

Time Out



Iwaki City Monthly Event & Information Guide

Volume 279 January 2015

Cherry Blossom Illumination Yosakoi



Park Festival and Yosakoi was held in front of Iwaki Station on December 20. The event, organised as part of the Cherry Blossom Illumination Festival, featured stalls from the Alios Park Festival, Yosakoi and other performances.

If you have been to the main street in front of Iwaki Station recently, you will have no doubt seen the decorations for the Cherry Blossom Illumination Festival. The festival is organised by the *Iwaki Youth Meeting Place*, with backing from Iwaki City, Tomioka Town and various corporate entities.



Residents of the town of Tomioka were evacuated soon after the Great East Japan Earthquake. At present, residents are not allowed to return to their homes. Many of them live today in temporary housing in Iwaki. Tomioka is famous for its *Yo no Mori*, a long tunnel of cherry blossom trees, which the festival aims to represent using lights. This is the third time the festival has been held.

The Cherry Blossom Illumination Festival began on December 6 and will continue until January 12, so it is not too late to go see the decorations if you have not already. The lights are on from 5pm to 11pm.



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いわき市役所 市民協働課

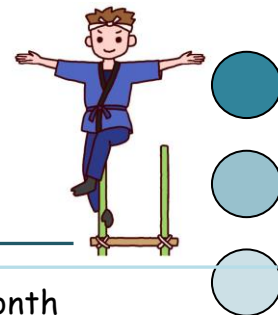
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市民協働課及び公益財団法人いわき市国際交流協会は皆
さんを歓迎します。お気軽にお立ち寄り下さい。お電話、
e-mail をお待ちしております。

Festivals & Events



Your guide to what's happening around Iwaki City and beyond this month

Iwaki

****Please refer to page 3 for events on at Alios and page 6 for IIA events.**

January 1st to 3rd: La La Mew New Year's Events @ Iwaki La La Mew, Onahama. La La Mew will be open from New Year's Day. Events include: *Taiko Performance* from 9:30am and again from 11am, January 1st; *Traditional Festival Music and Three Lion Dance Performance* from 11:30am and again from 1:30pm, January 2nd; *Mochi Pounding Event* from 3pm, January 2nd; *Hula/Tahitian Dance Show* from 11:30am and again from 1:30pm, January 3rd. For inquiries, please contact Iwaki La La Mew: TEL 0246-92-3701.

January 10th: Konpira-sama Festival @ in and around Kotohira Shrine, Yumoto. From early morning to late at night. Kotohira Shrine is one of the three great Konpira Temples in Japan and has a history of over 500 years. Konpira is believed to be the guardian of the sea, well-being of households, prosperity of businesses and traffic safety. On the way to the shrine from the station there will be around 450 stalls selling lucky charms including daruma dolls and bamboo rakes. For inquiries, please contact Kotohira Shrine: TEL 0246-43-1001. Website: <http://kotohira-iwaki.jp/> (Japanese).

January 12th: Okunitama Shrine Festival @ Okunitama Shrine, Taira. This festival is dedicated to Daikoku-sama, the main god of Okunitama Shrine. On the day of the festival, prayers for prosperous businesses as well as household peace and prosperity will be made. Yamato dance and Chigo dance, both designated as Intangible Folk Culture Assets in Iwaki City, will also be performed. For inquiries, please contact Okunitama Shrine: TEL 0246-34-0092. Website: <http://ookunitama.jp/> (Japanese).

January 12th: Mizushugi @ Atago Shrine (in the car park of Numanouchi Community Centre), Numanouchi, Taira. In this roughly 400-year-old festival, cold water is poured on the newlywed men of the area three times. This ceremony serves as a prayer for good health, safety, bountiful catches of fish and a rich harvest. The festival has been designated as an Intangible Folk Culture Asset in Iwaki City. For inquiries, please contact the Iwaki City Board of Education: TEL 0246-22-7540.

