
awa life



"TOPPY"

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

January 2006 No. 187

Happy New Year!

あけまして
おめでとう
おめでとうございます！

あけまして
おめでとう
おめでとうございます！



あけまして
おめでとう
おめでとうございます！

artwork by hisatoyo murasawa

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awa life

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http://www.topia.ne.jp/e_index/e_index.htm

from the editors

happy New Year to everyone! I hope everyone is managing to keep warm and dry in this cold season. As I write, there have been some snowfalls and freezing temperatures lately which has driven my husband to leave the taps running (just a dribble) overnight, since the waterline could freeze otherwise! He also tells me to watch for errant cars when I'm out walking, since Tokushima drivers are not used to these slippery, icy roads. As a Canadian, I'm quite comfortable with the cold weather, but I'm learning that there are a whole new set of things to watch out for here in Tokushima when the temperature drops.

Love, Claire.



happy New Year to you all! Well, 2005 has finally come to a close, and I hope it was a productive one for you. Now is the time for making those New Year resolutions, and to looking forward to all that the coming months will bring. I am going to have a busy year, myself, and at last my first ever chance to the cherry blossoms in flower!

Kicking off this year in Awa Life, we have an article by Josef Addleman on the **Yuki Gassen** in the Iya Valley, Claire writes to us about the Kanji of the Year, and Travel Tokushima heads a little further on from the earth pillars of Dochu to see the historic streets in Wakimachi. As always, take care, and I hope you keep warm as the coldest time of the year rolls around!

Cheers, Andrew.



these pieces of paper are fortunes (omikuji) recieved from shrines - if you draw a bad fortune, you can tie it to a place within the shrine and pray for the gods to change your luck (photo by Andrew Dahms)

catch-phrase grand prix

Happy New Year! How was your year 2005? Were you able to achieve your New Year's Resolution? Me? I forgot what my resolution was, so I don't know if I ended up achieving it or not. In the world, many events happened during the year 2005, both good and bad. These events make **流行語**, or popular terms and phrases found in the media. In Japan, the **流行語大賞** (Catch-Phrase Grand Prix) is held every year. Have you noticed anything that your Japanese friends or students keet saying or doing? Do you know any **流行語** for 2005? Here are a few of the popular phrases that won prizes in this year's Catch-phrase Grand Prix

小泉劇場 (Koizumi Theatre): During the House of Representatives' election in September, 2005, there was the appearance of **くのいち** candidates - high profile female candidates chosen by Prime Minister Koizumi in a campaign to gain popularity and win out against the Prime Minister's political opponents, called Koizumi's Assassins. Then there came the issue of privatization of the postal system - this and other political displays earned the title **小泉劇場**.

想定内(外) (It's within expectations): Live Door

president Takafumi Horie coined the **想定内(外)** in response to the media during a bid to take control of Nippon Broadcasting System and Fuji TV Network earlier in the year. The reverse of the phrase - **想定外** (outside expectations) is also used.

クールビズ (Cool Biz): Cool Biz was a movement for dressing light during the hotter months of the year, run under the leadership of the government. Just by taking off one's tie and jacket and keeping the room temperature around 28°C, it was possible to save energy on cooling. As you may know, TOPIA also partook in the Cool Biz campaign this year. You might have thought that TOPIA wasn't all that cool last summer - this was because we were saving energy! However, in consideration of tie companies' business concerns, the government is proposing that we should wear ties and jackets to keep warm this fall and winter. Now, it is time for **ウォームビズ** (Warm Biz).

フオー! (Foo!): Masaki Sumitani of comedian pair **レイザーラモン** (Razor Ramon) disguised himself as "Hard Gay", appearing as **レイザーラモンHG** on TV months ago with the catch-phrase 'Foo!', and became really popular. He has his own unique way of shaking

his hips that I personally don't enjoy. Who on earth would be interested in him? That's right - elementary school kids. I believe there were many kids, one after another whose parents slapped them to try and get them to stop copying him.

