

AIZU WAKAMATSU INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION MONTHLY ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

SynthesAizu

April 2023
Volume 3 Issue 4

Association News

AWIA Hanami Potluck Party

Finally! The Annual Hanami Party is back! After being unable to hold our Hanami Party for 3 years, we are looking forward to seeing all of you!

Join us at the temple behind the Lion D'or Building that the AWIA Office is in.

Bring a dish or some food to share!

AWIA will provide some soft-drinks, but feel free to bring your own.



April 9th (Sun)

12:00 - 15:00

Fee: ¥100

(Elementary aged & under: Free)

Limit: 50 people

Place: Kotokuji Temple Ground
(Aizuwakamatsu Sakaemachi 2-12)

Sign-up: Deadline April 8th (Sat)

Bring a dish to share!
(2~3 servings)

Looking Forward

Farm Visit **May 13 (Sat) - 9:00 - 13:00**
(July 8, Oct 21 (Sat))

Using abandoned farmland, grow vegetables from Aizu, and around the world! Join a team and work together to tend a plot, meeting a few times a year to learn about and grow delicious vegetables.

A Member Only Event!

(Dates may change due to weather)

Cost: ¥2000 for all 3 days

Limit: 15 people (Available all 3 days)

Place: Aizuwakamatsu, Yanagiharamachi
4-6 Yanagiharamachi Comm. Cntr.

Bring: Tall boots and gloves

Sign-up Deadline: April 19th(Wed) - contact us: mail@awia.jp



AWIA Membership Fee Notice

New Year, New Membership Cycle

April 1st is the start of the Japanese fiscal year and the beginning of a new membership cycle at the AWIA. The current membership is from April 1st, 2023 to March 31st, 2024.

About Membership

Our one-time annual membership payments help support many of the international exchange activities we hold here at the AWIA. If you would like to continue supporting the AWIA, we are now accepting payments for 2023-2024. Membership payments made during the current fiscal year will be valid until the end of March 2024.



会津若松市国際交流協会

AIZU WAKAMATSU INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

TEL (0242) 27-3703

EMAIL: mail@awia.jp

This Month in Aizu

Tsuruga-jo Castle Cherry Blossom Festival 2023

It's cherry blossom season in Aizu! The trees at Tsuruga-jo Castle will be in full bloom, and you can enjoy them at the Cherry Blossom Festival held on the Castle grounds from April to early May. In addition to nightly illuminations, the castle will host a variety of cultural events throughout the month. Don't miss out!



Evening Cherry Blossom Illumination	Apr. 1 st - May 7 th
Flower Viewing and Local Sake at Tsuruga-jo	Apr. 15 th
"Aizu Jyuraku": Aizu Edo Culture Fair	Apr. 15 th , 16 th , 22 nd , 23 rd , May 3 rd - May 7 th

More info: <https://www.aizukanko.com/kk/festival/sakura-matsuri>

Castle Tower Reopen!

The Tower at Tsuruga-jo Castle has been closed for maintenance since Oct 2022, and from April 1st, it will reopen in stages.

	Apr. 1 st ~	Mid Apr.	End of Apr.
5 th F	○	○	○
4 th F	○	○	○
3 rd F	×	○	○
2 nd F	×	×	○
1 st F	×	×	○



Hanami Around Aizu

1) Ishibe Sakura



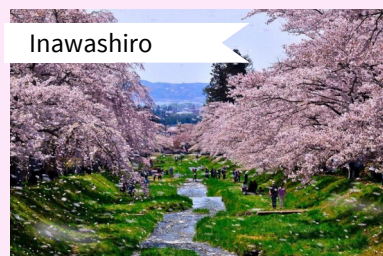
Aizuwakamatsu

Peak Viewing:
Mid- to-Late April

This tree was highlighted in the opening of the period drama "Yae no Sakura" from 2013. Made up of 10 different trunks, the tree spans about 20m from edge to edge.

<https://www.aizukanko.com/spot/628>

2) Kannoji River Sakura



Inawashiro

Peak Viewing:
Late April

This beautiful 1km walking path along the river is known as one of the best places to see cherry blossoms in Tohoku!