January 18th: Anglerfish Hot Pot Tasting Event @ Westside Purpose-built Meeting Space, Iwaki La La Mew, Onahama. From 11am. One bowl will be given to every customer who presents a receipt from a store in La La Mew. Take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy one of the flavours of winter. For inquiries, please contact Iwaki La La Mew: TEL 0246-92-3701.

January 18th: MaO Mini Concert @ 1st floor passenger terminal, Iwaki La La Mew, Onahama. From 1pm. For inquiries, please contact Iwaki La La Mew: TEL 0246-92-3701.

January 31st to February 2nd: Tsurushibina Festival @ Seikoukan building, 10 Kawagishi (and surrounding areas in Kawagishi), Nakanosaku, Onahama. From 10am to 4pm. Many colourful tsurushibina (traditional hanging dolls, considered to be lucky charms) in the shapes of fruits and vegetables, animals etc. will be on display in the Seikoukan as well as the eaves of private houses along the streets of Nakanosaku. There will also be local produce for sale during the festival. If traveling by car, there is parking at the Nakanosaku Fishing Harbour. Please carpool when possible as parking is limited. For inquiries, please contact Mamaya: TEL 0246-55-6280

In the surrounding areas

January 7th: Yanaizu Naked Man Festival @ Enzouji Temple Main Temple Building, Yanaizu Town, Aizu. From 8:30pm. In this festival, a large group of men in loincloths run through the snowy town and up the 113 stone steps to the temple. They then fight to climb the rope inside the temple. For inquiries, please contact the Yanaizu Town Tourism Association: TEL 0241-42-2346, Website <http://aizu-yanaizu.com/> (Japanese).

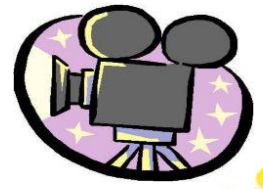
January 7th: Uneme no Sato Winter Fireworks @ In front of the Katahira Community Centre, Katahira Town, Koriyama City. In this traditional local festival, fireworks are shot into the winter night sky to the sound of lively taiko drums. Watching the fireworks is a great way to get inspired and hope for the new year. For inquiries, please contact the Uneme no Sato Winter Fireworks Executive Committee: TEL 024-951-2602.

January 10th: Takada Giant Bale Tug of War @ main street, Aizu Misato Town. After sunset. This festival is held in prayer for good luck and a bountiful harvest. It is said that if the red team wins, business will prosper; if the white team wins, there will be an abundant harvest. For inquiries, please contact the Aizu Misato Town Tourism Association: TEL 0242-56-4882. Website: <http://misatono.jp/> (Japanese).

January 14th: Bange Giant Bale Tug of War @ in front of Aizubange Town Office, Aizubange. In the snow and extreme cold, men in loincloths hold a tug of war for a giant straw bag that is 2.5 metres tall, 4 metres long, and weighs 5 tons. Participants split into an east team and a west team; it is said that if the east wins, rice prices go up, and if the west wins, there will be a rich harvest. For inquiries, please contact the Aizubange Town Tourism Association: TEL 0242-83-2111. Website: <http://www.town.aizubange.fukushima.jp>.

January 24th: Minamiaizu Snowshoe Walk and Snowball Fight @ near Okuaizu Museum, Minamiaizu. Experience the winter in Minamiaizu by taking a walk on the snow and maybe getting into a snowball fight! For inquiries, please contact the Minamiaizu Tourism Association: TEL 0241-62-3000. Website: <http://www.kanko-aizu.com/> (Japanese).

