

AIZU WAKAMATSU INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION MONTHLY ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

SynthesAizu

March 2021
Volume 1 Issue 3

Association News

Exclusive
discount for
members!!



Strawberry Daifuku Workshop!

It's strawberry season in Aizu! Come celebrate by making a delicious springtime treat with the AWIA! Members will receive a member-exclusive discount of ¥300/person. The workshop will be conducted in Japanese with English and Chinese support available.

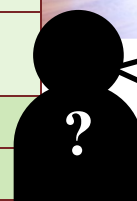
Date	March 28th (Sun), 14:30-15:30
Price	¥800/ 6 piece set (¥1,100 for non-members)
Capacity	20 Participants
Place	"Gaburi Garden" 〒965-0813 Fukushima, Aizuwakamatsu, Higashiyamamachi Oaza Ishiyama, Innai 408
Sign Up	Please contact the AWIA by Friday, March 26th

Member Exclusive Event! - Zoom Workshop for Online Beginners

Have you ever found yourself asking "what exactly is 'zoom'?" or "I keep seeing information about online events, but how do I join?" If you have ever found yourself in this situation, then this FREE in-person workshop is for you! We will walk you through using Zoom step by step so you can connect with friends and join all kinds of online events in the future!



	Session A	Session B
Date	March 6th (Sat), 9:30 - 11:00	March 13th (Sat), 9:30 - 11:00
Capacity	5 Participants	5 Participants
Sign Up	Please contact the AWIA by March 5th (Fri)	Please contact the AWIA by March 12th (Fri)
Place	Aizu Wakamatsu International Association	
Materials	Please bring headphones and a laptop, tablet, or smartphone.	



Participants will use zoom to connect with an extra special guest currently living in America!



会津若松市国際交流協会

AIZU WAKAMATSU INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

This Month in Aizu-Wakamatsu

会津まちなか HinaDoll Tour 2021

February 8th (Mon) - March 7th (Sun)



“Hinamatsuri,” also known as “Girls Day” or “Dolls Day” is celebrated annually in Japan on March 3rd. Families decorate their homes and shops with special dolls that represent the Heian period imperial court. The dolls are typically displayed on a multi-tiered platform decorated with a red cloth. The emperor and empress dolls are always represented, but more elaborate sets also feature retainers, ministers, and other Heian period court members.

From now until March 7th, thirty-seven businesses around Aizu will be displaying their own Hina doll collections for visitors' enjoyment. Each set has its own unique history and design, so please enjoy them! We especially recommend a visit to the city library to see their adorable display!

Scan this code for a map of all participating locations!



Keiji Ito: 3.11 Requiem

2021.3.11 (Thu) - 3.28 (Sun)
10:00 - 18:00* (Closed Tue.)



* Open 16:00 - 18:00 on March 11th

In his exhibition, *3.11 Requiem - "Where Souls Reside,"* artist Kenji Ito honors those lost in the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. While reflecting on the disaster from the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, he explores recovery and the progress made over the last 10 years. Ito hopes that the exhibit will help visitors find a sense of peace during this challenging time.

There will be an online artist's talk event on March 11th from 15:00-16:00. Please visit the site found at the QR code below for more details. *Exhibit Location: Space Alte Meister, Honcho 9-23*



Spring Japanese Classes

Looking to kick-start your Japanese?

The AWIA will soon be starting our spring semester of Japanese language courses. With the aid of our volunteers, we offer courses ranging from beginner-level to advanced. Our classes aim to strike a balance between reading, writing, and conversation. Class sizes are small, and some students may even have 1 on 1 lessons. We also offer lessons online. If you are looking to kick-start your Japanese this spring, please consider taking classes with us!

	Morning Course	Evening Course
Time	Fridays, 10:00-11:30	Thursdays, 18:30-20:00
Dates	April 2 nd - June 18 th (12 Classes)	April 1 st - June 24 th * (12 Classes)
* no classes April 29 th		
Fee	Total course fee (for 12 classes): 4,000JPY (members) / 6,000JPY (non-members)	
Place	Aizu City Learning Center (Keiko-do)**	
Apply	Please contact the AWIA and let us know your desired time slot by Wednesday, March 25 th . TEL: 0242-27-3703 EMAIL: mail@awia.jp	

** online classes are also available

Remembering the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake

This month marks the 10 year anniversary of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. The disaster, which led to the collapse of the Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, claimed more than 15 thousand lives and left hundreds without homes to return to. Although Aizu Wakamatsu escaped with less severe damage compared to other areas, the city still suffered greatly from the harmful rumors that spread across the world regarding radioactive contamination. 10 years later, Fukushima is still reeling from the aftershocks of the disaster, but the prefecture and its residents continue to work tirelessly towards recovery.

