
awa life



A monthly newsletter for international residents of Tokushima, produced by TOPIA, the Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association.

October 2009 No. 231

an introduction to tai chi

by trevor means

many people find it strange for a young American to be interested in something as difficult and obscure as traditional Tai Chi Chuan (commonly known as Tai Chi) but for me it is a window to the world with a connection to every facet of life. I know that many other students of the art share this feeling. I feel extremely lucky to have encountered Tai Chi Chuan. I often feel it is as much a responsibility as it is a privilege to do my best to pass it on to others.



"bend bow shoot tiger"

Before continuing, I would like to say that this article is written in dedication to my teacher, Master Yang Jun. He and his family gave up their lives to come to the United States to spread an art that is a treasure of Chinese culture. In comparison to the abilities of the Yang family I am still a relative beginner in this art. What little skill I possess is due

entirely to their generosity.

I still remember the first time I met Master Yang. It was the spring of 2001 and I had just left art school. It was a strange and tumultuous time in life. I had little idea of what to do or where to go next. Looking back, I really don't think the timing could have been better. Beginning the practice of such a demanding art under the

instruction of a traditional teacher really brought a sense of stability to the storm that was my world.

But first and more to the point, what is Tai Chi Chuan? Answering that could take awhile so please bear in mind that the following is an extremely simplified overview. Aside from being a unique culmination of Chinese history, culture, and philosophy, Tai Chi Chuan is one of the three main Internal Martial Arts of China, the other two are Baguazhang (八卦掌) "Eight Trigram Palm" and Xing Yi Chuan (形意拳) "Form Mind Boxing". Internal martial arts differ from external martial arts namely in their mental approach to fighting, their generation of power from the entire body and that they are heavily reliant on Chi Gong(气功) - a fusion of physical, mental, and energetic exercise - for the development and application of skill.

The most common English

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awalife

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www.topia.ne.jp/e_index.htm

from the editor

Autumn starts. Leaves colored. Fresh wind. Closed windows at night. Cool Biz is over. No my friends, this is not a Japanese rhyme (also it doesn't rhyme) this is what comes to mind for October.

My last summer memory for this year is the Kazura (Iya Vine) Bridge and the massive amount of people all going the same day as me. I went there a few times already, but the other times there were rarely people with us. Even in summer. But Silver Week brings people from all over the country to the exact same place where I wanted to go.

On the other hand, the excitement before entering the bridge while waiting in line for 20-30 minutes grew steadily. Finally arriving, paying the entrance fee (saved 10% with

coupons) a crowd of people standing on the bridge with myself and my guest together. Almost everyone (except me) screaming: "Kowai! Kowai!", the bridge is shaking, the vine strings are snapping, the crowd is ...

No, the last thing didn't happen. Everything was good and I enjoyed it even more. Going alone or with one friend is a romantic and silent experience, but crossing the bridge with hundreds of people is nerve-racking and fascinating.

What else do we have? Oh yes, rain. Let friends come over to your house and let them cook for you. Their speciality. Their favorite food. In most cases you will like it, and in rare cases it is exactly your favorite food as well. Take care!

Danke, Mario



under the iya vine bridge "kazura bashi" (photo by mario dammann)

an introduction to traditional tai chi ... con't from page 1

translation of Tai Chi Chuan is "Grand Ultimate Fist" but I've always found this interpretation a bit too lofty. Tai Chi (太極), means roughly: "great extreme". It refers to the philosophy of Yin and Yang; extreme opposites which create a whole. Basically, Yin refers to the receptive universal force and Yang to the creative Universal force. According to Taoism, the philosophy upon which Tai Chi is based; all events in the universe physical and otherwise are manifestations of Yin and Yang.

"Chuan" (拳) translates directly as "fist" but is also a common suffix used in Chinese to mean "martial art". So, when combined together, the characters 太極拳 "Tai Chi Chuan" can be understood to mean "Martial art based entirely on the philosophy of Yin and Yang".

So how can the philosophy of Yin and Yang be applied to a martial art? The best way to begin to understand this without actually practicing is to study the Tai Chi Tu, or Yin Yang symbol as most call it. You can see that the forces are clearly separated yet still combine and feedback upon one another in a reciprocal way. In fighting Yin is manifested as the energy of defense and understanding and Yang as the energy of control and attack.

