

# awa life

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August 2020

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**TOPIA**

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

We can finally enjoy the hottest month of the year here in Tokushima. Unfortunately, all the great events we are used to (the Awa Odori and fireworks) have been cancelled this year. However, we hope that this won't destroy your summer mood. While the economy is trying to recover again, it is surely a good time to support local businesses, for example through traveling to regions across the prefecture you maybe wouldn't have visited otherwise. For those who really miss the Awa Odori, you can still enjoy it at the Awa Odori Kaikan every day. Everyone, have a great August!

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:

Your editors,  
Sydney and Nico

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

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## *Tokushima's Hidden Historical Treasure: the Hachisuka Clan Cemetery*

By Abby Fisher

Coming from the Midwest United States, I grew up in a vast sea of corn fields, and perhaps this is why I've always been fascinated by Tokushima's mountainous landscape. On weekends I explore the forgotten paths and little-known shrines of Mt. Bizan, and the most intriguing place I've come across has been the Hachisuka Clan Cemetery. It's a place for lovers of both history and nature, and I consider it a hidden gem of Tokushima.

So who were the Hachisukas, and why is their resting place a nationally designated historical site? The Hachisuka Clan served as feudal lords of Tokushima from the 1500s to the late 1800s. In those times, land was always changing hands and being fought over, but the Hachisukas maintained control of Tokushima all the way until the end of the feudal system. Because of their long, uninterrupted reign, the history of the Hachisukas is intertwined with that of our prefecture. The ruins in Tokushima Central Park are remnants of the family castle, and many of the prefecture's early-blooming cherry blossoms stem from trees specifically bred for the Hachisuka's



garden.

The Hachisuka Clan Cemetery is another piece of the family's legacy, albeit a lesser-known one. As the name suggests, the location's biggest draw is its collection of burial sites, and every fork in the path will lead you to another cluster of graves. The

oldest tomb dates all the way back to the 8th century, although the most interesting aspect of these headstones isn't their age; it's the large, perfectly circular mounds of earth that have been heaped behind them. Burial mounds were common among ancient cultures – the Japanese even laid those of high status to rest in large, keyhole-shaped mounds called Kofun – but the piles of earth at Hachisuka cemetery are of a different variety. They're tied to the introduction of Confucianism into the clan, as in the 1700s, Lord Shigeyoshi officially disallowed the practice of Buddhism among his family members. This explains why the Hachisukas were laid to rest on the mountainside rather than on temple grounds.

Although the Hachisuka Clan Cemetery holds a certain appeal for history buffs, others may

consider touring a graveyard to be a bit morbid. The cemetery offers a wonderful spot to enjoy nature though, and in the spring, the sight of cherry blossoms sprinkling their petals over the headstones is beautifully serene. Photographers will love the wide variety of animals and butterflies that can be spotted along the pathways, and hikers can take advantage of the secluded mountain trail that leads to the top of Mt. Bizan.

For anyone interested in visiting the Hachisuka

## Farewell Messages

By: Emily Yocom

Anyone who knows me personally knows that my time in Tokushima was a challenge for me, which ultimately led me to the decision to return home after just one year. However, despite the hardship, there are many things I am grateful for that made my year in Tokushima one of new experiences and personal growth.

About a month before I was set to arrive in Tokushima, I received a guidebook in the mail from my soon-to-be supervisor. I read the book from front to back, wondering what it might be like to walk across the vine bridge in the Iya Valley or to make Otani-yaki pottery by hand, or if sudachi tasted any different from lime. Just about one year later, I feel a sense of pride looking back and having experienced all these things I dreamt of. But more than that, I experienced things no guide book prepared me for, like taking a drunken trip up a mountain to sample plum wines at the Umesu Matsuri (Plum Wine Festival), touring my friends from Tokyo around Naruto and Tokushima City, and "hiking" the 10 steps up Japan's shortest mountain.

During my work as a CIR, I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to learn so much about Georgia. From interpreting for the Georgian rugby team, to being gifted Georgian wine by an official from the embassy, to actually visiting the country on a business trip. I made ties with a country that I never would have otherwise, for which I am grateful.

Clan Cemetery, you'll find it at 5 Minamisako 4-Bancho in Tokushima City, or you can search まねんやま on Google Maps. The entrance to the site is a small gravel path tucked away in a residential neighborhood, so be prepared to find parking elsewhere. A visit to the Hachisuka Clan Cemetery is an opportunity to learn about the roots of the prefecture that we call home, and I hope you too will come to consider it one of Tokushima's hidden treasures.

I am also endlessly grateful for my fellow CIRs, who were always there to share a meal at the shokudo, take a weekend trip to a nearby sightseeing spot, or



trade insights about which grocery stores have the best selection of fruit or mapo tofu seasonings. Our camaraderie is one of the things I will miss the most when I leave Tokushima.

