



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

Tippy says: "Don't h8!"

the peter pan you never knew

Sarah Nelson

An interview with Lisa Yasutake, the producer of this year's Kochi Tosaben musical, "Ekin in Neverland"

In case you didn't know, Tokushima AJET does not have a monopoly on awesome musicals,

since our JET counterparts in Kochi also put on a bangin' show every year, with the primary difference being all the dialogue is in the local Japanese dialect of *tosaben*. They also donate their proceeds every year to funding one or two students to go study abroad! My buddy Lisa Yasutake, who is this year's producer, was kind enough to answer a few burning questions for me:

How did the musical get started? How many years has it been running?

GENKI Seinenkai started with a JET working at the *kencho* in Kochi, and it has definitely grown over the years! This year's musical is the 17th production.

Could you tell me about Genki



President Hook and his pirates

Seinenkai and its members? GENKI Seinenkai started in 1996 and we have put on a musical in the local dialect every year since then. The musical is made from scratch--the script, songs and lyrics, choreography, costumes, sets and props, posters, etc. This year, we are made up of 17 actors, about 10 crew members (not including actors who are crew as well) and 8 Japanese volunteers. Most of the members are ALTs or CIRs with the JET Program, although some years we have other foreigners living in Kochi

and Japanese people join as well.

What is this year's story about, and who wrote it?

This year's story is a mash-up of Ekin, a famous painter from Kochi known for his vivid depictions of kabuki plays, and the story of Peter Pan. Ekin is fired from his job as a painter, being framed for making a forgery, and is invited by Pita Pan (yes, PITA Pan) to the world of Never Neba-neba Land. There he encounters Lost Voice, an idle group of quirky characters not ready to grow up. Chasing Pita



Toppo says: "Don't h8!"

Awa Life

editor's page

This month in Awa Life

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Howdy Tokers,

Ahhh, the merry month of May. What can I say about this month? Sometimes it's a struggle to find something relevant to write in this bit. Would anyone really care if I wrote something *irrelevant*...? Such as how many licks it takes to get to the center of a Tootsie Roll Pop? (Does anyone really know? Maybe we should ask Lil' Kim...)

Anyway, this month we have an interview by yours truly with the producer of an annual volunteer musical...not in Tokushima! Haha. Gotcha. Also more oven-building adventures from our friend Remco out west, a recipe, another dubious comic, and so much more. Eat your proverbial heart out, dear readers.

Best,
Sarah

awa life

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Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association (TOPIA)

〒 770-0831

Tokushima City, Terashima Honcho Nishi 1-61
Clement Plaza 6F

Tel 088-656-3303

Fax 088-652-0616

Email topia@topia.ne.jp

HP www.topia.ne.jp

An electronic version of Awa Life is also available for download from the TOPIA homepage.



Pita Pan and Tink

Pan and Lost Voice is President Hook of Pirates, Inc. (a company selling pirated goods) and his salarymen underlings. Ekin gets caught up in the hubbub of these two groups, and the rest you'll just have to find out from the show! We had a brainstorming session with a bunch of people to decide the theme and another meeting to solidify the storyline. This storyline was passed on to 6 writers (ALTs and CIRs) who then wrote a scene each in Japanese. I strung together the scenes so they made sense with each other, then asked many native *tosaben* speakers to check it. There were probably more than 10 of us involved in the whole writing process.

Do the JET participants ever have difficulty with the *tosaben* dialect? Yes. Even for those who speak Japanese, the intonation of *tosaben* is difficult to master. Also, *tosaben* is the only dialect in Japanese (or so I've been told) to have a present perfect, present progressive, past

perfect and past progressive verb conjugation. There is a difference between 雨がふりゆう、ふっちゆう、ふりよった、and ふっちょった.

Could you tell me a bit about the fund for kids to go study abroad?