Entertainment Guide



ON @ ALIOS



January TV **Movie Picks**

Thu 1	Sayonara Kuro (Japanese)	Satoshi Tsumabuki	BSP	1:25am
Thu 1	The Girl Who Leapt Through Time (1983) (Japanese)	Tomoyo Harada	BSP	3:20am
Thu 1	Drops of Heaven (Japanese)	Shosuke Tanihara	BSP	5:10am
Thu 1	Sakai-ke no Shiawase (Japanese)	Tomochika	BSP	7:10am
Thu 1	The Italian Job (2003)	Mark Wahlberg	BSP	8:55am
Thu 1	The Shawshank Redemption	Tim Robbins	BSP	10:50am
Thu 1	Stand by Me	Wil Wheaton	BSP	1:15pm
Thu 1	The Green Mile	Tom Hanks	BSP	2:50pm
Fri 2	Shall We Dance? (1996) (Japanese)	Koji Yakusho	FTV	1:50am
Sat 3	Look Who's Talking	John Travolta	KFB	2:10am
Mon 5	Taken	Liam Neeson	BSP	9:00pm
Fri 9	Central Station (Portuguese)	Fernanda Montenegro	BSP	11:45pm
Fri 16	Things You Can Tell Just by Looking at Her	Glenn Close	BSP	11:45pm
Mon 19	Music and Lyrics	Hugh Grant	BSP	9:00pm
Fri 23	Laundry (Japanese)	Yosuke Kubozuka	BSP	11:45pm
Mon 26	Field of Dreams	Kevin Costner	BSP	9:00pm
Fri 30	Cinema Paradiso (Italian)	Philippe Noiret	BSP	11:15pm
Sat 31	The Magic Hour (Japanese)	Koichi Sato	BSP	7:30pm

Movie names, times and other information are believed to be correct at the time of printing. However, information changes quickly, so please confirm before making plans.

Pole Pole Cinemas are located in the Sekaikan Building near Iwaki Station. TEL: 0246-22-3394. Adults: ¥1800; university and SHS: ¥1400; seniors (sixty years and older), JHS and under: ¥1000. The first of every month is discount day: ¥1000. **Movies after 6:30pm are ¥1000.** Monday is Men's Day ¥1000, Wednesday is Student's Day ¥1000, Thursday is Couple's Day ¥2000 (per couple), and Friday is Ladies' Day ¥1000. 3D films cost an additional ¥300.

Sun 11 **Furusato Gaeri - Film Screening and Discussion with the Film's Scriptwriter 'Kuririnchan'**
Small Theatre. From 1pm (doors open at 12:30pm). Tickets: ¥999.

Mon 12 **Watanabe Ballet Art School Recital**
Main Theatre. From 1pm (doors open at 12:30pm). Free entry (numbered ticket required).

Mon 12 **Sendai Philharmonic Orchestra New Year Concert**
Main Hall. From 3pm (doors open at 2:30pm). Tickets: S ¥4,000 (students ¥2,500), A ¥3,500 (students ¥2,000), B ¥3,000 (students ¥1,500). Tickets are an additional ¥500 when purchased on the day. Children below primary school age will not be admitted.

Wed 14 **Hiroshi Miyama & Yukino Ichikawa Joint Concert**
Main Theatre. Afternoon performance from 2pm (doors open at 1:30pm), evening performance from 6pm (doors open at 5:30pm). Tickets: ¥4,900.

Sat 24 **Kaori Futenma**
Album Release Commemoration Concert
Small Theatre. From 3pm (doors open at 2:30pm). Tickets: ¥3,500. Children below primary school age will not be admitted.

Sat 24 **The GOSPO 246 Groovies - Gospel Live 2015**
Vol. A plan for having a happy brain
Main Theatre. From 5pm (doors open at 4pm). Tickets: ¥1,500 (¥1,800 on the day), primary school students and under: ¥1,000 (¥1,200 on the day).

