

# SynthesAizu

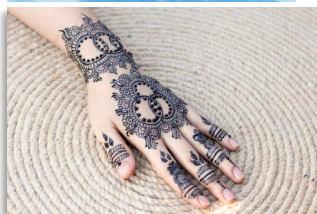
August 2021  
Volume 1 Issue 8

## Association News

### Summer Sky Festival in Inawashiro



Summer is in full swing in Aizu, which means it's finally time for some summer festivals! Although the AWIA will not be holding our annual international festival this year due to coronavirus restrictions, we will be joining the Aizu Summer Sky Fest with our very own "international zone." The Summer Sky Fest is an annual festival that showcases local businesses, artists, and community groups across the Aizu area. Come join us at the Tenjinhama Campground in Inawashiro for a lively summer festival experience! Visitors to the AWIA booth can receive a temporary henna tattoo drawn by some of our talented volunteers and staff.



<b>Dates</b>	August 28th, (Sat) 10:00-18:30, & August 29th, (Sun) 10:00-15:00
<b>Place</b>	Tenjinhama Auto Campground, Yonhyakugari, Nakakomatsu, Inawashiro
<b>Cost</b>	Entry is Free! (Fees apply for those staying at the campground overnight.)

### Hello World Club Starting Soon!



	<b>Class A</b> (3rd & 4th grade)	<b>Class B</b> (5th & 6th grade)
<b>Time</b>	13:30~14:15	14:30~15:15
<b>Class Size</b>	15 Students	15 Students
<b>Dates</b>	Every other Saturday (8 Sessions in total) 9/4, 9/18, 10/2, 10/16, 10/30, 11/13, 11/27, 12/11	
<b>Place</b>	Aizu City Learning Center, Lecture Room 1	
<b>Price</b>	6,000 JPY (Parent or guardian must be an AWIA member)	
<b>Sign-Up</b>	Please contact the AWIA by email or phone by <u>Tuesday, August 10th</u>	

Our annual children's class, Hello World Club, is just around the corner! Hello World aims to provide enrichment for Elementary school children in Aizu who are interested in English and foreign countries. At Hello World Club, students will learn about cultures different from their own through fun, hands-on games and activities. Students will have the chance to meet new friends and chat with special guests from around the world!

#### Hello World Volunteers Wanted!

The AWIA is looking for volunteers to help with Hello World Club! We are recruiting volunteers both for culture introductions and for general assistance with activities and preparation. Volunteers are encouraged to join even if they are only available for one session. Please contact Nola at the AWIA by phone or email to join!



会津若松市国際交流協会

TEL (0242) 27-3703

EMAIL: mail@awia.jp

AIZU WAKAMATSU INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

## This Month in Aizu-Wakamatsu

### Remembering Former Association President Kensuke Suzuki

In last month's issue, we announced plans to hold a special ceremony for Former Association President Kensuke Suzuki, in honor of his retirement after more than 20 years of service at the AWIA. However, we were sadly unable to have the ceremony as planned. We regret to announce that Mr. Suzuki passed away suddenly on the evening of Friday, July 9th, the day before the ceremony was scheduled to take place. We are deeply saddened that we were unable to celebrate his service to the AWIA in person, but we are certain that the work he did at the AWIA and the impact he left on our members, staff, and volunteers will be remembered for years to come.

Shortly after his passing, we visited Mr. Suzuki's home to talk with his family. During the visit, his family shared with us some handwritten notes that Mr. Suzuki had jotted down while drafting his speech for the retirement ceremony. We have included a small snippet of the notes below, which we believe Mr. Suzuki would have wanted to share with the AWIA community.

*"I hope the AWIA will continue to be an exceptional organization capable of adapting to the movement of the times. I hope our members, the citizens of Aizu, and all our international residents will get to know each other, listen to what each person has to say, and work together to build an international association that responds to the voices of the community."*



The AWIA has prepared a large card for Mr. Suzuki's family. If you would like to add a message or a signature to the card, please visit the AWIA by Sunday, August 22nd to write in your message.

### Volunteers Wanted at the AWIA!

The AWIA is looking for volunteers to present foreign culture to children attending after school classes at Aizu Minato Elementary School. We would like the volunteers to do a simple intro of their country and culture, and play some games or make a simple craft with the students. The class will take place in the gym, so there is room for active games with running around.

