

Chigasaki Breeze

Truly great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave, and impossible to forget.

No.0003

SETSUBUN 節分



Setsubun (eve of the first day of spring)

On February 3, a nation-wide ceremony called **MAME-MAKI (bean-throwing)** is observed at homes, shrines and temples. It's a part of **SETSUBUN** period which literally means the parting of the seasons.

On that day, before it gets dark, masters of homes open all the doors and windows and fling handfuls of parched soybeans loudly yelling "**FUKU-WA UCHI! ONI-WA SOTO!**". The louder the better! That means "**In with good luck! Out with the demons!**"

The purpose of this customs is to invite good luck or fortune and ward off whatever brings misfortune to your family. Why **MAME**? It's because **MAME** is believed to bring good luck "**FUKU**" and because "**MAME**" can be read as beans and the eyes of the demons in terms of its phonetic sound and kanji character. On this day throughout Japan, you may hear such loud voices here and there in residential area. You will be interested to know that new year's luck will come if you eat the same number of scattered beans as your age. The form and significance are gradually changing, but **Setsubun** is a traditional holiday that's still widely observed.

What's up at "KOHMIN-KAN"

KOHMIN-KAN is a public hall operated by the city and there are five of them in Chigasaki. It's similar to the COMMUNITY CENTER which is also operated by the city but they are different facilities. **KOHMIN-KAN** offers rooms free to citizens for meetings, group activities such as singing, dancing, flower arrangement, cooking, etc. All **KOHMIN-KANs** are offering various programs for all family members throughout the year. These programs are announced in advance in the Chigasaki public newspaper issued on the 1st and 15th of every month. At this time of the year, they hold the '**KOHMIN-KAN Festival**'. Some of the scheduled events are shown below:

- (1) March 3 ~ 5 at **Nango Kohmin-kan**
Pre-events on February 7, 14, 21 (Tuesday)
Walk the paths to follow the Chigasaki history
Maximum 30 people. Call 86-4355 for reservation.
- (2) March 10 ~ 12 at **Tsurumine Kohmin-kan**
The event on the last day is titled "**Let's sing Musical Songs**". You can join everyone singing popular musical songs such as "**Singing in the Rain**", "**Shall we dance**", etc.
- (3) February 24 ~ 26 at **Kowada Kohmin-kan**

All the staff at KOHMIN-KANs will be looking forward to your visit and participation.

HINA-MATSURI 雛祭り

The Dolls' Festival



Hina-Matsuri or the **Doll's Festival** taking place on March 3 is an occasion for a family to wish for young girls' good health and happiness. Most families with daughters celebrate by displaying special dolls together with peach flowers, colored lozenge-shaped rice cakes, special sweetened rice puffs, white sake containing rice malt, etc. The origin of **Hina-Matsuri** goes back thousands of years when the sin and misfortune were believed to transfer to dolls at the imperial and aristocratic families in the **Heian Period (794-1185)**. When this practice became popular among common people, it developed to girls playing with dolls and turned into **Hina-Matsuri**.

Those dolls are called **Hina-Ningyo (Special dolls for the Dolls' Festival)**. They are relatively small and all the decoration took the current form in the **Edo Period (1603~1867)**. A pair of dolls representing the **Emperor and Empress** are placed on the highest tier of a five-tiered or seven-tiered altar covered by red carpet. Under them come the three court ladies and on the third tier the five court musicians with other decorations. Recently many people have simpler sets of dolls and sometimes people display just the Emperor and Empress dolls placing them on a shelf. **The Hina-Matsuri** is also called the **Feast of Peach Blossoms** as the festival takes place when the peach blossoms start to bloom. **Hatsu-Zekku is the First Feast of Peach Blossoms for a girl to have.**



PLUM BLOSSOM AND 'SHORAI-AN' HERMITAGE

It's not a large orchard but there are over 50 plum trees at **Takasuna Ryokuchi** garden located next to the City Library and Museum; about 5 minutes walk south from the Chigasaki Station. To watch their beautiful pink and white flowers, you don't need to travel so far as to Odawara and Atami. Following cherry blossoms or **SAKURA**, watching **plum blossoms** or **UME** is another traditional joy for the most Japanese for the last 1,000 years.

There is an old Japanese style tea house, or hermitage called "**SHORAI-AN**" quietly located in a clump of trees. It's one of the precious assets of Chigasaki City and you can enjoy a typical Japanese garden with a pond and stone lanterns as well. On February 12, they perform the **Plum Festival** or **UME Matsuri** and there is also a **tea ceremony**. Everyone can visit and of course, foreigners are welcome.

Why not checkout the fragrant plum flowers and relax at Shorai-An!

People In Town

Julian Bamford

I love Chigasaki!

Don't apologize when you speak English!



It's been 25 years since Professor Bamford came to Japan from a town in central England called **Uttoxeter**. He was a student at that time wanting to stay a year to learn **ZAZEN** (religious meditation sitting cross-legged) at **Sojiji Temple** in Tsurumi, Yokohama.

He also started to teach English to local Japanese children, and decided to remain in Japan. He liked Japan and the Japanese so much. Eighteen years ago, he was invited to teach English at **Bunkyo University** and that is how he came to **Chigasaki**. He had no idea about Chigasaki then.

He thinks that Chigasaki is becoming fashionable and convenient, so he rarely needs to visit Tokyo. He likes riding his bicycle along the beach, and enjoys visiting **Yukai Sokai** hot spring in Kita Chigasaki. He sometimes joins a group beach cleaning at Southern Beach. He is also enthusiastic enough to teach English not only to his students at the university but also to Chigasaki citizens. He opens his office at all times so people from outside can come freely and study English. Any person who is interested in learning English is welcome there.

