

Chigasaki Breeze

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

No.44

New Year Message from Mayor Hattori

しちょう おんとうあいさつ
市長の年頭挨拶

Happy New Year! I hope the New Year finds you in good health, and I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your understanding and cooperation in our day-to-day municipal activities. We continue to strive towards a city where all members of the community, foreign and Japanese alike, can live together in a peaceful and supportive environment.

At present, about 1,500 foreign residents live in the City, and this number is set to increase. To meet such a trend, with the help of the International Association of Chigasaki (IAC), we issue an English newspaper, "Chigasaki Breeze", and also publish the Guidebook for Foreign Residents in Chigasaki City in five languages; English, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese, and Korean, available from the City office, Josei Center, etc.

Regarding international exchange activities, many foreign residents participate in events such as Ooka Echizen-sai and Fureai Matsuri, and we continue to foster international understanding and cooperation with various countries through home-stays, high school student exchange, and cultural experiences such as kimono-wearing and tea ceremonies at Shorai-an. The IAC helps us considerably with these initiatives.

Chigasaki City has an abundance of nature and a broad range of cultural attractions, including festivals and traditional entertainment, which should be exploited to promote international communication and build a society which foreigners feel comfortable visiting and living in. We also hope to promote internationalization of the local community from other perspectives, such as human resources development for local businesses.

Effective from July 2012, the Basic Resident Registration Act was amended and the Basic Resident Register Law became applicable to foreign residents in the same way as for Japanese citizens, making it more convenient for everyone in terms of various administrative services.

To develop a city environment convenient for foreign residents and overseas visitors alike, to enhance appreciation and understanding of different cultures and values, and to promote open local society, will, I believe, not only create a friendlier environment for foreigners, but will encourage urban developments that enhance the lives of all citizens, creating a city we can all feel fortunate to live in.

Lastly, I hope you all have a wonderful 2013, and I look forward to your active participation and cooperation with the City administration.



New Year's Greetings and Other Seasonal Letters 年賀状と季節の便り

The number of New Year's postcards printed by Japan Post annually has been decreasing since it peaked at 4.46 billion in 2003. However, this is not because the custom of exchanging New Year's greetings is on the decline, but rather that other ways of sending greetings are on the increase. More people, especially younger generations, prefer to send emails which can contain more information as well as pictures and videos; and newlyweds and young couples prefer sending photos of their kids and themselves as well as their pets with messages on them. An increasing number of people even send messages by mobile phone. Generally, greeting cards and mails have become more colorful and visually appealing as more and more households have personal computers, printers and digital cameras.

The custom of sending letters at the beginning of each year goes back to the 7th Century and became popular in the Edo Period, during which the literacy rate jumped thanks to the educational systems of those days. Thereafter the number of the postcards had gradually increased except in wartime. Nowadays, we send our friends New Year's greetings to wish them a happy New Year; to ask how they are getting on; and to inform them of our recent circumstances.

We have two other seasonal letters, which are peculiar to Japan. Some people write a 暑中見舞い or *shochūmimai* to their friends to ask how they are doing in mid-summer, normally between July 20 and August 8 and some send a similar 寒中見舞い or *kanchūmimai* letter in the cold season between January 5 and February 4. It is a pleasure to hear news about friends living in distant places through those letters.

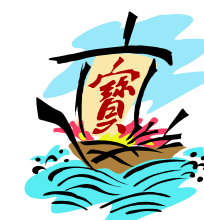
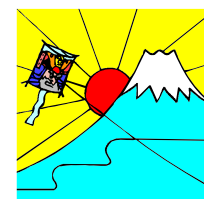
By the way, if people have lost a family member or a close relative during the year, they send notes called 喪中はがき or *mochūhagaki* in November or December, saying they are in mourning and that they will not send the customary New Year greetings. The above mentioned 寒中見舞い are also sent to people in mourning in reply to the note.

Why do Bells ring 108 Times on New Year's Eve? 除夜の鐘は何故108回?

