

# SynthesAizu

July 2022  
Volume 2 Issue 7

## Association News

### Mon-kiri Papercraft - Uchiwa Fan Making Workshop

“Mon-kiri” was a papercraft that became popular in the Edo period (1603-1867). By folding paper and using a cutting guide to carefully cut away excess paper, you can open the paper again to see beautiful delicate “mon”, designs and shapes. “Mon” were widely used in those times, and these crafts were often enjoyed. This workshop will be led by Muto Paper Shop. During the workshop, we will use mon-kiri papercraft techniques to design and create unique uchiwa fans! Let’s make a colorful, one-of-a-kind fan for the hot summer months to come!



**SIGN UP!**

**Date:** July 9 (Sat)  
**Time:** 1 - 14:00~ 2 - 15:00~  
**Place:** AWIA Offices  
**Led by:** Muto Paper Shop  
**Capacity:** 10 people per session  
**Price:** 100 yen (200 yen for non AWIA members)  
**Things to bring:** Scissors\* (\*Optional. Some designs can be very detailed, so a pair you’re used to might help!)  
**Sign Up:** via mail, phone, or using the QR code. Apply by July 8 (if places are open, sign ups on the day will be welcomed)



### Summer Vacation - Hello World!

Hello World is an AWIA-run event for children with the aim of teaching and learning about foreign cultures and countries through play. Sign up today to enjoy some foreign games and light English conversation!



**Date:** Aug 6 (Sat)  
1 - 9:30-10:30 (Grade 1-3) 2 - 11:00-12:30 (Grade 4-6)  
**Place:** Aizu Learning Centre 3F Room 1



**Teacher:** Hitesh Toor  
**Capacity:** 15 children per session  
**Price:** 500yen/child (200 yen for children of AWIA members)  
**Sign Up:** Contact the AWIA by Aug 5 (Fri)

### Aizu International Parents Salon



Our new parents group is for locals, long-term residents and new arrivals! We aim to create a fun, relaxed environment for parents and children to get together and play, share information, and get to know their community! For our first

official meet up, we’ll be using the facilities at “AiAi+Plus”, a childcare support center in Aizu Wakamatsu with indoor and outdoor facilities. Feel free to bring a friend!

**Date:** Aug 7 (Sun), 10:00-12:00  
**Place:** AiAi+Plus (Ikki-machi, Oaza Kamega, Kitayanagihara 45-1 Next to Shiraume Preschool AiAi Kids Club)  
Parking available

**Price:** Free  
**Sign Up:** Contact the AWIA by Aug 5 (Fri)



## New - Free Communication Space in the AWIA Offices!



Have you seen our community space in the AWIA offices? This carpeted area with a low table has been set up as a community exchange point free for anyone to use! Whether you're organizing a meeting with your friends, or just popping in as you pass

by, please feel free to come in and use the space. Our association staff may be hard at work and running around, but please don't mind us! There is room for prams and pushchairs too, and kids can enjoy playing on the carpet. We hope to see you soon.

## Tanabata - The Star Festival

Tanabata, otherwise known as the Star Festival, is a Japanese holiday that falls on July 7. The kanji “七夕” mean “the evening of the 7th”. It celebrates the meeting of the deities Orihime and Hikoboshi (represented by the stars Vega and Altair). According to folklore, the Milky Way (Ama-no-gawa in Japanese) separates the two lovers, and they are only allowed to meet once a year on the 7th of July. Nowadays, people celebrate this day by writing wishes, sometimes in poems, on tanzaku. Tanzaku are small, brightly colored strips of paper, and are traditionally hung on bamboo decorations. These bamboo pieces are often set afloat on a river or burned after the festival, usually around midnight or the following day. The most famous Tanabata festivities are held in Sendai from Aug 6-8. Have you ever been to a Tanabata festival?



### Come hang a wish on our office decorations!

We'll be decorating our office with traditional bamboo branches and tanzaku wishing paper until mid-July! Our volunteers have prepared the decorations and we have many colorful tanzaku available for all of our visitors and members to write their wishes on. It's a great opportunity to take part in a Japanese cultural event, so come along and make a wish! Who knows...it might come true!

### Aizu Shoku-no-Jin: Aizu Tomatoes!

Aizu Shoku-no-Jin is working to promote local produce throughout the year, broken up into four groups of 3 months each. July~September is asparagus! Aizu tomatoes have a great balance of acidity and sweetness. Why not try some delicious new recipes that highlight these versatile vegetables?

### Tomato & Zucchini Marinade

#### Ingredients (2 servings)

1 chicken breast	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
1 zucchini	0.5T mayonnaise	1.5T vinegar
1 tomato	0.5T sake	0.5t sugar
salt (to taste)	0.5T potato starch	0.25t salt
1T olive oil	0.5t soy sauce	pepper (to taste)
	0.5t crushed garlic	

#### Method

1. Use a fork to poke holes evenly all over the surface of the chicken, then cut it into bite-sized pieces. Place in a bag or container with ingredients **A**, mix and set aside.
2. Cut the zucchini into slices about 1cm thick. Lay on some foil, and season with salt and a drizzle of olive oil.
3. On a fresh piece of foil, lay out the chicken. Cook the chicken and zucchini in a toaster oven or grill for 10min. Remove the zucchini, and cook the chicken for a further 5min.
4. In a bowl, mix the cooked chicken and zucchini with ingredients **B**.
5. Cut the tomato into bite-sized pieces and add when the mix has cooled—you're ready to serve! Itadakimasu!



