

SynthesAizu

July 2024
Volume 4 Issue 7

Association News

'Little Trip' Series Flamenco

Learn a little Spanish and Flamenco dance! Spend 1.5 hours immersed in song and dance, and get a real feel for Flamenco. Everyone, regardless of ability, can enjoy this easy experience!

Date: July 13th (Sat) 15:30~17:00

Place: Aizu Keikodo 1F Kenko Studio

Presentation by: Yosie KARAHASHI

Cost: FREE **Limit:** 30 people

Sign-up: By July 12th (Fri) - mail@awia.jp

Bring: Indoor shoes, or non-slip socks, something to drink, and wear clothes that are easy to move in!



'Little Trip' Series Vietnam

How lucky! Our second 'Little Trip' of the month! Come see a presentation by the JICA Youth Leaders from Vietnam, hear about their wonderful country, and learn some Vietnamese as well!

Date: July 25th (Thu) 18:30~20:00

Place: Aizu Keikodo 3F Rm 5+6

Cost: FREE **Limit:** 15 people

Sign-up: By July 24th (Wed)

Contact AWIA at mail@awia.com



★★★★★ 2024 International Festival ★★★★★

It's back! Held once every 2 years, we're holding the International Festival this fall! Come explore the world! See a variety of countries represented by the residents of Aizu. Why not introduce your own culture?

This year's theme is...:

The World Adventure
~into the future beyond!~



Oct 5 (Sat)

10:00-15:00

Tsuruga-jo Castle Gym



Now accepting festival booth applications!

Apply by Aug 9 (Fri) - mail@awia.jp

Please consider sponsoring us!

In order to put on the best event we can, we are seeking donations to be put towards the festival.

★ Sponsorship amount:

¥3,000 (or from ¥1,000 for individuals)

★ How to become a sponsor: Please apply directly at the AWIA offices. If you would prefer a bank deposit slip for your donation, please contact us.

★ All of our group and individual sponsor's names will be featured in our event pamphlets (only if desired).

Types	Details	Place	Cost
Culture Booths	Introduce your country or culture! You're welcome to include a craft or activity like quiz or small game!	In the Gymnasium	¥5000 (organization) ¥3000 (vendor) Free! (individual)
Food Stalls	Sell food or drinks from your country!	Outside	¥5000 (business) ¥3000 (amateur)

※ We have more details available for those interested in having a booth at the Festival, including a list of terms. Contact us for more information.



会津若松市国際交流協会

TEL (0242) 27-3703

EMAIL: mail@awia.jp

AIZU WAKAMATSU INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

This Month in Aizu

Aizuwakamatsu Summer Festivals

There are quite a few temples and shrines throughout Aizuwakamatsu, and in the summer, they hold small festivals to pray for the health and safety of the neighbourhood. Some of these festivals have been bringing summer fun since the time of Aizu Lord, GAMO Ujisato in the 1500s. We can't write about all of them, but keep an eye out for ones happening in your area!



◆Onbason/Chofukuji Temple Festival

7/1 (Mon) **Time:** 14:00-21:00
Location: Nisshinmachi (Near Nisshin Elem.)
Other: The first festival of the season!!

◆Tanaka Inari-jinja Lantern Flower Fest.

7/10 (Wed) **Time:** 12:00-20:00
Location: Hideo Noguchi Street (near Shinmei Doori)
Other: Enjoy different stalls, and small performances. Why not buy a lantern flower?



◆Yanagihara Shrine Festival

7/25 (Thu) **Time:** ~noon-19:00
Location: Sugawara Shrine (Yanagihara-machi 6)
Other: There is a (small) portable shrine carrying event on the 24th from 18:30

◆Suwa Shrine Festival

7/27 (Sat) **Time:** (depends on each stall)
Location: Honmachi (near Xaverio and Aoi Schools)



◆Sumiyoshi Shrine Festival

7/31 (Wed) **Time:** 9:00-21:00
Location: Zaimokumachi (near Donki Mall)

◆Kogaikuni Shrine Festival

8/1 (Thu) **Time:** 8:00-20:00
Location: Kogaimachi
Other: A beautiful shrine dedicated to silk moths tucked in a small forest.



