AND Life Happy Holidays!

December 2016

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NEW Collumn: Let's Talk Story! Tokushima **Photo Contest:**"The Yoshino River and its Bridges"

"Discover Tokushima" as you Surf the Web!

Awa Shoku: Bonenkai Basics





TOPIA

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

Wow, in the flash of an eye, it is the end of the year! In this month's Awa Life, we have a new collumn called the "Let's Talk Story" Collumn. Please take a look and feel free to share your stories as we come together as an international community. The holidays can be a difficult time abroad, bringing back memories of spending time with family at home. However, though some of us may not be able to return back to our countries during this time, let's try to create new memories together here during this season! Wishing you a Happy Holidays here in Tokushima!!!

For all of those who like writing, please feel free to submit an article to us at any point in time about basically anything. There are a few limitations though, such as you can't write about religion, politics, commercial activities or businesses or anything that we deem inappropriate. But, other than that, we would be more than happy to receive articles about anything and everything including but not limited to, concerts, lectures, other events, culture, sports, community group information or anything cool that's happening in your local community.

We highly appreciate all of your articles and we love reading them. So if that writing bug of yours is buzzing about, grab a pen or a computer and write and send away! Please send all submissions to our email:

awalife@gmail.com

Your editors, Daralyn and Franzi

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"Discover Tokushima" as you Surf the Web!

By Daralyn Yee

hen I found out that I would be heading to Tokushima, I scoured the internet to learn about what type of place it would be, and know what there was to do here. One of the many pages that I came across of was the "Discover Tokushima" Facebook Page, managed by our very own International Planning Division. I had the opportunity to interview Mr. Satoshi Emoto and Ms. Reiko Matsuo who manage this page. Next year, it will be 4 years since the page was created.



Please introduce yourselves:

E: Hi my name is E m o t o from the International Planning Division.

M: Hi my name is Reiko Matsuo from the International Planning Division. Mr. Emoto is in charge of managing the page, while I sometimes write and send out articles.

Please introduce the Discover Tokushima page.

E: It is a tourism information transmission page.

The prefecture has a few websites such as Awa Navi which is our Japanese tourism site, and our multilingual site Toku-Navi, which we are in charge of, that acts as a one-way information transmission website. A lot of the information on the pages do not change that often. Thus with the creation of the Facebook page, Discover Tokushima, we can update the page frequently and give out timely information to our viewers. We are also able to send and receive messages from our fans, giving us the opportunity to hear about the types of things they would like to see on the page.

It seems like a big job to manage this page. How do you choose the content for it?

E: When we manage our page, we are able to receive data from Facebook called "Reach Numbers" for each post. These numbers show us things such as how many people are looking at our posts, which posts received a "like", etc. and we are able to use it as reference to create new posts. In addition, we also send out information about events happening around Tokushima during certain seasons through this page. We also try our best to use messages from our viewers, who wish to see certain pieces of information on our Facebook page, as reference when we choose the content of our posts.

TOPIA

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"Discover Tokushima" as you Surf the Web!

Do you have any examples of a post that received a lot of "likes" recently?

E: It was a bit of a surprise to me, but we recently posted something about flowers and it actually received a higher amount of "likes" than expected. In general, it seems that we receive a lot of likes for things that are related to nature. When we hold events for others in other countries, a lot of people like our page and the reach numbers end up higher than usual. It depends on ones usage of Facebook. I have heard from a private entity that Facebook analyzes the preferences of its users and shows content that would most likely appear as a post on their own timeline (profile page). In this sense, when we post, our hope is that the contents that we post, and the preferences of our users match accordingly.

What types of messages are you receiving from your fans?

E: A lot of the time, we just receive likes, but recently we just got a message from one of our fans requesting that we write a post about Awa Washi (Awa Paper making). Coincidentally, the day before we were already looking up some information about Awa Washi to write up a post on Facebook, and we were able to post something about it and fulfill the user's need for information. Usually when we receive an inquiry, we do some research, write up a post, and then post it on to our page to respond to the messages.

What is the most enjoyable part of managing this page?

E: There are a lot of enjoyable things about managing this page, and I am sure that Ms. Matsuo also has a few things to say here, but first, it has given me the opportunity to get to know Tokushima better. I don't have the time to visit every single spot here, but having the chance to know that there are so many different ways to enjoy the prefecture is a great opportunity. The thing that makes me glad is the opportunity to learn new things, and relearn things about Tokushima that I had learned previously.

