

Events in March

1	WE	
2	TH	
3	FR	
4	SA	14:00 Chit-Chat with Erika
5	SU	Closed
6	MO	Closed
7	TU	
8	WE	
9	TH	
10	FR	
11	SA	10:00 Satellite JICA Desk
12	SU	10:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba
13	MO	Closed
14	TU	
15	WE	
16	TH	
17	FR	
18	SA	10:00 FIND 15:00 Board Game Day
19	SU	Closed
20	MO	Closed
21	TU	Closed (Spring Equinox)
22	WE	
23	TH	
24	FR	
25	SA	13:30 Newsletter Preparation
26	SU	10:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba
27	MO	Closed
28	TU	
29	WE	
30	TH	
31	FR	

JICA Desk - Sinhala Karuta

Matsuyama-san will be manning the Satellite JICA Desk all day on Saturday, March 11th. Come talk with her about her time in Sri Lanka, and as a JICA member. You can stop by anytime and talk with her, but if you want to talk with her one-on-one, please contact us to make a reservation.



This month's activity:

Work with Matsuyama-san to make 'Sri Lankan Karuta'! Learn about Sri Lankan culture while you think about what to write on the cards for this custom-made game.

When: March 11 (Sat) 13:30-15:30 (drop by anytime)

"FIND" English Conversation Club

FIND is a way to meet people from all walks of life interested in speaking English. Play games, do activities, and talk about many things. Contact the AWIA to join!

When	Saturday, March 18 th 10:00~11:30
Place	Aizu Wakamatsu City Learning Center 3F Room 1
Sign Up	Contact mail@awia.jp by <u>Friday, March 17th</u>



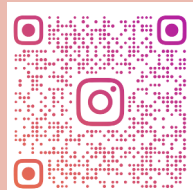
Due to the nature of this event, we ask that participants wear masks. Thank you for your understanding.

Call for Newsletter Volunteers!

Come hang out with us while we fold, stamp, and pack our monthly publications for mailing! Chat with other AWIA members and enjoy this casual volunteer activity. No need to sign up, just drop by if you can!

Date: March 25, Saturday **Time:** 13:30~

Place: AizuWakamatsu International Association Office



We're on Instagram!

Follow us for photos and news about our upcoming events!



AWIA_PHOTO

<https://facebook.com/awiajp>



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

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AIZU WAKAMATSU INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION MONTHLY ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

SynthesAizu

March 2023
Volume 3 Issue 3

Association News

Board Game Day

Like board games? Visit the International Association on March 18th and play with us! We have a variety of games at the Association, maybe even ones you've never played before! Come hangout, chat in both English and Japanese and make some new friends!



Dutch Blitz, Rubiks Race, Quiddler, and more!

When:	March 18 th (Sat) 15:00~17:00
Where:	Aizuwakamatsu International Association Office
Details:	Limit: 15 people (due to space) Sign-up by <u>March 17th (Fri)</u>



Chit-Chat with Erika~

Come by the International Association and hangout with me! The CIR, Erika! I can tell you about my trip to Vancouver for Christmas, and I like board games etc., so come challenge me to a game of Dutch Blitz.



It's me!
(Erika)



No registration necessary.

March 4th (Sat) 14:00-16:00

Spring Japanese Classes

Give your Japanese skills a boost!

The AWIA will soon be starting our spring semester of Japanese language courses. With the aid of our experienced volunteer teachers, we offer courses ranging from beginner-level to advanced. Our classes strike a balance between reading, writing, and conversational skills. Class sizes are small, and some students may even have 1 on 1 lessons! Online lessons are also available on request.

Come kick-start your Japanese skills with us this spring!

	Morning Course	Evening Course
Time	Fridays, 10:00-11:30	Thursdays, 18:30-20:00
Dates	April 7 th - June 30 th (12 Classes)	April 6 th - June 29 th (12 Classes)

* no classes May 4th and May 5th

Fee	Total course fee (for 12 classes): ¥4,000 (members) / ¥6,000 (non-members)
Place	Aizu City Learning Center (Keiko-do)**
Apply	Please contact the AWIA and let us know your desired time slot by Thursday, March 23 rd . TEL: 0242-27-3703 EMAIL: mail@awia.jp

** online classes are available anytime!

2022 Membership deadline: March 20th

Please pay as soon as possible! Without payment, membership will be considered terminated.



