

## Events in May

1	MO	Closed
2	TU	
3	WE	Closed
4	TH	Closed
5	FR	Closed
6	SA	
7	SU	Closed
8	MO	Closed
9	TU	
10	WE	
11	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
12	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
13	SA	9:00 Farm Visit
14	SU	10:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba 10:00 AtsuHana Japanese Convo. Circle
15	MO	Closed
16	TU	
17	WE	
18	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
19	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
20	SA	10:00 FIND 10:00 JICA Satellite Desk 15:00 High Schoolers Discussion
21	SU	Closed
22	MO	Closed
23	TU	
24	WE	
25	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
26	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
27	SA	13:30 Newsletter Preparation
28	SU	10:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba 17:00 AWIA: Sports +
29	MO	Closed
30	TU	
31	WE	

## 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, May 20 <sup>th</sup> 10:00~11:30
Place	Aizuwakamatsu City Learning Centre 3F Room 1+7
Sign Up	Contact <a href="mailto:mail@awia.jp">mail@awia.jp</a> by Friday, May 19 <sup>th</sup>



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

### Satellite JICA Desk - May 20th 10:00-14:30

Stop by and talk with Matsuyama-san about her experience in JICA and overseas. \*High-Schoolers Discussion Time - 15:00-17:00\*

### Looking for Volunteers: Children Storybook Time

Like children and books? Come share your culture and language with children! Last year we had speakers of Indonesian, Romanian, Vietnamese and Italian. We are looking for 1 English Speaking volunteer, and 2 speakers of other languages.

Come show off your language and culture!

#### Volunteer Responsibilities:

▲Read a book in your language to a small group of children, then do an activity/game. (30mins/3times)

For more info, or to volunteer, email us by May 6th



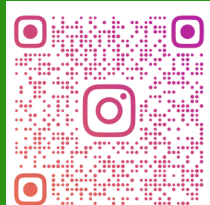
Date:	June 11th (Sun) 9:00-12:30
Place:	Aizu Keikodo Lecture Rooms 1, 4, 7
Participants:	~30 Elementary aged children (6-12)

### 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:** May 27th, 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 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](mailto:mail@awia.jp) | SITE: <https://www.awia.jp>



### Japanese Conversation Circle: AtsuHana

English Conversation Circle 'FIND' has been our most popular event over the last year. It has been a great way to practice English in a casual way. It can be difficult for Japanese-Learners to have the opportunity to speak Japanese casually, so we want to try out a Japanese version!

**Starting off with an ice breaking game, followed by Free Talk Time, use what Japanese you know!**

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

When	Sunday, May 14 <sup>th</sup> 10:00~11:30
Place	Aizuwakamatsu City Learning Centre 3F Room 1
Limit	30 people
Sign Up	Contact <a href="mailto:mail@awia.jp">mail@awia.jp</a> by Friday, May 12 <sup>th</sup>

あつはな: **AtsuHana** - This title has different meanings!

**Atsumatte Hanasou:** Let's get together and talk

**Atsui Hanashi:** Hot (fired up) Chat

We chose it in hopes you can come together and have fun talking a lot with new people!



### 2023 AWIA General Assembly

We are having our Annual General Assembly Meeting on June 3rd. After the report meeting, we will have a special speaker in to give a talk on Japan and Diversity, by TAMURA Taro. He has years of experience, including helping get disaster information out to affected non-Japanese residents after the Great Hanshin Earthquake in 1995.

Finally, we will also be holding an After-Party. The General Assembly, and special speaker are free to attend, but the After-Party will be ¥4000 for general participants, and ¥3000 for students. Post-cards with more information will be sent out mid-May.

