
awa life



"TOPY"

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

December 2005 No. 186

art in kamiyama

by andrew dahms
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Once again this year, the Kamiyama Artist in Residence (KAIR) Program has come to a close after over a month, and once again this year Awa Life went out into the mountains to see the works and interview the artists.

This year, the three artists were Charlotte Brisland from England, Cornelia Konrads from Germany, and Mutsuki Uchiyama from Kanagawa Prefecture. You can find a full introduction of the artists in the September issue of Awa Life this year

On Sunday, November 13, I went out to see the artist's exhibitions and talk to them about their work. Arriving in Kamiyama in the early afternoon, I headed straight out to the exhibitions with pen in hand to see the finished works.

Mutsuki Uchiyama: The first exhibition I visited was



a work by Cornelia Konrads using suspended halves of sudachi

that of Mutsuki Uchiyama. The exhibition was in a small building just off the main road running past the town office, and almost every open space in the display area had been covered by works made throughout the program.

Ms. Uchiyama held two projects across the duration of the program. The first

consisted of her own designs, using paper to form a variety of objects, from lamps to wall-hangings and abstract objects. The works were highly textural in nature, some combining the use of light fixtures in order to project added vitality and colour to the works .

The second project Ms. Uchiyama undertook was titled *Flag Project*, in which visitors to the display area were invited to create a flag from various natural materials to add to the display. The aim was to involve those that came along and to emphasise the idea that art is something of which we are all capable.

Talking with Ms. Uchiyama about her work, I discovered that before taking part in KAIR, she usually worked alone in her art. Therefore, *Flag Project* was a completely new undertaking for her, but she was very happy with the positive way in which visitors came to participate.

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Download a PDF file of **awa life** or view the online version by going to TOPIA's website!
http://www.topia.ne.jp/e_index/e_index.htm

from the editors

I've had a busy November - not only was my daughter born, but my mom also came from Canada to help with the new baby. We also tried to do as much local sightseeing as possible while she was here. It is a great time of year for getting outside and seeing the sights. We went to Otani in Naruto to see the climbing kilns, we picked **mikan** in Anan and one day my mom managed to walk all the way to Tokushima Zoo from my apartment near the prefectural office. In fact, she went for long walks every day - sometimes she was gone for three or four hours! Her verdict - Tokushima is great for walking, with riverside paths and trails all over Mt. Bizan. Sometimes it takes a visitor to help you see your own city with new eyes! Love, Claire.



The weather keeps growing colder across Japan as Christmas decorations appear on department stores and in the streets. Once again, the year is drawing to a close and I hope you are all staying warm and staying off catching the flu.

In this month's Awa Life, we have some interesting points about Japanese culture for you to read. Junko Kimura writes about the signs of the zodiac, and Andrew Kim writes to us about the use of compliments in Japan. In addition, we have the next installment of Martin's Anime Corner about children's **anime**, and Travel Tokushima heads to the earth pillars of Dochu to see what's about. I hope you enjoy reading this month's issue, and as always - take care!

Cheers, Andrew.



kaki (persimmons) are a sweet fruit available throughout autumn, and are a rich source of Vitamin C. These kaki are called 'shibu-gaki', and are longer and thinner than regular kaki. They need to be dried before sweet enough to eat.

signs of the zodiac

As you may know, asking someone's blood type is a part of Japanese culture, but there is another topic people frequently ask about - the Chinese zodiac signs. The Chinese zodiac signs are frequently used in Japan - I don't know why, but it pops up in conversation much like talk of blood types.

The zodiac signs are divided into twelve, based on the old Chinese measurements of time, and each is given the name of an animal. In Japan, the twelve-year cycle with a different animal for each year is fairly common.

