
awa life



"TOPPY"

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

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tracing waves

by jenna beck
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when trees in a large group stop growing at the same time, a natural disaster may be to blame. Brian Atwater first suspected seismic activity in Oregon when he discovered a dead forest.

TSU-NA-MI. If there was anyone in the world who hadn't heard this Japanese word before December, they now know it all too well. The news from Southeast Asia has shaken the world at large and needs no sensationalizing: a 9.0 earthquake, 15 meter waves, and 175,000 dead. After we swallow our surprise that a catastrophe of such magnitude really occurred, we're still left with the surprise that no one saw it coming - that such a thing can catch us by surprise at all.

There were reasons upon reasons for our lack of warning. We can always lay some blame on "international miscommunication." Indonesia possessed a buoy device for the sake of tsunami detection, but it was connected to a phone line that had been dead for four years. Though the Hawaii-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Center detected the earthquake, they initially underestimated it. When they came to see the real magnitude of the threat, they

didn't know how to contact Asia in time. Even if the appropriate officials had received an alert, there weren't any tsunami alarm systems that could have warned the public.

Now the proverbs have it that hindsight is 20/20, and that we're always fighting the last battle. It is easy to fix things in retrospect, and the 2004 tsunamis afford plenty of opportunity to do just that. But is that a bad thing? After all, the recent tsunami is drawing forth campaigns for an international natural disaster agency and the funding for the warning systems that could've saved thousands of people had they been there the first place. Tsunami warning systems weren't in place for the Bay of Bengal because they hadn't experienced a major tsunami in over 100 years. Because it had been so long, the tsunami risk had slipped out of memory. The risk was at its greatest precisely because it had been so long. Geologic events tend to take us by surprise

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from the editors

If you go by the displays in supermarkets and department stores around Tokushima, Valentine's Day has already been in full swing for several weeks now. There are lots of do-it-yourself chocolate sets available for sale as well. I read somewhere that handmade chocolates are thought to express one's true feelings more directly than the store-bought type. See Junko Kimura's article on page five for more information on Japanese Valentine traditions. I've whipped up a few choice morsels of the linguistic variety myself - see page ten for this month's installment of "japanese in the news" for some pick-up lines which, while not necessarily effective in themselves, can provide a entry into the world of random Japanese popular culture. Also, there are a ton of events going on this spring, so be sure to check out the listings in the back of this month's issue!

Love, Claire



as spring emerges and the gloom of winter resides, I guess every one will start engaging in lots of healthy outdoors activities. Not me though, I will be mostly staying indoors to watch anime. As a student of Japanese I have often read Japanese manga comics but I never really paid much attention to anime films. I guess its because the characters speak so fast. These days anime has become increasingly popular in the Western world. As a result of this emerging market for manga, many of the more popular, acclaimed titles are available with English subtitles and dubbing. This month, I have decided to review one of my favorite anime films so that people might check it out (see page 4). Hopefully this will be followed up in the coming months by further reviews of more worthy titles.

Peace, Martin



awa life

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awa life welcomes announcements, articles, opinions, letters, art and photographs. Please send contributions to the editors at TOPIA. You can also write (or call in!) for a free subscription.

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

English Information on FM Tokushima:

"Talk Up Tokushima" Thursdays @ 9:15am
 Tokushima City 80.7 Ikeda 82.3
 Anan 78.4 Hiwasa 77.7

city of paper

The people living in the Uma region of Shikoku were not blessed with an abundance of flat land suitable for growing rice, so during the Horeki Period (1751-1764) of the Tokugawa Shogunate they decided to moonlight, and began producing paper. Today the region is known as Shikokuchuo City, and it is the largest paper producer in Japan, churning out more than 480,000,000,000 yen's worth of paper products a year. Next time you blow your nose into an Elleair tissue, think of Shikokuchuo.

The traditional paper making methods do however live on. A visit the Kawano Paper Museum offers the chance to see not only the world's largest sheet of newspaper but also goods made from **mizuhiki** (decorative paper twine) and **washi** - traditional Japanese handmade paper. You can even try making paper by hand. This article offers a primer on paper-making the old way; next time you are in Shikokuchuo, pop and try it for yourself.

1. Use a rake (in a backwards and forwards motion) to stir well the mixture of water, pulp and **neri** (a sticky solution obtained from sunset hibiscus roots).

2. Once the mix is stirred, dip the handheld mold into the vat so it fills with pulpy mix and lift it up a little. To get the paper fibres to intertwine in a uniform thickness gently shake the mold four or five time - backwards and forwards and side to side. When you get the

desired thickness shake off the excess water and lift the mold out of the vat.



lifting the mold out of the vat

3. For coloured paper make sure the pre-prepared dye is well mixed, then lightly pour it on the pulp. When using pressed flowers, after lightly placing the flowers onto the pulp place thin **washi** (Japanese paper) on top and then over that pour a transparent glue solution.

4. Use the extractor dryer to remove excess water, then open the mold and use a towel to dab away any remaining moisture. Tap the mold so the dried pulp falls out onto a mat and then press the pulp between two mats to further remove moisture.



tap the mold so the dried pulp falls out onto a mat

5. Line the cards on the heater-dryer, gently press them with the roller and then wait until they dry.

6. After about five minutes, when the paper has started to curl, use an iron or a heated press to flatten out the cards. For pressed flowers an iron is best.

7. The finished product.



just a sample of what you can do!

Kawano Paper Museum

4069-1 Kawano,
 Shikokuchuo-shi
 Ehime 799-0101
 TEL: (0896) 58-2011
 FAX: (0896) 59-5866

Opening Hours: 9-4 (closed Mondays, Public Holidays, Oct 15, Dec 29-Jan 3)

You can your hand at making paper on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays between 1pm and 4pm. Groups of more than five should ring and make a reservation.

