



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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WE ARE LOSING OUR SOLE MAN

By Martha MacLachlan

Jose Shoe Repair, located at 202 Carlton Street at Ontario Street, is closing after 30 years. Reason: no business. With everyone wearing running shoes and, may I say, cheap shoes, no-one is getting their shoes repaired. Heels run down, out. Soles getting thin, out.

Jose Yanez, a master craftsman with over 30 years of experience, is known for his high quality, affordable leather and shoe repairs. Resoling, heel replacement, stitching for shoes, boots (including cowboy boots) and luxury heels, he has done it all, including the repair and restoration of leather bags, belts and jackets. Back in September, 2016, Jose announced his retirement. News of his impending retirement brought in an unexpected turnout of customers coming in to pick up and pay for their forgotten repairs or realizing there was a shoemaker in the neighbourhood.

Shortly thereafter, Jose rescinded his retirement and announced that he would continue for another six months to see if business would pick up. And it did. Ten years later and Jose is on the precipice again. This time, his retirement is for real. "There is just not enough business anymore", Jose said. "It's no good." He told me that a customer, when he heard the shop was closing, he brought in six pair of running shoes to repair. Jose said, "I can't do that. It's just gluing the soles. I can't guarantee that work".



Jose has a special relationship with 40H. Back in 2009, Jose (who is from Ecuador) came a-courting Lilia Pelaez (from Colombia) who was living here at 40H. Lilia had come from Colombia to 40 Homewood to care for her sister, who was suffering from cancer and to look after her son. When her sister eventually passed away, Lilia stayed and raised young Marco. Somehow, through serendipity and the extensive Toronto latin community, Lilia met Jose.

see Old Sole, page 3



Good Eats, Cheap Eats & Sweet Spots

By Dr. Cammy Lee Bostwick

Just a short walk from 40H, you'll find the latest outpost of the world famous Japanese Udon restaurant **Marugame** on the corner of Yonge and Grosvenor, just north of College.

Known for its reasonable pricing and cafeteria style aesthetic, Marugame makes its own Udon noodles onsite. Udon – made of flour, water, and salt – are thick, chewy noodles mostly found in soups or stir-fries. Here at Marugame, it is in soup and the broth is a fish base that is clear and a tad sweet. So you order your bowl in regular or large size, the difference is in the amount of noodles. There is plain, with beef or a fried sheet of tofu. I ordered large with the tofu (\$10.49). Then as you stand and wait for your bowl, there is a line up for the lightest and crispiest serve-yourself tempura. Each item is \$1.99. I chose shrimp and zucchini and an onsen egg, which is like a super runny lightly poached egg. There are also free tempura bits you can top your soup with. Then you pay and grab your utensils, sauces, and drinks or water.

Now here's the trick: finding a table. This is an "eat and leave" sort of place, not for lingering so seats do open up quickly but mind you, you've been on your feet the whole time. And if that's not your thing, then this noodle house might be a pass. I went during their soft opening and the lineup was around the corner but it has since died down.

Back to the soup. The broth was subtle and sweet. Noodles were nice and chewy. The sheet of tofu was sweet and the chopped scallion was a great addition. Tempura bits are a must. It reminded me of the noodle houses in Japan. All good but not mind blowing. Now the tempura is the star: due to sheer volume, and it is so fresh and light and crispy. I've often said the best tempura I've had was in Tokyo. Well, Marugame, coming from Japan, is on par. So if you're up for a different kind of dining experience, Marugame is totally worth checking out. I'm definitely going back.



Social Hour Get Togethers

By Community Matters

Social Hour happens every Wednesday night from 7 to 9 in the party room. We chat. We play games. We share a coffee or a tea. And we laugh. Some of us bake for the event. Some of us bring other sweets. Some of us come down with a glass of wine. No matter how you come, please come.

Old Sole *continued*

Every Saturday, after the shop closed, he would come over to 40 Homewood to pick up Lilia and take her to the various clubs hosting latin dance night. He said on their first date, it was snowing. She told him he was crazy to want to go dancing that night. He remembers saying to her, "honey, the party is inside, not outside". His eyes lit up when he spoke about discovering the O' Solo Mio latin dance parties where they spent the last seven years dancing. "Oh, those years were the best, we had so many wonderful evenings with great friends". Jose and Lilia have since hung up their dancing shoes, as age related leg problems have plagued Jose.



Thank you to Larry and David for creating the spring fling in our urns out front. We are grateful for their continuous volunteer work in taking ownership of the urns, making sure every season, that we are treated to a new display.

Be on the lookout for our "Community Matters Presentation" series. These are short presentations, no more than 10 or 15 minutes, on matters of general interest to our residents. The next presentation will be taking place on May 13, 2026 in the party room at 7:00 p.m. and it will be about how to make use of Uber Apps (Uber, for cabs/rides and Uber Eats, for food and grocery deliveries).

I wish I had pictures of them as a newly dating couple. Jose, dressed in a suit and well-polished shoes and she in a dress and heels, hair perfectly coiffed. The two of them walking down to Carlton to catch the streetcar, arm in arm, harkening to a dating era now gone.

You still have a chance to meet Jose and wish him a happy retirement. Aside from repairing bags, boots and shoes, you can also find a great selection of leather boots and shoes for sale, alongside leather belts and jackets. Cobble up your leather goods that need repair and make that trip to Jose's Shoe Repair. Give some business to a craftsman who has outlived an appreciation for his craft.





WORLD CUP WATCH PARTY



**Kick off the
tournament with
Canada vs Bosnia
Herzegovina**



2 - 6 pm

1B PARTY ROOM

cash bar available

**Friday June 12
kick-off at 3pm**

