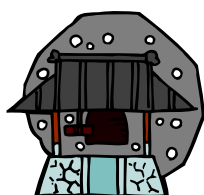


Chigasaki Breeze

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

SHIWASU

師走



Now, we're running into the busiest season in the year in two ways; one is related to people's finances and the other to people's prayer. People get busy to catch up with what they couldn't handle by the end of December or *Shiwasu*. This includes, in good old days, paying back the money they borrowed during the year. Common citizens were living in that sort of environment before. In the meantime, "pine" decorations are put up at the gate of one's house by the 28th as the number nine (pronounced as *ku*) phonetically reminds a person of sufferings (*ku*), and at midnight on New Year Eve (*Joya*), millions of people visit temples throughout Japan to listen to the sound of bells rung 108 times which eliminate 108 kinds of sins and delusions of human beings. In January or *Shogatsu*, people celebrate the New Year by visiting shrines, wearing beautiful kimonos, and having all kinds of goodies such as *Ozoni* (soup with rice cake), *Otoso* (New Year's Special Sake), and so forth. Hope you will have a good year in this way.

SHOGATSU

正月



Allowance for Children

The city provides an allowance for families with children for them to grow in a sound environment as they are expected to lead the next generation.

{Objectives}

Families who are raising children up to six years-old and whose income does not exceed the level of the income restriction ceilings shown in the table* hereunder.

{The amount of allowance (monthly amount)}

Flat ¥10,000 for children under 3 years-old of age. ∇¥5,000 for the first and second child over 3 years-old of age, and ¥10,000 for the third child and above.

{The month of payment}

Pay the allowance to cover up to the previous month respectively in February, June, and October.

{Procedures for the claim}

Come to the counter of Kosodate-Shien Ka (The Child Care Section) taking the bank deposit note with the claimer's name (except Post Office) and a copy of your Health Insurance Certificate (to the office in case of public servant officials).

Give notice to the city hall in the following cases:

When you move out to another city. ∇When there is an increase or decrease in the number of children to whom the allowance is paid. ∇When residence and or family name changes. ∇At the time of retirement (when you leave a welfare pension). ∇When recipients become public servants. ∇When sponsors of the family accounts get changed. ∇When supporters of children to whom allowance is given get changed.

For further details, consult with the Child Care Section as mentioned.

* Income restriction ceiling in fiscal 2007

Number of Relative Dependents (*1)	Fiscal 2006 Income Amount in ¥000 (*2)	
	National Pension Participants/Non-participants	Welfare Pension/Mutual Aid Assoc. Participants
0	4,600	5,320
One person	4,980	5,700
Two persons	5,360	6,080
Three persons	5,740	6,460

*1 - - - At each time when the number of relative dependents increases, the ceiling level goes up by ¥380,000.

*2 - - - The amount of Deduction from Petty Losses, Medical Costs, Installments and other costs for Mutual Aid Assoc. of Small/Med-size enterprises, or deduction (special) for the physically handicapped, widows/widowers, working students, elderly support by relatives (¥60,000 per person), and an amount of flat deduction (¥80,000).

How to Save Money on Medical Care

The Japanese Health Insurance system is getting more complicated year by year and even we Japanese sometimes find it difficult to understand. One example is the so-called Tokutei Ryoyō-hi or Special Medical Fee. It means we will be requested to pay an extra charge if we visit any large hospitals like the Municipal Hospital for the first time without a referral from a local clinic or your family doctor. The extra charge is not included in your health insurance and it cannot be declared on your tax unless it is correctly written on your receipt.

In other words, it can be handled outside of the health insurance coverage at large hospitals, so you have to be careful not to receive a receipt which doesn't indicate your extra charge as a diagnosis cost, not as "others".

Foreigners who don't understand Japanese or don't have close Japanese friends may prefer large hospitals like that of the Chigasaki Municipal Hospital or any other city. They actually have many doctors as well as interpreters to help you, but from the cost standpoint you better visit local clinics or your family doctors especially if your disease is minor like a common cold or stomach upset, etc. If necessary, they will be willing to write a letter of referral to be presented to a large hospital. It doesn't mean that they are unreliable as they basically are specialists.

The Japanese health insurance system has now been set up to reduce the huge national medical cost deficit and they are trying to make it less by doing it this way.