Through correct training, the Tai Chi fighter develops the ability to intercept, interpret, neutralize and control the opponent's energy without resisting. Because of this, Tai Chi has also been referred



"single whip low form"

to as "Cotton" or "Shadow" boxing. This is an exceedingly difficult skill to acquire and requires long exposure to a very skilled teacher for real understanding. Even in the "Golden Age" of Chinese Martial Arts real fighting skill, known as "Tai Chi Gong Fu" (太極功夫) was revered as one of the most difficult skills to attain. The standard in the past was absolute calm and control of the mind and body in the most stressful situation imaginable - defending your life. There are only a limited number of people in the world today who possess Tai Chi Gong Fu.

The focus for most modern-day practitioners has shifted toward developing health and understanding. For people of all ages and abilities, Tai Chi has become a very effective method for dissolving the mental and physical effects of stress in the body and maintaining a refreshed, clear state of mind. This is a direct result of the practice method's

original intention - the development of extraordinary fighting skills. With regular practice the modern Tai Chi hand-form develops the stability, coordination, agility and overall sensitivity of the human body and mind.

Tai Chi also has an amazing way of fostering positive emotions and bringing people together. This, as Master Yang has told me time and again, is the real treasure of Tai Chi Chuan and should be the main intention when practicing or teaching.

After my first four years studying under Master Yang, I was asked to begin teaching. Upon moving to Japan, I was asked again to continue teaching and to contribute to the community in Tokushima. If anyone reading this article is interested in learning Traditional Yang Family Tai Chi Chuan please come to a free trial lesson Sundays from 4:30 – 6:30 at 〒 770-0932, Tokushima City, Nakano-cho 1-31, Email: Mihalis27@docomo.ne.jp

Also, if you are interested in learning more about Tai Chi theory and history please take a look at any material you can find on:

- Traditional Chinese Medicine
- Taoism
- Chinese Internal Martial Arts
- Chi Gong

And/or visit the following websites:

- * yangfamilytaichi.com/home
- * www.gstaichi.org/english/vincentChu.php



greetings from naruto

by anja hankel

hello and guten Tag! My name is Anja Hankel and I am from Berlin, Germany. In August I started to work as a Coordinator for International Relations in the German House in Naruto on the trail of my predecessor Patrick Wagner, whom I got to know in person shortly after my arrival in Japan at the post departure orientation in Tokyo and whom you might know from his farewell article in a previous issue.

Now you might think "Oh no, not again one of those draggy self introductions" you are forced to give (and read) when starting to live in Japan. But give me a chance, give girl power a chance! Why? Because I am not only the first woman to work as a CIR in the German House, I also came to Japan with my husband Carsten (31) and my two kids (Jakob and Klara). When we were told that I was chosen to be one of the new German JETs this year we could already imagine what life in Japan would be like as we both have studied Japanese Studies at Humboldt University in Berlin and in this context luckily have had the chance to experience Japan as exchange students at Tokai University in Kanagawa Prefecture from 2003 to 2004.

But for my kids it is the first time to be in Japan. So, helping them to adjust to a completely new country, language and also to Japan's hot summer climate and making them feel comfortable as they did back home in



Germany is one of our biggest challenges during our first months here in Tokushima. I think moving to Japan as a family is far more complex than doing so as a single person, but with the great help we got by now we realized that we can cope with it. Actually we did not expect to get so much help and such a warm welcome and are really thankful for this.

Another reason for feeling comfortable here is because we have the chance to live not far from one of the editors of this magazine, Mario Dammann, who is -yes, we all know it already- also from Germany. We have been friends since we started to study in Berlin together and as luck would have it we both got to work as CIRs in Japan and were even placed in the same prefecture, which proves the saying that this world is a small one, doesn't it? One more proof for this might be my following experience:

Three years ago I was writing some term paper about the Japanese Bon festival and Awa dance within my studies on Japanese annual events,

and as luck would have it here too, at this time an Awa dance group from Tokushima was touring through Germany and also came to Berlin to introduce the dance. Of course I went there to get a lively impression of it. The group was accompanied by an interpreter I was very impressed by. At that time I did not know that this guy was Mathias Hirschfeld, my predecessor and that I would be doing his work one day.

