

Events in June

1	WE	13:30 German for Beginners
2	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
3	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
4	SA	15:00 General Meeting & Commemorative Lecture (office closed from 13:00~)
5	SU	Closed
6	MO	Closed
7	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
8	WE	13:30 German for Beginners
9	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
10	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
11	SA	10:00 FIND English Club 14:00 Conversation Room Meeting
12	SU	10:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba
13	MO	Closed
14	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
15	WE	13:30 German for Beginners
16	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
17	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
18	SA	10:00 JICA Desk (TBC) Uniship Young Adult Sports Club
19	SU	Closed
20	MO	Closed
21	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
22	WE	
23	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
24	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
25	SA	10:00 Naginata Experience
26	SU	10:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba
27	MO	Closed
28	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
29	WE	
30	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)

"FIND" English Conversation Club

AWIA member-led English conversation club "FIND" is meeting this month! FIND was designed by and for high school students, with the aim of creating a space for English learners to practice casual conversation skills. Although the club is mainly for students, adults with high English proficiency may also apply to join FIND as a language volunteer. Contact the AWIA to join!

Date/Time	Saturday, June 11th 10:00~11:30
Place	Aizu Wakamatsu City Learning Center 3F Room 1
Sign Up	Contact mail@awia.jp by <u>Friday, June 10th</u>



New! Aizu International Parents Salon

Join our new support group for international parents in Aizu! We're planning to make this group a meeting place for parents and children to gather and play, share information and make connections with other families in the city! No pressure, just fun! Please contact the AWIA for more details if you are interested.



Call for Newsletter Volunteers!

Come hang out with us while we fold, stamp, and pack our monthly publications for mailing! Chat with other AWIA members and enjoy this casual volunteer activity. No need to sign up, just drop by if you can!

Date: June 25th, Saturday **Time:** 13:30~
Place: Aizu Wakamatsu International Association Office

We're on Instagram!

Follow us for photos and news about our upcoming events!



AWIA_PHOTO

<http://facebook.com/awiajp>



Visit our Facebook page for the latest updates in multiple languages!

AIZU WAKAMATSU INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION MONTHLY ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

SynthesAizu

June 2022
Volume 2 Issue 6

Association News

Temporary Staff—English Speaking CIR

Introducing Hitesh Toor, who will be helping us out until we find our new CIR! You may have met him at one of the many events he has helped out with as a volunteer. He'll be helping out with things like English announcements on our social media pages, events etc., on weekends and weekdays during his free time. He has a colourful background, being born in London to an Indian family, and raised in Ghana. Here's a message from him to you all!



Hey there everyone! Hope you're enjoying this warmer weather (I sure am!). I'm Hitesh Toor (that one brown guy you might have seen riding around Aizu that one time), and I'm the interim CIR at the International Association! It's my fourth year here in Aizu, and I'm excited to share the current facets of Aizu with all of you, as well as being your friendly neighbourhood foreign-man. I have a lot of interests and hobbies: music production, making YouTube videos, photography, cycling, motorbiking, karaoke, piano, video games, anime/manga, eating, and many more that I can't remember at the moment. I'm looking forward to meeting everyone and sharing our experiences of living in Japan! Yoroshiku!

Naginata Experience

Ever tried the Japanese martial art of naginata? The Aizu Nayotake Naginata Club will be showing us some naginata skills! Translation will be available in English and Chinese. Support in simple Japanese will also be available. Come and try out this unique opportunity with some friends!



Date: June 25 (Sat) 9:50~12:00 (approx.)
Place: Meet in front of the Butokuden (Inside Tsuruga-jo Park, Kita-Demaru)
Age: 18+
Capacity: 15 people
Price: Members 500 yen
Non-members 700 yen
Clothing: Clothing you can change easily at the location (i.e. t-shirt and shorts, leggings etc.)
Apply: Contact the AWIA before June 17

Notes: Please tell us your height when you apply (for training uniform size) If you are driving, please note that parking is limited. Please discuss your options with us.



Foreign Language Conversation Room

Enjoy stories and games in three foreign languages!

At this event, children can experience foreign language and culture through story books! Three of our members and volunteers will be reading in foreign languages; English, Indonesian, and Romanian! After the stories, children can join in some games and quizzes. Children are sure to enjoy this wonderful opportunity!



Date: June 19 (Sun) 10:00-12:00
Place: Aizuwakamatsu Learning Centre 3F Rooms 1, 2 & 3
Capacity: 30 elementary school students
Price: Free
Apply/Contact: Aizu Library

Please use the forms handed out at schools and deliver to the library, either directly or by fax. Forms are also available at the AWIA office. Applications will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis from May 22 (Sun).

TEL: 0242-22-4711 FAX: 0242-22-4702

Charity Concert for Ukraine

Ukrainian musician, Natasha Gudziy, will be performing a charity concert for Ukraine, with all proceeds going to the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR. When she was a child, Natasha lived near Pripjat town near Chernobyl, and she experienced the nuclear disaster of 1986. Forced to escape her hometown, she now lives and works in Japan, sharing her experience and her talents with us all. Her performance will consist of singing, and a traditional Ukrainian instrument called "bandura".



Date: July 10 (Sun) 14:00-15:30
Place: Date City Furusato Hall MDD Hall
Price: General Admission 2000 yen

Children (under university age) 500 yen

Note: Presale tickets only. No sales on the day. Please use the QR code to access the ticket sales site.

