

Chigasaki Breeze

No.0002

How people spend the New Year in Japan?

shi wasu

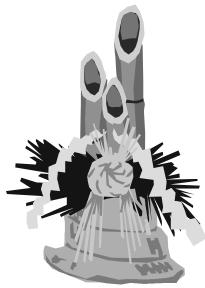
師走

Not only at home but offices and schools, everybody does a thorough cleaning before the holiday so you can start the New Year nice and fresh. Housewives cook *Osechi-ryori* to be served on the first day of the

New Year. There are differences from one area to another, but for the most part it's traditional. Special dishes believed to bring good luck are always included. For example, herring roe (*Kazunoko*) symbolizes the prosperity of one's descendants. Tiny fish called *Gomame* symbolizes industriousness. Other food includes hors d'oeuvres, grilled meat and fish, boiled vegetables and vinegared foods. On New Year's Eve (*Oh-Misoka*), even small children are allowed to stay up late and eat buckwheat noodles with adults and listen to temple bells ring in the New Year. Because the noodle are long and slender, they symbolize longevity.

In this issue:

- P1... Year-End & New Year
Emergency tips
- P2... IAC activities, Environmental
Master Plan of the City.
National Holidays
- P3... City guide, Civic Activity
- P4... Performances, Hot Springs,
Clinics, Classified Ads



sho gatsu

正月

Akemashite

Omedeto -

gozaimasu.



On the morning of January 1, family members exchange formal greetings "**Akemashite Omedeto Gozaimasu**" meaning **Happy New Year**, drink *Otoso* (spiced Sake) and eat *Ozoni* (vegetable and rice cake soup).

Shogatsu means the first month of the year, and the New Year's day is called *Gantan*. New Year's is the most important holiday for Japanese. Schools have a 2-week winter vacation and businesses are closed from about December 30 to January 3. Many people go back to their home towns and spend New Year's with their families. Originally *Shogatsu* was the most important religious ritual in Japan and a part of it is observed today in *Kadomatsu* (a decoration made with pine and bamboo and put up outside), *Shimekazari* (a braided rice-straw rope or sacred festoon decorated with citrus fruit and put up on the front door), and *Kgami-mochi* (a ceremonial rice cake). To make rice cake (*Mochi*), glutinous rice is steamed, pounded into a mass and then made into various shapes. The steamed rice can be put in a mortar and pounded with a mallet, but lately there are also convenient household electric rice cake machine. All of these are prepared before December 29. Traditionally, pine, bamboo and plum trees are considered as a fortune or a good luck.

PRECAUTION IS THE BEST POLICY

Look after fire!

With the year end approaching, December is spent in a great flurry finishing up the year's work, writing greeting cards (*nengajoh*), year end parties (*bohnenkai*), the big cleaning (*ohsohji*) and cooking the New Year's special dishes (*osechi ryori*). Be sure to attend to your cooking and make sure to extinguish any kind of fire completely. The humidity is extremely low. It is recommended to turn the gas off at the main line and unplug any electrical appliances when not in use.

Prevent Crimes!

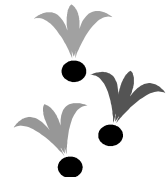
While people are busy running around doing chores, the month of December is called *SHIWASU* literally meaning people running around, the villains get busy too. Always lock your house and car, be especially cautious in handling your credit cards and carry your bags securely. Don't let the prowlers, burglars, pick pockets, and con men do their job.

TIPS TO PREVENT FIRE

- Never smoke in bed.
- Keep stoves away from flammable materials.
- Never leave pans cooking on the stove unattended.
- Install fire alarms.
- Use nonflammable bedding and clothes.
- Keep a fire extinguisher around and learn how to use it.
- Keep an eye out around your neighbors to detect any kind of danger.

All in all, the New Year's *Otoshidama* (a gift of money placed in an envelope) is the most exciting custom for children as they can expect it to be given by all the relatives including parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles and so forth. In the past, New Year's meant flying kites, spinning tops and matching poem cards. Nowadays in this IT era, you rarely see kids doing things like that.

On New Year's days, some people wear *Kimono* (Japanese-style garment) and visit shrines to pray for health, happiness, safety at home and prosperity in business in the coming year (*Hatsumohde*). There are also many people who greet the first sunrise of the year (*Hatsuhinode*). *Nengajo* (New Year's card) is also a part of New Year's joys just like Christmas cards in the western culture. *Nengajo* often have pictures of the zodiac animals (*Eto*) for that year.



In case of an EMERGENCY!

Dial [119] for fire fighters or an ambulance.

The ambulance is free of charge, but medical expenses have to be covered by you.