I don't know how the animals for the signs were chosen, but there is a myth about them. God told all the animals that he was going to assign them positions in the zodiac depending on how early they came to give him new year's greetings, and if they were in the top 12, they could be the boss of a year. The Ox was slow, so he left his place earlier than anyone for the greeting, but the rat arrived before him as he had been riding on the Ox's back. The Rooster is between the monkey and the dog because it interceded them. The rat lied to a cat about the day they were to see God for the greeting, so the cat was unable to come; since then, cats have always chased rats over the deception. There are many interesting histories of the signs, but there are too many sources. If you are interested, checking the internet may provide a handy resource.

Similar to blood type,

character is also said to be determined by one's sign in the zodiac. If you check Japanese magazines around now, they may have some information on the meaning of the signs. Here is a short list of characteristics that are said to be held by each -

Rat: Ambitious, clever and devoted to their family. Hard-working and imaginative. Not always sure of themselves and do not always plan for the future. Will always stand by their friends.

Ox: Born leaders who work hard to achieve their aims. Dependable, good organisers and not easily influenced by others. Patient, loyal to their friends and expect loyalty in return. Tend to have lasting relationships.

Tiger: Sensitive, emotional and adventurous. Confident, risk takers and dislike taking orders. Good at seeing problems, but less able to see the solutions. Often seek a shoulder to cry on when feeling down.

Rabbit: Affectionate, gentle with strong family ties. Caring and hates conflict. Peacemakers with lots of friends. Dislike being the centre of attention and enjoy the good things of life.

Dragon: Confident, hardworking and always strives to be at the top. Full of energy, determined and will inspire other people. Don't like routine and are excited by new projects. The Dragon is the only mythical creature in the Chinese zodiac and is seen as the luckiest sign.

Snake: Charming and good thinkers. Love the finer things

in life, so only the best is good enough. Good at making and saving money. Patient, charming and wise. Prefer not to rely on other people.

Horse: Very hardworking and independent. Will work on and on until a job is finished. Very intelligent, ambitious and expect to succeed. Can cope with several projects at once. Easily fall in love.

Goat: Elegant, artistic and good-natured. Inclined to worry too much. Peace-lovers who prefer to avoid disagreements. Others may put upon them, but they are stronger than they seem. Family is very important.

Monkey: Very clever, but mischievous. Love a challenge and can wriggle out of difficult situations by thinking through difficult problems. Highly successful and well-liked.

Rooster: Hardworking, strong-willed and confident. Well organised and good time keepers. Enjoy being the centre of attention and love flattery. Often outspoken and dislike criticism.

Dog: Faithful, honest and ready to serve others. They believe in truth and justice and are loyal to friends. Always willing to listen to people's problems and is able to gain the respect of others. Trustworthy.

Boar: Honest, peace-loving and make good friends. Will try not to argue and rarely lose temper. Love the good things in life and are very willing to share with others. Enjoy gossip and fall in love easily. Can be untidy people at home.



compliments in japan

by andrew kim
awalife@gmail.com

What is culture? Webster's Dictionary defines it as the pattern of human knowledge, belief, and behavior that depends upon a person's capacity to learn and transmit knowledge to future generations. In other words, culture didn't simply exist - it was created by a group of people with similar mind-sets and ideas. When cross-cultural interactions occur, people may interpret expressions like compliments in a different manner than their culture has influenced them to react. A compliment is a sign of respect, affection, or admiration, but due to cultural differences, people may recognize it in different ways. Here, I would like to explore some of the differences between the West and Japan in giving and receiving compliments.

According to a study, compliments to Westerners are something that helps preserve relationships with one another. The function of compliments in Japan is similar to the West, but with an emphasis on maintaining balance or creating solidarity in relationships. Regarding the acceptance of compliments, though, there is a much greater gap. The Japanese standard in accepting compliments is generally either to avoid or deny it as they feel it would be accepting a form of self-praise. In contrast, some response strategies Westerners would use in accepting compliments would be to use appreciation tokens like thank you, comment

on the acceptance, or also upgrade the praise. The Western standard is clearly different, because you can accept the compliment as doing so may not have any negative consequences.

