
awa life



"TOPPY"

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

February 2008 No. 212

peach boy taro hits the road

by andrew dahms
until_eternity@hotmail.com

almost an entire year has passed now since the final performance of Pinnocchio, theme for last year's AJET musical. And with less than a month until the arrival of March, production of this year's musical is fully underway!

Millions of Peaches...

The AJET musical traditionally focuses on western fairy tales, tales made famous by Disney, and other stories commonly known by children in the west. However, after much prodding and hint-dropping from the local community, this year the story is that of Momotaro, a very famous and well-known fairytale in Japan.

In the story, an old man and woman come across a young boy who is born from a giant peach, and decide to raise him as their son. However Momotaro, or 'peach boy' in English, is no ordinary child, as he is born with the strength of ten men. When



practice for a fight scene in which the hero momotaro comes face to face with the evil akaoni

he grows up, he heads off to rid the land of the evil demons living nearby, along the way befriending various animals who tag along to help. But, will brute force be enough to get the job done?

The Travelling Play

As is tradition, the musical will be once again be held in

several different locations throughout the prefecture. This year, the stages are at the Hiwasa Community Hall, Tokushima Hall, Ishii Chuo Kominkan, the General Education Center in Itano, and the Wakimachi Odeonza. Check out the memoranda section for more details on dates and times!

inside awa life this month

peach boy taro hits the road - 1 ... coming of age - 3 ... big hina matsuri - 4
having a heart - 5,6 ... the new year numbers - 5
martin's manga corner - 7 ... becky's awa-ben, letter from suketo hoikuen - 8
japanese lesson - 9 ... memoranda - 10, 11, 12

awa life

is a monthly publication of the Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association (TOPIA)

Editors:

Andrew Dahms & Mario Dammann

Contributors This Month:

Rebecca Closner, Andrew Dahms, Mario Dammann, Kazue Inoue, Kam Lie, Martin O'Brien, Amy Sturgeon, and Akiko Tsuji

Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association (TOPIA)

Clement Plaza 6F
1-61 Terashima Honcho Nishi
Tokushima City 770-0831 JAPAN
tel: 088.656.3303
fax: 088.652.0616
topia@fm.nmt.ne.jp
<http://www.topia.ne.jp/>

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.htm

from the editors

February is always a very busy time of year for me. Not only at work, but in my personal life as well. I guess it's not too much of a surprise, however, as there is so much going on at this time of year! Not only is the AJET musical peeping over the horizon with its arrival in March, but there is also the coming of Valentine's Day, along with a whole host of other events. February and March are also a time for some very interesting events here in Tokushima, such as the Big Hina Matsuri in Katsuura. Check page four for more details! Also this month, we take a look at how to help stray animals, and Rebecca Closner continues her monthly look at the local dialect, and the coming of age ceremony as well.

Cheers, Andrew



Totally cold. Busy or not, when I come home after eight hours in the warm office, I wish I could go back and sleep there. Why is it so cold in my apartment? Hopefully the summer comes soon. However, it is the first winter in my life without snow! I can't believe it. It is cold, but no snow? It is colder in Germany at this time of winter and it rains often. But sometimes we have snow and everything is fine. I love it. Anyway, I hope you are good. Please come to the musical in march, if not for yourself, then for all the people who have worked so hard for it to make it run. However, it is not to late to save our planet! Start with 'My Chopsticks' and 'My Bags'! We can make a difference!

Danke! Mario



mountains of chocolate adorn the isles of local supermarkets in preparation for valentine's day (photo by kam lie)

coming of age

by rebecca closner
 rebecca.closner@gmail.com

Technicolor Elvis. Well, that's what I thought when I saw them walking toward me. Technicolored Elvis in a bright pinkish purple **hakama** and a helmet of outrageously bright orange hair. Unlike a mullet, his hair was a party from front to back. My friend in his formal business suit was fidgeting restlessly next to me.

Seijin Shiki (Coming of Age Ceremony) officially marks the beginning of adulthood. Any young person who will become 20 within the school year and is a registered member of the community is invited to the ceremony. The ceremony itself consists of speeches by prominent members of the community, explaining the rights and responsibilities of adults followed by a **banzai** (hip-hip-hooray) the presentation of a small gift and a group photo.