Julie Sato, a long-time AWIA member and a resident of Aizu for more than 20 years, shared with us her memories from that fateful day in March, 2011.

“March 11th, 2011 is a day that I will never forget. I was teaching afterschool English lessons at a local kindergarten when the earthquake struck. I remember the other teacher and myself making sure that all of the students were under the tables for their protection. I was trying to stay calm on the outside even though I was totally panicking on the inside. My colleague and I read stories, sang songs, and did finger plays to try to keep the children as calm and distracted as possible. We were told to take them outside, and then come back in when it seemed safe to do so and repeated the process until finally we waited outside for their parents to come and pick them up.

‘When I was finally able to go home to be with my own children and watch the news on TV, I was shocked at the total devastation that was happening all around us. Although my family and friends were ok, I felt helpless because there was nothing I could do to help others.

‘A few days later, I heard that they were setting up evacuation centers in Aizu for people from other areas in the prefecture. I went to the center at Aizu Sougo Taikukan and registered as a volunteer. I was surprised to see so many people in one room, with nowhere to go. I remember walking around with a book looking for some children that could use a distraction. As I read the stories, I was amazed that these children could still laugh and enjoy themselves and it broke my heart to see the adults so worried about what was going to come next. I returned a few times to play with the kids and try to give their parents some relief.

‘One day, we brought a cotton candy machine and made some for the children. I will never forget their smiling faces. I also volunteered for a few days at the relief supply center, again playing with the kids so their parents could get the supplies they needed. For various reasons, I wasn’t able to volunteer as much as I wanted to, but those children and the experience from that time will be burned in my memory forever.’”

Events in March

1	MO	Closed
2	TU	
3	WE	
4	TH	
5	FR	
6	SA	9:30 Zoom Workshop Session A
7	SU	Closed
8	MO	Closed
9	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
10	WE	
11	TH	
12	FR	
13	SA	9:30 Zoom Workshop Session B
14	SU	10:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba
15	MO	Closed
16	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
17	WE	
18	TH	
19	FR	
20	SA	Closed
21	SU	Closed
22	MO	Closed
23	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
24	WE	
25	TH	App. Deadline for Spring Japanese Classes
26	FR	
27	SA	13:30 Newsletter Release Preparation
28	SU	10:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba 14:30 Strawberry Daifuku Workshop
29	MO	Closed
30	TU	
31	WE	

Other Information

Vaccine Distribution in Aizu Wakamatsu

At long last, the glimmer of hope that portends the end of the coronavirus pandemic has arrived in Aizu. As you may have heard, the national government recently approved the Pfizer vaccine, and preparations are now underway in Aizu to distribute it.

Distribution Order:

(Group 1) Doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers.
 (Group 2) Residents ages 65 and older.
 (Group 3) Residents under the age of 65 who have underlying health conditions, and those working in elderly care facilities.
 (Group 4) All other residents under the age of 65.
 ※Vaccinations for those in groups (2), (3), and (4) are expected to begin after April.

Vaccination Process:

The city will distribute vaccine passes in the mail. When you receive your pass, please make an appointment to receive vaccination by one of the following methods:

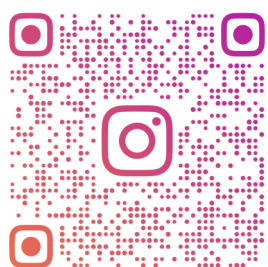
- A) Private Vaccination (Receive injection from your usual doctor.)
 - B) Public Vaccination (Receive injection from a vaccination center.)
- Preparations are being made at culture centers and gymnasiums.)

Number of Injections: The Pfizer vaccine, which is currently the only one approved for use in Japan, requires 2 injections within a 21-day period. Even if additional vaccines are approved, your first and second injection will always contain the same vaccine from the same company.

Please check the Aizu Wakamatsu city homepage for the latest updates regarding vaccinations and distribution scheduling.

Message from the Editor

This month we honor the 10 year anniversary of the 2011 East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. At the time of the disaster, I was still attending high school in the United States, so the only memory I have of the event was seeing it in the news several days later. Although news of the earthquake was quickly forgotten in the US, rumors regarding Fukushima's nuclear contamination definitely lingered in my hometown. Last year, nearly a decade after the disaster, my family still questioned me with concern when I told them I would soon be moving to Aizu. It saddened me to see that Fukushima was still suffering from negative rumors overseas even though the prefecture's residents have worked so hard to recover. Moving forward, I want to keep looking for ways to share the "real" Fukushima of today with friends and family overseas.



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!

965-0871 Fukushima-ken, Aizu Wakamatsu-shi, Sakae-machi 2-14, Leo Club Garden Square 5th Floor

TEL: (0242) 27-3703 | FAX: (0242) 27-3704 | EMAIL: mail@awia.jp | SITE: <http://awia.jp>