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# awa life



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## take the train to turtle town

by eliott green and damon abbott  
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*signpost for Ohama beach in Hiwasa*

Most people traveling south out of Tokushima City will have the misconception that the sleepy towns they pass through have nothing to offer in the way of entertainment. However, venturing into one of these towns could change your outlook.

Hiwasa is one such town. Located 60 km south of Tokushima City, this quaint seaside town is a veritable playground for outdoor enthusiasts.

After spending a few hours in Hiwasa, it's easy to see that this is a tight-knit community where everyone is familiar with one another, families run generations deep and you don't need to lock your door when you leave the house.

Although Hiwasa is far from a bustling metropolis, there are quite a few attractions worth your time.

Yakuoji Temple is the most prominent feature of Hiwasa. It is the 23rd temple of the 88

temple circuit and gives superb panoramic views of Hiwasa and the seafont. Famed for warding off evil spirits, it is said that if women drop money on each of the first 33 steps and men on the next 42, the spirits will be banished.

The most recent addition to Hiwasa's tourist attractions found just down the road from Yakuoji Temple, is its brand new visitors centre. The centre consists of a gift shop, an organic foods shop and a foot bath to bathe your tired feet. It also offers a chance to chat with pilgrims gearing themselves up for the long walk between temples 23 and 24.

When most Japanese in Tokushima-ken hear you are visiting Hiwasa, they will probably say, "Ahh, turtles neh?". Hiwasa is widely known for its Loggerhead turtles that come to lay their eggs there in early summer.

Ohama beach is 500m in length and has been selected as one of Japan's 100 best beaches.

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**turtle town... con't on page 8**

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## from the editors

**y**ou will notice that I have changed my name in the 'contributors' section below - you can read all about my adventures in bureaucracy on the road to wedded bliss on page 10, and maybe learn some new words at the same time. Speaking of learning new words, the application period for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test is coming up again. The test is held every year on the first Sunday in December, but the application period is from July to September - which means you have at least three months of dread to look forward to from the time you submit your application until the actual test date. The nearest test location to Tokushima is Takamatsu's Kagawa University, but I took mine in Hiroshima last year, just for fun. See the details about the JLPT on page 14 of this issue. You've got half a year to study - why not give it a try?

Love, Claire



**a**ccording to the Japan Meteorological Agency the rainy season is set to begin on June the 4th and end on July 17th. While the rain season is a major source of annoyance for people (especially foreigners like me who are not familiar with this meteorological phenomenon), its presence does not necessarily mean that we should spend all our time indoors chilling under the aircon dreaming of cloudless sunny days. For example there is nothing more relaxing than sitting in an open air hot spring while viewing the cloudy landscape and listening to the patter of the rain. While you are in the onsen, it might be a good time to think about the Japanese aesthetic system of **wabi-sabi**. **Wabi-sabi** is beauty of things imperfect, modest and unconventional. If that sounds a strange and over the top don't blame me I am just trying to get through the rainy season.

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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### English Information on FM Tokushima:

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

# tales of the tanuki in awa

**h**orse Dung  
*The Haibaragawa River plain, running between Mima-gun and Awa-gun, ordinarily had very little water in it. As the name implies, however, it was indeed a riverbed. Extending to include seven or eight villages, it was a very lonely place at night. One night a fellow from Haibara village on the west bank of the river crossed over to Iwatsu, on the east side, for a little night-time entertainment. Later that night, on his return to Haibara, a young girl appeared before him. Saying that she was lonely and scared, she asked the man if he would accompany her home. The man, realizing that the girl was actually a **tanuki** in human form, decided to try to capture the **tanuki** alive. 'Well, well, let's be on our way then,' he said. The girl replied, 'please take my hand.' So he took hold of her wrist, all the while thinking, 'I've got her now.' Upon reaching his doorway and just as he was about to try to get the girl to go inside, the girl, said, 'my hand is starting to hurt, would you please hold the other one. Having no problem with her request he let go of her hand. As he suddenly felt her let go, he opened his own hand and, much to his surprise, found a piece of horse dung in it.*

This folktale, from **Awa no Tanuki no Hanashi**, shows the **tanuki** (badger/raccoon dog) at its mischievous best. **Tanuki** (along with **kitsune** - fox) occupy a primary place in Japanese folklore. **Tanuki**

are tricksters: bewitching humans, hurting and harming, rewarding good deeds and revenging wrongs. **Tanuki** flit around the fringes of human society, lurking under bridges, skulking through lonely woods, taking on the garb and form of priests, peasants, and inanimate objects.

Tokushima prefecture is rife with **tanuki** tales. As **Awa no Tanuki no Hanashi** explains, most of the tales originate in the plains and inhabited areas rather than in the desolate mountainous parts of the prefecture. The animal - as well as the creature of myth and legend, exists in the borderlands, between the fields and forests. So, while there are stories of mountain **tanuki**, most of the tales involve interactions between **tanuki** and humans that center on "normal" societal relations. In these encounters, however, normality is often reversed and skewed. This peripheral existence seems to be central to the **tanuki** tales, as the animals in myth act as links to a forbidden kind of behavior - behavior that is often far removed from proper societal norms.

There are many types of **tanuki** tales. **Awa no Tanuki no Hanashi** categorizes them as follows: tales of **tanuki** fires, **tanuki** imitations, **tanuki** tricks, methods for bewitching humans, **tanuki** tricks on humans, failed attempts to trick, battles between **tanuki** groups, **tanuki** revenge, recompense, tricking humans into falling in love, and **tanuki** tricked by people and foxes.

