

JTF

APRIL 2019

Association News

Hanami Potluck Party

It's hanami season—join us under the cherry blossoms at the picturesque Kotokuji Temple for an international picnic. Bring one dish to share for the potluck (it doesn't need to be homemade, but we would be ecstatic if you brought food from your home country!). Soft drinks will be provided; you may bring your own alcohol if you wish to. Family and friends welcome. Feel free to bring your own reusable chopsticks, cup, and plate to help the environment.

Date: Saturday, April 13, noon to 3pm

Place: [Kotokuji Temple](#) behind the Aizu Keikodo (if raining, the party will be held inside the AWIA)

Fee: 100 yen

RSVP with the AWIA by Friday, April 12

Last Month's Member Social

Thanks to everyone who came to our Members' Social in March! The "undokai" theme was new for us, but we hope you enjoyed the *rajio taiso*, spoon race, *tama-ire*, handball game, and folk dance as much as we did! More pictures of the event to be uploaded to our website soon. As always, we welcome your comments and feedback about this event or events you'd like to see in the future.



Volunteers Needed: Foreign Language Story Room

Our next Foreign Language Story Room (*Ohanashi no heya*) will be on Sunday, June 23rd.

We're looking for three volunteers to read a picture book in their native language, and help lead short games or activities for preschool to elementary school-aged kids. If you'd like to read a book in English or another language, please let me know by emailing the AWIA! Once we choose the languages, we will decide the picture book and activities in a language volunteer meeting in May.



This event is always a lot of fun for all the volunteers and the kids, who look forward to hearing different foreign languages and getting introduced to new cultures or countries they haven't been exposed to before.

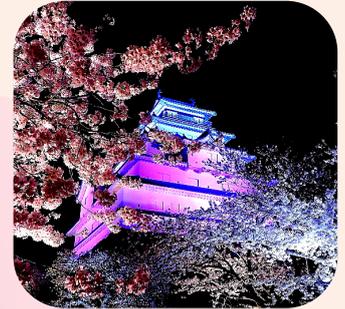
Golden Week Closings: The AWIA office will be closed from Monday, April 29th-Monday, May 6th. We wish you a refreshing and restorative holiday break, whether you will be at home or traveling.



Tsurugajo Cherry Blossom Festival

Get ready for a whole month of events at the castle centering around the blooming of the grounds' 1000 cherry trees!

✿ **Tsurugajo Light-Up.** *Fri, Apr 5—Mon, May 6, from sundown to 9:30pm (until 8:30pm once the cherry blossoms have finished).* The castle and surrounding cherry trees will be lit up at night for you to make the most of their brief and beautiful bloom.



✿ **Aizu Juraku Market.** *Sat, Apr 20 & Sun, Apr 21, Sat, Apr 27—Mon, May 6.* Time travel 400 years back to the era of Gamo Ujisato at this market, where staff in historical clothing will sell and introduce food and crafts at 20 different booths. Located in Tsurugajo Honmaru.



✿ **Grand Tea Ceremony.** *Sat, Apr 20 & Sun, Apr 21, 10am-3pm.* Attend an outdoor tea ceremony under the cherry blossoms at Tsurugajo Honmaru. The cost is 500 yen for one sitting.

✿ **Aizu Sake Stalls.** *Sat, Apr 20, 4pm-8pm & Sun, Apr 21, 2:30pm-8pm.*

Meet Aizu's sake brewers and taste their spring sake recommendations—including *ginjo*, *junmai*, and *kanzake* (warmed sake). There will also be *otsumami* (side dishes) available featuring seasonal Aizu produce, like asparagus. Free entry. Located in Tsurugajo Ninomaru.



Kitakata Cherry Blossom Festival

Friday, April 12—Tuesday, April 30

Throughout Kitakata



Every year from mid- to late-April, the Nicchusen Memorial Bike and Pedestrian Path blooms with rows of *shidarezakura*, weeping cherry blossoms. There are many other hanami spots throughout the city, as well as limited edition "Sakura Matsuri" menu items.

For more details, visit http://www.kitakata-kanko.jp/event/event_pdf/pdf_000112.pdf.

Homare Brewery Sake Fest

Sunday, April 21st from 10am-4pm

Free entry

Sake Brewery Homare in Kitakata is celebrating their 100th anniversary with food booths, free sake tastings, stage events, a kids corner, and more. Free *amazake* and *tonjiru* (miso soup with pork) will be given out from 11am until they run out.

For more details, visit http://www.kitakata-kanko.jp/event/event_pdf/pdf_000095.pdf.