Alios Ticket Centre: 0246-22-5800

For further details including a complete schedule of events at Alios, please visit the website: <http://iwaki-alios.jp/> (Japanese)

Movies@Pole Pole Iwaki

Yo-Kai Watch the Movie: The Secret is Created, Nyan! (Japanese)

Haruka Tomatsu

The Vancouver Asahi (Japanese)

Satoshi Tsumabuki

Big Hero 6 (Japanese)

Yutaro Honjo

Blue Spring Ride (Japanese)

Tsubasa Honda

Kamen Rider Drive & Gaim: Movie War Full Throttle (Japanese) *From December 13*

Ryoma Takeuchi

Gone Girl (English)

Ben Affleck

Parasyte (Japanese)

Shota Sometani

Fury (English)

Brad Pitt

Miracle: Devil Claus' Love and Magic (Japanese) *Until January 9*

Masaki Aiba

Kamisama no Iu Tori (Japanese) *Until January 19*

Sota Fukushi

Pale Moon (Japanese)

Rie Miyazawa

ST Aka to Shiro no Sosa File: The Movie (Japanese) *From January 10*

Tatsuya Fujiwara

Ressha Sentai ToQger vs. Kyoryuger: The Movie (Japanese) *From January 17*

Jun Shison

Miyuki Nakajima 'Enkai 2012-3 Movie Version' (Japanese) *From January 24, two weeks only*

Miyuki Nakajima

Annie (English) *From January 24*

Quvenzhané Wallis

Aikatsu: The Movie (Japanese) *From January 24*

Sumire Morohoshi

Exodus: Gods and Kings (Languages not released at time of printing) *From January 30*

Christian Bale

Joker Game (Japanese) *From January 31*

Kazuya Kamenashi

Maestro! (Japanese) *From January 31*

Tori Matsuzaka

Pole Pole Ticket Office: 0246-22-3394



Iwaki Hospital Guide



The following is a guide to hospitals open on Sundays and public holidays in Iwaki City during January.

Thursday, January 1

Onahama Area	Onahama Seikyo Hospital	9-5	53-4374
Nakoso Area	Yabuki Hospital	9-5	63-1818
Nakoso Area	Matsuzaki Naika (internal)	9-5	63-3358
Joban Area	Kato Naika Clinic (internal)	9-5	72-0072

Friday, January 2

Onahama Area	Nakamura Hospital	9-5	53-3141
Nakoso Area	Kureha General Hospital	9-5	63-2181
Tono Area	Kojima Naika (internal)	9-5	74-1500
Joban Area	Sakamoto Naika Ichoka Clinic (internal & gastroenterology)	9-5	72-2022

Saturday, January 3

Taira Area	New Town Jin Naika Clinic (internal & nephrology)	9-12	46-0606
Onahama Area	Iwaki Chuo Hospital Fuzoku Shinryojo	9-5	53-3511
Nakoso Area	Kushida Hospital	9-5	63-3202
Nakoso Area	Saito Naika Clinic (internal)	9-5	77-1001
Joban Area	Yoshinari Naika (internal)	9-5	42-2220

Sunday, January 4

Taira Area	Takahashi Clinic	9-12, 2-5	46-1231
Taira Area	Yamaguchi Iin	9-12, 2-5	24-1811
Taira Area	Shirai Geka Ichoka Iin (surgery & gastroenterology)	8:30-12	25-3788
Uchigo Area	Suda Iin	8:30-12	27-6060
Onahama Area	Kashima Hospital	9-5	58-8010
Nakoso Area	Kojima Jiai Hospital	9-5	63-5141
Joban Area	Tokiwakai Joban Hospital	9-5	43-4175

Sunday, January 11

Taira Area	Takahashi Clinic	9-12, 2-5	46-1231
Taira Area	Shirai Geka Ichoka Iin (surgery & gastroenterology)	8:30-12	25-3788
Uchigo Area	Suda Iin	8:30-12	27-6060
Onahama Area	Kadoya Seikei Naika (orthopaedics & internal)	9-5	54-4047
Nakoso Area	Nakoso Hospital	9-5	65-7755
Joban Area	Iwaki Yumoto Hospital	9-5	42-3188
Taira Area	Yamagiwa Kodomo Clinic (paediatrics)	9-12	28-8686

