

awa life

**TOPIA Japanese
Classes Schedule**

Pink Season in Kaiyo

March 2024

400



**Japan's Goshuin
Stamps**

Gairaigo Galore:
かっぱ



TOPIA

Awa Life is a Monthly Publication of the Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association

In this month's Awa Life, we have plenty of event information available for everyone! It's that time of year again where the sakura (cherry blossom) trees are going to start blooming. There are plenty of locations in Tokushima to view these beautiful flowers, so take a look at our Hanami Map for some suggestions. Also check out information about this year's Tokushima AJET Musical and the revived Tebajima Art Exhibition!

For all of those who like writing, please feel free to submit an article to us at any point in time about basically anything. There are a few limitations though, such as you can't write about religion, politics, commercial activities or businesses or anything that we deem inappropriate. But, other than that, we would be more than happy to receive articles about anything and everything including but not limited to concerts, lectures, other events, culture, sports, community group information or anything cool that's happening in your local community.

We highly appreciate all of your articles and we love reading them. So if that writing bug of yours is buzzing about, grab a pen or a computer and write and send away! Please send all submissions to our email:

Your editors,
Sydney and Rasmus

awalife@gmail.com

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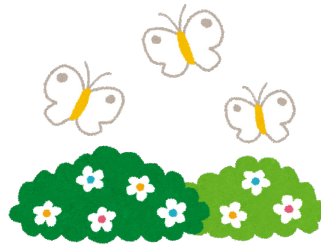
Sydney Bartig and Rasmus Burgmer

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Contents

- Pg. 2: Pink Season in Kaiyo
- Pg. 3-4: Japan's Goshuin Stamps
- Pg. 5: Japanese Lesson
- Pg. 6: Tokushima Culture and Reading Corner: 出羽島
- Pg. 6: Gairaigo Galore: かつぱ
- Pg. 7-9: Events and Memoranda



Pink Season in Kaiyo

By: Tony Lu

It'll soon be hanami season in Japan, and this year it seems cherry blossoms are expected to bloom a little earlier than usual (a delightful occurrence that seems to repeat annually...).

Perhaps not as well known to those outside of Kaiyo, Mt Myoken is the local hotspot for cherry blossom viewing. Overlooking the Kaifu River and ocean, Akiragen Shrine is perched at the top of the mountain, and adds a spiritual touch to the spot.

There are two paths up this mountain, one which starts near the PIA supermarket complex and winds its way up the mountain. During hanami season, cherry blossom petals blanket this pathway and, if you're lucky, you might even spot the DMV running along the tracks as you're climbing up! The other route is a long staircase that begins from the southern side of the mountain in the Okuura neighborhood.



Bonbori lanterns line both pathways up the mountain, and, as the sun sets, these lanterns come to life, casting a warm, atmospheric glow on the mountain.

So, if your calendar finds you in Kaiyo at the end of March, be sure to swing by Kaiyo's very own hanami haven!



Japan's Goshuin Stamps

By: Sydney Bartig

Have you ever heard of “goshuin” stamps? When you break down the kanji “御朱印” in Japanese, you get 御: Honorific Prefix, 朱: Red, and 印: Stamp/Seal. Goshuin can be obtained at temples and shrines all across Japan, although not every temple/shrine will offer them. In the past, these goshuin were proof of devotion, and were only given after dedicating a sutra to a temple. Some also believed that you would be able to take your goshuin to the afterlife and present them as proof of devotion.

Nowadays, goshuin serve as proof of visiting a shrine/temple, and can be purchased for a fee. (Prices can range depending on the size/intricacy of the goshuin.) One great thing to note is that you don't need to be Buddhist/Shinto to enjoy collecting these stamps!



Goshuin from Tsuda Hachiman Shrine (Tokushima City)

The traditional goshuin contains information such as the temple/shrine's name and the date you visited written in calligraphy, and is stamped with red ink as their name suggests. They are typically handwritten by monks at temples, kannushi (Shinto priests) at shrines, or other staff members such as miko (shrine maidens). While this describes the traditional goshuin, nowadays there are many different varieties, such as goshuin featuring cute drawings or ones with elaborately drawn art. Some locations even offer collaboration goshuin that feature anime characters or local mascots.

