

Chigasaki Breeze

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

No.50

New Year Message from Mayor Hattori

しちょう ねんどうあいさつ
市長の年頭挨拶

Happy New Year! I hope the New Year finds you in good health and spirits, and I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your understanding and cooperation in our day-to-day municipal activities.

Responding sensitively to internationalization and supporting international exchange

In order to correspond with the 1,400 or so foreign residents living in the City, we issue bimonthly an English newspaper, "Chigasaki Breeze" with the help of the International Association of Chigasaki (IAC), and also publish the Guidebook for Foreign Residents in Chigasaki City in five languages; English, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese, and Korean.

Concerning international exchange activities, many foreign residents participate in events such as Ōoka Echizen-sai, and we continue to foster cooperation with various countries to organize home-stays, international exchange programs at junior high schools, international understanding lectures, etc. The IAC helps us considerably with these initiatives.

Development of sister city affiliation with cities overseas

In 2013, the City received a proposal to establish sister city affiliation with the city of Honolulu, Hawaii, from general corporations such as Chigasaki Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chigasaki Tourism Association, and Chigasaki Aloha Committee. In the City, various Hawaii-themed events are held every year including Shonan-sai, Chigasaki Aloha market, Aloha Festa Chigasaki, etc., where citizens enjoy Hula and surfing. We also hope to promote internationalization of the local community from other perspectives, such as human resources development for local businesses.

Foreign residents as a partner for enhancing disaster prevention capabilities

The City issued a guide concerning voluntary disaster prevention activities last year, and aims to enhance local disaster prevention capabilities in cooperation with local people. Participation of foreign residents in such activities helps develop closer relations locally as well as improving disaster drills. Additionally, the understanding of evacuation sites, the necessity of considering disaster measures, etc. strengthens foreigners' "self-help" capabilities.

Municipal counter services to be more convenient and easier to utilize

In July 2012, the Basic Resident Registration Network System started operation, enabling foreign residents to receive the Registration (*juki*) Card. Consequently, Chigasaki City will implement such services from February 2014, whereby you can have copies of your Resident Record (*jumin-hyo*) issued, for example, at **convenience stores** using your *Juki* Card.

Lastly, I hope you all have a wonderful 2014, and I look forward to your ongoing active participation and cooperation with the City administration.



Decorative Gate Pines and Round Rice Cakes

かどまつ かがみもち
門松と鏡餅

You may have seen a pair of decorations in front of the entrances of houses, department stores and many other buildings at this time of year. Decorative *kadomatsu* (or "gate pines") are made with three bamboo sticks of different heights (to represent heaven, humanity and earth), and small branches or sprigs of pine and plum trees. A tradition dating back to the late Heian period (794-1192), they were believed to mark the spots where temporary lodgings were being offered to Shinto deities, who come down at the beginning of the New Year; ceremonies at this time were originally intended to honor and celebrate the visit of the deities, and so guarantee bumper crops of grain throughout the year. The combination of bamboo, pine and plum (which represent longevity, prosperity and steadfastness, respectively) is viewed as auspicious. *Kadomatsu* should be set out on any day between December 13 and 30, with one exception. Placing them out on December 29 is popularly believed to bring a lot of troubles. These and other New Year decorations are usually removed at the end of New Year week (January 6 or 7), or around the Little New Year (*koshōgatsu*) festival on January 15 (to celebrate the first full moon of the new year and pray for a bountiful harvest). The decorations are usually burned to appease and release the deities.

Another New Year decoration is *kagamimochi* (or mirror rice cakes), which appeared in the Muromachi period (1336-1573). Two round plain rice cakes, one small one large, about 5-20cm in diameter, are stacked on a small wooden stand, and a bitter orange, sacred bamboo, fern and tangle weed are added. They are placed in a *tokonoma*, an alcove in an important room, and a *kamidana*, a household Shinto altar, to offer to the visiting deities. The name, *kagami*, and shape came from ancient bronze mirrors, in which souls are believed to dwell. The large and small rice cakes imitate the sun and moon, which in combination is thought auspicious. The rice cakes are usually cracked with hands or tools and cooked in a Shinto ritual called *kagami biraki* (mirror opening) around January 11.



Administrative Services at Convenience Stores to Start!

じゅうみんひょう かいし
住民票などの交付サービスをコンビニで開始

Effective February 1 (Sat), you can get copies of your Resident Record (*Jumin-hyo*) and Seal Registration Certificate by using your Residents (*Juki*) Card at convenience stores, at a cost of ¥300 per copy. You don't need to fill in an application form, simply enter your four-digit personal identification number at a multi-copier machine at these stores. The service is usually available from 06:30 to 23:00, although some exceptions apply.

