

What's New in Yokosuka

<http://www.city.yokosuka.kanagawa.jp/0140/english/welcome/documents/cultureinfo.pdf>

Inquiries in English: Yokosuka City, International Relations Division 046(822)8138

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Kick-off the spring season at Taura Plum Grove Festival!

~ The 57th Annual Taura Plum Grove Festival is Here! ~



Come and visit the Taura Plum Grove (田浦梅の里) to see more than 2,700 white and red plum blossom trees in bloom! Narcissus will also be blossoming, and many other fun events will be going on throughout February!

When: February 4th (Sat) ~ March 11th (Sun)

Where: Taura Plum Grove (田浦梅の里)

Fee: Free

- Family kite-flying: February 5th (Sun) 13:00 ~ 14:00 (to be postponed till February 12th (Sun) in the event of rain)
 - Flower arrangements, haiku, Japanese kites, and photo exhibition held in Taura Elementary School gymnasium (田浦小学校体育館) : February 25th (Sat) 12:00 ~ 14:00, February 26th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 14:00
 - Theatrical Entertainment held in Taura Elementary School gymnasium (田浦小学校体育館) : February 26th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 14:00
- [Taura Administration Center 046-861-4181]

The 18th Annual Taura Tourism Photo Contest!

Photos of Taura Plum Grove, of Funakoshi Nango Park, or any other photo depicting Taura's natural beauty, ruins, cultural treasures, sightseeing facilities, events or anything else relating to Taura are welcome! Judging and award ceremony will take place in May.

For details (Only in Japanese): <http://members3.jcom.home.ne.jp/taurakan2008/>

Free to apply; Submission period: February 4th (Sat) ~ April 30th (Mon)

[Taura Administration Center 046-861-4181]



Mayor's Award (2011)
「梅林快晴」
"Plum Grove under the Clear Sky"
by Toshiyuki Sawada



Special Award
「たこあげの日」
"Kite-flying Day"
by Saburo Arai



Selected Award
「里山は花ざかり」
"Upland filled in Blossoms"
by Michiko Sumita

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mt. Takeyama Hatsufudo (武山初不動)

A pleasant gathering of people praying for good health in the New Year, and children enjoying famous *fugashi* sweets. Sweets will be sold starting at 6 a.m. Please note that the summit of Mt. Takeyama can only be reached by hiking from Ikkizuka bus stop (40 min). Please come by bus as there is no parking.

When: January 28th (Sat)

Where: Summit of Mt. Takeyama / Mt. Takeyama Fudoin (武山不動院)

Fee: Free

[Takeyama Sightseeing Association 046-856-3157]



Not Alone Fair (のたろんフェア)

Are you interested in looking at what kind of community clubs are around Yokosuka? If you are, then Not Alone Fair is the place to go! There will be many community clubs introducing their club activities, flea markets, and more!

When: February 11th (Sat) and 12th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00

Where: Yokosuka Volunteer Support Center (市民活動サポートセンター)

Fee: Free

[Yokosuka Volunteer Support Center 046-828-3130]



Dobuita Bazaar (どぶ板バザール)

Flea market with over 100 stalls! A fun annual Dobuita event with performances and live music to enjoy!

When: February 11th (Sat) and 12th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 18:00

Where: Dobuita Street area (どぶ板通り周辺)

Fee: Free

[Honcho Merchant Association 046-824-4917]



Experience Japanese Culture (日本文化体験教室)

A day of fun with Japanese culture! You can try origami, flower arrangements, tea ceremony, and calligraphy; put on a kimono; or try playing traditional Japanese musical instruments.

When: March 3rd (Sat) 13:00 ~ 17:00

Where: Sogo Fukushi Kaikan Hall 6th flr (総合福祉会館 6 階)

Fee: Free Admission (Some activities may require materials fee)

[Yokosuka International Association 046-827-2166]



The Three Statues of Amida opened to public at Jorakuji Temple (浄楽寺阿弥陀三尊像一般公開)

An officially-designated cultural heritage statue created by “Unkei” and is only opened to the public twice a year.

When: March 3rd (Sat) 10:00 ~ 15:00

Where: Jorakuji Temple (浄楽寺)

Fee: Free

[Suka navi i (Yokosuka Sightseeing Information) 046-822-8301]

Needle Mass (針供養)

Needle Mass or *hari-kuyo* is traditional event when Japanese women would gather their broken needles and take them to the shrine. There, they would take a break from any sewing and wish for their needlework to improve. Then, they offer a prayer into the broken needle and insert it into a tofu.