For the GENKI scholarship, we advertise the application to students around Kochi through JETs and newspaper articles. There is a criteria that they be originally from Kochi or

live in Kochi now, and have applied or plan to apply to a certain study program. We usually get about 3-5 applicants a year, so they have a pretty good chance of getting it! After the applications are in, we ask them to come in for an interview (usually the producer and directors on the panel), then we choose who and how much, depending on our budget. We try to choose people who express a passion to return to Kochi and help internationalize here. The scholarship we give doesn't cover the whole cost of

their trip, but it does help.

How is the musical received by audiences in Kochi?

We do get a lot of positive feedback. Sometimes we're told that they couldn't understand half the things that were being said, but that they were thoroughly entertained. There are some people who come to watch every year!

What kinds of viewers come to the show?

This depends on the location. In the *inaka*, we get a lot of old people who just adore the idea of us speaking in *tosaben*. In the city we get a lot of families with young children (our secret goal each year is to make at least one of them cry!). We don't get as many students as we would like, but I did go to an English Camp at another JET's school once and was approached by a bunch of squeaking girls asking if I was Ouma from the musical (this was a year after the fact, so I was impressed that I left such an impression!). Of course, at every place we go, we do get a lot of JETs and coworkers in the area coming out to show their support.



Pita, Tink, and the Lost Voice (ロストボイス)


“*Obaachans* and *ojiichans* are proud of us because we speak more *tosaben* than the younger generation here...In a way, I guess we get the people of Kochi to reflect on their own language and identity.”

Do you think the show contributes to international exchange in the community? Yeah, definitely. Even from the planning stages, when I ask coworkers and people I teach English to help me with *Tosaben*, that breaks down walls very quickly. Actors asking their coworkers or Japanese friends for help with their *tosaben* lines create new bonds not possible with English or standard Japanese. I think the people here are thrilled

when they realize that foreigners want to learn their dialect. Suddenly we JETs go from being foreigners who simply come and go (taking a lot of money!) to being individuals who are here because we want to learn about and be a part of the community. Some people even feel encouraged to study English (or another language) saying that if it's possible for us to learn *tosaben*, there may be hope for them. Also, the smaller towns and villages don't get a lot of big shows, and some of the older people can't easily make the trip to the city, so the people there really appreciate the fact that we travel so far to bring the show to them. They have their respective ALT or CIR, but it's rare that they get a large number of *gaikokujin* in their town at one time. *Obaachans* and *ojiichans* are proud of us because we speak more *tosaben* than the younger generation here. They say that younger people in Kochi should feel proud of their dialect and not be ashamed because it makes them sound like country

bumpkins. In a way, I guess we get the people of Kochi to reflect on their own language and identity.

What do you and the other JET participants get out of the show personally?

Having practices each weekend does help us get out of bed in the cold winter when we're more likely to be less active. Practices offer us a chance to come together and bond, something I feel helps to bring together the whole Kochi JET community. Some JETs come from pretty far each weekend, but I think they find it worth it for the chance to get out of their coop and get out and socialize. Of course, there are people who are interested in theater, dance and music, so it gives them an opportunity to offer up their skills. For JETs with less-than-satisfying work, the musical helps establish a sense of usefulness or productivity. Also, in terms of learning *tosaben*, it helps some participants get closer with their community ("Ha! You speak *Tosaben*? Let's talk!") and students ("OMG Lisa-Sensei just said '*Shicchuu!*'"). It is a lot of hard work, but that feeling after the last show is just priceless. 

housing for snakes

Remco Rijkhoff

“Recently a brand new housing complex for snakes and bugs has been constructed in Mima. The grand opening of this complex – which was entirely designed and constructed by Remco Rijkhoff, the Dutch C.I.R. in Mima City - took place during Golden Week. All snakes and bugs currently residing in the Tokushima area

A follow-up article from Remco in Mima about his second oven-building adventure

are kindly invited to check out the premises. They can stay if they like; rent will be free.”

