

# awa life

February 2018

# 330



**Daralyn's Lunar  
New Year**



**Awa Shoku: Luck of  
the Roll**

**AJET Musical:  
TokuSing -  
Animal Music**

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

We have entered in to one of the coldest months in the calendar, February. Luckily we have articles and events in this month's Awa Life to warm up your spirits! First, read more about the folks at AJET Musical putting in their best efforts in to this year's musical production, "TokuSing: Tokushima's Got Talent". You can also journey with Daralyn to her warm and sunny hometown of Honolulu, Hawaii to find out more about how Lunar New Year is celebrated outside of Asia! Please take care of your health and stay warm.

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](mailto:awalife@gmail.com)**

Your editors,  
Daralyn, Franzi, and Tom

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



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## *AJET Musical: TokuSing - Animal Music*

*By Adam Christenson*

Returning to Tokushima from Christmas vacation, my eye glanced upon a strange news report playing on the airport television: "Reports of unusual animal behavior in every corner of Tokushima." Is El Niño to blame? I didn't think much of it at first, dismissing it as another nightly news fluff piece, and when I finally returned to my apartment in Miyoshi, I collapsed into slumber, exhausted from my travels. My rest was short lived, however, for early in the morning, a resounding blast from an elephant's trunk interrupted my snooze! At first I thought I dreamed it, but no - the ringing in my ears confirmed the one of a kind sound. As frightened as I was, however, I must admit that it sounded nice - a strong vibrato, carrying the weight of the performer and the unchecked emotion of someone releasing all their cares. A richness of sound danced in my ears - the elephant sings!

Fascinated, I surveyed Facebook for answers. What could this mean? Animals were singing everywhere, from gospel-growlin' geese to deep bluesy turtles to heavy metal hedgehogs. Wherefore this wondrous occurrence? What

could the occasion be? The Tokushima Musical, of course! This will be the 24th incarnation of the musical. It is a long tradition that has been passed down in the community, and the cast is very excited to bring you this production for free thanks to the generosity of the community! Everything in the show is created and directed by JET programme participants and members of the community - from the props to the costumes to the script. Work began in October and the first rehearsal started this month in January. Plenty of time until the first show in March!



*Rehearsals started - everybody is getting prepared!*

## AJET Musical: TokuSing - Animal Music



*The crew is getting organized for backdrop and props.*

Auditions were a lot of fun for everyone involved. Each actor submitted a singing sample and had the opportunity to play with the script, trying out different combinations of lines and roles. The actors played different types of theater games like Zip-zap-zop and Ninja to warm up and build camaraderie. The theater should be a place of trust, and it seems that the cast will be no exception.

The script writing process was hard work! It was a team effort to condense the long, movie sized script into something usable on the stage, but the hard-working script team really came through. Their goals were to make it easy to understand for English and Japanese speaking audiences alike, as well as make sure that the music is fun and compliments the events on stage.

The story follows

Buster Moon, an eternally optimistic koala, as he seeks to reinvent himself and his theater with a musical contest. Not everything goes as planned,



*Original choreography is created by the hardworking cast members.*

as there are many obstacles to overcome. There's the old, rickety theater that must be taken care of, no money to fund the budget, and most of all,

the motley group of singers must learn to believe in themselves. Will they come together and put on the greatest show Tokushima has ever seen? Find out at one of the five performances below.

This adaptation features easier English and some Japanese for people who need help following along, and of course, you don't need to understand every word to enjoy the rockin' music! Please come out and enjoy the show!

徳シング  
**TOKUSING**  
Tokushima's Got Talent

第24回AJET徳島英語ミュージカル  
入場無料・先着順・中学生レベルの英語

3月4日 (日) 15:00~17:00	石井町中央公民館
3月10日(土) 15:00~17:00	北島町立図書館・創世ホール
3月11日(日) 14:00~16:00	美波町コミュニティホール
3月18日(日) 14:00~16:00	勝浦町農村環境改善センター
3月24日(土) 17:00~19:00	脇町劇場・オデオン座

詳細: [www.ajetmusical.com](http://www.ajetmusical.com) | [www.facebook.com/AJETMusical](https://www.facebook.com/AJETMusical)  
お問合せ: TOPIA(徳島県国際交流協会)まで (088) 656-3303 | 主催: AJET徳島  
支援: 石井町国際交流協会、公益財団法人徳島県国際交流協会、勝浦町教育委員会、美波町教育委員会