Apply/Contact: Date City International Association TEL: 090-7934-2969 (Sato)



We are planning to hold our next Uniship event on June 18 (Sat), but are still working out the fine details! Please watch our social media for the official announcement closer to the date.



UNISHIP1109

Member Spotlight: Nola Novak

AWIA English CIR September 2020 ~ March 2022
Currently in Nashville, USA, at the Consul General of Japan

Nola left Japan at the beginning of April, but we recently got in touch with her via an online call! We're very pleased to be able to connect with our former friends so easily.

We were so grateful for Nola's ability to introduce us to new events and ideas during her time with us. She worked with us during a difficult time throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, but she was always a positive and smiling influence at the office. While talking to Nola, we learned that since starting at the General Consul of Japan in Nashville, she did a presentation at a Sakura Festival on April 9! Ganbatte Nola!



Right: Nola makes a presentation about Japan during the pandemic at the Cherry Blossom Festival in Nashville, Tennessee on April 9, 2022.

Q. Hey, Nola! How are you?

I'm doing pretty good, but I'm having a little trouble with the time difference! Today (April 15) is Good Friday, part of Easter weekend, so I have 3 days off from today. Tomorrow my dad asked me to go to a Japanese restaurant in Nashville with him. Dad says he wants to know if it's "real" Japanese food, which is why he has asked me along to check, haha!

Q. Your family must be happy to have you home!

Yes! My mom was the happiest, I think. Yesterday it was my turn to make dinner, but my mom went ahead and made it anyway. I asked her, "What are you doing?!" "You're too slow," she said. We went back and forth like that. It's hard getting into a new rhythm sometimes, but we're all enjoying it.

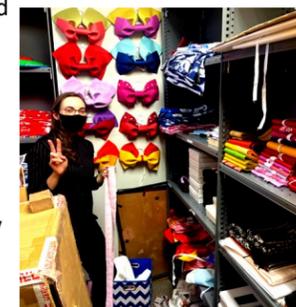
Q. How's your new job?

My job here is actually a lot like working at AWIA! I've only been on the job for 4 days, but on April 9 we had our biggest event, the Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival. We set up a yukata fitting corner, and held various cultural workshops such as Bon dancing, kanji, and koto.

I talked about the JET Program and life in Japan during the pandemic. There were so many people that came to experience Japanese culture. I was a little surprised and impressed to see how popular it was with Americans!

Q. Are you very busy?

After the big event, while everyone else was relaxing and cooling down, I was washing and ironing the 40 happi coats and 35 yukata worn by the staff. It took me an hour to do the first three! They're hung all over my house; they're supposed to go into a storage closet at the Consul General, but it got pretty messy in the 2 months between my predecessor leaving and me arriving, haha! I'll have to organize that first. Then, my main



Above: Nola in the storage closet at the Consul General

job will be introducing Japanese culture at places like schools and community centers.

Q. What are some of your memories of AWIA?

I remember most how friendly everyone was, which made the office feel very homely. We worked well as a team! Now my workplace has about 4 times the number of employees, so there are some that I don't encounter often, and we're not as close.

I was also really happy to create and participate in a lot of events. Halloween, Valentines Day, hiking...I enjoyed them all. Here the events are all predetermined, so I won't get to create my own.

Q. What advice do you have for those of us here in Aizu?

I feel that you're a little behind on utilizing technology... there are no fax machines here! Haha! And it's mostly cashless. I was surprised by how busy and lively the city was when I first came back. Aizuwakamatsu is so quiet. I feel like that might be a big hurdle for younger residents; there aren't so many opportunities to meet and hang out with other young people. I think you need more events and opportunities like Uniship, the youth sports circle at AWIA!

Q. It felt like you were always at the heart of our events and exchanges. Did you find it hard to make friends despite that?

If I wasn't a part of the AWIA, I don't think I would have met or made many friends. It's hard enough to make foreign friends; Japanese friends are even harder! Almost impossible... At the AWIA though, people who want to make connections gather, which is really helpful if you're wanting to meet new friends!

The friends I made in Aizu (both foreign and Japanese) I can honestly say are very close and dear to me. I want everyone to enjoy their lives in Aizu. Find new friends through the AWIA, do what makes you happy. If there's something you enjoy doing, use the AWIA's resources and make it happen, make friends doing it! If you like skiing but don't want to go alone, find some AWIA people and go with them! I did the same, and had a blast; I hope you all will too.

あいづ
食の陣

Aizu Shoku-no-Jin: Asparagus!

Aizu Shoku-no-Jin is working to promote local produce throughout the year, broken up into four groups of 3 months each. April~June is asparagus! Aizu is famous for its four colours of asparagus; green, white, purple, and pink! Why not go buy some asparagus and try a new recipe or two?

Asparagus + Bacon Harumaki

Ingredients

10 spring roll (harumaki) wrappers
 10 stalks of asparagus
 10 rashers of bacon
 A little potato starch (katakuriko) dissolved in water

Method

1. Cut off the tough end of the asparagus stalks and peel the bottom half of the remaining stalks to make it more tender.
2. Lay out the wrappers with the corner towards you. Place the bacon across the middle, and the asparagus on the corner closest to you. Start wrapping tightly!
3. Seal with a little starchy water and fry until golden. Itadakimasu!

