

discovering mikawa house, tokushima

austin smith

Mikawa House sits on the banks of the Shinmachi River near the Prefectural Office in Tokushima-shi.

Built in 1928, it is the oldest European-style residence in the prefecture. Thankfully, the building survived the U.S. bombing of the city during the Asia Pacific War and was designated as an 'Important Cultural Property' by the national government in 2007. However, it currently stands unoccupied and inaccessible to the general public.

Mikawa House is currently owned and maintained by the Tokushima City Government. I was fortunate enough to be given a tour of the building and grounds to appreciate its layout and unique features, along with other members of Tokushima



the approach to mikawa house

City Board of Education.

radiology at Universität zu Berlin.

The house was originally owned by Yoshiyuki Mikawa, a doctor of obstetrics and gynecology who had studied

Following the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923, Mikawa

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inside awa life this month

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Download a PDF file of awa life or view the online version by going to TOPIA's website!

spring greetings

TOPIA president: masao otake

Hello Awa Life readers. My name is Masao Otake and I am the President of Tokushima Prefecture International Association (TOPIA). TOPIA, an already important engine for international exchange in the Tokushima, is embarking on a fresh start this year as a public interest incorporated foundation. Building up from TOPIA's activities, this year sees the launch of the Tokushima International Strategies Center, wherein the integrated efforts of Tokushima's citizens, government and related institutions will make us the "one-stop shop" for a multitude of information on Tokushima's international economic exchanges and more. This role will help us further regional internationalization. With continued efforts towards the diversification of our services, we hope to support a multicultural society, and increase the opportunities for grassroots international exchange in the prefecture.



young dancers at the awa odori demonstration during the tokushima hana haru festa (photo by brandon bollom)



(left to right) juanin ton, tsuyoshi amabe, takashi matsunaga, mari fujimoto

managing director: takashi matsunaga

Hello everybody – My name is Takashi Matsunaga, and this April saw me taking on the role of Managing Director at TOPIA. At TOPIA, we are continually working towards to making Tokushima more convenient for its foreign residents, as well as the dissemination of tourist information to international visitors and information regarding Tokushima’s economic international exchanges. I look forward to your support.

schools representative: tsuyoshi amabe

I’m a junior high school English language teacher. During my year at TOPIA, I hope be able to contribute to exchanges between Tokushima Prefecture school students and those visiting us from abroad. My hobbies are table tennis, going to hot springs, bowling, and playing the guitar, mandolin and the Japanese taiko drum. When I was younger I rode up and down Mt. Bizan on a unicycle. Nice to meet you.

administrative staff: mari fujimoto

My name is Mari Fujimoto – nice to meet you! Having spent 3 years at the Tokushima Prefecture Passport Center, this April sees me starting work at TOPIA. I can’t speak any foreign languages, but I’d like to put all my effort into supporting you all. Thank you.

chinese language cir: juanin ton

Nice to meet you all! I'm the new Chinese language Coordinator for International Relations - Juanin Ton. I'm from the Hunan province in China. It's an honour to be working at TOPIA & the Tokushima Prefectural Government International Strategies Division. I worked as a Japanese language teacher at home, and whilst I don't have a great deal of experience in international exchange I fully intend to make the most of the opportunity I've been given. During my time here, I am determined to provide further strength to the friendly relations between Tokushima and Hunan, Japan and China.



realised the importance of creating earthquake resistant buildings. He enlisted the help of Kinouchi Toyojiro, an industrial engineer who had also studied in Germany, at Leipzig.

Mikawa House was built in the Jugendstil style ('The style of youth'), a movement influenced by English Art Nouveau as well as Japanese applied arts and prints. Made from ferroconcrete, the house is said to resemble a German country house or castle – one of an array of cultural connections between Tokushima and Germany from this period.

The exterior of the house and surrounding garden are all that can currently be enjoyed by the general public, either from the roads along the banks of the Shinmachi River or from trains bound for Mugi on the JR line (which runs alongside the property). The house boasts curvaceous, mosaic tiled, balconies, a turret-style chimney and a gargoyle perched on the roof overlooking the river. The garden is a fusion of east and west, with moss-covered statues of lions and athletic figures in thoughtful poses standing amongst more traditional Japanese stone arrangements. This juxtaposition is continued throughout the interior of the property.



the billiards room

The layout of this large house is very different from that of other Japanese homes of the period. A grand porch leads to the main hall with doors to the drawing room, dining room and access to a corridor leading to the kitchen and utility rooms. A marble staircase can be taken up to the second and third floors, each with spacious landings and corridors. The landing on the first floor has parquet wood flooring and it opens on to a wide balcony over the porch below. There is also a billiards room with the original carom billiards table (pocket-less) standing in front of a large fireplace, in a state of disrepair.

