Ma life







Awa Life is a Monthly Publication of the Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association

Every article you send us is appreciated so please consider becoming a writer! A few rules will apply though so please look below to see what content we encourage you to write about and what kind of stuff we cannot publish.

You can totally submit articles about concerts, lectures, and other event information, cultural, sporting, and other community group information, etcetera.

BUT, the following will not be posted: Religious, political, or commercial activities, businesses searching for clients or employees, things the Awa Life editors deem inappropriate. If you have something you would like to share with the Tokushima community, email the editors at:

awalife@gmail.com!

Tokushima Prefectural International

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Download a PDF file of awa life or view the online version by going to TOPIA's website!

NOTE: In this issue I took the liberty to change the page layout from three columns to two, to have the words and articles line up more smoothly. I hope this makes reading Awa Life a little easier.



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Jenifer Tanikawa & Till Dumke

Contributors This Month:

Till Dumke, Kazue Inoue, Shinobu Watari, Yasmin Bird, Fusa Tamaki, David Moreton

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Interview with the Tokushima Indigo Socks By Till Dumke

↑ t the end of September I had the chance to ago visit the Tokushima Indigo Socks training grounds and interview their two American players Tomo Delp and Edward William Brandsema. I was also able to catch a glimpse of their practice which was an interesting experience. The team mainly consists of young players who are highly motivated to start a career as a baseball player. Thus their training routine was marked by a high level of energy and ambition. It sure isn't easy to make it big in a highly competitive environment like Japanese baseball but maybe that is exactly what is needed to spur greatness. In the midst of it two American boys who came to Japan with an open mind and a strong arm. I hope the following interview will help you get to know our American prospects for Tokushima.

Before coming to Japan Tomo Delp played for the River City Rascals in the Frontier League and Edward Brandsema played at Montevallo University.

Let's jump right into Interview and get an idea of the players' perspectives on life and playing baseball in Japan.



Tomo: T Edward: E

First of all where are you from?

T: Las Vegas.

E: Orlando, Florida.

What is your position on the field?

T: 1st and 3rd base.

E: Pitcher.

When did you come do Japan?

E: In the end of February 26th. It's my first year here.

T: I came on the same day, but I've been before when I was 5 and 10. But that was just with my mum on vacation.

Indigo Socks

What made you come to Japan?

T: I was at a point where I had to decide what I wanted to do and I thought it would be an awesome experience [to go to Japan]. My ultimate goal is to play in the NPB (Nippon Professional Baseball). So right now it's an experience all in itself.

E: I had the chance to come and I wanted to experience something new.

How did you end up in Tokushima?

T: There was a team I played for last year and Tokushima was really interested in me. Japanese baseball is somewhat difficult to get into so if they're interested you get lucky.

E: I had a trial in Fort Myers, Florida and Sakaguchi-san was there and he asked me to come play. So, it just worked out.

What were your expectations before coming here?

E: My expectations were, worst case scenario, I get paid to come and play some baseball in Japan. Maybe a little bit of sightseeing.

T: I just had a very open mind, so I didn't really know what to expect. They told me Tokushima is really rural and kind of a country area. When I got here I realized it is actually really far from being in the middle of the city so it's really different [from my life before]. But baseball-wise it's, you know, baseball is baseball.

Are there any differences in play style between America and Japan?

T: Definitely but I think the biggest one is the players attitude towards the game. Players respect the game more. In America it is more laid back. You can kind of do what you want.

E: Yes, there are a

lot of differences. Almost like two different sides of a spectrum. As far as baseball philosophies go, they differ quite a bit. People take the game more seriously here.

What do to eat to get in your best physical condition?

E: Pretty much Casserole. I and he make chicken and onions and rice for pre-game meals.

Do you have a pre-game routine?

T: I like to get here a little early just to be at the field and get my mind set ready for the game.

E: If it's a start day, yeah. I don't have a routine until an hour before the game. I get a massage for about half an hour, then go on the field stretch and throw for about 15 minutes then bullpen for ten and then get ready for the game.

Do you have any music that gets you pumped?

E: Yeah, I like my work out song by Kriss Kross "Jump". And here in Japan when you're the starting pitcher, from like 30 minutes up until game time, they play your song on repeat. So you just hear "Kriss Kross – Jump" for 30 minutes. That's pretty cool.

Have you been recognized on the street?

E: Not for being a being a baseball player. Just for being 6"4' in Japan.