Through a study on compliments, a series of interviews with Americans and Japanese took place in order to see how the two different cultures would perceive compliments. According to the study, the biggest difference between the two cultures was the rate in which they exchanged compliments. The study found that Americans receive or give compliments every 36 hours, while the Japanese only every 312 hours on average.

This may result from the Japanese feeling that compliments may not be vital or rather unnecessary during conversations compared to their Western counterparts. It may be due to the fact of how Japanese feel when interacting with close-friends or family, as complimenting one another isn't needed to facilitate their closeness. Overall, to the Japanese, compliments are seen as an expression of courteous respect for an acquaintance or someone not very close to them. Because of this cultural feeling that compliments are made to create distance between you and the speaker, it may have caused the lower frequency as interactions with close friends occur more often than with strangers.

In contrast, the study found that the closer the relationship an American had

with someone, the more likely they would be to compliment the other person. Rather than utilizing compliments as a form of politeness or respect, Americans use compliments as something to help maintain closeness with their friends or family. It was also found that Americans may feel more insecure or uncomfortable if compliments were not present in their relationships with those close to them.

Ultimately, there were only two commonalities regarding compliments between Americans and the Japanese. The first was that both cultures agreed they 'felt good about giving and receiving compliments'. The second was generally females would receive and give more compliments than males. Overall, from this study one can see that due to culture, Americans and Japanese maintain different standards when it comes to receiving and giving compliments.

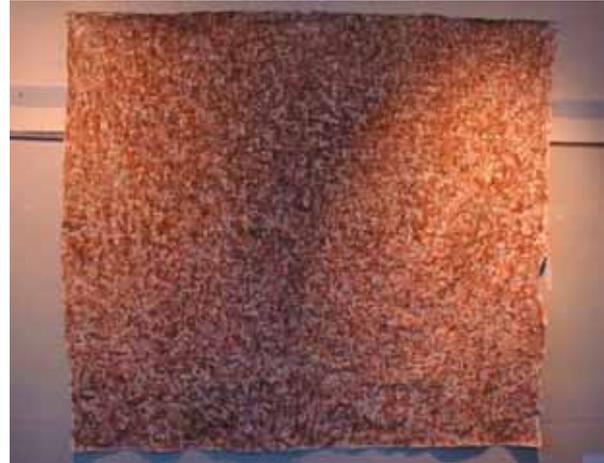
What does this mean to the foreigner in Japan? It is a different country, and compliments may affect your relationship with your fellow teachers and students. Try and see how your colleagues and students react to your compliments, and try to see a pattern. Also watch how your colleagues and students interact with one another relating to compliments. Try and remember when you first arrived in your town, how often were you complimented and compare that frequency to now. Is there a difference? Welcome to the wonderful world of pragmatics!



art in kamiyama con't from page 1...



a painting of a house in kamiyama by Charlotte Brisland



a paper wall hanging by Mutsuki Uchiyama

At first, she commented, people approaching the exhibit were somewhat shy about adding their own pieces to it, but eventually the numbers began to grow. The project proved interesting in a variety of ways, from the way in which different people approach art, to the pieces made. In some cases, people began work without even being asked!

Charlotte Brisland: The second display I visited was that of Charlotte Brisland, whose works comprised of a set of paintings on canvas. The artworks were held in two galleries in a local school, and comprised of several works based on landscape views from various areas around the Kamiyama countryside.

The style of the paintings is fairly simple, but the use of bold lines and colouring provides the viewer with a vivid image of the scenes depicted. None of the paintings display any unnecessary clutter in the subject, and each vary widely in the tone used, from darker, somber paintings to bright works with vivid reds and yellows.

Commenting on the theme of her works, Ms. Brisland said she chose such landscapes as reflections of people and their creations. The world around us, including buildings, roads and many other things are all reflections of people and the world we have created. It is through looking at these things that we can see ourselves in their design. Each creation is a reflection of the needs of human beings, and Ms. Brisland's paintings were based on this concept.