To get to Kawano from Tokushima, take the train to Takamatsu, transfer to the Matsuyama-bound train and get off at Kawano Station.



millennium actress

by martin o'brien
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Title: Millennium Actress
せんねんじょゆう
 (千年女優 - **sen nen joyū**)
Directed by: Satoshi Kon
Creators: Blue Collar Productions
International Distribution:
 Dreamworks
Released: Japan, 2001 / U.S, 2003
Length: Approx. 87 minutes

One of the most interesting and enjoyable Anime films I have recently seen was Satoshi Kon's Millennium Actress. The celebrated filmmaker and anime artist has also been responsible for the acclaimed anime films Perfect Blue (1997) and Tokyo Godfathers (2003). Mad House Studios, who were also responsible for films such as Vampire Hunter D and Metropolis, produced the film. In 2001, Japan's Agency of Cultural Affairs Media Arts Festival Animation Grand Prize was split between Millennium Actress and the equally excellent "Spirited Away." It won the 6th FantAsia Film Festival Award for Best Animation Film. The film was the first ever recipient of the 2001 International Film Festival of Catalonia's Orient Express Award.

The film concerns the adventures of a documentary filmmaker Genya Tachibana as he interviews the legendary actress Chiyoku Fujiwara who abandoned her screen career at the height of her fame to live alone. While an interview might not seem like an exciting theme for a film, it isn't long before the action moves forward in a unique narrative where the actress and the film maker

move through space and time as Chiyoku Fujiwara describes her life. This is done in a similar manner to Kon's previous classic Perfect Blue where the boundary's between reality and fantasy, truth and fiction are blended together in order to drive the story forward. The man creating the documentary gets so caught up in Chiyoku's retelling of her life story that he himself sometimes gets lost in her story as if he were actually there. The films that Chiyoku starred in are a mirror for her own life experience where she searched endlessly for a man she fell in love with when she was young woman. Before the man disappears from her life he leaves her with only a key to "the most important thing in the world." The filmmaker Genya accompanies her throughout the story acting as a guardian angel that worships her from afar.

Chiyoku films encompassed different eras in Japanese history, so we follow her as she plays a captive princess in the Warring States period. The action then swiftly moves along toward the Edo period of Japanese history where she plays a ninja on the run from samurai guards. She is then transported to the Meiji Era and finally ends up in the pre WW2 and war-torn Showa era. Kon blends the reality of the actress's life with the fantasy of the films she starred in as she searches for her love. As Chiyoku moves through life we see how she overcomes various personal challenges and learns the

valuable lessons that life inevitably teaches us. The film is essentially a love story (a genre that doesn't particularly interest me) however it would be unfair to call it sentimental or mawkish. There is from the very beginning an obvious tragic element to the film, yet it is in its own way positive and uplifting as despite the many challenges that Chiyoku goes through she never loses hope that she will be reunited with the man she loves. Chiyoku is a tragic figure that is badly affected by the trials and tribulations that the world has thrown her way, yet despite everything she never loses her sense of innocence and wonder. The important message conveyed to the audience is that even though life never goes to plan, and is inevitably filled with disappointment and loss the important thing is the attempt, the struggle to achieve one's hopes and dreams. In other words the pleasure is in the battle.

Kon's Millennium Actress is an anime film that is full of innocence, action and comedy yet unlike a lot of anime contains themes that are relevant to an adult audience. The innovative narrative, which encompasses 1000 years of Japanese history, has also resulted in an animation that is visually arresting. We see lavish portrayals of scenes as diverse as feudal Japan to war-torn Japan to Space Age Japan. The DVD is available with English subtitles so make sure you check out what I believe is Satoshi Kon's best animation.



by **junko kimura**
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be my valentine

are you getting something nice for your special person on St. Valentine's Day?

In the 1970s, this custom started getting popular in Japan and it is a part of our culture now, since it is printed on our calendars. As you know, there are western holidays that Japanese people celebrate such as Christmas, Mother's Day, Halloween and so on; however, almost all of them tend to be celebrated in a Japanese way. In North America, Christmas is the day that family gathers together and has a nice dinner. They open Christmas presents around a beautiful Christmas tree. In Japan, Christmas Eve is the night that a couple spends a romantic time by having a nice dinner at a restaurant and they exchange presents. In the West, they give chocolate, balloons, roses, and cards to each other on St. Valentine's Day. When I was a college student in Japan, my Aussie friend told me about Be My Valentine cards. You write it on a card without your name as a secret admirer and send it to someone whom you like. She/He would wonder and enjoy thinking about who did that. I once wrote it and left it in someone's mailbox. It was very embarrassing for me doing that for the first time. In Japan, St. Valentine's Day is the day that a girl tells her feelings to a boy whom she likes by giving him chocolate. Especially teens are all excited about the day. I always asked by my friends if I was going to give it to someone. When I was in 4th



who needs chocolate when you've got a porcupine who loves you?

grade, my friend and I liked the same boy, so we decided to give some chocolate to him together. This is the big event for a girl who admires someone. They buy the best chocolate. She would ask him to meet up with her after school or she would wait for him somewhere. If she were shy, she would just put it in his desk in the classroom with or without her name. There are two types of chocolate for St. Valentine's Day. **本命 (hon-meï - the "one")** is the one for a boy whom you like and **義理 (giri - obligation)** is for guys who are just friends or male co-workers. Typical **お返し (okaeshi - return gift)** are cookies, candies or marshmallows. When I was in elementary school, I heard from my friends that if he gives you candies as a return gift, it means that he likes you. If it is cookies, it means he thinks you are his friend. If it is marshmallows, it means that he is not interested in you at all. I kind of believed what

they told me, but now I think that boys don't think about those things when they are shopping for return gifts.