It's been a year since I completed the building of a medieval stone oven in Mima which, since then, has been used by scholars, students, tourists and other interested people to make bread and pizza, and to experience a little bit of European

cuisine. I guess you could say it has been a great success. When I visited Blue Villa Anabuki (an onsen resort along the Anabuki River in Mima) in October 2011 in order to discuss the use of their barbecue house for a Dutch smoking day, it did not take long before the conversation took another turn: “We would love to have a stone oven here. Could you build one for us?” I must say,



An unstoppable duo of smoking and baking

“I must say, I had a great time designing and building the last one, a project that took me almost a year, but building another one? I had to think about it ...for almost a whole minute.”

I had a great time designing and building the last one, a project that took me almost a year, but building another one? I had to think about it...for almost a whole minute. "Sure, I would love too!"

I could not help myself. I have to admit it. I am hooked on building stone ovens, because it is just so much fun to do! “Here we go again” I thought, while walking down to the barbecue house where the oven was eventually to be built. This new oven had to meet a couple of particular requirements, which the designer within me had to deal with. The oven had to be:

- * cheap
- * simple to use
- * a pizza oven
- * a smoker!
- * relatively narrow (to fit onto a 0.75m x 3m workbench)

After months of studying and having dozens of ideas, I came up with the following design: a horizontal smoker-oven combi, the left 2 meters a good old fashioned American steel barbecue-smoker, the right 2 meters an Italian tunnel-shaped stone pizza oven, covered with a thick layer of Japanese loam mixed according to a Dutch recipe,

the oven wall properly penetrated by a temperature probe from Down Under. This could work!

And then my luck started to kick in. • I needed a massive steel pipe, approximately 75cm in diameter, to make a smoker out of ➡ found cheaply at a local scrapyards • I needed many metal bits and pieces that you ordinarily don't find in any store ➡ given to me for free by a local steel factory after I popped by with an odd request for metal scrap • I needed someone to weld the smoker ➡ done cheaply by a friend of a friend • I needed someone who could build a concrete supporting slab ➡ done cheaply by a friend who is a temple carpenter • I needed 20 bags of sand ➡ given to me for free by a local cement factory • I needed a mixer to mix my loam with ➡ lent to me for free by a friend of a friend. And the list goes on and on...

And now, after 4 months of hard physical labor, a period during which I hardly showed up at the



The afore-mentioned housing

office and replaced my regular tools of electronic dictionary and laptop for hammer, chisel, grinder & trowel, my oven-smoker is practically finished. A final portion of luck came to me just one month before completion, when I had taken to the idea of covering the complete supporting section of the oven with clay in which I would insert river stones from our beautiful Anabuki River. When I showed the results of one day of experimenting to a friend of a friend—who happens to be a traditional Japanese gardener—this guy did not hold back in his judgment. He gave it to me plain and simple, as

I like it: “It looks like crap!”

“You’ve built such a beautiful oven, such a beautiful smoker, and then you decide to decorate it with such a cheap-looking clay layer with pressed-in stones. I don’t like it. My advice to you is, get rid of it! “But what should I do then?” I asked, “I want to see lots of colourful river stones”. “Aha. I think you should try to lay the stones as if they were bricks. Stack them layer for layer so you’ll only see their sides, and make sure that you don’t see the mortar but plenty of *sukima* (spaces in between), ‘cause we Japanese like *sukima*, and the snakes and bugs need

somewhere to live too, right?”