Cornelia Konrads: Last of all, I headed out to the hillsides to see Cornelia Konrads' land installation. All of the artworks by Ms. Konrads were based around the theme of suspended objects and their placement in their surroundings.

The first one to greet viewers is a work called *Floating Surface*. It was formed from a stack of logs and using cut-off sections that were made to appear as though they were floating on the surface of the work. The red colour of the cut-off sections and the position of the artwork make it

a striking work to view. All of the logs were carried by hand to their current place.

Moving on, the second work to be found was another suspended artwork, this time using the trees in the nearby forest as props. The artwork comprised of long pieces of old bamboo (turned white) held between the trees to create a flowing, arch-like design. The supports for the bamboo are barely visible, and the work is very eye-catching due to the illusion of the bamboo floating above the ground.

Ms. Konrads had also taken the time to make a smaller work in Mutsuki Uchiyama's display, once again using the theme of suspension. It comprised of dried **sudachi**, having been cut in half, suspended in the middle of a small wooden frame. With a paper backlight behind it, the work holds a very high contrast, and the warmth of the light gives great appeal to the texture of the **sudachi**.

This year's work make a fine addition to the art in Kamiyama, and if you have the time, by all means check it out.



travel tokushima - dochu

by **andrew dahms**
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This month in Travel Tokushima, we head away from the sea and inland to take a look at one of the most easily recognisable landmarks in Tokushima prefecture - the natural earth pillars of Dochu.

Like the whirlpools of Naruto, the Dochu earth pillars are rated as a top world-wide natural feature. They rank alongside the sand pillars found in the Rockies in Wyoming, USA, and in the Tyrol region of Italy as one of the top sand pillars, and formed over 200 million years! While they make for a wonderful sight during the daytime, the evening light can shed beautiful lighting onto them, and during night they are illuminated from the bottom, making for a truly spectacular sight.

What to do there: The earth pillars of Dochu are a good area for sightseeing, but there are a number of ways you can do so, and a variety of

other things you can do in the vicinity.

First of all - viewing. There are a number of ways to see the pillars, including from a viewing platform at the bottom to being able to go all the way to the top. Perhaps the easiest way is to go around to the front of them as seen in the picture below and follow the trails there. All trails are clearly marked, and you need only walk a short distance to reaching a platform with a fine view of the formation. From here you not only have a good view of the pillars at day or at night, but you can also see out into the surrounding area.

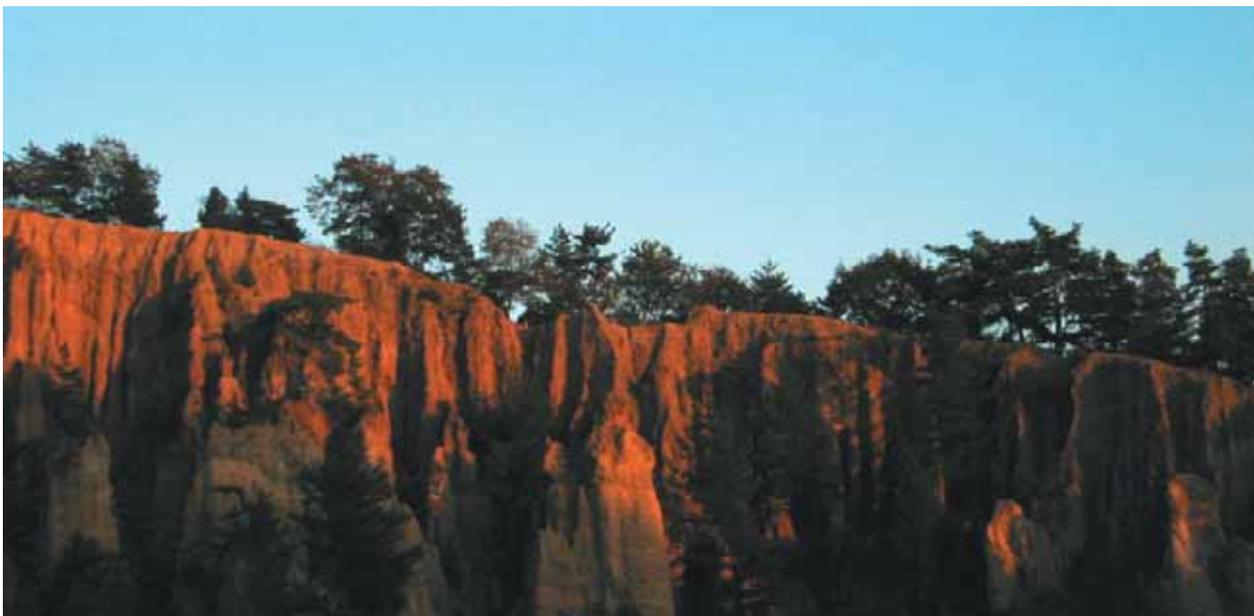
Secondly, you can climb to the top of the pillars by several marked trails from the main parking. While the track is fairly short, the climb is fairly steep, so if you are going out in hot weather it may be handy to have a bottle of water with you.