Monday, January 12

Uchigo Area	Suda Iin	8:30-12	27-6060
Onahama Area	Michiya Naika Ichoka (internal & gastroenterology)	9-5	58-4180
Nakoso Area	Iwaki Minami Clinic	9-5	77-1663
Joban Area	Takahashi Hifuka Clinic (dermatology)	9-5	72-1272

Sunday, January 18

Taira Area	Takahashi Clinic	9-12, 2-5	46-1231
Taira Area	Yamaguchi Iin	9-12, 2-5	24-1811
Taira Area	Shirai Geka Ichoka Iin (surgery & gastroenterology)	8:30-12	25-3788
Uchigo Area	Suda Iin	8:30-12	27-6060
Taira Area	Shiga Seikeigeka Geka (orthopaedics & surgery)	9-12	23-5050
Onahama Area	Yokodai Clinic	9-5	55-5150
Nakoso Area	Kushida Hospital	9-5	63-3202
Joban Area	Kazawa Icho Seikeigeka (gastroenterology & orthopaedics)	9-5	42-2198
Taira Area	Wakamatsu Iin (paediatrics)	9-12	22-3838

Sunday, January 25

Taira Area	Takahashi Clinic	9-12, 2-5	46-1231
Taira Area	Sakamoto Seikeigeka Iin (orthopaedic surgery)	9-12, 2-5	38-2830
Taira Area	Shirai Geka Ichoka Iin (surgery & gastroenterology)	8:30-12	25-3788
Uchigo Area	Suda Iin	8:30-12	27-6060
Onahama Area	Ishii Iin	9-5	54-5330
Nakoso Area	Kureha General Hospital	9-5	63-2181
Joban Area	Joban Jin Hinyoki Clinic (nephrology & urology)	9-5	43-1200
Taira Area	Fukuda Shonika Iin (paediatrics)	9-12	22-4272

Sunday, February 1

Taira Area	Takahashi Clinic	9-12, 2-5	46-1231
Taira Area	Yamaguchi Iin	9-12, 2-5	24-1811
Taira Area	Shirai Geka Ichoka Iin (surgery & gastroenterology)	8:30-12	25-3788
Uchigo Area	Suda Iin	8:30-12	27-6060
Onahama Area	Kusano Clinic	9-5	56-1060
Nakoso Area	Nakoso Hospital	9-5	65-7755
Joban Area	Tokiwakai Joban Hospital	9-5	43-4175
Onahama Area	Konnai Kodomo Clinic (paediatrics)	9-12	73-8815

Sunday, February 8

Taira Area	Takahashi Clinic	9-12, 2-5	46-1231
Taira Area	Yamauchi Clinic	9-12, 2-5	25-8181
Taira Area	Shirai Geka Ichoka Iin (surgery & gastroenterology)	8:30-12	25-3788
Uchigo Area	Suda Iin	8:30-12	27-6060
Taira Area	Shiga Seikeigeka Geka (orthopaedics & surgery)	9-12	23-5050
Onahama Area	Nakamura Hospital	9-5	53-3141
Nakoso Area	Kushida Hospital	9-5	63-3202
Joban Area	Iwaki Yumoto Hospital	9-5	42-3188
Onahama Area	Shiga Kodomo Clinic (paediatrics)	9-12	58-5505

Wednesday, February 11

Uchigo Area	Suda Iin	8:30-12	27-6060
Taira Area	Hasegawa Seikeigeka Iin (orthopaedic surgery)	8:30-11:30	25-5691
Onahama Area	Kashima Hospital	9-5	58-8010
Nakoso Area	Sato Maternity Clinic (obstetrics)	9-5	65-6900
Joban Area	Iwaki Kusakidai Sogo Clinic	9-5	28-1145

Emergencies

Emergency Dental Care

All emergency dental care will be provided at the **General Health and Welfare Centre (Sogo Hoken Fukushima Senta)** in Uchigo. This centre is open on Sundays and all national holidays from 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm. The reception closes at 3:30pm. For more information please contact the centre on 27-8620.

