

AIZU WAKAMATSU INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION MONTHLY ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

SynthesAizu

February 2021
Volume 1 Issue 2

Association News



Storybooks in
English, Spanish,
and Cantonese!

Foreign Language Storybook Day

Date: February 21st, (Sun)

Time: 10:00 -12:00

Price: FREE!

Place: Aizu Wakamatsu City Learning Center

Lecture Halls 1,2, and 3

Aizuwakamatsu-shi, Sakaemachi, 3-50

We are happy to announce the return of the library's semi-annual Children's event "Hanashi no Heya," Storybook Room Day! Elementary school students are invited to come enjoy stories in 3 different languages, each read by a native speaker! Due to the coronavirus, this year's event will be capped at 30 students and limited to children in Elementary school.

Please contact the library to sign up! 0242-22-4711

"The Other Side of a Cup of Coffee" International Understanding Seminar

In this free seminar, Maeda Hiroki, who spent time in Rwanda as a JICA agent, will introduce "the world of coffee we don't normally see." From bean to brew, come discover the people, stories, and economics behind your morning cup of coffee.



Date/Time: Feb.28th (Sun), 10:00 -11:30

Place: Aizu Wakamatsu City Learning Center,
3F Lecture Room 1

Sign-Up: Contact the AWIA by Sat, Feb 27th.

Nola's Craft Corner

English Cooking Workshop - Valentine's Brownies!

Join us early this month for our next craft corner event! This time, we'll be making some festive Valentine's brownies. Come bake a sweet treat for your special someone! (Or for yourself!) Instructions will be in English with Japanese support available. There will also be a short Valentine card crafting session for those who wish to add a message to their sweet creation!

Date: February 13th, (Sat)

Time: 10:00~12:30

Price: ¥700/person

Place: Aizu Wakamatsu City Learning Center
Cooking Studio 1F
Aizuwakamatsu-shi, Sakaemachi, 3-50

Please contact
the AWIA by
phone or email
to sign up!



*It's possible that this event may be postponed due to COVID, so please keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram for the latest updates.

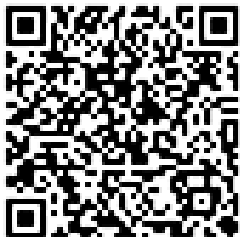


会津若松市国際交流協会

AIZU WAKAMATSU INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Aizu Painted Candle Festival

What better way to light up the dark evenings of winter than with one of Aizu's traditional crafts, painted Japanese candles! This annual event, which started during the Edo period as a way to promote Aizu's candles and showcase the ornate detail and care that goes into each one. The main festival light displays can be found at Tsuruga Castle and Oyakuen Garden, but businesses all over town are invited to join in the festivities by decorating their shops and windows with candlelight.



Dates: Feb. 12th (Fri) ~ 13th (Sat)

Time: 17:30 ~ 20:00

Place: Tsuruga Castle Grounds, Oyakuen Park



令和3年2月12日(金) ~ 13日(土)

17:30 ~ 20:00 メイン会場: 鶴ヶ城・御薬園

※新型コロナウイルス感染拡大防止の観点から、開催時間を短縮いたします。

“Highly-Skilled Professional” Visa Seminar

Interested in learning more about the newest visa category, the “Highly-Skilled Professional?” This FREE, seminar hosted by the Immigration Bureau of Japan allows participants to gain a deeper understanding of the Skilled Professional visa, and gives them an opportunity to talk with companies from various industries connected to the Skilled Professional Visa.

↓ Sign up here! ↓



<https://ws.formzu.net/fgen/S83353993>



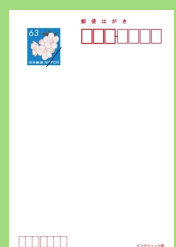
The in-person seminar will take place in Koriyama City on:
February 3rd, (Wed)

For those who would prefer to attend online, there are several dates available for online participants. Please visit the event website for more details.

Got Postcards?

Exchange Unused Postcards

Did you know? If you bring in unused postcards to the post office, you can exchange them for new postcards or postage stamps. It costs about 5円 per postcard to process the exchange, but if you find yourself with an excess of unused nengajyo, you can get some of your money back by trading them in. Keep in mind this only works for unused postcards and postcards that have a postage stamp which hasn't been marked with a cancellation.



COVID-19 Hotline for Fukushima Foreign Residents is now on LINE!

This free hotline for foreign residents can now be accessed on LINE! If you have any questions or concerns regarding the novel coronavirus, free consultation is now available in 19 different languages via the LINE app. This hotline is available 24/7.