When would he answer her feelings? In 1978, the All Japan Confectionery Association's Nagoya general assembly decided to organize the All Japan Confectionery Association White Day Committee, and White Day started on March 14th, 1980. The purpose of having White Day is the promotion of candy sales, so there was an opinion to name the day "Candy Day" however, the Kanto sectional meeting pointed out that white is the symbol of purity. It fits with teens' refreshing love as well. A boy who gets chocolate from a girl on St. Valentine's Day is supposed to return a gift to her on March 14th with his answer. Of course, even if she has a boyfriend, she gives her boyfriend chocolate and a nice present and he gives her something back on White Day. As I am Japanese, I take White Day as a part of my culture, but I prefer the western style. It would be more pure and romantic if he cooked dinner for me and gave me a nice present as a surprise on Valentine's Day than waiting and thinking what kind of present he would give me back a month later on March 14th. Well, you are always welcome to bring something for me on Valentine's Day as a surprise. Oh, and please remember to draw an **ai ai gasa** in your card with your name and your partner's name!



we jammin'

by *angeline gough*
 adgough@yahoo.com

This spring, a group of penniless musicians from Canada and America will be coming Tokushima to spread around some music and some good vibes. They won't be busking outside Clement Plaza or running around barefoot handing out daisies, though! They will be in Kamiyama teaching Japanese kids how to jam.

Jamming is when people unite to make impromptu music together. A jam session not only generates music, it is an expression of the creative power of people working in synchronicity. In this way, jamming can express unity across different musical traditions, preferences, and cultures, creating a special kind of cross-cultural interaction that goes beyond words.

Traditionally, jamming has been associated with jazz, but it was brought into the realm of the tie-dyed by the likes of Grateful Dead and Bob Marley and, more recently, Phish and Medeski, Martin, and Wood. However, jamming goes back much further than that. Musicians of the classical Northern Indian tradition have been jamming for hundreds of years. Their style is to improvise or elaborate on a predetermined theme, or raga.

Jam Camp is an organization that my friend Thomas started a few years ago in Canada. This year marks the first time that Jam Camp has gone international, and we're all really excited. During Golden Week, May 3-5, we will be facilitating music workshops and running English classes at the Kami-ichinomiya Oawa



Thomas Tumbach, classically trained violinist and accomplished guitar player, teaches students how to jam on the violin.

Shrine for kids of all ages who want to learn about music. The purpose of Jam Camp is threefold. First, we would like to teach Japanese students how to play music together in a free and creative environment. Second, we would like to promote intercultural communications through English classes that focus on the discussion of music and instruments from various parts of the world using simple vocabulary. Third, we would lead the students in small groups that focus on writing, performing, and recording simple songs in English.

Our expertise ranges all over from Asian to African to down home American Bluegrass, so students will not only be able to learn on their own instrument during workshops and lessons, they will be able to try a new instrument and learn about where it came from! As well as workshops and lessons, Jam Camp will offer English classes for parents, and games that the whole family can play together. In the evenings we will have group activities and campfires. Campfire will be a

special time for everyone to get together and play music as well as tell fairytales and ghost stories in Japanese and English.

We will be looking for volunteers to help out with Jam Camp. If you are interested in helping us, we have many fun opportunities for you (no worries if you aren't a musician!). You can volunteer for the whole camp, a day, or even just an afternoon or evening. For instance, we are looking for English teachers who can volunteer for three days and lead English classes, or just help out. We are also looking for some **genki** people who would like to donate an evening or afternoon of their time to lead the campers in some sports or games. Finally, we are also looking for a few more interpreters to help our foreign musicians teach workshops. But if you already have plans for Golden Week, you can always lend your ideas instead of your time!

Check out Jam Camp on the web at www.jamcamp.org or contact me in Tokushima at 090 6888 5661 or by e-mail to find out about fees and accomodation.



tastes of awa - camellia tea

have you had much Camellia tea today? If you're like most people in Japan, you've probably have many cups of green Camellia tea and several cups of black Camellia tea, perhaps with milk, honey or sugar.

Oh, you get it now. Tea, whether green, black or Oolong, is made from a Camellia - *Camellia sinensis*. And it turns out that whatever kind of tea you're drinking, it's one of the healthiest things you can drink, even healthier than a nice Cabernet.

My usual source for the health benefits of herbs is Andrew Chevalier's "The Encyclopedia of Medicinal Plants" published in 1996. But when it comes to tea, that book is already out of date. All he had to say about research into the health benefits of tea was that some work in China supported the use of tea against hepatitis and some Japanese research showed that it might inhibit tooth decay. He mentioned, of course, that it was used to treat infections of the digestive tract and, in Indian (Ayurvedic) medicine, it's used for a variety of ailments including tiredness (you knew that, right?), fever and hemorrhoids.

Since then, there's been a deluge of research that points to tea as a powerful medicinal herb with documented action against cancer, heart disease, and, yes, tooth decay. (No word yet on the hemorrhoid connection.)

Early research in China and Japan talked about green tea

as the healthy kind, but more recent studies, particularly in England (the other great tea-drinking country) suggest that there's little if any difference in the health benefits of green vs. black tea. Both are rich in antioxidants and, though the specific antioxidants differ (those in green tea are simpler compounds than those in black tea) they appear to be equally beneficial.

