
awa life



"TOPPY"

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

February 2010 No. 235

signs of spring

by andrew dahms

1 6,000 trees seems a little excessive, I thought. Surely there can't be that many, and who has the time to count them all, anyway. Well, it's a good thing I didn't say these words out loud, as a warm morning in spring was to prove me very, very wrong.

Agawa in Kamiyama is home to the largest ume forest in the prefecture and one of the most highly-regarded locations for ume flower viewing nationwide. It is a center for production of ume-boshi and related products, and an amazing sight to behold. The nearby hillsides are literally blanketed in trees flowering pink and white, and the clear air and quiet of the mountain valleys in which they grow offers a serenity you will be hard pressed to find elsewhere.

But of course, Agawa isn't exactly easy to get to. It is a fair hike from the nearest bus stop and even further from the trains, but if you have access to



a forest of white and pink ume flowers line the road through agawa, kamiyama

a car then it is just 40 minutes from JR Tokushima Station. It can be reached easily on Route 31 by going south from Kamojima or taking a north turnoff between the Kamiyama Town Hall and Michi no Eki.

Needless to say, the route on the way is very scenic, and you can even enjoy the blossoms

from the inside of your car. The roads here make the perfect spot for a spring drive or a very long walk if you've the inclination. But for those who do have the time, this small, unknown part of Tokushima can offer a glimpse of the beautiful spring to come before it arrives in full. Enjoy.



inside awa life this month

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awalife

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www.topia.ne.jp/e_index.htm

from the editor

February is one of my favourite months of the year. Why, I hear you ask? Many **traditionell** events are going to happen. First of all, we have Setsubun, the demon banishing festival, next is Yuki Matsuri, the Snow festival, the plum flower festival and of course, Valentine's Day. Last year Awalife had an article about the latter, and this year Andrew writes about the Ume Matsuri. I also like February because of the hard work we do on the annual AJET musical. This years theme is The Lion King. Please head to page five for more information by Mari Rueter.

It is still very cold, but the knowing of coming spring keeps my heart warm. I went back to Germany for my winter holidays to find my home-town Berlin covered in snow. It looked

so nice and innocent. I could spent Christmas with my family and Silvester with my friends. Both I couldn't participate in for two years. Even going two times to Germany on a business trip, meeting family and friends was not really possible at these times.

Now I am back since beginning of January in fresh and windy Tokushima. Immediately I caught a cold, recovered from it and then maybe get another one soon (I hope not). For the first time ever, I also saw Tokushima covered in snow, if only for a few minutes, it looked beautiful and unknown. Bizan is always green and **genki**, but suddenly it was quiet and snow white.

I hope you had a good start into 2010!

Danke, Mario



berlin with snow (photo by mario dammann)

noodling around - the other udon

by lance kita

On a cold winter evening, nothing hits the spot like a steaming bowl of udon; thick, white flour noodles served in soup or with a dipping sauce. Neighboring Kagawa Prefecture reigns with its al dente **Sanuki udon** 讃岐うどん, one of the top three udon noodles in Japan. Two towns in Tokushima also have their own brand of udon, lesser in stature but no less worthy of your attention.

Wooden Tub + Mountain River = Tarai Udon

It's said that woodcutters in Donari 土成 (present-day Awa City 阿波市) shared noodles after work, poured straight out of the pot into a large wooden tub made for serving rice. Being in the mountains, the dipping sauce was made from a river fish called jinzoku. One prefectural governor partook of the udon, and mistakenly

described it as noodles served in some sort of washtub (**tarai** たらい). That name stuck and it is now the folk dish (**kyodo ryori** 郷土料理) of the area, served on special occasions.

Most of the noodle shops are along Route 318, and one memorable one sits along the riverbank and even serves deep-fried river crabs as a side dish. You garnish the sauce with ginger, green onions, and/or sliced fried tofu. The noodles are 30-45 cm long, so sliding them over the lip of the tub into your sauce is the easiest way to grab them.

The "Anti-noodle" – Naruto Udon

Best known for its whirlpools and the Pilgrimage Temple #1, Naruto City is slowly gaining attention for its udon. Most of the udon shops scattered around the neighborhoods are family-run and open only for

the afternoon. The reasonable prices catch the blue-collar lunch crowd and kids on their way home.

