

RING IN THE NEW YEAR AT A SHRINE!

At the beginning of the year, it's custom to visit a shrine or temple to pray and give appreciation for the last year, wish for peace in the new year, or make individual wishes. You can also buy a lucky charm (called 御守り *omamori* in Japanese), or write your wishes or goals on *ema*, wooden plaques hung up at shrines. Many Japanese may go to watch the first sunrise (初日の出 *hatsuhinode*) on Jan. 1, and make a wish.

Here are some places where you can visit local shrines or watch the first sunrise:

Tsurumine-hachimangu



It's estimated that this shrine was built between 1058 and 1065 by Yoshitomo Minamoto who was the father of Yoritomo Minamoto, the first shogun of the Kamakura shogunate. There is an old ginkgo biloba tree, estimated to be 1000 years old within the vicinity of this shrine and the 700 meter approach to shrine is lined with pine trees.

Dairokuten-Jinja

The founder is unknown and it is estimated to be built in early Edo era.



Best spot to watch *hatsuhinode*:

The "Southern C" monument on



Southern Beach. You can see Eboshi-iwa in front of you and Mt. Fuji to the west too.

THE NEW YEAR IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES

In Japan there's a proverb that goes "so many countries, so many customs." When talking about New Year's it is different depending on the country. The following are New Year's events in different countries:

Japanese New Year

The New Year holiday is the most fun event of the year for the Japanese. On Dec. 31, New Year's Eve (*omisoka*) we clean up (*osouji*) the inside of the home and decorate the gate and entrance with a small pine bough for good luck and wait for the new year to come. On Jan. 1, New Year's Day, we go to pray for the family's happiness at a nearby shrine.



After coming home from the shrine we have the *osechi* dishes, which are special foods for the new year. Parents give a monetary gift to children and they exchange New Year's cards with relatives and friends.

Chinese New Year

Also known as the Lunar New Year or the Spring Festival, it begins on the first day of the first month on the lunar calendar, and lasts around 15 days. Because this holiday is celebrated according to the lunar calendar, the date of the holiday often changes every year.

Before New Year's Eve, families will thoroughly clean their houses, after which they decorate with red paper called *chunlian* which symbolizes happiness. They also eat a fish dish for dinner on New Year's Eve, and noodles topped with two eggs on the first morning of the new year, and fireworks are a big part of celebrations.

Indian New Year

India is a diverse nation with many different religions that each use their own system of lunar or solar calendars-- or even a combination of the two. As such, New Year's Day falls on many different dates depending on the region and calendar used. For most people in India, however, the new year begins



around with the harvest season in March or April, as this is when new crops of the farmers were cut and sold at the market which brought income for them and happiness to their life.

Different regions also celebrate the new year in different ways, but lighting lanterns, decorating the home with flowers, dressing in colorful or new attire, making offerings to gods/goddesses and giving gifts are common ways to ring in this festive time of year.

Philippine New Year

They have this "media noche" where family members gather together to enjoy a night of feasting and drinking. In every house there should be a lot of food and drinks served while waiting for the new year, which will bring good luck to the family. The circle is a symbol for prosperity in Filipino traditions. For that reason, most Filipinos would use 12 different kinds round-shaped sweet fruits (grapes, oranges and watermelon) as their centerpiece during the Media Noche. This represents luck for 12 months. There is a superstition that wearing polka dots will attract prosperity. They also believe that eating noodles or spaghetti can give us a longer life, and eating chicken or fish will ward off bad luck.

Fireworks are also one of the big highlights of the new year in the Philippines, as it is thought that making a lot of noise can drive away evil spirits.



Korean New Year

Korean people celebrate New Year's on the lunar calendar. For the New Year they prepare New Year's dishes called *tteokguk* and gather at their parents home to celebrate around the Buddhist altar. The family will do a New Year's greeting to each other and then children are given a New Year's monetary gift from their parents. After the New Year's events with family, they visit the graves of their ancestors.



CHIGASAKI SOUTHERN ART FIREWORKS 2018

On Oct. 27, the night sky at Chigasaki's Southern Beach was lit up with "Art Fireworks" in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the debut of Southern All Stars.