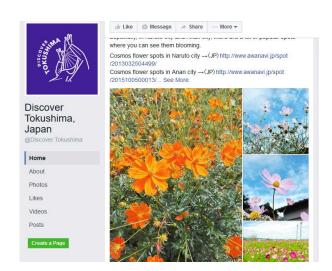
R: The same goes for me as well. It is such a great thing to be able to introduce many new things about Tokushima and its tourist spots. In

addition, we found that posting even about our daily lives in Tokushima receives a high rating.

Lastly, is there any messages that you would like to give to the international community here in Tokushima?

E: I think that it would be interesting to know what types of places are enjoyable to our audience from overseas who are living in Tokushima, and have roots abroad. Since living here, there are so many things that I have come to know of and enjoy. However, we would like to hear more input from those who are in the international community through the message function on Facebook. Also, if there is any advice to improve this page, please feel free to contact us. We would like to have more information from people coming from different perspectives.

R: The thing that I would like to recommend to the international community is to take part in activities in which one can create something, like Awa Washi. I believe that creating things with one's own hands has to be something quite enjoyable for everyone.



In January 2017, it will be 4 years since the Discover Tokushima page was first established. If you have any suggestions for Mr. Emoto or Ms. Matsuo, please message them at the Discover Tokushima Facebook page. They look forward to your feedback and comments.

Photo Contest: "The Yoshino River and its Bridges"

By Daralyn Yee

D uring the past year, the Roads Infrastructure Division at the Tokushima Prefectural Office held a Photo Contest based on the many bridges that cross the Yoshino River. They collected over 226 entries from 96 people, in which 18 pieces have been selected as contest winners. As I looked at the winning photo contest entries, I was moved at how each picture captured various scenes from different areas of the river. It made me think that there must be a unique reason to hold a photo contest like this, so I decided to ask for myself.

Please introduce yourselves.

OT: Hello, I am Omori from the Roads Infrastructure Division.

OH: Hello, my name is Okabe, also from the Roads Infrastructure Division.

OT: We are in charge of the *Hashi no Hakubutsukan* (The Bridge Museum, online website featuring bridges of Tokushima). There are a lot of rivers that flow through Tokushima. There are about 500 of them in the whole prefecture. Accompanying the rivers are numerous bridges that go across of it. From a long time ago, these rivers have existed and a variety of types of bridges that have been built across of them. As for the Yoshino River, the bridges have unique structures depending on when they were constructed. With that information and knowledge, we are working to promote the bridges to those around the rest of Japan and also overseas.

Why did you decide to hold a photo contest?

OH: We have many initiatives in order to promote the bridges, like having a bus tour, conducting bridge clean ups, and such. This contest is one of the initiatives to promote the bridges even further.

How many years have you conducted this photo contest?

OT: This is our first year holding this contest. We accepted photo entries from October 2015 until the middle of January 2016.

How were the winning photos chosen?

OH: There is a club called the Tokushima Bridge Sharing Club in which the members



Masaru Onishi "Collaboration of the Bridge"

helped us decide on the winning pieces. Also, a photographer named Mr. Miyatake assisted us with the judging this year.

How many bridges are there that cross over the Yoshino River?

OH: There are 46 bridges that go across the main area of the Yoshino River. With this photo contest we decided to focus on these bridges.

I heard that you held a photo exhibit with the winning pictures in Tokyo, why was it decided to have the photo exhibition in Tokyo?

OT: The exhibition is being held in the heart of Tokyo in a place called Shiodome. There are a lot of people in Tokyo, and since there are also people from abroad that frequent the area, we thought it would be a great idea to have a photo exhibition there.

Do you plan to have another exhibition for these photos in Tokushima or in other prefectures across Japan?

OH: After this we are planning to put the pictures on display at each of the *Michi no Eki* (Rest Stops) around the prefecture in order.



Tomoyo Nakayama "My Happy Friends on a Bridge"

OT: We also have been creating videos of the



Photo Contest: "The Yoshino River and its Bridges"

bridges, not only with the winning pieces, but also with the pieces that were entered into the contest. If you type in the words "Hashi no Hakubutsukan" in to the YouTube search bar, you can watch 6 different videos showing the pictures in a slideshow.