In contrast to the typical firm, chewy texture, **Naruto udon** 鳴門うどん borders on soggy. Swirling in a fragrant fish stock are unevenly cut noodles with almost no bite to them. Garnished with shredded fried tofu, green onions and sliced **chikuwa** 竹輪 fishcake, this is nostalgic comfort food, sort of like the canned spaghetti the writer grew up with as a kid in America. This is B-class cuisine (**B-kyuu gurume** B級グルメ) for Tokushima, and it satisfies the stomach and soul.

You don't have to leave the prefecture to get some tasty udon. Take a scenic drive west or north and hit these local noodle spots along the way. More noodling around Tokushima in future columns. Don't forget to slurp!



tarai udon - sliding the noodles over the edge of the tub into the dipping sauce (photo by ms. shinohara)



chock-full of chikuwa - sliced fishcake adorns the soft, yet satisfying naruto udon (photo by mr. kusunoki)

money can't buy love

by rina iwahashi

This past Wednesday, January 20 saw the holding of the Senior High School International Education Student Research Report - a speech contest for students engaged in international cooperation activities in their local schools and communities to talk about their work. In this, the Shikoku tournament, the Tokushima representative was Ms. Rina Iwahashi from Jonouchi Senior High School. This is her speech.

What image do you have of volunteer work? I thought that volunteer work meant the material support which developed countries like Japan give to less fortunate countries. However, what is necessary for volunteer activities is not only material or monetary support but also a greater understanding of people in developing countries and a desire to build and strengthen the ties that bind us to them. I'd like to tell you how I came to realize that.

I am interested in foreign countries and languages and have long hoped that I'll be able to work as a volunteer overseas in the future. That's why I decided to take part in an international support program held in Hiroshima

during this summer vacation. Together with other high school students, we talked about the present situation of developing countries and international cooperation with some people who have volunteer experiences in the world. I was able to learn a lot of things I had not known before. What impressed me most was a workshop about volunteer activities.

In the workshop, we discussed this questions: "There is a nursery on an island in Asia. It is gloomy inside: the nursery has no windows. It looks very filthy: the nursery has no bathrooms. The children as just waiting for their mothers to come back after work. What would you do to save this nursery?" I felt very sorry for their poverty. I said to myself, "What we can do is to give them financial support by sending them relief goods and money." I felt, however, that I might have missed something important, but at first I couldn't realize what it was. For a while I thought things over while listening to other participants' opinions and advice. Then I noticed that there were hardly any people to take care of the children in the nursery. I realized that what are needed

for volunteer activities to be successful are people who can give advice and teach useful skills so that the local people can live independent and comfortable lives. What we have to keep in mind is not to impose our activities on them but to establish a trusting relationship. At the same time I felt very shocked to realize that I had never tried to truly get to know the feeling of the people. What is essential for volunteer activities is a commitment to reach a better understanding of each other, of us all.

Since I came back from the program, I have been thinking what I can do now if I want to work as a volunteer in the future. I have two things to try. One is to take part in as many volunteer activities as possible, however small the activities are. The other is no special thing. Through this program I learned I had never properly cherished my life and that I must make every effort to spend time wisely in my own life as well as with others' lives.

That program has become a memorable experience for me. I think I was given a little confidence to step out into the world.



JICA Shikoku

The Senior High School International Education Research Report is organized by the Japan International Cooperation Agency. JICA's main goal is to promote economic development and welfare in developing countries, and it does so through work with local governments, recruiting and sending volunteers overseas to provide aid to developing countries, and a variety of other programs. While it's main office is located in Tokyo, there is a branch office for all of Shikoku that can be found in Takamatsu City in Kagawa Prefecture. For more information on JICA and their activities, check out their extensive English homepage at the following address: www.jica.go.jp/english/index.html

no 'lion' around at ajet's lion king

by mari rueter

hello everyone. My name is Mari Rueter and I'm a first year JET in Anan City. I've gone through many experiences since my arrival in late July last year, most of which have involved making friends from the JET group here. It has been a lot of fun spending time with all these people and getting to know them better, and one experience that has really enhanced that opportunity is the AJET musical.

