

SynthesAizu

April 2024
Volume 4 Issue 4

Association News

Hanami Potluck Party

Join us at the temple behind the Lion D'or Building (AWIA Office) for a fun time eating and chatting! **Why not share your favourite dish? Bring a dish or some food to share! (about 2-3 servings)**

AWIA will provide some soft-drinks, but feel free to bring your own. Bring your own utensils/plate for the environment!

In case of rain: Event will be held at the AWIA office. Look for the announcement on our homepage, FB, or Instagram around 10:30am!

April 7th (Sun)

12:00 - 14:00

Fee: ¥100 (members)
¥200 (non-members)

(Children 14 and under, free!)

Place: Kotokuji Temple Ground
(Aizuwakamatsu Sakaemachi 2-12)

Sign-up: Deadline April 6th (Sat)
Bring a dish to share!



Chit Chat with Liu!

April 27 (Sat) 15:30-17:00

Place: AWIA Office
(Sakae-machi 2-14, Lion D'or Garden 5F)

Cost: FREE! Open to anyone!

Come and meet the newest member of our team! Liu Ken joined us as a Chinese CIR this January and she's excited to meet you! She will introduce herself and her home province of Hunan. You can learn all about the picturesque 'Zhangjiajie National Forest Park' (as seen in the movie 'Avatar' by James Cameron) and more, so come by!



AWIA Membership Fee Notice

April 1st is the start of the Japanese fiscal year and the beginning of a new membership cycle at the AWIA.

Membership runs: Apr 1st, 2024 - Mar 31st, 2025

About AWIA Membership

Our annual membership fees help support AWIA activities, events, classes, and workshops throughout the year. Members also have access to exclusive events and services, our library, occasional discounts and our monthly newsletter!

If you would like to continue supporting the AWIA, membership payments made during the current fiscal year will be valid until the end of March 2025.

Want to pay online? Contact us! mail@awia.jp

Check the back page for info about FIND and AtsuHana our English and Japanese convo. clubs →

Parents' Salon Yoga

The Parents' Salon is a multicultural gathering of parents to build community while raising children in Aizu! Why not bring your child along and stretch, relax, and enjoy yoga?

After yoga there'll be free time to socialise with other parents, share stories, and talk about life in Aizu. Children welcome! (*Childcare is not provided, so parents are responsible for their children. AWIA Staff will be there too, to help you keep an eye on your child.*)

Date: May 12th (Sun) 10:00~11:30
(Yoga - 40min, Free Time - 40 min)

Place: Aizu Keikodo 1F Exercise Studio

Limit: 8 Families (Parent/guardian + children)

Target: Parents of preschool aged children

To bring: Water, towel, yoga mat (if you have)

Cost: ¥500/per family (free for members!)

Sign-up: By QR code by May 11th (Sat)



Hanami Around Aizu

If the cherry blossoms at Tsuruga-jo Castle aren't enough, check out some of our staff's favorite sakura locations around the Aizu area! From Kitakata's 2km trail of weeping sakura to the riverside path in Inawashiro, the Aizu region has plenty of beautiful locations for springtime photo ops! Don't forget to check the annual "sakura forecast" at weathernews.jp!

1) Nicchu Line Weeping Cherry Trees

Kitakata City



<http://www.kitakata-kanko.jp/category/detail.php?id=104>

Peak Viewing:
Mid- to Late April

This popular cherry blossom viewing site once was part of the old Nicchu railway line. Now, it is home to more than 1,000 weeping cherry trees.

2) Sakura-Touge Pass

Urabandai



https://www.urabandai-inf.com/?page_id=24982

Peak Viewing:
Late April to Early May

This incredible Sakura grove located atop a mountain ridge is home to over 3,000 cherry trees!

3) Kannonji River Sakura

Inawashiro



<https://fukushima.travel/destination/kannonji-gawa-river-cherry-trees/3>

Peak Viewing:
Late April

This beautiful 1km walking path along the river is known as one of the best places to see cherry blossoms in Tohoku!

4) Ishibe Sakura

Aizuwakamatsu



<https://www.aizukanko.com/spot/628>

Peak Viewing:
Mid- to Late April

This tree was highlighted in the opening of the period drama "Yae no Sakura" from 2013. Made up of 10 different trunks, the tree spans about 20m from edge to edge.

And more!
Find your favourite!



Aizu Hanami Sake @ Tsuruga-jo

April 5th (Fri) 17:00-20:00
April 6th (Sat) 14:00-20:00

Place: Tsuruga-jo Castle Park

Highlights: Buy and enjoy Aizu Sake directly from brewers! Plus, enjoy amazing drinking snacks!



Entrance: Free, - buy drink tickets to enjoy!

More Details:

<https://www.gurutto-aizu.com/event/2953/>

Japan-China Assoc. Spring Sports

May 12th (Sun) 10:00-15:00

Host: Aizu Japan-China Friendship Association

Place: Josai Community Centre
(1-chōme-3-38 Zaimokumachi)

Participants: 30 people

Cost: Adult ¥1000 • Student ¥500 • Children Free!