Art Fireworks is an artistic show programmed by Japan's most prestigious (and Prime Minister's Award-winning) firework technicians, that synchronizes their skills and music, as well as adopts elements of the venue location.

This show was simply amazing, with the fireworks synced to the rhythm and music in the worldview of Southern All Stars' songs.

Many people in and around the city that came to see the show were fascinated by the new and continuously unfolding fireworks experience.



JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST BY FOREIGNERS IN MARCH 2019

The 22nd annual Japanese speech contest by foreigners will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 10, 2019 in the hall on the second floor of the Chigasaki Youth Center, under the joint-sponsorship of Chigasaki City and IAC with the support of Soroptimist International Chigasaki.

The 20 or so entrants are all students of IAC's Sunday or Thursday Japanese classes, who have come from various countries. Each entrant will give an about three-minute speech on various themes. Please come and listen to their speeches.



IAC YEAR-END PARTY & WELCOME PARTY FOR AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

The annual year-end party hosted by the International Association of Chigasaki (IAC) will be held on Sunday, Dec. 2 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the City Hall Annex Community Hall. Also, this party includes the welcome party of university students from Australia. The party will be open to everyone, so IAC hopes many foreign people will join the party and enjoy chatting over wine. For more information, please call 090-1557-7789.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES IN TOWN

DECEMBER

2 SUN 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

The 13th Shonan International Marathon
More than 20,000 people will run on Seaside Road 134. So, please be careful because traffic control will be done during the marathon. For further information, please go to www.shonan-kokusai.jp/13th

JANUARY

14 MON 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

The 81st Konan Ekiden Road Relay
The relay will be held around the city center. It's one of the city's traditional events on Coming of Age Day, and many teams will participate.

14 MON 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Ceremony for Coming of Age Day
At Chigasaki Civic Hall, Big Hall. Celebrating men and women who have reached 20 years of age.

FEBRUARY

3 SUN

Setsubun Festival

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

2 or 9 (date TBD) SAT 9 a.m.

Raw Wakame Festival at Chigasaki Fishing Port. Selling raw wakame (seaweed) from Eboshi Rock.

10 SUN 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Possibility of Modern Engraving

At the Chigasaki City Museum of Art. This exhibition will be held March 24 as the final event in celebration of the 20th anniversary of Chigasaki City Museum of Art.

11 SAT

Ume Festival at Shorai-an near Chigasaki City Museum of Art.



Lawyer Advice

-LAWYER-

Question:

I am an American living in Japan. Last month, my father living in New York State died. My father's heritage is deposits in the US and real estate in Japan. Which country's laws apply to this inheritance?

Answer:

Regarding international inheritance, the applicable law may be different depending on the country or type of heritage. In Japan, the General Rules for Application of Laws stipulate that "inheritance shall be governed by the national law of the decedent." In contrast, in the United States, China, etc., the real estate is subject to the laws of the location, and the movable property is to the law of the address of the decedent.



So, in short, the American New York State law will be applied. However, since New York State law stipulates that real estate is subject to the law of its location, Japanese law will apply to real estate in Japan.

In this way, international inheritance becomes very complicated, so it is necessary to consult a lawyer who is familiar with this.

MEET MINORU OGAWA, THE DIRECTOR OF THE CHIGASAKI CITY MUSEUM OF ART



Minoru Ogawa has lived in Chigasaki since he was four years old when he moved here from Tokyo. After graduating from Tokyo University of the Arts, he worked a fine-art-related part-time job in Tokyo for a while. Then, he worked at his parents' restaurant in Ginza for about 14 years. After closing the restaurant in 2008, he became the director of the Chigasaki City Museum of Art.

The Chigasaki City Museum of Art was built in 1998 on the site of Yasusaburo Hara's villa.

CB: Congratulations on the 20th anniversary of the opening!

MO: Thanks to you, this museum was able to celebrate our 20th anniversary this year.

