

# SynthesAizu

April 2025  
Volume 5 Issue 4

## Association News

**\*\*We have a new manager! Come and meet NIWA Emi-san as she starts her job here at AWIA.\*\***  
Look forward to her message in our May edition

## Hanami Potluck Party

Join us at the temple behind the Lion D'or Building (AWIA Office) for a fun time eating and chatting! **Why not share your favourite dish? Bring a dish or some food to share! (about 2-3 servings)** AWIA will provide some soft-drinks, but feel free to bring your own. Bring your own utensils/plate for the environment! This time, try playing a Koto! (traditional string instrument)

**April 13th (Sun)**

**12:00 - 14:30**

Fee: ¥100 (members)  
¥300 (non-members)

(Children 14 and under, free!)

Place: Kotokuji Temple Ground

(Aizuwakamatsu Sakaemachi 2-12)

Sign-up: By email by April 12th (Sat)  
Bring a dish to share!

In case of rain: Event will be held at the AWIA office. Look for the announcement on our homepage, FB, or Instagram around 11:00am!



Scan the code to email [mail@awia.jp](mailto:mail@awia.jp)

## AWIA Membership Fee Notice

April 1<sup>st</sup> is the start of the Japanese fiscal year and the beginning of a new membership cycle at the AWIA.

Membership runs: Apr 1st, 2025 - Mar 31st, 2026

### About AWIA Membership

Our annual membership fees help support AWIA activities, events, classes, and workshops throughout the year. Members also have access to exclusive events and services, our library, occasional discounts and a first look at our monthly newsletter!

*Want to pay online? Contact us! [mail@awia.jp](mailto:mail@awia.jp)*  
(Please pay after 4/1)

## ChAT吧 (ChAT-ba) Chinese Convo. Club

ChAT-ba : 'Ch': Chinese, 'A': Aizu, 'T': Together, and '吧/-ba': 'Let's!' in Chinese.

Interested in speaking Chinese with other learners, and interacting with Chinese people? Join our Chinese Conversation Circle ChAT-ba!

This time, for spring the theme is: 'flowers'

Challenge yourself with a 1min speech!

**Date:** April 10th (Thu) 13:30-15:00

**Place:** AWIA Office (Sakae-machi 2-14)

**Limit:** 15 people

**Sign-up by** Apr 9th - [mail@awia.jp](mailto:mail@awia.jp)



## 'Little Trip' Series Guernsey

Take a 'Little Trip' to the British crown dependency island of Guernsey and learn about the culture!

The hosts, Tomoko and Alan Nel are excited to share the history, sights, food culture and language of Guernsey. Why not come along to learn about the unique charms of this island between France and England. You can try the Crown & Anchor game and try Guernsey Fudge too!



**Host:** Tomoko and Alan Nel

**Date:** April 19th (Sat) - 14:00-15:30

**Place:** Aizu Keikodo Rm 1

**Limit:** 30 people **Cost:** Free!

**Sign-Up:** contact AWIA ([mail@awia.jp](mailto:mail@awia.jp))  
Before Apr 18th (Fri)



## MEET English Convo. Club

Introducing MEET (My English Exchange Time) our English convo club. The name may be new and we may try new things, but we'll always have fun. Come and speak English with people from all walks of life. Everyone is welcome, no matter your English level.

<b>When</b>	Saturday, <b>April 19th</b> 10:00~11:30
<b>Place</b>	City Learning Centre (Keikodo) 3F Rm 1
<b>Sign Up</b>	Contact <a href="mailto:mail@awia.jp">mail@awia.jp</a> by <u>Friday, Apr 18th</u>



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)



# 2024 AWIA Album



Thank you to all of our members for your support in 2024! Thanks to the help of so many of our members and volunteers, we held many events including our biennial International Festival! 2024 was full of memories, so we have a special colour edition to showcase this year's events! We look forward to a great 2025 together with you!