会津若松市国際交流協会

AIZU WAKAMATSU INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

TEL (0242) 27-3703

EMAIL: mail@awia.jp

Aizu Catch Up

March COVID-19 Mask Update

March 13th: Mask Wearing Will Be Up to the Individual

Though mask wearing will no longer be required, it is still recommended by experts.

When to wear masks:

- While visiting the doctor/clinic, around sick people or high risk individuals

- While riding crowded trains or busses

▼ Please remember... Some people may continue to wear masks, and others may not. Remember to be kind, understanding and respectful of people's personal choices.

People who are at high risk should still wear masks in crowded places to lessen the chance of infection.

Participation in some AWIA events may require you to wear a mask because the risk for infection is high.
We will be keeping an eye on the situation.
Thank you for your cooperation.



Strawberry Picking!

Pick your own strawberries / イチゴ狩り!

Aizu has a lot of places for picking your own fruit throughout the year and winter is strawberry season in Japan.

Why not try it out ichigo-kari yourself?



All-You-Can-Eat Strawberry Picking

Season: January to ~April/May

Place: Various Farms in Kita-Aizu

Picking Time: 30mins

Cost:

Adults: ~¥1500-¥2000

Children: ~¥1300-~¥1800

(price varies with the farm, and time of season)



AWIA Library Spotlight

The Aizuwakamatsu International Association has a good collection of books for members to borrow freely. There's many to choose from, from picture books, to novels, to non-fiction, in English, Chinese, French, and Korean. Come check out what we have!

Reviews and Recommendations!

What books do you like?



Recommended by Erika

Title: Howl's Moving Castle

Author: Diana Wynne Jones

Genre: YA Fantasy



Highlights: I was so happy to see the Association had a copy of this. Its been one of my favourite books since I was in elementary school. If you love the Ghibli movie, you'll love the book even more. I feel like the characters much more flawed and interesting than in the movie.

Double Twins: Reading books isn't the only thing Phil and I have in common. We're both twins!

We want to introduce some books we've enjoyed from the AWIA Library.



Phil's favourites ↑

Other Books in Our Collection

★ Far Side Gallery - Gary Larsen

★ Calvin and Hobbes: There's Treasure Everywhere - James Watterson

★ Terry Pratchett Discworld books

★ Bilingual Books about Japanese culture

★ And more!

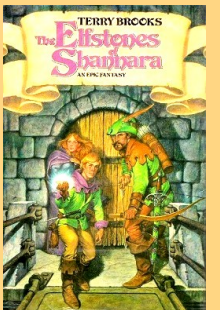


Recommended by: Phil M.

Title: Elfstones of Shannara

Author: Terry Brooks

Genre: Fantasy



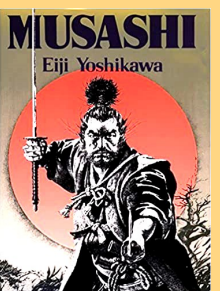
Highlights: This book had captivated my middle schooler heart. This world of Shannara is a high fantasy series that is similar to Tolkien's work. It has elements of sorcery, monsters, and ancient artifacts. The Elfstones of Shannara is the book that helped me to enjoy this series. If you like to enjoy a book with romance, action, and faith, this is the book I would recommend even as a young reader.



Title: Musashi

Author: Eiji Yoshikawa

Genre: Historial



Highlights: Follow this romanticized biographical novel of a lone Samurai starting from around the Edo period. While may not be known like other lords or emperors of Japan, Musashi is known as the man who had won the most duels. I enjoyed this book for its action and telling of historical events through experiences without boring the reader with historical facts.

Gakuho Junior High School: Rainbow Project

On February 21st (Tue) several members of the International Association visited Gakuho Junior High School to participate in their Annual Cultural Exchange Day.

Participants had the opportunity to help the Junior High students practice English and learn about the world. Students prepared warm up games, and various presentations to teach the participants about Aizu and Japanese culture. In turn, participants taught the students about themselves, their country and more!



Highlights from the students include:

Presentations about Aizu traditional crafts, popular anime, and even demonstrations of Archery and Kendo.

Highlights from participants:

Culture of India, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. Japanese influence in Dusseldorf, an exchange to Norway, a fun quiz about Colombia and more!



This is an annual event, so why don't you join us next year?