Running through all this, and perhaps most notable, is the **tanuki's** main means of disarming and defeating opponents: an extremely large and very malleable scrotum. In Japanese Ghosts and Demons, Brenda Jordan writes, "*He [the **tanuki**] delights in wonderful, crazy, and dangerous pranks with his huge scrotum, which can measure as much as eight mats in size (144 square feet). He can drag it behind him like a train, drape himself in it as in a **kimono**, use it as an umbrella, or have puppets dance on it. He is not above taking a hunter by surprise and strangling him with it.*" Again, this shows the **tanuki's** place as an anti-hero, existing at the edges of normality, wielding a very awkward and unusual sort of weapon.

**Tanuki** tales in Tokushima, for the most part, come from the areas around towns and settled areas where animals and humans co-exist. **Tanuki** in folklore, then, take on the guise and function of humans. In some ways and in some of the tales this means that **tanuki** reinforce positive social norms. In other, darker, stories however, **tanuki** cross the bounds, harming and killing; in revenge or just out of a sense of mischievousness. Folk tales centered on **tanuki** as a trickster and mischief maker serve to show a shadowy world where the usual patterns of behavior are often reversed and overturned when **tanuki** and townsfolk meet in lonely forests at night.

*\*special thanks to Aoki-sensei for offering his insights on the Awa folk tales.*



# yoga - utthita trikonasana

by jon teakle  
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**U**tthita means extended and Trikonasana means triangle. This pose creates a number of triangles with the body. This is a really good pose for working with body alignment.

## Step 1

From standing pose (Tadasana) jump the feet 3-4 feet apart, at the same time stretch the arms out to the sides, level with your shoulders, palms down. Arms and legs are straight and fully extended.

## Step 2

Turn the right foot in about 20° and the left foot out 90° (move the toes and keep the heels in place). Keep both legs locked, the outside of the right foot is pressing down, toes of the left foot are spread.

## Step 3

As you exhale, reach forward and then down with the left arm, place the left hand on the shin, on the ankle, or (if your body permits it) on the floor behind the leg (fingertips by the heel in line with the front foot). Stretch the right arm upwards, palm facing to the side). Form a straight line from one hand to the other. Keep both legs locked, roll the right hip up, as you do this the trunk will revolve with the hip. Look up towards the right hand but if you feel any tension in the neck, look to the side or down. Your head and the trunk of your body should be directly over your left leg.

## IMPORTANT

Alignment is your focus with



*Jon demonstrates Utthita Trikonasana - the triangle pose*

this pose. Most people try to get their hand down as far as possible but in doing so you'll push your butt out and lose alignment. It's better to place your hand on your ankle, shin or on a block and keep the correct position.

Remember that your head and trunk should be over your left leg, both knees locked and pushing your hips the same way as the trunk of your body is facing.

Hold the pose for about a minute and as always, repeat on the other side for the same length of time.

## Work in The Pose

-Don't put all your weight on the your left hand, by extending up with the right hand you'll make the left lighter. (Imagine something is pulling your hand towards the ceiling).

-Keep the neck in line with the spine, don't just let your head hang down.

-Extend the spine from the coccyx to the head.

-Its hard to check your own alignment in this pose, so try to imagine your body being as narrow as possible, keep the hips pushing to the side that your body is facing, this will increase the stretch too.

-If you don't feel any stretch in the legs, try widening your stance a little.

## Combining Poses

When possible, it's always good to combine poses into a sequence. You can move into Trikonasana from last months pose. From Virabhadrasana II, breathe in and straighten the front leg, as you exhale follow Step 3 above.

## Benefits

This pose strengthens and tones the leg muscles, reduces stiffness in the legs and hips, as well as helping with backaches and neck pains.

Namaste, Jon.



# tastes of awa - wasabi

**W**asabi, the green paste that gives sushi its bite (and sometimes it's flame if the sushi chef overdoes it) is sometimes called "Japanese horseradish." Conversely, in Japanese, "horseradish" is called 西洋わさび (**seiyo wasabi**) which translates literally as "Western wasabi." In Japanese, real wasabi is sometimes referred to as 本わさび (**hon wasabi**), which translates literally as "real wasabi."

So we're all agreed, then, that wasabi is real wasabi, right? Think again. I just took a look at the box that my wasabi comes in (I buy the tubes that almost everyone uses at home) and discovered that it contains both **hon wasabi** and **seiyo wasabi** -- in what proportions, the box doesn't say. [Sigh!]

Don't think you can get around this by buying the powder in the tiny tins and mixing it with water. That has either little or no "real wasabi" in it.

Of course, maybe I shouldn't complain too much, since REAL real wasabi looks like this:



and costs, as you can see, WAY more than you usually want to spend, which is why

the supermarket puts it in such an attractive little basket. Maybe you'll be seduced by beauty.

Actually, wasabi and horseradish are close cousins. That probably explains why both are hot in the same way, the sort of up-your-nose hotness that's so different from the habanero pepper in-your-mouth-and-throat hotness. It's sort of an interesting cultural divide. Many Japanese say they don't like "spicy" food, meaning they don't like Tabasco and other pepper-based sauces. When people say that, I counter, "but you like wasabi, don't you?" and I'm always told, "That's different." Which is true, though both in English and in Japanese, the same words are applied to both kinds of hotness, "spicy" in English, 辛い (**karai**) in Japanese. Yet I know people in the U.S. who love spicy Mexican food (or what passes for spicy Mexican food in the U.S.) who think wasabi is too hot!