When: March 10th (Sat) 11:00 ~ 12:00

Where: Hashirimizu Shrine (走水神社)

Fee: Free

[Otsu Sightseeing Association 046-836-3531]



Scatter roasted beans to drive the demons away!



This is traditional Japanese festival called “setsubun” and is celebrated on February 3rd to celebrate the beginning of spring. People throw roasted beans and shout “Oni wa soto! Fuku wa uchi!” (Evil out! Fortune in!). After throwing the beans, every person eats the number of beans of his/her age, or age plus one (custom varies). This celebration will be held in several shrines located in Yokosuka. (Events are free, but it is customary to put a small coin in the shrine’s offering box).

Discover YOKOSUKA with YOKOSUKA 1CHIBAN!

YCCI: Yokosuka Chamber of Commerce and Industry provides you with the newly released booklet introducing 46 restaurants, stores, services, and more! This picture packed booklet includes coupons and maps locating each store! These can be retrieved at the Yokosuka base, Yokosuka City Hall, Yokosuka International Association, Yokosuka CCI, and all stores introduced in this booklet. For more details on the stores, you can visit the YCCI website at <http://www.sukaichi-e.com>



We would like to hear from YOU!

We would like to hear some suggestions from our readers! Are there any particular topics or themes that you would like to see in the section of *Japanese Survival Tips*? Are there any events or locations in Yokosuka that you would like to know more about? If so, please e-mail the International Relations Division at ir-mo@city.yokosuka.kanagawa.jp We are looking forward to hearing your voices!



Japanese Survival Tips

Chocolates to Diamonds!

You see hearts, chocolates, cookies with the colors red, white, and pink and you know what that means, “Happy Valentine’s Day!” While this phrase is frequently said in the U.S., people in Japan do not, but they definitely celebrate it in an interesting fashion. Valentine’s Day is a day for Japanese women to give presents—most commonly chocolate—to men and express their love.

There are three types of chocolate: *giri-choco*, *tomo-choco*, and *honmei-choco*. *Giri* is obligation and *choco* is chocolate; these are chocolates many women give to male bosses and co-workers. *Tomo* means friend, and this chocolate is distributed to their friends regardless of gender. On the other hand, *honmei-choco* is the chocolate for the man she has romantic interest in and homemade chocolate would be a plus!

However, here’s the difference, after Valentine’s Day, there is White Day (*howaito dei*) on March 14th when the man who received *honmei-choco* gives something back to the woman. It is said their present must be three times the value (*sanbai gaeshi*) that they received. However, some give marshmallows—because it’s white—or cookies instead. White Day is not a traditional holiday but apparently started from a marketing company as a response to Valentine’s Day.

As a side note for all those singles out there not interested in Valentine’s Day, in Korea, there is Black Day on April 14th when all singles get together and eat jajangmyeon (noodles with black soybean paste). Fair, no?

Miho Tanaka, a native of Georgia, U.S.A., is Yokosuka City’s Coordinator for International Relations. “Japanese Survival Tips” in every issue of What’s New in Yokosuka features fun information useful for everyday life and cultural encounters in Japan.



Event Calendar

JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH	
14	• Anshinkan Fair (9:30~16:30, Municipal Disaster Prevention Center ANSHINKAN)	4	• Kitashitaura Cultural Festival (~5 th 9:30~16:00, 5 th closes at 15:30, Kitashitaura Community Center • Kitashitaura Civic Plaza)	3	• Experience Japanese Culture
17	• Art Exhibition of the winners of the “Arasaki Seaside Course” Sketch Contest (~31 st , Nishi Community Center)		• Manabikan Festival (~5 th , Lifelong Learning Center)		• Amida Sanzon Zou Statues opened to public at Jorakuji Temple
28	• Mt. Takeyama Hatsufudo	11	• Taura Plum Grove Festival	10	• Needle Mass
			• “Shikishima Festival” Exhibit of Original Cuisines (10:00~, Yokosuka Culinary School)	25	• Japan-U.S. Spring Festival
			• Dobuita Bazaar (~12 th)		• Kitashitaura Furusato Marathon
			• Not Alone Fair (~12 th)		* <i>What’s New in Yokosuka comes out again on March 10th!</i>
					* <i>The schedule posted may be subject to change.</i>

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