It was at Tokyo Orientation in last year in July that I learned for the first time that Tokushima's AJET has been putting on musicals for the past 15 years. It is an amazing tradition that I knew I wanted to be a part of. I had been involved in musicals during high school, but only as a member of the orchestra pit - I never got the opportunity to perform on stage due to my very busy schedule. And so I made it a goal to be on stage, to experience the spotlight for once in my life. The whole aspect of dancing, singing, and acting all combined into one moment gives me a sense of sheer excitement.

For the 16th production of the AJET musical, we will be performing The Lion King, with some modifications from our script writers of course! A lot of people showed interest at the first read-through and auditions held in November. I had no idea what part I wanted to try out for, but I knew it would be fun no matter what I ended up being! I will play the part of one of the narrators, who are monkey



*scar and the hyenas rejoice at the death of the lion king mufasa
 (photo by andrew dahms)*

pilgrims journeying the 88 temple pilgrimage of Shikoku.

The long awaited first rehearsal occurred the second weekend of the New Year, after most of us returned from our winter break. A three-day weekend - true commitment! There was concern that maybe we would not get much achieved, but it was very productive! All costumes had final decisions, an entire dance was learned, and most of Act I had been run through enough times to get blocking (movement accompanying dialogue or occurring in scenes) completed.

My favorite aspect so far is learning the group dances. It is amazing to see how everyone works together to create such beautiful movement. I can't give away what dances we'll be performing, but let's just say that you'll be blown away by the awesome energy exuded!

I was also impressed by the number of talented people! I had no idea there were so many great dancers, singers and actors. It gave us more chances to talk to one another,

to share a common interest and become closer as a group.

One thing I noticed from our rehearsals is that it takes a lot of work. That may be a "duh" comment for anyone who has had experience in theatre, but to see it from the inside really gives me perspective. It sometimes becomes difficult to focus when asked to practice a scene over and over again as people start getting agitated, want to move on to something else or to talk with their friends. But we all know it is working toward the final product that we will share with the community in one more month!

Please come and watch our production of the Lion King in March - it will be a lot of fun! All five performances are totally free to watch! The musical will be held almost entirely in English, but the story is easy to follow, even for beginners, so feel free to bring your non-English speaking friends as well. Come see it at one (or more) of the five following locations! *See memoranda for details.*



letter from a judoka - part 3

by vivian herrmann
member of the judoka group
visit in october 2009

October 11

O Dear diary! Our day started like everyday with the breakfast. After that, the first training of the day was held, but this time without Japanese partners. It was a very beautiful and impressive hall. After training we went to a self-service restaurant where we found that the food was very 'uncommon'. At the same time we realized that all restaurants were very noble. After eating we visited the Tokushima Kitako high school. Everyone welcomed us warmly. We participated in two classes (calligraphy and English) and had a lot of fun. Later that day we had a second training session, this time with Japanese partners. We pushed ourselves and competed very well. Once again, the Japanese were friendly. The session ended with just 100 pushups and 100 squats. The day finished directly with our dinner which was partly very delicious. Finally we could go to bed. This day will remain in our bones, but it was a good day.



vivian, mario, katinka, claire, coach scheele, denise, rabea

October 12

Dear diary! Today's breakfast was delicate! We met in the lobby of the hotel and walked to the Chuo Budokan where we had the physical strain training session. We Germans were used as standing partners in the so called Japan round. We finished the exhausting training with many **Ippon** and thanked our Japanese coaches, because the advanced seminar with Tokushima's Judo Association was over. Gifts were presented and our president of Niedersachsen's Judo Association, Christian Bebek, hold his closing speech

in Japanese. With pumped bodies we walked chilling to restaurant and waited a little to get Pizza for lunch. Under pressure of time we ran to the next training session. The technical training was impressing for our Japanese partners, because it went along with coordination practice and games. Before going to dinner, we took a shower. The meal was mostly made out of raw food, which we had to cook ourselves. Even that we had free time after dinner, we went early to bed to be ready for the hike next day.