Once 20 years old, humans are called adults, and this museum has also become able to walk alone now, I think. There are many museums in Kanagawa prefecture, but we have taken up exhibitions of local artists in this museum. It may be small, but I think it's demonstrating its individuality. It holds over 2,000 works from painters who are familiar with Chigasaki such as Tetsugoro Yorozu, Keizo Koyama, and others.

CB: What are the main exhibitions?

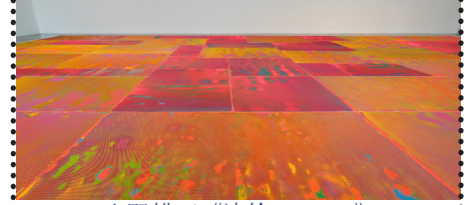
MO: In 2011, we held the "Kawakami Otojiro and Yakko Exhibition" featuring the world famous "OppekePe

song" (a popular song from the Meiji era) and praised their accomplishments. In April 2017, as a commemoration of the 70th anniversary of Chigasaki and the 3rd anniversary of the sister city relationship with Honolulu, we held the "Hawaiian Quilt Exhibition" and displayed a precious vintage quilt from the Honolulu Museum, which many visitors have visited.

In October and November 2018, we are holding the Yasusaburo Hara Collection and the Ohara Koson Exhibition as a memorial of the 20th anniversary of the museum.

This was introduced on NHK "Sunday Art Museum" and many people visited every day.

Come and discover the "Artistic Autumn" at Chigasaki City Museum of Art!



小野耕石 《波絵 Namie》

(c)小野耕石・Tokyo Publishing House

The Possibility of Modern Wood Prints Exhibition will be held at Chigasaki City Museum of Art from Dec. 9, 2018 until Feb. 3, 2019 as the third part of 20th anniversary of the museum's founding. About 200 of the museum's works will be displayed. Produced from the post-war period to the present, the works include ones from the Hannokai woodprint group, Tooru Mabuchi's prints layered with many colors and Hitoshi Karasawa's works with fine expressions, as well as pieces from one of the most prominent current woodprint artists, Kouseki Ono, highly acclaimed both in Japan and abroad for his 3-D-looking pieces made with a serigraphy technique.

For more information, call 0467-88-1177 or e-mail bijutsukan@chigasaki-arts.jp.



INTERNATIONAL MARRIAGE AND CHILD-RAISING CIRCLE IN CHIGASAKI



In 2017, IAC established an international marriage and child-raising circle where everyone can share information and their worries about daily life and child-raising.

As globalization progresses, international marriage has become common these days in Japan. In Chigasaki, the number of foreigners from non-English-speaking countries such as China, Korea and Vietnam has increased according to the Kanagawa Prefecture Government Homepage. In international marriages, there are many cases where the foreign mothers don't speak Japanese and rely on their Japanese husbands. When it comes to raising children, usually husbands are at work during the day, so foreign mothers must take care of children by themselves unable to get any further information because they don't understand Japanese.

IMCRC is here to support those foreign mothers to give them correct information about schooling, nursery, hospitals and other daily lives. Many foreign mothers and Japanese mothers have participated in our gatherings. Even though foreign mothers don't speak Japanese well, they seem to be enjoying talking with Japanese mothers and

IMCRC staff about various topics. There are plenty of toys that children can play with during the gatherings. We sing songs and have picture book readings for children.

IMCRC's next goal is to offer Japanese classes with child nursery for foreign mothers so that they can focus on studying Japanese without worrying about their children.

IMCRC was launched in 2017 with only four original members but now there are 11 members. If you are interested in IMCRC, please come and join our circle!

Date: On the third Wednesday of every month

Time: From 10:00 to 12:00 (you may come and go freely.)

Place: Gender Equality Promotion Center "IKORIA" Chigasaki Trust Building 4F, 12-12shineicho, Chigasaki

Targeted people: All are welcome!

Contact: IAC 090-1557-7789 info@chigasaki-iac.or

Section 0467-57-1414

Facebook: @MCRcircle

* From April 2019, the meeting date and time may change.

NEWS OF DEATH

Hattori Nobuaki, former Mayor of Chigasaki, suddenly passed away due to a cerebral hemorrhage on Oct. 4, 2018.