The deadline to sign up will be **May 26th (Fri)**

**Place:** AizuWakamatsu City Learning Centre 3f Rm 2,3

**General Assembly:** 14:00-15:15

**Special Speaker:** 15:30-17:15

(Title: AizuWakamatsu and Multiculturalism: Pioneer a Future with Many Peoples and Connect the World)

Speaker: TAMURA Taro

**After-Party:** 18:00-20:00

**Place:** Aizu Baru (Omachi 1-9-5 Ishikawa Build. 1F )

**\*\*No Interpretation for General Meeting or Special Speaker\*\***

## AWIA Sports + Play with us!

Want to play sports and meet people from all around the world? Join AWIA Sports +! If you enjoyed Uniship last year, you'll have a blast with us this time. Open to anyone over the age of 18 who likes to be active.

We are planning on holding sports events like this three times this year, each with a different sport, and will be accepting applications each time. This time we'll play 'Dodge-bee' - frisbee dodgeball.



### May 28th (Sun)

**17:00 - 19:30**

**Fee:** ¥100

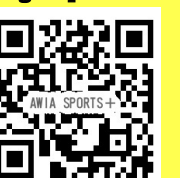
**Limit:** 30 people (aged 18+)

**Place:** Tsuruga-jo Gym (Aizuwakamatsu, Jotomachi 14-51)

**To Bring:** Indoor shoes, drink

**Sign-up:** Deadline **May 25 (Thu)**

**Sign-up here!**



会津若松市国際交流協会

**AIZU WAKAMATSU INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

TEL (0242) 27-3703

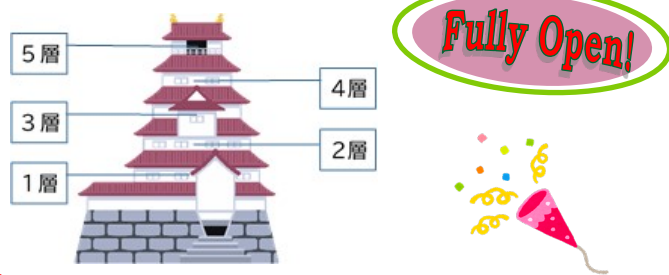
EMAIL: [mail@awia.jp](mailto:mail@awia.jp)



## This Month in Aizu

### Tsuruga-jo Castle Tower Fully Reopen!

The Tower at Tsuruga-jo has been closed for maintenance and renewal since October 2022. After updating the building, and the exhibits inside, it is finally fully open to the public as of April 28th. Go check it out!



### Aizu COVID-19 Vaccine/Booster Updates

#### Important Things to Know:

COVID-19 Vaccines/Boosters will be FREE until April 2024

#### Spring Booster Period (1 shot)

May 8th to August 31st 2023

**Eligibility:** (received the initial dose (1st/2nd shots), and their booster more than 3 months ago)

- 65+
- Aged 5-64 with underlying conditions/are high risk
- Work in healthcare, high risk facilities

COVID-19 booster vouchers will be sent out in order of eligibility.  
\*If you still have an unused voucher, you may use that instead\*



### Tea Ceremony Experience Workshop

Interested in Tea Ceremony? A variety of tea ceremony groups will be hosting tea ceremony experience at Tsuruga-jo Castle's Tea House, Rinkaku. Come as you are and learn the full tea ceremony experience hosted by an expert, and enjoy a cup of tea and a sweet along with it!

#### Details

**Place:** Tsuruga-jo Castle Rinkaku

**Limit:** 6 people/time slot

**Fee:** ¥1000 adults / ¥800 children

**Dates:** May 20th (Sat)  
Jun 17th (Sat)  
Jul 15th (Sat)  
Aug 26th (Sat)  
Sept 16th (Sat)  
Oct 28th (Sat)

**Times:** ① 11:00-11:45  
② 12:45-13:30  
③ 14:00-14:00



Interested? Contact the Tsuruga-jo Tea Ceremony Association to make an appointment:  
**(0242-39-1251) (City Tourism Department)**



## Looking Back: March Homestay

In March, families in Aizu hosted 20 students studying Japanese History at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. Each family opened their home for 3 days to welcome a student and show them the wonders of Aizu.