## • Events in 2024

### April

- Hanami Potluck Party
- Chit-chat with Liu!
- FIND



Hanami Potluck Party

### May

- Parents' Salon: Yoga
- ChAT-ba
- AtsuHana
- FIND



Parents' Salon: yoga

### June

- Members General Meeting
- Children's Storybook Time
- Little Trip: Bangladesh
- FIND



Little Trip: Bangladesh

### July

- Little Trip: Vietnam + Spain
- ChAT-ba
- AtsuHana
- FIND



Little Trip: Spain - Flamenco

### August

- Parents' Salon: Tea Ceremony
- FIND



Parents' Salon: Tea Ceremony

### September

- Aizu Festival Multilingual Info Desk
- ChAT-ba
- AtsuHana
- FIND



Multilingual Info Desk

### October

- International Festival
- Aoi HS: Book Club
- FIND



AWIA International Festival

### November

- Nihongo de Hanasou Speech Event
- Children's Storybook Time
- ChAT-ba
- AtsuHana
- FIND



Nihongo de Hanasou

### December

- Christmas Movie Night: Santa Claus is Coming to Town
- FIND



Christmas Movie Night

### January

- New Year's Potluck Party
- AtsuHana: Disaster Prevention
- FIND



AtsuHana: Disaster Prevention

### February

- Chit-chat with Kobayashi!
- ChAT-ba
- FIND



Chit-chat with Kobayashi

### March

- Little Trip: Paraguay
- Homestay: University of North Carolina-Charlotte
- AtsuHana
- FIND (Final)



Little Trip: Paraguay



## This Month in Aizu

### Aizu Hanami Sake @ Tsuruga-jo

**April 18th (Fri) 17:00-20:00**

**April 19th (Sat) 14:00-20:00**

**Place:** Tsuruga-jo Ninomaru (East side, towards the Prefectural Museum)



**Highlights:** Enjoy sake direct from Aizu's sake breweries and the top Aizu drinking snacks, all beneath the sakura!

**Entrance:** Free - buy drink tickets to enjoy!

**More Details about events at Tsuruga-jo:**

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

### Cherry Blossom Light-up

#### Throughout April

A completely different way to the cherry blossoms. Why not go out to see one of several light-up events and enjoy the flowers into the night! (typically until 8/9pm) (dates subject to change with the blooming period)

- **Tsuruga-jo Castle** (4/1(Tue) - 5/6 (Tue))
- **Nicchu Line Weeping Cherry Trees** (4/11 (Fri) - 4/20 (Sun))
- **Atsushio Nicchu Line Station** (4/21 (Mon) - 4/30 (Wed))  
(Maeda-602-2 Atsushiokanomachi Atsushio, Kitakata)
- **Bandai Otanigawa** (4/1 (Tue) - 4/20 (Sun))  
(Hashinoshita Bandai, Yama District)  
(You can park at the Michino Eki Bandai)



### Spring Japanese Classes

#### Give your Japanese skills a boost!

The Spring session of Japanese language courses has started! If you were unable to sign-up in March and would like to join, please contact us as soon as possible. We will see if we can fit you in.

Our classes strike a balance between reading, writing, and conversational skills. Class sizes are small, and some students may have 1 on 1 lessons.

Online lessons are also available on request.

Day	Friday Morning (12 classes)	Thursday Evening (12 classes)
Time	10:00-11:30	18:30-20:00
Course Duration	Apr 4 - June 20	Apr 3 - June 19
Fee (for all 12 classes)	AWIA members ¥4,000 Non-members ¥6,000	
Place	Aizuwakamatsu City Learning Centre (Aizu Keikodo)	
Apply	Contact AWIA at <a href="mailto:mail@awia.jp">mail@awia.jp</a>	

## Hanami Around Aizu

If the cherry blossoms at Tsuruga-jo Castle aren't enough, check out some of our staff's favorite sakura locations around the Aizu area! From Kitakata's 3km trail of weeping sakura to the riverside path in Inawashiro, the Aizu region has plenty of beautiful locations for springtime photo ops! Don't forget to check the annual "sakura forecast" at [weathernews.jp](http://weathernews.jp)!