T: Just by like Tokushima fans, but not too often.

How does the motto of the Indigo socks "Connect to the World" reflect on the teams activities?

T: We do a lot of community services. For example we do stuff with the fans. I guess it's a Shikoku island league tradition that after the home games you stand in a line and thank all your fans for coming and they get to shake your hand and have some face to face interaction. I like that, that's one of the coolest things.

E: Exactly, and on top of that even when the American expedition team was there, they were





Indigo Socks

amazed and asked "Why are you guys doing this?" Because it's tradition.

What are your goals as a baseball player?

T: In Japan my ultimate goal is to make it to the NPB and play in those big league stadiums.

E: Same. I just keep playing baseball until someone tells me "You can't play anymore". *Laughs*

Is there a particular pro team you really want to play for?

E: Any pro team really.

T: I grew up as a Hanshin Tiger fan so that would be my dream team.

Famous athletes like Michael Jordan or Russell Wilson played baseball before switching to basketball and football. Could there be a change in profession for you guys?

E: *Laughing* No.

T: *Laughing* Unless someone offers me a basketball contract.

What would your 10 year old self say if you told him that you play baseball in Japan for a living?

E: He'd be like "Wow, that's crazy. When are you coming to the Major leagues?" *Laughs*

T: I feel like my mum being Japanese and me coming to Japan before, I wouldn't be all that

surprised. Every time I visited my family here they would say "I can't wait to see Tomo playing in the NPB in Japan." So I can tell him "Hey, it happened!"

All right thank you guys!

E & T: Thank you, too.

The two of them seem like two really nice guys and it was a pleasure chatting with them. It really seems like they're enjoying their time in Japan. The point they talked most enthusiastically about was probably the fact that after their home games they get to interact with the fans. A tradition that appears to be unique to the Shikoku Island League Plus. I hope the Indigo Socks will thrive in the league and help their players achieve their individual goals. Go Tokushima!



Letter from SUKETO NAKAYOSHI

By Kazue Inoue (Center for Early Childhood Education and Care SUKETO NAKAYOSHI)

n Japan, October 10th is "Me no Aigo Day (目の愛護デー)", which literally translates to Protect or Looking After Your Eye Day, and as the name implies it is a day to think more about the importance of your eyes and to give more love to your eye. Younger children have a harder time distinguishing whether they have a vision problem or not, so it is important that the adults around them are able to notice any irregularities as soon as possible. Has your child ever done the

following? Squinting when they watch TV, putting their face right up close to a book when reading or tilting their head to the side when staring at an object. (You also need to watch out for things like eye discharge and excess tearing.)

Sight disorders, such as amblyopia (lazy eye), must be treated before the development of vision is completed, which occurs around the age of 6. Any treatment after that is said to have limited

Suketo

effect. That is exactly why its pertinent to get diagnosed early and get early treatment. If you notice anything at all, please get your child's eye checked at the eye doctors.

There are ways to look after your eyes in your day to day lives so please give the following a try:

- 1) Sit at least 2-3 meters away from your TV
- 2) Avoid reading while lying down
- 3) Avoid rubbing your eyes with dirty hands
- 4) Keep your hair out of your eye
- 5) Avoid watching TV or playing video games for a prolonged period of time (try setting a time limit)
- 6) Don't be a picky eater and eat everything

* * This Month's Craft * *
Autumn Leaves Decoration

Materials

Autumn leaves Laminator or tape Scissors String

Directions

- 1) Press the fallen leaves you collected from the park between two newspapers and put a book on top. Leave for a week.
- 2) Laminate the leaves (if you don't have a laminator you can use wide clear tape). Cut out the leaf, but make sure you leave a thick border all around it.
- 3) Punch a hole into the border and thread a string through the hole. Slide on 2-3 leaves per string to create your decoration.

*Feel free to decorate with crayons or stickers.







German Students By Shinobu Watari and Students

The following were written by two of the students from Germany that took part in this exchange.

My Experience in Tokushima Benjamin Weber

My first thought when I arrived in Japan: HOT!!! I was not used to this temperature at this time of the year. I experienced new and exciting smells, sounds and scenes.

Then I met my exchange partner Riki (利樹). Riki and his family welcomed me and showed me around. I visited Johoku Senior High School, met new people, made new friends and discovered a new way of life. I was very surprised about how much attention this exchange got from the media. We were televised on the news program. But what I enjoyed most was how excited, happy and friendly the people at school were. I met many kind, friendly, funny and beautiful people at Johoku.