As the years have passed, goshuin have grown increasingly popular across Japan, with many temples and shrines offering seasonal limited

goshuin, monthly changing goshuin, goshuin for special holidays, goshuin for charities, and all other sorts of goshuin gimmicks to keep people coming back to collect the latest one. Collecting goshuin is especially popular among young women, giving birth to the term “御朱印ガール” (lit. goshuin girl). However, a wide variety of people enjoy collecting them, regardless of age or gender.



Goshuin from Ouji Shrine (Tokushima City)

Before you start collecting goshuin, it's first important to purchase a “御朱印帳” (goshuincho), which is a special type of book used exclusively for collecting goshuin. It is considered rude to ask for goshuin using a notebook or non-goshuincho option. Depending on the location, you may also be refused. Also, although it is rare that you will be refused, it seems to be the general consensus to separate goshuin from shrines and those from temples in different goshuincho. However, the decision is ultimately up to you.



Unique Goshuincho from Ouji Shrine

The goshuincho are typically in an accordion style so you can spread out the pages and see your collection all at once. Similar to the goshuin

Japan's Goshuin Stamps



Goshuin from Kamojima Hachiman Shrine (Yoshinogawa City)

themselves, there are a variety of goshuincho with cute or pretty designs. Some temples and shrines offer their own unique goshuincho, making the books themselves also fun to collect. You can also usually find them sold in stationary stores, book stores, or online.

There are plenty of shrines and temples within Tokushima that offer interesting goshuin for you to collect. Although I of course haven't had the chance to visit all of them yet, some locations that offer goshuin include Uji Shrine (Tokushima City), Kokoroyoshi Shrine (Tokushima City), Kamojima Hachiman Shrine (Yoshinogawa City), Hiwasa

Hachiman Shrine (Kaifu District), Tsuda Shrine (Tokushima City), Omatsudaigongen (Anan City), Oasahiko Shrine (Naruto City), Bizan Tenjin Shrine (Tokushima City), Tomida Omahiko Shrine (Tokushima City), and Omiwa Shrine (Tokushima City). Make sure to check each location's opening hours when visiting as someone may not always be available to write the goshuin.



Goshuin written on Awa Washi paper from Oasahiko Shrine (Naruto City)

Of course, for Tokushima and Shikoku we also have the Shikoku 88 Temple Pilgrimage. The stamps collected at these temples are known as "nokyō" instead of "goshuin" and are collected in a "納経帳" (nokyochō). Although minor, the



Goshuin from Bizan Tenjin Shrine (Tokushima City)

difference between goshuincho and nokyochō are that the pages of a goshuincho are blank, whereas the pages of the nokyochō will have the temple's names written and are used for a set of sacred locations (like pilgrimages).

Collecting goshuin can be a great chance for you to explore to Tokushima/Japan. When I started collecting goshuin, it gave me an opportunity to visit shrines in Tokushima that I had never been to before, some which I didn't even know existed! There are also plenty of people that enjoy collecting goshuin, and it is fun to compare collections.

Since this year is the year of the dragon, there are many time-limited goshuin featuring both adorable dragons and intricately drawn realistic ones. If you have the time, I suggest collecting a few goshuin. They can make for a great and unique memory!



Goshuin from Kamojima Hachiman Shrine (Yoshinogawa City)

「～たら、～」

〈Conversation〉

A: もし、100万円あったら、何をしたいですか。

B: そうですね。旅行をしたいですね。Aさんは？

A: わたしは、車を買いたいです。

B: ああ、100万円ほしいですね。

A: そうだ、会社が終わったら宝くじを買いに行きます。

B: 当たるといいですね。



The 「～たら」 form is made by adding 「ら」 to the 形 (けい) form of verbs, adjectives, etc. It is used to express something that you are unsure if it will actually occur or not. It is often used with the word 「もし」.

動詞 (V)	い形容詞 (いA)	な形容詞 (なA)・名詞 (N) +だ
行ったら	いそがしかったら	ひま/学生だったら
行かなかったら	いそがしくなかったら	ひま/学生じゃなかったら

〈Vたら、～〉 has 1 other meaning. It is used to express that after the action of the V is finalized, the speaker will then continue to do something.