He says, 'no tipping' for a cab driver was the first surprise living in Japan. He also feels that Japanese don't need to apologize saying they have no confidence speaking in English. He doesn't apologize for his poor Japanese, he says. He just does his best!

His interest right now is to get to know his neighbors better, and to take an active part in his local community. (By H. Yuge)

IAC ACTIVITIES



● FOREIGNERS WILL DISCUSS IN JAPANESE

One of the IAC's major annual events: **Japanese Speech Contest** is going to be held in a form of free discussion in Japanese by foreigners this year and it is scheduled on March 26, Sunday from 13:30 through 15:30.

Participants will include a few guest speakers and Japanese class students. If you are interested in participating or need more information, please send an e-mail to Chigasaki Breeze by February 20 to chigasaki@7jp.com

● IAC Orientation

For those who wish to join IAC or who has an interest in IAC, an orientation is offered every month at **the SUPPORT CENTER** located right next to the ENEOS gas station on CHUO-DORI. It's scheduled to be held on the 4th (the first Saturday) in February, and on the 7th (the first Tuesday) in March from 13:30 through 15:00.

GARBAGE COLLECTION CALENDAR

Although we have announced that we were going to attach a Garbage Collection Calendar in December issue, we have decided to attach it to the April issue. The new fiscal year starts in April and the city's plan will be renewed too. Thank you for your understanding.

Medical Information Series III

Doctors Available for Consultation in English

Morioka Seikei Geka Clinic (O, Rh)	Motomachi 15-1	82-6766
Yamaoka Clinic (I, G, R, C, S, P)	Motomachi 6-5	87-6221
Yuge Jibi-Inko Ka Clinic (OR)	Motomachi 4-33	86-8368
Ozasa Clinic (I, S, G, C, R, P)	Hishinuma 1-4-11	55-0201
Olive Clinic (I, R, C)	Enzo 1365	51-1081

Remarks: O = Orthopedic surgery Rh = Rehabilitation
I = Internal Medicine G = Gastroenterology R = Respiratory Medicine
C = Cardiology S = Surgery P = Proctology

Everyday Conversation

What do you say in such a situation?

At a clinic:

1. Onaka ga **shikushiku** itain-desu. **Onaka:** stomach
おなかがシクシク痛いんです。
(I have a nagging pain in the stomach) **shikushiku** itai: a nagging pain
2. Atama ga **zukizuki** itain-desu. **Atama:** head
あたまが痛いんです。 **Zukizuki** itai: throb with pain
(My head is throbbing with pain.)
3. Kinoh kara i ga kimochi waruin-desu. **i:** stomach
昨日から胃が気持ち悪いです。 **kimochi ga warui:** feel bad in the stomach
(I feel bad in the stomach since yesterday.)
4. **Hakike** ga surun-desu. **Hakike:** nauseating feeling
吐き気がするんです。
(I feel like throwing up/vomiting.)
5. **Ha** ga itain-desu. **Ha:** tooth
歯が痛いんです。
I have a toothache. **Ha-ita:** Toothache

CONSULTATION FOR FOREIGN RESIDENTS

Municipal Counseling Service for foreign residents is available on every 3rd Wednesday of a month from 10:00 to 15:00 at **BUNKA-SUISHINKA** Section of the city hall. For inquiries, call the city hall at 0467-82-1111 extension ;3309



Kunikida Doppo and Chigasaki

Kunikida Doppo (1871~1908) was one of the famous novelists in **the Meiji era**. His early works were romantic but later in his career, he became a pioneer of naturalism.

He was born in Choshi, Chiba Prefecture but spent his childhood in Yamaguchi Prefecture. While he was at **Tokyo Senmon Gakko** school, the predecessor of **Waseda University**, he contributed essays to several magazines. In the same period, he was baptized and became a Christian.

Because of a philosophical conflict among students, he left the university. After experiencing several occupations including teaching, he joined the Min-yu-sha newspaper publisher in 1894 where he worked as a war reporter on the Sino-Japanese War. His reports from the battlefield, **Aitei-tsushin** (The letters to my beloved younger brother) caught on well with readers.

While editing magazines such as **Kokumin-no-tomo** (For-the-People) and **Kinji-gaho** (Illustrated reports on current issues), he published his first novel **Gen-oji** (Uncle Gen). He wrote many books during his short life and his particularly famous works are **Musashino**, **Wasureenu-hitobito** (Unforgettable people), **Unmei** (Destiny), and his own diary **Azamukazaru-no-ki** (Honest Diary).

In 1905, he contracted tuberculosis and tried to be restful at Choshi and Zushi. But his condition got worse and in 1908 he came to **Chigasaki** where there was the only sanatorium at the time in Japan "**Nankoin**" and the mild climate and fresh air was suitable for the patients. He stayed at **Nankoin** but despite his fighting, he died of tuberculosis in the same year. His final work **Sakyu** (Dune) was plotted while he was in Chigasaki. The setting of the story was Chigasaki but it was left unfinished. You can find his monument here in Chigasaki, near **the Chigasaki Baseball Stadium** in **Nakakaigan**.

Chigasaki Breeze will be issued every other month. If you wish to subscribe, please send ¥480 in stamps for 6 issues to International Association of Chigasaki c/o Bunka Suishinka, Chigasaki City Hall, 1-1-1 Chigasaki, Chigasaki City 253-0041. Article submissions and items for classified ads are most welcome either via e-mail chigasaki@7jp.com or by post to the above address. Chief editor: Yutaka Shimada Editing staff: Y. Itoh, E. Iwamoto, S. Nakane, K. Nitani, A. Sakai, M. Uchiyama, Y. Wada, and H. Yuge.

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