letter from a judoka - part 4 ... cont'd in next awalife

tv schedule for february

Date	Time	Channel	Nation	Title
Fri. 12	02:05	8 - Kansai	Italy - USA - 1997	Divine Lovers
Sun. 14	21:00	6 - ABC	USA - 1997	The Lost World: Jurassic Park
Sat. 20	01:44	6 - ABC	USA - 2003	The Core
Sun. 21	21:00	6 - ABC	USA - 2000	Deadlocked
Fri. 26	19:55	1 - Shikoku	USA - 2007	Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer

martin's manga corner

by martin o'brien

Title:	Domu: A Child's Dream (童夢)
Manga-ka:	Katsuhiro Otomo
Publisher:	Futabasha
First published:	1983
No of volumes:	1

domu is a manga written by Katsuhiro Otomo, the celebrated director of **Akira**, the manga was written before he achieved fame and repute as the director and creator of the aforementioned seminal anime classic. The story is a supernatural thriller set in a normal large scale public housing complex in the suburbs of Tokyo. Otomo gained an understanding of the lives of the different types of people that live in these large, communities while he himself living in a newly developed area outside central Tokyo as a university. The particular inspiration for the unsettling story that he sets in such seemingly innocuous surrounding was inspired by an article he read in a daily newspaper about how many people were travelling outside of Tokyo to a particularly huge large scale housing development to commit suicide by jumping off the top of the multi storied buildings. Intrigued by how the impersonal nature of such developments can effect human behaviour, he decided to explore such a theme in **Domu**.

In the Tsutsumi housing complex that is Domu's setting, the story begins with the death of a Mr. Ueno, a manager of a local supermarket who has killed himself in an apparent

suicide. Ueno's death is one of thirty two that have occurred in under three years. All these suicides committed by residents that have taken place in such short space of time are puzzling the police and civic authorities in the area, there is from their point of view no normal, rational explanation. The story in **Domu** however provides up with several points of views and we soon learn that there is the intimation of malice in these tragic deaths. The deceased all have nothing in common apart from the fact that most of them lead happy content lives, what is apparent is that they have become victims of a bizarre old man who possesses telekinetic powers. These powers combined with that senility and that childish mischievousness that comes with advanced age means that he can at will take control of people and play with the lives of the residents like a kid with a magnifying glass hunkering over an anthill. The old man known only to us as Chojiro, doesn't exactly have things his own way, as he is unfortunate enough to be living in the same complex with a young girl who possesses similar shamanistic powers. The young girl, Etsuko knows exactly what Chojiro is up to and keeps a close eye on him in order to thwart his demented plans. A murderous shaman rivalry, so

to speak ensues with Chojiro going to such lengths as to take control of a hobby knife wielding student and get him to attack Etsuko, unawares. Other attempts include getting a police officer to drop his gun, and then possessing a young boy to pick it up later and try to shoot his nemesis. He fails in all attempts but as the violence escalates other people get caught up in a deadly game that ultimately threatens all in their vicinity.

The conflict between Chojiro and Etsuko provides for an interesting meditation on how childish behaviour, might be regarded separately from the constraints of age. In **Domu** is the aged Chojiro who is behaving in childish manner, as he plays with the lives of his neighbours for amusement, while it is Etsuko, the young child who demonstrates maturity and sound moral conduct. One can appreciate the notion that malice is bizarrely not always associated with strong emotions and feelings.

Domu is undoubtedly a powerful and engaging narrative, which rung a bell with many young readers of manga when it was released in 1983. The manga won the national Science Fiction Grand Prize Award in the same year. It was the first time such a literary award was given out to a manga, the result was that Otomo became one of the best known manga authors in the country, and allowed him to crossover to people who were not normally interested in manga.



loanwords in japanese

by anja hankel

Happy New Year ☆ 明けましておめでとうございます ☆ Frohes Neues Jahr

2010 – a new year has come, another year to „crest“ is there. How did you start to “climb” the New Year? Fast in the beginning with way too many resolutions? Or slowly, pacing yourself and waiting for the things the new year will bring? However you started it, I wish you all the best for 2010! To help you a little „climbing“ the new year I have looked up some interesting words which have to do with rock climbing. They have been borrowed from German in the late 19th and early 20th century, when alpine sports became popular in Japan, and established in the Japanese rock climbing jargon:

ヤッケ	yakke (Jacke) means parka or anorak
カラビナ	karabina (Karabinerhaken) is a carabiner
ワンゲル	wan geru (from 'Wandervogel') is a popular name of hiking clubs in Japan
リュック	ryukku (Rucksack) is a rucksack
ヨーデル	yooderu (Jodel) is a yodel or a yodeler
ピッケル	pikkuru (Pickel) means ice axe
シュラフ	shuraafu (Schlafsack) is a sleeping bag
ザイル	zairu (Seil) means rope

Also, it snows – let's have a look at some words which have to do with skiing:

ゲレンデ	gerende (Gelände) means ski run
シャンツェ	shantse (Schanze) is a ski jump
シー・ハイル	shii hairu (Ski Heil) – (Fresh Powder) Ahoy!
リーゼン	riizen (Riesenslalom) is used for giant slalom
ヒュッテ	hyutte (Hütte) means (mountain) hut
ストック	sutokku (Stock) is a ski pole (stick)

letter from suketo hoikuen

by kazue inoue
suketo hoikuen staff

Once February 3 is here we pass into spring on the old calender. For me, this is always a time to reflect on the growth of the children and reflect on their experiences over the past year. You can also see how they have changed through their pictures...

1: One year olds put whatever they find in their mouths. Their pictures consist mostly of dots.

2: At around one and a half years, their movements become more controlled and we begin to see lines.

3: At around two years of age, we see more motor control in the hands and squiggles appear.

4: From three years on we see an improvement in hand-eye coordination, and they can draw closed circles.

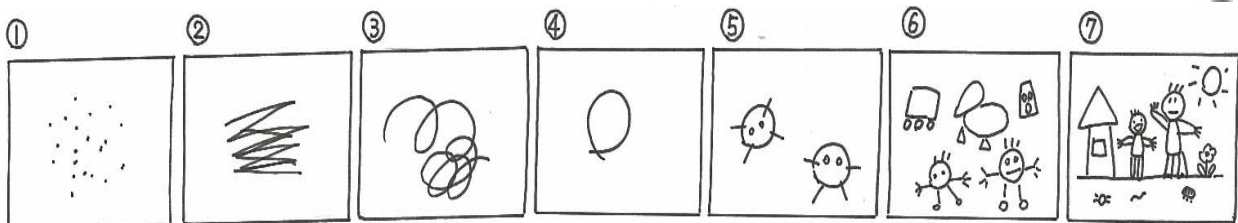
5: At around three and a half years we see more interest

in hands and feet.

6: At the age of four children start to draw as they imagine, so it is interesting to ask what they see.

7: At around five years and on we see the ground and finer details based on experience.

Keep your children's pictures with you to see how they have grown. But remember that all children grow differently; ages may differ from above.



japanese lesson

by toshiko yamamizo

This month, we learn to use the expression for a reason or cause with「～ ので～」 and an unexpected surprise with「～ のに～」.

① いっしょうけんめい勉強したので、試験に合格することができました。

Because I studied so hard, I could pass the test.

② いっしょうけんめい勉強したのに、試験に合格することができませんでした。

Even though I studied so hard, I couldn't pass the test.

The「のに」in ② shows the adversative sentence combination, reason and cause are shown with「ので」. Furthermore, 「のに」 shows the expression adversative to the expectation. Covered are the emotions for an unexpected conclusion, surprise, dissatisfaction, decline, etc.

Both「ので」 and 「のに」 are connected in the standard form. With nouns however, one uses「な」 instead of「だ」.

Nr. 1: Which is the right usage? (「ので」－①、「のに」－②)

Example: 薬を 飲んだので／飲んだのに 熱が下がりにせん。(②)

Because/Even though I took medicine, the fever is not going down.

1、今日は頭が 痛いので／痛いのに 仕事を休みました。()

Because/Even though I have a headache, I take a rest from work.

2、走って 行ったので／行ったのに バスに乗り遅れました。()

Because/Even though I ran, I missed the bus.

3、すみません。 寒いので／寒いのに ドアを閉めてもいいですか。()

Excuse me, could you, because/even though it is cold, please close the door?

4、わたしのアパートは駅に近くて 便利なので／便利なのに 家賃が高いです。()

Because/Even though my apartment is close to the station and convenient, the rent is high.

5、今日は日曜日なので電車がすいている はずなので／はずなのに 混んでいました。()

Because/Even though it is Sunday, the trains should be not crowded at all.