If you want to splurge on REAL real wasabi, buy a stick and grate it, then use that freshly-grated wasabi just as you'd use the semi-ersatz wasabi from the tube or the wholly ersatz powdered stuff from the tin. But you'll probably want to use more. True wasabi, freshly grated, has almost none of the harshness you're used to and the fragrance is heavenly, especially after the hotness cleans out your sinuses with the first bite.

Here's a great recipe for REAL real wasabi, and not a bad one even for the others.

It's perfect for these humid, very humid, wet wet days while you're waiting for the Cat in the Hat to step in on the mat. The humidity really brings out the aroma of the wasabi in the soy sauce and the nori which really smells rather nice, doesn't it?

## Cucumber Rolls

きゅうりの海苔巻き

(**kyuri no nori maki**)

(adapted from "The Heart of Zen Cuisine" by Yoneda Soei)

### Ingredients

1 cucumber  
1 sheet of **nori**

### Sauce

1 teaspoon fresh grated wasabi  
1 Tablespoon soy sauce (regular soy sauce, **karakuchi**)

1 -- Cut the nori in half. Place one half, shiny side down, on a maki-su (bamboo sushi rolling mat).

2 -- Trim the stem end and flower bud off the cucumber. Cut it in half. Then cut each half into four pieces lengthwise. You'll end up with eight cucumber sticks. Put four of these about 1/3 of the way up the **nori**. Roll it up, wetting the edge of the **nori** SLIGHTLY to make it hold together. (Mine usually don't hold together very well but that's what fingers are for, right?)

3 -- Mix the wasabi and soy sauce and put it in a little dipping bowl.

4 -- Serve. Dip. Eat.

Enjoy the burn!



# set in stone: shikoku karst

by matt lindsay  
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I'd actually gone to Shikoku Karst before, however my only recollections were how remote it was and having to put snow tires on my friend's car. I checked the dictionary for a definition of karst - "*an area of irregular limestone in which erosion has produced fissures, sinkholes, underground*



*local karst ice cream producer*

*streams, and caverns.*" Spring having arrived, I set off with my family to view it properly this time.

To keep costs to a minimum we'd decided to camp and use local roads rather than the expressway, but by the time we had reached Iyo-Saijo in Ehime daylight was diminishing rapidly. We were undeterred however, having located an ideal camping spot with grass and shade and toilets close by. Our tent erected, my son Reni and I set off to explore. As we wandered about we met a mother with her three young boys appreciating the Children's Day decorations - a chain of colourful **koi nobori** (carp-shaped streamers) stretched over the nearby Kamo River. She and her eldest son informed me that the area was plentiful in wildlife including **tanuki** (raccoon-dogs) and **inoshishi** (wild boar) and renowned for its pure drinking water.

Following dinner we went to the nearby Ishizuchi Onsen to wash. Despite a luxurious

appearance the hot spring resort was rather frugal- no soap or shampoo provided and an entrance fee for infants. Unfortunately the water temperature was too hot for little Reni so only my wife Yoko was able to enjoy the colorful array of baths inside.

Upon returning to our campsite we found a mysterious Kitty-chan bag. After some deliberation we opened it to discover **takenoko** (bamboo shoot) **tempura** and bread rolls with a message explaining that the food was a gift from the family we had met. Pleasantly surprised by such friendliness we settled down to a comfortable night's sleep.

The next morning we set off into the mountains. As we wove our way up steep slopes and down deep valleys, the views were breathtaking, the fresh spring foliage vibrant. It was difficult to relax however, never knowing what might be looming around the next hairpin turn.

After a few hours it was a relief to come to a summit where there was space to park, stretch the legs, breathe in the crisp, clean air and enjoy the panoramic views. There was also an interesting shop run by a kind elderly couple selling a variety of organic-type foods such as

**sansai** mountain

vegetables and pickled wasabi.

We continued onward past the majestic, jagged peak of Ishizuchi-san, Shikoku's highest peak. Climbing the final ascent to our destination, dimly lit forest gave way to low-lying vegetation then pasture near the summit. Scattered among the grass were limestone outcrops with cows serenely grazing. A wind turbine towered above this scene, its blades steadily whirling.

While soaking up the atmosphere, couples and families milled about posing for photos or licking the locally produced ice cream. Hungry after our long drive, we sat down to enjoy a picnic lunch. Once satisfied, we set off on foot to explore the lunar-like landscape. Along the way we stopped to chat with some of the friendly locals - the cows, who reciprocated the ice cream licking by licking us.

We decided to venture a little further down the road by car, across the Ehime

**shikoku karst... con't on page 7**

# believe it or not!

**T**ap, Tap! When I was talking with one of my American friends, she suddenly knocked on her table twice. I had no idea why she did that during our conversation. I thought that she did it because she wanted me to stop talking. She explained that I was saying something that she did not want to happen, so she knocked the wood table to wish it would not happen to her. Do you know about these kinds of actions? There are superstitions that people have believed in for many years. There are many superstitions in Japan too that we pass down from generation to generation. I used to live with my grandmother, so she always taught me those, and I still believe in some of them. I am going to introduce

some of the superstitions that Tokushima or Japanese people know.

-If you play with fire, you'll wet your bed

-If you whistle in the night, a snake will appear.

-If you do not put away dolls (displayed at the Girls' Dolls' Festival) on the 3rd of March, you will get married late.

-When your lower tooth comes out, throw it to the roof. If it is an upper tooth, throw it down in the space under the porch, so you will have a strong adult tooth.

-Sleeping with your head to the north is bad luck.

-If you put skin the snake has shed in your wallet, you will get rich.

-If a frog croaks, it will rain soon.

-When barn swallows fly lower, it will rain soon.