To use the system, you must already be registered as a resident of Chigasaki, have a *Juki* Card and have registered to use the convenience store service. Please go to the Residents' Section counter, located in the City Hall Temporary building, if you need help to satisfy any of these conditions. Applications to use the new service can be made from January 15 (Wed), i.e. before the service comes into effect.

Copies of Seal Registration Certificates can only be issued to the person named on the certificate, so you must bring the original certificate with you when you want to use the service. Copies of Resident Records can be issued to any member of the household, provided they are over fifteen years old and not a ward of the family. Note, though, that your Resident Record Code will not be shown on copies issued by this method.

If you need to apply for a *Juki* Card, please note that your photo can be taken free of charge on certain days between January 15 (Wed) and 31 (Fri) at several City offices. Please also note that processing of applications for *Juki* Cards and convenience store service usage will not be completed on the day of application. A letter of notification will be sent to your address as recorded on your Resident Record.

Inquiries: Residents' Section at City Hall on 82-1111.

The New Year Demonstration by Fire Brigades

しょうぼうでぞめしき
消防出初式

On January 12 (Sun), from 09:30, the traditional New Year Demonstration by Fire Brigades will take place in the grounds of Tōhō Titanium Company located on the east side of Chuō-dōri, near to Kita-Chigasaki Station.

The event will include not only the New Year celebration of the Firefighting Division, a parade of firefighters and fire engines, and an award ceremony for long-serving employees, but also a demonstration of firefighting skills such as water-spraying, and high ladder-riding by local firefighters who have an interest in preserving the traditional firefighting skills which prevailed during the Edo Period.

In those days, big fires that burned down a number of wooden houses occurred quite frequently. Once a fire started, it was not unusual for it to turn into a disaster. The only way to extinguish such fires and prevent them from spreading was to tear down the surrounding houses. The tradition of the New Year's Parade started when the firefighters of the brigade exhibited their professional skills to the public at the New Year.

If weather conditions do not allow the event to take place out of doors, then just the celebration will be held, at the City's Community Hall.

Inquiry: Firefighting General Affairs Section, Firefighting Division Tel: 85-9940



National Foundation Day

けんこくきねんひ
建国記念の日

February 11 marks the celebration of Japan's National Foundation Day. The national holiday was designated in 1872 to commemorate the 660BC accession of the first emperor, Jimmu, and called *Kigensetsu* or Empire Day. *Kigensetsu* was abolished after World War II when Japan's sovereignty shifted from emperor to people. However, in 1966, the holiday was restored and renamed National Foundation Day, the purpose of which is 'to think of the foundation of Japan and foster the love of the nation' (according to the National Holidays Law).

Today, most Japanese people seem to believe it absolutely normal that Japan exists and citizens are protected by the country. National Foundation Day reminds people to appreciate the birth and continuance of their nation, and motivates them to think about a better future for Japan.

Porridge with Seven Spring Herbs

ななくさ
七草がゆ

On January 7, Japanese families prepare rice porridge with seven kinds of vegetables called '*haru no nanakusa*', or seven herbs of spring. This practice came to Japan from China a long time ago. Originally, people went out on the previous day to pick these herbs in fields, but today, you can buy a set of the seven herbs at supermarkets.

These herbs commonly include the leaves of dropwort (*seri*), shepherd's purse (*nazuna*), cottonweed (*gogyo*), chickweed (*hakobera*), henbit (*hotokenoza*), turnip (*suzuna*) and Japanese radish (*suzushiro*). Eating these herbs during the New Year was believed to protect people from illness and promote good health. It is not only a long-honored custom but also practical. The herbs are effective against indigestion from having New Year's delicacies over the holidays. For example, chickweed and henbit cure tired stomachs, cottonweed and Japanese radish relieve sore throats as well as coughing, and shepherd's purse helps to relieve constipation.

Lastly, here is a heartwarming, romantic *tanka*, or Japanese short poem.

君がため 春の野に出でて 若菜つむ
わが衣手に 雪は降りつつ

kimi ga tame, haru no no ni idete wakana tsumu,
waga koromode ni yuki wa huritsutsu

"For your sake, I walk the fields in spring gathering young herbs, while snowflakes are floating down on my garment's sleeves."

This poem, one of the 100 poems by 100 poets in *Ogura Hyakunin Isshu* (an anthology of *tanka*, compiled in the 13th Century) was written by Emperor Kōkō. 'Young herbs' here means seven spring herbs. At the time, the lunar calendar was used, so New Year's Day was around the current January 30. At the beginning of February, when spring was approaching and winter was ready to leave, he gathered green herbs praying for the good health and happiness of his precious person, probably a lady.