On the night of New Year's Eve (除夜, or *Joya*), you will hear the bells of distant temples ringing. This custom originated in China around the 11th Century. Do you know how many times the bells are rung? The answer is 108. Buddhism tells that men have 108 evil passions, including desire, rage, obsession and suspicion, and these passions make them feel angry and irritated. The solemn sound of temple bells going through the quiet night removes them from men. People ring out the old and ring in the new, so the bells are rung 107 times as the old year finishes and once more as the new year begins.

2013 National Holidays 2013年国民の祝日

Jan. 1 (Tue)	New Year's Day	Celebrate the beginning of the New Year.
Jan. 14 (Mon)	Coming-of-Age Day	Congratulate young people who have become 20.
Feb. 11 (Mon)	National Foundation Day	Think about and appreciate the origins of the Japanese nation.
Mar. 20 (Wed)	Vernal Equinox Day	Appreciate nature and visit our ancestors' graves.
Apr. 29 (Mon)	Showa Day	Think back on the Showa Era; the birthday of the Showa Emperor.
May 3 (Fri)	Constitution Day	Commemorate the enforcement of the Constitution.
May 4 (Sat)	Greenery Day	Commune with nature, appreciate its benefits and plant trees.
May 5 (Sun)	Children's Day	Wish for children's fortunes and thank mothers; the former boy's day.
July 15 (Mon)	Marine Day	Give thanks for the blessings of the sea and wish for Japan's prosperity.
Sept. 16 (Mon)	Respect-for-the-Aged Day	Respect old people, celebrate their longevity and think of welfare.
Sept. 23 (Mon)	Autumnal Equinox Day	Respect ancestors and think of the departed.
Oct. 14 (Mon)	Health-Sports Day	Commemorate the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and enjoy healthy sports.
Nov. 3 (Sun)	Culture Day	Love liberty and peace, and cultivate culture.
Nov. 23 (Sat)	Labor Thanksgiving Day	Value labor, celebrate production, and thank people.
Dec. 23 (Mon)	The Emperor's Birthday	Celebrate the birthday of the reigning Emperor.



The New Year Dream はつゆめ 初夢を見ましたか？

It is traditionally said something fortunate will happen to you if your first dream in the New Year is good. This first dream or *hatsu-yume* is usually the one you have on the night of January 2nd.

Divination based on dreams began in the 14th Century when noble people used to place a picture of a treasure ship or *takarabune* carrying the Seven Gods of Fortune or *Shichi Fukujin* under their pillow on that night in order to have a good dream. If they had a bad dream, they threw the picture into a river next morning to wash away any bad luck. This custom gradually spread to ordinary people and in the Edo Period the pictures were sold throughout Edo (now Tokyo) during the afternoon of January 2nd. In those days, a dream of Mt. Fuji, a hawk or an eggplant, in that order, came to be regarded as the most auspicious. Several theories for this exist: one is that these three items were symbols of Shizuoka, the hometown of the Tokugawa family (the *shoguns* of the Edo Period); another is that they symbolize 'high' or 'success' - Mt. Fuji rises high, hawks fly high in the air and grab something valuable, and 'eggplant' sounds the same as 'to achieve' in Japanese.

Nowadays, it is said that if you tell somebody about a bad dream you had before midday, nothing bad will happen to you. However, dreams can sometimes indicate the exact opposite of what will happen. Thus, even if your first dream was not good, don't panic! You only have to think that the dream will turn out false. When you had a good dream, you should of course believe that it will come true. Always be positive!