However, my enthusiasm for this dance has grown since I came to Japan and I even had the chance to take part in the Tokushima Awa Dance Festival with my family this August. Sounds like fun to live here? YES, I think it is!

I am also happy that my work in the German House is very interesting and that it offers a variety of exciting tasks to me starting with guidances through the Bando POW camp museum in the German House, translations of all kinds, giving speeches on various topics about Germany and ranging to helping organize the itinerary of the annual friendship delegations from and to Lüneburg and various other exchange activities with Germany. Living in the Naruto community together with my family also gives me the chance to strengthen the german-japanese friendship even on private levels.

In order to give interesting and competent tours through the German House and the Bando POW camp exhibition I concentrated on studying

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sand, surf, and shrines

by andrew dahms

What do portable shrines, rough surf and long lengths of rope have in common? Seen apart, they have almost no connection whatsoever, but put them together and you have one of the most exciting and physically demanding festivals of the entire year. And what's more, it all takes place here in Tokushima on the shores of Ohama Beach. That's right - it's time for the annual Hiwasa Hachiman Shrine Autumn Festival.



local townspeople fight to keep a portable shrine above water as they wade through the waves and into the surf

Autumn Festivities

It was a clear morning when I arrived in Hiwasa to find Ohama Beach a much different place than I remembered. A shinto altar had been set up on the south of the beach, cars lining the roads nearby, and a smattering of onlookers waiting with expectant looks.

Their wait wasn't a long one, either, as the festivities began soon after I arrived. The first of the shrines appeared on the northern reaches of the beach in the direction of the Hachiman Shrine, a swarm of people hot on its heels, cameras in hand.

Standing atop a large set of wooden beams that had been lashed together, nine high and nine wide, it took a team of more than forty to keep it upright. Inside sat a team of young children, beating away at taiko drums as the local residents below kept the shrine up high, carrying the weight of it on their shoulders as they marched down to the beach.

And they looked tired.

Reaching the surf, the

shrine paused for a few seconds before diving in, waves pushing up against the bearers as they waded down to shoulder height. Meanwhile, teams of onlookers watched on from the sand, some taking photos and others shouting cheers of support. Others held on to a large rope connected to the shrine, helping to anchor it and pull it along the beach.

Watching the shrines pass slowly through the roiling surf was tiring enough, but for the bearers, their struggles had only just begun. After wading the length of the beach, the shrines came back up out of the water, the sodden carriers taking it up the slippery sides of the nearby sand dunes to come to rest.

Start to finish, it was an epic journey, but by no means unique. Two more of the shrines were already coming out onto the beach and a further five stood in waiting at the nearby Hachiman Shrine.

The procession took two hours from start to finish, and

by the time it was done the beach was fully packed. A crowd had gathered and picnic baskets and hampers were laid out, and the shrine bearers enjoyed a brief respite as they returned to their families to enjoy a quick meal.

But quick is definitely the word, as soon enough it came time to pack everything back into the shrine, and the procession once more.

Good Luck!

The Hiwasa Hachiman Shrine Autumn Festival is held to pray for the success of the coming fishing season, and early comers will see as town officials gather with a shinto priest to offer a prayer to the gods before the day begins. The sight of the shrines is very stirring and it is a treasure chest of kodak moments for photographers. While it is certainly more of a spectator event, if you're looking for a good day and a touch of local culture, then this is the place to be.



greetings from naruto ... con't from page 4

the history of the former POW camp during the last weeks. To me a particularly fascinating feature of this camp history is the effect, which the exchange between the German prisoners and the local Japanese people produces until today: friendships have been made and are still intensively cultivated on different levels – the common interest in the other culture is still very strong on both sides. In 1974 a sister city contract between Naruto and Lüneburg was signed and it is important to say that it does not only exist on the paper, but is intensively and effectively cultivated.

After having adjusted to my new responsibilities during the past weeks I am beginning to realize that this workplace is a really unique one for a German CIR in Japan and I resolved to actively shape and support the Japanese-German friendship activities here in Naruto during the next few years.

