

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

* All information may be subject to change

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EVENT CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 1- Strawberry season begins at Tukiuhama Tourist Farm (~5/5)
- 11- New Year's Fire Review
- 12- **Coming of Age Day**
- 18- Muira Peninsula Prefectural *Ekiden*
- 25- Nakajima Saburosukeye Festival
- 28- Mt. Takeyama *Hatsufudo*

FEBRUARY

- 3 - *Setsubun*
- 7-8 Not Alone Fair
- 7- Taura Plum Festival (~3/15)
- 11 - **National Foundation Day**

MARCH

- 7- Japanese Culture Experience
- 10- Next Issue
- 14- White Day
- 14- Needle Mass
- 21- **Vernal Equinox**
- 29- U.S.-Japan Spring Festival

For English info about events in Yokosuka call the **Yokosuka Call Center 046-822-2500**. Operators may need time to search for info. **8am-8pm daily**.

Yokosuka English Information



Starting in January 2015, FM Blue Shonan 78.5 will be broadcasting a brand new bilingual radio show called "Yokosuka English Information." The ten minute segment will include details about upcoming events and tips for life in Yokosuka. The same show will be repeated weekdays at 12:00 p.m. for one week at a time, and a new episode will begin each Monday. Since it is updated every week, you can get more timely info than you can here in WNIY.



The purpose of the show is to get information out to English speaking Yokosuka residents, so most information will be given out in English by one host. However, the other host will speak Japanese to add context for Japanese listeners. It will be a great language-learning resource for people trying to learn either language!

Coming of Age Day

Back in early January (the 12th to be exact), you may have noticed a mass of young people all dressed in their finest suits and kimono. You weren't just seeing things. The second Monday of January is a national holiday known as "Coming of Age Day." This holiday is a celebration of all of the young people who reach adulthood, and on that day, most every local municipality organizes a coming of age ceremony for those who turned or will turn 20 within the current school year (2 April - 1 April). Yokosuka's ceremony is held at the Yokosuka Arena in Iriyamazu. Many of those sharply dressed folks were likely on their way to or from this ceremony, excited to get their first *nama-biru* at their local *izakaya*.



Mt. Takeyama Hatsufudo

When: Jan. 28 (Wed.) Food booths open at 7 a.m.

Where: Mt. Takeyama and Takeyama *Fudoin* (Buddhist temple)

What: A gathering of people praying for good health in the New Year and children enjoying famous *fugashi* (sugar-covered gluten) sweets. The road up to the temple will be lined with booths selling delicious sweets and other foods.

Directions: Good health doesn't come easy! There is limited parking in the area and none specifically for the temple. For public transport, take a "Nagai-yuki" (長井行) or "Misakiguchi-yuki" (三崎口行) bus from JR Yokosuka or Keikyu Yokosuka Chuo Station. It will take between 30 and 40 minutes. Get off at "Ikkizuka" (一騎塚). It is then a 40 minute walk up the mountain! The view of Sagami Bay and possible Mt. Fuji at the top is well worth your effort!

Taura Plum Grove Festival

When: Feb. 7 (Sat.) - Mar. 15 (Sun.)

Where: Taura Plum Grove (Taura Izumi-cho 92)

What: With over 2,000 trees, the Taura Plum Grove is one of the most famous flowering spots in all of Kanagawa. You can't miss the chance to get such a great view of the bay with so many blossoming trees. There will be a kite flying event at the park on Feb. 8 and a special cultural event at Taura Elementary School (Taura-cho 3-55) on Feb. 22.

Directions: Leave the south exit of JR Taura Station, and turn right to go through the tunnel. Then turn left at the first intersection. You can follow that street along a small creek and it will take you to the stairs leading up to the park. Good luck!

Taura Photo Contest

In conjunction with the festival, the Taura Tourism Association sponsors a photography contest. Any picture that depicts Taura's natural beauty, ruins, cultural treasures, sightseeing spots, events, or anything relating to Taura is welcome.



2014 Mayor's Award Winner

How to submit your photograph: Mail a 25.4 x 30.5cm print to 〒237-0076 Taura Kanko Kyokai, Yokosuka-shi Funakoshicho 6-77. Include a paper with your name, address, phone number, and the title of photo. If you would like the photo returned, include a self-addressed stamped envelope. TEL: 046-861-4181

Photos will be accepted from **2/7-4/30** and the winners will be announced in May.



Not Alone Fair

When: Feb. 7 (Sat.) - Feb. 8 (Sun.) 10:00-16:00

Where: Yokosuka Citizens Support Center

What: The Yokosuka Citizens Support Center works to support local NPO organizations. You can find and support local groups that suit your interests. There will also be food booths and a flea market.