At the top, however, the view of the surrounding area is excellent and well worth

the climb. It also makes for a great photographic opportunity, but remember to be careful, however, as there are no supports or rails along the top.

What else: In addition to viewing the pillars there is also a large outdoors play area for children with jungle gyms and slides. You can also sample **tarai udon**, special to the region, in one of the many stores nearby, as well as making a trip to the nearby **onsen** and much more. All in all, it makes for a fun, inexpensive trip for the family.

How to Get There: By train, the Dochu are one hour's trip from Tokushima City station to the Awa Yamakawa Station. Go out from the station, cross the river there and follow the road straight for around 30 minutes. If going by car, head off the Wakimachi IC, turn left and follow the road around across the river until they come into sight.



the earth pillars of dochu

martin's anime corner

by martin o'brien
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**Title: Crayon Shin-chan:
Broadcast on Friday evening on
ABC-TV (ch 6), 7:30pm**

**Title: Kerokero Gunso
Broadcast on Friday evening TV
Osaka (ch 19), 6:00pm**

Last week's anime corner featured those well-known staples of primary-school kids anime programming - Doraemon and Anpanman. The characters in this month's edition are Shin-chan and Kerokero Gunso. The shows these guys star in are also aimed at a younger audience, but they are for more older kids so the humor involved is more sophisticated than Doraemon and Anpanman.

Shin-chan is the hero of the "Crayon Shin-chan" series. It is an old series, but it is that it is easy to get into due to the lack of continuous story lines. The main character, Shin-chan is basically the Japanese kindergarten student from hell. Wherever Shin-chan goes, trouble swiftly follows. In a typical day, Shin-chan insults his parents, makes lewd remarks to women he sees on the street, steals booze from his parents, pigs out on snack foods and falls asleep, as well as regularly mooning the audience. Unsurprisingly, Shin-chan has provoked more than a couple of letters of complaint in his time. Despite this, the series has gone from strength to strength and is one of the few weekly anime programmes on the air that truly manages to attract an audience of all ages. Its appeal is not, culturally speaking, unique to Japan. Slightly demented,

somewhat perverted, always mischeivous kids are always a good laugh no matter where you're from. Shin-chan is basically the Japanese Bart Simpson, but Bart was never as **etchi** as Shin-chan.

My first encounter with Shin-chan was a version dubbed over by American voice artists that I saw before coming to Japan. It was hilarious because of the uniquely Japanese cultural elements that Americanized characters had to deal with. It was well-done considering the obvious obstacles, but it was still odd seeing American characters wearing **yukata**, drinking **sake** and falling asleep under the **kotatsu**.