The ceremony is supposed to be a serious and somber occasion reminding 20 year olds of their right and responsibilities as new adults. Several speeches at the **Seijin Shiki** in Aizumi called for these new adults to get out there and make the economy great. In actuality, the ceremony has the air of a class reunion, as most of the participants haven't seen each other since their junior high school graduation. Nowadays many young people don't take the ceremony seriously and view it as an excuse to get all dolled up and celebrate.

Everyone dresses to impress on this special day. Most young men buy and wear new suits but some also choose to wear



rebecca, surrounded by a flashy display of 'traditional' japanese clothing

Japanese **hakama**. These are a type of traditional Japanese clothing worn generally on formal occasions by men and sometimes women. Generally, formal **Hakama** come in dark, subdued colors but some men chose to break with tradition and inject their own style, preferring bright and fancy colors. The **yankees** in the picture are an example of this new trend (in Japanese **yankee** denotes this kind of flashy social delinquent). However, the vast majority of men show up looking like salarymen, and not East meets West pop-art.

Japanese women go to considerably more expense. Almost all women wear **furisode** on this occasion. A **furisode** is a type of kimono with long flowing sleeves. They usually come in bright colors and traditionally signify that a woman is young, a legal adult and eligible for marriage. They are worn almost exclusively by young women in their twenties on formal occasions. It would be strange to encounter a women in her mid-thirties opting to

wear this type of kimono. Almost every woman will rent her **furisode** because the cost of buying just one might be as much as one million yen, while renting one for the day is far less expensive. Nowadays its rare for women to be able to dress themselves in kimono, and as a result they have to go to a salon. Women might start the process in the wee hours of the morning just to have their kimono and hair set in time for the ceremony.

Though the ceremony officially marks the beginning of legal adulthood, many people interviewed on the local cable television channel did not think or feel that they were quite adults yet. Some of these young women and men have joined the workforce, but the majority are still in college or have part time jobs. This can be reflected in the contrast between the serious somber atmosphere of the speeches and the lively banter of the participants. Nevertheless, it is one more step toward adulthood for these Japanese youth.



the big hina matsuri

by andrew dahms
until_eternity@hotmail.com

every year in march, all across Japan people are celebrating girl's day on March 3. The day is marked by the decoration of hina doll displays - large and elegant displays of dolls fashioned to look like members of royalty from ancient Japan. However, as you've likely guessed by reading thus far, Tokushima takes a somewhat different approach to this traditional festival.

The Big Hina Matsuri

Katsuura in the middle south-west of Tokushima is home to the Big Hina Matsuri, a long-standing festival in which hina dolls are collected from all across the country to be put on display. The ningyo bunka koryukan, home to the festival, now holds over 15,000 dolls and puts them on display each year during late february and on into march. As you can see in the photo (top right) the scale is really something, and you won't regret going to take a look! I promise!

To those who fear that going to look at piles upon piles of dolls might not be very interesting, have no fear. The dolls may take the main stage, but there are other activities going on as well. Last year when I went to take a look, there was also traditional Japanese tea and sweets on sale, and a display by the local cheerleading team, amongst other performances from the local area.

And of course, the dolls themselves are interesting too. Due to the collection's growth over a very long period of time, there are



the main display, sporting thousands of dolls arranged in the shape of a pyramid

many different kinds of dolls. Some are very new, while others are very old and have bits and pieces missing (one or two dolls sport very wild and interesting hairstyles). It is interesting to see how the style of the displays have changed over the year, as well as see the amount of detail and personality put into the construction of each doll. Each and every single doll is different in some way or another, which is almost hard to believe considering how many there are on display.

Size, too, differs from doll to doll. While the majority are quite small, there are also some large dolls as well, including some around one meter high that are sure to give anyone with a doll phobia nightmares for the rest of the week.

A Reason for Everything

The Big Hina Matsuri didn't simply come about through the desire to collect hordes and hordes of dolls, however. In fact, the reason that dolls

are sent here from all over Japan as opposed to simply being disposed of is part superstition and part respect for the craftsmanship put into making them.