The treasure ship and Seven Gods of Happiness

A Ninth Century Ledger from a Ruin in Honson

ほんぞん 本村で せい き 9世紀の ちよう ぼ 帳簿が しつ ぶ 出土

Three wooden tablets with Chinese characters on them were found on an excavated site near the City Hospital in Honson. These kinds of tablets were used in ancient society to communicate official messages, or to record clerical work, until paper came into more general use. The largest of the three tablets (a photo of which, taken with an infrared camera, is shown on the right) is about 46cm long, 7.8cm wide and 0.5cm thick, and is larger than any other similar wooden tablet unearthed in Kanagawa. The Chinese characters on it indicate this tablet was a sort of ledger which recorded the amount of food given to influential people in the local community at an event in the late ninth century. It is expected that these tablets will provide valuable information on the lives of ancient Chigasaki residents in the Heian Period.



Watch out for NOROVIRUS!

ちゅう い ノロウイルスに注意を!

Norovirus is raging and spreading widely and rapidly!

Wash your hands well using soap or a chlorine-based handwash and gargle as soon as you get home.

HISTORY OF CHIGASAKI

Historical Sites along Ohyama-Kaido (2)

おおやまかいどう 大山街道の史跡その2

This is the second in a series of reports introducing the historical sites along Ohyama-kaido (their locations are shown by number on the map below).

- ① **Northward-looking Jizō, guardian of children and travelers in Buddhism:** Historically, something built looking northward was despised. Why this Jizō was built along the highway is unknown, but it has been there for a long time, standing quietly.
- ② **Two Pine Trees:** Not directly connected with Ohyama-kaido, but legend has it that on this spot, every summer, *Enma-sama* or the Standing King of Hell was publicly unveiled by the Senjuin temple.
- ③ **Myogyoji temple:** Apparently built by Jinbei Yamamoto from Murota in 1737 (Genbun 2), the temple's idol, a seated statue of Nichiren, the founder of a Buddhist sect, is small but was clearly made with great care.
- ④ **Original site of Shorin village office:** When Murota village and six other villages were combined to become Shorin village, a new village office was established here.
- ⑤ **Eishōji temple:** Belonging to the Sōtōshu sect of Buddhism, this temple's *sango* or *mountain name* is Takizawa-san. In front of the gate, to the right, there are several Koshintō towers. This temple is said to have been built in Bunroku Gan'nen (1592, the first year of the Bunroku era, reigned over by Emperor Go-Yōzei).
- ⑥ **Murota Hachioji-jinja shrine:** This is the oldest shrine construction in the City and its roof was originally thatched. A rock basin for the ritual cleansing of hands, called either *tearai-ishi* (手洗い石) or *chyōzu-ishi* (手水石), lies in the gardens, on which a famous late Edo era samurai, Yamaoka Tesshū, carved the symbol 龍 (*ryu* or dragon).
- ⑦ **Nagayamon or row-house gate:** Constructed at the beginning of the Meiji era, and one of only three *nagayamons* left in the City, this gate was once the entrance of the Mizukoshi family residence, where Ryōsuke Mizukoshi, a leader and major contributor to the economy of Chigasaki, was born.
- ⑧ **Saikōji temple:** Originally built in 1307 (Tokuji 2), the temple's gate has on its side the only monument in the City bearing a *hashi-kuyō*, the words of a memorial service for a bridge, which was written in 1805 (Bunka 2). The temple also contains an "Ohyama lantern" which used to hang along the Ohyama-kaido.
- ⑨ **Haka-no-Koshi:** The foot of a mountain is sometimes called *koshi* or crossing, so "Haka-no-Koshi" stands for "Grave's Crossing". From here, Mt. Fuji and Mt. Ohyama appear side by side, making for some beautiful scenery.
- ⑩ **Akabane Shinmei Jinja shrine:** Originally deified by Yoshiie Minamoto, a famous historical shogun, during the Chireki era (1065 to 1069), this shrine became the *so-chinju* or general shrine for the neighboring six villages.
- ⑪ **Miyagaya Dōsojin, roadside god to protect travelers and village people:** Built in 1801 (Kansei 13), this charming *wagōgami* or god that helps people live together in harmony stands on a millstone.
- ⑫ **Monument to Soeda Azemibō and Sugizaki Chōka:** Words of the well-known and popular singer Soeda Azemibō and his friend, Sugizaki Chōka, are carved on this monument.
- ⑬ **Six Jizō, guardian deity of children:** Removed from the closed Manzaiji temple, these stone Buddhist deity images were so weathered that they had to be reconstructed.