Dial [110] for the police

--- when you get involved in, or witness, a crime or a traffic accident.

Exchange Students from Australia visiting!

IAC is going to have two groups of university and high school exchange students from Australia visiting in December and January.

8 university students will be home-staying three nights from December 2 through 5, while 3 high school students will be here for two months in December and January. They go to Tsurumine High School during the two months.

If you find them on the street, please say hello to make them feel good, OK?



A letter from an exchange student.

Dear friends in Chigasaki,

I would not exchange my ten months in Chigasaki for anything. I can not think of another way in which one can learn so much and have so much fun at the same time. Though I am not fluent in Japanese by any stretch of the imagination, my language skills have improved significantly. I learned more Japanese and finally realized my dream of experiencing Japanese culture first hand. I visited shrines and temples such as Ise Jingu and Nikko. I attended festivals, the world's fair, and even participated in a parade in Chigasaki. I visited and bathed in Japanese hot springs which I now enjoy very much, ate Japanese food, and I studied at a Aletheia High School. The staffs at my school were very patient with my inability to speak their language and the student body befriended me quickly. I do believe however that my stay in Japan would not have been nearly as enjoyable if it were not for the many friends that I made during my time there. My host families the Satos and the Ozawas were kind, friendly, and always willing to help if I needed assistance. My coordinator Mr. Ota helped me through many trying times. If it were not for all their help, friendship, and support, I do not believe that I would have completed my ten month stay. In conclusion, my time in Japan was a life changing experience. I have memories that will not fade with time and formed bonds of friendship that can never be broken.

Ryan

Note: Ryan Rawlings used to be in Chigasaki for 10 months till June this year

Environmental Master Plan of the City

The Ideal and Goal

- 1) Enjoy the sound and rich environment and succeed it to the future generations.
- 2) Aim at realizing an affluent relation between nature and people.
- 3) Aim at constructing a society where one can expect a sustained development with less negative impact to environment.
- 4) Recognize the security of the global environment as our own issue and pursue the subject aggressively.

Goals

Security of Living Environment

A city where everybody can live in peace blessed with clean air and water.

Security of Natural Environment

A city where people can enjoy the natural environment.

Security & Creation of City Environment

A city which is rich, restful and eco-friendly.

Reduce Negative Impact on Environment

A city where energy, water, and conservation are valued.

Security of Global Environment

A city where people around the world, animals and plants, and the future of children are considered.

IAC YEAR-END PARTY



IAC will have its annual Year-end Party on December 17 at the Community Hall (6th floor of the City Hall's Annex) from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. It is time for members and for people who have close association with IAC to get together and celebrate their activities and friendship. This year again representatives from Malawi and Botswana of Africa will be joining us with their family. With admission charge of ¥500, anyone who is interested in exchanging 'hello' are welcome. There will be snacks and live music.

IAC Language Classes

Japanese Sunday Class

13:30~15:30

at the Chigasaki Community Center

Coordinator Y. Fujino 86-2468

Japanese Thursday Class

10:00~12:00 at the City Library

Coordinator Y. Suzuki 82-0759

Spanish

The first and third Monday at Terakoya

Senior class 10:00~12:00

First class 14:25~15:55

Coordinator M. Itoh

Korean

The second and fourth Saturday

13:30~15:30 at the City Library

Coordinator T. Kobayashi 51-8962

Chinese

• Advanced class

The first & third Saturday

14:00~16:00 at the City Library

Coordinator I. Ohta 83-0480

• Intermediate class

The first, second & third Saturday

13:00~14:30 at the Josei Center

(next bldg. to Daikuma)

Coordinator S. Nakane 87-8417

• Beginner's class

The first, second & third Saturday

14:30~16:00 at the Josei Center

Coordinator S. Nakane 87-8417

*Time and place are subject to change. Those who wish to join are recommended to confirm by calling respective coordinator or by writing to chigasaki breeze@7jp.com

2006 National Holidays

1/1 (Sun) New Year's Day

1/9 (Mon) Coming-of-Age Day

2/11 (Sat) National Foundation Day

3/21 (Tue) Spring Equinox Day

4/29 (Sat) Green Day

5/3 (Wed) Constitution Day

5/5 (Fri) Children's Day

7/17 (Mon) Marine Day

9/18 (Mon) Respect-for-the-Aged Day

9/23 (Sat) Autumn Equinox Day

10/9 (Mon) Sports Day

11/3 (Fri) Culture Day

11/23 (Thu) Labor Thanksgiving Day

12/23 (Sat) The Emperor's Birthday

Note: 5/4 is designated as a holiday with two holidays before and after.