Example: 学校を出たら、コンピューターの会社を作ります。

Practice Problems: Think about how the form is used in A/B, and decide which form matches the usage of each question. Write the answer in the parentheses ().

A: 時間があったら、お茶を飲みましょう。

B: 駅に着いたら電話します。

- もし、雨がふったら、買い物に行きません。()
- 昼ご飯を食べたら、出かけましょう。()
- お金があったら、世界一周旅行に行きたいです。()
- 夕方までに荷物が届かなかったらこまりますね。()
- 夏休みになったら、アルバイトをするつもりです。()
- うちへ帰ったら、すぐシャワーを浴びます。()

Tokushima Culture and Reading Corner: 出羽島

By: Junko Kimura

徳島県には人が住んでいる離島が5つあります。そのうちの一つの島「出羽島」を紹介しま
す。出羽島は周囲約4kmの小さな島です。徳島県の南にある牟岐港から連絡船で15分で行
くことができます。現在の出羽島の人口は60人ですが、多いときは1,000人もの人たちが暮ら
していました。昔は鰹漁を中心として栄えた漁村集落です。集落には「ミセ造り」といわれる
特徴的な家があります。島の気候は温暖で、ハイビスカスなどを楽しむことができます。また、
国の天然記念物「シラタマモ」という海藻が生えています。出羽島を歩けばすぐに気がつくと思
いますが、出羽島には自動車がありません。その代わりに、「ねこ車」という手押し車で荷物を運
びます。島内には漁の準備をしている人や、楽しくお喋りをしている人たちに会い、穏やか
な時間の流れを感じます。島でのルールを守りながら、町並みや自然を散策してみましょう。



Vocabulary List

離島	Isolated Island	漁村集落	Fishing Village	天然記念物	Natural Monument
周囲	Circumference	特徴的	Characteristic	海藻	Seaweed
連絡船	Ferry	気候	Climate	手押し車	Wheelbarrow
現在	Presently	温暖	Temperate	穏やか	Peaceful
鰹漁	Skipjack Tuna Fishing	ハイビスカス	Hibiscus	散策	Stroll

かっぱ (Raincoat)

By: Sydney Bartig

Gairaigo Galore



While we still have a few more months until the rainy season is upon us, I'm sure many of you who have already experienced the rainy season and are used to riding a bike in Japan own a raincoat. (If you don't, I recommend buying a nice one before the rainy season starts!) While you can simply use the word レインコート, another word is the gairaigo “かっぱ”. (Not to be confused with the green Japanese yokai kappa.)

This word stems from the Portuguese word “capa”, however the original Portuguese doesn't translate into raincoat. Its meaning is a cover that protects the inner contents of something, such as a book cover. かっぱ originally referred to the long capes that the Portuguese missionaries wore in Japan. Interestingly enough, the English word “cape” also stems from this Portuguese word.

While often written in hiragana, it also has a kanji version “合羽”. When worn by a person, it's apparently said that it looks similar to a bird with both of its wings together.

(Kanji Note: 合 : Together 羽 Wing)



Events & Memoranda

2024 Term 1 TOPIA Japanese Classes Schedule

Time: 10:30-12:00 Location: Meeting rooms at TOPIA Fee: Free

Textbook: We will be using the "Minna no Nihongo I" or the "Minna no Nihongo II" (2nd edition) textbooks (2,750 yen for the book and audio CD). Please prepare the textbooks on your own. Additionally, there will be themed lessons on various topics such as seasons and life in Tokushima.

DAY	TEACHER	LEVEL	CLASS DESCRIPTION	START DATE
TUE	Ms.Tamaki	Beginners	We will take the first step towards learning basic expressions. Text: Minna no Nihongo I from Chapter 1~13	April 9 (20 times)
WED	Volunteers	Group Lesson	This is a flexible group study class split up into 3 different groups. *For parents of young children, a childcare worker will be on hand to look after your child during the lesson. (Please make a reservation in advance. Childcare will be offered at TOPIA's meeting rooms or at the child-care facility in the Amico Building (5 min. walk from TOPIA).)	April 10 (20 times)
THU	Ms. Yamada	Elementary 1	We will study a variety of verb conjugations such as te form, nai form, and dictionary form. Text: Minna no Nihongo I from Chapter 14~25	April 11 (20 times)
FRI	Ms. Aoki	Elementary 2 - 3	We will study various forms and expressions such as potential, volitional, imperative, prohibitive, conditional, reasoning, passive, causative, and honorific expressions. Text: Minna no Nihongo II from Chapter 26~50	April 5 (25 times)
SUN	JTM	Elementary 2	We will study various forms and expressions such as potential, volitional, imperative, prohibitive and conditional expressions. Text: Minna no Nihongo II from Chapter 26~38	April 7 (20 times)
	Volunteers	Group Lesson	This is a flexible group study class split up into 3 different groups.	