## Bringing in the New Year Twice: Daralyn's Lunar New Year

By Daralyn Yee

How do you bring in the New Year? Because of my Chinese and Japanese ethnic background, I am able to celebrate New Year's twice! This makes for double the excitement in the beginning of the year. After bringing in the new year on January 1st, about a month later, it is time to celebrate the new year's again through **Shunsetsu** (春節 Lunar New Year)! You may think that this is only celebrated in Asia, but others of East Asian roots in other countries are celebrating this holiday around the world too. In this article I would like to take you on a journey to Hawaii and tell you how I celebrate the Asian Lunar New Year outside of East Asia.

Lunar New Year marks the beginning of spring and the New Year for many countries across East Asia. Because it is based off of the lunar calendar, the date changes every year. Traditionally it is a major holiday where offerings are made to gods and ancestors, and is a time to bring family together. Many people in Hawaii are ethnically Chinese, and this holiday is a great way for us to not only celebrate but to also come to know more about our culture. When I lived in Hawaii, I looked forward to the vibrant celebrations held in our local Chinatown, and visiting my **popo** (婆婆 grandma) and **gung gung** (公公 grandpa)'s house every year.

Lunar New Year celebrations in Hawaii start off in Chinatown a few weeks before the actual date. On one of the weekends, some of the main streets of the town are closed off and a block party full of food and product booths, performances, and a parade ensues. Walking through the streets, you will spot a few symbols of the New Year. First, you will see Daffodils, also known as Narcissus Flower, being sold at many shops. This flower, with a yellow cup like corona surrounded by white petals, is a sign of prosperity and good fortune. The bulb is held in place with pebbles in a dish filled with water, and placed in the sun. Its light fragrance is a reminder that spring is ahead. Second, you will see the brightest shade of red used on decorations of many varieties such as lanterns. This is a color known for good fortune



*The best part of this loud and energetic performance is the close-up interaction that the lions have with the audience.*

and joy and during the event it brightens up the town. Third, no matter what corner you turn, you will see a Southern style lion dance performance. The purpose of this dynamic performing art is to scare away the evil spirits with the loud noises of the gong, drums, and fireworks lit up prelude the performance. People in Hawaii often "feed" the lions' money for good luck. Not only is it a great method of warding off evil spirits, it is also amusing to watch the dancers make the lion look alive and move to the beat of the gongs and drums. Taking in the sights and sounds of the celebrations is a great start to my "Second New Year", and I always look forward to it.

On the day of Lunar New Year, I call my grandparents and greet them with "**Gong Hey Fat Choi**" (恭喜發財), which is Cantonese for "May you have a prosperous New Year". Usually it is a regular work/school day back in Hawaii, so we wait to visit them at their house during the weekend. In the meantime, my family usually has some Gau, also known as **Nin Gou** (年糕), which we buy from the festivities in Chinatown. It is a sweet and sticky New Year's rice cake, with a date decorated in the middle. It symbolizes advancement and growth because it sounds similar to "Year high" (年高). When we finally visit on the weekend, my grandma had already been busy in the kitchen making Jai, also known as

**Lo Han Jai** ( 羅漢齋 ), for every single member of our family and even enough to take home leftovers. It is a soy sauce based vegetarian dish with more than 10 different ingredients that are typically not eaten in Western countries. A couple of my favorite ingredients include golden lily buds, symbolizes wealth; tree ear fungus, symbolizes longevity; and black mushrooms, welcoming spring and symbolizes taking opportunities. And lastly, we can't forget the red money envelopes, **lai see** ( 利市 , also known as 紅包 )! The envelopes have various words in Chinese written on it, and lucky symbols wishing for luck or good health. I can feel my grandparent's well wishes through all of the things that they kindly prepare.

As you may have realized while reading this article, there are so many symbols during the Lunar New Year that bring good wishes for the New Year. I am lucky to have been brought up in this rich culture where I can receive well wishes all the time, even through delicious food!



*Fresh Lo Han Jai made by my popo!*

Having the opportunities to learn about Chinese New Year culture in Hawaii has given me a new understanding for my family's culture, and gives me the chance to celebrate the new years in two different ways. I hope that all of you will have the same chance to celebrate New Year's in this new way too!