### 1) Nicchu Line Weeping Cherry Trees



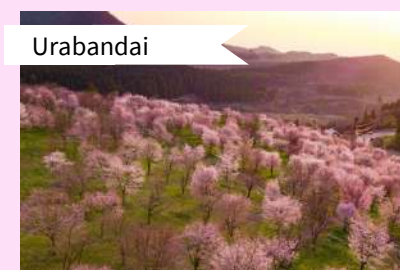
Kitakata City

<http://www.kitakata-kanko.jp/category/detail.php?id=104>

**Peak Viewing:**  
**Mid- to Late April**

This popular cherry blossom viewing site once was part of the old Nicchu railway line. Now, it is home to more than 1,000 weeping cherry trees.

### 2) Sakura-Touge Pass



Urabandai

[https://www.urabandai-inf.com/?page\\_id=24982](https://www.urabandai-inf.com/?page_id=24982)

**Peak Viewing:**  
**Late April to Early May**

This incredible Sakura grove located atop a mountain ridge is home to over 3,000 cherry trees!

### 3) Kannonji River Sakura



Inawashiro

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

**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!

### 4) Ishibe Sakura



Aizuwakamatsu

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

**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.



**And more!**  
**Find your favourite!**



## Events in April

1	TU		
2	WE		
3	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)	
4	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)	
5	SA	15:00 Kodomo Nihongo Hiroba	
6	SU	Closed	
7	MO	Closed	
8	TU		
9	WE		
10	TH	13:30 ChAT-ba Chinese Convo. Club 18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)	
11	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)	
12	SA		
13	SU	12:00 Hanami Potluck Party (Office Closed)	
14	MO	Closed	
15	TU		
16	WE		
17	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)	
18	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)	
19	SA	10:00 MEET English Convo. Club 10:00 JICA Desk 15:00 Little Trip: Guernsey 15:00 Kodomo Nihongo Hiroba	
20	SU	Closed	
21	MO	Closed	
22	TU		
23	WE		
24	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)	
25	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)	
26	SA	13:30 Newsletter Preparation	
27	SU	Closed	
28	MO	Closed	
29	TU	Closed (Showa Day)	
30	WE		

## Other Information



# AtsuHana

Casual Japanese  
Convo. Club

**No AtsuHana in April, but join us in May for a fun time!**

Come and use the Japanese you've been studying and speak to others in a casual way! Start off with an activity, followed by free talk. Meet people and converse in Japanese! All levels welcome!

When	Saturday, <b>May 10th</b> 10:00-11:30
Place	City Learning Centre (Keikodo) 3F Rm 1
Sign Up	Contact <a href="mailto:mail@awia.jp">mail@awia.jp</a> by <u>Friday, May 9th</u>

## Tea Ceremony Around Town

**April 12th (Sat) + 19th (Sat) 10:30-15:00**

**Places:** Fukunishi Honten, Oyakuen Garden,  
Mangero Traditional Restaurant

**Highlights:** As part of the sakura matsuri enjoy Aizu's samurai culture of tea ceremony. Experience living history saved from destruction by Aizu lord GAMO Ujisato. Stop by any of the three places anytime during the event and enjoy a 30min tea ceremony demonstration! Enjoy the cherry blossoms and traditional atmosphere of each shop with tea and a sweet for only ¥600/person. Each shop will highlight a different tea ceremony style!

**More info:** <https://www.tsurugajo.com/aizu-tea-stories/312>

(if you're in a hurry, and still want to enjoy some tea without the wait, tell them you're in a hurry 'isoidemasu!' when you sign up, and they'll put you in the fast seats.)

## Aizu Shoku no Jin - Spring



**Aizu Asparagus  
April 1st - Jun 30th**



For spring Aizu's Seasonal Food is Aizu asparagus! Why not pick up some Aizu asparagus to eat at home, or try out the special dishes on offer at restaurants in the region this season! Check out the official webpage for info on restaurants and what dishes they have that highlights this Aizu product.

**More info:** [https://aizu-shokuno-jin.jp/aizu\\_asparagus/#dish](https://aizu-shokuno-jin.jp/aizu_asparagus/#dish)

## 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 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 to 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

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