ブログ (Blog): "Blog" stands for web-log. They've become very popular now since they are much easier, convenient and low-cost (sometimes free) than before. You can put a diary and pictures on the web. It is one of the best ways to tell your friends or family how you are.

萌え ~ (Passion): It means to have a special feeling for something particular, and is used often in a web site called **二チャンネル** (2ch). This web site is popular for **おたく** ("geeks"). However, after the television drama series **「電車男」** (the story of an **おたく** boy who falls in love with a beautiful woman and how he tries to change himself in order to be liked by her), this web site became famous and very popular. The word "萌え" has come into a much more generalized usage.

I knew English speakers used quotes from speeches, books, etc., but I also recently found that we Japanese do the same. I wonder what or whose phrases are going to be popular in 2006?



iya snowball fighting

by josef addleman
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ah, the nostalgic sensation of a sharp impact to the back of the head, followed by the icy dribble of snow down one's back. Growing up in Eastern Canada, this feeling, along with snow-filled boots and red, numb hands, was as much a part of winter as not wanting to get up for school. When I heard there would be a snowball fight tournament in Higashi-Iya, I jumped at the chance to join. A few weeks later, cut to me, wearing a crash-helmet, hiding in the snow behind wooden barriers, clutching my slushy spheres and preparing myself to execute "Plan B" on the Captain's command. This is the all-Shikoku **Yuki Gassen** tournament, and it's not like it was on the playground, baby.

I had been offered a place on the "Iyashishi" snowballin' team - a ragtag band made up of Japanese and foreign people from around the vicinity of the Iya valley. We'd heard that the winning team of the event would get a free trip to Hokkaido to participate in the national tournament held there. So we decided to take this thing seriously, to train hard and conquer all who stood before us with our high-velocity packed snow. When we arrived at an indecently early hour at the Iyashi Onsen in Higashi-Iya where the fun was to take place, other teams were showing up and organizing their affairs at their designated tents.

Between the childrens' and adults' teams, there was somewhere upwards of twenty groups eager to get to



snowball fighting action in Iya

Hokkaido. Many of the teams had interestingly themed uniforms, such as those dressed in baseball outfits, and last year's champions, the rainbow wiggled "Afro Five". Our team wasn't scheduled to play for a few hours, so we had some time to observe how the other teams played.

The first and most important difference between a spontaneous snowball fight and the **Yuki Gassen** is that there are rules. Rather a lot of them, really. The game is played on a field 40 metres long and 10 metres wide, divided into four equal areas and strewn about with sturdy wooden barriers. A team's snowballs (90 for each game, stamped out by snow presses about a half hour in advance) are stored in boxes in the back areas, behind the rearmost barricade. I can hear the surprise and shock of those reading this: "wait... pre-made snowballs? Isn't the field covered in snow?" Well, the field was indeed snowy,

and the weather perfect for the event, but this is one of the key points of the game. All snowballs are made in advance - if you're seen making snowballs, you'll be called out by one of the six judges watching every match.

Also, of the seven team members on the field, four are designated as 'Forwards' and three as 'Backs.' Only the Backs are allowed into the back quarter of the field where the snowballs are stored. If a Forward runs out of ammo behind the center barrier, they're more or less useless unless one of the Backs can carry or toss some more snowballs up the field. If a Forward accidentally takes a step into the back area, it's game over for the team. Likewise, if more than three members of a team cross the center line into the opponent's territory - whistle blows, game over. You might ask why you would really want to run into the opponent's territory. Well, the answer lies in the last element of the field. Towards the back of the second section (ie. not where the snowballs are stored), the team's flag is proudly stuck into the ground. If a player can grab the opponent's flag and pull it out of the ground before taking a hit, that's a victory for the team. Most of the time, this is how games are won, though it's also a victory if you can eliminate all your opponents or if you've taken out more enemies after three minutes. As you might guess, the judges frequently stop

iya snowball fighting... con't on page 5

mikan kanten

by yusri johan
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One of the big fads in Japan for 2005 was the **kanten** diet. **Kanten** is known as agar-agar in English - it's a seaweed product that can be used simply likely gelatin. The fad was so wide-spread that it was impossible to find **kanten** on grocery-store shelves for some time due to increased demand outstripping supply. **Kanten** contains no calories in itself, and is high in fibre. A study publishing the many health benefits of eating **kanten** was released this year, and a popular television show, Aruaru Daijiten, showed a segment where people tried a **kanten** diet and had improved health and weight loss, said to be the source of the boom.

