

Events in August

1	TU	
2	WE	
3	TH	
4	FR	
5	SA	10:00 AtsuHana Japanese Convo. Circle 15:00 High School Students Discussion
6	SU	Closed
7	MO	Closed
8	TU	
9	WE	
10	TH	
11	FR	Closed
12	SA	
13	SU	Closed
14	MO	Closed
15	TU	
16	WE	
17	TH	
18	FR	
19	SA	
20	SU	Closed
21	MO	Closed
22	TU	
23	WE	
24	TH	
25	FR	
26	SA	10:00 Japanese Calligraphy 13:30 Newsletter Preparation
27	SU	Closed 10:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba
28	MO	Closed
29	TU	
30	WE	
31	TH	

Other Information

Explore Nanukamachi *in Japanese!*

Ever felt too nervous to go into a shop by yourself? Gain confidence in yourself and your Japanese by learning and adventuring with the Fukushima Multi-language Forum!

Work with Japanese teachers and Japanese participants to learn how to speak to and interview others! Then go check out Nanukamachi, an area famous for its shops with local products and Taisho (early 1900s) atmosphere. Take pictures, and use your new skills to interview the shop owners you meet! Your efforts will be recorded and cut into a radio program to show off your hard work.

Organizer	Fukushima Multi-language Forum
When	Sept 9 th (Sat) + Sept 16 th (Sat) 10:00~16:00 (1hr lunch break)
Meet At	Sept 9 th Aizu City Learning Centre Rm 5/6 Sept 16 th Aizu City Learning Centre Rm 1
Limit	20 people (10 Non-Japanese and 10 Japanese)
Cost	Free! (lunch not provided)
Sign Up	Contact mail@awia.jp by <u>Saturday, Sept 2nd</u> (Priority to those who can participate both days)

Japanese Speech Contest!

The first Fukushima Japanese Speech Contest is coming up! Your fellow residents are working hard on writing and practicing their speeches! Come and cheer them on!

Date: Sept 3rd (Sun) 13:00
Place: Aizu Bunka Centre
(Joto-machi 14-52)
FREE! - Bring your friends!



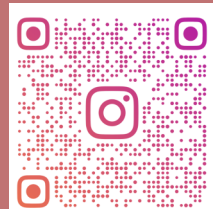
Satellite JICA Desk - August 5 10:00-14:00

Ms. Matsuyama speaks English very well! Come chat with her about her experience in Sri Lanka and Tanzania, etc.
Drop in or make an appointment. (An appointment is best)

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: August 26th, 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 | SITE: <https://www.awia.jp>



Association News

Autumn Japanese Classes

Give your Japanese skills a boost!

The Autumn session of Japanese language courses is here! With the aid of our experienced volunteer teachers, we offer courses 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.

Deadline to sign-up: August 24th (Thu)

Day	Friday Morning (12 classes)	Thursday Evening (12 classes)
Time	10:00-11:30	18:30-20:00
Course Duration	Sep 1-Nov 24 (no class Nov 3)	Sep 7-Nov 30 (no class Nov 23)
Fee (for all 12 classes)	AWIA members ¥4,000 Non-members ¥6,000	
Place	Aizu City Learning Centre	
Apply	Contact AWIA at mail@awia.jp	

FIND: English Convo Club

Come meet people and chat in English! Anyone is welcome, no matter your English level. FIND will take a break in August and we'll be back at the beginning of September! Why not speak English and make some new friends?

When	Saturday, **September 2nd** 10:00~11:30
Place	Aizu City Learning Centre (Keikodo) 3F Rm 1
Sign Up	Contact mail@awia.jp by <u>Friday Sept 1st</u>



Japanese Culture Event: Calligraphy

Come try Shodo - Japanese Calligraphy and learn from a Master! Yui Shin-ichiro is a calligraphy teacher in Aizuwakamatsu and he was the designer of the Tsuruga-jo Marathon t-shirts 3 times! Come try your hand at calligraphy and make beautiful and unique art!