Simply put, people find it difficult to throw away the dolls. They are not only expensive, but it is considered just cause for bad luck to rain down from the heavens on the offending person/s.

Hina Matsuri - The Song

You guessed it - the hina matsuri is no exception when it comes to traditional festival songs. Listen close next time you're out shopping and you might just hear it!

"Akari o tsukemashou bonbori ni, ohana o agemashou momo no hana, go-nin bayashi no fue taiko, kyo wa tanoshii Hinamatsuri"

"Let's light the lanterns, let's set peach flowers, five court musicians are playing flutes and drums, today is the joyful Dolls' Festival"



having a heart

by amy sturgeon
 awalife@gmail.com

Ever marvelled at the resourcefulness of that motley crew of stray animals managing to eek out an existence in your neighbourhood? If you've not seen any stray or abandoned animals in and around your neighbourhood there are two possible reasons. They've either been rounded up recently by the local hokenjo and 'disposed of' or it's time to visit the eye doctor. To put no finer point on it, Japan is crawling with stray and abandoned animals. Tokushima prefecture is ranked third on the government's animal control worst three list, so it's highly unlikely any neighbourhood, however rural or urban, is without at least a few stray

cats and dogs.

There are many reasons contributing to the large and constantly replenished population of stray and abandoned animals. Japan is said to be the land of the 'boom' and this extends to animals, too. When the latest pets cease to be fashionable they often end up dumped in the countryside, 'returned to nature' as their abandoners would put it. Also there is resistance to the spaying and neutering of animals and many vets even consider it unnatural, so basically all animals are abandoned without being spayed or neutered.

What of shelters and pounds? Each prefecture has one or more **doubutsu aigo** centres, but they operate quite

differently from what may be assumed and emphasis is not placed on public education, rehoming / adoption, basic vet care and spaying / neutering. The methods of euthanasia employed also differ quite significantly to what might be expected. Last year 7,421 animals were euthanized in Tokushima, more than 20 a day. A full 81% of the cats were kittens and 33% of the dogs were puppies.

At present, Japanese animal welfare and control laws and the **doubutsu aigo** centres are geared towards the control of rabies, which hasn't been a problem for a long time. There is also little legislation forcing people to be responsible for the welfare of animals in their care. This extends to

having a heart ... con't on page 6

the new year numbers!

submitted
 awalife@gmail.com

How were your pickings for **nengajo** new year's cards this year? Do you still have them? I hope so, as those little pieces of cardboard contain not only the good wishes of friends and neighbours, but are also adorned with lotto numbers as well! And guess what! The numbers for this year's lotto have been drawn, and the prizes are waiting to be collected!

Let's take a look at this year's winning numbers and the selection of prizes:

First place - 574578

Prizes include a trip overseas,

a 37 inch television or MacBook and iPod.

Second Place - 957358, 769466, 397940

Prizes include an iPod Nano, Nintendo Wii, IXY etc.

Third Place - last four numbers aligned as 9660

Assorted food items and specialities from across the country.

Fourth Place - last two numbers aligned as 37 or 64

Special New Year Stamps

The Nenga Original Prize - 935473, 588104, 520056,

700871

An original Nintendo DS Lite

C Rank Special Prizes - 812751, 561101

Bicycle sets, etc.

If you have won a prize, all you have to do is bring the winning card to your local post office and present it at the counter. Furthermore, prizes can be claimed from now up until July 28 this year.

The lotto numbers on your **nengajo** can be found on the bottom right-hand corner of your card. However, they may not appear on personal **nengajo**.



having a heart ... con't from page 5

animal breeders and pet shop operators, too. Micro-chipping is also not common, so animals cannot be traced back to owners if abandoned.