Six students and two teachers from Lise Meitner Gymnasiam (High School) located in Lower Saxony, Germany visited Johoku Senior High School in Tokushima Prefecture from September 27 to October 4 as part of the Global Challenge Support Project (a student exchange program between Tokushima and Lower Saxony). During their visit, they were able to visit various tourist attractions, visited the German House, danced the Awa Odori and had the chance to learn more about Japanese culture.







German Students

Sister School Exchanges: Germany and Japan Christin Venneklaas

I am really enjoying my time in Japan. In the few days that I am here, I have already learned and seen so many things! My host family is so lovely and caring and my exchange student Rie (梨絵) and I are really good friends.

It was also a pleasure to meet the students and teachers at Johoku Senior High School who were always friendly and helpful. Talking to them, I learned a lot about Japanese school life which is really different from Germany.

I especially love Japanese food like ramen, sushi and okonomiyaki, and Japanese drinks like White Water and Match Pink!

On my second day, I had the chance to see the Awa Odori, which I really liked. I was even given the opportunity to dance it too! This surprised me because in Germany the audience does not usually participate. It was great!

In school I was not only able to learn Japanese words and phrases, but also able to participate in club activities like "Kyodo" (協働授業: collaborating with other classes), chorus and tea ceremony. "Kyodo" is really hard and I was glad that the students showed me what to do and helped me patiently. It was a fun day and really interesting. During chorus, we started stretching before singing. This is not very common in Germany.

In my time here I also got better at using chopsticks, which is not easy for me.

I am so happy to have met you all and to be here in Tokushima with you!

I will miss you very much and I hope we see each other again soon! Arigatou gozaimasu.

Fall Foliage of the Iya Valley Yasmin Bird

The Iya Valley classifies as one of the most hidden mountain regions of Tokushima. Iya Valley is one of Japans three hidden valleys; it is a peaceful isolated place located in western Tokushima. Iya Valley is a must see during the autumn season. The Iya River reveals turquoise waters creating a spectacular vision against steep narrow valleys enchanted with the colours of autumn.

During the peak of Autumn you can experience the spectacle of leaves that turn red and yellow on maple and ginko trees. Autumn is one of the most popular seasons due to the blessed relief from humidity. The captivating change of leaves

combined with the crisp air inspires a desire to embrace the scenery. Autumn is the perfect time to immerse yourself in the tranquillity of Iya Valley.

The finest autumn colours can be appreciated from early to late November. The word "Koyo" refers to the 'red leaves' yet it is used to refer to the various colours of autumn. The koyo season

undisputedly provides a magnificent vision in the remote paradise of Iya Valley.

The most popular attractions are the 3 remaining vine bridges out of the 13 that could once be found throughout Iya Valley. Iya Kazurabashi and the Oku-Iya Kazurabashi bridges are a cultural asset enriched with a traditional feel. The pair of surviving Oku-Iya Kazurabashi bridges stand side by side deep back in the valley. The largest bridge is known as the Husband Bridge (Otto no Hashi) with a 44 meter spread across a river next to a beautiful waterfall. The Wife Bridge (Tsuma no Hashi) is lower and 22 meters in length. Both bridges are connected by hiking trails.

The Iya Kazurabashi Bridge can be crossed in

one direction. The Bridge is 2 meters wide and 45 meters long suspended 10 meters above the beautiful lya River. Iya Kazurabashi Bridge is said to have been built by the fleeing Heike samurai after their defeat during the Gempei War (1180-1185). The vine was initially used so it could easily be slashed by the Heike clan if under threat. Although the



Iya Valley

Iya Kazurabashi Bridge has such an exhilarating height it is reconstructed every three years and safely assembled with steel cables.

The Wild Monkey Bridge can be found next to the Wife Bridge. It consists of a wooden cart that was used to transport people and supplies. The monkey bridge can be used to pull yourself across the beautiful river.

To fully relax and connect with nature, Iyaonsen provides beautiful secluded views. The Nanoyado Hotel IyaOnsen is highly recommended. IyaOnsen provides open-air baths for men and women or a private open-air bath that can be reserved for up to an hour. The IyaOnsen open-air bath (rotenburo is accessible by a five minute cable car journey allowing you to absorb the beautiful panoramic valley view's along the way.