Nr. 2: Look at the following pictures and explain them with「のに」.

Example: snake

① Merlion

② Sphinx

③ mermaid

④ flying carpet



Bsp: (蛇なのに) 歌を歌っています。(Even though it is a snake,) it sings songs.

1、頭は () 体は魚です。Head is (), the body is a fish.

2、顔は () 体はライオンです。Face is (), body is a lion.

3、上半身は () 下半身は魚です。The upper half body is (), lower half is a fish.

4、じゅうたん () 空を飛んでいます。Carpet () flying in the air.

Nr.2: 1 (ライオンなのに) 2 (人なのに) 3 (女の人なのに) 4 (なのに)

Nr.1: 1 (①) 2 (②) 3 (①) 4 (①) 5 (②)

Answer:

memoranda

The 16th AJET Musical

This year, the Assistant Language Teachers of Tokushima will be performing the story of the Lion King. The play is based on the award winning movie. However, as usual the Tokushima AJET musical takes this famous story and gives it a bit of a twist! Come along and see what happens to Simba the Lion King on his adventures!

Performances last for around two hours, with a ten to fifteen minute break in between.

Performance times:

March 6	Ishii Chuo Kominkan 18:00
March 7	Minami cho (Hiwasa) Community Hall 14:00
March 13	Kitajima Sousei Hall 13:30
March 14	The General Education Center 13:00
March 20	Wakimachi Odeon-za 18:00

Admission to all performances is free!

For more information, contact Mario at TOPIA – 088-656-3303

第 16 回徳島 AJET ミュージカル

徳島県で活動している外国語指導助手 (ALT) たちが毎年行うミュージカルです。今年は日本でもよく知られている映画「ライオン・キング」を現代風にアレンジした劇を演じます。分かりやすい英語を使って、踊りや歌いっばいで演じますので、どなたでもお気軽に楽しめる劇です。徳島県の ALT から県民の皆さんへの贈り物。

入場無料

上演は 2 時間ぐらいで、途中で 15 分程度の休憩が入ります。

3 月 6 日 (土)	石井町中央公民館 18:00 ~ 20:15
3 月 7 日 (日)	美波町 (日和佐) コミュニティホール 14:00 ~ 16:15
3 月 13 日 (土)	北島町立図書館・創世ホール 13:30 ~ 15:45
3 月 14 日 (日)	徳島県立総合教育センター 13:00 ~ 15:15
3 月 20 日 (土)	脇町劇場・オデオン座 18:00 ~ 20:15

問合せ: 徳島県国際交流協会 (TOPIA) のマリオまで
電話 088-656-3303

Tatsue Temple First Service

Nr. 19 on the 88 temple pilgrimage holds its official first temple service in 2010 and sells potted plants at over 50 shops around the temple grounds. Every year many people visit the temple for this event.

When: Tuesday, Feb. 23 to Thursdaz, Feb. 25
from 10:00-17:00

Where: Komatsushima, Tatsue Temple, just a 5 minutes walk from Tatsue station on the JR Mugi Line
or a two minutes walk from bus stop
Tatsue Nishi on the Komatsushima City Bus Line

Cost: Free!

Info: Call the Tatsue-ji at 0885-37-1019

立江寺初会式・植木市

四国霊場第 19 番札所・立江寺の本堂にて法要が行われます。立江寺周辺の参道には約 50 点もの植木屋の露店が立ち並びます。多種多様な植木を販売するため、市内外から多数の人が訪れ、立江寺周辺は活気にあふれています。

日時: 2 月 23 日 (火) ~ 25 日 (木)、10:00 ~ 17:00

場所: 小松島市立江町字若松 13 立江寺
・ JR 牟岐線「立江駅」下車→徒歩 5 分
・ 小松島市営バス立江・萱原行き「立江西」
下車→徒歩 2 分

入場料: 無料

問合せ: 立江寺まで
電話 0885-37-1019

memoranda

The Big Hina Matsuri

Once again this year Katsuura's Ningyo Bunka Koryu-kan opens up for the very large Big Hina Matsuri! Come and see displays of thousands of hina dolls ahead of the girl's festival on March 3, and have a sip of green tea while enjoying the local festivities! You can't miss it!