So, that’s what I did. In ten minutes I chiseled away one day of hard labor, and in the following four weeks I laid the river stones I collected in a way that Japanese like it best, with plenty of *sukima* for snakes and bugs to live in. So, if you are fond of *sukima* yourself, and you enjoy eating stone-oven pizza or smoked pork or fish, please contact Blue Villa Anabuki in Mima City (0883-55-3777) to arrange a gastronomical experience along the cleanest and most beautiful river of Shikoku. Just one thing: don’t mind the snakes...



irene's recipe corner

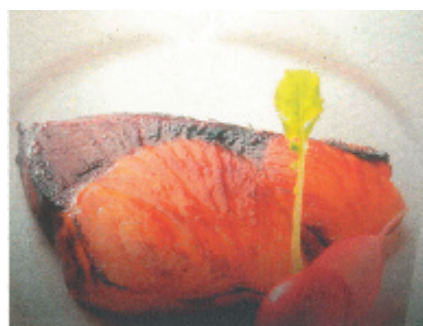
Irene Wachuga

Teriyaki is a cooking technique in which the food is broiled or grilled in a sweet tare, [marinade]. Teri means the shine or luster given by the sugar content in the sauce and yaki means the cooking method of grilling or broiling. Since grilling is time consuming and very apt to scorched meals, this recipe is for pan frying.

The traditional teriyaki food in Japan is of course fish, but chicken and pork have gained popularity due to western influence. Though white meat is what works well for this sauce, hamburgers and meatballs also taste good. Try using your favorite meat/fish and give it a try.

Ingredients [serves 4]

- 400g yellowtail fillets/100g each
- ¼ cup soy sauce/mirin



Buri Teriyaki

- 2 tbsp sake
- 2 tbsp sugar
- Cooking oil [about 2 Tbsp]

Cooking

1. Wash the fish to get rid of excess salt and smell. Pat dry.
2. Mix the sauce ingredients in a flat dish ware and marinate the fish for 20 minutes to 1 hour. Turning over a couple of times so the flavor absorbs evenly.
3. Remove the fish, pat dry lightly

any excess liquid and reserve the rest of the marinade sauce.

4. Heat a fry pan on medium heat, when very hot, add the oil and swirl around to coat the bottom. Place fillets skin side down and cook for a few minutes until lightly browned. Flip over and cook the other side for a couple of minutes.

5. With a paper towel, wipe off any excess oil from the fry pan and add the marinade sauce. Lower the heat to low, cover and simmer for about 4-5 minutes. Brush or baste the fish as the sauce simmers. When the sauce thickens, turn off heat.