Highlights: Enjoy cultural exchange between Japan and China with some table tennis and lunch! (Tonjiru) Play table tennis or help with lunch prep in the morning, then join in some fun activities after lunch!



Sign-up Deadline: May 2nd!

Contact: Sanpei - 090-5833-5821
Ito - 090-2983-7731

Spring Japanese Classes

Give your Japanese skills a boost!

The Spring session of Japanese language courses has started! With the aid of our experienced volunteer teachers, we offer courses from beginner level to advanced. Our classes strike a balance between reading, writing, and conversational skills. Class sizes are small, and some students may even have 1 on 1 lessons! Online lessons are also available on request.

Day	Friday Morning (12 classes)	Thursday Evening (12 classes)
Time	10:00-11:30	18:30-20:00
Course Duration	Apr 5 - June 28 (no class May 3)	Apr 4 - June 20
Fee (for all 12 classes)	AWIA members ¥4,000 Non-members ¥6,000	
Place	Aizuwakamatsu City Learning Centre	
Apply	Contact AWIA at mail@awia.jp by end of April	

2023 AWIA Album!



Thanks to all our members for your support in 2023! We enjoyed so many fun events!
This year was full of smiles and happy memories, and here are the pictures to prove it.
Here's to another successful year together in 2024!



April

- Hanami Potluck Party



May

- Farm Visit
- AWIA Sports+ 「Dodgebee」



June

- General Assembly
- Children's Storybook Time
- Aizu Parents' Salon



Parents' Salon



July

- 「Summer Night」
- Farm Visit



August

- Japanese Culture Experience 「Calligraphy」



September

- Aizu Festival "Bandai-san Odori"
- Multilingual Info Desk at Tsuruga-jo



October

- Hello World Club
- Little Trip Series 「Central Asia」
- Dracula Night
- Farm Visit



Hello World Club

November

- Children's Storybook Time
- Nihongo de Hanasou!
- AWIA Sports+ 「Table Tennis」
- Hello World Club



December

- Parents' Salon - Christmas Party
- Christmas Movie Night
- Hello World Club



Christmas Movie Night



January

- Tokaichi Stall
- New Years Potluck Party



February

- Disaster Preparedness Workshop



March

- AWIA Sports+ 「Mini Sports Day」



Events in April

Other Information

1	MO	Closed
2	TU	
3	WE	
4	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
5	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
6	SA	15:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba
7	SU	12:00 Hanami Potluck Party (Closed)
8	MO	Closed
9	TU	
10	WE	
11	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
12	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
13	SA	
14	SU	Closed
15	MO	Closed
16	TU	
17	WE	
18	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
19	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
20	SA	10:00 FIND English Convo. Circle 10:00 JICA Desk 15:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba
21	SU	Closed
22	MO	Closed
23	TU	
24	WE	
25	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
26	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
27	SA	13:30 Newsletter Preparation 15:30 Chit-Chat with Liu
28	SU	Closed
29	MO	Closed
30	TU	

FIND English Convo. Club

Why not come and speak English with people from all walks of life and maybe make some new friends? Everyone is welcome, no matter your English level.

When	Saturday, April 20th 10:00~11:30
Place	City Learning Centre (Keikodo) 3F Rm 1
Sign Up	Contact mail@awia.jp by <u>Friday, Apr 19th</u>

Due to the nature of FIND and AtsuHana, we ask that participants wear a mask. Thank you for your understanding.

AtsuHana Casual Japanese Convo. Club.

No AtsuHana in April, but join us in May for a fun time!

When	Sunday, May 12th 10:00-11:30
Place	City Learning Centre (Keikodo) 3F Rm 1
Sign Up	Contact mail@awia.jp by <u>Saturday, May 11th</u>

Kimono Upcycle Fashion Show

Looking for models!

A group called 'Mottai-nai Aizu' remakes old clothes/kimono etc. into beautiful pieces and holds an upcycle fashion show every year. They're looking for models! Open to anyone! There will be a Colour Consultation and fitting for models at the beginning of May. Why not try out this unique experience?

Date: July 7th (Sun) Rehearsal: 10:00 Show: 14:00-15:00

Place: Tsuruga-jo Gymnasium (Jotomachi 14-51 (near Culture Centre))

Cost: ¥1000 (Colour Consult in May)

Models: Up to 50 people

Sign-up Deadline: April 30th

Contact: Mottai-nai Aizu -
Tominaga-san (English OK!)
aisaikan1037@yahoo.co.jp



Call for Newsletter Volunteers!

Come help us fold, stamp, and pack our monthly publications for mailing! No need to sign up, just drop by if you can!

Date: **April 27th, 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

<https://facebook.com/awiajp>



Visit our Facebook page for updates in multiple languages!



Use this QR Code to access our email form to sign-up for events