Shin-chan's world revolves around harassing his long suffering mother and father (Misae and Hiroshi). He hangs around with Masaou-kun (who cries all the time), and Boo-chan (the slow one with the snotty nose). Shin-chan's schoolboy nemises include Kazama-kun (Mr. Perfect) and Kawamura-kun (the school bully). In addition to the popular television series on Friday night, there are several feature length films available. The one out at the moment is "San-bun Pokiri Daishingeki".

The second character is Kerokero Gunso. Kerokero Gunso or Sergeant Frog is the Captain of the Space Invasion Forces Special Advance Team of the 58th Planet of the Gamma Storm Cloud System. He was sent to the Earth (or Pokopento as its known in frog speak) on an intelligence mission for a future invasion of Earth by

his home planet. Unfortunately for Kerokero, things don't go exactly to plan, and instead of completing his mission, he ends up in the household of the Hinata family. The two kids in the house (Fuyoki and Natsumi) take away his secret weapons, and so Kerokero has to content himself with his new life. He soon gains their trust by doing household chores, but it isn't long until he meets up with some of his frog alien colleagues who were also abandoned on Earth by their batallion. Some try to help Kerokero escape, but fail miserably against the resourceful Fuyoki and Natsumi, and they too end up living in the house. Some of his alien mates are Corporal Giroro, who lives in an invisible tent in the backyard of the Hinata household. Then there is Private Tamama, who can fire a blast of energy from his mouth when his violent tendencies get the better of him. Despite repeated attempts to take over the earth, Kerokero and his comrades live in relative harmony with the Hinata family. TV Osaka is not available to many people in Shikoku, but Kerokero Gunso can be rented at most video/DVD stores. And so that concludes the two-part kids anime feature. The programmes covered were Anpanman, Doraemon, Crayon Shin-chan and Kerokero Gunso. These are some of the most interesting and well known kids anime programmes on TV and definitely serve as an excellent introduction to the genre. 

letter from suketo hoikuen

by kaoru sakamoto
 awalife@gmail.com

Children display a variety of signs when experiencing stress, but it is important to recognise these signs at an early stage and give them the ability to overcome it. The upbringing we want for them is one that lets them say 'here is a chance to grow!' when met with pressure.

Sign One – The appearance of another child. Things such as the birth of a younger sibling, entrance into kindergarten or pre-school may cause children to be unable to leave their mother, or want to be held or carried piggy-back more than often.

Sign Two – The child only perform acts that lead it to being scolded. The child doesn't respond, throws objects around or always does things that are either forbidden or told often not to do.

Sign Three – The child tries to be good. The child forces itself to do things or show certain emotions purely for the sake of being praised.

Sign Four – The child displays a variety of nervous habits. When the child feels uneasy or nervous, they suck their thumbs, chew their finger nails, pull at their hair or blink more often than normal.

Sign Five – The child feels anxious. Even in the face of slight things, the child cries, throws a tantrum, pouts, or yells in a loud voice, and the display of emotions is especially strong.

Sign Six – The child feigns illness. Even when taken to the doctor and there seems to be nothing wrong, the child claims to have a head- or stomachache.

It is also common for such children to lose balance in their daily activities. There

are times when you wonder 'what exactly is it that you want from me?' Children who can't explain their feelings with words send many signs almost desperately. If you notice these signs of stress, accept their actions and listen to what they have to say. When you are unable to talk, hug them, or holds hands and show them they have been recognized. Also, give them lots of praise for good actions.

So, try looking at how you view communication with your child - these points are important in understanding the way children feel. In the family, it is most important that children are able to express their feelings, they are able to rest, and are able to let out their concerns. This will lead to a child who grows up able to deal with stress, and are able to be themselves when they are at home. 

shin mai mama nikki

by claire tanaka
 clairish@gmail.com

Sophie was born only two days after her estimated due date. She was born on the same day as me (we now share a birthday!), but she was a whole kilogram lighter than I was at birth - I was not expecting such a small baby! I think the doctor was a little surprised too.