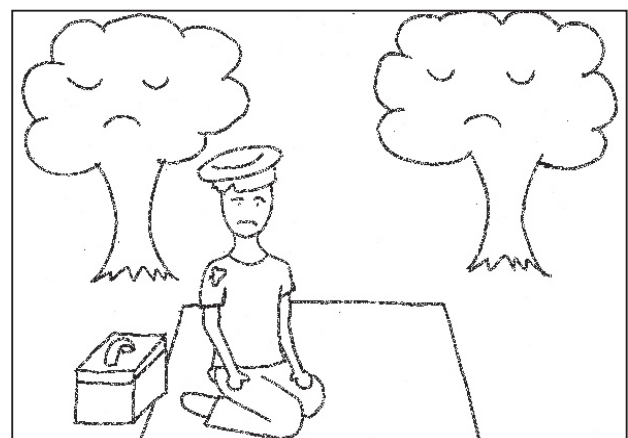
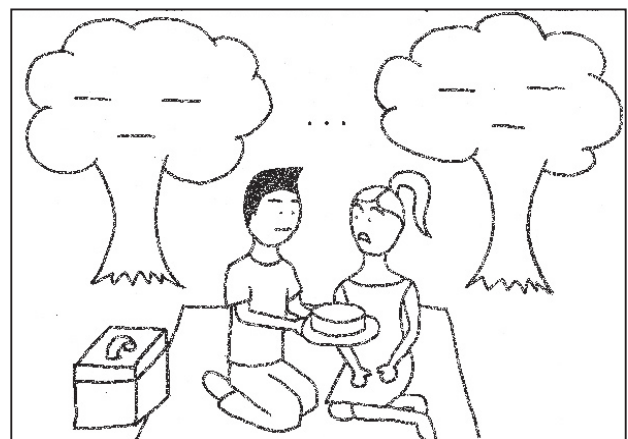
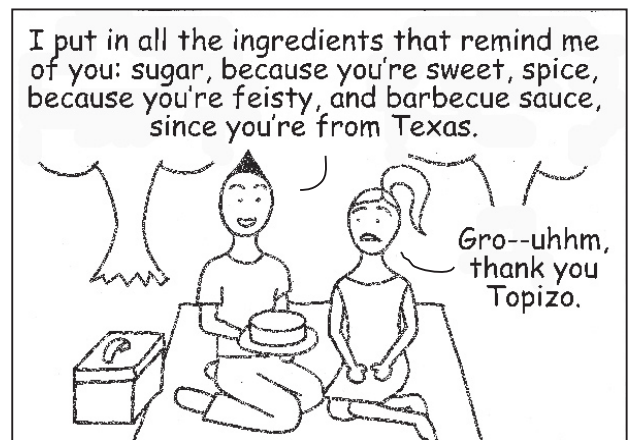
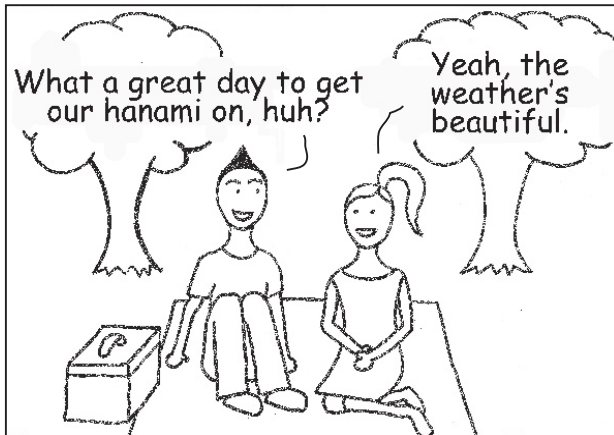
6. Serve with grated daikon radish and some green vegetables with a bowl of hot rice.

Itadakimasu!



topizo at large

A comic by Sarah Nelson



Let's take a look at words that have many meanings. We will learn the meanings and usages of these handy words to increase your power of expression in Japanese!

This month's Topic: Dekiru 「できる」

The word “dekiru” comes from “dete-kuru.” It basically means “something new has been created,” “to have the ability to create something new,” etc.

できる (1) 「～(こと)が できる」 can, to be possible

・田中さんは たなか 中国語ちゅうごくごができる。 / 車くるまの運転うんてんができない。 / 忙しくて、遊びあそびに行くことができない。

できる (2) 「～が できる」 to be finished, to be completed, to be ready

・駅前えきまえに新しいデパートあたらしいができた。 / やっと宿題しゅくだいができた。 / ごはんができたよ。

できる (3) 「～から／～で できる」 to be made from～, to be made of～

・牛乳ぎゅうにゅうからバターやチーズたてものができる。 / この建物きは木でできている。

できる (4) 「～に ～が できる」 to be born, to form, to come out

・山田やまださんに子どもこができた。 / 顔かおに *にきびかおができた。 *「にきび」 = pimples

できる (5) 「(人は) ～が できる」 to be excellent, to do well (at school), be able

・弟おとうとは *数学すうがくがあまりできない。 *「数学」 = mathematics / あの学生がくせいはよくできる。

問題もんだい: つぎの①～⑤の「できる」の意味を a～e から 選えらんでください。

① この子こは勉強べんきょうができる。()

② 来年らいねんこの町まちに大学だいがくができる。()

③ 今日きょうは早くはや帰かえることができる。()

④ 二人ふたりの間に女おんなの子こができた。()

⑤ このかばんは *牛うしの革かわでできている。() *「牛の革」 = calfskin, cow skin

[a. be born, b. can, c. be made of, d. be completed, e. do well,]

Reference: 『日本語ジャーナル』「多義語ミニ辞典」 (問題の答え ① e、② d、③ b、④ a、⑤ c、)



letter from suketo hoikuen

Child care advice
from our friends at
Suketo Daycare!