So what's the difference between green and black tea? Technically, green tea is an infusion made from the leaves of *Camellia sinensis* that have been dried, sometimes following a light steaming process. Black tea is an infusion made from the leaves of *Camellia sinensis* that have been dried following an overnight process of being rolled to break up the internal cell walls, allowed to sit and ferment, and THEN dried. (Oolong tea is made like black tea, but the fermentation is only allowed to proceed a very short time before the leaves are dried.)

Japanese tea comes by a variety of names:

- **Gyokurocha** - Really, really high quality - it's brewed with water that's only 50 degrees and savored in very small cups.

- **Sencha** - Very high quality - it's brewed with water at about 80 degrees and also savored carefully. I've heard there's a tea ceremony for sencha, but I've never read any details. It's probably similar to the tea ceremony found in Korea

and China about which I also know essentially nothing.

- **Bancha** - Everyday tea, which we all drink every day in Japan. It's brewed at 90 - 100 degrees and drunk any which way.

- **Hōjicha** - **Bancha** that has its leaves lightly roasted giving it a slightly nutty flavor. It's a specialty of Uji, a famous tea village on the east side of Kyoto. The street leading from the train stations to Byodoin are lined with souvenir and tea shops where you can try and buy a variety of teas, but especially **hōjicha**.

- **Genmaicha** (bancha with popped brown rice added)

- **Matcha** (powdered green tea used for the **chanoyu** or Tea Ceremony)

Sometimes you can find **bancha** with a little **matcha** added. This is the standard tea at one of my schools. It makes a really zesty morning cup. We brew it strong, with lots of caffeine. Caffeine is highly soluble in water, so if you brew more than one cup from the same leaves, only the first-brewed cup(s) is (are) high in caffeine.

Many people are worried about getting too much caffeine from tea, though most Japanese don't seem to be concerned judging from the virtual unavailability of decaf black tea outside major cities. Of course, caffeine was probably one of the earliest attractions of tea. Bodhidharma, the Indian Buddhist mystic who founded Chan Buddhism in China (Chan

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because they cycle more slowly than the human life span. We can't be expected to perceive threats we haven't experienced. But that doesn't mean we absolutely cannot perceive them.

The story that follows concerns another tsunami that crested in the Pacific Ocean over 300 years ago. It is the story of something gone right. Communications did not break down, even across country lines, and the cooperation of a few committed researchers solved a mystery that has changed our understanding of where tsunamis strike. The cast includes a team of Japanese and North American researchers and some God-like bookkeepers from the Shogun era.

Like all good stories, it begins with a geologist. In 1987 a USGS (United States Geological Survey) researcher found a forest of dead trees that had been killed in a salt marsh on the Oregon coast. If they'd died in the same event, it might be evidence of a past earthquake or tsunami in the Cascadia region (the northern Pacific Coast of North America). The region has always been seismically quiet, and before the 1980s the Cascadia fault was thought to be inactive. But many earthquakes behave like the villain who disappears early in a Bond film - they turn up later - with renewed force. Some regions are truly harmless, and some fault lines are "locked;" they are stuck and building pressure for an eventual release. To sort these dangerous spots from the benign requires a

seismic history. And since the human lifespan is less than a century, we don't always have a history for faults that shift every 300-1,000 years. The Indonesian quake that spawned last month's tsunami was one of these forgotten threats. Had Atwater not found a salt-marsh forest of dead trees in Oregon, the North American Pacific coast might be as well.

While a dead forest is nothing to scoff at, Atwater needed to know more about the time and cause of death before he could gauge the risk. He knew there had been an earthquake, possibly even a tsunami. A radiocarbon date a few years later put the death of the trees somewhere between 1680 and 1720. Atwater still didn't know the strength of the quake, and there is no written history from the Pacific Coast for dates that early.

Enter Japan. While Atwater was digging up trees in America, geologists on the other side of the Pacific were keeping up with their literature. Kenji Satake of the Geological Survey of Japan had read about the discovery in Oregon. Thanks to Japan's earthquake and tsunami disaster records, Satake tracked down a government record from the Shogun-era which told of a five meter wave striking the southeast coast of Honshu on January 26th, 1700. The residents hadn't felt an earthquake prior to the tsunami, and so the wave's origin had long remained a mystery.

Satake and his colleagues

penned a letter to the journal *Nature* in 1996 that told of the possible link between the Cascadia trees and the Japanese tsunami. The ingenuity of the Japanese geologists amazed the scientific community, as did the implication of the connection: a tsunami had crossed the largest ocean in the world.

Dendrochronology (tree-ring counting) later confirmed the 1700 date, and the Japanese team made a computer simulation of the wave. By tracing it backward, they found that the Cascadia earthquake was least a 9.0 on the Richter scale. That's the energy equivalent of 32,000 A-bombs. It is also the same size as the Sumatra quake of last month.

If the Cascadia fault was capable of producing a 9.0 quake and a trans-Pacific tsunami, it's but a matter of time before it happens again. In geologically active regions like Cascadia and Southeast Asia, the catastrophes of the past recur without fail. The old adage is "it's not a matter of if, it's a matter of when."