The open –air onsen extends along the banks of the lya River. The cloudy white sulphur scented mineral water evidently comes from the valley's hot spring. You can leave the world behind while you take in the magical visions of bright red, rustic orange and golden yellow enchanting leaves in a truly peaceful setting.

The peeing boy statue is situated near the onsen over an overhanging rock, a statue built to discourage young daredevils who would display bravery by urinating of the rock.

Autumn is the perfect time to escape into the nature of Japan's Hidden treasure Iya valley whilst capturing the vibrant Fall foliage of autumn.



Waraji - The Only Footwear Choice of the Past By David Moreton

ave you ever seen a pair of gigantic waraji (straw sandals) leaning against the main gate of a Buddhist temple? Some seem to be more than two meters tall! Who made them and why are they are there? According to the Internet and some temple priests it seems that local people, either children or adults, wove and donated them to the temple to protect the temple, to ward off evil spirits, to bring happiness, and/or so that people will have healthy legs and feet. These gigantic sandals are placed beside the Niōmon gate because it is said that the two Niō statues standing guard on each side of the gate have strong legs so people will pray to them so that they will have not have any leg or feet problems. Others, a sign of thanks after a successful journey, will attach a pair of regular or mini-sized waraji to the giant one. Looking at these waraji makes one realize that in the past travelers in Japan, including henro (pilgrims) along the Shikoku pilgrimage route, had to use such uncomfortablelooking, fragile footwear. What would it be like to walk in such and how long would they last? In 1775 Charles Peter Thunberg, a surgeon for the Dutch East Indies Company, provided an answer in his writings during his stay in Japan. He wrote, "There is nothing that a traveler wears out so fast as shoes. They are made of rice straw and platted and by no means strong...on the roads, it is not unusual to see travelers who carry with them one or more pairs of shoes, to put on when those that are in use fall to pieces.... Old worn-out shoes are found lying everywhere...and they last one or two days of routine wear." (Travels in Europe, Africa and Asia, p152)

While such footwear was common throughout Japan, Oliver Statler, author of Japanese Pilgrimage (1983), learned that "[Shikoku] henro did not wear regular sandals; they wore half sandals that barely covered the foot. They were cheaper, which was important, but also one slipped into them; so there were no strings to

TOPIA

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Waraji

the hands and making one unclean when one wanted to enter a temple hall. Henro usually carried extra pairs, for they were of course fragile." (p212) These 'half-sandals' are called ashinaka (足半) and were on average 15-19 cm in length. In fact they have a long history in Japan, with the first pictorial proof of their existence from 1293 or 1309 and the first reference in a

document about them occurring between 1394 and 1427! *Ashinaka* seemed to be convenient when running because they kept you on your toes and were used between the Kamakura and Sengoku periods in times of battle. By the Edō period, the popularity of *ashinaka* had spread to the common people, such as farmers, who were also now wearing them.

There were many other qualities, which made ashinaka so appealing for such a long period of time. They were easy to make (took approximately thirty minutes); easy to put on and take off; light for walking and running; did not splash up mud; did not come off in rivers and did not hurt one's feet. However, for Shikoku pilgrims these ashinaka had a meaning more significant than any practical use they provided for the pilgrims. There is a reference from the 17th century of 'half-sandals' in Shikoku Henro Michishirube (pub. 1687), which states: In the village of Noi, there was a Kannon shrine. In this village, [a man called] lemon, during the period of Enpō (1673-81), gave out ashinaka and lent out lodging."

These ashinaka were also given the name of 'sandals that could ward off snakes' (Mamushi yoke zōri 蝮除け草履) and were believed to have been invented by Kōbō Daishi. Such sandals would protect one's feet from being bitten by poisonous snakes (mamushi) or insects when traveling through the mountains. There were other beliefs that ashinaka would ward off bad spirits and protect one from fever and sicknesses such as whooping cough. Many people wore



ashinaka because they believed that Kōbō Daishi had worn them when he walked the pilgrimage. However, in other instances, instead of wearing them, people would make a miniature pair and carry them it seems when going on pilgrimages as a remembrance of Kōbō Daishi. Thus not only did these sandals have numerous practical advantages, they were closely connected to the

belief in legendary figure of Kōbō Daishi.