Inquiries: Chigasaki Tourism Association on 0467-84-0377 or at

<http://www.chigasaki-kankou.org>

“The Road to East Asian Community” Lecture by Professor T. Okuda

ひがし しょうどうたい みち
“東アジア共同体への道”

おく だ たかはる し こうえん
奥田孝晴氏の講演

The City's Gender Equality Section and the IAC's International Understanding Group jointly organize a couple of lectures every year under the theme of International Understanding. This year's lecture, entitled “The Road to East Asian Community”, will be presented by Professor Takaharu Okuda of Bunkyo University on February 23 (Sat) in a large conference room of the Josei Center.

Professor Okuda belongs to the Faculty of International Studies, and is a specialist on the economies of South East Asian countries. He frequently travels this region, and China, too, often with his students, to conduct his research.

The lecture is scheduled to start at 13:30 and finish at 16:00 including Q&A time. Admission is free.

Historic Site to be Treasured

し ない し せき てんねん きねんぶつ
市内の史跡が天然記念物に

Remnants of bridge piles in Shimo-Machiya will be designated as a natural monument. The wooden posts are believed to have supported a bridge over the Sagami River constructed in the Kamakura Period. They had been below ground, but appeared due to ground liquefaction following the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923. These ruins are quite important because phenomena caused by liquefaction are usually well preserved.



Bird Watching along Koide-gawa River

こい で が わ や ちょうかんさつ
小出川の野鳥観察

Do you know Koide-gawa river, which stretches along the western border between Chigasaki City and Samukawa Town? The river banks are nice places for bird watching, especially in winter. From late autumn to early summer, it is a stopping point for flocks of migrating birds, so if you are lucky you may spot more than thirty kinds of birds in half a day. Let's take a look at the river. In the river, you will find some members of the heron family, such as the little egret (yellow legs and black bill), the great egret called aigrette, the blue egret, the night egret and so on. Moorhens shaking their necks back and forth and the ball-shaped grebe can also be seen. The jade green-colored halcyon kingfisher is so beautiful. Along the water-side, wagtails and sandpipers can be seen, too. There are too many birds to comprehensively list here! Why don't you grab some binoculars and a bird guidebook and go bird-watching? This recommendation was made by Akihiko Komuro, a member of a volunteer group named “Koide-gawa ni sitasimu kai” (Familiarizing Koide River). They organize volunteer activities to conserve and enhance the riverbank vegetation and preserve the river's ecosystem.

People in Town

Sean Mitchell from South Africa

Curiosity seems part of the Japanese character.

Sean Mitchell came to Japan from Pretoria, the administrative capital of South Africa, in 2009, and has been living in Tsujido ever since, working as an English teacher.



What motivated him to come over was, firstly, a friend's enthusiasm for Japan, which inspired Sean to start watching Japanese films and reading Japanese literature, and secondly, meeting a Japanese woman (now his wife) while studying and working in Cape Town.

In his free time, Sean enjoys reading and jogging; he loves running along the seafront between Chigasaki and Tsujido. Sean has also enjoyed writing since he was a child, and still tries to write a little every day, work permitting.

He really likes this area because it's near the sea and there are many beautiful natural and historical sights nearby; the views of Mt Fuji and Enoshima from the beach, the temples of Kamakura, and so on. Also, there are enough shops and restaurants around to make the area convenient.

To him, there are a lot of good things about living in Japan; daily life is easy because everything is organized efficiently, it's safe, and most people are very polite ... and curious – he thinks curiosity is part of the Japanese character.

One thing he found funny when he first came here was the melodies you hear at stations. Most stations had their own unique melody so you always knew where you were, even if you didn't know the station's name!