I had made several special requests at the clinic before Sophie was born. One request was that she be allowed to stay in my room 24 hours per day, instead of being held in the nursery for most of the day. I also requested that she drink only breastmilk

instead of being supplemented with formula or water. I had to request these things - I was not given a choice. I'm really glad I worked up the nerve to make these special requests - once I did, the clinic staff were extremely supportive of my choices. They were concerned that it would be hard for me to recover if I was busy taking care of my baby all night, but I had my mom and my husband there to help me out. They both stayed in my room with me for the first couple of nights, and my mom stayed with me for the last couple of days, when my husband had to go back to work. I stayed in

the clinic for five days after she was born. I had thought this would be excessively long, but now I feel that it was just the right amount of time to recover from the birth and get used to my new baby before going home. Now that we are home, her papa and I have been busy - we've had to learn how to take care of our new baby and we've also had a ton of paperwork. Three weeks later, we've finally gotten most of her Japanese paperwork done, and I'm starting to look at what is necessary to register her in Canada as well. 

Santa on the River 川からサンタがやってくる

when: Friday, December 23 to Sunday, December 25
where: Shinmachi river, starting from the Ryogoku bridge and making a full trip around Hyotan-jima
cost: Free
for more info: Call the Shinmachi River Preservation Committee at 088.655.1201

Santa will be travelling down the river through the center of Tokushima City by boat, delivering over 3,000 presents to children from 18:00 to 21:00 each day of the event!

Outdoor Japan アウトドア・ジャパン

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

contact: Matt Lindsay @ surfmatt@outdoorjapan.com

Japanese Lessons - Ongoing 日本語教室

JTM Tokushima's "Nihongo Salon"

Practice speaking Japanese conversation.
 Mondays 10:30 - 12:00 at TOPIA
 Saturdays 19:00 - 20:30 at the Seishonen Youth Centre

Watari-sensei's free class at TOPIA:

Wednesdays - beginner
 Every first and third Thursday - people with one year of Japanese study experience
 Every second and fourth Thursday - people with two years of Japanese study experience
 Classes run from 16:30 - 17:50

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

Tokushima City: 088.622.6066
 Yoshinogawa City: 0883.24.5112
 Komatsushima: 08853.2.0454
 Aizumi: 088.692.9951
 Anan: 0884.23.6323
 Mima: 0883.63.4527

Doitsu-kan Events ドイツ館イベント情報

A Christmas fair at the German House. There will be a variety of German goods, many of them Christmas-related and of course a big decorated Christmas tree waiting for you in the first floor of the "Deutsches Haus".

When: Currently running, until December 25
Cost: Entry is free.

for more info:

phone: 088.689.0099
e-mail: doitukan@city.naruto.lg.jp

For more information regarding the Doitsu-kan's open hours and access, as well as future event information and much more, take a look at the website and keep updated with everything that's going on: <http://www.city.naruto.tokushima.jp/germanhouse/>

Hey International Families!

やあ、国際家族たち！

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

at TOPIA

(Tokushima City, Clement Building 6F)
when: every 3rd Sunday from 13:00 - 15:00
cost: free
for more info: 088.656.3303

at Suketo Hoikuen

(Tokushima City, Nakayoshino-cho 1-61)
when: every Thursday from 10:00 - 14:00
cost: free
for more info: 070.5681.1230

also...

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

memoranda

Ikawa Ski Grounds Countdown

井川スキー場カウントダウン

Ikawa Ski Grounds Countdown

When: Saturday, December 31
From 19:00 til late

Where: The Ikawa ski grounds in Ikawa-cho, Miyoshi gun.

Cost: Free

Info: Call the Ikawa Town Industry Section at 088.378.5005

There will be a fireworks display, countdown to the new years and much more. Ikawa is 55 minutes drive from the Ikawa Ikeda IC (23km).

Counselling Service at TOPIA

トピアの相談窓口

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

Monday to Friday, 10:00 - 16:30

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

Shikoku Snowball Tournament

四国雪合戦大会

A snowball fighting competition is going to be held in the Iya Valley once again this winter! It will be held on January 29, 2006, but applications for teams are open now. Teams are of 7 to 10 people, with both Adult and Junior Categories. Everyone is welcome, and the winning team gets a free trip to Hokkaido to participate in the national competition!