History of Chigasaki

The "Hōanden" of Former Tsurumine Elementary School

きゅうつるみねしょうがっこう ほうあんでん
旧鶴嶺小学校の奉安殿

Until the end of World War II, outside every elementary school in Japan, there was a small building called a *Hōanden*. Young students used to make a deep bow towards the *Hōanden* as they entered school every morning. Within each *Hōanden*, the Emperor's portrait, imperial decrees such as the one announcing the end of the war, and other important documents would have been stored. For example, the Imperial Rescript on Education, signed by Emperor Meiji on October 30, 1890, explained the guiding principles of education to be observed throughout the Empire of Japan. Schoolchildren were required to study and memorize this 315 character document which was read aloud at all important school events.

The reason why *Hōanden* were built away from school buildings was to reduce the risk of them being destroyed by fire should a school burn down. The contents of the *Hōanden* were precious and were not allowed to be damaged under any circumstances. The headmaster patrolled the surroundings of the *Hōanden* and checked the seal of the entrance key as soon as he arrived at school every day. And the person on night duty had to check the *Hōanden* every night and in the morning, recording its condition in the *Hōgo-Nikki*, the diary for the protection of the *Hōanden*.

Soon after Japan lost the war, however, all *Hōanden* in the City were destroyed except the one at Tsurumine Elementary School. This *Hōanden* was designated an important cultural asset, transferred for safekeeping to the Hōshōji temple in Nishikubo, and kept in the same custodial warehouse as Amida-Sanson-Zō (the three Amitabha Buddha statues, as previously reported in Chigasaki Breeze, issue 21). These statues have since been moved to another repository, but the former *Hōanden* is now being used as a *Kannon-dō* (or temple for the Goddess of Mercy) within Hōshōji temple.

The *Hōanden* of Tsurumine Elementary School, square-shaped, warehouse-like, with walls covered in plaster, was constructed in February 1927 (Showa 2). In October of the following year, the *Goshin-ei* or imperial portrait of the Showa Emperor was bestowed upon Tsurumine Elementary School – incidently, Chigasaki Elementary School received theirs at the same time.

Please ask permission of Hōshōji temple if you would like to visit their *Kannon-dō*, the former *Hōanden*.



Photo Contest of Attractive Chigasaki People in Town

ちがさきしょうこうかいぎしよ しゃしん 茅ヶ崎商工会議所の写真コンテスト

The Chigasaki Chamber of Commerce and Industry is calling for entries for a photo contest, the theme of which is characteristic features of Chigasaki, such as places, things, views, and so on. The event is open to everyone free of charge. Each person can enter at most two photos, which must be unpublished and in JPG format no larger than 2MB in size. Applications must be submitted by January 31 (Fri).

Application guideline: You need to specify a title for the photo, the location where it was taken, the object photographed, and your name, address, age, occupation, and telephone number. All winning entries will be displayed in the 6F hall of LUSCA in late February and will be awarded prizes from sponsoring corporations.

If you are interested, please send your photos to: info@chigasaki-cci.or.jp

IAC ACTIVITY

Lecture on the United Nations こくれん はなし 国連の話

On February 8 (Sat), a lecture on the United Nations will be held at IKORIA. The speaker is Mr. Haruo Akasaka, the Chief Director of the Foreign Press Center, who was formerly a vice-minister at the United Nations. The theme of his talk will be "What the United Nations is doing?"

The conference room will open at 13:30; the lecture starts at 14:00 and ends at 16:00, including 30 minutes Q&A time. Admission is free.

Aren't you interested to know more about the United Nations?

Japanese Speech Contest for Foreigners

がいこくじん 外国人によるスピーチコンテスト

The annual Japanese speech contest for foreigners will be co-hosted by the IAC and the City office on March 23 (Sun) at 13:30 at the Community Hall in the City office annex 6F. It is arranged to encourage foreigners to take part. Most speakers are those who attend the Japanese classes in the city, but it is open to any foreigners living in this area. We are now preparing the event, where a number of prizes will be awarded, including the Mayor's, the IAC Chairman's, SOROPTIMIST's and a popular prize which will be awarded according to the audience's vote. In addition, participation prizes will be prepared for the other speakers. We will invite a Russian student from Tokai University as a guest speaker. Their stories are often interesting, meaningful, humorous and impressive.

If you are interested in being a speaker, please contact the IAC via its URL: <http://www.7jp.com/iac> or the City office at IKORIA (Tel: 57-1414).

Mac Phuong Thao from Vietnam

Hearing 'arigatou' and 'sumimasen' gives me a nice feeling.