The amount of period Western style features in the house is overwhelming, there are sash windows throughout the property and there is stained

glass over the double doors to the porch and balconies. In the majority of rooms the walls are papered and the floors are carpeted but they are badly worn and in a poor condition. Coving and skirting boards are other obvious European features while a number of rooms contain fireplaces and chandeliers hang from the ceilings.

Japanese influences remain, there is an eight-mat tatami room complete with sliding doors and an alcove, meanwhile, the main bathroom, on the ground floor, contains a large mosaic depicting traditional Japanese scenery.

Although the current condition of the interior is unfortunate, it is perhaps understandable given the most recent occupants - until approximately

twenty years ago, the house was used as accommodation for student nurses. Air conditioning units, modern bathing facilities, additional lighting, and western style toilets are just some of the notable later additions that would need to be removed to return the property to its former glory.

Although there are ambitions to transform Mikawa House into a museum open to the public it would require a tremendous amount of hard work and funding to restore the original features and remove later alterations. For the time being, we can be consoled by the fact that Mikawa House and the surrounding garden are being well preserved by the local government until funding can be found.

When I first published details of my visit to Mikawa House I was surprised by the response, locals recalled seeing laundry hanging from the balconies and bikes parked outside, there are even rumours that the building is haunted. I was pleased that the pictures I had taken had been able to bring back so many memories for the people of Tokushima, despite language barriers. I hope this article increases that exposure and raises awareness for the need to preserve our local culture.



the main bathroom, with a mosaic of a traditional Japanese scene



the landing on the second floor

If you have any more information regarding Mikawa House, or a story to tell, I would be happy to hear it. You can contact me at austin.alt@ezweb.ne.jp – a full collection of photographs taken at Mikawa House can be found at <http://austinsmithjp.wordpress.com>.



I spent a spring Sunday with two dozen foreign residents on a Feedback Tour organized by the Tokushima Prefectural Government International Strategies Division. Many of the tour's highlights were centered around west Naruto, and that section alone is steeped in history and culture, making for a great day trip.

One of the highlights of this tour was a taste of the Shikoku 88 O-henro Pilgrimage 四国八十八ヶ所遍路. It usually takes a couple of months to do the entire circuit, but Temples #1 and #2 (Ryozen-ji 靈山寺 and Gokuraku-ji 極楽寺) are only 15 minutes apart, making it the perfect stroll for first-time pilgrims. Ryozen-ji has a one-stop shop for your pilgrim wardrobe, prayer paraphernalia, and guidebooks in several languages. After weaving past a pagoda, statue-laden pond with fountains, and smaller halls, the smell of incense envelops you at the Main Hall (Hondo 本堂).

The first temple of a grand pilgrimage is a fitting start to your West Naruto journey.

Gokuraku-ji in particular lives up to its name (Paradise Temple) with a finely sculpted garden that borrows scenery from the surrounding mountains to create a vision of paradise on earth. Toss in a few eclectic features like the Buddha's footprints, a guardian deity that



jizo is the patron bodhisattva of lost, stillborn, and deceased children.

people place cups around this one when they pray

you pour water on when you make a wish, and a Jizo statue surrounded by colorful cups and this is one photoworthy temple. To top it all off, we were lucky enough to receive o-settai お接待, gifts of hospitality offered to pilgrims along the route by believers who wish to gain greater karma for helping those in need. Temple parishioners from Wakayama handed me a pack of tissues and a drawstring bag, along with a smile and a warm send-off.

As you walk between the two temples, you'll come upon

barracks surrounded by a wooden fence. Welcome to the movie set from the 2006 film "Ode an die Freude" (Baruto no Rakuen バルトの楽園), which is based on the true story of the WWI German POW camp near here. Known for the camp's open attitude and close interaction with locals, this is also the site of the first performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony in Asia, which was played by the camp's orchestra. Not only can you walk through replicated barracks and officer's quarters, but there is a working bakery

and a café where one can enjoy fig or apple bread with a cup of coffee or tea. The volunteer guides are dressed in military uniforms from the period and are more than happy to share stories of this unique wartime facility.

