

Aizu Wakamatsu International Association's

**JTF**  
APRIL 2020

ASSOCIATION NEWS

## Japanese Classes Update

Due to the continuing spread of COVID-19, we have made some changes to our April Japanese classes. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about these changes or coronavirus in Japan. Our staff is here to support you during this difficult time.

**Nihongo Salon** (Tuesdays from 1:30pm-3pm) will not be held in April.

**Japanese Conversation Classes** will not begin on April 2nd/3rd as planned. Instead, classes will start on May 7th for Thursday evening classes and May 8th for Friday morning classes (for a total of 12 sessions).

**Nihongo Hiroba** (1st and 3rd Sunday, only for continuing students) will hold its postponed March sessions on April 12th and 26th.

## International Festival Update

We are currently in the process of deciding whether the Aizuwakamatsu International Festival will be held on June 28 this year as planned. The festival is the AWIA's biggest event, and at the last festival, we had over 4,000 people in attendance. Stay tuned to future JTFs for further updates. We will also be posting updates on our website (<http://awia.jp>) and Facebook page (<http://facebook.com/awiajp>).

### *A Message From Your CIR*

My time at the AWIA has come to an end. It has been great meeting and getting to know so many of you through the AWIA events, etc. Aizu is a one-of-a-kind place, and I will definitely treasure the time I've spent here. Thanks so much for everything and hope to see you again somewhere, someday! — Tammy

## New Arrivals at the AWIA Library

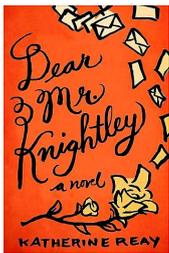
Though many of our events have been cancelled, the AWIA stays open on regular business hours. Stop by to check out these and more new additions to our library, which are sure to transport you to another world in the comfort of your home or workplace.



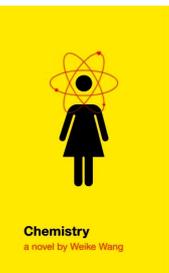
*Miracle Creek* by Angie Kim: If you're a fan of courtroom dramas like *Suits* or the Phoenix Wright games, you'll love this debut novel by Angie Kim. She tackles topics like immigration, parenting and autism with a sensitive and empathetic touch, in a thoroughly engrossing story where each chapter peels back revealing one more layer of the truth.



*The Sorrow of War* by Bao Ninh: Curious about Vietnam, or looking for a way to dive into the real history of an often romanticized war? This semi-autobiographical novel, which won the *Independent Foreign Fiction Prize*, will blow you away its raw emotionality, its potent descriptions of violence, and its heartbreaking beauty. It's a book that stays with you long after you've turned the last page.



*Dear Mr. Knightley* by Katherine Reay: A modern retelling of Jean Webster's *Daddy-Long-Legs*, this a story told through letters between Samantha Moore, a graduate school student of journalism, and Mr. Knightley, a mysterious benefactor who is funding her studies, with Jane Austen references abound.



*Chemistry* by Weike Wang: This is a charming, heartfelt novel about a chemistry PhD student who seems to have it all: she's on the cusp of a profitable career, with a loving, successful boyfriend who has just proposed to her. But somehow things start to fall apart. This book is about the anxiety of self-doubt, the frustration of expectation, and the unexpected poetry of chemistry.

## Aizu Gourmet



Here's a question I'm sure you've been asked in Japan: *What's your favorite type of ramen?* In the US where I'm from, there's just ramen, but in Japan there's shoyu, miso, tonkotsu, and shio; you can choose between style and thickness of noodle (crinkled or straight, narrow or thick), whether you'd like it cooked al-dente or not. Aizu in particular is known for its delicious ramen: there's shops that sell traditional chuka soba, akadama (spicy miso) ramen, as well as shio ramen using Aizu mountain salt from Kita-Shiobara. There are long-running shops and new shops that have opened in the last year. Be sure to try as many as you can! For store recommendations, ask locals and/or the AWIA staff for their favorites!

965-0871 Fukushima-ken, Aizu Wakamatsu-shi, Sakae-machi 2-14, Leo Club Garden Square 5th Floor

TEL (0242) 27-3703 | FAX (0242) 27-3704 | e-mail: [mail@awia.jp](mailto:mail@awia.jp) | website: <http://awia.jp>