Mac Phuong Thao (マックフォン タオ) came to Chigasaki fourteen months ago from Hai Duong in northern Vietnam, near Ha Long Bay, to work for a company in Samukawa. She works very hard and enjoys her job assembling platform electronics units. She is living in her company's dormitory in Enzo, Chigasaki, with six Vietnamese colleagues.



Since coming to Japan, she has been able to take care of all her personal needs by herself. It is a big change for her compared to her life before. Three of the Vietnamese workers are replaced every three years, so she will have to go back home in about two years' time.

She is now studying Japanese in the IAC's Sunday class and she can speak Japanese well. She also has made friends of the Chinese and Thais there. However, she did not understand Japanese when she started to work at the company. She said that, at that time, her Japanese colleagues repeatedly and kindly taught her with a lot of gestures. She added that she often hears the words 'arigatou' or 'sumimasen' inside and outside the company. It is a nice feeling, so she tries to follow this good example.

She also said all young Vietnamese are now studying hard because their parents spur them to study but young Japanese seem to enjoy some free time

She likes Chikasaki as it is near the beach and reminds her of her home town, where she used to go swimming in Ha Long Bay once a year. She also enjoys watching the Japanese drama, *Oshin*. She has never been out of Chigasaki because she is too busy working and studying Japanese, but she hopes to travel around Japan especially Kyoto and Osaka before returning home.

Her smiling face is charming and she looks younger than her real age.

So many Countries, so many Customs!

ところか しな 所変われば、品変わる

Saint Valentine's Day バレンタインデー

Valentine's Day in the UK, falling on February 14 every year, is an occasion for people to express their romantic feelings for another person by sending cards and giving gifts and flowers.

The most popular flower given is the red rose, the flower of Venus, the Roman goddess of love, whose winged son, Cupid (which means *desire*), shoots love-poisoned arrows with his bow to make people fall in love. The Greek equivalent to Venus was called Aphrodite, from whence comes the word *aphrodisiac*, a food or drink believed to stir up sexual desire. On Valentine's Day, couples often share a special meal and choose dishes which contain supposed aphrodisiacs such as oysters and chocolate, or have a romantic feeling, such as strawberries and champagne.

However, when St Valentine's Day was first established, in AD 500, it was not to celebrate love, but rather to commemorate a 3rd Century priest who was martyred for marrying Roman soldiers in defiance of the Emperor's wishes. The association with romantic love only started around the Late Middle Ages, and was first put into verse by Geoffrey Chaucer in 1382, when he wrote: "*For this was on Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.*" A related superstition predicted who a girl would marry based on the type of bird she saw first on Valentine's Day. If she saw a blackbird, she would marry a clergyman, a robin indicated a sailor, a goldfinch meant a rich man, a sparrow meant a farmer, and so on. If she saw a dove, she would marry a good man, but seeing a woodpecker meant she would not marry at all.

Handwritten Valentine greetings started to appear in the 15th Century, and by the middle of the 18th, it was common for friends and lovers to also exchange small tokens of affection. The 20th Century saw the rise of mass-produced printed greeting cards, which are now gradually giving way to e-Valentines delivered instantaneously across the Internet.

So, what should you give to that special person in your life? The classic Valentine's gift used to be a dozen red roses or chocolates packed in a red satin, heart-shaped box. These days, men and women exchange a wide variety of gifts. Among the top ten most popular gifts last year were: flowers, chocolates, perfume/aftershave, dinner, a night in a hotel and a day at a spa. Men also gave women champagne, lingerie, jewellery and UK city breaks; whilst women gave their men console games, clothing, cuddly toys and cakes. But, beware; whilst e-cards and extravagant gifts may seem like a good idea, taking the time to prepare a handwritten letter or card, and being thoughtful when choosing a gift are more likely to be appreciated as a sign of true love.



THE VALENTINE (1784)

**The rose is red, the violet's blue,
The honey's sweet, and so are you.
Thou art my love, and I am thine;
I drew thee to my Valentine:
The lot was cast, and then I drew,
And fortune said it should be you.**

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

Honolulu and Chigasaki ... Sister Cities?

ホノルルが茅ヶ崎の姉妹都市に?

On the possibility of establishing a sister city affiliation with the city of Honolulu, the City had two town meetings, on December 12 and 15, to hear from citizens on the proposal put forward by three local NPOs: the Chamber of Commerce of Chigasaki, Chigasaki Tourism Association and Chigasaki Aloha Committee. So far, they have had contact with Oahu Tourism Association (now Hawaii State Tourism Bureau) through such events as the Chigasaki Aloha Market, and the World Invitational Hula Festival in Japan held in 2012 and 2013.

