

Sept  2018

Monthly English Newsletter



**19th International Festival**



Sunday, September 30th 10am-3pm @ Tsurugajo Gymnasium / Free Entry

The theme of this year's festival is "Aizu ∞ World." We bring the flavors, cultures, and performances of the world to you! Here's a taste of what's in store at this year's festival:

- Food from Chile (carbonada soup), Canada (hamburgers), Vietnam (spring rolls), Taiwan (bubble tea), China (soup dumplings), Ukraine (borscht), Philippines (fried chicken), Mexico (burritos), Indonesia (nasi goreng), Korea (tteok-bokki), just to name a few!



- A global plaza & kids corner with face painting, storybooks from around the world, armor try-ons, games, quizzes, and more!



- Cultural booths where you can talk to people from around the world and learn about their countries (including Russia, Ukraine, China, Thailand, Rwanda, Australia, Canada, USA, Philippines... and so on!)

- Booths run by global non-profit organizations such as the 2020 Tokyo Olympics & Paralympics Games, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Gokujo Aizu Project, etc.



- Stage performances including a Thai folk dance, kimono show, ocarina performance, Latin dance, and a tap dance show. Stay tuned for a True or False Quiz with prizes in the afternoon!

We are still looking for volunteers to help set up, clean up, and assist with booths! Whether or not you are a member, you can volunteer to help out with the festival on Saturday, Sept. 29 from 1-7pm and/or Sunday, Sept 30 from 7:30am-5pm. There will be a volunteer information session on Sept. 29 at 5pm at Tsurugajo Gymnasium. Volunteers get a free bento lunch and can take part in our post-festival party! Let us know by Sept. 21st if you'd like to volunteer.

\*The AWIA office will be closed on September 30th for the festival.

## Other Events

### Aizu Fall Juraku Market

Saturday, Sept 15—Monday, Sept 17; Saturday, Sept 22—  
Monday, Sept 22

Tsurugajo Castle Honmaru; 10am-4pm daily

Travel back 400 years to the time of Gamo Ujisato, a lord who opened these “juraku” markets near the castle that strove to promote culture and the economy. This event recreates the markets with stylized booths and staff wearing period costume. Enjoy eating food, browsing crafts sold by skilled artisans, experiencing a play or decorating ceramics.

### English Mini-Tours of Tsurugajo Castle

Just arrived in the city and want to know more about the castle? Our volunteers will be giving free mini-tours of Tsurugajo in English on Sept. 23 from 9am-3pm as part of the Aizu Matsuri. Check out our booth near the castle's Inari Shrine.



### Aizu Matsuri Hanko Gyoretsu Parade

Sunday, September 23, 9:25am—4pm

Tsurugajo Castle Honmaru, Shinmei-dori Street, Chuo-dori Street



The biggest event of the Aizu Matsuri Festival, the Hanko Gyoretsu Parade takes place after a solemn ceremony honoring the ancestors. The parade is comprised of approximately 500 people dressed as historical characters and warriors. Beginning in Tsurugajo Castle Honmaru, the parade sets off into the center of town. In each area, the parade members give a small performance to cheering spectators who pack the roadsides.

### Aizu Bandai-san Odori Dance & Dinner

Saturday, September 22nd, 7pm-7:40pm dance, 8pm-9:30pm dinner

Shinmei-dori, Aizu Wakamatsu City

The Aizu Wakamatsu Chuo Rotary Club invites you to join them in dancing the “Aizu Bandai-san Odori.” For this event, there are free yukata rentals available; you may also bring your own yukata to the Washington Hotel 2F between 5pm-6pm where you can get fitted for free. There will also be practice runs of the dance at Washington Hotel from 5:30pm-6:30pm, before you’ll make your way to dance down Shinmei-dori Street. Afterwards, join the Rotary Club for a social dinner and drinks at Washington Hotel (3,500 yen). Contact the AWIA for more details or to attend.