The findings have changed building codes and evacuation routes in Vancouver, Victoria, and the Northwestern US. Evidence of what had happened in the area has readied us for what will happen again. The Cascadia region will be far better prepared for future disasters because a group of geologists stretched their 20/20 hindsight a little further into the past.



information for this article was gleaned from: www.usgs.gov, www.nature.com/news, and www.wikipedia.org

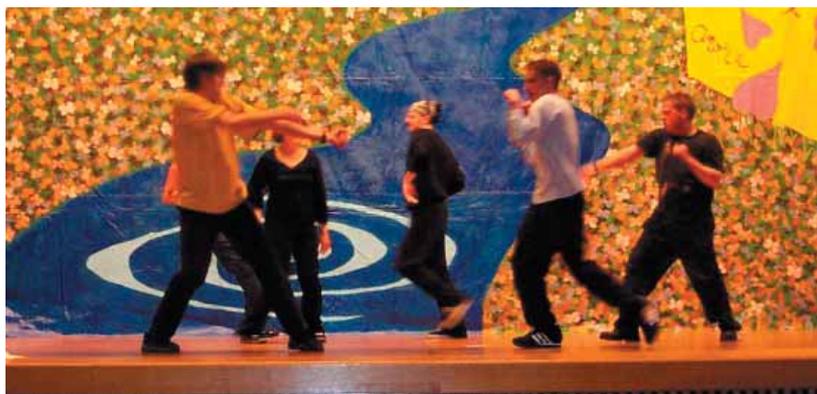
a night of fantasy

submitted

Tokushima's JET Programme participants have been putting on a musical each spring for the past eleven years! This year, rather than put on one long play, participants have organised into regional groups to prepare three short performances which are connected by a fairytale theme.

"A Night of Fantasy" is Tokushima's 11th annual AJET musical. This year's production follows a group of elementary students (participants from the audience!) on a school excursion to an English theatre. Join the students as they experience performances of their favourite fairytales; Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Little Red Riding Hood, and Cinderella.

Follow Goldilocks on her adventures to find one that's "just right." Watch as Little Red Riding Hood encounters a few dangers on her way to Grandma's house. Finally,



dance scene from last year's musical, "Taming of the Brew"

experience Cinderella's story - will she ever find true love??

JETs have come together from all around Tokushima-ken to create a musical bursting with humour, dancing, and singing.

Audience participation will be required at each venue. Volunteers will be recruited 30 minutes before the scheduled start time, so come early if you are interested in joining in the fun!

This is a non-profit event and admission is **free!**

when & where:

March 5th - Hiwasa Community Hall - 18:00 - 20:00

March 6th - Anan Kominkan - 14:00 - 16:00

March 12th - Aizumi-cho Chomin Kaikan - 18:00 - 20:00

March 13th - Yoshinogawa-shi Kamojima Kominkan - 14:00 - 16:00

March 19th - Wakimachi Odeon-za Theatre - 18:00 - 20:00

for more info: call Claire or Martin at TOPIA.
tel. 088.656.3303

camelia tea... con't from page 7

found it's way to Japan under the name Zen) is sometimes credited with discovering, or at least popularizing, tea as a means of staying awake while meditating.

Tea can be pretty strong, but it rarely has as much caffeine per ml as coffee. The British tea board claims that even in Britain, where strong tea is consumed from wake-up time to bedtime, tea "normally" has about half the caffeine of a "normal" cup of coffee. Of course, nobody I know in Britain drinks 12 cups of "normal" coffee a day, so I

suspect lots of tea drinkers in London are just as strung out on caffeine as anybody in Tokyo or Seattle.

There are actually two possible (I emphasize possible) medical counter-indications for tea. One is, don't drink too many cups of strong tea at one sitting (over 4 cups) or you'll end up thirstier than when you started. Caffeine in large amounts is a diuretic. The other is, if you're anemic or susceptible to anemia, you probably shouldn't drink tea with or just after meals since chemicals in the tea can

potentially bind to one of the two kinds of dietary iron (the kind from vegetables, not the kind from meat) and prevent your body absorbing that iron.

By the way, the kanji used to refer to black tea in Japan, 紅茶 actually means "red tea." It's the 紅 of 紅葉 used for fall color. If you think about it, it makes a lot of sense since the color of "black tea" is closer to red than to black. It isn't at all close to black, as a matter of fact, though the dry leaves are pretty black. So put some dried Camellia leaves in a pot, pour on the correct temperature water, and enjoy!



Japanese in the news - love lingo

by Claire Kinder
clairish@gmail.com

By the time you read this, Valentine's day will almost be upon us! In the spirit of love, I've dedicated this month's column to romance-related phrases.

くど もんく 口説き文句

(kudoki monku)

pick-up lines

A study commissioned by the popular Wednesday night television program, **Trivia no Izumi** (on Wednesdays at 9:00pm, channel 8) revealed that the pick-up line judged to be most romantically effective by a panel of Japanese linguists and psychologists was this:

「来年のこの日も一緒に笑って
いよう」

(rainen no kono hi mo
issho ni waratte iyō)

"Let's smile together on this day next year."

It has the perfect combination of hope for the future and positive vibes. Just be sure that the person you try it out on hasn't been watching **Trivia no Izumi** (or reading *Awa Life!*), or the gig will be up!

君が前の彼氏としたキスの回数
なんて俺が3日でぬいてやるぜ

(kimi ga mae no kareshi to
shita kisu no kaisū nante
ore ga mikka de nuite yaru
ze)

"I'll kiss you more in three days than your last boyfriend ever did."

OK, I'll admit, this isn't really a working pick-up line. It's the title of a book of poetry by Shigeo Hamada - a.k.a.

Sandaime Uotake Hamada Shigeo. He writes reams of poetry filled with lines like the one above, and all in thick Osaka dialect.

きみ ひとみ いちまん
君の瞳は一万ボルト

(kimi no hitomi ha ichi
man boruto)

"Your eyes are ten thousand volts"

OK, OK, this isn't really a pick-up line either. It's a song from 1978 by Takao Horiuchi. You may not pick up anyone with this line, but you will wow them with your extreme knowledge of Japanese pop culture!

好きよ、サクちゃん。大好きだよ

(suki yo, Saku-chan.
daisuki da yo)

"I like you, Saku-chan. I really do"

Last year's ragingly popular film, **Sekai no Chushin de Ai wo Sakebu** featured a confession of love which won the heart not only of the lead character, but also of viewers all over the country.