The result of the above town meetings and the Mayor's decision will be announced by the City in April, this year.

Hagisono Saturday Music Salon

萩園の土曜ミュージック・サロン

Folk Music on January 25 (Sat) 南米の民族音楽

On January 25 (Sat) from 13:45~14:45, there will be a free Latin American music performance held in the lobby of Hagisono Ikoi-no-sato or Relaxation home. The performers are a group of Kanto university graduates called "Elision". They play Central and South American folk music with various traditional instruments such as charango (lute), zampoña (pan flute), bombo (drum), kena (flute) and guitar.

“Disused Article Bank” 不用品バンク

The following is a list of articles being offered/wanted free or at a reasonable cost by citizens as of November 5, 2013. Anyone interested in these articles should contact the Consulting Services for Citizens' Section, Consumer Life Center on 82-1111. They will then put you in touch with the people concerned directly.

Articles being offered ゆずります

▽ Takasuna Kindergarten girl's uniform ▽ girl kimono for shrine visit ▽ baby-holding belt ▽ pushchair foot muffler ▽ locker dresser ▽ chest of drawers ▽ slipper/magazine stand ▽ TV rack ▽ glass table ▽ triple mirror ▽ beauty salon bed ▽ wooden table and chair ▽ PC desk ▽ wardrobe ▽ storage locker ▽ writing desk ▽ multi-purpose shelf ▽ vacuum cleaner ▽ desk lamp ▽ kotatsu or a low table with a heating device ▽ chandelier ▽ stereo system ▽ laptop ▽ laminator ▽ water heater ▽ electric heater ▽ DVD player ▽ dish dryer ▽ rice cooker ▽ coffee maker ▽ electric water heater/dispenser ▽ gas fire heater ▽ gas heater ▽ trampoline ▽ electronic piano ▽ a set of golf gear ▽ electronic organ ▽ bed cover ▽ Japanese cushion ▽ safe ▽ kotatsu futon ▽ mahjong table ▽ scalp washer ▽ frame ▽ pill box storage organizer ▽ silver toy car ▽ hot water bottle

Articles wanted ゆずってください

▽ Shonan Madoka Kindergarten girl's uniform ▽ dining table ▽ cupboard ▽ weighing scales ▽ gramophone

Japanese Recipe

Sweet Red Bean Soup お汁粉

Ingredients:

- 200g red (azuki) beans
- 50-60g sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1.4 liters water
- 70ml x2 extra water



Step 1: Rinse the red (azuki) beans. Pour 600ml of water into a pan. Add the beans and cover. Bring to a boil on a high heat.

Step 2: Drain the beans in a colander. Rinse under cool water. Discard the water in the pan.

Step 3: Return the beans to the pan. Add 800ml water and cover. Bring to a boil and simmer for a while on low heat until beans become very soft. Pour 70ml water into the pan a couple of times along the way when beans start rising to the surface.

Step 4: Add sugar and salt and bring to a boil. Set aside to cool for at least 1 hour.

Japanese Proverbs and their English Equivalents

日本と西洋のことわざ

●君子は豹変す

KUNSHI WA HYŌHEN SU

(A true gentleman changes suddenly.)

A wise man changes his mind, a fool never.

●天知る 地知る 我知る 子知る

TEN SHIRU CHI SHIRU WARE SHIRU SHI SHIRU

(Heaven knows, Hell knows, you know and your children will know.)

Your sins will find you out.

●ならぬ堪忍 するが堪忍

NARANU KANNIN SURUGA KANNIN

(To be patient when you can't be patient shows true patience.)

Patience is a flower that grows not in every garden.

●本末転倒するな

HONMATSU TENTŌ SURU NA

(Don't fail to do things in the proper order.)

Don't put the cart before the horse.

●冥途の道は 王もなし

MEIDO NO MICHI WA Ō MO NASHI

(The path to heaven is trodden by rich and poor alike.)

Death is the great leveler.

Useful Japanese Expressions 役に立つ日本語

Omowashiku-nai おもわしく無い

Omowashii or *Omowashiku-nai* may be typical of Japanese language since the expression is a little bit fuzzy or indirect. Actually, *omowashii* means desirable or satisfactory when put simply, but you may not hear this expression often. Rather, its negative form *omowashiku-nai* is heard more frequently in daily conversation as you can use it to refer to many things related to business, health, performance, and so forth.

Omowashiku-nai means unsatisfactory, disappointing, serious, etc. and you can use it to express feelings such as "My business is not so good." "The result didn't come up to my expectations.", "His health is in serious condition.", "His performance is not going well.", etc. Convenient, isn't it?