Is there anything you would like to share about the photo contest, Yoshino River, or the bridges that cross over it?

OT: Yoshino River is a river vast in size. It is the largest in this prefecture, and is quite large compared to other rivers in Japan. As we mentioned earlier, from a long time ago about 46 different bridges have been built across the



Kiyoshi Shirota "Nostalgia"



Kazuhito Akita "The Big Dipper & Yoshino River Ohashi Bridge"

river. At each of the bridges, there are different types of sceneries and each has its own beauty. The river spans from the East to the West. From the East, the sun rises in the morning, and in the evening the scenery of the sun setting can also be seen well at the bridges. We hope

that everyone can have a look at the bridges, each with its own characteristics.

The Hashi no Hakubutsukan can be found online at www.pref.tokushima. jp/bridge/. According to Mr. Omori and Mr. Okabe, there are tentative plans to hold the contest again next year, so grab your cameras and take in the beautiful scenery that surrounds each of the 46 bridges.

Letter from SUKETO NAKAYOSHI

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

A fter the month of November, the temperature suddenly drops and winter arrives soon after. It is the period when infectious diseases such as colds and Influenza start to spread around. Be sure to remember to have your family habitually wash their hands and gargle as preventative measures.

In December, there are days in which the amounts of daylight during the day are sparce. Those days are called winter solstice (toji 冬至), and in Japan people eat kabocha (pumpkin 南瓜) and take a hot bath with yuzu (citron 柚子). During this period where the cold is harsh, if you let some yuzu float on top of the water of a bath, it can improve blood circulation that makes your skin look healthy. Also, it is said that kabocha is filled with carotene and many different vitamins that can prevent colds. Back in the day, it was also said that it was a valued produce since it was known for being effective in warding off evil spirits and protecting the body from illness.

This year's winter solstice is on December 21st. What about having some *kabocha* for dinner?

*** Handmade Toys: Paper Cup Blocks





Materials: Paper Cups, Markers

Directions:

- 1. Prepare paper cups and draw pictures on them with a magic marker. (You can even paste your favorite picture or place stickers on it!)
- 2. Put the top and bottoms of the cups together and build a pyramid.

*In this season, you can decorate the cups with Santa Claus, Reindeer, and other designs to create your own Christmas tree pyramid!





New Column: Let's Talk Story!

By Daralyn Yee

A loha! "Let's talk story" is an expression used in Hawaii to invite someone to spend time and share stories about the happenings of each other's lives. Within the international community that reads Awa Life, everybody has their own story, whether it is travelling overseas, meeting new people from abroad, or living abroad for the first time.

We at Awa Life would like to ask you, what is your story? Please share in 100-200 words with us your experiences, whether it be stories of living abroad, culture shock, unforgettable moments in Tokushima, or things that left an impression on

you. Be sure to follow Awa Life's submission guidelines posted on page 1 and e-mail your submissions to awalife@gmail.com. I believe that sharing our stories will help us, as the international community of Tokushima, bond together as a whole community. Happy Writing!



Black Bullet by Danielle Yarbrough (Atlanta, Georgia, USA)

One late night, I turned on my air-conditioner and heard a rattling noise inside the pipes. I stood underneath the unit for a moment, perplexed by the sounds. The rattling slowly got louder and louder and intuition told me to step back. Suddenly, a very large black foreign object shot out of the vent as fast a bullet. Startled, I raced to turn on my fluorescent lights, silently praying that it was just a pebble. I scanned the floor and saw nothing there. My stomach dropped and I knew...It was a bug. I looked around for five minutes and didn't find anything. Reassured, I

turned to use my cellphone for a moment. When I turned around, the biggest cockroach I had ever seen emerged from its hiding place and crawled on top of one of my couch pillows. I quickly closed

my living room door, locking both me and the roach inside. One of us was going to die that night and it was not going to be me. The struggle took about thirty minutes and my apartment looked like a hurricane hit it. I swept it out onto my patio, before dousing it repeatedly with bug spray.

Although I managed to kill it, a word of caution to all who read this: If you hear your pipes rattling, grab your bug spray because something's about to go down tonight!