れんあい ことば
恋愛の言葉

(renai no kotoba)

words of love

ひとめ
一目ぼれ

(hitome bore)

love at first sight

こい お
恋に落ちる

(koi ni ochiru)

fall in love

かたおも
片思い

(kata omoi)

unrequited love

Junko tells me when you fall in love with someone all by your self, you've *ほれた* and when you've fallen in love with each other, it's *恋に落ちた*.



and in other news...

brought to you by the letter "i"

Recently, the Aizumi International Association celebrated its first birthday. As a celebration of this, the association put out a request for ideas for a nickname for the association. The successful entry was from Miyuki Mihara, of Naruto City, who suggested the catchy name "I's" (pronounced **aizu**). The letter "I" holds a variety of connections which made it perfect for the Aizumi International Association. In English, "I" is the first letter in the word International, "I" meaning myself, as well as Indigo, which is a traditional product of Aizumi, and is the meaning of the first character in the name Aizumi (藍住). In Japanese, **ai** can mean love (愛), or indigo (藍), or it can be part of the word **deai** (出会い) - encounter, not to mention the **ai** of Aizumi again! Plus, the word **aizu** (合図) means "a sign" like, say, a peace sign!

For more information about the Aizumi International Association, contact their office, at:

tel. 088.692.9951

fax. 088.692.1626

e-mail. aizumi_kokusai@garnet.nmt.ne.jp



japanese lesson: particle を

by takako yamada
meyamada@mb3.tcn.ne.jp

Most of you know that particle を is an object marker in Japanese, but を has some other functions. First, divide the following phrases into two categories according to the function of を : object markers and others.

- ① 家を出る leave home
- ② 本を読む read a book
- ③ 道を歩く walk along the street
- ④ 山を買う buy a mountain
- ⑤ 山を登る climb a mountain
- ⑥ 橋を渡る cross a bridge
- ⑦ 橋を作る build a bridge
- ⑧ 空を飛ぶ fly in the air
- ⑨ 角を曲がる turn a corner
- ⑩ 電車を降りる get off a train
- ⑪ 下を向く look down
- ⑫ 海岸を散歩する walk along the beach
- ⑬ 学校を卒業する graduate from school
- ⑭ 門を閉める close a gate
- ⑮ 門をくぐる go through a gate
- ⑯ 北を向く face north

object markers	
others	

Then, divide "others" further into four categories according to the functions of を .

function	phrases
a place from which movement begins	
a place to move around	
a place to go through	
a direction	

How many did you get right?

Thus, を often indicates a place or space. に and で are also used to indicate a place but they have different functions. Please put を、に or で in the squares of the following phrases.

* 公園 (1) ブランコがある
there is a swing in the park
(a place of existence)

* 公園 (2) テニスをやる
play tennis in the park
(a place to do something)

* 公園 (3) 散歩する
take a walk in the park
(a place to move around)

Check your answers at the end of the page to see how many you got right.

Another function of を is to indicate time spent.

夏休みを田舎で過ごす
spend summer holiday in the country side
note: Although を marks the direct object, you must be very careful as direct objects in English are not always marked by を . For example:

私はきのう山田さんに会った
I met Ms. Yamada yesterday

私は英語が分かる
I understand English

ANSWERS:

㊦ (3) ㊥ (2) ㊤ (1)

㊦ ㊥	a direction
㊦ ㊥	a place to go through
㊦ ㊥ ㊤ ㊣ ㊢ ㊡ ㊠	a place to move around
㊦ ㊥ ㊤ ㊣ ㊢	a place from which movement begins
phrases	function

㊦ ㊥ ㊤ ㊣ ㊢ ㊡ ㊠ ㊦ ㊥ ㊤ ㊣ ㊢ ㊡ ㊠	others
㊦ ㊥ ㊤ ㊣ ㊢ ㊡ ㊠	object markers



memoranda

Big Hina Matsuri

ビッグひな祭り

Every spring, a gigantic display of Hina Matsuri dolls can be seen at the Katsuura-cho Ningyo Bunka Koryu Kan.

when: February 20 - April 4
9:00 - 16:00

where: Katsuura-cho Ningyo Bunka Koryu Kan
Take the #72 or #82 bus from Tokushima Station platform A-5, and get off an hour later at Nakatsuno (中角)

cost: ¥300 for adults, ¥100 for Elementary students
for more info: 08854.2.1505

Man Ray Exhibition

マン・レイ展

"I am an enigma."

when: January 15 - March 21

where: Tokushima Modern Art Gallery at Bunka no Mori

cost: adults: ¥600, students: ¥450 / ¥300

for more info: 088.668.1088

<http://www.art.comet.go.jp>

To get to Bunka no Mori from Tokushima Station, take the number 6 bus from Bus platform B-3 to Ichihara and transfer to the Bunka no Mori bus there.

