

JTF

APRIL 2018

International Association News

The JTF (*Just the Fax*) is a monthly English newsletter published by the Aizu Wakamatsu International Association. Questions? Comments? Email us at mail@awia.jp



Hanami Potluck Party

Relax, make new friends, and enjoy a picnic under the cherry blossoms with the AWIA at the scenic Kotokuji Temple. Bring one dish to share for the potluck (it doesn't need to be homemade) and feel free to bring your own alcohol - the AWIA will provide non-alcoholic drinks. Family and friends are welcome, so bring them along! *To keep this event eco-friendly, please bring your own chopsticks, cup, and plate.*

Date: Saturday, April 14, noon to 3pm

Place: Kotokuji Temple behind the AWIA (2-12 Sakaemachi) – if raining, the party will be held inside the AWIA

Fee: 100 yen

RSVP with the AWIA by Friday, April 13



New to the Library: Bilingual Guides to Japanese Culture

Ever wondered about the difference between a Hachiman and Inari Shrine? What are the features of a Japanese castle, and how did Omotesando in Harajuku get its name? Have you ever wanted to learn how to make *dashi* or *sukiyaki*?

Find out all this and more in these Bilingual Guides to Japan. Each slim volume breaks down the major points of one aspect of Japanese culture (*Samurai Castle*, *Shinto Shrine*, *Buddhist Statuary*, and *Washoku Seasoning*) in both English and Japanese.

We have multiple copies of each, so feel free to check them out or borrow them from the AWIA.



Support the AWIA: Renew Your Membership in 2018-2019

April marks the end of winter and the beginning of a new fiscal year at the AWIA. Please join us this year's fun events, including the biannual international festival! We appreciate the time you take to renew your AWIA membership, and are thankful of your support as we continue to bridge cultures and connect people in Aizu through our programs and events.

We are always accepting new members, so tell your friends about the AWIA!
Please also remember to update us on any changes to your contact information.

Guide to April Events at the Castle

Tsurugajo Castle Light-Up

Friday, April 6—Sunday, May 6

The castle and surrounding cherry trees will be lit from sundown to 9:30pm (until 8:30pm if past cherry blossom season).

Aizu Juraku Market

Saturday, April 21—Sunday, May 6

(weekends & public holidays, 10am-4pm)

Travel back to 400 years ago at the Juraku Market, where staff in historical dress will sell and introduce food and crafts from the time period at 20 different booths. You can also experience making different crafts. Located in Tsurugajo Honmaru.

Aizu Sake Street Stalls

Saturday, April 21, 4:30pm-8pm

Meet Aizu's sake brewers face to face and taste their spring sake recommendations—tasting flights start at 500 yen. Tickets purchased in advance will include a snack and entry into a lottery. Located in Tsurugajo Ninomaru.

Japanese-Style Rock Music Concert

Monday, April 30, 11am-3pm

Enjoy a live concert by rock musicians using Japanese instruments.

Sakura Matsuri Tea Ceremony

Saturday, April 21—Sunday, April 22, 10am-3pm

Attend an outdoor tea ceremony under the cherry blossoms at Tsurugajo Honmaru. The cost is 500 yen for one sitting.



Be sure not to miss the vision of 1000 cherry trees in bloom this month at the largest historical structure in East Japan—Tsurugajo Castle!

Other Events

Take A Walk in Aizu Kimono

*Saturday, April 7—Sunday, May 6,
10am-3pm*

For an affordable rate, you can get dressed in a kimono and stroll around town. For more information, call the Aizu Festival Association at 0242-23-4141.

Byakkotai Memorial Service

*Tuesday, April 24, 10:30am~
(cancelled only in case of heavy rain)*

Place: limoriyama, in front of the Byakkotai gravesite

A memorial service and a sword dance by Aizu High School students will be performed in dedication to the spirits of the Byakkotai on limoriyama (photo left).

The memorial service is scheduled to last an hour, and the sword dance, 20 minutes, but as the actual time may vary slightly, please come ahead of time.

Aizu Wakamatsu International Association

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