“Add Friend” QR Code





“Carnival: The Season of Indulgence”



Carnival, also known as Shrovetide, Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, is celebrated in more than 50 countries worldwide. The tradition of Carnival originates from the Roman Catholic tradition of Lent, a period of strict fasting between Ash Wednesday and Easter when Christians refrain from eating meat, drinking alcohol, and consuming other indulgent items. The items given up for Lent vary across different communities, and in the modern day it's common for individuals to choose a personal vice, such as chocolate or coffee, to abstain from during Lent.

In the past, Christian communities would prepare for the Lent season by consuming all of their meat, alcohol, and other indulgent products in the days leading up to Ash Wednesday so that food would not go to waste during the Lent season. Modern day Carnival stems from this period of indulgence prior to Lent, and now includes a wide variety of festive traditions with every culture adding their own unique twists.

Carnival also celebrates the reversal of everyday rules and norms, including social hierarchies, and many cultures take the time to celebrate all of humanity as equals, regardless of position or status. Carnival parade floats with expressions of social and political satire are a common Carnival tradition, as well as the donning of masks to grant equalizing anonymity.

Rio de Janeiro

The Rio Carnival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil is regarded as the largest Carnival festival in the world. Alternatively named “The Biggest Show on Earth,” the Rio Carnival parade is characterized by elaborate floats, colorful costumes, and lively *Samba* music. Outside of the main festivities, smaller street festivals take place all over the city, creating a festive atmosphere for all the residents. Samba schools, communities of Samba musicians, compete throughout the year for the honor of performing in the “Sambadrome” during Rio Carnival. Each Samba school takes great pride in preparing music, elaborate costumes, and dance routines which all work in harmony to convey a story.



Venice

Venetian Carnival is world famous for its traditional masquerade. The practice of wearing masks in Venice started as a political rebellion against strict social classes, with the masks providing anonymity for nobles and commoners alike. Now, festival goers don unique and elaborate masks, some of which are designed to represent characters from classic Italian theatre.

Events in February



Other Information

Asbestos Bath Mat Product Recall

A product recall has been issued for several diatomaceous earth bath mat varieties sold at Nitori and other home goods retailers in the last year. Some of these products were found to contain potentially hazardous amounts of asbestos. The mats on their own aren't too dangerous, but they are designed to be cleaned by lightly sanding the surface, which generates dust. Asbestos dust is toxic, and inhaling or ingesting it can lead to serious health risks. If you own a diatomaceous earth bath mat, please check the link below for the list of products included in the recall.

https://www.cainz.co.jp/images/information/pdf/20201225_miwakekata.pdf

The city has requested that these mats NOT be thrown away with city trash. If you find that your bath mat is on the recall list, please wrap it in plastic and take it back to the store where you purchased it. Retailers will collect the mats and dispose of them safely. You can find more information about the recall on the city website. (Japanese)

Call for Volunteers!

Volunteers needed to assist with folding, stamping, and preparing our monthly publications for mailing. Come enjoy chatting with other members during this casual volunteer event! No need to sign up, just come by if you can!

Date: February 27th, Saturday **Time:** 13:00~

Place: Aizu Wakamatsu International Association



Message from the Editor

Hello everyone, thank you for reading this month's issue of SynthesAizu! As we move into February, all of us here at the AWIA are eagerly awaiting the arrival of spring. At the same time, many of us are watching and wondering with fingers (and toes!) crossed to see how the coronavirus situation will play out in the year 2021. As we wait for news about vaccines, travel, the Olympics, and so on, we hope you'll drop by and join us for some of our February events! Until then, don't forget to wash your hands!

1	MO	Closed
2	TU	
3	WE	
4	TH	
5	FR	
6	SA	
7	SU	Closed
8	MO	Closed
9	TU	
10	WE	
11	TH	Closed
12	FR	
13	SA	10:00 Valentine's Brownie Workshop
14	SU	10:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba
15	MO	Closed
16	TU	
17	WE	
18	TH	
19	FR	
20	SA	
21	SU	10:00 Storybook Room Day (AWIA Closed)
22	MO	Closed
23	TU	Closed
24	WE	
25	TH	
26	FR	
27	SA	13:30 Newsletter Release Preparation
28	SU	10:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba 10:00 "One Cup of Coffee" Seminar



We're on Instagram!
Follow us for photos and news about our upcoming events!



AWIA_PHOTO

<http://facebook.com/awiajp>



Visit our Facebook page for the latest updates in multiple languages!

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