* Please register for Group Lessons at least a day before the class. (If you do not sign up in advance and show up on the day of the class, we may not be able to find a group for you to study with.) Additionally, as the number of groups are limited, we may not be able to find a group that suits your level.

* If you are unable to attend class, please call and let us know.

* The Volunteer Classes on Wednesday and Sunday will be cancelled if no students show up within the first 30 minutes.

TUE	Ms. Kimura Others	Special Beginners Class	A class for those who cannot read or write hiragana or katakana. We will study the basics, such as the Japanese alphabet, greetings, numbers, and items. We will also be learning about Tokushima.	You may join at any time.
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*Classes may be cancelled if there is a typhoon, heavy rain, heavy snow, etc.

TOPIA will also post on their Facebook page by 8:30 AM if classes are cancelled, so please take a look.

TOPIA TEL: 088-656-3303 Email: topia@topia.ne.jp

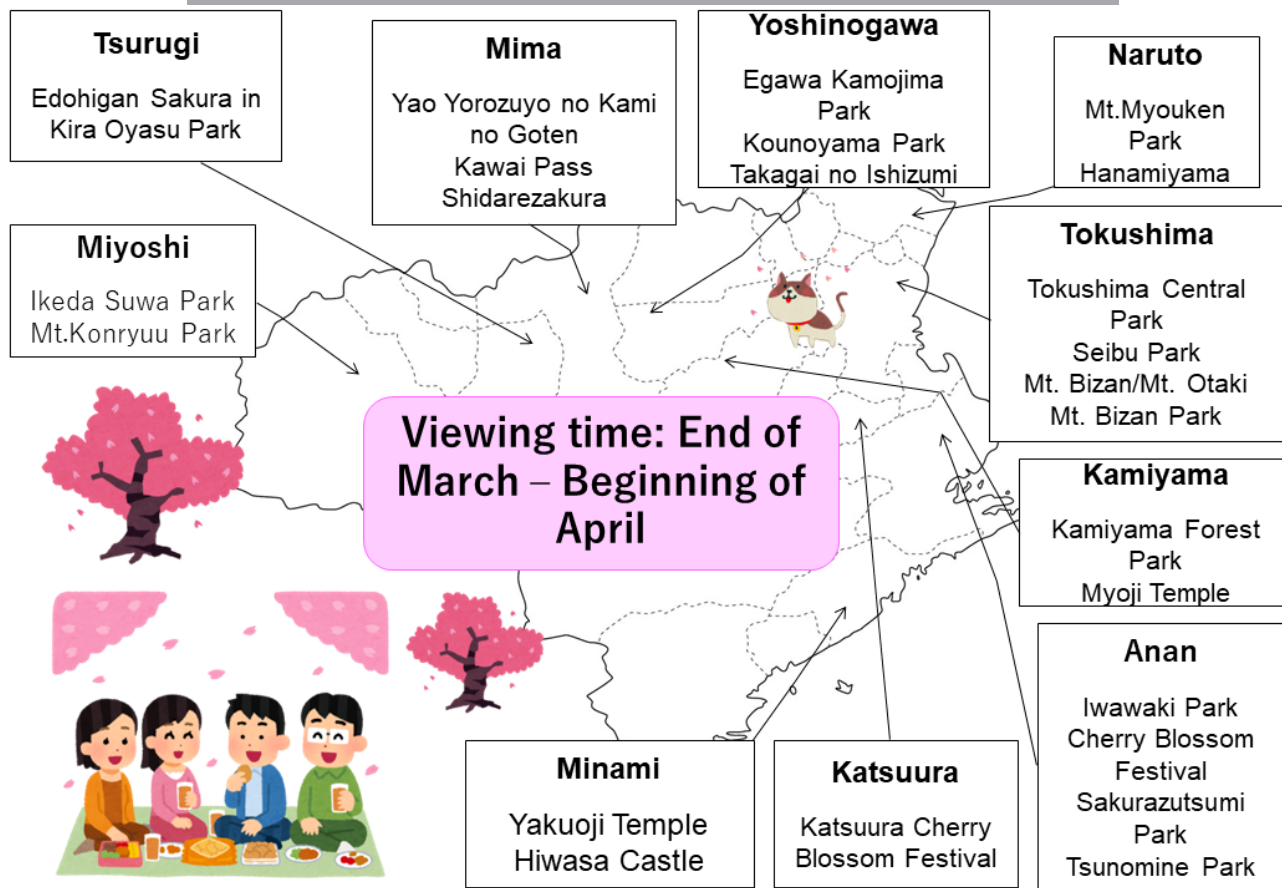


Japanese classes are also available at the Anan International Association, Aizumi Town International Exchange Association, Yoshinogawa International Exchange Association, Mima no Sato, Minami Multicultural Coexistence Network "Harmony", the Club for Thinking about Multicultural Coexistence "Tomoni" in Tsurugi Town, Awa International Exchange Association, and the NPO "Attakaiyou" in Kaiyo Town. Website: <https://www.topia.ne.jp/english/>



Events & Memoranda

Tokushima Hanami Map 2024 徳島県花見案内図 2024



Tebajima Mini Art Exhibition & Concert 出羽島ミニアート展 & ミニコンサート