-If you eat eel and pickled plum together, you will get a stomachache.

-People with big earlobes are going to be rich.

-If you don't hide your bellybutton while thunder rumbles, your bellybutton will be stolen by **Kaminari-sama**. (Japanese kids are taught by their parents that there is a scary man who creates thunder and lightning with drums in the dark clouds who has a huge bellybutton)

Did you know any of those? While writing this article, my colleague suggested that I whistle in the night and catch a snake to peel the skin, so I could put it in my wallet to be rich in the future. I might do it if I end up taking all the money out from my piggy bank someday.



## shikoku karst... con't from page 6

boundary and into Kochi. Descending the other side of the plateau we noticed a pipe with water gushing from it. A sign boasted "the best water in Japan". From the source of the Shimanto River, supposedly Japan's cleanest river, the crystal-clear liquid was indeed delicious.

The weather became more and more ominous as darkness encroached. During the night the rain arrived. By early morning small puddles had accumulated within our tent making it difficult to sleep any longer. A dense fog blanketed the area however, making it impossible to retreat. With no other alternative we packed up and

waited in the car for the visibility to improve. There would be no amazing sunrise spectacle this morning but the views we had managed to see and the people and cows we had met along the way had been a more than just reward for our effort.

### Getting there:

#### Approaching from Ehime:

A) Take Matsuyama Expressway (or route 11) to Kawauchi then route 494 to Mikawa and route 33 to Yanadani. Finally turn right onto route 440 to the karst.

B) For a more scenic route from Iyo Saijo take route 194 then the Ishizuchi Skyline road west to connect with route 494 and proceed as above.

### Approaching from Kochi (and by public transport):

From Susaki take route 197 until it meets with route 439. Turn right here and finally turn left onto route 48, a minor road to the karst.

### Facilities/Accommodation

**Ehime side:** There is a guesthouse with a restaurant. There are also bungalows for rent or you can camp (free of charge).

**Kochi side:** There is another guesthouse across the border with a restaurant and onsen. There are also bungalows for rent here and a camping ground. See here for prices: <http://www.tenguso.com/shisetu/ryokin.html>



# turtle town... con't from page 1

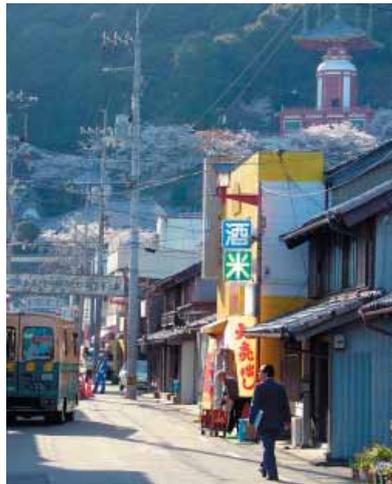
Set in a cove, gently lapping waves make the perfect environment for migratory Loggerhead turtles to lay their eggs.

Local festivals surround their arrival in June, and the hatching of the turtles is in late July. Hiwasa Chelonian Museum, located on the beach, is a research centre to inform the public about the turtles and help care for a select number of hatchlings each year. It is an informative museum for the scientifically inclined. Interesting to a point, it can be tedious for some. Perhaps its most exciting attraction is the number of protected turtles ranging in age from 1 to 50 years.

Open from 9:00am to 5:00pm, it costs 600 yen for adults and 500 yen for students.

Set atop Shiroyama Hill, Hiwasa Castle is visible from all of Hiwasa town. Thought to be on the foundations of the original Hiwasa Castle built in 1585, Hiwasa-jō was rebuilt in 1978. The modern version houses an exhibition room displaying historical artifacts and documented histories of other Japanese castles. Located on the top floor is an observation deck with views of the ocean. Admission is 200 yen.

However, if the castle doesn't float your boat and you are looking for a healthy way to spend your day, starting at the foot of Hiwasa Castle, is the Shikoku-no-michi trail which leads one along the Senba sea cliffs. This 12km walk, although breathtaking, requires considerable effort



*Yakuoji street with Yakuoji temple in the distance*

at times, but is well worth it. A fine activity for any sunny afternoon, the trail is well maintained, and even has a bomb crater from World War II. Bring the camera and a picnic lunch and you are set for the day.

The Shikoku-no-michi trail eventually leads out onto the Minami Awa Sunline. This unparalleled 12km stretch of country road traces the backbone of the coastal mountains of the Muruto Anan Kaigan National Park. The road offers drivers spectacular ocean vistas and exploring the many turnoffs along this route will lead you to several hidden coves and abandoned beaches. These beaches are great for sunbathing, swimming and snorkeling without the crowds at the official swimming beaches further South.

For those who like to get naked in the summer heat, Hiwasa is blessed to have two exceptional **onsens** within a 10 minute drive. Shiroy Toudai Hotel is located on a cliff top near Ohama beach in Hiwasa. By Japanese standards, it is a

small regular **onsen**, with the exception of their **rotenburo**. The outdoor bath provides a relaxing panorama from which one can calmly view the ocean swells. The waves crash into rocks 150 feet below as you soak and relax and at 500 yen, this is a must for anyone visiting Hiwasa. Compared to Shiroy Toudai **onsen**, the Onigaiwa **onsen** can almost be described as a water amusement park. Located in the mountains halfway between Hiwasa and Mugi on route 55, this **onsen** provides enormous pools and numerous jets for massage, 4 other pools, a sauna and showers that are beyond description. Finally, when you leave the baths, there are a number of massage chairs to work out any knots that the water did not melt away. The Onigaiwa **onsen** is well worth its steep 1000 yen admission.