At this point I would also like to thank Patrick for his kind support while we were getting prepared for our moving to Japan and for the smooth handover of the CIR duties in the German House. 



anja with husband carsten. he holds klara (1). in front is jakob (4).

And Anja wouldn't be Anja, if she wouldn't provide further information about Germany. Since September 2007 it gets more and more important to know, what happens in the prefecture's partner county of Niedersachsen, so here is the special information:

On Sunday, September 27, 2009 the German federal election took place to elect the members of the Bundestag, the federal parliament of Germany. Exit polls showed that the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), its Bavarian sister

party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), and the Free Democratic Party (FDP) won the election, and announced their intention to form a new centre-right government with Angela Merkel as Chancellor. Their main opponent, Frank-Walter Steinmeier's Social Democratic Party (SPD), conceded defeat. Since the 2005 election, Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU) had governed in a grand coalition with the SPD. However, it was her stated goal to win a majority for CDU/CSU and FDP (the CDU/CSU's traditional coalition partner) in 2009.

The federal election was the final and most important election in what is called a Superwahljahr (super election year) in Germany. In addition to the election of a new Bundestag, also scheduled for 2009 were the election to the European Parliament and seven local elections in June, five state elections and an additional local election in August and September, and the election of a president by the Federal Assembly in May. 

tv schedule for october

submitted

Date	Time	Channel	Nation	Title
Fri. 02	20:00	1 - Shikoku	New Zealand - USA - 2005	King Kong
Sun. 04	21:00	6 - ABC	USA - England - 1997	007: Tomorrow Never Dies
Fri. 16	21:00	1 - Shikoku	USA - 2004	Alien vs. Predator
Sat. 17	21:00	8 - Kansai	USA - 2002	Spiderman
Sun. 18	21:30	6 - ABC	USA - 1997	Air Force One
Fri. 23	21:00	1 - Shikoku	USA - 2002	Ghost Ship

martin's manga corner

by martin o'brien

Title:	Black Jack (ブラック・ジャック)
Manga-ka:	Tezuka Osamu
Publisher:	Akita Shoten
First published:	1973
No of volumes:	17

black Jack is a much-loved manga written by the influential father of the genre, Tezuka Osamu. It is probably the second best known of his manga after Astro Boy. The Black Jack stories are medical adventures starring the mysterious and reclusive yet brilliant doctor Black Jack. He is known to be one of the most talented surgeons in the world and will only (in most cases) assist those who can pay him vast sums of money. Although almost all of the stories involve him performing some operation with miraculous surgical feats, there is also great deal of variation in the themes covered in these stories. Elements of mystery, horror and science fiction are found in the 17 original volumes. In each volume there are numerous stories that can be read independently of each other. I have reviewed some of my favourites in volume 1.

The very first story "Is There a Doctor" sees the rich son of a corrupt fat cat business man in an Eastern European country go under the knife. The patient is on his deathbed, and only Black Jack can save him, but unfortunately the patient's body parts are so mangled and disfigured that a living donor will have to sacrifice his life to save the rich man's son. The business man captures someone to fulfill this

gruesome task, however Black Jack instead decides to change the face of the kidnapped victim to look like the rich man's son. In this opening episode of Black Jack, we see that despite his subversive, lone wolf outward appearance, he is motivated by a certain morality.

In another story "The Face Sore", Black Jack is asked to cure a bizarre supernatural phenomenon - that of a face sore resulting from the venom of a rare toad that causes a sore in the shape of a toad's mouth to appear around the body. The man who is suffering from this condition is in a bad way with the sore having spread all over his body and face. Unable to get the monstrous sore off by surgical means, Black Jack tries instead a different method: by shooting the man and then restoring him to health. The shock of the incident is successful and the man is apparently cured, however when his original face is restored, Black Jack seems to recognise him. The man is a wanted murderer and he tries to kill Black Jack after he becomes aware of the fact, however as he is about to shoot, the face sore comes back and thwarts his attempt. "The Face Sore" offers some brilliant plot twists and turns and also shows the stories on offer aren't exactly of the ER type medical drama.

