

JTF
JANUARY 2020

ASSOCIATION NEWS

New Year's Potluck Party

Date: Sunday, January 26, 12:30-2:30pm

Place: AWIA Office (5th floor of Shinmei-dori Tsutaya Bldg)

Fee: 100 yen for members, 200 yen for non-members

Bring a dish to share and join us for our annual New Year's Potluck Party. Start the new year with *kakizome* (new year's calligraphy), games, conversations, and food from around the world. Family and friends welcome.

*Bring your own reusable bowl and utensils for the environment.

*The potluck is free for those that can help with decorating, party preparation, and cleaning. Please let us know if you're able to help!

Farewell Party for Exchange Doctors

Wednesday, January 15, 6:30pm on

Restaurant Thyme (inside Yamaga Clinic)

3,500 yen

Join the farewell party to send off our two exchange doctors from Jingzhou, Aizuwakamatsu's sister city in China. The two doctors, Dr. Wu Tingting and Dr. Chen Juan, have been in Aizu for the past six months and, on top of their busy schedules at Takeda Hospital, have been able to improve their Japanese—both participating at our Nihongo de Hanasou event in November. Come to say hello and wish them well on the next stage of their life journeys!

Event Report: Thai Cooking Class



The Thai cooking class last month was a blast! Thank you so much to Ms. Pimwimon Takenaka for being our fantastic leader into the world of Thai cuisine! We made a sweet and delicious penang curry, a hot and sour tom yum kung, and a papaya salad made with mashed spices that exploded with flavor. Everyone also got to enjoy the coconut dessert that Ms. Takenaka made for us.

Winter English Café

Sunday, January 26th, 3:4:30pm

AWIA Office

Free for members

What kind of new year's traditions do you have in your country? How are they different from those in Japan and other countries around the world? Hang around after the potluck to discuss these topics and more at our Winter English Café! We will be conversing in English over coffee and snacks.



Nanokado Hadaka Mairi

Tuesday, January 7, from 8:30pm on
Enzoji Temple in Yanaizu

This festival is better known as the “Naked Man Festival”—every year at the strike of a bell on January 7th at 8:30pm, men dressed in loincloths dash up 113 stone stairs into the main hall of Enzoji Temple and scramble to climb a rope to the ceiling. This lively winter tradition dates back over 1,000 years.

Tokaichi Market

Friday, January 10 from 9am to 9pm

City center around Sakaemachi (Shinmei-dori, etc.)

The biggest *hatsuichi* (first market of the year) in the Aizu Area takes place on January 10th and has over 400 years of history. About 400 shops will be in attendance, with shopfronts selling food and drinks, lacquerware, and lucky new year items like *okiagari-koboshi*, windmills, and candy. The tradition is to buy one *okiagari-koboshi* for every member of your family, plus one.



Sai no Kami

Tuesday, January 14 from 5pm on

Higashiyama Municipal Parking Lot



This is a traditional fire festival that is held to pray for sound health and bounty harvest in the coming year. Last year’s household shrine decorations are burned along with votive offerings are burned in a huge bonfire to send the Shinto god Toshigami into the sky. It’s said that if you warm yourself in this fire, you won’t get sick. Anyone can bring things to add to the bonfire from 1pm-7pm; please remove metals and plastics from the objects beforehand.

End-Of-Year Garbage Collection:

Garbage will not be collected from Wednesday, January 1st to Friday, January 3rd. Garbage collection will resume as usual on Monday, January 6th.

Garbage will be collected as normal on Monday, January 13th (holiday), except for *Sodai gomi* (oversized trash).

AWIA Winter Holiday Closings

Our office will be closed for the winter holidays from Sunday, December 29th to Friday, January 3rd. We wish you a merry and bright holiday season!



If you haven’t already, please follow our Facebook page for current updates, including disaster-related information at <https://www.facebook.com/awiajp> (or use the QR code to the right):