After Hours and Holiday Emergency Treatment Centre

(Located in Iwaki Kyoritsu Hospital)

If you need to see a doctor urgently in the evening on a weekday or on a weekend or public holiday, the **After Hours and Holiday Emergency Treatment Centre** is open at the following times:

Weekdays: 8pm - 12am

Saturdays: 8pm - 7am (next day)

Sundays: 1pm - 12am.

Public Holidays: 9am - 12am.

TEL: 27-1208

Please make sure whenever possible to bring a Japanese-speaker with you when visiting the hospital in Iwaki.

Emergency Contact Numbers

Police: 110

Fire & Ambulance: 119

Children Emergency, First-Aid Telephone Consultations

The Fukushima Prefecture Children Emergency, First-Aid Telephone Consultation Centre (*Fukushima-ken Kodomo Kyukyu Denwa Sodan*) is a free telephone service that provides professional advice when your child has become sick during the night. This telephone service is available in Japanese only.

TEL: 024-521-3790

or #8000

From 7pm to 8am.

Counselling Services for Foreigners

Counselling Centre for Women: Counsellors can assist you in Japanese, Chinese, English, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Thai and Tagalog. Available languages differ each day. TEL: 050-1501-2803. Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm.

OC NET: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 7pm - 9pm. TEL: 03-3730-0556. English, Chinese, Portuguese, Korean, Spanish, and Thai.

TELL Lifeline: TELL is a professional non-profit organisation that provides counselling to English-speaking foreigners all over Japan. The Lifeline is staffed by highly trained volunteer phone counsellors and provides free non-judgemental phone counselling and information 365 days a year from 9am to 4pm and 7pm to 11pm. TEL: 03-5774-0992. For more information, check out their website at <http://www.telljp.com> or e-mail them at admin@telljp.com.

Safety and Consultation Centre for Women (Police Box at Iwaki Train Station): For people who have suffered from any crime-related problem or injury. Free. Can only speak Japanese. 10am-6pm daily. TEL: (0246) 23-9344.



Occurrences of Crimes and Traffic Accidents etc.

1 The Situation in the Area in front of Iwaki Station (as of the end of November 2014)

There has been an increase in the number of office break-ins and other such thefts in the area in front of Iwaki Station. Bicycle thefts continue to occur at an unchanging rate. Roughly 70% of bicycles that are stolen are not locked. As a precaution against bicycle theft, remember to double lock your bicycle.

• Cleaning Up the Iwaki Station Shopping District

The Iwaki Station shopping district is well known by the citizens of Iwaki and tourists. With the addition of recovery workers, the shopping district is extremely active due to the many customers frequenting restaurants and bars.

At the same time, the number of foreigners touting for customers etc. is increasing. Incidents of trouble breaking out between customers have also been occurring. There are concerns over the effect this has on public order.

Please be aware that if you enter a store after being touted, you may get caught up in various kinds of trouble.

The police will be strengthening patrols with the aim of reviving the area as a lively, safe and secure shopping district and will take action in line with the "Iwaki City Touting Prevention Act" (provisional name), which is to be enacted by Iwaki City.

2 The Situation Concerning Traffic Accidents

• Frequent Occurrence of Fatal Accidents

There is a high incidence of fatal accidents in Iwaki. As of the end of November there have been 18 fatalities in 17 cases. (The number at the end of November of last year was 6 fatalities in 6 cases.)

Characteristics:

- The elderly are often the victims of accidents.
- Accidents frequently occur during morning and evening commute hours.
- Accidents are more common in the outskirts of the city than in urban areas.
- Accidents often occur on city roads and national roads.
- Accidents often occur at curves.

* Be sure to turn your headlamps on early, do not speed, and drive safely.

