

# Chigasaki Breeze

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

No.0006

## FIREWORKS DISPLAY at SOUTHERN BEACH

花火

During the hot and humid summer season, there are major fireworks displays throughout Japan creating a spectacular sight in the dark sky. This with a number of people in *Yukata* (summer kimono) watching from the water banks is a typical summer scene.



In Chigasaki this year the fireworks display is taking place at Southern Beach on August 5, from 19:20 until 20:30. (In case of rain, it will be postponed until the next fine day.)

The fireworks originated in the Edo Era (1603-1867) at Ryogoku, Edo (the present Tokyo) where the two fireworks specialty manufacturers, *Tama-ya* and *Kagi-ya*, were keenly competing to sky-rocket them on the Sumida River. People shout these names even today to express their delight.

The first fireworks in Chigasaki were displayed in 1974 under the name of Chigasaki Summer Evening Fireworks Display and it used to be held on August 1 every year. In 1999, when Chigasaki beach was named "Southern Beach", it became to be called "Southern Beach Chigasaki Fireworks Display" and the date was set on the first Saturday of August.

This year, it's going to be the thirty-third display. There will be about 3,500 fireworks including those with names such as "Star Mines" and "Magic-Flower-in-Water" making the sky over Southern Beach bright with colorful bouquets.

You will surely enjoy the beautiful festivity on the beach.

## BON FESTIVAL

or O-BON お盆

*O-BON* is a Buddhist ritual observed from August 13 to 16. During this period, the spirits are believed to return to the home altars. To welcome the spirits a light is put out at the entrance of homes to guide their way, lanterns are lit inside homes, the home altar is cleaned up, and offerings of fruit and vegetables are served.

When this *O-BON* or Bon Festival is over, the spirits are sent back on their way with a light placed at the exit of homes. This is called the escorting of the spirits and in some areas paper lanterns are put out to float on rivers or the ocean. The candlelights reflecting on the water's surface is an impressive sight.

## Autumnal Equinox Day

or *Shubun-no-Hi* 秋分の日

In September, there is an Autumn equinoctial week and the day in the middle of the week is called Autumnal Equinox Day. This is when temples hold memorial services and people pay visits to graves to comfort the spirits of their ancestors. This year, it is on September 23 and is a national holiday.

There is a saying, "*No heat or cold lasts over the equinox.*", so the week is a turning point marking the end of summer and the coming of autumn when the hours of the day and night are the same. The same goes with the Vernal Equinox Day which occurs around March 21.



## Viewing the Moon

or *TSUKIMI* 月見

As in other countries in the orient, Japanese used to have a custom of viewing or admiring the moon on the night of August 15 by the lunar calendar or October 6 by the current calendar by preparing dumplings, pampas grass, seasonal fruits, etc. as offerings or *OSONAE* to the moon. These are put on a small table placed at the veranda. There used to be scenes such as children sitting behind the table, admiring the moon. Although nowadays we rarely see the scene as mentioned. The moon looks especially beautiful in the clear Autumn air and people enjoy gazing at the bright moon. *Tsukimi* is also a prayer for a beautiful crop, coming just before the rice harvest.

## INVITATION TO THE WORLD OF HOKUSAI and HIROSHIGE

Chigasaki City Art Museum will exhibit *UKIYO-E* of *HOKUSAI* and *HIROSHIGE* from July 25 (Tue) to September 10 (Sun) this year. Both of them are world famous artists of wood-block prints. The exhibition specifically renders figures of Kabuki actors and sceneries from the Shonan area in the Edo period such as Mt. Fuji over Sagami Bay that you can see from the beach in Chigasaki. Also you will discover the typical life style of people in the Edo period through other wood-block prints. (Entrance fee: Adults ¥500, Univ. Students ¥300, High school Students and under Free. Closed on Mondays.)

On other occasions, the museum exhibits the works of artists connected to Chigasaki and gives various lectures and concerts. The museum is in a beautiful setting surrounded by greenery, and it takes only about eight minutes on foot from the station's south exit.

If you're interested in *UKIYO-E*, this is your great opportunity!



Chigasaki City Art Museum



Wood-block print of Hokusai

## CHIGASAKI PEACE DAY

*Come, join and sing!*

**"WE ARE THE WORLD"**

*Gospel Shonan*, a choir in the city appears on the pedestrian deck of the station at 6 pm, on August 6, to sing a variety of gospel songs for 40 minutes with the spirit of supporting the **CHIGASAKI PEACE DAY** sponsored by the city.

The song, "We are the world" is programmed as the last number, as they wish to sing it with all the audience. Anyone is welcome to join and sing together. The English lyrics will be prepared for each participant.

For inquiries, call Tetsuo Takamoto at 090-3912-1073.

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