

Commemorative Lecture & Thai Traditional Dance

Saturday, June 1st, 4:30pm-5:30pm

Aizu Keikodo Floor 3, Rooms 2 & 3

After our Members General Meeting from 3pm-4:15pm, Ms. Wannasirin Iida of Thailand will give a commemorative speech and perform a Thai traditional dance with another dancer.

Ms. Iida comes from northern Thailand, where she had studied classical and folk Thai dance from a young age. Her dream was to teach Thai dance in Japan, and she eventually achieved this dream, opening a dance studio in Saitama called Ban Rabum in 2010. She now performs Thai classical dance all over Japan.

What is Thai classical dance?

The history of classical Thai dance dates back over 500 years, when the areas of Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia were ruled by kingdoms. The dances were performed in the Royal Court and featured elaborate costumes, while their stories drew from Indian mythology. Those who saw Ban Rabum's performance at the International Festival last year will remember the graceful sinuousness of the dancers, especially their beautifully intricate hand movements. Don't miss out on this rare opportunity to hear Ms. Iida speak and watch her perform!

The AWIA office will be closed from 1pm onward on June 1st for this event.

Foreign Language Story Room

Sunday, June 23rd, 10am-11:45am

Aizu Keikodo, Floor 3, Rooms 1-3

This summer's Foreign Language Story Room, or *Ohanashi no Heya*, will feature the English picture book *I'm Not Cute!* (about an adorable baby owl who sees himself as a sleek hunting machine), a Mandarin Chinese picture book about a frog looking for his mother, and a fable in Tatar called "The Water Witch and the Golden Comb." Tatar is a Turkic language spoken mainly in Tatarstan, Russia, and this will be the first time a story in Tatar is read for this event.

The Foreign Language Story Room is for children from age 4 to elementary school 6th grade and their parents or guardians. Please sign up by calling the Aizu Library (0242-22-4711).



Please extend a warm welcome to our newest staff member, Ms. Nakamura!
Hi! I'm Junko Nakamura, a new staff here. I have experience studying abroad in China. I like studying English, too. Every time I used to go to a new place, I looked for English conversation classes there. I enjoyed them and made friends there. I like chocolate and custard cream and coriander and Sherlock Holmes and... I look forward to talking to everyone.



Aizu Events



Furusato Aizu Kojin Matsuri

Saturday, June 8th, 9am—4pm & Sunday, June 9th, 9am—3pm

Mishima Town Local Crafts Museum

This event gathers *kojin*, or artisans, from all over Japan to display and sell their hand-made works. There will be over 170 shops present, including woodwork, lacquerware, dyed textiles and Mishima's very own handwoven crafts. You'll be able to see the shining skills of these craftsmen in their masterpieces.

At the same time as this festival, the Tewassa no Sato Matsuri will also be held in Mishima, in which the streets of the Miyashita area in town will be closed to traffic and will feature stalls selling the local villagers' books, art, photographs and handwoven crafts.

By train: 10 min by shuttle bus from JR Tadami Line Aizu-Miyashita Station

By car: 20 minutes from Aizu Bange Interchange on the Banetsu Expressway

Questions: Mishima Town Local Crafts Museum, 0241-48-5502

Himesayuri Matsuri

Thursday, May 30th—Sunday, June 9th, 8:30am-5pm

Himesayuri Gunseichi in Atsushiokano, Kitakata

The *himesayuri* is a rare type of alpine lily that only grows in parts of Fukushima, Niigata, Yamagata and Miyagi; it has also been designated as a near-threatened plant species. During the festival, you will be able to see the *himesayuri*, known as the city flower of Kitakata, as well as buy local vegetables directly from farmers, learn the *himesayuri* dance, and experience paragliding!

For a more detailed schedule of events, check out this website: <http://www.kitakata-kanko.jp/event/detail.php?id=20>



Mt. Mayadake Festival

Sunday, June 16th, 7am—3pm



Mt. Mayadake (also known as Mt. Umayadake) will open for the climbing season on June 16th, with an opening ceremony at 7:40am featuring the Bandai Myojin Daiko drumming group. Mt. Mayadake is the center of Batokannon (a buddha with an ornament in the shape of a horse's head) worship in Aizu, with over 1300 years' history. A white horse traditionally leads the opening of this mountain's climbing season, to

pray for the sound health and protection of farm horses.

For more information: <https://www.town.bandai.fukushima.jp/site/kanko/umayasan.html>

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