At this time of year, **mikan** (also known as mandarins, satsumas, or tangerines) are plentiful, so try this simple recipe using **kanten** and **mikan**.

Mikan Kanten

0.5 C hot water
1.5 C **mikan** juice (juice only if pulp is not preferred in the final result)
1.5 Tbsp of **kanten** jelly (if the **kanten** jelly is from a box with individual packs inside, each pack is about 1.5 Tbsp.)
1-2 Tbsp sugar (if you like a sweeter dish)
Peeled **mikan** segments (optional).

Mix the **kanten** jelly with some of the hot water in a small container to dissolve it. In a pan, bring the rest of the water to a boil. Add the **kanten** jelly mixture and sugar into it and let boil for a couple more minutes, stirring constantly. Take off the heat and pour it into the **mikan** juice. Mix well. Transfer into individual molds and add some peeled **mikan** segments if you wish. When cooled, refrigerate until set.



iya snowball fighting con't from page 4...

play to confer, and there are often tense moments after the action where both teams wait to find out who has won.

So in short, there's a lot of strategy to the game, and a lot of furious action. Though we lost in our second game due to our overzealous "Plan A" (remember the rule about having too many people over the center line), we had a great time, and were quite happy to hit the onsen at the end of it all. My congratulations to the winning team, who really wanted to eat some Hokkaido crab. I hope to see some of you brave snowball fighters taking the field in Iya next year!

Catch this year's **Yuki Gassen** at the grounds of Iyashi Onsen-kyo in Miyoshi-gun on Sunday, 29 January, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. For more info, call 088.388.2983.



kanji of the year

by claire tanaka
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Ever since 1995, the Japan Kanji Proficiency Test Association (<http://www.kanken.or.jp/index.html>) has sent out a yearly request for suggestions for the Kanji of the Year. People all over Japan submit their suggestions for the one character that best sums up the past year. 2004's Kanji of the Year was 災 - **wazawai** - disaster - which was chosen mainly because of the Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake and the many strong typhoons that hit Japan last year. Of course, 2005 has seen its share of natural disasters as well, but



Kanji of the Year - 'ai'

it wouldn't do to have the same kanji two years in a row now, would it? This year's Kanji of the Year is much more optimistic - 愛 - **ai** - love. Among the reasons for

choosing "love" for this year's kanji were that this was the year that princess Sayako was married, relinquishing her imperial status and becoming a commoner, as well as the Aichi World Expo ('Aichi' is written with the kanji for love). Also among the reasons this kanji was chosen was that there were a number of people named "Ai" in the news, including golfer Ai Miyazato, and young Princess Aiko, who may stand to become Japan's first Emperess if proposed legislation passes, making it possible for women to succeed to the imperial throne.



travel tokushima - wakimachi

by andrew dahms
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moving along from the earth pillars of Dochu, there is another place you can visit that is relatively close by - the historical streets of Wakimachi.

The streets of Wakimachi are formed of houses built during the **Edo** to **Meiji** periods in Japanese history (around 1700-1900). During the **Edo** period, they became the scene of a variety of markets and stalls on account of heavy traffic through the region, and even to this day the streets are home to a great many stores.

Perhaps the most notable aspect about the streets, however, are the **udatsu**, which were made as preventative measures against fires by raising the edges of the roofs an extra level above their standard position. Made around 1707, the streets of Wakimachi are the site of the most **udatsu** remaining in all of Japan. In 1988, they were declared part of

Japan's national heritage as historical architecture, and have even had a place in the recent television drama "Mito Komon".