In "U-18 Knew", Black Jack is requested to come to a cybernetics medical center in the US. At this medical facility all of the patients and the various medical procedures are controlled by a single high-grade computer. Unfortunately, there had been a malfunction with the computer, which had used it's AI to take over the facility and threaten to kill all the patients unless Black Jack comes to fix some mysterious illness that it (the computer) is suffering from. After he shuts it down, the medical staff try to stop him powering up the computer again but he manages to prevent them, as he had promised to perform the operation. After the malfunction is fixed and the power is restored, the computer thanks him and shuts itself down for good having decided to retire. Disaster is averted.

In "The First Storm of Spring" a woman that Black Jack has performed an eye operation keeps seeing a tall handsome man everywhere she goes. It is apparently symptomatic of the operation, but Black Jack is perplexed. He finds out that the cornea that was used in the transplant operation came from a murder victim. Black Jack believes that the image of the man was imprinted onto the cornea due to some strong stimulus, perhaps during her murder. In the meantime, the patient finds the real man, but it turns out he is the murderer and he tries to kill her to cover himself until Black Jack intercedes and once again saves the day.



awa puppet theatre month

**tokushima prefecture
culture promotions bureau**

From Saturday, October 3 to Tuesday, November 3, "The 100 Stages" event will be held throughout the prefecture. There are In and Outdoor performances of this traditional puppet theatre. Many performances are free for entrance. Enjoy the classical performing art, the living tradition, rural village stages, a link to religion, moving screen doors and especially of course the puppets.



Here in Topia you can get the Official English Pamphlet for this event. With listing of the Highlights of all stages. We don't have enough space in Awa Life to write about every performance so please come to Topia and get your pamphlet here.

More information (but in Japanese only) is also available at this internet address:
joruri100.com/schedule.html



letter from suketo hoikuen

**by kazue inoue
suketo hoikuen staff**

In Japan they say "reading in autumn". Autumn is a season of the year which has easy to get through weather, the sunset is early, there is more time to spend with the family. Autumn is the perfect season for reading. Especially infants love it when they sit on their father's or mother's lap and get a story told from a picture book. It also helps to deepen the affection between parent and child, and cultivates the imagination and originality. Don't you want to find a picture book, what you and your child will love?

page is important, from the book cover to the back cover).

- The ending should be a short and a happy one!
- The world of picture books is precious. (Hold back with giving explanations or asking questions. Without these, a picture book can be enjoyed much more.)

This Month's Toy:

Paper Sumo Fighters - A game which is inspired by the famous Japanese sport of Sumo.

Instructions:

- 1: Make two paper fighters like in the picture to the bottom. Fold them in the middle.
- 2: Draw a big circle on an empty box, draw two lines in the middle and the sumo wrestling ring is ready. On top of it you put the paper sumo fighters and start tapping with your fingers on the edge of the box.
- 3: The fighter who first leaves the ring or falls flat loses.



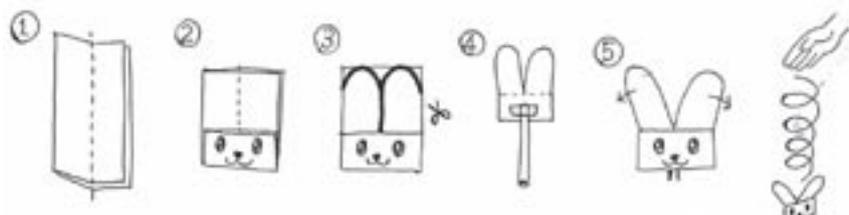
Important points for reading a picture book:

- Embrace your child on your lap and show the picture closely (in a picture book every



Errata:

In the September issue of Awa Life in our Suketo Hoikuen Corner we had a printing mistake. The picture for "This Month's Toy" was unavailable. Here it is. We would like to apologize.



japanese lesson

by kyoko kamura

This month we talk about 「～てくる」 and 「～ていく」.

Kate and Ms. Tanaka had made an appointment. The agreed time comes, but Ms. Tanaka isn't. Another ten minutes past, and Ms. Tanaka finally arrived.

田中さん：遅れてすみません。バスに乗り遅れて、ここまで走ってきました。

Ms. Tanaka: Sorry for being late. I missed the bus, so I ran to here.