◆Shinmei Festival

8/4 (Sun) **Time:** ~noon-21:00
Location: Under the arcade on Shinmei doori, outside of the AWIA Office building

◆Rokujizo Temple Festival

8/23
8/24 (Fri-Sat) **Time:** 9:00-21:00
Location: Ichinoseki, Mondenmachi
Other: A larger festival with a bon-dance on both nights!! (19:00-21:00)

Ouchijuku Midsummer Festival

7/2 (Tue) 12:00~

A traditional procession through the traditional post-town of Ouchijuku. Local residents carry a mikoshi through the main street of Ouchijuku and return it to the shrine. Come see the old Edo-period town transported back in time with this traditional event!



More Info: <https://ouchi-juku-zaidan.com/detail/649/news-detail-174482.html>

Shinto Rice Planting Festival

7/11 (Thu) - 7/13 (Sat)
(Main event 7/12 (Fri))

One of the top 3 planting festivals in the country, this is the largest festival at the Isasumi Jinja Shrine. Designated as a National Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property, the rice planting ceremony here is considered culturally important. The events include a traditional dance by the farmer's eldest sons, and the highlight: a Shinto rice planting ceremony. This is definitely one to see!

Place: Around Misato Town
• Isasumi Jinja Shrine
• Oda Jinja Shrine (Near Takada Station), and others



Details: (see website for more)
9:30 - Child Procession Start (Isasumi Jinja)
10:00 - Saotome Dance (eldest son's dance)
12:30 - Mikoshi Parade
15:00 - Rice Planting Ceremony (Oda Jinja)
Saotome Dance etc.

More Info:
<https://isasumi.or.jp/otae.html>

Kitakata Retro Fest

7/13 (Sat) 12:00-21:00
7/14 (Sun) 9:00-16:00

Enjoy showcases such as: Tanabata decorations, a car show, retro fashion show, retro machines and more! Also enjoy local sake and the retro vibes of the area.



See the website for flier, and more information.
<https://www.kitakata-retro.jp/news/2018/>

This Month in Aizu

Urabandai Fire Mountain Fest

7/21 (Sun) 16:00~21:30
(Fireworks from 19:30)

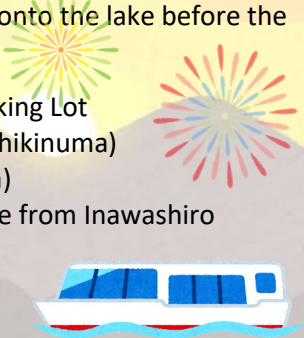
Enjoy a festival celebrating our local Volcano, Bandai-san with fireworks over Lake Hibara! Enjoy food stalls and see lanterns be released onto the lake before the amazing fireworks show!

Place: Lake Hibara-ko 1st Parking Lot
(Near the north end of Goshikinuma)
(Ōbudairahara-1172 Hibara)

Access: Public transit available from Inawashiro Station. Plenty of parking available in area.

More Info:

<https://www.urabandai-inf.com/?p=40762>



Tajima Gionsai

The largest festival Minamiaizu has to offer! At night, local children perform kabuki on moving yatai floats, but the highlight is the Nanahokai Procession (Bride 'parade.')

The Tajima Gionsai is one of the top Gionsai in Japan and attracts visitors and photographers from all over the country. Women dress up in traditional bride clothing and walk in a parade down the main street of Tajima, carrying offerings to the shrine. All together, more than 100 people participate. It's truly a wonderful sight.

Date: July 22-24th (Mon-Wed)

Place: Tajima, Minamiaizu

Details:

Nanahokai (bride) Procession:

07:50am July 23rd

Kabuki Performances: 16:00-late

Access: Aizu Tetsudo Railway to Tajima

More info: (details from 2023, but general info useful)

<https://www.kanko-aizu.com/miru/26278/>



Higashiyama Onsen Bon-odori

8/1 (Thu) - 8/4 (Sun) ~19:10~21:30

Being held for the first time in 5 years, the Higashiyama Onsen Bon-odori is back! 2024 marks the 80th year of holding the event. Traditionally held in mid-August during Obon, this year, it's been moved up to early August so more locals can enjoy it. Come see the Higashiyama Geigi sing the traditional 'Aizu Bandai-san' song!

More Info:

<https://www.minpo.jp/news/moredetail/20240305114998>



Seto-ichi: Pottery Market

8/4 (Sun) 04:00am-10:00am

Buy directly from the artisan! A selection of potters come together from all around and sell their wares at this early morning market every year. It's extremely popular, so you have to get there extra early for the good stuff!