Kazue Inoue

Ahhh, the merry month of May. Can you smell the verdant greenery? This is the time of year when your little ones start to venture outside for playtime in nature's bounty. They will delight in seeing flowers in bloom, touching strange little bugs, and playing in the sand and mud—and why shouldn't they? It's a brave new world.

Why not enjoy some of these things in the comfort of your own neighbourhood? Take a stroll through your local park and have fun discovering your surroundings with your child, which will surely spark their imagination, curiosity, and fill them with the vim and vigor of youth.


Here are some crafts you can experiment with using everyday plants:

1. Dandelion Necklace: Pick about 6-7 dandelions. At the top of each flower's stem create a hole and stuff the stem of another flower through it. Repeat this process, creating a chain, and at the top of the last flower's stem, create a hole and stuff the bottom of the first flower's stem through. Tada!

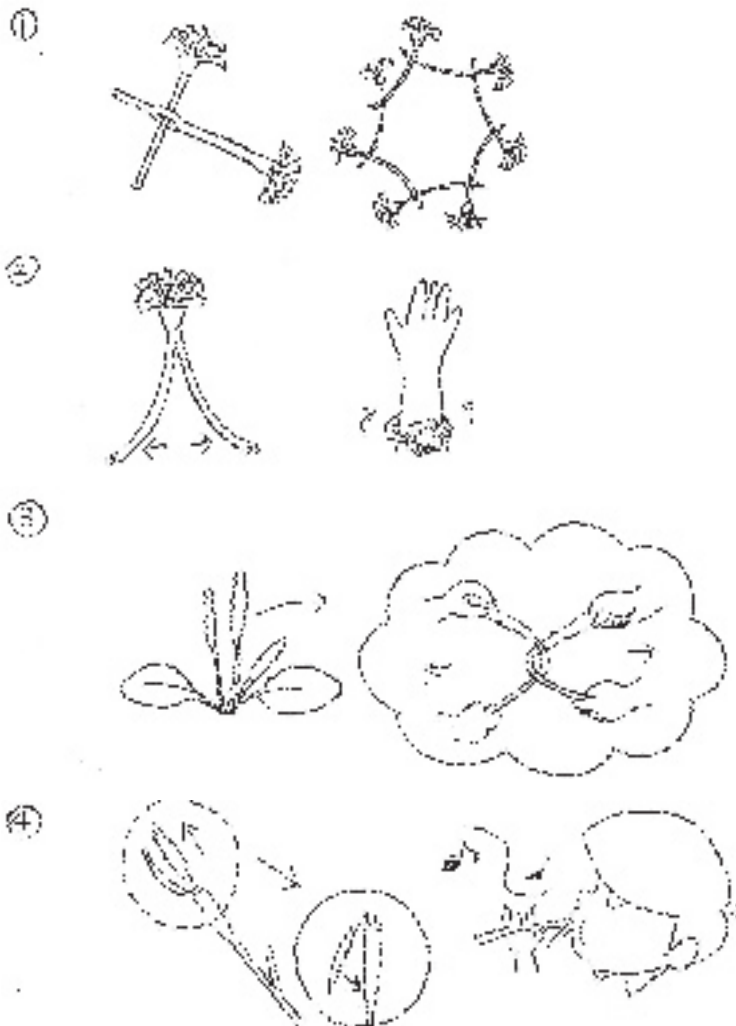
2. Dandelion Watch: Find a dandelion with a thick stem. Using your nails, peel the stem into two strips, stopping at the flower, then

tie the strips around your wrist.