Over time, people stopped wearing ashinaka and began to wear full-length waraji. It is difficult to determine exactly when the switch occurred, but pictures of pilgrims from different eras offer some clue and it is clear that by the Bunsei period (1804-1830) ashinaka were no longer used. For example, a travel record from 1819 states that there were people who came from the eastern part of present-day Hiroshima prefecture to give away money and waraji. A book from 1825 states, "On pine trees along the pilgrimage path throughout Shikoku waraji are hung and dango (sweet, round dumplings made from rice flour) are put on a tray. If you take a dango, you are to put two mon of money in the container." Then, about a hundred years later in 1927 Alfred Bohner includes a photo of an unmanned waraji stall in his book, "Two on a Pilgrimage." Here you can see two pilgrims from Hokkaido standing in front of the stall and next to a row of waraji there is a bamboo pipe, on which the price of five sen is written. As in 1825 a pilgrim would put money into the pipe, take a new pair of waraji, and continue on his journey.

I wonder if there is anyone out there who would

like to walk the Shikoku pilgrimage route in ashinaka or waraji today.





Japanese Lesson By Fusa Tamaki

Some words in Japanese will hold completely different meanings depending on the context it is used in. One example of this is the word, "どうも."

- 1)「ありがとう」の意味の「どうも」 A: 田中さん、会議室に携帯電話を忘れてたよ。 B: あ、ほんと!どうも。
- 2)「理由はよくわからないが」の意味の「どうも」 A: マリアさん、野菜が大好きなのに、そのサ ラダは食べないの? B: どうも中に入ってるセロリが苦手なの。
- 3)「いやだ」の意味の「どうも」 A: クラシックコンサートのチケットあるんだ けど、一緒に行かない? B: クラシックはどうも ...。
- 4)「すみません」の意味の「どうも」 A: お話中のところ、どうも。ちょっといいで すか。
 - B: はい、なんですか。

- 1) When "どうも" is used to express gratitude A: Mr. Tanaka, you left your cellphone in the meeting room.
- B: Oh, thanks.
- 2) When "どうも" is used to express that there isn't a clear reason

A: Maria, you usually love eating vegetables. Why aren't you eating that salad?

B: I don't think I like the celery in this salad very much.

3) When "どうも" is used to express dislike towards something

A: I have tickets to a classical music concert. Do you want to go with me?

- B: I'm not really into classical music...
- 4) When "どうも" is used as an apology A: Sorry to interrupt, but can I talk to you for a moment.
- B: Sure, what can I do for you?

ありがとう

すみません



いやだ

^{リゆう} 理由はよくわからないが

Exercises

In the sentences below, what does the "どうも" mean? Please choose from the following choices and fill in the () with the number that corresponds with the correct answer: 1) gratitude, 2) no clear reason, 3) dislike, or 4) apology.

- t たか ひと あたら き せんせい 1. あの背の高い人が、どうも新しく来た先生のようね。(
- 2. 日常会話だったらいいですけど、スピーチをするのはどうも ...。(
- 3.子供がご迷惑をおかけしました。どうも、即しわけございません。(
- 4. どうも、母がいつもお世話になっております。(
- 5. コーヒーはどうも ...。香りは好きなんですが。(

Reference:場面別表現 205 アルク

- г дой г геану нке аплинод сопее... but на доез smell good.
 - Thank you for always keeping my mother company.
 - I'm sorry for the trouble my child caused you.
- I'm fine with daily life conversations, but I'm not so great with doing speeches...
 - I think that really tall person might be our new teacher.

Events & Memoranda

Awa Dance in Autumn at Asty 2015 アスティ秋の阿波おどり~阿波おどり大絵巻 2015

Since it first began in 2008, the "Awa Dance in Autumn" has been put on every year during autumn. This year at "Asty Awa Dance in Autumn - Awa Odori Galore" you can enjoy a multitude of fun events for free. Takeshi Kitayama will perform on the 28th and a national Awa Dance competition will be held on the 29th. There will also be Awa Dance performances on both days, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Stands selling and displaying Tokushima's food and famous products like Otani Pottery, washi handmade paper, Indigo dye, Yusanbako lunch boxes, plus information booths about tourism in Shikoku and the Shikoku 88 Temple Pilgrimage will be at the event. Come join the festivities with your family and friends!

