

JTF

NOVEMBER

Association News

Call for Volunteers!

Interested in volunteering at the AWIA?

We're currently searching for volunteers to help occasionally with preparing for association events and classes.

Preparation typically involves cutting out or folding printed materials, preparing goodie bags, and decorating. If you enjoy easy, hands-on volunteer work, please contact us to be added to our volunteer email list!

→ mail@awia.jp ←

Disaster Preparedness Class for Foreign Residents

What would YOU do in a natural disaster?

Come join the AWIA for this relaxed, interactive course covering:

- Key Japanese phrases you'll need to navigate a natural disaster
- Where and how to access up-to-date information when disasters occur
- How to understand hazard maps and hazard levels
- Which natural disasters are most common in Fukushima

1-on-1 consultation available! Learn about evacuation centers in your neighborhood and which natural disasters post the greatest risk to your area.



Date: November 22nd (Sun), 13:30 - 15:30

Place: Aizu Keikodo: 3-50, Sakaemachi

Sign Up: mail@awia.jp



Little Trip Around the World Series - Germany!



Photo Credit: Lilen23



Yoko Kluten

Date: November 21st, (Sat)

Time: 10:00 - 11:30

Place: Aizu Keikodo, 3F
Lecture Room 1

Cost: Free!

Sign Up: mail@awia.jp

by November 20th, (Fri)

*(Limited to 20 participants)

Come join us for the next destination in our "Little Trip" Series! This month we will be looking at Germany with German-Japanese native, Yoko Kluten. Yoko will guide participants on an interactive, RPG style virtual tour through some of Germany's most interesting locations.

The talk will be held in Japanese with English support available. Please remember to wear your mask to the event.



会津若松市国際交流協会

AIZU WAKAMATSU INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

This Month in Aizu-Wakamatsu



Taking photos for Shichi-Go-San?

November in Japan means beautiful autumn leaves, delicious fall foods, and Shichi-Go-San!

Shichi-Go-San photos make for a fantastic memory, but it can be hard to get the perfect shot without breaking the bank. Shichi-Go-San officially falls on November 15th, but some kimono rental shops and photo studios offer lower rates after the official date has passed. If you're looking for studio recommendations, or you'd like help setting up an appointment in Japanese, feel free to contact us at the AWIA!

mail@awia.jp

Culture Day Events at Oyakuen Park



Autumn Leaf Viewing

Date: (Culture Day) Nov. 3rd

Time: 8:30 - 17:00

**Last entry at 16:30*

Oyakuen Park will hold their annual autumn leaf viewing party on November 3rd. In accordance with Covid-19 prevention measures, food stalls and other related activities will be cancelled this year.

Special Autumn Illumination

Dates: November 1st, 6th, 7th, 13th, 14th, and 15th.

Time: 17:30 - 20:30 **Last entry at 20:00*

Price: Adults ¥330, High School Students ¥270, Elementary/Junior High Students ¥160

A Stay-Home Thanksgiving

In the month of November, families in the United States gather around the dinner table for Thanksgiving, a holiday for relaxing with loved ones and reflecting on things we're thankful for. 2020 has been a year full of challenges stemming from the Covid-19 pandemic, which is why Thanksgiving is especially important for many families this year. Taking time to genuinely reflect on the good, rather than dwelling on the bad, can completely change one's perspective of a hard situation, and make it easier to move forward into a better place.



It's been almost 10 years since I last spent a Thanksgiving at home in the US, but I'm grateful to live in an age where technology makes it easy to celebrate with my family, even if I can't be there in person. This year because of—or dare I say “thanks to”—the coronavirus, more and more restaurants in Japan have started offering take-out options, with some even diving into delivery via Uber Eats and similar services. A small handful of these restaurants are planning to offer delivery Thanksgiving meals for expats who can't return home this year. One shop in particular is even including genuine turkey on the menu. If you'd like to know where you can get your own Thanksgiving meal set, please contact me at the AWIA email: *mail@awia.jp*

Photo Exhibition: “Dreaming of the Tadami Railway” by Kenko Hoshi



Kenko Hoshi is a Fukushima-based photographer known for his work documenting the Aizu area. In his exhibition, “Dreaming of the Tadami Railway,” Kenko balances fantasy and nostalgia in a collection of images chronicling a journey along the JR Tadami Line.