The **udatsu** are even the subject of the proverb, '**udatsu ga agaru**', meaning to have become very well to do. Traditionally, **udatsu** were very expensive to acquire, and so they also came to be known as a symbol of wealth.

What to do there: First of all, take a walk down the streets and enjoy the atmosphere of the buildings and the various architectural styles. There is a great difference in many of the styles in the **udatsu** and the buildings themselves, and in the evenings, the streets are lined with lanterns that give a warm glow to their surroundings.

They are also home to a great variety of stores selling local specialities, ranging from food to indigo dyed products and much more, so make sure you have the time to

do some browsing and taste some local food. You can also find some information for the recent drama nearby, and you can also find the Odeon-za Theatre. There is also the Friendship Hall, with indigo dying demonstrations and displays, a place to rest and sip some tea, as well as some guide videos, pamphlets and more.

All in all, there is a range of different places to visit, and the streets are a great place to soak up some local culture.

How to get there: You can easily access the area by train, and it is only a 35 minute trip from Tokushima City to Anabuki station. From there, it is a 15 minute walk across the river and then follow it along left until the streets appear on your right. If going by car, head off the Wakimachi IC and follow route 193 for around 3km, turn right off on to route 12 and proceed for another 2km. Public parking is available close by for free. 🚲



houses in traditional Japanese style in the historical streets of Wakimachi

martin's anime corner

by martin o'brien
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Title: Detective Conan
 (名探偵コナン)
Series Directors : Kanetsugu
 Kodama, Yasuichiro Yamamoto
Creator: Goushou Aoyama
First Aired: Japan (1994) U.S.
 (2004)

detective Conan (Meitantei Conan) is a 17-year-old genius detective named Shinichi Kudou who has the unfortunate fate of being trapped in a 7-year-old body. This unusual predicament occurred because of an incident where by Conan was poisoned by two suspicious members of mysterious underground crime organization he was investigating. The poison shrank Conan's body to that of a 7 year old but it didn't hinder his crime solving abilities. The quickwitted Conan managed to fool his girlfriend Ran into believing that he's just a 7-year-old boy. The many opportunities for detective work come his way because he gets the chance to live with Ran and her father and work in their private detective agency. His abilities are further enhanced by the help of some friends he makes at primary school (he has to skip back a few years unfortunately) who form a club called the detective boys.

Detective Conan was created by Goushou Aoyama in 1994, originally serialized in the weekly magazine "Shounen Sunday". The success of the manga resulted in an anime series which further enhanced the popularity of Conan in Japan. The success of both the manga and anime have

been ongoing and currently there are more than 48 volumes of the manga and over 300 episodes of the anime broadcasted. The series had currently been running for 10 years. In this time there has also been 10 feature length films produced, all of which have seen nationwide cinema releases. These are Timed-Bomb Skyscraper (Tokei Jikake no Matenro), 1997. The 14th Target (14 banme no Target), 1998. The Last Wizard of the Century (Seikimatsu no Majutsushi), 1999. Captured in Her Eyes (Hitomi no Naka no Ansatsusha), 2000. Countdown to Heaven (Tengoku e no Countdown), 2001. The Phantom of Baker Street (Baker Street no Bourei), 2002. Crossroad in the Ancient Capital (Meikyū no Crossroad), 2003. Magician of the Silver Sky (Ginyoku no Magician), 2004. Strategy Above the Depths (Suiheisenjō no Strategy), 2005 and the current release Requiem of the Detectives (Tanteitachi no Requiem).

