

OSECHI RYORI

~Japanese traditional foods for New Year's celebrations

During the New Year's season, you can find a variety of colorful traditional dishes at supermarkets, which are called *osechi ryori*. Most Japanese households enjoy *osechi ryori* at New Years and hope for happiness and health in the upcoming year.

Now, let's introduce some of the auspicious meanings behind each dish in *osechi ryori*.

Kazunoko: salted herring roe

Herring roe contains a lot of tiny eggs, so people eat *kazunoko* as a wish for fertility and family prosperity.

Tazukuri: candied sardines

As baby sardines were once used as fertilizers for rice fields, eating *tazukuri* symbolizes a bountiful harvest.

Kuromame: sweetened black soybeans

Black is thought to be a charm against evil spirits. People eat *kuromame* for diligence and healthiness.

Datemaki: sweet rolled omelette

As *datemaki* looks like a scroll, it represents enhancement of knowledge and culture.

Kurikinton: sweetened chesnuts

Golden colored *kurikinton* has been regarded as a lucky charm for a success in business.

Kobumaki: kelp roll stuffed with fish

Kelp in Japanese is *kobu*, and it has a similar sound to "yorokobu," which means being joyful and happy.

Kamaboko: fish cake

Semicircular shaped kamaboko represents sunrise and celebrates the new beginning.

If you are spending New Year's holiday in Japan this year, why not eat these traditional foods with special symbolic meanings. May the New Year bring in happy and prosperous days to you all!



GET LUCKY THIS NEW YEARS ~join in on the fukubukuro craze!

As Japan's biggest holiday, New Years is a particularly auspicious time of year and as such there are a multitude of traditions and customs for the season. Along with the traditional spring cleaning, family time, and shrine visits, a hunt for a good bargain also captures the first few days of the new year for an increasing number of Japanese.

Fukubukuro ("lucky bags") are one of the more modern traditions that have popped up due to New Years also marking the start of the biggest sales of the year. These are essentially shopping bags containing a variety of items that you can snag for a price significantly lower than retail. Although the first lucky bags were filled with leftover goods from the previous year, nowadays shops offer all sorts of items, including electronics, cosmetics, food, clothing, and even holiday trips abroad.

The catch? Lucky bags are sealed, so a shopper won't know what's inside a bag when they purchase one. It's a game of chance – hence the name – but that just makes it all the more exciting! To raise the stakes of the game, shops also usually only sell a limited amount of lucky bags, so this results in long lines outside department stores and popular brands.

To avoid disappointment, make sure to check the opening hours of your favorite stores, be prepared to wait, and team up with friends. This can be beneficial as you can spread out and grab bags from different brands. You can also pool your money and reduce the chance of getting something that you don't want by each taking an item you like. However, fukubukuro isn't so much about the products, but the experience. It's a fun day out filled with anticipation and a chance to splurge on some winter bargains.

YANAGISHIMA CAMPING SITE WILL HOLD A CAMPFIRE PARTY "NUKUNUKU2"

Let's enjoy music and movie hanging out around the campfire.

Date: Saturday, Dec. 23, 2017

Time: Starting from 11:00 am

Fees: ¥1200 (1-day) per person

¥1500 (overnight) per person

*Free accommodation for children below age 12.

Events and stores:

-Screening of Christmas movie
-Gift exchange

*Anyone who wants to join the gift exchange, prepare a gift that should cost 300 yen.

-Live music
-Workshops (Making moss balls and learning chalk art drawing, etc.)
-Food stall

Accommodation is available in the camping site:

-Tent, good for 1-4 persons
-Log Cabin, good for 3 to 6 persons.
-Room, good for 4 to 7 persons.
-Large Room, good for 10 to 24 persons.

Now accepting reservations for tents.

Booking for log cabins and rooms starts from 9:00 am on Dec.1.

For further information & reservation, call Yanagishima Camping Site at 0467-87-1385.



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES IN TOWN

DECEMBER

3 SUN 8am-3:45pm

12th ANNUAL SHONAN INTERNATIONAL MARATHON

About 24,000 people will run along Seaside Road 134. Please beware, because traffic control will be done during the marathon.

For the further information, please go to [www.shonan-kokusai.jp].

JANUARY

8 MON 7:30 am-

80th ANNUAL KONAN EKIDEN RACE

Long-distance relays will be held around the center of the city as one of the city's traditional events on Coming of Age Day.

8 MON 2pm-3:30pm

COMING OF AGE DAY CEREMONY

Chigasaki Gymnasium

Celebrating men and women who have reached 20 years old.

FEBRUARY

3 FRI

SETSUBUN FESTIVAL

The Festival will be held at Enzoji Temple (11:30) and Dairokuten Shrine (16:00) in Chigasaki, and Samukawa Jinja Shrine (11:00 & 14:00) in Samukawa.