As to Japan's young generation, he finds them more adventurous, just like in most other countries, though he has heard that many young Japanese don't have a goal like the older generation did, and he feels this may be true.

Sean is not currently involved in any community activities, but hopes to be so in the future. He has, though, made some close friends, both Japanese and ex-pat, since he has been in Tsujido.

So many Countries, so many Customs!

ところ か しな か
所変われば、品変わる

Pancake Day and Pancake Races

There is one day during the year, always a Tuesday, when almost everyone in the UK eats a pancake! The custom is connected to the Christian season of Lent, the 40-day period of fasting, prayer and penance which starts on Ash Wednesday and finishes on Easter Sunday, when the resurrection of Jesus Christ is celebrated.

During Lent, many people give up meat, alcohol, and foods that contain eggs, sugar and butter. Traditionally, on Collopy Monday, cured meats such as bacon would be used up, often eaten with eggs, and then on Shrove Tuesday, pancakes were made to use up sugar, fat, flour and any remaining eggs. Traditional English pancakes are very thin and cooked in a frying pan. To eat the pancake, the simplest way is to sprinkle caster (or superfine) sugar over the top with a dash of fresh lemon juice, then roll it up and eat it. Some people add syrup or jam.

If you are skillful enough, while cooking a pancake, you can flip it over by tossing it in the air and catching it again in the frying pan. All across England, children and adults, even Royals (see photo), put their pancake-tossing skills to the test by taking part in pancake races. The object of the race is to get to the finishing line first whilst tossing your pancake in a frying pan without dropping it.

The pancake race itself originated in 1445 in the English village of Olney. In those days, on Shrove Tuesday ("shrove" is an Old English word meaning "to repent") people attended a special church service to confess their sins before Lent. A church bell, called the 'Shriving Bell', was rung once in the morning to remind housewives to prepare their pancake batter, and then rung again shortly before the midday Shriving service began. So the story goes, hearing the church bells ring out for the service, an Olney housewife, fearful of being late, rushed out of her house and ran down the High Street to make it to the parish church in time - still clutching her frying pan, pancake frying inside, and wearing an apron! The annual Olney pancake race is world famous.

This year, Pancake Day is on February the 12th. Get flipping!



Note: This letter was written by Adrian Wilson, an English teacher from London, England, now living in Chigasaki.

Services start Jan 4 (Fri) or 5 (Sat) 業務開始日

The following public offices and facilities commence operations on January 4 (Fri).

- City Office & Consumer Life Center
- City Residents' Centers (Chigasaki Station, Kowada, Nango, Hagisono, Kagawa)
- PC experience lab for citizens
- Community Hall, Koide Branch Office (Conf. & Library rooms on Jan 5 (Sat))
- Municipal Hospital
- Comprehensive Gymnasium, Municipal Gymnasium, Indoor Heated Pool
- Citizen Support Center, Women's Center, Labor Citizen Hall
- Civic Hall, Art Museum, Takeshi Kaiko Memorial Museum
- City Resident's Gallery, Education Center
- Shorai-an, Himuro Camellia Garden, Funeral Hall
- Municipal parking lot, Municipal bicycle parking lot

Other public facilities open on January 5 (Sat), including sports fields, meeting facilities, museums, community centers, libraries, etc.

Join the Efforts to Reduce and Recycle!

ごみの削減やリサイクルにご協力を!

Let's try to minimize household waste and live an eco-friendly life!

- Shop with your own bags rather than using disposable plastic grocery bags.
- Make do and mend for as long as possible.
- Go out with your own chopsticks and drinks bottle.
- Buy from recycled goods shops and flea markets.

Respect the rules when disposing of home appliances, including TVs!

When getting rid of household appliances such as TVs, air-conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, laundry machines and clothes driers, you should hand them over to a retailer and pay the recycling charge. You may be punished according to the law if you try to dispose of these appliances at a garbage collection site.

If you can't hand over these items to a retailer, contact your local municipal government.