3. Plantain Tug-o-War: Using the stalks of two plantains, cross them over one another as shown, then between you and your child pull on the ends of each. The first one that rips their stalk is the loser! (hint: the thicker the stalk, the better)

4. Shortawn Foxtail Flute: This plant is often found in and around water-filled rice paddies. Just take off the head, fold the leaf down as shown, put the stem to your mouth and blow gently. 

“Take a stroll through your local park and have fun discovering your surroundings with your child, which will surely spark their imagination, curiosity, and fill them with the vim and vigor of youth.”



To post an event of your own, send the details via email to the editors at awalife@gmail.com.

Machi Asobi Vol. 8

マチ★アソビ vol.8

In this 8th installment of Tokushima's increasingly popular anime event known as Machi Asobi there will be special boat rides around the city center with artwork underneath the bridges, announcements at the Bisan ropeway, a talk show with entertainers of the industry, and parasol shop stands, cosplay events, and more!

When: May 3 (Thurs/holiday) - 5 May (Sat/holiday)

Where: Tokushima city center

Info: Anime Festival Committee

TEL: 088-621-2356

URL: <http://www.machiasobi.com/>

Cost: Free!

第8回となる今回は、●ひょうたん島周遊船「橋の下美術館」●ロープウェイアナウンス●エンターテインメント業界関係者トークイベント●パラソルショップ アニメジャック●コスプレイベント などなど!! 盛り上げていきます!!

日時: 5月3日(木・祝)~5月5日(土・祝)

場所: 徳島市内中心部他

問合せ: アニメまつり実行委員会

TEL: 088-621-2356

URL: <http://www.machiasobi.com/>

入場料: 無料!

German Wine Festival

ドイツワイン祭り

At this festival there will be over 100 different kinds of wine to sample and purchase. There will also be German sausage, beer, bread, and many other specialties! There will be a mini classical concert and a seminar with a wine brewer.

When: May 3 (Thurs/holiday) - May 5 (Sat/holiday)
10:00 - 16:00

Where: Naruto German House

Info: Naruto German House

TEL: 088-689-0099

Cost: Free!

ドイツワイン約100種類が勢ぞろい! 試飲・販売されます。その他ドイツソーセージやドイツビール、ドイツパンなど、ドイツの美味しいものが大集合! ミニコンサートや、ドイツからのワイン醸造家によるセミナーも開催されます♪

日時: 5月3日(木・祝)~5月5日(土・祝)
10:00 ~ 16:00

場所: 鳴門市ドイツ館

問合せ: 鳴門市ドイツ館

TEL: 088-689-0099

入場料: 無料!

Japanese Lessons at Suketo Hoikuen (free)

助任保育園の日本語教室 (無料)

When: Every Thursday, 11:00 - 12:00

Cost: Free, and child care is also available!

Info: Call TOPIA at

TEL 088-656-3303

日時: 毎週木曜日、11:00 ~ 12:00

金額: 託児付き (無料)

問合せ: トピアまで

TEL 088-656-3303

Operation: Mt. Tsurugi Clean Up

剣山クリーンアップ大作戦

Our lovely Mt. Tsurugi, which stands at 1955 meters and is one of the 100 tallest mountains in Japan, enjoys so many tourists coming and going that it is in need of a bit of spring cleaning! As a special gift to volunteers, participants in this effort will receive a free entry ticket to either the Tsurugi Yu Ozakura or Blue Villa Anabuki onsens. Trash bags and gloves will be provided. Please bring your own lunch and drinks. Let's get as many volunteers as we can!

When: May 19 (Sat) 10:00

Where: parking garage at Mt. Tsurugi chair lift

Info: Mima Commerce, Industry and Tourism Div.

TEL: 088-621-5225

Cost: Free!