The situation may seem hopeless, but the animal welfare non-profit organization HEART Tokushima is blazing a trail. Established recently by local foreign resident Susan Mercer and a group of concerned locals, HEART is the only animal welfare organization of its kind in Tokushima. HEART is an acronym for Humane, Education, Animal, Rescue/ Rehabilitation and Tokushima, which accurately sums up its work. It also facilitates TSNR (trap, spay/neuter and release) which is proving to be the most humane and effective method for the long term reduction of feral animal populations around the world. HEART works in cooperation with local Tokushima vets and relies exclusively on public donations. It also holds various public fundraising and re-homing / adoption events, details of which can be found on their website. HEART's latest project is the rescue of 48 dogs kept in inhumane conditions on a mountainside in Anan city. Thanks to local, national and international donations HEART is in the process of rescuing the dogs and getting them the vet care they desperately need.

So, what can you do to help animals? Given the above euthanasia statistics on kittens and puppies, the spaying / neutering of as many animals as possible is crucial. Visit the HEART Tokushima website to see how you can get involved

in TSNR work in your area. Stray kittens and puppies face very bleak survival odds and once surrendered to or collected by the authorities have no chance at all. It's all about prevention and minimizing unnecessary killing and suffering. If you are interested in sharing your life with an animal and have the time, means and situation to accommodate it, then HEART Tokushima has the pet for you. Visit their website to see the animals currently available for re-homing / adoption.

As for Tokushima's short term foreign residents, or everyone for that matter, HEART has some solemn advice. It's not enough to just to give stray animals food and affection - they must be spayed or neutered ASAP. Also, if you are prepared to shelter and feed animals and foster their dependence on you, then you'd better take this seriously and take him / her / them on as your pet(s). That includes spaying / neutering and all vet care costs and taking them home with you when the time comes. If you don't do these things, you have merely re-abandoned the animal(s).

There will always be feral cats and dogs and a few are not the problem - in fact they can become local treasures. However, a prefecture crawling with feral / abandoned animals with over 20 being needlessly 'disposed' of everyday is. At present HEART is struggling with the sheer number of animals in need and limited funds and resources. HEART Tokushima's ability to put future TSNR, animal rescue and rehabilitation plans into

action depends on us. Please visit the HEART Tokushima website to make a donation. It is fast, easy and safe and even a small amount can make a big difference in the lives of Tokushima's animals in need.

HEART Tokushima

WEBSITE: www.heart-tokushima.com/index_en.html
TEL: 088-635-5558
E-mail: susan@heart-tokushima.com

"We must fight against the spirit of unconscious cruelty with which we treat the animals. Animals suffer as much as we do.

True humanity does not allow us to impose such sufferings on them. It is our duty to make the whole world recognize it.

Until we extend our circle of compassion to all living things, humanity will not find peace."

- Albert Schweitzer, 'The Philosophy of Civilization'

「人間は無意識のうちに動物を虐待しているが、我々は、この醜い心と闘わねばならない。動物も人間と同様に苦しむもの。

真の人間性は、彼らに苦しみを課することを断じて許さない。我々の責務は、全世界にそれを周知させること。生きとし生

けるものすべてに憐れみの輪を広げてこそ、初めて、人類に平安が訪れるのだ。」

- シュバイツァー博士 (「文明の哲学」から)



martin's manga corner

martin o'brien
martinobrien2004@gmail.com

Title:	CESARE (チェーザレ)
Manga-ka:	Fuyumi Souryo
Publisher:	Kodansha
First published:	2006
No of volumes:	Four

Last February, I reviewed Hitoshi Iwaaki's Heureka which was loosely based on the life of the famous Greek mathematician Archimedes. The appeal of Iwaaki's Heureka is his remarkably detailed conceptualisation of how the actual battles of the Second Punic wars would have possibly taken place. Similarly, this month we see history brought to life in Fuyumi Souryo's CESARE, which provides us with an account of the life and times of the notorious Cesare Borgia. Also known as the Black Prince, Borgia was an Italian aristocrat who was once one of the most feared and corrupt rulers of Renaissance Italy in the 16th century. Borgia was the man who was said to have inspired Niccolo Machiavelli's The Prince: the famous treatise on power and politics which has influenced the good and not so good throughout the ages.

In CESARE, Souryo endeavors to seek out the man behind the myth, and take the actual factual basis of his endeavors and then use this to create a fictionalized account of his early years where he cut his skills as a feared and ruthless leader as a student in the University of Pisa. Souryo portrays Borgia as being more wilful and pragmatic rather than malicious, with any ruthlessness he demonstrates being a product of the enlightened yet relentlessly cutthroat Renaissance era

where poisoning or stabbing someone who looked at you sideways was all the fashion.