For your reference, the difference in extra charges by the hospitals is as follows:

- Chigasaki Municipal Hospital ¥1,030
- Chigasaki Chuō Hospital ¥0
- Chigasaki Tokushukai Medical Center ¥2,000
- Fujisawa Municipal Hospital ¥4,410
- Hiratsuka City hospital ¥1,630
- Shonan Kamakura General Hospital ¥1,050

HAKONE EKIDEN

On the 2nd and 3rd day of the happy New Year every year, there is an event that millions of fans and university alumni get excited about watching. That is **Hakone Ekiden**, a long-distance (214.7km) road relay by 20 universities selected out of all the universities in the Kanto area and all the teams compete to be the honorable winner. This event began in 1928 with the start line in Tokyo, in front of the Yomiuri building in Ōtemachi, and the goal is Hakone. So it's called **Hakone Ekiden**. Actually, the goal is on a hilltop in Hakone, the slope is steep and windy. There have been a number of stories of not only keen competition, physical accidents, etc. but also a lot of human drama, which is why it attracts so many people in the New Year holidays. The 10 runners of each school relay their **Tasuki** or sash to the next runner at 9 relay points till they reach the final goal. These points have never been altered in the past. In this *Shonan* area, the point is Hanamizu Resthouse in Hiratsuka. Watching at each relay point is especially exciting because you can see the satisfied and exhausted faces of the runners as they finish their leg.

Most of the running road is along Route 1, but from Hamasuka crossing in Chigasaki to the Hiratsuka point, they run Route 134 running alongside Chigasaki beach.

The universities who rank 10th to 20th miss qualification the following year and they are replaced by those who win a trial race. That makes the competition very harsh. In the meantime, the race is led by two experienced policemen riding motorcycles as it is an honor to be the driver escort. This event wouldn't be carried out successfully and safely without them.

Watching a number of young men with the **Tasuki** running in vigorous competition will inspire you. The origin of this **EKIDEN** is **Hikyaku** who ran the old Tokaido highway to carry mail from Edo (Tokyo) to Osaka in the Edo Period.

Therefore, it will be worth visiting Route 134 and cheer them on this coming New Year!!

IAC Activity End-of-Year-Party



As always, the IAC will have its annual year-end party at the Labor Citizen's Hall on December 15, from 14:00 to 16:00. The party is open to anybody, and the IAC will welcome your participation. There will also be a number of people from various overseas countries, and this time, IAC members will participate wearing exotic costumes to create an international atmosphere. Also, participants are requested to bring, if possible, whatever they can give for lotteries which may be enjoyable for the children in particular. Entry is ¥500 and includes snacks and drinks.

Why don't you join in and have a good time with the IAC members and the other people who attend.

A Little Christmas Concert

Performed by

Chigasaki Boys and Girls Chorus Group

Conductor: Noriyuki Okuzumi

Piano: Miho Wakabayashi

Friendly Guest Performance

by Chigasaki Marine Call

December 23rd (Sun), 2007

Open 12:30

Start 13:00

At Heiwa Gakuen Greania Hall

(4 Fujimi-cho Chigasaki)

No Charge



※No Parking lot

※Please bring room shoes with you

Supported by Chigasaki City Hall

Chigasaki Board of Education

Chigasaki Music Association

IAC Mission Statement

We will contribute to the peace in the world community through mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation, solidarity and human dignity so all people, as "earth citizens", respect and live together beyond the borders of nationality.

DANJURŌ ICHIKAWA & CHIGASAKI

One of the historically famous people associated with Chigasaki is *DANJURŌ Ichikawa*, a Kabuki actor who became the ninth *DANJURŌ Ichikawa* in the Meiji Period. Kabuki started in the early 17th century and was established in the Edo Period, the actor's name was hereditary and was captioned by an ordinal number. This system remains even today.

In 1898, the 31st year of Meiji, the ninth *DANJURŌ Ichikawa* bought a piece of land of 6,000 tsubo or 19,800 square meters at Kowada in Chigasaki, and he built a large villa there. It was called *Koshō-an*. He amused himself by fishing, built up his physical energy, and tried to make friends with the local people. Also, being so famous, *Koshō-an* was good enough to have visitors from many fields, not only Kabuki, but also business as well as politics. At that time there were only a few houses around, so it made Chigasaki busy in many ways.