* Drink driving is a serious crime. It brings about situations that cannot be undone, including high fines and prison time, revocation of one's driving licence, and dismissal from one's place of employment. Never drink and drive.

3 "All Prefectural Residents Working Towards Preventing Accidents and Criminal Cases over the New Year's Break" Campaign

From December 10 to January 7, the "All Prefectural Residents Working Towards Preventing Accidents and Criminal Cases over the New Year's Break" campaign will be carried out.

The police will be actively working on priority issues such as accident prevention and crime prevention. The police are working hard so that you, the citizens of Iwaki, can live safely and at ease. We ask for your cooperation.

Disaster Preparedness Class

Learn to Prepare Simple Japanese Food Using Stockpiled Food Supplies

Many terrible disasters occurred both at home and abroad in 2014. We can never know when or where a disaster will strike. What sort of preparations do we need to take in case a disaster were ever to strike leaving lifelines down? Let's take some time to consider the food we would need to survive. At this class we will learn to prepare simple Japanese food using stockpiled food supplies, while considering nutritional value.

- Date:** February 24 (Tue), 2015
Time: 10am – 1pm
Venue: Iwaki City Cultural Centre, cooking room
Content: Learning to prepare simple Japanese food using stockpiled food
Instructor: Ms Toyoko Hirasawa,
Fee: Head of the Uchigo Branch of the Iwaki City Council of Health Promoters
Capacity: IIA members 1,000 yen, non-members 1,500 yen
Participants: 30 people
Foreign residents of Iwaki, general citizens, anyone interested in the theme



Learn English for Hospitality

At this English course, you will learn conversational English that to use when receiving someone. Supposing you were to go on a homestay overseas, what sort of English could you use to communicate a courteous and considerate attitude to your host? Moreover, when welcoming someone to Iwaki from abroad, what sort of conversation could you have to thoroughly convey through words the spirit of hospitality? There will be a daytime and an evening class on each day. You can choose to go to either of the classes or both.

- Date:** February 17 (Tue), 19 (Thu), 26 (Thu); 2015
Time: 10am - noon (intermediate), 6:30pm - 8:30pm (beginner)
Venue: Iwaki Social Welfare Centre (Shakai Fukushi Centre), 1st floor volunteer room
Content: English for Hospitality
Instructor: Sebastian Webster (from Australia), Iwaki City Coordinator for International Relations
Fee: IIA members/students 1,000 yen, non-members 3,000 yen
Capacity: 15 people (each of the classes)
Participants: Anyone interested in the theme



Stress Management & HEART CAFÉ



- Date:** February 14 (Sat), 2015
Time: 10am – noon
Venue: Iwaki City Cultural Centre, large conference room 1
Content: Through experiencing art therapy, participants will identify their stresses and learn how to clear their minds of worry.
Instructor: Ms Kou Ukawa Lecturer at Taisho University, School of Human and Environmental Studies, Faculty of Human Studies
Fee: IIA members 500 yen, Non-members 1,000 yen
Capacity: 30 people
Participants: Foreign residents of Iwaki, general citizens, anyone interested in the theme

- Date:** February 14 (Sat), 2015
Time: 1pm – 3pm
Venue: Iwaki City Cultural Centre, large conference room 1
Content: Thinking together about the mental wellbeing and support of parents and children struggling with childrearing.
Instructor: Ms Kou Ukawa Lecturer at Taisho University, School of Human and Environmental Studies, Faculty of Human Studies
Fee: Free
Capacity: 30 people
Participants: Foreign residents of Iwaki, general citizens, anyone interested in the theme

Children are very welcome!



Spanish Cooking Class

The Spanish Cooking Class scheduled to be held at 10am on January 17 (Sat), 2015 has reached the maximum capacity of 30 people. Applications are now closed. To everyone who applied, please bring an apron with you on the day. The venue is the cooking room in the Chuodai Community Centre.