3 or 10 (Date is not fixed yet.) SAT 9am

RAW WAKAME (Soft Seaweed) FESTIVAL

Chigasaki Fishing Port

Selling raw wakame from Eboshi Iwa

11 SUN 10pm

UME FESTIVAL

Takasuna Ryokuchi Garden near Chigasaki Station
Japanese tea ceremony will be held at Shourai-an.



CHILDREN LEARN FROM THE COMMUNITY

~CHIGASAKI DAIICHI JUNIOR HIGH

SCHOOL COMMUNITY FUREAI SEMINAR~

Children's education and safety is an important topic wherever you live. Many studies show that parent and community participation are vital for a successful school. Involvement from educators, parents and community volunteers in various activities helps students achieve high levels of success and provides a safe place for our children.

There is a unique community partnership event that has been held in September at the Chigasaki Daiichi Junior High School for nearly twenty years. This event was first organized by the administrators to develop a friendly atmosphere between the neighborhood and the students through things such as simple greetings in the morning and afternoon. Developing a bond was believed to strengthen and protect the children in the community. Over the years the event has transformed into a half-day school project where hundreds of community volunteers are invited to share their knowledge and talents, which gives students an opportunity to experience activities outside of the school curriculum.

This year there were 28 different group sessions, with themes ranging from cultural (origami, kimono and flower arrangement) to educational (a book reading, sign language, life-saving techniques, understanding Korea), and various martial arts and sports related sessions.

In my class, I taught the students how to make banana pancakes in English—my secret recipe handed down through generations. My father used to make delicious banana pancakes—he learnt from one of his aunts—for me and my brother every Sunday morning. I explained to the students how to cook and his story.

I believe that this joint partnership will strengthen and enhance learning for and develop confidence in our future young leaders. As the African proverb says, "it takes a village to raise a child."

Professional Advice -LAWYER-

Question:

In my lease contract, the lease period is 3 years. There is a provision that the lessee must pay a renewal fee for one month's rent when lease period expires. Do I have to pay this renewal fee? Also is there a regular price of renewal fee?

Answer:

In principle, you have to pay the renewal fee.

For many years, it has been debated whether the lessee must pay renewal fee when the lease contract is signed between a consumer and a business operator. But, in 2011, the Supreme Court judged that the lessee is obligated to pay the renewal fee if there is a clear provision in the contract and the renewal fee is not too high.

There is no clear price in the renewal fee, but it may be legitimate if the renewal fee is equal to 1 to 3 months' rent by every 2 or 3 years.

Recently, it seems that more apartments can be rented without renewal fee. So you would be better to check for the renewal fee in the contract when you move.



MEET CHIGASAKI BREEZE HERO ERI

Eri is a poet who is based in Chigasaki. She is visually impaired, yet she expresses her feelings vividly through words and continues to inspire many people. Chigasaki Breeze got a chance to meet and talk with her about her experiences with poetry.

Chigasaki Breeze: What made you start writing poems and lyrics?

Eri: I was first introduced to poetry when I was in third grade in my Japanese class. I started going to the school library and reading a variety of poems. I liked how simple and direct poems are, and thought that I could write some myself.

CB: How and when do you make poems and lyrics?

E: Sometimes I would not get any inspiration for my poems for weeks, whereas sometimes the words and phrases just come to me out of nowhere. Therefore, each piece is made with a different process. When I am writing lyrics for singers, I would write them based on what I feel when I listen to the melodies or the atmosphere of the songs. I also keep in mind making the lyrics easy to remember and sing along to since I believe it's one of the most important things when writing lyrics.

CB: What do you like the most about creating poems and lyrics?

E: I simply love Japanese. I don't know if you have noticed, but in Japanese there are so many words to describe one thing. For example, when describing rain in Japanese, you can use words such as kosame, shigure, samidare and so on. I love how rich and diverse Japanese is.

CB: What do you find the most difficult when creating a new piece?

E: Everything is difficult. When writing a piece requested by someone, I sometimes wonder if I am able to meet their expectations. I also always have to pay attention to make sure that I am not using the same expressions as somebody else, but it is difficult since I cannot check everything.

CB: Can you tell us about the most memorable experience or encounter you've had as a poet?

E: When I was a junior high school student, I met a woman who was working as a poet. She introduced me to the world of poems and taught me how to apply for columns in magazines, and that's when I really began putting effort into creating poems. My grandfather, who was a journalist, has also influenced me a lot and made me the person I am today.

CB: I've heard that you have lived in Chigasaki for more than 30 years; what do you think is the most attractive thing about Chigasaki?

E: My husband was born and raised in Chigasaki, so before we got married, he told me all about it and I got attracted to Chigasaki even before I lived here. I love how nice the weather is here, and I love the band Southern All Stars! I also think it's great how everybody here is so friendly and kind!