Sleepless Nights in Illinois by Shintaro Inoue (Tokushima, Japan)

When I was in university, I studied abroad in America for four months. At the time, I ended up living in a dorm and was roommates with a Korean guy. From the time he finished classes and returned home, to the time he went to sleep, he played online games on his computer all night long. I was worried because all he did was play games every day, but I couldn't say anything because he still attended classes. However, as the days went on, the noises from his game became louder and louder. To top it all off, he was so loud that I could hear the sound of his games from down the hall!!! I couldn't take it anymore!

So, I just had to tell him:

Me: The sound from your game is so noisy. Can't you turn it down a little bit?

Him: Aren't you the one who is making a lot of noise?

Me: When I listen to music and watch videos, I use HEADPHONES, and even leave the room when I take a phone call! Him: No, that's not it. It's your snoring!



After that day, he started to use headphones, and I went to sleep after he did.



Japanese Lesson

By Haruko Miyoshi

End of the Year Greetings「年末年始の挨拶」

2016 (Heisei Year 28) is coming to an end, and it will soon be 2017 (Heisei Year 29). In Japanese, the end of the year is called *nenmatsu*「作文」, and the beginning of the new year is called *nenshi*「作始」. When we talk about the end of the old year and a start of a new one, we call it Nenmatsu Nenshi 「年末 ねんし 年始」. This month I will be introducing end of the year and New Year greetings called 「年末年始の挨拶」.

These greetings「年末年始の挨拶」 are used many times during this period. I hope that you can remember these phrases and are actually able to use them.

< Basic Greetings >

今年もありがとうございました。

来年もよろしくお願いします。

良いお年をお迎えください。

明けましておめでとうございます。

ことし ねが 今年もよろしくお願いします。



These basic phrases can be used with anyone. First, let's remember these basic greetings. Next, if possible, depending on who you are speaking with, try to change it up according to the following information.

For those who are your friend or are younger than you.



^{ねんまっ} ことし 年末 … 今年もありがとう。

For those who are your superiors, teachers, or are older than you.



う 今年もありがとうございました。

You greet people with the「年末」year-end greeting when you part with them, while the「年始」new year greeting is used when you see someone right when you meet them during the new year. Be sure to add「こちらこそ」(Same to you as well) in front of 「今年も~」in your greeting, if someone greats you first.

Example: 「こちらこそ、今年もありがとうございました。」 「こちらこそ、今年もよろしくお願いします。」

Manners for Visiting a Temple

By TOPIA staff

okushima is full of beautiful and historic temples and shrines. Do you know the right way to enter a temple and pray there? Here is a little lesson on manners for visiting temples. You will need these skills especially in January, when Japanese traditionally visit the shrines and temples to welcome the new year. Or you can

- 1 Bow to the main temple gate
- 2 Walk on the outsides of the worship pathway
- ③ Purify yourself at the *chouzusha* (手水舎 Purification site to cleanse your hands and mouth)
- 1) Hold the ladle with your right hand and cleanse your left hand.
- 2) Hold the ladle with your left hand and cleanse your right hand.
- 3) Hold the ladle in
- your right hand again. In your left hand, take in some water and use it to rinse your mouth.

Life.

4) Stand the ladle up to wash the handle of the ladle.

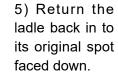
practice this month when going to an event at

Yakuouji temple which is mentioned in the event

But be careful: the manners at shrines and

temples differ. We will introduce the appropriate

manners for visiting a shrine in next month's Awa





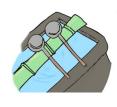






section of this issue.





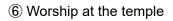


- * Ringing the bell acts as a greeting to Buddha.
- * Depending on the temple, it may be forbidden to ring the temple bell. Please confirm with the temple beforehand.





- (5) Offer incense
- ※ Purify your body by fanning the smoke towards your body
- * Sometimes you can light up a candle.



- 1) Bow, give an offering, and ring the bell.
- ※ Ringing the bell is to cleanse one's self from bad spirits.
- * Because it is an offering to Buddha, throw the offering gently.
- 2) Put your hands together in front of your chest and pray.
- ※ Do not clap your hands.
- ※ It is acceptable to pray with prayer beads.
- 3) Bow one last time.