I will never forget eating wild boar and deer hot pot and feeding birds by hand up in the mountains, strolling along the riverside at the Tokushima Marche every month it wasn't cancelled, and pounding mochi with Ebessan. The memories are the greatest omiyage I will take home with me.

While I feel ready to move on to the next stage of my life, I have to admit that leaving Tokushima will be bittersweet. Thank you to everyone who has made this experience unforgettable.

## A Word from Arasowaren

After practicing hard with everyone in Arasowaren, it's very unfortunate we won't have a place to perform. However, it's not as if the Awa Odori will disappear. I'm building my stamina and dancing at home until the coronavirus situation settles down and everyone is able to practice together. I've also been practicing the shamisen, so I'm spending the summer looking forward to the day when we can perform together, not just by dancing, but with instruments as well. ~Shoko Nagano



This year's Awa Odori and other large events were cancelled. It's unfortunate, but everyone's safety is the most important. Right now, I'm going to work as normal, staying at home as much as possible on my days off, avoiding eating out, avoiding areas where many people gather, and feeling the change in new lifestyle habits. I'm looking forward to when the coronavirus situation settles down, and can't wait to dance again. ~Uka Teki

Despite the sad cancellation of the Bon Fest I'm trying to keep up my Awa Odori spirit by practicing at home, as I'm also a member of one of the city's "rens", all of which suspended group practices and appearances. But I particularly miss Arasowaren, its culturally diverse crowd, and hope to dance with those lovely people soon again. ~Pedro Movilla Fernandez



One good thing about Awa Odori is that anyone can do it anywhere; even at home! But the best thing about it is how it brings people together. We may not be able to meet as much this year, but we can support each other and look forward to meeting and dancing again. ~Danielle Gally

My name is Omar and I'm from Mexico City, Mexico. It has been almost a year and a half since I came to Tokushima. I have met amazing people and had amazing experiences, but the Awa Odori is one of my favorite experiences so far. As everyone knows, Latin American countries are famous for people who love dancing, but I am an exception, believe it or not. I didn't like dancing when I was in my own country and I don't know why, but when I tried Awa Odori I just fell in love with it. For me, it's not just a dance. It's a connection with the Japanese culture and all the people dancing and playing around me. I'm so sad because this year's Awa Odori is canceled, but I'm sure next year my group (Arasowaren) and I will be happy to dance together once again. I'm looking forward to it.

~Omar Camacho





# Japanese Reading and Culture Corner: 台風

By: Toshiro Taki

日本には、夏から 秋にかけて、南の海で 発生した 台風が やってきます。  
 台風は、暴風や 大雨の危険があります。近年では、年に 5 個位、日本の どこかに 上陸して います。  
 そして、時々、川の 洪水による 道路や 家の 浸水、暴風や 土石流による 家の 倒壊が あります。  
 そして、人の命や 財産が 大きな 被害を 受けています。その中で、台風の スピードや 進路、風や  
 雨の 強さなどの 予報が 上達し、いつ、どこに、どのような 台風が 来るか、わかるようになりまし  
 た。台風による 被害を 防ぐため、台風情報に 注意しましょう。そして、次のことに気をつけましょ  
 う。  
 ①風に 飛ばされそうなものは 建物内にしまおう。②暴風の 時には 外に 出ない。③川には 近づか  
 ない。④安全な 建物に 避難する。台風の 被害から 自分の 命や 体、そして 財産を 守ってくだ  
 さい。



## Vocabulary List

台風	Typhoon	暴風	Storm	上陸	Make Landfall
洪水	Flood	浸水	Flooding	土石流	(Sand/Stone) Avalanche
倒壊	Collapse	財産	Property/Assets	被害	Damage
進路	(Typhoon's) Path	予報	Forecast	上達	Improvement

## Gairaigo Galore

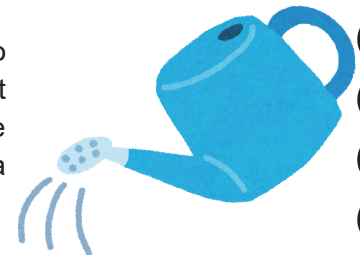
ジョウロ (Watering Can)

By: Sydney Bartig

I'm sure there are many of you out there who are interested in gardening, tending to flowers, or who have their own small plants at home. Naturally, you need to keep your plants and flowers watered so that they will grow well, but what is the word for the necessary tool in Japanese? Of course, in English we use the word "watering can" or "watering pot", but in Japanese the word is ジョウロ. This word can also be written using the kanji 如雨露, however, it is often written in just kana alone.

Although it may not appear so at first, ジョウロ is actually a gairaigo word, and originally comes from the Portuguese language. It is thought to come from either the Portuguese word "jorro" which represents the gushing sounds of water, or from the Portuguese word "jarro" which is a pitcher or water jug.