## Letter from SUKETO NAKAYOSHI

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

It is finally February. Though according to the calendar it is considered to be "spring", the cold weather continues, so please be sure to take care of your health. In this season when it is easy to catch a cold, there are a lot of children who have a runny nose, and this causes many children to have a middle-ear infection. One way to prevent this is connected to blowing your nose, so let's practice blowing our noses.

First, close your child's mouth, and close one side of your child's nose. Then, have your child blow out air from one nostril. At that time, be sure to time the blowing by saying "Fun" (blowing sound). However, be sure that your child does not blow too hard as it will damage their ears.

For children who have a difficulty blowing their nose, wet a piece of small tissue and put the tip in to the opening of your child's nose. As they breathe, the tissue will move around, and this makes for an interesting means of practicing.

Though there are individual differences, a majority of children are able to blow their nose well by the age of 3. Until they are able to blow their nose, be sure to assist your child in blowing their nose.

\* \* \*

### Talking Dog



- 1) Overlap two strips of paper with the dimensions of 3cmx12cm and fold 1/3 of each strip outwards.
- 2) Take a 3cmx12cm strip of paper and wrap it around the center of the folded paper you created in step 1. (Glue the strip together)
- 3) If you move the wrapped strip of paper back, the dog's mouth will open.
- 4) Cut parts of the strip to make a tail for the dog and glue the two strips together. To top it off, attach a face, nose, and mouth.

# Japanese Lesson

By Sachiko Muramatsu

「で」「に」「～において」

A lot of particles exist in the Japanese language, and each of them have different ways of use. This month, let's learn how to express a location with particles. In this lesson, we will study the particles 「で」 and 「に」 and the phrase 「～において」 which can be used in the same way.

Maria, a student, is asking her teacher a question in Japanese class.

マリア：先生、きのう子どもが学校から授業参観のお知らせを持って帰ったんですが、その中に「授業参観後、教室において学級懇談会も行います。」と書いてありました。「教室において」というのは「教室で」と同じ意味ですか。

先生：そうですね。改まった言い方をすると「～において」という言葉を使いますが、意味は「で」とおなじですよ。

マリア：わかりました。ありがとうございました。



「で」、「に」、and 「～において」 can be used in the following ways:

★「で」:

- ① Marks the place where an action has occurred. (e.g. 教室で勉強する)
- ② Marks a place of which an event is happening. (e.g. 体育館でスポーツ大会がある)

★「に」:

- ① Marks the location of where something exists. (e.g. 家の中に猫がいる)
- ② Marks the place of an action or condition that is actively occurring. (e.g. 庭に花が咲いている)

★「～において」:

Marks a place at which something is happening. It has the same meaning as 「で」 but sounds more formal and is not used in daily conversations. (e.g. 昨日、この大ホールにおいて卒業式が行われました)



## Practice:

Please fill in 「で」、「に」 or 「～において」 in the brackets.

1. 兄は今、アメリカ ( ) 経営学 (business economics) を勉強している。
2. 私は先週の日曜日、一日中家 ( ) いて、本を読んだり、散歩したりしていた。
3. 2017年12月10日、ノルウェーのオスロ市庁舎 (city hall) ( ) ノーベル平和賞の授賞式 (award ceremony) が行われた。
4. 今夜、大学の食堂 ( ) 留学生のパーティーがあります。
5. 庭 ( ) 草がいっぱい生えてきたので、2時間くらい草取りをした。
6. 本日、国会 ( ) 首相の施政方針演説 (administrative policy speech) が行われる。



参考文献：初級日本語文法総まとめ、中級日本語文法要点整理  
(スリーエーネットワーク)

Answers: 1. (で) 2. (に) 3. (に) 4. (で) 5. (で) 6. (に)



## Awa Shoku: Luck of the Roll

By Lance Kita

February 3 is **Setsubun** (節分), which literally means “seasonal divider,” and is just one of 24 such traditional checkpoints during the year. **Setsubun** is considered a time when “oni” (鬼, ogres, demons) appear and bring sickness and calamity. People throw beans (roasted soybeans or in Eastern Japan peanuts) at their door, saying “Oni wa soto, fuku wa uchi” 「鬼は外、福は内」 (Ogres out! Luck in!). People eat the same number of beans as their age for good health.