Nagashi-bina

When: Mar. 3 (Tues.) 13:00

Where: Awashima Shrine (Ashina 1-18-29)

*west coast Yokosuka

What: A very traditional event in which paper dolls are put on a beautiful model boat and drifted down the river to wash away misfortunes.



Needle Mass

When: Mar. 14 (Sat.) 11:00-12:00

Where: Hashirimizu Shrine (Hashirimizu 2-12-5)

no parking.

What: Another traditional event where people bring their old sewing needles to the shrine, insert them into tofu, and pray for improved sewing skills.



Japanese Culture Experience

When: Mar. 7 (Sat.) 13:00-17:00

Where: Yokosuka Sogo Fukushi Kaikan (between CFAY main gate and Daiei)

What: The Japanese Culture Experience is the little sister to the Japan Festival in Yokosuka. You will get to try out tea ceremony, calligraphy, kimono wearing, and more! The event is run by the Yokosuka International Association.

*Entry is free as are most of the activities, but some require a small fee.



YOKOSUKA ART MUSEUM EXHIBITS (JAN. – APR.)

Starting this issue, WNIY will include information about upcoming and ongoing exhibits at the Yokosuka Museum of Art (Kamoi 4-1).

Ebihara Kinosuke's 110th Birthday Exhibit

Ebihara was an influential Taisho and Showa period painter who split his time between France and Japan. He is well-known for painting horses and his use of blue.



Feb. 7 - Apr. 5

¥900 entry

Maeda Masayoshi's World of Moving Sculptures

Originally made for his children, Maeda's work evokes a quiet sense of wonder.

Exhibit ends April 19.

¥310 entry



YOKOSUKA LIVING

Let's All Go to the...Museums?

Why spend another dreary winter day stuck at home watching the same old TV when you could be out at any one of Yokosuka's museums? That's right! There are many different museums throughout this city just waiting to be explored.

My favorite is the Yokosuka City Museum, which, despite its very boring official English name, is actually fantastic. A better translation of the Japanese name would be the Yokosuka nature and human culture museum. There are displays of daily life in different historical periods, the arrival of Commodore Perry, and the construction of the Yokosuka Arsenal (the present day U.S. Naval base). You can also learn about local critters and fish, including a special display of luminescent life. The museum is closed Mondays (on Tuesdays if Monday is a holiday). Open 9:00-17:00, admission is free, but parking is not. The address is 95 Fukadadai (深田台), and it is a 10 minute walk up the hill from Yokosuka Chuo Station. The display panels are all in Japanese, but the front desk lends out an English guide that contains information about the exhibitions.

Another great museum is the Yokosuka Museum of Art. Located right off route 16 near Kannonzaki Keikyu Hotel, the museum overlooks Tokyo Bay and is easily accessible by car (pay

parking) or bus (Kannonzaki bound from Uraga St., Mabori Kaigain St., or JR Yokosuka Station). The museum



has a pavilion permanently dedicated to Taniuchi Rokuro, and its main collection rotates four or five times per year. In addition to its own collection, the museum has three halls used for special exhibitions which change multiple times per year. See the inside of this issue to see what special displays are going on now. The entrance fee for the museum depends on which galleries you want to visit, but it is generally between ¥300 and ¥1000 for adults. Most information panels at the museum include English.

These are just the two biggest museums in Yokosuka. There are many other excellent facilities around the city including the Verny Commemorative Museum, Perry Memorial Hall, Tenjin-jima Marine Biological Garden, Mabori Biological Garden, and more just waiting for you.

Marshall Smith, a native of Illinois, U.S.A., is Yokosuka's coordinator for international relations. "Yokosuka Living" is in every issue of What's New in Yokosuka and includes useful information for everyday life in Japan.

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

Name: Debra Kimura

Brief introduction: I came to Yokosuka in July 2012 when my husband took a job at the Yokosuka Naval Base. I have enjoyed being able to take a break from working to focus on this opportunity to explore Japan!

Best experience in Japan: Making Japanese friends and finding that they are as curious about me as I was about them! I have met the warmest, kindest, and most interesting people in Yokosuka. They are always willing to help teach me about all things Japanese. My Japanese friends have generously introduced me to so many great experiences including

cooking lessons, umeshu making, tea ceremony, kabuki and noh performances, sightseeing, fruit picking, and traveling the Tokaido road!

Advice for our readers: Getting involved in the local community is the absolute best thing you can do. Make Japanese friends; study the language; join community groups; eat Japanese foods every day; explore Yokosuka. Make the most of living in Japan.



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