Actually, there are quite a few Portuguese words that have made their way into the Japanese language. (For example, 金平糖 which you can read more about in the March 2020 Awa Life issue!) The Portuguese were the first to establish trade between Japan and Europe in 1543, and even now there are many words from the Portuguese language that remain in Japanese.



## A Summer 2020 Recipe Idea

By: Alessa Peters

**A**wa Shoku will be on break this month, so instead Alessa is going to introduce a great summer recipe for everyone to try!

\*\*\*\*\*

One thing I enjoy about grocery shopping in Tokushima is the large variety of local produce. Oftentimes, the name of the farmer is even written on the package. To me, this is a daily reminder of where my food comes from, and lets me appreciate the work that has gone into putting it on my plate. During the global Covid-19 crisis this has become even more important, and as there are not many vegan options for me at local restaurants, buying local produce has been a great way for me to support the local economy.

Summers in Japan are hot and humid, and while I've experienced a few of them in my life, they still tend to knock me off my feet. I find myself craving chilled food for lunch and I often rely on pasta salads for this. So, without further ado, I would like to introduce a soba noodle recipe that's quick and easy, made with mainly local ingredients, and perfect for the summer!

### Soba Noodle Salad

**Main Ingredients** (makes one bowl):

- 2 packages of Iya valley soba
- 1 medium sized cucumber
- 1 small carrot
- 1 head of bok choy
- 2 slices of fried tofu



### For the Dressing:

- 1 tablespoon neutral oil (such as canola oil)
- 1/2 tablespoon sesame oil
- 1/2 tablespoon maple syrup
- 1/2 tablespoon soy sauce

### For the Topping:

- A red pepper or chili spice mix of your choice, to taste (I use a Szechuan pepper mix)
- Sesame, to taste
- Chopped welsh onion, to taste
- The juice of 1-2 sudachi, to taste

### Preparation:

Prepare the soba noodles according to the instructions on the package, then rinse under cold water and let cool down. Peel and thinly slice the carrot, slice the fried tofu and bok choy, then stir them in a fry pan with a little bit of sesame oil for about 3 minutes. Transfer to a bowl and let cool down. Rinse, then cut the cucumber into bite-sized pieces and add to the bowl. Add the soba noodles. Prepare the dressing in a different bowl, then add to the rest and mix well. Transfer to a plate or bowl and add toppings to taste.

The sweet-sour juice of sudachi, combined with the spice mix, goes well with the nutty flavor of the sesame oil and the soba. If you have any leftover sudachi, I recommend squeezing the juice of 1 sudachi into a glass of cold water, it's very refreshing!



ありがとうと言われた時の返し方  
かんしゃ あらわ ほか ひょうげん  
 感謝を表す他の表現

How to respond when you are told 「ありがとう」 or 「ありがとうございます」 (Thank you).

\* How you respond will depend on who you are talking with. This is also true when emailing someone.

1.) When your friend tells you 「ありがとう」.

「は～い、いいよ」 「どういたしまして (^-^)。」  
 「いえいえ、大丈夫ですよ。」 「いえ、気にしないで」  
 「少しでも、役に立てたら嬉しい！いつも、助けてもらっているから (^-^)」



2.) When an acquaintance tells you 「ありがとう」.

「こちらこそ、どういたしまして。」 「とんでもございません。」  
 「お役に立てて良かったです。」

3.) When your senpai or someone in a higher position than you tells you 「ありがとう」.

「恐れ入ります。」 「またいつでもおっしゃってください。」  
 「こちらこそ、お役に立ててうれしいです。」 「とんでもございません。」  
 「お役に立てて良かったです。」 「恐縮です。」 「喜んでいただけて光栄です。」



### Phrases to Express Appreciation

「お礼申し上げます」 「感謝いたしております」  
 「感謝の気持ちでいっぱいです」 「感謝の言葉ありません」  
 「深く感謝申し上げます」

1.) When your teacher praises you, saying 「よく頑張ったね」.

「ありがとうございます。」 「恐れ入ります。」  
 「とんでもございません。」 「恐縮です。」



2.) When your boss expresses his appreciation by saying 「君の仕事、よかったよ」.

「ありがとうございます。こちらこそ、お役に立てて、何よりです。」  
 「ありがとうございます。こちらこそ、お役に立てて、嬉しく思います。」  
 「お力になれたようで嬉しいです。」



3.) When someone in a higher position helps you out. / When you receive a gift.

「ご多忙の中、お手数をおかけして申し訳ございません。」  
 「お忙しいところお気遣いいただき、ありがとうございました。」



# Events & Memoranda

## 2020 Japanese Speech Contest Broadcasting Information

Thanks to the cooperation of CATV Tokushima, the Japanese Speech Contest will be broadcast via the various cable television networks in Tokushima (channel 12), as well as uploaded to YouTube. For more information, please refer to TOPIA's homepage.