Toastmasters Club

トーストマスターズ

This month, the monthly Toastmasters Club In-House Speech Contest will be held at the Chuo Kominkan instead of at TOPIA.

when: February 20, 1:30 - 4:00pm

where: Chuo Kominkan

for more info, contact: Minoru Tamura

e-mail: minoru@nmt.ne.jp

tel: 090-1329-5668

Postal Delays

国際郵便の送達遅延

Delivery of mail to the United States and Canada may be delayed to increased Customs Inspection. The contents of packages sent to Canada must be described in detail on the customs form or they will be returned. Countries in South-East Asia affected by the recent tsunami are also experiencing postal delays.

for more info, contact Japan Post's English hotline:

Osaka 06-6944-6245

Hiroshima 082-224-0380

Matsuyama 089-932-5932

or: <http://www.post.japanpost.jp/english/index.html>

Japanese Lessons in Anan City

阿南市 日本語講座

If you live in southern Tokushima and are looking for a way to study Japanese without coming all the way to Tokushima City, try Anan's Japanese class for foreign residents. They use the textbook "Minna no Nihongo I." Classes are taught by Madoka Mori.

when: starts Nov. 21 - Sunday mornings 10:00 - 12:00am

where: Tomioka Kominkan

cost: ¥1000

for more info: Anan City International Association

e-mail: etonne@stannet.ne.jp

fax: 0884.23.6323

Tastes of Awa

阿波の味

Combi food getting you down? Your Japanese kitchen didn't come with an oven? Discovering that all the cheap vegetables in the supermarket are the ones you've never heard of?? Ask Don! Don Weiss, author of 'Tastes of Awa,' (page 7) is looking for reader's suggestions for future columns. What aspects of Japanese food interest you? What would you like to know how to cook? Send Don a message with your thoughts and impressions:

e-mail: woosongdonald@yahoo.com

memoranda

African Concert アフリカン・コンサート

Come see Congolese drummer Botango Bedjil Mo-Franck in concert! Fun! Dancing! Rhythm! Interesting Stories!

when: February 19, 14:00 - 15:00
Ishii-cho Chuo Kominkan

and

February 20, 13:30 - 14:45
Nakagawa-cho Hirashima Elementary School
*the Nakagawa cho also features a chance to try foods from various countries!

cost: free

for more info: 088.656.3303 (TOPIA's Mr. Noguchi)

items to bring: make some maracas with PET bottles and marbles or beans, and bring them to the concert!

TOPIA's Library トピアの図書室

If you are a Tokushima resident (regardless of nationality) you can get a library card for TOPIA's library, and borrow books free of charge! The library has mostly English, Chinese, and Japanese books, with a small section of novels written in other European languages.

Books that have been culled from TOPIA's library are available for people to take home for free. Come to TOPIA anytime and take a look in the big boxes marked **free**. Donations of books are also accepted year-round!

JET Programme Postcard Collection JET プログラム葉書コレクション

Booklets of postcards created from photographs taken by members of the JET Programme are now available to members of the public. Come to TOPIA and pick some up for free.

Seishonen Centre Festival

青少年センター祭り

The Tokushima International Youth Exchange Association (TIYEA) presents one of the main events at the Tokushima Youth Centre Festival this year; the fashion show! Participants from all over the world show off their national costumes. The fashion show will be at 10:00 and 14:00 (two shows) on the 3rd floor Conference Room of the Seishonen (Youth Centre)

There are plenty of other things to see and do at the festival as well. Especially for kids! TOPIA is putting on a variety of international games for children, and presentations about various countries.

The festival will also feature the usual festival staples - delicious outdoor food stalls and fun games of skill and chance.

when: February 20, Sunday

where: Seishonen (youth) Centre
near Tokushima City Hall

cost: free

for more info: Seishonen Centre: 088.625.6166

TIYEA: featherricefields@yahoo.co.jp

TOPIA: 088.656.3303

Origami Class 折り紙教室

Learn the basics for the traditional Japanese art of paper folding. Taught by Kazuko Yoshida. Contact TOPIA in advance to ensure a seat.

when: February 27 (Sunday) 15:30 - 17:30

where: TOPIA

cost: free

for more info: 088.656.3303

memoranda

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 Thursday

10:00 - 17:00

tel. 088.656.3303 or 088.656.3320 (allows three way conversations with an interpreter)

Japanese Lessons in Aizumi-cho

藍住町 日本語講座

This class uses the textbook 'Minna no Nihongo I.' Classes are taught by Aizumi International Exchange Association Members Akiko Tsuji and Kaori Tamada.

when: ongoing - Thursday nights 7:00 - 8:30pm

where: Aizumi Welfare Center, near Aizumi Town Office

cost: ¥1000

for more info: e-mail: aizumi_kokusai@garnet.nmt.ne.jp

tel. 088.692.9951

fax. 088.692.1626

The Chiiori Project

チイオリ・プロジェクト

March

4-6	Bamboo crafts
11-13	Tofu making
18-21*	Open House
25-27	TBA

April

1-3	Straw raincoat weaving
8-10	Wood crafts
15-17	Mountain vegetable picking and hiking
22-24	TBA

April 28 - May 8 Golden Week open house

May

13-15	Hiking (Mt Tsurugi to Mt Miune, staying overnight on the mountain)
20-22	Iya River Fishing
27-29	Country Cooking

* designates long weekend/ public holiday

Basic rate: ¥6000 per night,
¥7000 during Golden Week.
Extra charges apply for weekend events.

for more info: www.chiiori.org
reservations@chiiori.org
tel. 0883.88.5290

Japanese Salon

土曜にほん語サロン

A free Japanese conversation salon is now available at the Seishonen Center in downtown Tokushima City, near City Hall. Volunteers will help students of Japanese to improve their conversation skills

when: Every Saturday from 7.00pm to 8.30pm

where: Seishonen Center 青少年センター (5F)

cost: free

for more info, contact: Minami-san 090.4506.5296

New Year's Card Lottery Numbers

お年玉年賀はがき当選番号

Check the bottom right hand corner of your New Year's Cards for your lucky numbers and a chance to win a prize from the post office! Prizes can be claimed at any post office in Japan at anytime until mid-July.