漢字 Kanji Corner

Ryakuji – Shorthand Characters

Ryakuji are a type of simplified kanji that is mostly used in handwriting. They can be used to take memos quickly. Ryakuji are not official simplifications; you won't find them in a newspaper or on a test, and are unlikely to find them in a textbook either. However, if you ever have to read someone else's handwriting, you may encounter a few. Moreover, you may find it helpful to use ryakuji when taking notes yourself. As they are not standardised, there can be no comprehensive list of ryakuji, but here are a few of the more common ones:

門	→	𠂔	師	→	𠂔	離	→	𠂔
留	→	𠂔	權	→	𠂔	議	→	𠂔
器	→	𠂔	品	→	𠂔	機	→	𠂔
職	→	𠂔	第	→	𠂔	層	→	𠂔
曜	→	𠂔	質	→	𠂔	義	→	𠂔
個	→	𠂔	慶	→	𠂔	働	→	𠂔
凶	→	𠂔	応	→	𠂔	摩	→	𠂔
經	→	𠂔	選	→	𠂔	魔	→	𠂔

If a simplification for one shape exists, the same simplification often exists in other characters that share that shape. For example, the characters 問, 間, 聞 and 悶 can all be simplified by writing the 門 radical as 𠂔. Other characters are simplified by replacing a phonetic component with katakana or a Latin character to indicate the phonetic value. The ryakuji for the characters 凶, 機, 議, 層, 慶, 応 etc. are examples of this.

For a long list of ryakuji, see <http://pbbs.web.fc2.com/etc/ryakuji.htm> (Japanese).

If you decide to use ryakuji in your own handwriting, just don't forget how to write the correct characters!

2014 in one character: 税

The Japanese Kanji Aptitude Testing Foundation's public ballot for *Kanji of the Year* was discussed in volume 277 (November) of Time Out. On December 12, it was announced that the character 税 "tax" was voted to the number one spot, taking 5.2% of the votes. The character reflects the raising of the consumption tax from 5% to 8% that occurred on April 1.

From the Editor

In Japan, there are many traditions of observing the "firsts" of the new year. For example, on the morning of the January 1, many people travel to the coast or climb to the top of a mountain to view the first sunrise (初日の出 *hatsuhinode*). Another tradition, the first calligraphy (書き初め *kakizome*), involves writing an auspicious character or poem on the January 2. The first dream (初夢 *hatsuyume*), the dream one sees on the night between January 1 and 2, is said to foretell one's luck for the coming year. Many shrines often get crowded during the New Year's period with people making their first visit to a shrine (初詣 *hatsumode*). People may also make note of the first time they work after the break (仕事始め *shigotohajime*), the first tea ceremony (初釜 *hatsugama*), the first time retailers conduct business (初売り *hatsuuri*), amongst others. If you are in Japan for the New Year, you may want to observe some of these yourself.

Stay safe over the break and have a great 2015!!

Sebastian



JANUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 28	Dec 29	Dec 30	Dec 31 	1 New Year's Day 	2 	3
4	5 City offices and facilities closed from December 27 (Sat) to January 4 (Sun)	6	7	8 Primary and JHS Opening Ceremonies	9	10 Konpira-sama Festival  Wa
11	12 Coming of Age Day 	13	14	15	16	17  Spanish Cooking Class  Wa  Très bien (Cérémonie du thé avec des kimonos)
18	19  Southern Cross	20	21	22	23	24
25	26  Southern Cross	27	28  Très bien	29	30	31 Tsurushibina Festival Begins



IIA Custom-made Plans



Très bien – Inquiries to Yamazaki-san 090-1934-0506



Wa – Inquiries to Sho-san 070-6493-2859



Southern Cross – Inquiries to Hosono-san: thehosonoes@docomo.ne.jp, Sebastian: sebastian-w@city.iwaki.fukushima.jp



For more information on any of the IIA events, please contact Suko-san 22-7409

February 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28