### “Here” Became Home - Katie Gunzenhauser

To a group of American students, Aizu-Wakamatsu was the final destination of a ten-day exploration of Japan's Shogun Era. With a giddy nervousness in the air, host families whisked each of us away to neighboring communities. They welcomed us warmly and quickly and we dove into a whirlwind of gardens, ponds, shrines, temples, sake breweries, noodle shops, and homemade family dinners. Many of us practiced calligraphy, participated in tea ceremonies, dressed in kimono or yukata, and explored our families' favorite restaurants and hot spots in the city. Using a combination of Japanese, English, and Google Translate, we got to know each other and explore shared interests. This experience showed us that living with a family or welcoming a visitor is an intimate way for people to

really get to know each other's unique lifestyles and cultures. From my experience with the Kikuchi family, I noticed that we formed the type of bond that surpasses friendship and is immediately familial. Even the family parakeet, Pii-chan, hopped on my shoulder and chirped loudly during my first night in their home. I got to know my wise sister Hana as a fellow student learning the ropes of adulthood, and my younger sister, Mako, as one with an exuberant and contagious personality. My host mother was shy and kind, and my father was outgoing and lively. I was even warmly welcomed into family video chats with my host-brother and grandparents. The family was well-balanced with energy

and love, which was easy to fit in. From my understanding, my fellow students felt as affectionate and comfortable towards their families as I did, even over our mere two-day visit.

During the railway back to Tokyo, all of us remorsefully reflected that the visit happened too quickly, we'd have to come back, and we were grateful for the Aizu-Wakamatsu International Association and community members who made our final days in Japan more rewarding than we could have ever hoped. What a beautiful city filled with beautiful friends! We hope many of us will see each other again soon.



### My Second Home - Emma Wical

Nestled among the mountains in Fukushima prefecture is where my second home lives. The quiet town of Aizuwakamatsu was where I really became aware of my gaijin-ness, but the feeling of being an alien faded away anytime I passed through the genkan of Miyazaki-san's home.

I first met Kanna-san, Ichihiro-san, and little Dai-chan the evening of March 3. Kanna-san had made me a beautiful welcome sign with pink and blue letters atop a sakura background. I remember bowing incessantly to Ichihiro-san, as Dai-chan sat on the floor and removed all of his trucks and cars from his backpack to show me. I gifted him a large Shiba-inu plush, which he carried around on all of our adventures for the next day and a half. The kindness that the family showed towards me was as big as the mountains, and I

have brought it home and carried it with me ever since. Ichihiro-san and I had a shared love for ichigo, and Kanna-san always had some on hand for breakfast. I helped him cook dinner, which was one of



Recently, I sent the Miyazaki's a letter, and I follow Kanna-san on Instagram. I am learning Japanese in school, and study hard so that when I return, I can talk to them fully. Hopefully by then, Dai-chan will be a little less of a noisy boy (and also stop stealing my strawberries!), and I can finally talk to him too. For, I believe, it is important to go home once and awhile and to check in on the ones you love.

## Fukushima COVID-19 Hotline

### COVID-19 Hotline for Fukushima Foreign Residents

Please call if you are concerned about Coronavirus. Service is free of charge. Confidentiality is guaranteed.

24hours/7days FREE CALL 0120-992-860

24hours/7days FREE CALL LINE CALL OK!

① QRコードから友達登録をしてください。  
Scan the QR code to add the account as a friend.



② アナウンスを見てホーム画面から電話してください。  
Follow the message and call the hotline.



I didn't end up having COVID-19, but this service helped me out!

#### A Message from Erika, a CIR

With more people going out, and attending events and parties, the chance of catching COVID-19 or another illness is still present. I was quite sick this month and so I decided to call this hotline to get some advice. They connected me with an interpreter who helped me convey my situation and symptoms to the Prefectural Health Hotline. The interpreter was so kind, and thorough in her interpretation that I felt really looked after. If you are worried about COVID-19, I highly recommend using this service. They will get you all the help you need. Plus! It's over LINE, so you don't need to worry about extra charges on your phone bill. (Back in 2020 I had over 3000yen in extra charges after having to call the health hotline myself)