My favourite of the Conan movies is 'Strategy above the Depths'. The movie is set aboard the luxury cruise liner Aphrodite on which Conan and his family and friends are holidaying. The movie begins, however, on a different ship, whose fate is somehow connected to the Aphrodite. The ship is seemingly misdirected by a sinister looking man in a naval uniform and hits an iceberg. As the ship is going down, the captain is discovered dead in his cabin. The action then switches to Conan and his

former girlfriend Ran and his detective boys enjoying life aboard the luxury cruise liner. They are accompanied on the voyage by Ran's father, the incompetent but headstrong Kogoro. However, their playful life aboard the Aphrodite is soon disturbed by a murder. The victim is Entarou Yashiro, a wealthy and powerful company president. Like the good little detective he is, Conan soon begins to investigate the crime. Although Conan's youth is sometimes an obvious disadvantage, being a seven also has a few advantages as well - namely the fact that suspicious individuals are not as likely to distrust a 7-year old in their presence. Conan's attention is drawn to a writer known as Hironari Kusaka. Using his youthful innocence, he tricks Hironari into letting him into his cabin, and discovers some valuable clues in the process.

As mysteries go, Strategy above the Depths is fairly predictable, but I still enjoyed the film due to the comedy element brought to it by the bumbling Kogoro. There are also many deft action sequences, particularly the climactic end where we are left wondering whether or not it is the end for the young Conan. While Strategy Above the Depths is not available on international release yet, TMS have been busy promoting the series editions of Conan abroad. Detective Conan goes under the name of Case Closed in the US due to legal issues with the Conan the Barbarian crew. Only in America.



letter from suketo hoikuen

by kaoru sakamoto
 awalife@gmail.com

The cold has come on quickly – how are you all doing? Are you managing to stay clear of catching a cold this winter?

The passing of the year goes very quickly, doesn't it, and now it is already December. At this time of the year, here and there in the streets you hear the sounds of Christmas songs and children and adults alike become excited.

And what those kids who love the Christmas time are looking forward to are presents from Santa, perhaps? Now is when we feel the warmth and kindness of exchanging presents with one another.

However, the gift Santa brings to all of us, regardless of differences in culture, is the smile that fills our children's faces as we spend time

together in a world filled with dreams – the pure-hearted belief in something that cannot be seen with the eyes.

No doubt, when our children grow older, these memories will be treasured by them, and will provide them with the strength to overcome difficulties that may arise.

Next year will be a wonderful year as well! I hope you have a great time.



shin mai mama nikki

by claire tanaka
 clairish@gmail.com

The Japanese tradition of starting school as well as new jobs in April also extends to daycare. And the application period for applying to send your child to daycare is the first two weeks of December.

So, on December second, (it took me a day to get up the nerve), I bundled Sofie up and headed down to my nearest daycare with the application form from City Hall in hand. According to Tokushima's English-language child-rearing handbook "Sampo", fees for public daycare are decided in accordance with the family's income. Apparently, I will have to wait until my income is analysed before being told how much daycare will cost.

I always seem to have trouble when I have to deal with the family register people at City Hall. This time, when we went to register Sofie's birth, we were told that unless I brought in my passport showing my new last name, Sofie would have to be registered with my maiden name! And they absolutely



the Tanaka family out for a stroll

needed my passport - my alien registration card was not good enough. Apparently I had not had my name updated on the family register when I went in to get a new alien card made with my new last name. Too bad I will never have to do this again, because I feel I've finally gotten the hang of it! Needless to say, the Child-rearing Division of City Hall is a lot more straightforward and user-friendly - I was able to apply for the **jido teatekin** (child-raising allowance) without any difficulty at all. This is a program where the City gives families ¥5000 per

month per child to help with costs until the child finishes 3rd grade of primary school.

Meanwhile, I am still on maternity leave, spending my days at home taking care of my baby, and trying to get out for some fresh air every day, despite the cold. I have both a sling-type baby carrier and a stroller (known as a "baby car" in Japanese). Right now, I prefer using the sling, because it is easier to keep both she and I warm when I have her against my body. Of course, this doesn't stop the local **obasans** from coming up to me to let me know "she'll catch her death of cold!" My husband tells me this is just their way of saying hello. Another way the locals have of saying "hello" is to ask "how's your **chichi** (breastmilk)?" I also learned from some local Elementary student-aged boys that her name, Sofie, is also the name of the lead character in the recent Hayao Miyazaki film, Howl's Moving Castle! Having a baby is certainly a good way to get to know your neighbours.