In the University of Pisa, the young Cesare is the leader of the Spanish student group organization. He befriends Angelo de Canossa, a naive young man who has recently arrived at the university and is assigned to the Fiorentina group of student noblemen whose head is Giovanni, the son of Lorenzo de Medici.

These student groups are essentially regional groups that students join based on where they come from. Angelo, being a country nobleman, is not that familiar with the manners and etiquette demanded by his group peers and soon starts to make enemies. Cesare, however, by virtue of his diplomatic skills, manages to soothe tensions between Angelo and some of the other students, thus gaining his friendship and loyalty. Angelo manages to repay the favour when he helps prevent a masked man from assassinating Cesare and thus their fates become intertwined. To some degree Angelo represents Cesare's conscience as he traverses the line between good and evil in his quest for wealth and power.

Cesare introduces Angelo to the world from which he has come where his father Rodrigo Borgia has used money and political pressure to rise within the ranks of the catholic church

to become a Cardinal. Not to mention the fact that his mother gave birth to him while Rodrigo was an Archbishop. Like his father, Cesare intends to use money and influence to rise through the ranks of the church hierarchy and thus it isn't long before the naive and good-natured Angelo is drawn into the hideous intrigues and politics of the city of Pisa, which in turn affect life in the university. There are three factions in the city - Angelo's patrons, the De Medici's and there is the family of the Archbishop of Pisa, the Riario's. The third faction is compromised of Dominican zealots. Each controls different territories in and around Pisa.

Souryo's research into the dynamics of the various power struggles that defined the Renaissance era is quite meticulous and she maintains a sense of authenticity throughout the story. She manages to capture the sense of tragedy of educated men of the church, who are meant to be representatives of God constantly perpetrating acts of evil. CESARE also manages to excellently capture the opulence of the Catholic church and the artistic features and architecture of the time, with many of the famous sights and monuments of Florence and Pisa being excellently rendered. CESARE was first serialized in Morning magazine, with four volumes now available. CESARE is not Souryo's first manga with Kodansha Morning, before the serialization of CESARE she was the author of the popular Eternal Sabbath series.



Becky's Awa-ben!

A friend of mine went off to Tokyo for university. On the way to class one day she slipped and fell. Worried that she might be hurt her friends asked, "Are you ok?" She replied "ikeru, ikeru." Now confused her friends asked "Where to...?"

Most people who know that I am interested in Awa-ben have told me this story if not once than multiple times. Its a folk story about Awa-ben and plays on the fact that "ikeru" means "I am able to go" in Standard Japanese but in Awa-ben it means something like: it will do, alright, safe. Unlike 大丈夫 daijyoubu (the standard Japanese equivalent) いける ikeru is a verb and thus conjugates like a normal る ru verb.

いける、いける。
 Ikeru, ikeru.
 I'm alright, I'm alright.

いけますか？
 Ikemasu ka?
 Will it do?

A: いけた？
 A: Iketa?
 A: Was it alright?

*more formal than the normal form いける
 ikeru but still used quite often.

B: うん、いけた。
 B: Un, iketa.
 B: Yeah, it was alright.



letter from suketo hoikuen

by kazue inoue
 suketo hoikuen staff

In Japan, February 3rd marks the occasion of **setsubun** (a bean-throwing-festival) which is also known as the first day of spring. But if you look at the calendar you will find that it is already spring! The cold days are not over yet, though, so be especially careful to take care of your health over the coming weeks!