When: Sunday, February 21 to Sunday, March 21
9:00-16:00

Where: The Katsuura Ningyo Bunka Koryu-kan, on the main road through Katsuura.

Cost: The cost is 300 yen for adults, and 100 yen for children to enter.

Contact: Call the Ningyo Bunka Koryukan for more information at 0885-42-4334

ビッグひな祭り

ビッグひな祭りは、勝浦に春を呼ぶイベントとして始まったもので、今回で第 22 回を迎えます。会場の中央にピラミッド状の百段のひな壇がそびえ、周囲に大小三百段のひな壇に、全国から寄せられた約 30000 体のひな人形が飾られ、日本に春を告げるイベントに発展し、期間中 4 ～ 5 万人が見物に訪れています。その他イベントも同時開催！詳しくはお問合せ下さい。

日時: 2 月 21 日 (日) ～ 3 月 21 日 (日)
9:00-16:00

場所: 勝浦町の人形文化交流館

入場料: 大人 300 円
小人 100 円

問合せ: 人形文化交流館まで
電話 0885-42-4334

The Misato Ume Flower Walk

With the end of February comes the blooming of the beautiful ume, or plum, flowers, and you can see a beautiful display in the village of Misato. There will be a walk and more during the event.

When: Sunday, February 28, registration from 9-10am

Where: The Misato Village Fureiai Park in the mountains of the Yoshinogawa City district.

Remarks: Three hiking courses available, from 3-10km.

Cost: Free! (please bring your own lunch box)

Contact: Call the Misato Product Hall at
0883-43-2505

美郷「梅の花見ウォーク」

梅の花を見ながらウォーキングしてみませんか？

受付 9:00 ～ 10:00

先着 700 名様に参加賞（特産品）プレゼントがあります。
小梅の種飛ばし大会など予定。

日時: 2 月 28 日 (日)

場所: 吉野川市美郷村、美郷ふれあい公園

備考: ・重野尾・愛後コース (10km)、
・重楽寺コース (10km)、
・宗田コース (3km)

入場料: 無料 (お弁当持参のこと)

問合せ: 美郷物産館まで
電話 0883-26-7888

Japanese Lessons at Suketo Hoikuen

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

Cost: Free for nursery students!

Info: Call TOPIA at
088-656-3303

助任保育園の日本語教室

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
電話 088-656-3303

memoranda

The Shirahito Shrine Oteki

A display of traditional Japanese archery will be held at the Shirahito Shrine to ward off bad luck for the new year. Come and see!

When: Saturday, February 27
 14:00 - 16:00

Where: The Shirahito Shrine in Anabuki, Mima City

Cost: Free!

Contact: Call the Mima City Industry and Tourism Division at 0883-63-3114

白人神社 御的祭り

災厄を払い、五穀豊穡を祈願する伝統行事です。弓矢が奉納されたことを記念して、毎年氏子により開催されているものです。

日時: 2月27日(土)
 14:00 - 16:00

場所: 美馬市穴吹町口山字宮内、白人神社

入場料: 無料

問合せ: 美馬市商工観光課
 電話 0883-63-3114

German House Friedensfest Charity Event

Frieden means Peace and **Fest** means Festival in German. The Friedensfest is a Charity event for giving donations to the Peace Village (Friedensdorf International) which was reformed in 2008. A event with lots to enjoy for all ages!

When: Sunday, March 21
 from 10:30am

Where: Naruto German House Big Hall

Cost: 1000 Yen for adults (on the day 1200 Yen)
 500 Yen for students (on the day 600 Yen)

Info: Call the German House at 088-689-0099

フリーデンスフェスト チャリティーイベント

「フリーデンス」は「平和」、「フェスト」は「お祭り」という意味のドイツ語です。『フリーデンスフェスト』は、2008年より開催していた『ドイツ国際村支援チャリティーイベント』をリニューアルし、こどもから大人まで楽しめる企画を盛りだくさんにしたチャリティーイベントです。

日時: 3月21日(日)
 10:30 ~

場所: 鳴門市ドイツ館 大ホール

入場料: 大人 1000 円 (当日 1200 円)
 小中高生 500 円 (当日 600 円)

問合せ: ドイツ館、電話 088-689-0099
 Fax: 088-689-0909

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)

受け止めていますか人権の重み