Awa Indigo artisans needed massive ceramic vats to store their dye, and kilns around Naruto developed a way to build pots as tall as a grown man. Now, most Otani-yaki 大谷焼 kilns fire mid-size dishes to use in landscaped gardens as water lily planters or goldfish ponds. We visited a kiln that allowed us to paint our own dish. The painted lines will burn to a rusty textured copper color, finished off with a base glaze of white, gray-green, or black. Surprisingly contemporary, I had my rice bowl delivered to me, adorned with sea turtles and whirlpools in a black base glaze. The gift shop also displayed a selection of coffee cups, dishes, and flower vases that take advantage of Otani-yaki's sturdy and bold style.



entrance gate to the bando POW camp movie set



a bowling alley was one of the creature comforts allowed german POWs by japanese camp officers

Burnt umber tones on a plate...the trickle of water over a statue...aroma of fresh-baked bread...Naruto's history

and culture are best enjoyed by engaging your senses and becoming a participant rather than a spectator.



就職のための日本語講座

自分らしい就職をめざして仕事にいかせる日本語やマナーを身につけよう！

期間：5月14日（火）～7月9日（火） 場所：ヒューマンわーくぴあ徳島
 時間：週5回（月曜日～金曜日） 9：30～12：30 実費：¥20,000
 対象：みんなの日本語 IIを終了したレベルの方

申込・問合せ： TEL 088-625-8387 FAX 088-625-5113
 URL: <http://tokushima.rofuku.net>

The cool light breezes of the early summer have arrived. It's the perfect time to invite somebody out for a picnic – but how do to it Japanese? We say:

“ピクニックに行きましょう”。



Be sure to try it out on close friends!

“ピクニックに○○○” (○○○→行こう)

“日本語を勉強しよう。” “漢字を覚えようと思っています。”

Sentences such as those above use the **volitional form** 『意向形』 of the verb (勉強しよう/ 覚えよう)

By following the volitional verb with “～と思う” or “思っている”, the speaker is able to express their wishes or will. Use of such sentences endings allows the speaker to either mutter their own intent to themselves, or invite the listener to do something together.

Q1. Fill the gaps with the volitional form.

- ① ① 天気がいいから、いっしょに公園で_____。(遊びます)
- ② ② お母さんといっしょに買い物に_____と思っています。(行きます)
- ③ ③ 今日は残業を_____と思う。(します)

Q2. The following sentences are incorrect uses of the volitional. Please correct the mistakes.

- ① ① 田中さんはラーメンを食べようと思っています。
- ② ② 私は日本語検定に合格しようと思いません

【解答と解説】 Answers & Explanations

Q1

- ① ① 天気がいいから、公園で遊ぼう。
- Inviting a close friend to do something together.
- ② ② お母さんといっしょに買い物に行こうと思っています。
- ③ ③ 今日は残業をしようと思う。
- ② and ③ express the speakers plans or intentions

Q2

- ① ① 田中さんはラーメンを食べようと思っているようです。
- <田中さんはラーメンを食べると思います。>*
- You can speculate another person's intention, but you cannot directly express it.
- ② ② 日本語検定に合格するように勉強しよう (がんばろう) と思います。
- <私は日本語検定に合格したいと思っています。>
- Success in exams is not decided by your wish alone.
- *< > are example sentences which do not use the volitional, but are appropriate for use in the above situations.

contribute to awa life!

Be it fiction, non-fiction, prose or poetry; funny, sad, long or short, we want your submissions! If you like to write, then express yourself! The following will not be posted: Religious, political, or commercial activities, businesses searching for clients or employees, things the Awa Life editors deem inappropriate.

If you have something you would like to share with the Tokushima community, email the editors at awalife@gmail.com!

letter from suketo hoikuen



by kazue inoue

suketo hoikuen staff

May is the time of year when those of you who embarked on new phases of your lives in the spring will be beginning to feel accustomed to the changes brought about. It's a season filled with new faces, and

it's likely that your children will also be encountering many new people.

Children become interested in playing with others at around 2 or 3 years old. However, a failure to understand their friend's feelings or an inability to effectively express their own can lead to arguments.

It is important that you cast a watchful eye over these interactions.

When arguments or disputes over sharing toys break out, treat these occasions as an opportunity to spur on your child's growth by helping to find a resolution. Listen attentively to your child's opinion and help to express the feelings of their friend.