Before leaving Hiwasa, no trip is complete without dining at one of its many restaurants. Restaurants range from **izakaya** bars to **udon** noodle shops, but the pick of the bunch is Anando curry house, which doubles as an Indian gift shop and often showcases various musical artists from around the world (Make sure you eat before 7:00pm as the town tends to close up early).

So if you are traveling south anytime soon, and the thought of sharing a beach with 500 other people isn't that thrilling, come on down to turtle town and find out what the hype is about for yourself.



# martin's anime corner

**Title:** Spirited Away  
千と千尋の神隠し  
**Directed by:** Miyazaki Hayao  
**Creators:** Studio Ghibli  
**International Distribution:**  
Walt Disney Pictures  
**Released:** Japan (2001) U.S. (2001)  
**Length:** Approx 125 minutes

In May, I reviewed the film *Lupin the Third: The Castle of Cagliostro* which was directed by Hayao Miyazaki. Miyazaki is regarded by many as Japan's most famous **anime** director. He has directed films such as *Tonari no Totoro*, *Princess Monoke* and *Howl's Moving Castle* and he has been responsible for the creation of Studio Ghibli. *Spirited Away* was Miyazaki's first film that had a significant cultural impact outside Japan, being reviewed in most major newspapers and on show in many theatres worldwide. Meanwhile, back in Japan *Spirited Away* became the highest grossing film in box office history taking in more than 25 billion yen. The film is worthy of this praise, but the attention awarded to the film stems mainly from the consistently high quality work that Miyazaki has brought forth throughout the years as opposed to the merits of this film in particular.

The film begins with a young girl Chihiro who is sulking in the back of a car as her parents drive to their new home. On the way they happen upon what they think is an abandoned theme park. After wandering around for a while they find a buffet table laden with food, thinking it a restaurant, the parents

commence eating while Chihiro explores the place further.

As night approaches, Chihiro returns to her parents only to find two pigs sitting in their seats still eating. Hearing strange voices and sounds, she tries to get out of the theme park but finds that she is trapped behind a gushing river which was only a small stream when she arrived. Chihiro soon discovers that she is in a hot spring resort where the customers are gods and spirits, and where her parents have been turned into pigs. With the help of a boy her own age named Haku, she manages to persuade Yubaba the evil owner of the onsen to give her a job so she can somehow rescue her parents.

This film might not have been made had Miyazaki not run into the young 10 year old daughter of one of his colleagues. Amazed by her bored and disaffected manner he was inspired to make a film for young people her age to show them that just because they are young that doesn't mean that they are not appreciated. In the same vein, Miyazaki tries to convey the message that being young does not necessarily mean that one will be exempt from the various challenges and responsibilities that life brings. In the film Chihiro is a moody pre-teen but when she is faced with the fact that she might never see her parents again, she has to try to save them and in doing so she reveals her true character.

Miyazaki's films always gently convey the message that we must strive to do

the right thing and make the right decisions despite the pressures of the world around us. Chihiro starts out as an apathetic child who wants to get home as quickly as possible, however when her parents are possessed, she must then desperately race against the clock for a way to get them back. Through her adventures she realizes that something that is worth fighting for will always entail demonstrating ones bravery and love to achieve it.

Miyazaki makes Japanese fairy tales with their gods and monsters, heroes and villains come to life in a fast-paced action-adventure setting. Although the film is visually startling with its wonderfully detailed animation and innumerable mind-boggling characters, the story itself brings no real surprises. The "lost in a strange world and must find a way out" theme is not particularly original but the gods and spirits that Miyazaki has conjured up, each with their own personality traits are truly memorable. Unlike a great deal of Japanese-produced anime films, *Spirited Away* is a film that could be described culturally speaking as unmistakably Japanese. The traits and manners, conventions and behavior of the characters allow for an honest and accessible portrayal of Japanese culture. Miyazaki has succeeded in creating a piece of animation that reveals traditional Japanese culture in a setting that is far from stuffy and is likely to appeal to all regardless of age or cultural background.



## Japanese in the news

by **claire tanaka**  
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**a**s I mentioned in last month's self-introduction, I got married recently! Thanks to this experience, I learned a lot of new things, which I would like to share with you.

Deciding to get married was the easiest part. Then, I had to go to the Canadian Embassy in Osaka to get a 婚姻要件具備証明書 (**kon'in yōken gubi shōmeisho**) - which is called a Certificate of Legal Capacity to Contract Marriage in English. It is a letter in both Japanese and English which states that I am legally eligible to marry. A friend of mine is getting married this summer, and she just happens to hold citizenship in three different countries - Canada, the United States, and the

United Kingdom - so she had to get three **kon'in yōken gubi shōmeishos**! One from each country's embassy. My husband had to get a copy of his family register - 戸籍謄本 (**koseki tōhon**) and we picked up a 婚姻届 (**kon'in todoke**) marriage registration form - at City Hall and had our friends over one night to write their names and put their stamps down as our 証人 (**shonin**) witnesses. They didn't have to come to City Hall with us when we submitted the paperwork, though, which was convenient.

We were both scared we'd make a mistake filling out the long, confusing **kon'in todoke** form, so we saved it to fill out once we got to the office. The staff

obviously don't get many 国際結婚 (**kokusai kekkon**) international marriages, since they were consulting their handbooks the whole time.