This month I am going to talk about how to introduce your child to blowing their nose properly. When children grow older than ten months, it happens that they sometimes play with their nose and sniff. And when grown ups show them this manner, children tend to imitate it. You can use this habit to teach children how to blow their nose properly. First, rip a tissue in small strips and moist them a little, then stick them at your tip of the nose as in the picture (above center). If you

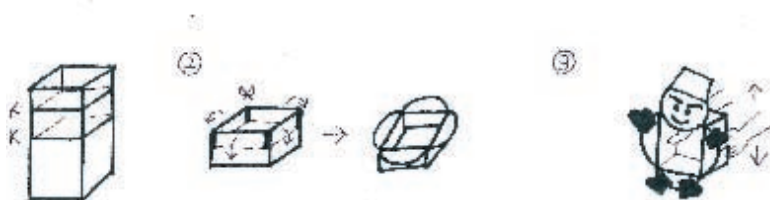


now breath the tissue will move and your child will soon try to imitate the movement. It depends on the child, but usually from three years on, children learn how to blow their noses well. Until this time, please help your child to learn. First, let them close their mouth, then hold one side of their nose and say 'haa' until they breathe. But be careful, as if your child blows

to hard then its ears may start to hurt. The nose works also as a filter to protect oneself from viruses and bacteria that may cause your to catch cold. It is important to blow your nose properly to help prevent catching cold.

This month's toy:

1. Cut a milk carton 5cm from the top.
2. Insert cutlines to the 4 corners, fold them over and cut them round.
3. Add a face, hands and legs and voila! Now hold it from behind and you can move it up and down for fun.



japanese lesson

by akiko tsuji
 jtmtoke-lesson@mbk.nifty.com

In spoken language there are expressions that follow standard grammar rules, and less formal expressions that do not. Such informal expressions are commonly used when talking to close friends or informal situations to help the conversation move along more smoothly. This month, let's take a look at contractions, one of the common elements of informal speech.

First, let's take a look at the following conversation as an example:

A: やっと仕事が終わった。Bさんは?
 B: わたしはあと少し。明日の会議の資料、先に読んできます。

A: そう。じゃ、わたしは先に失礼しますね。

B: ええ、お疲れさまでした。

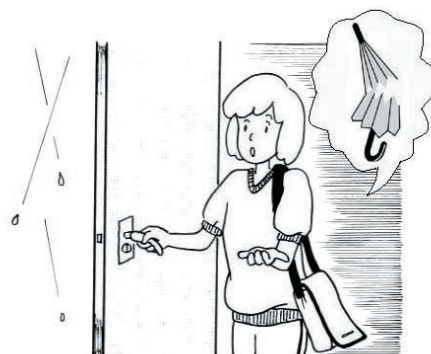
A: あっ。雨が降ってる。

B: 傘、持ってますか。

A: いえ、昨日壊れちゃったんですよ。どうしよう…。

B: じゃ、どうぞわたしのを借ってください。2本ありますから。

A: すみません。じゃ、お借りします。



- ① 書いておく→書いとく 読んでおく→読んどく
 ② 降っている→降ってる 飲んでいる→飲んでる
 ③ 壊れてしまった→壊れちゃった 読んでしまった→読んじやった
 ④ 持っていく→持っていく

Let's Practice!

Each of the expressions in brackets below represents a sentence in Awa-ben, the dialect used in Tokushima. Use one of the contractions in 1-4 above to change these expressions into contracted informal speech. You can use the same form of contraction several times if needed.

- A: どうしたんですか。元気がないですね。
 B: けさ、財布を（落としてしもうた→ ）んです。
- A: Cさんはどこ?
 B: 今、会議室で課長と（話しよる→ ）よ。
- A: もう本返すの?
 B: うん、ゆうべ全部（読んでしもうた。→ ）から。
- （電話で）
 A: もう、晩ごはん食べた?
 B: まだ。今（食べよる→ ）。

Answers:

1. 落としちゃった 2. 話してる 3. 読んじやった 4. 食べてる。



The 14th AJET Musical

This year, the Assistant Language Teachers of Tokushima will be performing the story of Momotaro. The play is based on the famous story of a boy who is found inside a giant peach, and grows up to fight off evil demons living nearby. However, as usual the Tokushima AJET musical takes this traditional fairtale and gives it a bit of a twist! Come along and see what happens to Momotaro on his adventures!

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

Performance times:

March 1	Hiwasa Community Hall 18:00 PM
March 2	Tokushima Hall 14:00 PM
March 8	Ishii Chuo Kominkan 18:00 PM
March 9	The General Education Center 14:00 PM
March 15	Wakimachi Odeon-za 18:00 PM

Admission to all performances is free!