- Two Awa Dance performances per day: Mornings 11:30 - 12:30, afternoons 14:00-15:00

When: November 28-29 (Sat-Sun)

10:00 - 16:00 (Sat), 9:00-16:00 (Sun)

Where: Asty Tokushima

Fee: Free

Info: Asty Tokushima TEL: 088-624-5111 2008 年から毎年秋に開催している「秋の阿波おどり」! 今年は "アスティ秋の阿波おどり~阿波おどり大絵巻 2015 秋~"として、様々なイベントが入場無料でお楽しみいただけます♪ 28 日は北山たけしさんのコンサート、29 日は全国阿波おどりコンテストを開催!阿波おどり公演は両日とも午前・午後の2回あります。徳島の海山里の幸や特産品の展示販売、大谷焼・和紙細工・藍染め・遊山箱づくりなどの体験コーナー、四国観光の達人による観光や四国 88 ヶ所の案内・展示コーナーがあります。ご家族、お友達を誘ってお越しください♪

・阿波おどり 1日2回公演 【午前】11:30-12:30 【午後】14:00-15:00

開催期間:11月28(土)・29(日)

10:00-16:00 (土)、9:00-16:00 (日)

場所:アスティとくしま

料金:無料

問合せ:アスティとくしま

TEL: 088-624-5111

Tsunagari Festa 2015 つながりフェスタ 2015

4 years and a half have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake. You will get a chance to see how the affected areas are moving forward and as always, there will be a marketplace, arts and crafts corner, handmade crafts stores, and more! All proceeds will be donated to the affected areas.

When: November 8 (Sun) 12:30-16:30

Where: Warehouse #2 Aqua Citta

Fee: Free

Info: Tsunagari Festa 2015 Office

TEL: 090-1004-1974

東日本大震災から4年半。これまで支援してきた 被災地の皆さんの今の様子少しずつ変化する街の 様子などを詳しくご報告します。また、恒例のバ ザー、人気のこども工作や手作りのお店など、盛 りだくさん!売上金はすべて被災地へ!

日時:11月8日(日) 12:30-16:30

場所:第二倉庫 アクア・チッタ

料金:無料

問合せ: つながりフェスタ 2015 事務局

TEL: 090-1004-1974

Events & Memoranda

2015 International Understanding Support Forum 平成 27 年度 国際理解支援フォーラム

Come join in on discussions surrounding international understanding. Part 1 will be a lecture by Mr. Ryuzo Goto, who will be talking about his intercultural experience living overseas for work. During Part 2, there will be two international understanding presentations held by foreign residents of Tokushima. Lastly, Part 3 will consist of a networking and socializing event where you will have the chance to mix and mingle with the lecturers and the attendees.

日時:平成 27 年 12 月 6 日(日) 13 時 30 分~ 16 時 20 分 場所:(公財)徳島県国際交流協会 会議室 (徳島駅ビル 6 階)

内容:第一部 後藤 隆三 氏による講話

(元ホンダエンジニアリング(株)執行役員タイ国バンコク市駐在(現地法人社長))

「海外駐在で経験した異文化 ビジネスと生活」

第二部 協会登録在住外国人講師による国際理解プレゼンテーション

ワチュガ アイリーン氏 (ケニア) ジョエル バクスター氏 (カナダ)

第三部 意見交換 交流会

お茶やお菓子を準備しています。 在住外国人の方と楽しく交流しませんか。

参加費:入場無料

詳細については、当協会のホームページをご覧ください: http://www.topia.ne.jp

申し込み・問い合わせ: 当協会 TEL. 088-656-3303 FAX 088-652-0616

E-mail: coordinator3@topia.ne.jp

※当日参加も大歓迎ですが、できれば事前に電話か FAX またはメールでお申し込みください。

*This is a free event. For more information, please check TOPIA's official website at www.topia.ne.jp.

*We highly recommend calling or faxing us in advance to confirm your attendance, but it is not necessary, you may just show up on the day of the event.

*Part 1 through 2 will be conducted entirely in Japanese; however, if you would still like to join in just for the networking and socializing event, you are more than welcome to.

B.B.Mo-Franck Concert

Come out and enjoy the sounds of Africa. There will also be a dance performance and a talk about human rights.

When: November 28 (Sat)

18:00-21:00 (Doors open at 18:00)

Where: Gallery Hana-anzu (Hachiman store)

Fee: 2000 yen (meal included) TEL: 090-3180-9356 (Kitaoka)

アフリカの音楽を楽しもう。人権についてのトークやダンスも楽しんでみませんか。

日時:11月28日(土)

18:00-21:00 (開場 18:00)

場所:ギャラリー花杏豆(八万店)

会費: 2000円(食事付) TEL: 090-3180-9356(北岡)

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.

Everyday, 10:00 - 18:00 (closed during the New Year's holidays)

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