[Inquiries in Japanese] Resources Recycling Div., K.P.G. Tel: 045-210-4151
(from HELLO KANAGAWA)

Saturday Music Salon at Hagisono

萩園の土曜ミュージック・サロン

Saturday Music Salon at Hagisono Ikoi-no-Sato will be held on January 19 (Sat), 13:45~14:45, where you can enjoy listening to two traditional Japanese musical instruments, the *shakuhachi* (bamboo flute) and the *koto* (zither), played by Sadahiro Kaneko and Masanori Osada. They will perform duets of typical poetic songs written to accompany bamboo flute melodies. Admission is free.

Useful Japanese Expressions

役に立つ日本語

SO'IEBA そう言えば

While you are talking with someone, if you suddenly think of something which, in your mind, is connected to the topic of conversation, you can mention it by first saying SO'IEBA. For example, if you were talking about movies, you might suddenly remember and say: "SO'IEBA, the new 007 movie is out this week". This is similar to "By the way", although what follows "By the way" is often unrelated to the earlier conversation, and in such cases translates as TOKORODE or ところで.

SO'IEBA, then, signals a related thought which may have been triggered by what the other person said or may just have sprung from your own mind. There are many equivalent expressions in English, some long, such as: "Now that you mention it, ...", "Speaking of which, ...", and "Come to think of it, ..."; and some quite short, such as: "In fact, ...", "Say, ...", and "Well, ...".

So, SO'IEBA is a very convenient expression which you can use in everyday conversation.

Foreign Residents Interested in Nursing Care Work

介護の仕事に興味のある外国人住民の方々へ

A counseling session for foreign residents interested in employment at welfare facilities will be held where you can come and talk directly with recruitment managers, nursing-care facility staff and home-visit nursing care providers from the prefecture. Alternatively, you can phone the Counseling Center for information and advice.

Date: Feb 2 (Sat), 10:00~14:00, reservation not necessary. Interpretation services in English, Chinese, Portuguese and Spanish available. **Venue:** Sagamiara City Oonokita Community Center (1-minute's walk from the south exit of JR Fuchinobe Station.) **Tel:** 045-846-4649 (Mon to Fri, 09:00~17:00, in English and Chinese)

[Inquiries in Japanese]

Yokohama City Welfare Service Employers' Association
Tel: 045-846-4649

Health and Welfare Human Resources Development Div.,
K.P.G. Tel: 045-210-4755

"Working as a Caregiver" Handbook Published

The handbook, which is for foreign residents who wish to find a job in nursing care for the elderly, explains about the work. The job will help you develop your career, since you can acquire qualifications and skills while working. You can download the handbook in Japanese, English, Chinese, Spanish or Portuguese from:

<http://www.k-i-a.or.jp/shuppan/leaflet.html>

[Inquiries in Japanese]

Kanagawa International Foundation Tel: 045-620-0011

(From HELLO KANAGAWA)

Japanese Proverbs and their English Equivalents

日本と西洋のことわざ

●一年の計は元旦にあり
ICHINEN NO KEI WA GANTAN NI ARI
(The entire year should be planned on New Year's Day.)
New Year's Day is the key day of the year.

●我田引水
GADEN INSUI
(To draw water to one's own rice field.)
Every miller draws water to his own mill.

●三十六計 逃げるに 如かず
SANJU ROKKEI NIGRU NI SHIKAZU
(It is better to run away than to plan thirty six tricks.)
One pair of heels is often worth two pairs of hands.

●吠える犬は噛み付つかぬ
HOERU INU WA KAMITSUKANU
(Barking dogs seldom bite.)
Barking dogs never bite.

●我が身をつねって人の痛さを知れ
WAGAMI WO TSUNETTE HITO NO ITASA WO SHIRE
(Pinch yourself and you will understand the pain of others.)
In order to judge another's feelings, remember your own.

The IAC URL: <http://www.7jp.com/iac>

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