The class will be conducted in Japanese, so volunteers must be comfortable speaking some conversational Japanese. Transportation will be provided to and from the school, and a small monetary reward will be provided for your time. Volunteers can teach the class alone or with a group of up to 3 people.



**Date:** September 2<sup>nd</sup> (Thurs)

**Time:** 15:10~16:15 (+ prep and clean-up time)

**Students:** ES 1~3rd Grade (35 students)

**Classroom:** Gymnasium

**Location:** Aizu Minato Elementary School  
(〒965-0202 Fukushima, Aizu-Wakamatsu, Minatomachi Oaza Kyowa, Kamimawatari-171)



*If you or someone you know is interested, please contact the AWIA by phone or Email ASAP!*

### Aizu Lacquer Workshop Event!

Come try your hand at traditional Aizu lacquer painting with our friends at the Akabeko Salon! Participants will get to paint their own lacquer dish while chatting and making new friends!

**Special Discount!**



Date	Sep. 4th (Sat), 14:00-15:00
Price	Just 900 JPY! (normally 1,900)
Capacity	6 guests
Place	Suzuzen Lacquerware Shop Aizuwakamatsu, Chuo 1 Chome, 3-28
Register	Contact the Akabeko Salon by <u>August 31st</u> at <a href="mailto:salon-akabeko@bekonon.com">salon-akabeko@bekonon.com</a>

### Covid Vaccine Updates in Aizu

At the end of July, Aizu Wakamatsu City mailed out vaccine vouchers to all residents ages 12 and above. Once the voucher arrives, reservations to receive the vaccine can be made online or by phone. Older residents will be given priority to make reservations first. Please see the reservation chart below to confirm when your age group is eligible to make a reservation. Please don't hesitate to contact the AWIA if you need assistance making a reservation!

Age Group	Reservations Open
60 - 64	July 29th (Thurs)
40 - 59	August 2nd (Mon)
12 - 39	August 5th (Thurs)



## Member Spotlight: Emilie Bouquet Nanko

Emilie Bouquet Nanko, originally from France, moved to Aizu from Yokohama in the spring of 2021. After visiting Fukushima for the first time in 2018, she immediately fell in love with the beautiful natural landscape and pace of life in Fukushima. Emilie is currently working at the Aizu Area Information Center, operating the Akabeko Salon. When she's not at the salon, Emilie is hard at work operating her own business as a freelance illustrator. Many of her recent works are inspired by Fukushima's traditional mascot, the Akabeko. You can see her work at [www.melietmalice.com](http://www.melietmalice.com)



### Can you tell us about your hometown? What part of France are you from?

I'm from the west coast of France, from a city called Vannes. It's close to the seaside, and it's pretty quiet. The center of the city is quite old, and many of the houses are built in a medieval style. I like the road that runs from the center of the city to my parent's house. It's covered in trees and runs along the seaside. It's a nice place to walk, and there are lots of small boats out on the sea. It's very relaxing to stroll along, and when you arrive at the entrance to the port, you have many cafes, restaurants, and shops so you can relax and enjoy a coffee. When you reach the city, every Wednesday and Saturday there's market where you can buy vegetables. When I walk that course, I feel the a gradual movement from the countryside into the city.

### Are there any local foods you enjoy from your hometown?



The best dish is Moules Fries. They're black shellfish with fried potatoes. You have to try it, it's my best recommendation. Also, my hometown is in the Brittany area, which is famous for cider and galettes. I always eat them when I go back home for a visit.

### How would you spend a typical weekend in Vannes?

Maybe on Saturday I would go into the center of the city with my friends and have lunch there. I would enjoy walking in the city and doing some shopping. We also have several events through the year, so I think on Saturday I would stay in my hometown. On Sunday, maybe I would go outside of the city, because it's really close to other tourist cities. My hometown is on the gulf so it's close to the sea, but if you take a train for about an hour and a boat for 45 minutes you have small islands. From my hometown you can take a boat for about 30 minutes and have access to another small island where you can rent bikes and there are beaches and shops.