Why did Ms. Tanaka not use 「ここまで走りました。」, but instead 「ここまで走ってきました。」?

Are 「ここまで走ってくる (いく)」 and 「ここまで走る」 both the action "to run here", or do they have a different meaning?

「走ってくる」 is, while you run (走る), you will arrive until here. But how they come/go (what they use) to arrive here, is expressed.

Let's try and make a sentence:

Try! A: Use 「歩く」 to go to the train station. → ()

There are also other ways to use 「～てくる」 and 「～ていく」.

① a. 「先月、日本に帰ってきました」 "Last month I returned to Japan."
Meaning: The speaker about coming closer to this region (here is Japan)

Try! B: A foreigner moved next door. → ()

b. 「船がどんどん離れていく」 "The ship moves away steadily."
Meaning: Where is the speaker right now? And the coast? That's right.

With other words, it expresses to go far off the speaker.

Try! C: A thief escapes the police. → ()

② 「ちょっと切符を買ってきます。」 "I'll go and buy a ticket."
Where is the speaker right now? At the ticket window?

Meaning: The speaker moves away from the actual position to buy a ticket and will come back again.

Try! D: Left the house, went to the supermarket, bought something and came back.

→ ()

④ 「ここで休んでいきましょう。」 "Let's rest here before going on."

It expresses the going after an action.

The action before going in this sentence is even more important.

Try! E: Let's play here a little, and then do the next thing. → ()

Answers:

Try A 駅まで歩いていきます。
Try B 外国人が隣に引っ越してきました。
Try C 泥棒が逃げていきました。
Try D スーパーへ買い物に行ってきました。
Try E ここで少し遊んでいきました。

memoranda

Multicultural Festival is coming!

On Tuesday, November 3, the Multicultural Festival will be held in Flair Tokushima. One of the guests this time is Mr. Kai Shishido, famous actor from TV shows introducing foreign countries. Furthermore we have a Global Dance Experience Corner, a panel exhibition (Theme: International Exchange Associations in Tokushima Prefecture), a singing contest (see also page 12 for more information), and many more events are planned. Certainly drop by for a visit, the Multicultural festival is free for everyone!

When: Tuesday, November 3 (national holiday)
from 10 am to 4 pm

Where: Flair Tokushima (in Asty Tokushima - near Bunri University)

Cost: Free!

Info: Call TOPIA at 088-656-3303

多文化共生フェスティバルを開催します!!

平成 21 年 11 月 3 日、フレアとくしまにて多文化共生フェスティバルを開催します。今回は、ゲストに海外紹介ドキュメンタリー番組などでも活躍中の俳優、宍戸開さんをお迎えしてお話を伺います。そのほかにも、世界のおどりや県内の国際交流関係団体パネル展、外国人のど自慢（12 ページで詳細情報を GET）など、盛りだくさんの内容です。ぜひ遊びに来てください！

日時: 平成 21 年 11 月 3 日（火・祝日）
10:00 ~ 16:00

場所: フレアとくしま（アスティとくしま内）

入場料: 無料！

問合せ:（財）徳島県国際交流協会（TOPIA）まで
電話 088-656-3303

Hiwasa Hachiman Shrine Festival

Come to Hiwasa for the Hachiman Shrine Autumn Festival, in which eight large portable shrines are carried on a procession down and to the surf of Ohama Beach to pray for good luck for the fishing season.

When: Saturday, October 10 from 12:00-21:30
Sunday, October 11 from 10:50-18:00

Where: Saturday - throughout the streets of Minami-cho, and at the Hachiman Shrine in the evening for a fireworks display. Sunday - Hachiman Shrine to Ohama Beach.

Cost: Free!

Info: Call the Minami-cho Industry Promotions Division at 0884-77-2474.

日和佐八幡神社秋祭り

10 日に行われる町廻りから始まり、11 日には 8 台のチョーサ（太鼓屋台）が大浜海岸を駆けまわり、波濤の中に飛び込む勇壮なお祭りです。

日時: 10 月 10 日（土）、12:00 ~ 21:30
10 月 11 日（日）、10:50 ~ 18:00

場所: 10 日：美波町内（町廻り）・八幡神社（宵宮）、花火、
11 日：八幡神社～大浜海岸

入場料: 無料！

問合せ: 美波町産業推進課まで
電話 0884-77-2474

memoranda

平成 21 年度
藍住町国際交流協会

日本語ボランティア養成講座 受講者募集!