Awa Shoku: Bonenkai Basics – A Guide to Year-End Parties

By Lance Kita

f you felt that 2016 was a rough year, a Japanese tradition has you covered: *Bonenkai* 忘年会, year-end parties whose name literally means "party to forget the year," clear the slate to start the new year fresh. Whether it's for your workplace, school, or just a group of friends, Bonenkai (or for that matter, any *enkai* 宴会 or formal party) can be a daunting experience for a foreigner worried about the myriad of rules and manners in Japanese society. So here are a few keywords and tips!

Where and What?

Most formal *Bonenkai* take place at a hotel or a banquet hall. Informal parties will usually happen at an tavern (*izakaya* 居酒屋) or restaurant. Most of the time, the food will be a set course (*koosu*コース), served individually or family style, accompanied



When accepting a drink, use both hands to hold you glass (and tip it for less beer foam).

by an all-you-can-drink (*nomihodai* 飲 み 放 題) system. Sometimes the food is all-you-can-eat (*tabehodai* 食べ放題) as a buffet (*baikingu* バイキング or *byuffe* ビュッフェ) or placed on tables around the ballroom, cocktail party-style. The fee for the party is collected at the event or taken



Chopsticks should be placed on the hashi-oki (chopstick rest) when not being used (make one from the wrapper if there aren't any).

out of the social club dues you pay at your workplace.

From Start to Finish (and Beyond)

You'll either meet at the place, or some hotels/banquet halls will arrange a shuttle bus service to pick up

guests at designated points. When you arrive, find your group's room and sign in at the reception table. You may be assigned a seat, or given one by random lottery. The night will probably start off

with a few speeches by your boss/coach/leader, followed by an official toast (*kanpai* 乾杯). Just raise your glass, say "kanpai" together, and take a sip. Now, it's eating/drinking time! At the end of the night, there will probably be a closing remark and some sort of ending ritual. The most common are *iccho-jime* — 丁締め (say "yo ~" and clap once in unison) or *ippon-jime* —本締め (saying "yo~" followed by a rapid "clap-clap-CLAP, clap-clap-CLAP, clap-clap-CLAP, clap-clap-CLAP, clap-clap-CLAP, sometimes *banzai-sansho* 万歳三唱 (raising both hands and yelling "banzai" three times) is done. After the first party is over, there is often an optional pre-arranged or spontaneous after-party (*nijikai* 二次会) at another bar or izakaya.

How to Drink (Any Beverage)

Drinking etiquette is an important part of the Bonenkai. Perhaps the most important is that you should always pour someone else's drink. Drinks are the social lubricant to smooth the way to conversation and camaderie, so no one should drink alone. Accept a drink by holding the cup and supporting the bottom with your other hand. Gently push up to "say when." Often, people will go around the room to co-workers and higher-ups they know and pour drinks for them as a greeting and a sign of thanks for everything in the past year, so feel free to grab a bottle of beer and walk around. Also, if you can't drink alcohol, simply say arukooru nomemasen アルコール飲めません (I can't drink alcohol). People can pour oolong tea or cola for you instead of beer. Although it may cost some yennies, Bonenkai are a good chance



Kanpai! Most people toast with beer poured at your party table, but choose oolong tea/cola/orange juice if you can't drink alcohol.

to (re)connect with the people around you and enjoy some great food. Use these tips and have fun forgetting this year. See you in 2017 with more food-related stories!

Events & Memoranda

2016 International Understanding Forum 平成28年度 国際理解支援フォーラム

日時: 12月11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 クレメントプラザ6階)

内容: 第一部 上田 勝久氏 による講話

「私の歩んできた道」

~あなたにもできる国際協力支援~

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

アルンソリヤ アリー氏(ラオス)

シリプグリ キラム氏

(中国・新疆ウイグル自治区)

第三部 意見交換 交流会

料金: 入場無料

お茶やお菓子を準備しています。ふるってご参加

ください。

申し込み・問い合わせ:

TEL: 088-656-3303 FAX: 088-652-0616

E-mail: coodinator3@topia.ne.jp

当日参加大歓迎ですが、準備の都合上できれば

事前にお申し込みください。

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

※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い。

TOPIA Japanese Intensive Conversation Course: "Japanese New Year"

From January 1st to January 3rd, we celebrate the New Year, called *Oshogatsu* (New Year's).

When: December 11 (Sun) 10:30-12:30

Where: TOPIA

We will learn about Japan's New Year culture and study about how to write a *Nengajo* (New Year's

Greeting Card) to the people who have helped us this year. We will provide brush pens and color pencils, so that you can write and draw some illustrations. (Please be sure to bring the address of people you would like to send Nengajo to. Each card is 52 yen and will be passed out.)