### Do you find that there are a lot of similarities between your hometown and Fukushima?

Not so much, but there is the same feeling that you can live peacefully. People live in a more relaxing way in both places.

### When was the first time you came to Fukushima, and what was your first impression?

3 years ago, in the summer of 2018. On my first visit, Fukushima stole my heart right away, it was so amazing. We came by car through Minami-Aizu, and I thought "wow, look at this." The sight of the mountains and the beautiful nature spoke to me. At first, we just came for a 2-day trip. Typically, when my husband and I would travel around Japan, we would just visit a place once and then go to a different part of Japan, but after coming to Fukushima for the first time we started to travel to Fukushima every year. At first, we visited Aizu and Minami-Aizu, then Fukushima City, back to Aizu, then Nakadori, Shirakawa, Hanawa, Sukagawa. Finally, this year after moving to Aizu, I travelled for the first time to Hamadori.

### What is something that you feel sets Fukushima apart from other prefectures?

I think everything is different. It's just such a comfortable place to live. Of course, Japan is a beautiful country, and every prefecture has some beautiful spots, but for me Fukushima is the best. I can't explain clearly why, but I like to travel from Aizu to Hamadori, and of course there's the food and the people. I like Fukushima's sky. I can't say Aizu's sky is better than Hamadori's sky, it's all different. It's something I can really feel when I travel from Aizu to Iwaki, the difference between each part of Fukushima. Each part is so relaxing, you feel good, and you enjoy every part.



Emilie's hand made map of Fukushima!



## Events in August

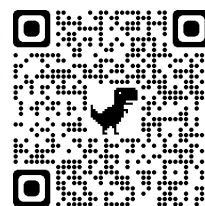
1	SU	Closed
2	MO	Closed
3	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
4	WE	
5	TH	
6	FR	
7	SA	
8	SU	Mountain Day
9	MO	Closed
10	TU	
11	WE	
12	TH	
13	FR	
14	SA	
15	SU	Closed
16	MO	Closed
17	TU	
18	WE	
19	TH	
20	FR	
21	SA	13:30 Newsletter Release Preparation
22	SU	
23	MO	Closed
24	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
25	WE	
26	TH	
27	FR	
28	SA	10:00 SUMMER SKY FEST (Closed)
29	SU	10:00 SUMMER SKY FEST (Closed)
30	MO	Closed
31	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon

## Other Information

### JLPT Registration Begins August 26th

## 日本語能力試験 JLPT

Japanese-Language  
Proficiency  
Test



Looking to take on the JLPT this winter?

Registration for the test on December 5th will take place from **August 26th until September 16th at 17:00.**

Scan the QR code on the right or visit **info.jees-jlpt.jp** for more information. It costs 6,500JPY to take the test.

### Electric Bicycles Available for Rent from Aizu Wakamatsu Station

Want to get around Aizu without having to rely on the (frequently delayed) buses? Electric bicycles are available for rent from Aizu Wakamatsu Station. Bikes can be rented any day of the week between 9:00-17:00 for 1,500JPY/day, or 1,000JPY for a half day (4 hours). For more information, drop by the Aizu Wakamatsu Station Travel Information Desk.

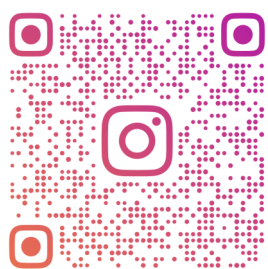
\*Bike rentals are not available during the winter season.



### Autumn Japanese Language Classes!

	Morning Course	Evening Course
<b>Time</b>	Fridays, 10:00-11:30	Thursdays, 18:30-20:00
<b>Dates</b>	Sep. 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Nov. 19 <sup>th</sup> (12 Classes)	Sep. 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Nov. 25 <sup>th</sup> * (12 Classes)
<b>Fee</b>	Total course fee (for 12 classes): 4,000JPY (members) / 6,000JPY (non-members)	
<b>Place</b>	Aizu City Learning Center (Keiko-do), 3F	
<b>Sign Up</b>	Please contact the AWIA and let us know your desired time slot by Wednesday, August 25 <sup>th</sup> . TEL: 0242-27-3703 EMAIL: mail@awia.jp	

\*no classes September 23<sup>rd</sup>.



**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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