Japan has changed my life.....

A Letter from a reader

Dear Sir,

Japan has changed my life.

I was an undercover narcotic policeman in England for twenty years but when I retired I really (needed) wanted to changed my life. I knew nothing of Japan but I wanted to learn another language and about new cultures. I only knew 'please' and 'thank you' in Japanese and about Hiroshima. When I first came here, I knew nothing else....I'm ashamed to say. I traveled around Japan for three months and found nothing but kindness and help from Kita-Kyushu to Hokkaido. I was amazed and I am still.

I have been here twelve years and I would never leave. Western people know nothing of Japan. We know only about the 'A' bomb.

The last twelve years have been the happiest times of my life. I have traveled the world but I have never, ever met such gentle, polite, cultured people. This is now my home, the place where I should be.....the kimonos, the punks, the old and the new, the gentleness, no violence.

I teach in Hokuryo senior high school and it is a pleasure for me to attend. The students are fantastic. We should always strive to understand each other. I have a few 'gaijin friends' but my best friends are Japanese.

Please thank people for allowing me to be here. What a place...! *Yoroshiku.*

Paul Waller



KABUKI AND CHIGASAKI

Danjuro Ichikawa IX



The history of the Ichikawa family dates back to the late 17th century. The family is famous for their Kabuki performances and their great family history. The every master of the family has succeeded to their father's name, Danjuro, since the family started.

The 9th Danjuro was born in 1838. He was not only a great Kabuki star but also a remarkable reformer of the style of Kabuki. He tried to reform the traditional Kabuki style and introduced a new stream into the Kabuki world. Actually, he received both good and bad reputations. But it is true that he had great impact on today's Kabuki. In 1897, Danjuro built a villa in Chigasaki. At that time, Chigasaki was famous as popular resorts. He built the gorgeous second house in today's Heiwa-cho. Even now local people love the land and call it "Danjuro-yama". There you can find his monument made of a stone which was once put in the garden of his second house.

Everyday Conversation

What do you say in this situation?

At a station

1. Kono densha wa Yokohama ni tomari masu ka?

この電車は横浜にとまりますか?

(Will this train stop at Yokohama station?)

Densha: train tomaru: to stop

2. Kono densha wa kakueki teisha desu ka, soretomo kyu-ko desu ka?

この電車は各駅停車ですか、それとも急行ですか?

(Is this a local train or an express?)

kakueki-teisha: a local train kyu-ko: an express

A letter from Mr. Imam B Prasadjo, Indonesia

Dear Sir,

We were delighted to learn that the International Association of Chigasaki has decided to donate funds to Yoyasan Nurani Dunia's Aceh Recovery Fund. The 56,000 Yen that you sent with your June 28, 2005 letter will be put to good use and will assist the people living in the area ravaged by the December 26, 2004 tsunami to recover from its devastating effects.

We will provide you with additional information regarding the specific uses of the funds you donated as soon as possible. Until then, please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Imam B Prasadjo
Director, Nurani Dunia Foundation for Humanitarian Aid to Victims of Social and Natural Disasters

PEOPLE IN TOWN

Roger Soeparno (ロジェ・ソエパルノ)

Roger is from Noumea, New Caledonia, a French Colony in Melanesia. In the year 2000, he got married to a Japanese lady who was working on the island. He started his new life with his wife in Tokyo, but he missed living by the ocean and moved to Chigasaki in 2003. Now he works as a chef at "Ojisanchi" by the Chigasaki station which was opened in August this summer.

Demonstrating his deftness, he makes accessories with shells which are sold downstairs of the restaurant. He also sings and plays ukulele in a Hawaiian band called Ika Ika. Shy and modest, but such a good sport and a fun guy!



IAC Mission Statement

We will contribute to the peace in the world community through mutual understanding, friendship, cooperativeness, solidarity and human dignity so all people, as earth citizens, respect each other and live together beyond the borders of nationality.



CIVIC CULTURE CENTER (Shimin Bunka Kaikan)

Major performances

- Christmas Concert by Christina and Lora from New York Piano: John Novacheck
Dec. 9 (Fri) 19:00 (door opens at 18:30)
Admission ¥3,500 (reserved seating)
- Christmas Charity Concert by Japanese classic singers and by Shonan Hamayu chorus group
Dec. 21 (Wed) 14:00 (door opens at 13:30)
Admission ¥2,000 (general seating)
- Lo Major de Sonko Mayu (guitarist from Spain)
Dec. 23 (Fri) 14:00
Admission ¥3,000 (reserved seating)

Hot Springs in Chigasaki!