- ♦ Make your own original postcard and uchiwa (hand-fan)!
- ♦ Watch Yui-san give a Shodo Performance: Calligraphy on a large scale



花 (hana/flower)
by Yui-san

****the calligraphy ink is permanent, so please wear clothes that can get dirty and/or bring an apron****

When:	August 26th (Sat) 10:00-11:30
Place:	Restaurant Yui-ya (6-12 Sakae-machi)
Participants:	Up to 8 people (aged 13+)
Fee:	¥300 (¥500 for non-members)
Contact:	mail@awia.jp by August 19th (Sat) When you sign up, tell us what kanji you might like to write!



AtsuHana!



Starting off with a game followed by Free Talk Time.

Come have fun and talk to others in Japanese!

Date: **August 5th 10:00-11:30 @ Aizu Keikodo Rm 1**

Contact: mail@awia.jp by Aug 4th (Fri)

Limit: 30 people

If you want to do more in Japanese, check out the 'Explore Nanukamachi' event on page 4!



Due to the nature of FIND and AtsuHana, we ask that participants wear masks. Thank you for your understanding.



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

Message from Erika

There are so many festivals in the summer! Now that the situation with COVID-19 has calmed down, many of them are back in full force. Here is some information about just a fraction of the festivals happening in and around Aizu. I hope you check these ones out and keep an ear out for others.
Have fun and stay safe!



Seto-ichi - Pottery Market

8/6 6:00-12:00 noon

Buy directly from the artisan! A selection of potters come together from all around and sell their wares at this market every year. It's extremely popular, so you have to get there early for the good stuff!



Place: Old Hongo 1st Elementary School Grounds (2765 Hongo, Aizumisato, Onuma)

Parking available in area.

More info: <https://aizuhongouyaki.jp/>

Kaneyama Numazawa Kosui Matsuri

8/5 10:00-21:00 + 8/6 10:00-15:00

Stage Performances and Lakeside fun! Enjoy watching the arrival of the Lake Monster during the fireworks show! It will be sealed once again at 12:00 on 8/6!

Place: Numazawakohan Camping Ground, Kaneyama

Access: Car only

More info: <https://www.town.kaneyama.fukushima.jp/site/kanko/fest.html>



Hinoemata Mid-Summer Snow Festival

8/5 10:00-16:00 + 8/6 10:00-15:00
(fireworks: 8/5 20:00)

Hinoemata is a small village in the south-western most part of Fukushima, and it gets some of the deepest snow in the prefecture. So much that they can make it last all year! Why not go play in the snow on a mid-summer's day? Enjoy the small village, go sledding and watch the fireworks display! Hinoemata is also known for it's Kabuki, so why not check out the museum while you're there?

Place: Oze Hinoemata Onsen Ski Resort

More info: <http://www.oze-info.jp/event/mantunoyukimaturi/>



Aizu Summer Sky Fest

8/19 10:00-18:00 + 8/20 10:00-15:00

The Summer Sky Fest is an annual festival that showcases local businesses, artists, and community groups across the Aizu area. Enjoy activities, workshops, camping, and stage performances!

Place: Tenjinhamma Auto-Campground (Inawashiro)

More info: <https://gokujo-aizu.com/22089>

Yanaizu Fireworks

Summer is here! That means fireworks displays! The Yanaizu Fireworks Matsuri happens every year on August 10th! Head out for a beautiful display over the Tadami River. Happening right near Enzoji Temple, you can enjoy the sight of it lit up by the light of the fireworks!

Date: August 10th (Thu) 19:00-21:30

Place: Yanaizu, Tadami Riverside

Access: Shuttle bus (Reservation Required)

Aizu Tadami Line Train (Extra trains added)

More info:

<https://hanabi.aizu-yanaizu.com/>



Kitakata Sunflower Festa

8/7 - 8/27 10:00-15:00

Come see a HUGE field of beautifully flowering Sunflowers in Kitakata. The flowers were planted on a ski hill, so you get a wonderful view. You can enjoy different things there throughout the month!



♦ **Aug 12th (Sat)** - Walk Rally - walk through the fields, collect stamps, and participate in quizzes! Get original goods for participating.

♦ **Aug 20th (Sun)** - Sunflower Concert!

♦ **Aug 26/27th(Sat+Sun)** - Sunflower Cut:

Bring a pair of scissors and take home sunflower heads from designated areas



Access:

Car: Please use Rd 333 as Hwy 121 will be very crowded.