Praise your child when they have made up with their friend, or when they have shared their toys. Teach them phrases which express feelings such as "I'm sorry" and "Thank you" will enable them to interact well with those around them.

This month's craft: Paper Airplane

Materials:

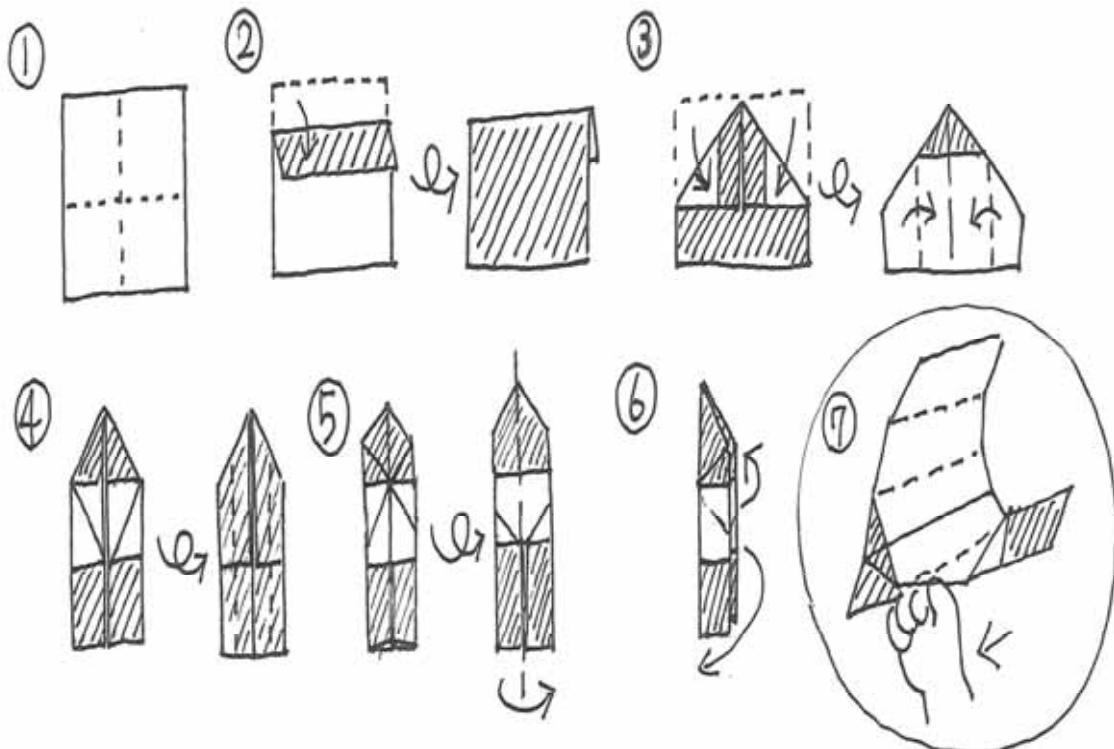
- Square sheet of paper

Instructions:

1 - 4. Fold the paper as shown below.

5. Turn the plane over and fold it in half (vertically).

6. Open the paper out from the center and extend the edges to form the airplane's wings



Spring: the season of picnics and outings.

A time when lots of berries are at their best. This 3 ingredient fix will help you along in using all those extra berries. Serve it warm, at room temperature or cut into wedges for those bento boxes.

Ingredients

2 cups of vanilla ice cream (melted)

1 ½ cups of hot cake mix

1 cup of blue berries/any other berry

¼ cup of salad oil (plus a little for greasing)

¼ tsp of salt

Cooking

1. Pre heat oven to 170° lightly grease a baking pan.

**ice cream cake**

2. In a bowl, whisk together the ice cream, flour, oil and salt and pour into the baking dish.

3. Scatter the berries on top and bake until golden brown or when a tooth pick

inserted in the middle comes out clean. About 30-35 minutes.