TOPIA Japanese Language Open Course: Come and Experience Pressed Art!

Would you like to create a *Oshibana* (Pressed Flowers) chopsticks holder or a postcard? Yoshinogawa High School students will teach you!

When: December 21 (Wed) 10:30-12:00

Where: TOPIA Fee: FREE

Please apply in advance for both events so that we can prepare enough materials. E-mail: coordinator2@topia.ne.jp TEL: 088-656-3303 FAX: 088-652-0616 *This event is run by TOPIA under the auspices of the Agency for Cultural Affairs.

Ward off Evil Spirits at Yakuoji Temple 薬王寺 厄除越年会



Every year at Yakuouji Temple, the general public is allowed to ring the 108 Joya no Kane (New year's bell) for ring number 2 through 107, a total of 106 times, to bring in the New Year. It is first come, first served, so if you would like to strike the bell, come early. There will be a lot of booths lining the temple grounds. Please come and enjoy the festival atmosphere.

When: December 31 (Sat) New Years Eve

Where: Yakuoji Temple

Info: Yakuoji Temple TEL: 0884-77-0023

薬王寺では毎年、一般の人が2回目~107回目までの106回の除夜の鐘をつくことができます。先着順なので鐘をつきたい方はお早めにどうぞ。露店も並ぶので、近くで除夜の鐘を聞きながらお祭り気分を味わって下さい!

日時:12月31日(土)大晦日

場所: 薬王寺 海部郡美波町奥河内寺前 285-1

お問い合わせ:薬王寺 TEL: 0884-77-0023

Events & Memoranda



Tokushima LED Art Festival 徳島 LED アートフェスティバル

Team Lab: Luminous Forest and River Tokushima Digitized City Art Night.

The city of Tokushima will be the stage for multiple events, with a focus on Digital Art by Team Lab and will also be featuring LED art created by the public. There will also be other events in which you will also be able to meet with and talk with the artists themselves.

When: December 16 (Fri) - December 25 (Sun)

Where: Central-Tokushima City

Info: Tokushima City Economic Strategies

Division, Tokushima LED Art Festival

Committee Office

TEL: 088-621-5225

チームラボ★光る川と光る森 徳島ライトシティアートナイト 芸術監督 猪子寿之(チームラボ)。チームラボのデジタルアート作品展示を中心に、一般公募のLEDアート作品の展示や参加・交流イベント等、徳島の街中を舞台に多彩な催しを開催します。

日時: 12月16日(金)~12月25日(日)

場所: 徳島中心部

お問い合わせ:徳島市経済政策課内 徳島LED

アートフェスティバル実行委員会事務局

TEL: 088-621-5225

Anan Luminous Town Project 2016 X'mas 阿南の光の冬イベント

This winter, there will be an event to show the city of Anan dressed in illuminating lights. The collaboration of bamboo and LED lights will bring a variety of spectacular pieces to the event. Ushikijoushi Park, the main event area, is also known as a sacred power spot for lovers.

When: December 23 (Fri, Holiday) - 25 (Sat) Where: Ushikijoushi Park, Hikari no Machi Station,

JR Anan Station

Info: Anan City Tourist Information Center

TEL: 0884-24-3141

Correction:

The name in the caption of the picture on the bottom of Pg.4 was misspelled. The correct spelling of the name of the photographer is Tomoyo Nakayama. We apologize for the error.

阿南の光の冬イベントが開催されます。竹とLED がコラボした素敵な企画が盛りだくさん。メイン 会場は"恋人の聖地"として知られる、牛岐城趾 公園です。ぜひ遊びにいらしてください。

日時: 12月23日(金・祝)~25日(日) 場所: 牛岐城趾公園、光のまちステーション、

JR阿南駅

お問い合わせ:阿南市観光案内所

TEL: 0884-24-3141

訂正・お詫び:4ページの下の写真の見出しの名前に誤りがありました。誤:Tomoya Nakayama 訂正:Tomoyo Nakayama 関係者の皆様、読者の皆様にご迷惑をお掛けしたことを心からお詫びいたします。

TOPIA will be closed from December 29, 2016 (Thur) - January 3, 2017 (Tue)

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)