多くの登山客でにぎわう、標高 1955m の日本百名山「剣山」の登山道を、みんなでキレイにしましょう！春の美しい剣山は、見どころもいっぱいです。クリーンアップ参加者特典として、「つるぎの湯 大桜」もしくは「ブルーヴィラあなぶき」の入浴券をプレゼントします。ゴミ袋・軍手は配布いたします。昼食・飲み物・雨具は各自ご持参ください。多くの方のご参加をお待ちしております！

日時: 5月19日(土) 10:00

場所: 剣山見ノ越 登山リフト駐車場

問合せ: 美馬市商工観光課

TEL: 088-352-2644

入場料: 無料！

Spring Rose Festival

春のバラまつり

In this rose garden there are over 1000 roses of 270 different kinds in bloom, and during the event there will also be stalls selling local specialties of Aizumi.

When: May 5 (Sat/holiday) - May 20 (Sun)

Where: Aizumi Rose Garden

Info: Aizumi Construction and Industry Division

TEL: 088-637-3120

Cost: Free!

バラ園では、270 種類・1,000 株のバラが植栽され、期間中には、藍住町の特産品等の販売を行います！

日時: 5月5日(土・祝)～5月20日(日)

場所: 藍住町バラ園

問合せ: 藍住町建設産業課

TEL: 088-637-3120

入場料: 無料！

Kamiyama Onsen Festival

神山温泉まつり

The annual Onsen Festival held in Kamiyama includes Awa Ningyo Joruri puppet performances, games for the kids such as a fish-catching contest, and speciality food vendors, among others.

When: May 27 (Sun) 10:00 - 16:00

Where: Kamiyama Onsen Preservation Center,
Hotel Shiki no Sato

Info: Kamiyama Onsen Festival Committee

TEL: 088-676-1117

Cost: Free!

毎年恒例の温泉まつりです。人形浄瑠璃・あめごつかり・特産品販売など、多種多彩の催しがあります。

日時: 5月27日(日) 10:00～16:00

場所: 神山温泉保養センター・ホテル四季の里

問合せ: 神山温泉まつり実行委員会

TEL: 088-676-1117

入場料: 無料！

2012 Tokushima Japanese Speech Contest

PURPOSE: True internationalisation cannot be achieved without first coming in touch with other cultures and ways of life, fostering a sense of international awareness and gaining mutual understanding with people of the world to create a society in which we can all work and live together in harmony. This speech contest seeks to give a voice to the international residents of Tokushima Prefecture and engage them in a dialogue to further discourse on international understanding and cooperation.

DATE & PLACE: July 16th, 2012 (Monday, a public holiday), 13:30 - 16:30
Awagin Hall (Tokushima Prefecture Kyodo Bunka Kaikan)
Main Conference Room (4F)

CONTESTANTS: A total of 10-12 contestants will be chosen from the applications. Only foreign residents of Tokushima Prefecture whose native language is not Japanese and who have not previously participated in this speech contest are eligible to apply. Also, to provide the event with as much international character as possible, only one person from any one country is permitted to take part (a maximum of two people are permitted to take part if there are many applicants from one country).

THEME: The topic is left to your discretion, but it should relate to the event's purpose of international understanding and international cooperation.

LENGTH: Speeches should be no more than 7 minutes in length.

WHERE TO APPLY: Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association. (TOPIA)
770-0831 Tokushima-shi, Terashima-honcho, Nishi 1-61, Clement Plaza 6F
TEL: 088-656-3303 FAX: 088-652-0616

DEADLINE: May 25, 2012 (Friday) Applications must be turned in by 5:00 pm.

Purple Hotline - Women's Shelter Network

The Purple Hotline is a free telephone counseling and consultation service provided by the All Japan Women's Shelter Network for women and children faced with problems due to the Tohoku disaster, or domestic violence and other types of abuse. These counselors can provide support and necessary information, so don't hesitate to call. English-speaking counselors are available Mondays through Thursdays from 13:00 to 19:00.

Dial 0120-941-826, and non-Japanese callers may press 1 for other language options including Chinese, Thai, English, Tagalog, Spanish, and Korean.

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.

Every day, 10:00 - 18:00

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

人権守って輝く明日