<https://fukushima.travel/destination/kannonji-gawa-river-cherry-trees/3>

3) Kozashi-jo Ruins



Aizuwakamatsu

Peak Viewing:
Mid-to-Late April

This tree stands at the ruins of a castle that never quite got built. Surrounded by rice fields, this spot also has a beautiful view of Mt. Bandai.

<https://www.aizukanko.com/spot/147>

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 4 th and May 5 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 before the end of April. TEL: 0242-27-3703 EMAIL: mail@awia.jp	

** online classes are also available!

AWIA 2022 Year-in-Review



We did a lot in 2022 and here are some pictures to prove it! We had our big International Festival, and a lot of members and other volunteers helped us out. We're so grateful for your support and are looking forward to the year ahead.

April

- Tsuruga-jo Hanami & Scavenger Hunt



May

- "Little Trip" Series Tunisia



June

- General Meeting
- Children's Storybook Time
- Naginata Event
- Japanese Language Volunteer Training



Naginata

July

- Japanese Culture: Making Uchiwa



August

- Hello World Club: Summer Vacation
- International Parents Salon



Parents' Salon

September

- "Little Trip" Series China: Celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival



October

- International Festival
- Halloween Parade & Scavenger Hunt
- Hello World Club



International Festival

November

- Matsuyama-san's Tanzania & Sri Lanka Presentation
- Children's Storybook Time



December

- Christmas Movie BINGO



January

- New Year's Bowling!



February

- "Little Trip" Series: America - Sweets
- Cultural Understanding Lecture



March

- Chit-Chat w/ Erika!
- Board Game Day



Chit-Chat with Erika

Please check out our Japanese Newsletter FINE for more pictures and details about our 2022 events!

Events in April

1	SA	
2	SU	Closed
3	MO	Closed
4	TU	
5	WE	
6	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
7	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
8	SA	
9	SU	10:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba 12:00 Hanami Potluck Party
10	MO	Closed
11	TU	
12	WE	
13	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
14	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
15	SA	10:00 Satellite JICA Desk 10:00 FIND English Conversation Club
16	SU	Closed
17	MO	Closed
18	TU	
19	WE	
20	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
21	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
22	SA	13:30 Newsletter Preparation
23	SU	10:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba
24	MO	Closed
25	TU	
26	WE	
27	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
28	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
29	SA	Closed
30	SU	

Other Information

"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, April 15 th 10:00~11:30
Place	Aizuwakamatsu City Learning Centre 3F Room 1+7
Sign Up	Contact mail@awia.jp by <u>Friday, April 14th</u>



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

Satellite JICA Desk - April 15th 10:00-17:00

Stop by and talk with Matsuyama-san about her experience with JICA. This month make Sri Lankan Karuta with her~

Happy English Time for Kids

This is a monthly English event aimed at younger kids run by the Aizu International Ladies Association. It's a great way to get children interested in English with fun! Volunteers Wanted!

Date: 4th Saturday of the month (Next: April 22nd)

Place: Aizuwakamatsu City Learning Centre (Keikodo)

Limit: 10 children / session

Cost: ¥500

Contact Ozawa-san through LINE
or instagram: aila_aizu



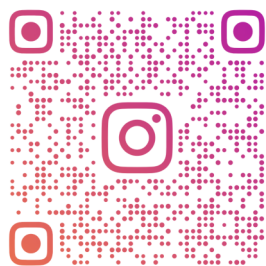
	Session 1	Session 2
Age	3 - 6 y/o (preschool) (Parents welcome)	Elementary School aged children
Time	9:30 - 10:10	10:30 - 11:10

Call for Newsletter Volunteers!

Come help us fold, stamp, and pack our monthly publications for mailing! No need to sign up, just drop by if you can!

Date: April 22nd, Saturday **Time:** 13:30~

Place: Aizu Wakamatsu 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!



Use this QR Code and
access our email form
to sign-up for events

965-0871 Fukushima-ken, Aizu Wakamatsu-shi, Sakae-machi 2-14, Lion D'or Garden 5th Floor

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