended him to apply for the EPIC program to use a Special Enrollment Period.

**CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM**

With grants from New York City Department for the Aging, JASSI’s Caregiver Support Program provides services to those who care for loved ones over 60 years old. During the first half of this fiscal year, JASSI assisted 627 cases, supporting caregivers. A case example includes:

Mrs. C (70s), who was caring for her husband diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease for over 3 years by herself, contacted JASSI because she was mentally and physically exhausted and anxious about her financial situation. JASSI’s social worker provided supportive counseling, explained about public benefits, and advised her to consult a pro bono elder lawyer about end-of-life plans including living wills. The social worker also provided supplemental services for temporary financial relief.

70 代の C さんはアルツハイマー病を患われているご主人の介護を3年以上一人で行っていたが、金融面の他に心身共に不安になったため、JASSI へ相談されました。JASSI スタッフは C さんの状況を理解した上で生活改善策のアドバイスをし、公的制度を説明、また、遺言作成を含める相続法についてプロボノ弁護士と相談するようアドバイスしました。更に、プログラムから一時的金銭補助も提供しました。今後も多方面にわたり、継続的な支援を行っています。
FREE Seminar: Medicare 無料セミナー「メディケア」

On Wednesday, September 23, 2015, JASSI joined the 9th Senior Week hosted by Japanese American Association of New York (JAA) and gave a free seminar titled “Medicare: Medicare Basics for Those Who Are Turning 65.” JASSI’s Senior Program Coordinator, Mizue Katayama, explained about Medicare, and 30 participants also learned about available financial assistance for Medicare expenses.

2015年9月23日（水）、JASSIはニューヨーク日系人会（JAA）が主催する第9回シニアウィークに参加し、「メディケアとは～65歳になるあなたへメディケアの基本をお話しします」と題したセミナーを開講しました。JASSIのシニアプログラム担当片山瑞恵がメディケアについて解説し、30名の参加者は自己負担額を補助するプログラムについても学ぶことができました。

Shabu-Shabu Luncheon しゃぶしゃぶランチ会

On Monday, November 23, 2015, President Shuho Yagi of Shabu Tatsu Restaurant invited 40 JASSI seniors to his restaurant for Shabu-Shabu luncheon. The hot pot warmed up the participants, and it was a perfect get-together in such a cold season. Mr. Yagi has hosted this annual event for senior citizens for the past 25 years! He also donated $2,500 to JASSI at the event for the Senior Program. We would like to thank Mr. Yagi for his continued generosity and support.

2015年11月23日（月）、しゃぶしゅぶレストランの八木秀峰社長のご厚意でしゃぶしゃぶランチ会が開かれ、40名のJASSIシニアが招待されました。心も体も温まる熱々のしゃぶしゃぶ鍋を開んで、皆で楽しいひとときを過ごすことができました。八木社長はこのイベントを25年にわたってシニアに提供してくださっています。更に、八木社長から$2,500の寄付を頂きました。長年にわたり、JASSIのシニアプログラムやシニアの皆様をサポートしてくださる八木社長に心よりお礼申し上げます。

Osechi & Karaoke Luncheon おせち＆カラオケ・ランチ会

On Tuesday, January 12, 2016, East Restaurant invited 40 JASSI seniors to the annual New Year Osechi Luncheon. After the delicious Osechi and Ozoni (Japanese traditional New Year meals) lunch, seniors enjoyed Karaoke that they had been looking forward to. We greatly appreciate the generosity of President Taiki Wakayama and East Restaurant staff.

2016年1月12日（火）、イーストレストランの方々がJASSIシニア40名をおせちランチ会へ招待してくださりました。シニアは美味しいおせちとお雑煮を召し上がった後、カラオケを皆で楽しみました。JASSIシニアに楽しい時間を提供してくださったイーストレストランの若山大樹社長とスタッフの皆様にこの場を借りて厚くお礼申し上げます。

Nippon Club Osechi Delivery 日本クラブのおせち配達

On Thursday, January 28, 2016, Nippon Club donated Osechi Bento to JASSI seniors again this year. JASSI volunteers delivered Osechi Bento to those who live in nursing homes and who are homebound. These seniors were able to celebrate the Japanese traditional New Year in their residence. We would like to thank Nippon Club staff for their thoughtfulness.

2016年1月28日（木）、日本クラブより豪華なおせち弁当が寄付され、高齢者施設に住んでいる方や、外出が困難なシニアのお宅へ、JASSIボランティアによりおせちが届けられました。おせちを受け取ったシニアは、日本の伝統的なお正月を堪能することができました。日本クラブの皆様ご協力ありがとうございます。
Sunrise Mart Gift Cards

President Tadao Yoshida of Sunrise Mart donated fifty $50-Sunrise Mart gift cards (total of $2,500) to JASSI seniors and also donated $2,500 to JASSI. JASSI distributes the gift cards according to physical and financial needs. Please contact JASSI at 212-442-1541 if you wish to receive a gift card. We would like to thank Mr. Yoshida who has been providing such a generous number of gifts every year.

* Sunrise Mart offers home delivery services by phone. Call 212-598-3040 for more details.