The cost is 25,000 yen to register a team (2,500 yen per person for a 10 person team).

For more information: Call the Higashi Iya Commerce and Tourism Section at 088.388.2893

Christmas Lights Competition

イルミネーション大賞

When: Tuesday, December 20 to Monday, December 26
17:00 - 21:00 every evening

The displays will be judged from December 17 to December 21, and results are announced on Thursday, December 22

Where: Myozai-gun, Kamiyama

Cost: Free

For more information: Call the Kamiyama Town Commerce and Industry Committee at 088.676.1232

Come along to Kamiyama town to check out some first-class Christmas lighting displays in the streets!

Your Message Here

このスペースを使ってください

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

e-mail: awalife@gmail.com

tel: 088.656.3303

TV and Cinema Listings?

TV と映画情報はどうしたの？

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

memoranda

New Year Concert

ニューイヤーコンサート

When: Sunday, January 8

Doors open 13:30

Begins 14:00

Where: The Tokushima Prefecture 21 Century Event Hall, Bunka no Mori.

Cost: Free

Info: Call the 21st Century Hall, Bunka no Mori at 088.668.1111

Come along for a free classical concert, including works from Mozart and Vivaldi to welcome the new year. Places are limited to 250 people, however, so be sure to contact Bunka no Mori with your details to reserve your place.

Cooking Columnist Wanted

料理コラムニスト募集中

After many informative articles and tasty recipes, Don Weiss has put down the pen for Tastes of Awa. We are now looking for new columnists to write for Awa Life on the topic of cooking with local ingredients. Send an email in to Awa Life at awalife@gmail.com if you would be interested in writing an article or two on this theme.

Your Awa Life

あなたのアワライフ

Awa Life is mailed free to members of Tokushima's international community. If you currently live in Tokushima and you'd like a copy sent to you every month, contact us with your mailing address. Also, if you change your name or address, please let us know

If you are interested in writing for Awa Life, get in touch! Submissions can be made in Japanese or English. Contact us for detailed submission guidelines.

e-mail: awalife@gmail.com

write to: Awa Life

c/o TOPIA

1-61 Terashimahoncho-nishi

Tokushima City, 770-0831

Christmas Lights Display Information

クリスマス・イルミネーション

As the end of the year approaches, why not go out and see some of the lights displays in Tokushima. Here is a short list of some of the places you can find them.

Kenchopia

When: Monday, December 12 to Sunday, December 25, From 17:00 to 23:00 every evening.

Where: Tokushima City, in the harbor in front of the Prefectural Office.

Cost: Free

Info: Call the Tokushima Yacht Club at 088.644.0087

The yachts in the harbor in front of the Prefectural Office in Tokushima City will be sporting brilliant lights for the 25th time this year, thanks to the Tokushima Yacht Club.

Winter Lights in Ikeda

When: Now to Tuesday, January 10, 2006 From 17:00 to 22:00 every evening.

Where: Ikeda Town

Cost: Free

Info: Call the Ikeda Town Commerce and Tourism Section at 088.372.7620

Once again this year, the streets and houses of Ikeda will be lit with many beautiful lights, making for a wonderful sight to enjoy through winter.

Benten-zan

When: Wednesday, December 26 to Tuesday, January 3, 2006. From 17:00 to 21:00 every evening.

Where: Tokushima City, Banjo-cho, in the area surrounding Benten-zan.

Cost: Free

Info: Call the director of the Benten-zan Preservation Committee at 088.669.1163

Come for a brilliant lights display throughout the area. The hours of the display will be extended on New Year's Eve to last until 7:00 on New Year's Day.

And be sure to check the view from the top of Mount Bizan during the Christmas period to see a spectacular sight of the city lights!

正しい知識で差別解消