Shuttle bus: Direct bus from Koriyama. Reservation Required.



For flier and more information:

<https://www.city.kitakata.fukushima.jp/soshiki/sangyo-a/20725.html>

Ura-Aizu: Voice AR Ghost Stories

Like spooky stories? Utilize AR around AizuWakamatsu and get a thrill! After downloading the SARF App, and choosing the Ura-Aizu channel, you can hear stories at over 50 different places in the City. **Until Aug 31st (Thu)**

More Info: <https://www.aizukanko.com/event/1002>
(Japanese Language Only)



This Month in Aizu

Aizu Bandaisan (Song) Spotlight

August and the Obon Holiday is the time for festivals and Bon-Odori (bon-dances.) People gather together wearing yukata, and dance. Performers play traditional flutes, taiko (drums) and other instruments. There are so many different varieties of song and dance at these summer festivals. In Aizu, typically 'Aizu Bandaisan' is sung while participants do the local dance. It can be difficult to understand what the singers are saying, so here are the lyrics!

Now you can sing along!

Romaji:

Eiyaa Aizu Bandaisan wa, takara no yama yo
Sasa ni kogane ga, ee mata narisagaru

Eiyaa higashiyama kara, hinichi no tayori
Ikazarumai, ee mata kao mise ni

Ohara Shousuke-san nande shinshou tsubushita
Asane, asazake, asayu ga daisuki de
sore de shinshou tsubushita
Haa motto mo daa, motto mo da



Eiyaa kita wa Bandai, minami wa kosui
Naka ni ukitsatsu, ee mata okinajima

Eiyaa Aizu bonchi no, midori no natsu yo
Kaze mo hogara ni, ee mata Tsuruga-jo

(song repeats)

Isasumi-jinja Shrine: Tanabata and Windchime Festival



Dates: 7/22 - 8/27

Shrine/Windchime Light-up: Sunset - 21:00

Isasumi-jinja is a large shrine in the middle of Aizu-Misato. It is an off-shoot shrine of the Ise-jingu in Mie. While Tanabata is celebrated at the beginning of July, traditionally, it was celebrated at the beginning of what is now August. Why take advantage of this and head over to write a wish and hang it on one of the many bamboo branches decorating the Isasumi-jinja this time of year? It's a beautiful sight to see the colourful wishes dangling off of the tall bamboo.

Place: Isasumi-jinja Shrine
(Ko-4377, Miyabayashi, Aizu-Misato)

More info: <https://misatono.jp/blog/culture/70727>



Tanabata Festival

8/7 ~18:00

You can watch the shrine staff put on traditional performances, such as dances, and music for this holiday. If you want to wear a yukata, they even have someone to help you put it on!

Yukata Dressing: 16:00~

Cost: Free (Yukata Rental 2000yen)

Reservations Required.

Deadline: 8/6



Fukushima Prefectural Museum

Bon-Odori

8/15 19:00-20:30

Free! No sign-up necessary!

Aizu Bandaisan Bon Dance Practice: 18:30~

(Japanese instructions only)

Place: At the entrance courtyard to the Fukushima Prefectural Museum (Jotomachi 1-25)



First 30 people wearing a kimono will get a special uchiwa!

These uchiwa are decorated with Aizu-gata, designs from traditional stencils that were used for dying fabric in Aizu in the late 1800s.

Wear a Yukata and Dance!

Rental includes wooden sandals

(Size not guaranteed.)

(No child sizes available.)

Reservation Required.



Rental and Dressing Fee: 5000yen

Reservation Deadline: Aug 10

When registering, specify the size:

Ladies, Mens, Child

Up to 10 spots.

First come, first served

Dressing Time: 17:00-18:00



Why not let all of your worries melt away amongst the gentle ringing? Enjoy a gorgeous display of around 2000 windchimes.



Windchime Market:

In addition to the large display, you can purchase your own windchime amulet! The ringing of windchimes is believed to dispel bad luck. The windchimes for sale are made by artists from around Aizu, including Kitakata and Misato.

If you stop by wearing yukata during the Tanabata/Windchime Festival, you can get a small lantern for free! (While supplies last)