First Prize: 470873 or 120767

Second Prize: last five numbers are 40135

Third Prize: last four numbers are 8165 or 4970

Fourth Prize: last two numbers are 16 or 34 or 64

memoranda

Culture, History, Recent Earthquake & Tsunami in Sumatra

インドネシアの歴史と文化とスマトラ沖地震について

More than 120,000 people died just in a few minutes
12万人以上の命が一瞬にして失われた

Let us invite you to join in this program in order to introduce the unique of Indonesian culture, history as well as the recent earthquake and tsunami disaster.

Contains:

- 1.The speech and movie about the earthquake and tsunami in Aceh (スマトラ島).
- 2.Indonesian traditional crafts.
- 3.The unique culture and philosophy of the Aceh tribe.
- 4.The variety of foods in Aceh.

date: Feb. 13, 2005 (Sunday)

time: 13:30 - 15:30

place: Tokushima station, Clement Plaza, 6th floor, TOPIA

for more info:

Mr. Ootera (Japanese speaking)
tel. 090.1172.3584

Mr. Deendarlianto (English speaking)
tel. 090.7573.6557

tv movie schedule ・ february

Japanese television broadcasts most foreign movies in their original language as well as in Japanese. Bilingually equipped TVs can be flipped between these two audio channels by selecting the 音声切替 button on the remote control.

Date	Time	Place	Nat.	タイトル	Title	
Sun. 13	9:00	⑥ ABC	USA '97	メン・イン・ブラック	Men in Black	🔥
Mon. 14	late night	⑧ 関西	USA '00	僕たちのアナ・バナナ	Keeping the Faith	♥
Wed. 16	9:00	⑩ 読売	JPN '02	呪怨	Juon	💀
Sat. 19	9:00	⑧ 関西	USA '97	ロスト・ワールド・ジ・エラシック パーク	The Lost World: Jurassic Park	SF
Sun. 20	9:00	⑥ ABC	USA '97	ピースメーカー	The Peacemaker	🔥
Thu. 24	late night	⑧ 関西	USA '00	タイタス を忘れない	Remember the Titans	☺
Fri. 25	9:03	⑩ 読売	USA '03	ターミネーター 3	Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines	🔥
Fri. 25	late night	⑩ 読売	USA '00	デュエット	Duets	♥
Sun. 27	9:00	⑥ ABC	FRN '01	ジ・ウ・オ・ダンの獣	Le Pacte des Loups	💀

🔥horror ? mystery 💀suspense ☺ comedy ☺drama 🔥action ♥love & romance SF science fiction

This schedule is subject to change.

cinema guide

TOKUSHIMA HALL 徳島ホール (Saiwai-cho - near the Central Post Office) 088.653.1802	The Terminal 【USA】 ターミナル	until 2/10
	The Bourne Supremacy 【USA】 ボーン・スプレマシー Regular tickets → ¥1800 1st of each month → ¥1000 Ladies' day / Tuesday → ¥1000 Men's day / Friday → ¥1000	from 2/11
TOKUSHIMA TOHO 徳島東宝 (Kagoya-machi - in Higashi Shinmachi Arcade) 088.625.5311	Chakushin Ari 2 【JPN】 着信アリ 2 (in Japanese)	from 2/5
	Regular tickets → ¥1800 1st of each month → ¥1000 Ladies' Day / Wednesday → ¥1000 Men's Day / Thursday → ¥1000	
TOHO CINEMA 東宝シネマ (Kagoya-machi - in Higashi Shinmachi Arcade) 088.625.5311	Finding Neverland 【UK/USA】 ネバーランド	from 2/5
	Regular tickets → ¥1800 1st of each month → ¥1000 Customer Appreciation Day / Wednesday → ¥1000	
ATTACK HEIWA アタック平和 (Kuramoto 2 cho-me - near Kuramoto Station) 088.631.6490	Ocean's 12 【USA】 オーシャンズ 12	
	1st of each month → ¥1000 Customer Appreciation Day/ Wednesday → ¥1000	
HEIWA DOLBY 平和ドルビー (Kuramoto 2 cho-me) 088.631.6490	Alexander 【USA】 アルキサンダー	
	Regular tickets → ¥1800 1st of each month → ¥1000 Customer Appreciation Day / Wednesday → ¥1000	
KITAJIMA CINEMA SUNSHINE *FUJI GRAND* 北島シネマサンシャイン (Kitajima-cho Tainohama) 088.697.3113 088.697.3111 (24 時間テープ案内 - 24 hour recorded message) Regular tickets → ¥1800 The 1st of each month → ¥1000 Ladies' Day / Wednesday → ¥1000	Alexander 【USA】 アルキサンダー	from 2/5
	The Notebook 【USA】 かみに読む物語	
	One Missed Call 2 【JPN】 着信アリ 2 (in Japanese)	
	The Bourne Supremacy 【USA】 ボーン・スプレマシー	from 2/11
	The Grudge 【USA】 THE JUON / 呪怨	
	Suspect Zero 【USA】 サスペクト・ゼロ	from 2/12
	MAKOTO 【JPN】	from 2/19
	Ocean's 12 【USA】 オーシャンズ 12	
	Ray 【USA】 レイ	
	Howl's Moving Castle 【JPN】 ハウルの動く城	
	The Phantom of the Opera 【USA】 オペラ座の怪人	
	We Shall Overcome Someday 【JPN】 パッチギ (in Japanese)	
	Year One in the North 【JPN】 北の零年 (in Japanese)	
	The Terminal 【USA】 ターミナル	
The Prince of Tennis 【JPN】 テニスの王子様 (in Japanese)		

coming soon:

At Kitajima Sunshine Cinema in Fuji Grand this March:

Shark Tale featuring the voice of Will Smith
 Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason starring Renée Zellweger

正しい知識で
 差別解消