ノクターン（ウィンター）
キラキラ光る霜柱の林
クリスマスが近いから
クッキーの焼ける匂い
ふたりいっしょに桜の木の飾りつけ
木枯らしに星が流されて
静かに凍ってオリオン座になった
クリスマスが近いから
猫もピアノが子守唄
暖炉の火がはじける真夜中
プレゼントの夢をみている



[Poem by Eri, Drawing by Ruri]

TALES OF CHIGASAKI (movie) ~My Little Hometown

[Director: Izuru Kumasaka]

Chigasaki is a small town home to only 240,000 people, but its population is increasing in spite of the whole population of Japan decreasing. While watching the movie, I kept thinking about what attracts people to Chigasaki.

Tales of Chigasaki was originally planned as a 60th birthday surprise gift from the office and friends of Keisuke Kuwata, who as a popular singer-songwriter and the leader of the band "Southern All Stars," supported by multiple generations since 1978, has become one of many Chigasaki-born music icons. The film is a documentary focusing on why Chigasaki keeps churning out great musicians, narrated by two guides: Junichi Miyaji, a Western pop music promoter known as the godfather of the Southern All Stars, and Shinichi Nakazawa, a famous anthropologist. They try to prove that people living in front of ocean are apt to be easygoing and able to think more freely. Yuzo Kayama, another famous actor, musician and singer-songwriter from Chigasaki, said: "Waves of music are literally waves of ocean. Comfort of waves moves us to create a beautiful melody."

The second half of the movie leads up to a story of Kuwata's high school days and how he got deeply involved in music. One day, he got a chance to play at his friend Miyaji's high school festival and after this, he was determined to pursue a music career.

Since it was not produced as a major commercial blockbuster but a kind of private film, it was a limited release in a few theaters. It was featured at the 37th Annual Hawaii International Film Festival and I hope the film will come back in wide release in Japan. It's really worth watching for music and ocean lovers.



GIVING UP SMOKING AS DISEASE PREVENTION

Smoking is one of the causes for lung and bronchial diseases such as COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease). It can also bring on metabolic syndrome and other lifestyle diseases.

[Public Health Center Health Promotion Section
☎0467-38-3331]

Support Services

Chigasaki City is offering counseling for those who want to quit smoking. If you don't know how to stop smoking or cannot quit smoking alone, you can get counseling services by telephone or e-mail for three months.

TIPS FOR PREVENTING WINTER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Viral gastroenteritis (stomach flu) is often spread in winter due to norovirus and influenza. Special care is essential since it is contagious. In most cases, people get viruses through direct contact, coughs and sneezes. Washing hands, masks and gargling is strongly recommended.

Recommended hand washing method



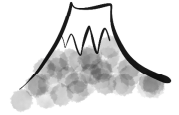
TAX PAYMENT DUE

Please check the payment term of city tax once again. You can pay at convenience store, bank, post office with your payment notification. If you lost the notification, please contact the city hall finance department. We recommend a direct account transfer. Visit at your bank with your bank seal and bank passbook, and fill out the account transfer form.

Tax due date for FY2017

<Property tax>	<City and Prefectural Tax>
First due: May 31	First due: Jun 30
Second due: Jul 31	Second due: Aug 31
Third due: Jan 4, 2018	Third due: Oct 31
Fourth due: Feb 28, 2018	Fourth due: Jan 31, 2018
	Light motor vehicle tax due: May 31

Ask Fuji-san



Dear Fuji-san,

I often see small vegetable shops in front of homes here and there around town, but there are never any sales clerks there. I was surprised that the customers pick up vegetables from the trays and just leave money in the trays. I'm afraid that if this was in my country, no customers would leave any money for the vegetables they take, and if there was any money left on the table, they would take the money.

Why don't Japanese people run away with the vegetables without paying?

From Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

From long ago many Japanese people have believed that there are no evil people—all people are good.

That is the Buddhist way of thinking, *seizensetsu*. It is said that the collection rate from the vegetable shops with no sales clerks is about 80 to 90 percent. However, recently the *seizensetsu* is declining and so some shops set up cameras or a locker where customers must put coins in the machine to get the vegetables out.

From, Fuji

WELCOME PARTY FOR THE MAYOR OF HONOLULU

On Thursday, September 28, Mr. Kirk Caldwell, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, visited Chigasaki City for the blessing of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Chigasaki Municipal Administration and for the Hawaiian Quilt Exhibition being held at the Chigasaki Museum of Art. Caldwell's welcome party was held at the Chigasaki City Council Fair on Friday, September 29.



EDITORIAL TEAM (In alphabetical order):

Sosuke Akutagawa, Noriko Fukumura, Zachary Hillenbrand, Setsuko Isa, Takeo Ishii, Shigeki Iwasaka, Yasuo Kurida, Masumi Miwada, Kumi, Moe, Rin, Shuhei Miyake, Ken Mizuno, Betty Nakamura, Seiji Nakane, Emi Tabuchi.

Back issues are available on the IAC website [<http://www.chigasaki-iac.org/>] or the Chigasaki City website.

Inquiries: info.chigasakibreeze@gmail.com