The island of Tebajima is designated as a “Preservation District for Groups of Traditional Buildings”. Due to COVID-19, the Tebajima Art Exhibition couldn’t be held for 3 years, but now it is being revived with new contents! During the event period, in addition to the art exhibitions, there will be mini concerts, volunteer guided walks, workshops with a connection to nature, and many other events. Enjoy a nice bento lunch while basking in the sunlight of the island where time passes slowly. ♪

When: March 24th (Sun.) – 31st (Sun.)
Where: Tebajima Island, Mugi Town, Kaifu District
Inquiries: Mugi Town Board of Education
TEL: 0884-72-0107
URL: <https://tebajima.jp/1132/>

出羽島は重要伝統的建造物群保存地区に指定されています。
コロナ禍の影響もあり3年間開催が出来なかった出羽島アート展。内容もガラッと変わり復活します！
期間中、アート作品の展示はもちろん、ミニコンサートや、ボランティアガイドと歩く出羽島散策、自然とつながるワークショップなどイベント盛りだくさん。
ゆっくりとした時間が流れる島で日向ぼっこをしながらお弁当を召し上がれ♪

日時：3月24日（日）～31日（日）
場所：海部郡牟岐町 出羽島
お問い合わせ：牟岐町教育委員会
TEL: 0884-72-0107
URL: <https://tebajima.jp/1132/>

Events & Memoranda

AJET Tokushima English Musical

THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL

スポンジボブ・ミュージカル

入場無料! 先着順

開場は開演の30分前を予定

1) 3月2日(土) 16:00-18:00

北島町創世ホール

2) 3月3日(日) 16:00-18:00

四国大学・音楽ホール

3) 3月10日(日) 14:00-16:00

吉野川市アメニティセンター

4) 3月16日(土) 17:30-19:30

脇町オデオン座

5) 3月17日(日) 14:00-16:00

東みよし町役場



'Gift of the United States Government'

Counselling Service at TOPIA・トピアの相談窓口

TOPIA provides consultation on everyday life, education, labor, medical institutions, and disaster prevention; and information on sightseeing spots to overseas residents and visitors. When necessary, we will refer you to the appropriate organization that can assist with your needs. Counselling is available in English, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Japanese. Please note that although every effort will be made, we may not be able to deal with all cases.

Japanese, English, Chinese: Everyday, 10:00 - 18:00 (closed during the New Year's holidays)

Vietnamese: Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 10:00 - 14:00

Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, 10:00 - 18:00 (closed during the New Year's holidays)