DANJURŌ was born in 1838, and at the age of 65, he peacefully passed away at the villa in 1903.

After his passing, the sandy hill in the yard where his main house had been built came to be called "*Danjurō-yama*". People living close to the villa loved him very much, but today it is difficult to see the image of the hill anymore.

Later on, the people's voice became loud in respect to doing something to remember *DANJURŌ's* name, and they finally decided to build a monument. It was realized, and its unveiling ceremony was held on March 23, 1991, the 3rd year of Heisei. The location is a part of the land where "*Koshō-an*" was, and today there is a children's park on the side of Heiwa-cho Koban on Teppō-michi. It is called the monument of *Danjurō-yama*.

2008 SHONAN INTERNATIONAL MARATHON

The second annual *Shonan* international marathon is going to be held on March 16, 2008 for common marathon and wheelchair participants as in the following details:

- (1) 30km distance marathon to start at 09:30
Entry fee: ¥8,000+service charge
- (2) 10km distance marathon to start at 09:00
Entry fee: ¥5,000+service charge
- (3) 10km distance for wheelchair participants to start at 08:45
Entry fee: ¥5,000+service charge

- Application is accepted until December 22 (Sat), 2007
- Brochures are available at Chigasaki LUSKA 2F (Chigasaki Station lobby floor) or 3F Information Counter at 0467-87-2801

For more information, call Shonan international Marathon Organizing Committee at 0463-70-6667
OPEN on weekday 10:00~17:30

- Official HP: <http://www.shonan-kokusai.jp/>

People In Town

Suwari Arimura



*I'm just doing what I can do
to help children*

Mrs. Suwari Arimura was born in Thailand on the border of Laos, she went to the United States to go to college, and she happened to meet a Japanese man there. He spent two years at a company in Japan after graduating university but he quit and went to graduate school in America.

After finishing study at university, she came to Chigasaki, and later married him, lived in his parents' home, and went to a Japanese language school. When she came to Chigasaki, the landscape was just a country-side but it became her favorite place to live.

Now, her lifework is to do volunteer work, helping children's education in Laos. Earlier, she joined a large NGO led by Mrs. Mutsuko Miki, wife of former Prime minister Miki, but she couldn't understand the fund raising system well and she decided to start working by herself.

When she visited her mother's hometown for the first time in 1974, she saw a number of children who were not in any educational environment. It was after the Vietnam War and at that time the Friendship Bridge was built over the Mekong River. The visit motivated her to do something for the children and she thought of building a school at a place where children living in mountainous areas could commute without troubles to cross the wide river. In her first attempt she sold her jewels to start a fund.

So far she has built eight schools in two prefectures in Laos and one of them has a library, a health room, and toilet. The idea to equip a library was given by her daughter who used to help in her primary school library. Also she is trying to send textbooks, stationary, etc. to these schools.

The construction of a school costs about 3.5 million yen and it takes 2 to 3 years for her to collect the money. So, she is kept active with this.

In the latter half of December, she is going to visit Laos again taking with her about 40 Japanese children who will not be going school for various reasons. They'll stay two nights at private homes in Laos. She believes that living with poor families will help these children become aware of the necessity to help other people and understand what life is. Actually, they also willingly join her fund raising activities, and it's her pleasure to see them coming back home, aware that they had been spoiled living in wealthy circumstances.

She is living in Shimoterao, located on a hillside of Chigasaki, with her husband and daughter, a university student. Mrs. Suwari Arimura is relatively short and slim, but she appeared to have a strong will and heart. Her dream is to build more schools in her mother's home country.

“NEW YEAR CONCERT” Ancient Court Music Sound

On January 25 (Fri), there will be a performance of “*Gagaku*” or Ancient Court Music of Japan by *Hideki Tōgi* at Bunka Kaikan to open at 18:30. *Hideki Tōgi* belonged to a music group in the Imperial Household Agency while the *Tōgi* family has succeeded the playing for 1,300 years since the Nara Period. Admission is ¥6,500 for all reserved seats.

Products of Chigasaki

“TATAMI-IWASHI”

Have you ever heard of a Chigasaki's special product “*Tatami-Iwashi*”? If not, the name may sound funny because “*tatami*” is a traditional mat made of rush, while “*iwashi*” is sardine. How are they related to each other? Here are the details of this intriguing Chigasaki product.