### Tokushima Marche 徳島マルシェ

The Tokushima Marche, where agricultural products and processed goods from Tokushima are sold, is held every last Sunday of the month at the Shinmachi Boardwalk in Tokushima City.

"Marche" means market in French, and the Tokushima Marche aims to create a fancy and fun space in a French style where you "just go and immediately feel energized".

When: Every last Sunday of the month  
9:00 – 14:00

Where: Shimachi Boardwalk (Tokushima City)

Info: Tokushima Marche Bureau

TEL: 088-657-7511

URL: <https://tokushima-marche.jp/>

徳島産のこだわりの農産物や加工品をパラソルショップで販売する「とくしまマルシェ」が、徳島市の新町川ボードウォークで毎月最終日曜日に開催されます。

マルシェとは、フランス語で「市場」を意味する言葉で、本場フランスのようなおしゃれで楽しい空間で「行くだけで、元気になれる」場所を演出します。

日時： 毎月最終日曜日  
9 : 00 ~ 14 : 00

場所： 徳島市しんまちボードウォーク

問い合わせ： とくしまマルシェ事務局

TEL : 088-657-7511

URL: <https://tokushima-marche.jp/>

### Tomoni SunSun Market トモニ SunSun マーケット

The Tomoni SunSun Market is held every third Sunday of the month!

Many kinds of products are sold, with a focus on agricultural and fishery products, special processed goods, household dishes, confectionary, and other safe and delicious local products from Tokushima.

When: Every third Sunday of the month  
9:00 – 15:00

Where: Shinmachi Boardwalk (Tokushima City)

Info: Tokushima Chamber of Commerce and Industry

TEL: 088-653-3211

URL: <https://sunsun-market.com/>

「トモニ SunSun マーケット」は毎月第3日曜に開催されます！

農産物、海産物、特産加工品、惣菜、製菓等、徳島の安心で美味しい、地元の産品を中心に販売します♪

日時： 毎月第3日曜日  
9 : 00 ~ 15 : 00

場所： 徳島市しんまちボードウォーク

問い合わせ： 徳島商工会議所・朝市事業担当

TEL: 088-653-3211

URL: <https://sunsun-market.com/>

\*\*\* Please make sure to check each event's homepage for the most up-to-date information regarding cancellations/changes.

# Events & Memoranda

## Tokushima Prefectural Disaster Prevention Center Study Tour

The chance of the Great Nankai Trough Earthquake occurring increases every year. If the earthquake occurs, what will you do?

Tokushima Prefecture Government, in conjunction with the Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association (TOPIA) is proud to announce a study tour for foreign residents at the Tokushima Prefecture Disaster Center to provide information on what to do in case of a natural disaster.

During this study tour you will be able to experience simulated earthquakes, strong winds, and learn how to extinguish a fire. Let's learn about the importance of disaster prevention.

- Date:** September 27th, Sunday 13:00 ~ 16:00  
 13:00 — Leave Tokushima Station by bus for the center  
 13:30 — Disaster Prevention Center Experience  
 16:00 — Arrive at Tokushima Station by bus
- Location:** Tokushima Prefecture Disaster Center (Kitajima-town, Tainohama Aza Onishi 165)
- Target:** Foreign Residents in Tokushima Prefecture
- Details:** Disaster prevention lecture, disaster prevention guidance via video, simulation of strong winds / earthquakes, fire fighting, etc  
 (English and Vietnamese interpretation is provided.)
- No. Places:** 20 people
- Cost:** Free
- Applications:** Please send in the following information by fax to the address below. You can also apply by sending the same information by email or postcard.  
 ① Name                      ② Gender                      ③ Address                      ④ Nationality  
 ⑤ Phone number            ⑥ E-mail address            ⑦ Occupation
- Deadline:** September 17th (Thu.)
- Attention:** Please make sure to wear a mask.  
 There is a chance that this study tour may be cancelled due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).



### Send Applications To:

FAX: (088) 652-0616  
 E-mail: coordinator1@topia.ne.jp  
 Postcard: Koekizaidan Hojin Tokushima-ken Kokusai Koryukyokai (TOPIA)  
 Clement Plaza 6F, 1-61 Terashima Honcho Nishi, Tokushima City,  
 770-0831



For more information, please contact Ms. Kimura at (088) 656-3303.

## Counselling Service at TOPIA ・ トピアの相談窓口

TOPIA provides consultation on everyday life, education, labor, medical institutions, and disaster prevention; and information on sightseeing spots to overseas residents and visitors. When necessary, we will refer you to the appropriate organization that can assist with your needs. Counselling is available in English, Chinese, Vietnamese, 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: 088-656-3312 or 088-656-3313 (allows for three-way conversations with an interpreter)