Beans are still a big part of the celebration, but over the last two decades, so is...sushi?? And not the little conveyor belt ones, but a whole **maki-zushi** (巻き寿司), with fillings and rice rolled into a cylinder with a sheet of nori seaweed. Usually sliced, in Osaka it's eaten whole, facing a certain auspicious direction (that changes every year) without speaking...!?!?!?!

These rolls of sushi are called **ehou-maki** (恵方巻き, lucky direction rolls), and the basic ones have cucumber, egg, **kampyō** (干びょう, simmered gourd strips), and eel in them. Other ingredients include **koya-dofu** (高野豆腐, simmered freeze-dried tofu), shiitake mushrooms, carrots, and **sakura-denbu** (桜でんぶ, a sweet pink flaky powder made from ground-up seafood). This is also a basic recipe for **maki-zushi**, and can be ordered year-round as **futo-maki** (太巻) or **inaka-maki** (田舎巻).

You'll find **ehou-maki** lined up on the shelves of supermarkets and convenience stores on February 2nd and 3rd. Recently, all kinds of

flavors have been added, like **kaisen-maki** (海鮮巻き) with strips of **sashimi** and seafood, **maguro** rolls, salmon rolls, and fried shrimp rolls. This Osaka tradition is spreading nationwide.



*How can sushi ward off demons and misfortune? Read more about ehō-maki in this article.*



*This kaisen-maki rolled sushi is a modern variant on an unusual Setsubun tradition.*

So how old is this tradition? The roots of this are rolled up in mystery. It isn't clear when this tradition started, though there are references to it during the Taisho and Showa Period in Osaka sushi restaurant advertisements. After the war, mention of this tradition faded out until a resurgence in the 1960s.

I remember the rolls of sushi in convenience stores in the late 1990s when I worked in Matsushige as a JET Programme ALT, and that coincided with a huge push byコンビニ to sell them all over the country. February is a slow time for businesses, and this was a way to drum up sales, similar to the way Valentine's Day chocolates were a result of Japanese candy companies looking to increase profits in the 1960s. Surprised? Shocked? You'd be more surprised how many food-based “traditions” have economically-driven origins. The **toshikoshi soba** (年越し蕎麦) noodles eaten on New

Year's Eve and fried chicken at Christmas are just a few more examples of this.

Today, you can find almost anything rolled to eat for **Setsubun**, from **yakiniku** beef to vegetarian sushi rolls, and even long skinny rolled cakes with whipped cream for those with the sweet tooth. This year, face south-southeast, chow down on your rolled food in silence, and contemplate the good things to come this year. Have fun!



# Events & Memoranda

## Labor Consultation 労働相談会



This consultation time is open to workers and entrepreneurs. Three members, including members representing public organizations, employees, and employers will be available for consultation.

お困りの労働、事業主の方はお気軽にどうぞ  
公益・労働者側・使用者側の3人の委員が相談に応じます。

When: All Thursdays in 2018 14:00 - 16:00  
February 1, 8, 15, 22 & March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

日時: 平成30年毎週木曜日 14時～16時  
2月1日、8日、15日、22日

Where: Tokushima Prefectural Office 11th Floor  
Labor Relations Committee

3月1日、8日、15日、22日、29日

Fee: Free

場所: 徳島県庁11階労働委員会

★ Please make a reservation the day before appointment by 15:00.

料金: 相談無料

★ All consultation will be conducted in Japanese.  
Please be sure to provide your own interpreter.

★ 前日の午後3時までに予約してください。

## 19th Annual Shikoku Sake Festival 第19回 四国酒まつり

You can taste all of Shikoku's high quality sake brands in one place and compare them.

四国各地の銘酒を、一堂に飲み  
比べできる地酒試飲会!



When: February 24th, Tasting from 10:00-16:00,  
Evening Event from 20:00-21:30

日時: 2月24日、酒試飲会 10時～16時  
タベ 20時～21時半

Where: Awa Ikeda Station Area

場所: 阿波池田駅周辺

Fee: Tasting - Advanced Tickets 1,600 yen/ At  
the door 1,800 yen

料金: 酒試飲会 前売り券 1,600円/当日券  
1,800円

Evening Event - Advanced Tickets 2,000  
yen/ At the door 2,300 yen

タベ 前売り券 2,000円/当日券 2,300円

★ The event is part of the Kansai International  
Tourism Year. When you show your foreign passport  
at the reception desk, you can buy day tickets for the  
tasting event at a discounted price of 1,600 yen.