Japanese lesson - keigo

by akiko tsuji
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This month we will be taking a look at **keigo**. **Keigo** is a set form of language used by a speaker to express respect for another person. There are three types of **keigo** - honorific, humble and polite speech. This month we are going to focus on honorifics - take a look at the following conversation:

<p>tanaka a n s a n m o u k o n o 田中： アンさん、もう この shiryō o yomimashitaka 資料を読みましたか？</p> <p>Tanaka: Ms. Ann, have you already read this data?</p> <p>a n アン： いいえ、まだです。 tanaka s a n w a m o u 田中さんはもう (1) yomaremashitaka 読まれましたか？</p> <p>Ann : Not yet. Have you read it yet?</p> <p>tanaka w a t a s h i m a d a d e s u 田中： 私もまだです。</p> <p>Tanaka: I haven't yet, either.</p>	<p>a n s o u d e s u k a j a a アン： そうですね。じゃあ、 douzosa k i n i どうぞ先に (4) oyomikudasai お読みください。</p> <p>Ann: I see. Please read it first.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p>tanaka a n s a n s h i r y o u o 田中： アンさん、資料を douzo どうぞ。</p> <p>Tanaka: Ms. Ann. Here is the data.</p> <p>a n a r i g a t o u g o z a i m a s u アン： ありがとうございます。</p>	<p>a n o u n a k a m u r a b u c h o u あのう、中村部長は m o u o y o m i n i もう (2) お読みに narimashitaka なりましたか？</p> <p>Ann: Thank you. Well, has Mr. Nakamura already read it?</p> <p>tanaka h a i o y o m i n i 田中： はい、(2) お読みに narimashitayo なりましたよ。</p> <p>Tanaka: Yes, he has.</p>
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The below diagram shows how honorifics work. Respect is shown by raising the person spoken of above oneself.

The speaker (Ann) the listener or person being referred to (Tanaka, Nakamura)

Verbs

- The same verbs used in the passive are used as respectful verbs.
- おVます -form に なります This pattern is considered politer than (1).
- Special respectful words. Look at 【Special verbs】.
- おVます -form ください This is the respectful way of instructing or inviting someone to do something.

【Special verbs】 Honorifics (sonkeigo)	
行きます kimasu 来ます imasu います	いらっしゃいます irasshaimasu
食べます tabemasu 飲みます nomimasu	meshiagarimasu 召し上がります
言います iimasu	おっしゃいます osshaimasu
知っています shitteimasu	ご存知です gozonjidesu
見ます mimasu	ご覧になります goranninarimasu
します shimasu	なさいます nasaimasu
くれます kuremasu	ください kudasai

Answers: ① お読みください
② いらっしゃいます
③ 召し上がります

Practice

The following is a conversation at a Japanese-style hotel. Put the appropriate honorific form in the parentheses. Some nouns can be turned into their honorific by attaching お or ご to the front of the word. ex. お車、ご家族

受付： いらっしゃいませ。お車で (①) 。 Welcome - did you come by car?

客： はい。 Yes.
受付： では、すみませんが、ここに お名前と、お車の ナンバーを (②) 。

Well, please write your name and number of your car here.

客： はい。 Yes
受付： 夕食は 何時に (③) 。

客： 7時ごろに お願いします。 I'd like to have it about 7.

受付： わかりました。では、どうぞ ごゆっくり。 All right. Please make yourself at home.

Nengajo Display

年賀状展

when: Tuesday, January 23 to Sunday, January 29
9:30 to 16:30

where: The Aioi Shinrin Museum of Art in Naka-cho

cost: ¥300 entry

for more info: Call the Aioi Shinrin Museum of Art at
088.462.1117

Come along and see a display of **nengajo** artwork from all across the country!