The vigil was held on Oct. 11 and the funeral ceremony held on Oct. 12. During his term as mayor he was responsible for the friendly sister-city connection with Honolulu in Hawaii. He was in his fourth term as mayor. In addition, he was also an adviser of the International Association of Chigasaki. He will be missed by all. Rest in peace.



FOR A COMFORTABLE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT: AIR-CONDITIONERS INSTALLED IN CHIGASAKI JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS!



It was a record-breaking hot summer this year in Japan, and in Chigasaki as well. In order to combat increasingly severe learning environments with the higher temperatures, this fiscal year, air-conditioners are being installed in elementary and junior high school classrooms city-wide. According to the Educational Facilities Division Administrator, while the process is still

ongoing for elementary schools, middle schools were able to start using them after summer vacation.

“The comfort level in the classroom is quite different from before summer vacation,” said a student of the 3rd year Class A at Tsurumine Junior High School. “I’m glad that it’ll be easier to study.”

Since junior high school students are preparing for high school entrance examinations during their third year, the air-conditioner installations started in junior high schools. Elementary school will begin using air-conditioners from next June.

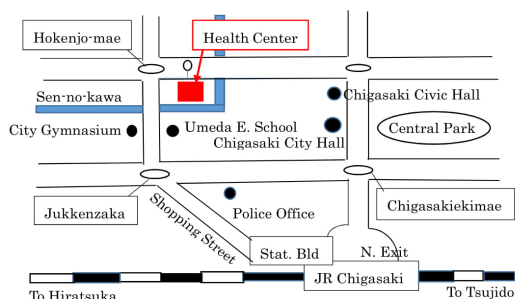
HOW TO USE A DIABETIC HANDBOOK MORE EFFICIENTLY

Patients under diabetic treatment sometimes see many doctors such as ophthalmologists and dentists. In such case if they use a diabetic handbook, which is given by a medical institution with no charge, this book can give more accurate information related to treatment progress to other institutions, and avoid forgotten information due to patients summarizing previous inspection results. For more information, please consult your family doctor.

WHEN SHOULD YOU GO TO THE HEALTH CENTER?

Public health centers in Japan offers many services for local residents related to daily healthcare. Please contact the health center in Chigasaki for assistance with the following services:

- Handing out of maternal and child health handbooks, guidance for expectant mothers
- Child health check and consultations
- Immunization
- Mental health welfare and heart health consultations
- Help with building a good relationship with a medical institution
- Subsidizing infertility treatment costs
- Information on at-home medical care
- Pet dog registration, certification of rabies vaccinations, and notification of death of a pet
- Countermeasures against stray cats



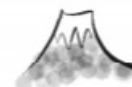
How to access: 13 minutes on foot from Chigasaki Station, take the bus bound for Samukawa station south exit and get off at Hokenjo-mae.

Address: Chigasaki 1-8-7, Chigasaki

Phone: 0467-85-1171

Chigasaki Breeze is jointly issued by the International Association of Chigasaki (IAC) and Chigasaki City

Ask Fuji-san



Dear Fuji-san,

I live close to Chigasaki and would like to visit the city with my four-and-seven-year-old kids. Could you please give some information about places to visit and fun things to do with kids in Chigasaki?

Thanks, A

Dear A,

Chigasaki is a great place to go play for kids and adults alike. Here are some of my favorite things to do in Chigasaki with kids:

1. Satoyama Park

This beautiful state park is located in the northern part of the city and offers the perfect setting for children to play and explore. My personal favorite is the long slide. You may want to bring a cardboard for the slide so you can go faster. The park offers a great scenery of countryside of Japan.

2. Jibiki Ami fishing.

This unusual outdoor event will give children vivid memories in Japan. Jibiki Ami is a traditional net fishing cast from the beach. Visitors join in dragging in the net to catch local fish for lunch right on the beach. However, you will need many people to sign up, so I suggest organizing a company event to entertain family on the beach with this unusual outdoor activity.

Best, Fuji

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[<http://www.chigasaki-iac.org/>] or the Chigasaki City website.

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