●●● 外国の方への実践的な日本語の教え方を勉強しませんか ●●●
藍住町国際交流協会では、徳島県の事業として、(財)徳島県国際交流協会(トピア)との協力で「日本語指導ボランティア養成講座」を開催します。

とき 前期: 平成 21 年 10 月 24 日 ~ 12 月 20 日の間 計 8 回 (合計 24 時間)

- ① 10 月 24 日 (土) 午前 9:30 ~ 12:30 (以下時間は全て同じ)
- ② 11 月 1 日 (日) ③ 11 月 8 日 (日) ④ 11 月 15 日 (日)
- ⑤ 11 月 21 日 (土) ⑥ 12 月 6 日 (日) ⑦ 12 月 13 日 (日)
- ⑧ 12 月 20 日 (日)

後期: 平成 22 年 1 月 ~ 2 月 (詳細は日程が決まり次第お知らせします)
* 前期は「みんなの日本語 I」、後期は「みんなの日本語 II」の教え方を学びます。

ところ: ①~⑥は、藍住町福祉センター 2F (088-692-9951)
⑦⑧は、藍住町女性センター 1F (088-692-6266)

受講料: 無料

テキスト: スリーエーネットワーク「みんなの日本語 I」2,500 円をご購入ください。

定員: 20 名程度

申込締切: 平成 21 年 10 月 20 日 (火)

藍住町国際交流協会事務局 (担当) 松田

〒771-1203 藍住町奥野字矢上前 32-1 藍住町社会福祉協議会内

TEL 088-692-9951 FAX 088-692-1626

E-Mail aizumi_kokusai@garnet.nmt.ne.jp

Japanese Lessons at Suketo Hoikuen

When: Every Thursday
11:00 - 12:00

Cost: Free for nursery students!

Info: Call TOPIA at
088-656-3303

助任保育園の 日本語教室

日時: 毎週木曜日
11:00 ~ 12:00

金額: 託児付き (無料)

問合せ: トピアまで
電話 088-656-3303

memoranda

Tokushima Multicultural Festival Japanese Singing Contest Participants Wanted!

- 1 Overview:** This singing contest provides a chance for foreign residents to learn about Japanese culture through singing songs in Japanese, and an opportunity to promote international understanding between the participants and the audience through the participants' self introductions.
- 2 Organiser:** Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association (TOPIA).
- 3 Time:** Tuesday, November 3, 2009 (15:00-16:00).
The Multicultural Festival will run from 10:00-16:00.
- 4 Location:** The Multicultural Festival venue - Tokiwa Hall.
The Gender Equality Exchange Centre, Flair Tokushima
770-8055 Tokushima-shi Yamashiro-cho Higashi Houji 1 (ASTY Tokushima)
Tel: 088-655-3911
- 5 Conditions:** Foreign residents only. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of positions, placements will be decided by TOPIA. In principle, a maximum of only 1-2 participants from a particular country will be selected. Applicants will be contacted until the end of October 2009 as to whether or not they have been selected.
- 6 Details:** Japanese Singing Contest.
10 Entries (group entries possible)
* A karaoke machine will not be provided.
- 7 Prize:** All participants will receive an award for participation.
- 8 Cost:** Free.
- 9 Deadline:** Applications must be received by Friday, October 16, 2009.
- 10 Applications:** Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association
770-0831 Tokushima-shi Terashima Honcho Nishi 1-61
TEL 088-656-3303 FAX 088-652-0616

Please note that photographs of participants may appear on the TOPIA website and / or related publications.

For more information, and application form, please contact Mr. Harada at TOPIA:

E-mail: harada@topia.ne.jp FAX: 088-652-0616

* Full details will be provided after application.

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.

Monday to Friday, 10:00 - 16:30

Tel. 088-656-3303 or 088-656-3320 (allows three-way conversations with an interpreter)

人権守って輝く明日