Also, please check out the new Japanese-French cuisine restaurant, Autre Kyo Ya, in the East Village Mr. Yoshida opened in December 2015!

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Monthly Tea Party

JASSI’s volunteer members run the Monthly Tea Party to create a safe place for seniors to promote social interaction and maintain social support network while seniors enjoy tea and conversation. No reservation needed. Please feel free to come by. This gathering is held on the first Tuesday of the month. *We send out the monthly schedule to JASSI’s registered seniors.

On Tuesday, September 1, 2015, Mr. Norimichi Ishikawa performed his saxophone and Mr. Kazuo Hyakuda performed his ocarina at the Monthly Tea Party, and they played old Japanese songs. Also, nine students from Japan joined the event and danced to the music. It became a fun gathering.

On Tuesday, January 5, 2016, Mr. Kiichiro Iwaki joined the Monthly Tea Party and performed his violin for the participants and played Japanese New Year songs. His performance brought back memories of Japan, which made the participants feel nostalgic.

On Tuesday, March 1, 2016, Ms. Miho Negrao brought beautiful Ikebana to the Monthly Tea Party. Ms. Negrao donates floral centerpieces to our Benefit Dinner every year. We would like to thank Ms. Negrao for bringing spring into the gathering!

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2016 Health Insurance

Open enrollment for 2016 health coverage ended January 31, 2016. However, if you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period (SEP), you can still enroll in a health insurance plan for 2016. You qualify for a special enrollment period 60 days following certain life events that involve a change in family status, loss of other health coverage, or pregnancy*. Additionally, there is no limited enrollment period for Medicaid, Child Health Plus, or the Essential Plan. If you are eligible to apply for health insurance and need assistance, please contact our NY State of Health Certified Enrollment Counselor, Yoko Naka, at 212-442-1541 ext. 1 or 2. *Pregnancy is now a qualified reason for a SEP on NY State of Health.

FREE Cancer Screening Registration

Collaborating with the New York State Department of Health Cancer Services Program Queens, JASSI continuously assists in making appointments for a clinical breast exam and a pap smear for uninsured women who are 40 and older, living in Queens. If you wish to receive cancer screenings, please contact us. Next free screenings dates are April 14 & 28, May 12 & 26, June 9 & 23, July 14 & 28, August 11 & 25, September 8 & 22, October 12 & 27, November 10, and December 8 & 22.

*If you live in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Bronx, or Staten Island, we will refer you to the other appropriate programs. Please feel free to call us!

TAX FILING DEADLINE APPROACHING… If you earn $62,000 or less, you may qualify for FREE TAX PREP services, including online filing and in-person filing with an IRS certified VITA/TCE volunteer preparer. Check out NYC Consumer Affairs website at http://www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/consumers/file-your-taxes.page

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FREE Seminar “ObamaCare”

On Sunday, November 15, 2015, collaborating with the Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc. (KCS), JASSI held a seminar where New York Certified Enrollment Counselor/JASSI Director/Social Worker, Yoko Naka, explained about 2016 ObamaCare. Forty-six participants also learned about a new public health insurance plan, the Essential Plan, targeted for low-income New Yorkers. If you have questions about the Essential Plan, please go to our website or call or email us! *This seminar was funded by the KCS.
We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the following corporations for renewing their membership in Tomo no Kai (Friends of JASSI).

Actus Consulting Group, Inc.
Law Office of Ryoko Mochizuki and Associates, LLC-LORMA HR Advisory Service
Mitsubishi Heavy Industries America, Inc.
Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc./Mitsui U.S.A. Foundation
Mitsui Chemicals America, Inc.
Mizuho Bank, Ltd.
Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal U.S.A., Inc.
Relo Redac, Inc.
Sony Corporation of America
Sumitomo Corporation of Americas
Toyota Motor North America, Inc.

We thank Sachiyo Ito & Company for free tickets that enabled JASSI seniors to attend their cultural events!

Due to limited space, not all donors are listed. We thank you to all our generous donors!

Tadaaki Kuwayama
Shuji Yagi
Darin Arita
Motoatsu Sakurai
Sumiko Abe
The Tomoko Trust
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Teruko Neuwalder
Shuichi Nakaura
Kazuhi Wada
Mabel Tsufura
Asao Mori
Your **tax-deductible** donation will help JASSI continue to provide social services free of charge. Please make your check payable to “JASSI” and mail it to 100 Gold Street, Lower Level, New York, NY 10038. You can also make your gift online at http://jassi.org. Thank you for your support!

Name:

Street Address:

City, State, Zip:

Enclosed is my gift of: ☐ $25 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ $500 ☐ Other

About JASSI Reports

This Newsletter is published by Japanese American Social Services, Inc. (JASSI), an accredited non-profit organization, which was established in 1981 in order to address social needs of persons in the Greater New York City area. JASSI acts as a culturally sensitive source of support and information. Its services include application assistance for public benefits and entitlements.

このニュースレターは、福祉サービスを提供する目的で1981年に創立された日米ソーシャルサービス（JASSI）による発行。ニューヨーク州やその近郊に居住する方へ公的支援の申請のお手伝いなどを含むサービスを提供している。JASSIは、日米文化のギャップから生じる問題に対する支援先、また日系文化をふんだんな情報源としての役割を担っている。