Once we finished filling out the form, I asked the natural question, "Now I'm Mrs. Tanaka, right?" and the City Hall staff said, "No, you have to get your passport changed first, then we'll change your name here." I looked into this, and apparently I have to submit my husband's **koseki tōhon** to the Canadian Embassy with my name listed as 'Tanaka' before they will change my passport to 'Tanaka,' but in order to have my new name entered, I first have to get the name on my passport changed! Adventures in Bureaucracy, indeed. 

## letter from suketo hoikuen

**t**his month's theme is: "Fostering Kindness in Your Child."

It's hard to raise a child, but it's so rewarding! There are so many moments of laughter and smiles. That's how we manage to keep on doing our best every day, right?

So, what kind of child would you like to raise? When asked this question, people answer in many different ways, but many people say "I'd like to raise a kind child; one who thinks of others." So, how can we raise these kind, caring children? Let's see what Mom and Dad can do...

One year old... Children mimic the kind actions of others. (They will copy the

kind things that are done for them.) When your child kisses you better when you hurt yourself, or tucks you in when you take a nap, that kind of behavior is the start of a gentle and loving child.

Two years old... Children can show kindness to their friends. At this age, you will start to see your child sharing toys and snacks with friends, and wiping friends' tears away when they cry. It's important to tell your children "thank you" when they do these things. This is how they begin to learn that this is good, kind behaviour.

Three years old... Children develop an awareness of their kind acts. If a child has been praised for their kind behavior

when they were younger, they will become to think, "I am a kind person" by this age, and their generous behaviour will continue. This is when it is important to continue to use "thank you" and other words to reinforce their actions. Your child will become more self-confident, and this will be the base for a gentle personality. Even when children get bigger, they do not forget when they are taught when they are small.

Remember, "Thank you is the magic word!"

-Kaori Sakamoto  
Suketo Hoikuen  
www.suketo.jp



# japanese lesson: ~noni,~

by fusa tamaki  
jtmtoke-lesson@mbk.nifty.com

In this month's lesson, we will learn about **のに (noni)** for connecting two clauses. **のに** is used when what is stated in the second clause runs contrary to what is expected from the first clause.

EX. 1 一生懸命勉強したのに、テストは 0点でした。

Even though I studied very hard, I got zero points on the test.

The speaker (boy) expected that he would get a good score because he studied very hard. So he naturally feels disappointed that he could not get a good score. The second clause implies feelings of unexpectedness or dissatisfaction.



EX. 2 メアリーさんは 日本に留学したことが ないのに、日本語が ぺらぺらです。

Mary has never studied abroad in Japan, but she can speak Japanese fluently.

The speaker didn't expect that Mary would be able to speak Japanese fluently. In the second clause, the fact which the speaker didn't expect is told, and the speaker's feelings of astonishment is implied too.



◆ Important grammar points: **のに** follows verbs, adjectives, or nouns.

Verb	plain form	+ のに
Adjective	plain form	
Noun	Nだ Nな	

The clause that comes after **のに** must state a fact, therefore you can't have a sentence like:

× 明日雨が降るのに出かけます。

○ 明日雨が降っても、出かけます。

Even if it rains tomorrow, I'll go out.

## ♪ Let's Practice! ♪

Translate the phrases using **~のに**, and match them up with the appropriate continuation.

- |                                       |    |   |                  |
|---------------------------------------|----|---|------------------|
| Though Tomoko is not busy             | 1. | A | 手伝って くれません       |
| Though today is a beautiful day       | 2. | B | 勉強しません でした       |
| Though I have a final exam today      | 3. | C | 難しいです            |
| Though I gave my husband a present    | 4. | D | ありがとう」と 言いませんでした |
| Though I heard that Japanese was easy | 5. | E | 家に いなくては なりません   |

## ♪ Answers ♪

1-A ともさんは 忙しいのに、手伝って くれません。  
 2-E 今日 いい天気なのに、家に いなくては なりません。  
 3-B 今日 最終試験があるのに、勉強 しません。  
 4-D 夫に プレゼントを あげたのに、「ありがとう」と 言いませんでした。  
 5-C 日本語は 易しいと 聞いたのに、難しいです。



# memoranda

## Library Volunteers

### 図書室ボランティア募集中

As mentioned in the December 2004 issue of Awa Life, the TOPIA library system is currently being updated - we are entering the digital age! Kevin McDowell is heading the project, and needs some volunteers to help out with labeling the books with the new barcode stickers. He can set it up so you can come in to TOPIA whenever you are free and do a little work - no big committment!

**Contact Kevin if you want to volunteer:**

**e-mail:** mccktm2@yahoo.com

**tel.** 622-9611 ext. 3444 or 656-5855

## Arasowaren Musicians Wanted!

### あらそわ連で 鳴り物を募集しています

The international Awa Odori dance group Arasowaren is looking for musicians to play at this summer's Awa Odori festival (August 12-15)! Try the **fue** (flute), **kane** (gong), **taiko** (drum), or **shamisen** (three-stringed instrument). No experience is necessary.

Lessons start June 13 (Monday) at 6:30 at the Seishonen Centre, and continue every Monday until mid-July.

**For more info:** contact Harada-san at TOPIA

**tel:** 088-656-3303

**e-mail:** topia@fn.nmt.ne.jp

## Tastes of Awa

### 阿波の味

Interested in the fine points of healthy Japanese cooking? Looking for ways to use up the vegetables your neighbour gave you? Ask Don! Don Weiss, author of 'Tastes of Awa,' (page 5) 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 questions and ideas:

**e-mail:** woosongdonald@yahoo.com

## Grimm's Illustrations

### 「グリム童話」イラスト原画展

As a part of the "Year of Germany in Japan" there will be a display of illustrations from Grimm's fairy tales on display at German House (Doitsu-kan) in Naruto. These are the original illustrations used in collections of the famous German Grimm's Fairy Tales.