Outdoor Japan

アウトドア・ジャパン

OutdoorJapan.com is a site (in English) dedicated to those seeking fun outdoors in Japan. Whatever you want to do, if it's outdoor you'll find it at OJ.

contact: Matt Lindsay @ surfmatt@outdoorjapan.com

Japanese Lessons - Ongoing

日本語教室

JTM Tokushima's "Nihongo Salon"

Practice speaking Japanese conversation.

Mondays 10:30 - 12:00 at TOPIA

Saturdays 19:00 - 20:30 at the Seishonen Youth Centre

Watari-sensei's free class at TOPIA:

Wednesdays - beginner

Every first and third Thursday - people with one year of Japanese study experience

Every second and fourth Thursday - people with two years of Japanese study experience

Classes run from 16:30 - 17:50

The following international associations hold Japanese lessons. Call for more information:

Tokushima City: 088.622.6066

Yoshinogawa City: 0883.24.5112

Komatsushima: 08853.2.0454

Aizumi: 088.692.9951

Anan: 0884.23.6323

Mima: 0883.63.4527

Doitsu-kan Events

ドイツ館イベント情報

There is going to be piano concert by Takeshi Tanaka and Misuzu Kaneko's poems, recited by Akiko Kaneyama. (1st part: piano solo, 2nd part: lecture (Japanese) 3rd part: concert with piano music and recital)

When: Sunday, Jan 8th, 14:30

Cost: Adults ¥1500, children ¥500

The Naruto Mardi Gras "Helping Hands to New Orleans" - **taiko** drumming, classical and jazz music. Part of the revenues goes to support for the Katrina Hurricane victims.

When: Saturday, Jan 28, 17:00 ~

Cost: Adults ¥2500, children ¥1500, including a light meal in **bando** style.

for more info: Call the Doitsu-kan at 088.689.0099

Hey International Families!

やあ、国際家族たち!

Tokushima City's Suketo Hoikuen and TOPIA present International Child-rearing Salons. Please come and meet other international families like yours! There is no fee for participation.

at TOPIA

(Tokushima City, Clement Building 6F)

when: every 3rd Sunday from 13:00 - 15:00

cost: free

for more info: 088.656.3303

at Suketo Hoikuen

(Tokushima City, Nakayoshino-cho 1-61)

when: every Thursday from 10:00 - 14:00

cost: free

for more info: 070.5681.1230

also...

Contact Ms. Murasawa at TOPIA for information regarding Japanese lessons for parents with small children, and Chinese and English language child-rearing consultation services.

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Woodwork Display

木工芸の展覧会

When: Sunday, January 8 to Sunday, January 29
9:30 - 17:00

Where: Tokushima City Museum

Cost: Free

Info: Call the Tokushima City Museum at 088.638.3636

There is going to be a display of a wide range of artworks made from wood, as well information on the craft and tools this January. One of Tokushima Prefecture's local specialities, the art and craft of woodworking holds a long tradition.

Now is the perfect time to come along and sample some of the art, as well as learning more about this tradition.

New Year Concert

ニュー・イヤー・コンサート

When: Sunday, January 29
Doors open 13:30, concert starts 14:00

Where: Tokushima City Municipal Culture Hall

Cost: Tickets are ¥1500 with a ¥500 discount for high school students and below. Tickets cost an extra ¥500 if bought on the day.

For more Information: Call the Tokushima City Municipal Culture Hall at 088.653.2185

Come along for a New Year performance by the Tokushima Symphony Orchestra. They will be playing a variety of musi, including Mozart's 'The Magic Flute', as well as pieces by Mussorgsky and more.

Your Message Here

このスペースを使ってください

If you have a non-profit activity that you'd like to promote, let us know and we can print it here. Awa Life is one of the best ways to spread information to the English-speaking international population of Tokushima.

e-mail: awalife@gmail.com

tel: 088.656.3303

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)

Cross Country Race

クロス・カントリー大会

When: Sunday, February 5 (in case of rain, it will be postponed to Sunday, February 12), 8:30

Where: Tokushima City Track and Field Sports Arena

Cost: Free

For more Information: Call the Tokushima City Hall Physical Education and Health Section at 088.631.1477

Come along for the Tokushima 41st Cross Country Race. All ages can participate, with different race lengths for different age groups!