Place: Old Hongo 1st Elementary School Grounds
(2765 Hongo, Aizumisato, Onuma)

Parking available in area.

More info: <https://shorturl.at/FmOzx>
(the hongouyaki official website)



Important Information

New Money Designs From July 3rd ~

Expect to see some new faces on the money! Starting July 3rd 2024, there are new designs for the ¥1000, ¥5000, ¥10,000 bills. The last time the design changed was in 2004. These changes come as Japan hopes to move more towards cashless transactions.

¥1000 - **KITASATO Shibasaburo**, a bacteriologist and co-discoverer of the infectious agent of the bubonic plague etc.



¥5000 - **TSUDA Umeko**, the first Japanese woman to study abroad.



¥10,000 - **SHIBUSAWA Eiichi**, the father of capitalism in Japan.



Our guy, NOGUCHI Hideyo will slowly go out of circulation.







Flat-amount Tax Break: June 2024

The Japanese Government is providing a flat-amount tax reduction for residents earning less than ¥18,050,000. Every resident paying residence tax will receive a ¥10,000 break. To facilitate this tax break, the Government did not collect residence tax from all eligible residents in June. Everyone will also receive an additional ¥30,000 break in income tax. The ¥30,000 income tax break will be applied to income tax from June 2024, until December 2024. Spouses and dependents are also eligible for the ¥30,000 income tax break, which can be applied to the working spouse's reduction. If you end up not having to pay the amount of your tax break in tax during the reduction period, you should receive a pay-out at the end of the year.



For more information, check the Tax Agency's website or speak to your tax representative: (English PDF)

<https://www.nta.go.jp/publication/pamph/gensen/teigakugenzei/136.pdf>

Events in July

1	MO	Closed
2	TU	
3	WE	
4	TH	
5	FR	
6	SA	9:30 Hello World Club 15:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba 
7	SU	Closed
8	MO	Closed
9	TU	
10	WE	
11	TH	
12	FR	
13	SA	10:00 AtsuHana Japanese Convo. Circle 15:00 Little Trip: Flamenco
14	SU	Closed
15	MO	Closed (Sea Day)
16	TU	
17	WE	
18	TH	13:30 Chat-ba Chinese Convo. Circle
19	FR	
20	SA	10:00 FIND English Convo. Circle 10:00 Satellite JICA Desk 15:00 High Schoolers' Discussion 15:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba
21	SU	Closed
22	MO	Closed
23	TU	
24	WE	
25	TH	18:30 Little Trip: Vietnam (JICA)
26	FR	
27	SA	13:30 Newsletter Preparation
28	SU	Closed
29	MO	Closed
30	TU	
31	WE	

Association Events


 **AtsuHana** Japanese Convo. Club.
Speak Japanese in a casual way with many people and have fun with Japanese culture. This time, in the cooking studio! Come make and eat shaved ice! 
(Wear clothes for cooking, or bring an apron.)

When	Saturday, July 13th 10:00-11:30
Place	City Learning Centre (Keikodo) <u>1F Cooking Studio</u>
Limit	20people (first come, first served) <u>SIGN-UP REQUIRED</u>
Cost	¥100 (members) / ¥200 (non-members)
Sign Up	Contact mail@awia.jp by Friday, July 12th

ChAT吧 (ChAT-ba) Chinese Convo. Club.

Interested in speaking Chinese with other learners, and Chinese people? Join the new Chinese Conversation Circle ChAT-ba! Have a fun time using Chinese. Let's chat in Chinese in Aizu, Together! Anyone welcome, no matter your level.

ChAT-ba stands for:
'Ch': Chinese, 'A': Aizu, 'T': Together, and '吧/-ba': 'Let's!' in Chinese.

When	Thursday, July 18th 13:30-15:00
Place	AWIA Office (Sakaemachi 2-14) 
Limit	15 people - FREE! (masks not required)
Sign Up	Contact mail@awia.jp by Wednesday, July 17th

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.

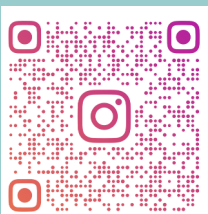
When	Saturday, July 20th 10:00~11:30
Place	City Learning Centre (Keikodo) 3F Rm 1
Sign Up	Contact mail@awia.jp by Friday, July 19th

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

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: June 29th, 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