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

第14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。今年は日本でよく知られている童話の「桃太郎」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、踊りや歌いっぱいので演じますので、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1日	日和佐コミュニティホール 18:00～20:15
3月2日	徳島ホール 14:00～16:15
3月8日	石井中央公民館 18:00～20:15
3月9日	徳島県立総合教育センター 14:00～16:15
3月15日	脇町オデオン座 18:00～20:15

お問い合わせは徳島県国際交流協会（TOPIA）のアンドリューまで電話 088-656-3303

The Yakuoji Temple Shokaishiki

This event represents the first time in the new year in which visitors can come to the temple and see the temple monks. There will be festival stalls outside the temple on the day, and you can also see the monks reciting sutras.

When: Monday, February 11 and Tuesday, February 12

Where: Yakuoji Temple, five minutes walk from the JR Hiwasa Station

Cost: Free!

Contact: Call Yakuoji Temple
at 0884-77-0023

薬王寺の初会式

当日には大護摩を焚いて、薬王寺傘下30数人のお坊さんによる大般若経の転読が行われます。また、寺前には露店が出て、多くの参拝客でにぎわいます。

日時： 2月11日（月）と2月12日（火）

場所： 薬王寺、JR日和佐駅から徒歩5分

入場料： 無料

問合せ： 薬王寺まで電話
0884-77-0023

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 17 to Thursday, March 20
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

今年も勝浦の有名なビッグひな祭りが人形文化交流館で行われます。ぜひこの機会に何千体ものひな人形のディスプレイをご覧ください！そのほかにもお茶の販売や地元の芸能の上演もあります！

日時: 2月17日(日)～3月20日(木)
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 Festival

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 also be stalls, a photo contest, tours and more during the event.

When: Late February through to early March

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

Cost: Free!

Contact: Call the Misato Ume Flower Festival Executive Committee at 0883-43-2505.

美郷の梅の花まつり

2月が終わりを告げると梅の花が咲き誇ります。梅の花を見るなら、美郷のふれあい公園のイベントにいらしてください！物産品の販売やフォトコンテスト、ツアーなどが行われます。

日時: 2月下旬から3月上旬にかけて

場所: 吉野川市美郷村、美郷ふれあい公演

入場料: 無料

問合せ: 美郷梅の花まつり実行委員会まで電話
0883-43-2505

Announcements

A new birth in the family? Have you recently gotten married? Then good news! Awa Life is looking for submissions from readers to help you get the word out! Send us the details and a short blurb, accompanied by a picture if you have any on hand, and we will post it for you in the next issue of Awa Life!

Send any submissions to the awalife email address at: awalife@gmail.com.

お祝いメッセージ

最近、結婚・出産などのおめでたいニュースがあった方、阿波ライフではあなたの家族のお祝い事を読者の皆さんに発表したいと思います！100文字程度の文章と（もしあったら）写真を阿波ライフまで送っていただけたら次号の阿波ライフに掲載いたします。

阿波ライフのメールアドレスまでお送りください：
awalife@gmail.com

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: Wednesday, February 20
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20日（水）
14:00 - 16:00

場所： 美馬市穴吹町、白人神社

入場料： 無料

問合せ： 美馬市商工観光課まで電話
0883-63-3114

Living in Tokushima

In need of information for daily activities? Come and take a look at the Living in Tokushima website hosted by Tokushima Prefecture, home to information such as earthquake and typhoon-related messages, tv and movie guides, events, contact numbers and more.

Living in Tokushima Computer Website
http://our.pref.tokushima.jp/e_living/index.php

Living in Tokushima Mobile Website
http://our.pref.tokushima.jp/e_living/m

徳島県生活情報 ウェブサイト

日常生活において情報をお探しですか。ぜひ、徳島県の生活情報ウェブサイトをご覧ください！このウェブサイトから地震・台風についての情報、テレビや映画のガイド、イベント情報などにアクセスできます。パソコン・携帯版両方提供しています！

パソコンサイト
http://our.pref.tokushima.jp/e_living/index.php
携帯サイト
http://our.pref.tokushima.jp/e_living/m

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