4. Let cool in the baking dish until serving time.

5. Itadakimasu!!



flying carp banners in oboke (photo by junko kimura)

TOKUSHIMA PREFECTURE
2013 JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST

1. **PURPOSE** True internationalisation cannot be achieved without first coming in touch with of other cultures and ways of life, fostering a sense of international awareness and gaining mutual understanding with people of the world to create a society in which we can all work and live together in harmony. This speech contest seeks to give a voice to the international residents of Tokushima Prefecture and engage them in a dialogue to further discourse on international understanding and cooperation.
2. **DATE & PLACE** July 21th, 2013 (Sunday), 13:30 - 16:30
Awagin Hall (Tokushima Prefecture Kyodo Bunka Kaikan)
Small Hall (5F)
3. **CONTESTANTS** A total of 10-12 contestants will be chosen from the applications. Only foreign residents of Tokushima Prefecture whose native language is not Japanese and who have not previously participated in this speech contest are eligible to apply. Also, to provide the event with as much international character as possible, only one person from any one country is permitted to take part (a maximum of two people are permitted to take part if there are many applicants from one country).
4. **THEME** The topic is left to your discretion, but it should relate to the event's purpose of international understanding and international cooperation.
5. **LENGTH** Speeches should be no more than 7 minutes in length.
6. **WHERE TO APPLY** Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association. (TOPIA)
〒770-0831 Tokushima-shi, Terashima-honcho, Nishi, 1-61,
Tokushima Clement Plaza 6F
TEL: 088-656-3303 FAX: 088-652-0616
7. **HOW TO APPLY** Please fill out the enclosed application form and mail it to the above address or fax it to the above number. Alternatively, you may submit your application in person.
8. **DEADLINE** May 24, 2013 (Friday) Applications must be turned in by 5:00 pm.
9. **AWARDS** Grand Prize --- one person
The Tokushima Prefectural Assembly's Chairman of the Federation of International Exchange Assembly Members Award --- one person
Runner Up Awards --- to be decided
Special Awards --- to be decided
10. **SPONSORED BY** Tokushima Prefecture International Exchange Association (TOPIA)
11. **CO-SPONSOR** Tokushima Regional Conference for Promotion of Student Exchange
12. **WITH THE SUPPORT OF** The Tokushima Prefectural Assembly's Federation of International Exchange Assembly Members
Tokushima International Association (TIA)
Awa Bank
Tokushima Bank
13. **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM** NHK Broadcasting, Tokushima Bureau
JRT Shikoku Broadcasting
FM Bizan
FM Tokushima
Tokushima Newspaper



kamiyama hot spring festival

神山温泉祭り

毎年恒例の温泉まつりです。餅つき・人形浄瑠璃の上演・あめごつかみ取り(対象:小学生以下・無料)など、多種多彩の催しがあります。

開催期間： 2013/5/26(日)
10:00～16:00
お問い合わせ： 神山温泉まつり
実行委員会
(神山温泉内)
TEL: 088-676-1117

This established annual hot spring festival has a variety of attractions, from mochi pounding and awa puppetry demonstrations to free amego trout catching!

※ Amego trout catching is for children of elementary school age and below

When: 2013/5/26 (Sun)
10:00-16:00
Where: Kamiyama Hot Spring
Info: Kamiyama Hot Spring
Festival Implementation
Committee
(Kamiyama Hot Spring)
TEL: 088-676-1117

The takegashima shrine summer festival is the stand-out summer festival of southern Tokushima, famous for the shrines being carried into the water, and the chaos that follows. *There may be years when the shrines do not enter the water.

Friday, the eve of the festival, will be marked with outdoor stalls and fireworks, with the portable shrines scheduled to be brought out on Saturday.

When: 2013/5/24 (Fri) - 25 (Sat)
* old calendar: 4/16
Where: Takegashima Shrine
Info: Kaiyo Town Tourism Committee
Tel: 0884-76-3050

takegashima shrine summer festival

竹ヶ島神社の夏まつり

県下のトップを切って行われる夏祭りです。海中に入る暴れ神輿が有名です。(※年によって入らないこともあります。) 24日(金)宵宮には出店や花火、25日(土)には神輿を予定しています。

開催期間：2013/5/24(金)・25(土)
旧暦 4月 16日
お問い合わせ：海陽町観光協会
TEL:0884-76-3050

Counselling Service at TOPIA トピアの相談窓口

TOPIA offers a counselling and advisory service to all foreign residents to help with issues involving accidents, working conditions, housing, visas, international marriage, and more. Counselling is available in English and Japanese. Please note that although every effort will be made, we may not be able to deal with all cases.

Everyday, 10:00 - 18:00
Tel. 088-656-3303 or 088-656-3320 (allows three-way conversations with an interpreter)

受け止めていますか人権の重み