★ 本イベントは、「KANSAI 国際観光YEAR」  
の連携イベントです。当日券をご購入の際、地酒試  
飲会受付にパスポートをご提示いただくと、通常  
1,800円のところ1,600円でご入場いただけます。

Info: Awa Ikeda Chamber of Commerce

問い合わせ: 阿波池田商工会議所

Tel: 0883-72-0143

TEL: 0883-72-0143

## 26th Annual Anan Living Bamboo Festival 第26回 阿南市活竹祭

"Grow full of energy straight toward the heavens" like  
Anan City's famous bamboo. This festival will be a  
fun event offering a broad variety of activities, stage  
events, and special products.

阿南市の特産である「竹」のように、「まっすぐ勢い  
天に向かって伸びていく」ということで特産品まつ  
り、各種体験コーナー、ステージイベントなど楽し  
い催しが予定されております。



When: February 25th, 9:00-15:00

日時: 2月25日 9時～15時

Where: Anan City Office

場所: 阿南市役所

Fee: Free

料金: 無料

Info: Anan City Living Bamboo Festival Executive  
Committee (Anan City Commerce & Tourism Division)

問い合わせ: 阿南市活竹祭実行委員  
会(阿南市商工観光課内)

Tel: 0884-22-3290



# Events & Memoranda



## Big Hina Matsuri ビッグひな祭り

The Big Hina Matsuri, which started in 1988 is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. Dolls that are no longer used have been collected, blessed, and put on display for all to see. At the venue you can see the "100-stair Doll Display" centerpiece that is 8m tall, and 30,000 dolls that are elegantly displayed.

When: February 18th - April 8th, 9:00 -16:00  
Where: Doll Culture Exchange Hall (Katsuura)  
Fee: Adults 300 yen  
Elementary School 300 yen  
Info: Doll Cultural Exchange Center  
Tel: 0885-42-4334

昭和 63 年の春に始まったビッグひな祭りは、今回で 30 回目を迎えます。本祭では、全国より、家庭で飾られなくなった雛人形を集め、供養し、展示させていただいております。場内には、中央にそびえ立つ高さ約 8m「百段のひな壇」をはじめ、約 3 万体のもの雛人形が豪華絢爛に飾られています。

日時： 2 月 18 日～ 4 月 8 日、9 時～ 16 時  
場所： 人形文化交流館（勝浦）  
料金： 大人 300 円  
子供 100 円  
問い合わせ：人形文化交流館  
TEL: 0885-42-4334



## Meiji University Mandolin Club Charity Concert 明治大学マンドリン倶楽部チャリティー演奏会

Come and see this prestigious Mandolin Club from Meiji University (Tokyo) perform in Tokushima City! Be taken on a musical journey while listening to the unique sounds of the mandolin. Due to the generosity of the Mandolin Club, the foreign residents of Tokushima have been invited to this event for free. Visit TOPIA for free tickets to this event. Tickets will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis.

When: March 1st (Thur) 18:30-  
Where: Asty Tokushima  
Info: TOPIA  
Fee: Free tickets provided at TOPIA on a first come, first serve basis.  
Tel: 088-656-3303

演奏会を通して、マンドリンの特有の美しい音色を聞きながら、素敵な時間をお楽しみいただけます。マンドリン倶楽部様のお計らいでトピアで招待券を沢山お預かりしております。県内在住外国人の皆様やトピア関係者の皆様で参加希望の方はぜひトピアまでチケットを取りにお越しください。

日時： 3 月 1 日（木）18 時半～  
場所： アスティとくしま  
お問い合わせ：徳島県国際交流協会  
料金： トピアで無料券を配布いたしております。  
（先着順）  
TEL: 088-656-3303

### Correction/ 訂正：

『阿波ライフ』1 月号 8 ページの「災害時ボランティア通訳研修」のお知らせ内容に以下の誤りがありました。  
（誤）2 月 17 日（土）→（正）2 月 18 日（日）  
読者の皆様に謹んでお詫び申し上げ、訂正いたします。

## 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)