Did you know we have natural hot springs in this town? You just get on Sagami Line and get off at Kita-Chigasaki station, the first stop from Chigasaki. The hot spring called "Yukai-Sohkai" or "Pleasant and Enjoyable" is in front of the station, and it's a sodium-chloride based springs which is supposed to be good to your skin.

The hot spring is very spacey and there are 16 different types of baths including Jacuzzi, jet bath, herb bath, cold bath, sauna, etc. plus massage rooms, hair saloon, barber shop, and three tatami-mat rooms for you to relax. Two rooms are for both men and women, and one room is just for women.

A set of face and bath towel is available for rent, and you can spend the whole day there if you like sweating and relaxing. Surely an enjoyable spot!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A Calendar for Garbage Collection for December 2005, January and February 2006 is attached.

Traffic Restriction on The Shonan Ohashi Bridge

The Shonan Ohashi Bridge crossing the river between Chigasaki and Hiratsuka is a fairly important bridge for us to go west, but you cannot cross the bridge on Route 134 during the night.

During October 3~March 3, 2006
Completely closed 21:00 pm~6:00 am

Detour on two highways:
Route 1 Banyu Bridge
Route 44 Ginga Ohashi

Hiratsuka Engineering Works Office,
Road Maintenance Section **0463-22-2711**

THE CIVIC NPO SUPPORT CENTER

In Chigasaki, there are 206 volunteer groups or non-profit organizations (NPO) and their various activities are supported by a city-designated NPO called SHIMIN KATSUDO SUPPORT CENTER, or the Civic NPO Support Center. We just call it *SAPOSEN*.

Located nearby JUSCO on Chuo-Dori, the street extending north from Chigasaki Station, they have an open space for citizens to use freely and they are equipped with computers, copy machines, printers and other office gadgets along with various municipal information.

The staff is always there to assist you. They are open from 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. every day except the third Wednesday of every month.

The functions of SAPOSEN include the following:

- Offer a space for civic group's meetings, preparing printed matter, etc.
- Provide equipment for groups to do their necessary work.
- Post groups' PR brochure, advertising, event information, etc.
- Provide information for those who plan to organize a group.
- Periodically provide social gatherings, lectures, etc.
- Provide lockers and letter cases for groups to store goods and receive correspondence.

Classified Ads

- Drinks are 50% off on Fridays at Ojisanchi for foreigners!
(Look for a large palm tree at the south side of Chigasaki station.)
Live music on weekends which is open to all comers! 0467-88-0089
- Kashmir Yoga class in Chigasaki (language: English).
Enjoy the pleasure of practicing yoga, free yourself from body pain and stress, and harmonize the balance between body and spirit. Lesson time:
Monday morning 10:00-11:30 / Thursday afternoon 15:30-17:00 Location: Hachioji shrine 4-13-40, Hanson, Chigasaki. For further information, please contact: Maurice Joosten Tel: 080-5651-3380 or mail: bwgcw402@ybb.ne.jp

◎ Volunteer staff members needed for "Chigasaki Breeze".
Writers, proof readers and anyone else who is willing to contribute.

To place your ads here, send email to ChigasakiBreeze@7jp.com or by post to:
International Association of Chigasaki
c/o BUNKA-SUIHINKA, Chigasaki City Hall

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Medical Information Series II

Doctors Available for English consultation

Takahashi Clinic (I, P, R)	Jyukkenzaka 1-2-16	82-2231
Shonan Sakura Clinic (N)	Motomachi 18-4	57-1101
Chigusa Ganka (O)	Shin'ei-cho 13-45	Kamoshida Bldg 3F 84-0988
Machida Ichoka-Geka Clinic (S, I, G, C, Or)	Hagisono 2305-27	85-2013
Midori-no-shonan Hifuka Clinic (D)	Shin'ei-cho 7-16	Nikkodo Bldg 2F 88-7860

Remarks: I = Internal medicine clinic P = Pediatrics R = Radiotherapy
N = Neurology O = Ophthalmology S = Surgery
G = Gastrointestinal clinic C = Circulatory organs clinic
Or = Orthopedic surgery D = Dermatology

Chigasaki Breeze will be issued every other month. If you wish to subscribe, please send ¥480 in stamps for 6 issues to International Association of Chigasaki c/o Bunka Suishinka, Chigasaki City Hall, 1-1-1 Chigasaki, Chigasaki City 23-0041. Article submissions and items for classified ads are most welcome either via email chigasakiBreeze@7jp.com or by post to the above address. Chief editor: Yutaka Shimada Editing staff: Y. Itoh, E. Iwamoto, S. Nakane, K. Nitani, A. Sakai, M. Uchiyama, Y. Wada, and H. Yuge.