**when:** June 5 - 30, 9:30 - 16:30

**where:** Doitsu-kan in Naruto, near Bando Station

**cost:** free

**for more info:** 088.689.0099 or

doitukan@city.naruto.lg.jp

## Fireflies

### ホタルの名所

Visit your local river and see if you can spot some of these glowing bugs! Fireflies can be spotted in the following locations around the prefecture in early to mid-June.

Tokushima City - Sonose River

Yoshinogawa City - Kawata River

Miyoshi-cho - Masugawa Elementary School

Ikeda-cho - Ayukurushidani River

Yamashiro-cho - Hotaru no Sato Park

## Submit!

### 記事を募集しています

Would you like to write for Awa Life? We are always looking for new articles to publish. In particular, those which serve some kind of use to the English-speaking population of Tokushima. We can not pay for submissions, but we can offer the kind of glory that can only come from seeing your own name in print.

**for more info, and detailed submission guidelines,**

**e-mail:** awalife@gmail.com

**write to:** Awa Life

c/o TOPIA

1-61 Terashimahoncho-nishi

Tokushima City, 770-0831

# memoranda

## Theatre Festival at Bunka no Mori

文化の森演劇フェスティバル

See live theatre every weekend in June at Bunka no Mori's 21st Century Theatre.

**when:** Saturdays and Sundays, for the entire month of June. Performance times change depending on the show.

**where:** Bunka no Mori's 21st Century Theatre

**cost:** free

**for more info:** www.comet.go.jp or 088.668.1111

## 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!

## Tokushima Vortis

徳島ボルティス日程

Upcoming home games for Tokushima's new J-League soccer team, Vortis. Home games are held in Naruto at the Naruto Athletic Field.

June 18 (Sat) 14:00 - vs. Kyoto Purple Sanga

July 2 (Sat) 19:00 - vs. Thespa Kusatsu

July 13 (Wed) 19:00 - vs. Vegalta Sendai

**web:** www.vortis.jp

**tickets:** in advance: ¥1500 (B seats) ¥2000 (A seats)

at the gate: ¥2000 (B seats) ¥2500 (A seats)

Tickets can be purchased in advance at Lawson's convenience stores and at local sports supply shops such as Sasakura Sports and Alex Sports.

## 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 third Sunday from 14:00 - 16:00

**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 Suketo Hoikuen about Japanese lessons for parents with small children, and Chinese and English language child-rearing consultation services.

## Awa Life Free Subscription Service

阿波ライフ無料郵送サービス

How many copies of Awa Life do you get in the mail each month? None? One? More than one?? Is it addressed properly? Is your name spelled right? Please notify us of any corrections you'd like made to your subscription information. If you are a resident of Tokushima, you can have Awa Life mailed to you free of charge.

**e-mail:** awalife@gmail.com

**post:** Awa Life

c/o TOPIA

1-61 Terashimahoncho-nishi

Tokushima City, 770-0831

**or:** come to TOPIA in person

# memoranda

## 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 Japanese Language Proficiency Test

日本語能力試験

Take this annual test to see how far you've progressed in your language study, or to improve the contents of your resume!

**application period:** July 4 - September 5

**test date:** December 4 (Sunday)

**test locations:** Kobe, Takamatsu, Hiroshima, and other big cities nearby

**cost:** application pack costs ¥500, test fee is ¥5,500

**for more info:** www.jees.or.jp

## Shikoku Henro Lecture

外国人の目から見た四国遍路

Local scholar, David Morton, speaks in Japanese on the Shikoku 88 Temple Pilgrimage as viewed through his unique perspective as a foreign resident.

**when:** June 18 (Saturday) 2:00 - 3:30

**where:** Aizumi Chomin Theatre (4F of Town Hall)

**cost:** free

**for more info:** call HIROBA's Ms. Usuzumi 088.692.6289

## Your Message Here

このスペースを使ってください

Awa Life is one of the best ways to reach the English-speaking community of Tokushima. If you have a non-profit activity that you'd like to promote, let us know and we can print it here in the 'Memoranda' section. Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month.

**contact:** awalife@gmail.com

## 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)

## Car for Sale

車を売ります

Toyota Town Ace Van

Shaken until December 2006

160,000yen

4WD automatic

Excellent condition both inside and out

CD and MD player

It gets approx 250km for 3000yen

Spacious Boot/trunk

Tinted windows and curtains

Seats become sleeping area

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Large sunroof in back and regular for driver

Seats 7 people and luggage very comfortably

Very easy to steer and park.

If you would like to see pictures, please email me

Karen: [karenreid39@hotmail.com](mailto:karenreid39@hotmail.com)

# memoranda

## Speech Contest

### 徳島県日本語弁論大会

**2005 Tokushima Prefecture  
Japanese Speech Contest For Foreign Residents**

Around 10-12 contestants will be selected based on country of origin, ensuring that a wide variety of nationalities are able to participate. There will be an event following the contest where contestants will be available to answer questions from the audience

**date:** 10 July, 2005 (Sunday)

**place:** Tokushima Kyodo Bunka Kaikan

**for:** Foreign Residents of Tokushima

**theme:** A topic of your choice relating to Japan, international affairs, international cultural exchange and cooperation.

**time limit:** under 7 minutes

**apply to:** TOPIA

Applications accepted while places are available.