“*Tatami-iwashi*” is a thin sheet of dried sardine literally; the component is not sardine, but it's a tiny dried fish called “*shirasu*” or whitebait (about 2cm in length). This processed food is peculiar to the *Shonan* area because “*shirasu*” is caught in Sagami Bay. They grow up in the ocean at big river mouths like the Sagami River in the case of Kanagawa. Fishermen say they are caught 2~3km off Chigasaki beach.

This product was originally created for the idea of preservation and it is said we can keep it for one month in the refrigerator or even one year in the freezer! Thanks to its long shelf life, many people these days take it to foreign countries as a souvenir. (It's so light and easy to carry around too.)

A company called Kitamura Suisan makes many kinds of marine products and how to make “*Tatami-iwashi*” is in the following:

- 1) Put *shirasu* into a square mold called *BAN* in water.
- 2) Place the *shirasu* into a sheet of rush and dry.
- 3) Desiccate the sheet for 1~2 days under sunshine. When you eat, broil till it turns brown and put soy sauce on it.

The name of “*Tatami-iwashi*” is often misunderstood because it sounds like *tatami* or mat, but it's not true. As noted earlier, “*Tatami-iwashi*” used to be dried on “*tatami*” and that's why it was so named.

The processor Kitamura Suisan who runs their shops at Yanagishima-kaigan and Chigasaki Luska sell beautiful “*Tatami-iwashi*”.

Why don't you visit and enjoy the flavor of Chigasaki?

=Information=

Kitamura suisan 北村水産

TEL : 0467-58-0437

URL : <http://www.kitamurasuisan.com>

Confucious says

One who is not humane cannot long abide in adversity, nor can he long abide in happiness. One who is humane feels at home in humaneness, one who is wise desires humaneness.

HELP WANTED

I am looking for native English speakers to work at the English conversation café in the Chigasaki, Tsujido, Fujisawa and Yokohama areas. Part time work or once a month is OK. For more information, please send mail to:
 riko512@t.vodafone.ne.jp Riko Arimura

HOW TO EAT Instant Noodles?

Maybe some foreigners will have trouble handling cups, trays, bowls, etc. of Japanese instant noodles even though you already know how to handle the world-famous CUP NOODLE.

The following are some other kinds in the hope that this will help you enjoy them more:

Kitsune-Udon *Don-Beh*

Peel the lid off halfway and take out the soup in the bag. Put in the soup and pour boiling water to the line shown inside the cup.

Let it stand for five minutes and then it will be ready.

Yakisoba *U.F.O.*

Peel the lid off from point 1 to 2 indicated below, take out sauce, pour boiling water to the line inside the plate, and wait for 3 minutes.

Peel the lid off from point 3 following the dotted line to make a hole.

Hold the cup tight, tilt the container slowly, and pour out the water through the hole.

Add the sauce and stir well. Then it's ready.

Chicken Ramen

<In case of using boiling water>

Put noodles in the bowl, pour in about 400ml boiling water, put lid on, and let it stand for three minutes. Then it's ready.

<In case of cooking>

You can cook ramen by putting them for one minute in 450ml boiling water.

Japanese Proverbs with the English Equivalents

●花 より 団子

pudding rather than praise.

(Hana yori dango.)

◆Dumplings are better than flowers.

●泣きっ面に 蜂 Adding insult to injury.

(Nakittsura ni hachi.)

◆A bee stinging a crying face.

●果報 は 寝て 待つ

Everything comes to him who waits.

(Kahō wa nete mate.)

◆Sleep and wait for good luck.

●裏には裏がある There are wheels within wheels.

(Ura ni wa ura ga aru.)

◆The reverse side has its reverse side.

The Chigasaki Breeze has been issued by the International Association of Chigasaki (IAC). If you wish to subscribe, please send ¥480 in stamps for 6 issues to the International Association of Chigasaki c/o Bunka Suishinka, Chigasaki City Hall, 1-1-1 Chigasaki, Chigasaki City 253-0041. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to send e-mail to [shimadayut@jcom.home.ne.jp] Chief editor: Yutaka Shimada. Editing staff: Riko Arimura, Yoshiyasu Itoh, Masami Endo, Satomi Furube, Seiji Nakane, Mayumi Okuyama, Daiki Kuroiwa, Ayako Sakai, Yukiko Wada, and Hideo Yuge.