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## Spotlight: Josie Hasegawa

When we went to talk to Mrs. Josie Hasegawa at the Takeda Hospital to prepare for her commemorative lecture, we saw an unforgettable sight. There was a foreign man who looked fine but was constantly checking his phone. Mrs. Josie felt something off, and did what she does best; talked with him. We were surprised to see tears in his eyes. It turned out that his wife was in for a delivery, and he was very worried, yet he was put at ease after talking to Mrs. Josie. That's the kind of person that she is.



### Josie Hasegawa, supporting Aizu through medical interpretation

#### Why did I move from Mexico to Japan?

When I was in elementary school, my family and I moved to Oregon, USA to find a donor for my sister's heart condition. I later met my husband there at a Japanese Company (Fujitsu). After we got married in America, we moved to Japan and began a life in Aizu.

#### Working as a Spanish and English medical interpreter for Takeda Hospital (1998-2004), and helping out at the AWIA!

When I first came to Aizu, I couldn't speak Japanese well. I felt helpless, so I studied really hard! In 1993, Aizu University and FASL were established in the city, and the number of foreign residents increased. I started working as a medical translator in 1998, and worked on things like Japanese to English pamphlets and hospital guides. Other tasks included translating hospital forms and teaching lessons on how to communicate with foreign patients. I'm very grateful to Takeda Hospital, who took a lot of my advice and ideas on board. My experiences from that time helped me a lot later in life when I moved to Tokyo.

#### Relocating to Tokyo

Just as I was really getting into the swing of things, my husband was given a position in Tokyo. I ended up working for an Orthopedic Hospital from 2004-2006. Many famous sumo wrestlers and foreign sports people visit that hospital. It was there that I met the ambassador for Argentina. He said that I was not just a regular translator, and that if such a hardworking person would work for the embassy, it would be great. And thus, received an invitation to work at the embassy.

#### The Embassy of Argentina (2006-2019)

While I was at the embassy I assisted the three ambassadors, diplomats and their families with medical interpreting and at ceremonies and such. I was valued highly for my work because I spoke English, Spanish and Japanese. When President Macri visited Japan, I arranged an ambulance that could perform operations and was on standby inside with medical personnel from Argentina, ready to move at any time!

#### The 2019 Rugby World Cup I wanted to tell the world about Fukushima's recovery.

At the 2019 Rugby World Cup, the strong Argentinian team received many offers from different prefectures to set up home camp. But, I wanted to take the team to J Village in Fukushima prefecture to show them how the area was recovering. In order to convince the team, I worked with TEPCO for radiation data, translated it all, and sent it to Argentina. The Argentinian ambassador did his best as well, and we were able to be invited to Fukushima with an adoring welcome, just like during the 2002 Soccer World Cup.

#### A reporter remembering me

At J Village, while I was interpreting a meeting between Governor Uchibori and the ambassador for Argentina, a reporter recognized me. "I've met you before while I was filming in Aizu." I was moved that they remembered me, even though I had been away from Fukushima for so long. I felt a longing to move back to Fukushima, so we came home to Aizu that winter.

#### Returning to medical interpreting in Aizu

There are 2,183 staff at Takeda Hospital, only two of whom are medical interpreters. Between October 2021 and March 2022, the number of foreign patients climbed to 410 people from 22 different countries. Illness doesn't discriminate between race, gender or age. We're all human.

In the "Marugoto Consulting Office" where I work, we see many Japanese and foreign patients. They come to us with any concerns or questions they might have, and we work together to solve them. With natural disasters and the COVID outbreak, everyone has gone through some hard experiences and wants to talk to someone, to help someone. We need a place where we can mingle and talk freely. I'd love for the AWIA to be that place for us here in Aizu. I hope we can all get together there and spend time together as fellow humans.

## Events in June

1	FR	
2	SA	
3	SU	Closed
4	MO	Closed
5	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
6	WE	◇13:30 German Language Class
7	TH	
8	FR	
9	SA	14:00 Uchiwa Fan Making Workshop
10	SU	10:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba
11	MO	Closed
12	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
13	WE	◇13:30 German Language Class
14	TH	
15	FR	
16	SA	
17	SU	Closed
18	MO	Closed
19	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
20	WE	◇13:30 German Language Class
21	TH	
22	FR	
23	SA	10:00 FIND English Club 15:00 UNISHIP Tennis
24	SU	10:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba
25	MO	Closed
26	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
27	WE	◇13:30 German Language Class
28	TH	
29	FR	
30	SA	13:30 Newsletter Release Preparation
31	SU	

The ◇ symbol indicates a independently organized club

## "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, July 23rd 10:00~11:30
Place	Aizu Wakamatsu City Learning Center 3F Room 1
Sign Up	Contact <a href="mailto:mail@awia.jp">mail@awia.jp</a> by Friday, July 22nd

## UNISHIP - Tennis

Uniship is a group for young people to gather and enjoy a variety of sports and activities. In July we'll be enjoying tennis!

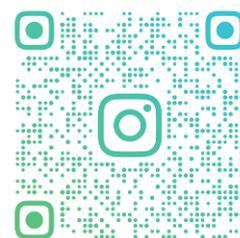
**Date:** July 23

**Time:** Meet at 15:00

**Place:** Fureai Taiikukan (Ikki-machi, Oaza Yahata, Yahata 2-ban)

**Price:** Free! (Please bring a racket if you have one)

**Sign Up:** Email the AWIA, or DM us on Instagram (you can find our Instagram using the QR code on the right!)



UNISHIP1109

## 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:** July 30th, 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!

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