Primary School 5/6 years - 1.5 km

Middle School and those aged 36 and above - 3 km

Ages 15-35 - 4km

TV and Cinema Listings?

TV と映画情報はどうしたの？

You can now find up-to-date TV, cinema, and local sports listings in English at the new Living in Tokushima website produced by the Tokushima Prefecture Cultural and International Affairs Division, as well as information on various aspects of daily life. Check it out at: **http://ourtokushima.net/e_living/index**

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Photographic Exhibition

写真展

When: Thursday, January 12 to Sunday, January 15
9:30 to 17:00

Where: Bunka no Mori, Tokushima 21st Century Culture Information Center, Multi-purpose hall

Cost: Free

Info: Call the Tokushima 21st Century Culture Information Center at 088.668.1111

Come along to see an exhibition of photographic artwork at Bunka no Mori.

Cooking Columnist Wanted

料理コラムニスト募集中

Have a good recipe you want to share? We are looking for columnists to write for Awa Life on the topic of cooking with local ingredients. Send an email in to Awa Life at awalife@gmail.com if you would be interested in writing an article or two on this theme.

Calenders Wanted!

カレンダー募集中!

As part of our international relations, TOPIA is currently looking for calenders for the year 2006 as gifts for foreign guests to the prefecture. If you have any calenders from in Japan or abroad that you would like to donate, please bring them in to TOPIA on the 6th floor of the Clement Plaza.

国際関係の一部として、TOPIA は現在、外国人の客のための贈り物として 2006 年のカレンダーの寄付を募集しています。日本、または外国からのカレンダーを寄付したい場合、ぜひ TOPIA (クレメント・プラザの 6 階) までをご持参ください。

Temple Visits - Information Session

神社参りの説明

When: Saturday, January 28
10:00 am to 11:00 am

Where: Ebisu Shrine (see map below)

Cost: Free

Info: Contact HIROBA International.

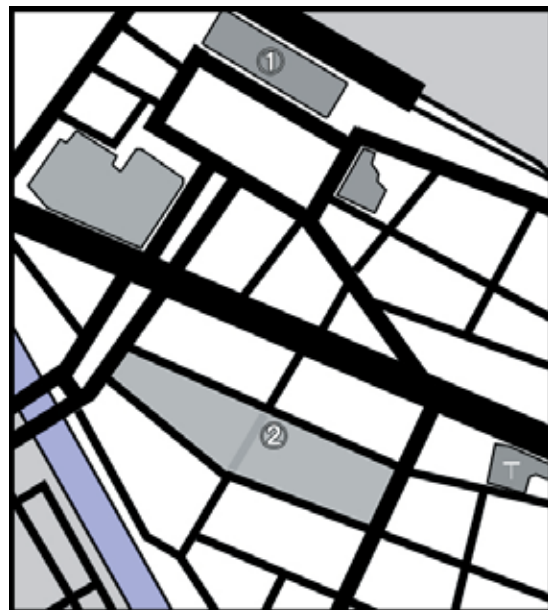
Ph: 088.656.0669

E-mail: meyamada@mb3.tcn.ne.jp

If you have been interested in learning more about visiting temples and shrines in Japan, now is the perfect time to get some extra information.

The information session will be held inside a shrine, and you will have the chance to hear about the various aspects of temple visiting. At the end, participants receive a decoration as a gift, and you also have the chance to participate in a traditional observance for good luck. Be sure to bring along a ¥1, ¥5 or ¥10 coin so you can take part!

There are a total of twenty places available, and to register your interest, contact HIROBA International at the details above with your name, contact details and nationality. Children are most welcome.



① JR Tokushima Station ② Ebisu Shrine

人権守って輝く明日