**for more info:** TOPIA.

TEL: 088-656-3303 FAX: 088-652-0616

## The Chiiori Project

### チイオリ・プロジェクト

#### June

10 - 12 Country Cooking - Soba & Tofu

17-19 Vine Crafts

24 - 26 Japanese Music & Jam Night

#### July

1 - 3 Mountain Trekking - Mt. Mimune

8 - 10 Country Cooking - Soba & Tofu

15 - 18 Long Weekend Open House

22 - 24 River Rafting Weekend

29 - 31 Straw Raincoat Making

#### August

5 - 7 Democrats Abroad Retreat

12 - 15 Obon Open House

19 - 21 River Rafting

26 - 28 Nagashi Somen and Bamboo Crafts

**Basic rate:** ¥6000 per night,

Extra charges apply for weekend events.

**for more info:** [www.chiiori.org](http://www.chiiori.org)

**contact:** [reservations@chiiori.org](mailto:reservations@chiiori.org) or tel. 0883.88.5290

# tv movie schedule · june

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	
Tue. 14	late night	⑥ ABC	USA '99	ノッティングヒルの恋人	Notting Hill	♥
Sat. 18	9:00	⑧ 関西	USA '02	ザ・リング	The Ring	⚠
Sun. 19	9:00	⑥ ABC	USA '01	グラスハウス	The Glass House	⚠
Tue. 21	late night	① 四国	USA '75	シャンプー	Shampoo	😊
Fri. 24	9:03	① 四国	USA '99	スター・ウォーズ エピソード1 ファントム・メナス	Star Wars: Episode I the Phantom Menace	SF
Sat. 25	9:00	⑧ 関西	JPN '04	海猿	Umizaru	⊕
Sat. 25	late night	⑥ ABC	HK '97	メイド・イン・ホンコン	Made In Hong Kong	⊕
Tue. 28	late night	① 四国	USA '94	運命の絆	Safe Passage	⊕
Sat. 30	late night	⑧ 関西	USA '98	悪夢の破片	Shattered Image	⚠

⚠horror ? mystery ⚠suspense 😊comedy ⊕drama 🎬action ♥love & romance SF science fiction

This schedule is subject to change.

# cinema guide

<b>TOKUSHIMA HALL</b> 徳島ホール (Saiwai-cho - near the Central Post Office) <b>088.653.1802</b>	<b>Kingdom of Heaven 【USA】</b> キングダム・オブ・ヘブン	
	Regular tickets → ¥1800 1st of each month → ¥1000 Ladies' day / Tuesday → ¥1000 Men's day / Friday → ¥1000	
<b>TOKUSHIMA TOHO</b> 徳島東宝 (Kagoya-machi - in Higashi Shinmachi Arcade) <b>088.625.5311</b>	<b>Sengoku Jieitai 1549 【JPN】</b> 戦国自衛隊 1549 (in Japanese)	
	Regular tickets → ¥1800 1st of each month → ¥1000 Ladies' Day / Wednesday → ¥1000 Men's Day / Thursday → ¥1000	
<b>TOHO CINEMA</b> 東宝シネマ (Kagoya-machi - in Higashi Shinmachi Arcade) <b>088.625.5311</b>	<b>Ladder 49 【USA】</b> 炎のメモリアル	
	Regular tickets → ¥1800 1st of each month → ¥1000 Customer Appreciation Day / Wednesday → ¥1000	
<b>ATTACK HEIWA</b> アタック平和 (Kuramoto 2 cho-me - near Kuramoto Station) <b>088.631.6490</b>	<b>Million Dollar Baby 【USA】</b> ミリオンダラー・ベイビー	
	1st of each month → ¥1000 Customer Appreciation Day/ Wednesday → ¥1000	
<b>HEIWA DOLBY</b> 平和ドルビー (Kuramoto 2 cho-me ) <b>088.631.6490</b>	<b>Batman Begins 【USA】</b> バットマン ビギンズ	<b>from 6/18</b>
	Regular tickets → ¥1800 1st of each month → ¥1000 Customer Appreciation Day / Wednesday → ¥1000	
<b>KITAJIMA CINEMA SUNSHINE</b> <b>*FUJI GRAND*</b>  北島シネマサンシャイン (Kitajima-cho Tainohama) <b>088.697.3113</b> <b>088.697.3111</b> (24 時間テープ案内 - <b>24 hour recorded message)</b>   Regular tickets → ¥1800 The 1st of each month → ¥1000 Ladies' Day / Wednesday → ¥1000	<b>Miss Congenialty 2 - Armed and Fabulous- 【USA】</b> デンジャラス ビューティー 2	<b>until 6/17</b>
	<b>The Interpreter 【USA】</b> ザ・インタープリター	
	<b>The Ring 【USA】</b> ザ・リング	<b>from 6/18</b>
	<b>Batman Begins 【USA】</b> バットマン ビギンズ	
	<b>Yokkakan no Kiseki 【JPN】</b> 四日間の奇蹟 (in Japanese)	
	<b>Hostage 【USA】</b> ホステージ	
	<b>Closer 【USA】</b> クローサー	
	<b>Densha Otoko 【JPN】</b> 電車男 (in Japanese)	
	<b>Million Dollar Baby 【USA】</b> ミリオンダラー・ベイビー	
	<b>Ladder 49 【USA】</b> 炎のメモリアル	
	<b>The Forgotten 【USA】</b> フォーガットン	
	<b>Kingdom of Heaven 【USA】</b> キングダム・オブ・ヘブン	
	<b>Hitch 【USA】</b> 最後の恋のはじめ方	

## coming soon:

At Kitajima Sunshine Cinema in Fuji Grand this July:

Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith  
 starring Ewan MacGregor and Natalie Portman

受け止めていますか

人権の重み