Exhibition Dates:
October 15th - November 14th
10:00 - 17:00 **Admission is Free!*

Exhibition Locations:

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| • Tanaka Furo Center | • Endo Clock Shop | • Monjoue Aizu |
| • Matsuya Clothing | • ZOO Aizu | • Hotel New Palace |
| • Lotus Wood Village | • Kishyu-en Tea Shop | • Anzu KitchenOmachi |



Kenko Hoshi

**Some locations will have a 2021 calendar for sale with images from the exhibition.*

** For questions, please contact: The Anessa Club at 0242-23-4027*



“Diwali: The Festival of Lights”

by Allison Cate

Diwali is a major religious holiday celebrated throughout India and by Indian communities around the world. While Diwali may be most readily associated with Hindus, the holiday is also celebrated by Jains, Sikhs, and some Indian Buddhist sects. Diwali is celebrated over the course of five days, with the height of the festival occurring during the new moon after the traditional Indian harvest season. The night of the new moon is considered the darkest night in the Indian lunisolar calendar. This year, Diwali falls on November 14th.



Rangoli made from flowers

In Hindu mythology, Diwali commemorates the battle victory of Rama, an incarnation of the god Vishnu, over the demon Ravana. This narrative serves as an allegory for the eternal struggle between good and evil, with the forces of good eventually emerging victorious. This narrative of good versus evil serves as the common theme of Diwali for all who celebrate, regardless of religion. Some ways in which people celebrate Diwali include lighting of *diyas* (oil lamps),

decorating homes and businesses with lights and lanterns, setting off firecrackers, and making colorful rangoli artwork. All of these festivities symbolize the triumph of light over darkness.

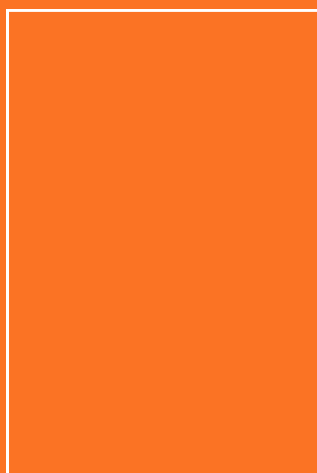
Last year, I was invited to celebrate Diwali with the Sikh community in my hometown. The outside perimeters of the Sikh temple, known as a *gurdwara*, were lit by *diyas*, and a trail of candlelight led from the temple to an outdoor pavilion where hot chai and a warm meal were served. A homemade vegetarian dinner was prepared for all guests by volunteers from the community, with dishes including vegetable pakoras, lentils, and sweets.



Diya Oil Lanterns

Over dinner, a friend and other members of the community explained to me the religious significance of Diwali to Sikhs. Diwali coincides with the Sikh holiday of Bandi Chhor Divas, which celebrates the release of Guru Hargobind, a revered religious figure in Sikhism, from

imprisonment by the Mughals. According to legend, followers of Guru Hargobind negotiated with the Mughals for his freedom, but he refused to leave while other prisoners, remained unjustly. The Guru was then allowed by his captors to take as many of his fellow inmates out of prison as could touch his robes. Upon hearing this, the Guru secretly commissioned a robe that stretched long enough so each of the prisoners could touch the garment, freeing all of them. While Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas may not technically be the same holiday, I noticed members of my local Sikh community greet each other by wishing a Happy Diwali, and some commented that the themes of both holidays emphasize the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness.



Guru Hargobind

Events in November

Other Information

1	SU	Closed
2	MO	Closed
3	TU	Closed - Culture Day
4	WE	
5	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (Night)
6	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (Day)
7	SA	13:30 Hello World Club
8	SU	"Inbound" Research Day 10:00 Nihongo Hiroba
9	MO	Closed
10	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
11	WE	
12	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (Night)
13	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (Day)
14	SA	13:30 Hello World Club
15	SU	Closed
16	MO	Closed
17	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
18	WE	
19	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (Night)
20	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (Day)
21	SA	10:00 "Little Trip" Series: Germany 13:30 Hello World Club
22	SU	10:00 Nihongo Hiroba 13:30 Japanese for Emergencies Conference
23	MO	Closed - Labor Day
24	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
25	WE	
26	TH	
27	FR	
28	SA	13:30 Hello World Club 13:30 Newsletter Release Preparation
29	SU	"Inbound" Research Day
30	MO	Closed

HELP CHOOSE A NEW NAME FOR JTF!

Starting with the January 2021 issue, JTF will be getting a new name, and we want **YOU** to choose what it will be!

Why are we changing the name you ask? The name "JTF" stands for "Just the Fax," and was originally chosen in 1997 when the International Association was still sending out our newsletters by fax machine. Now, in the modern age of email and social media, we decided it was time for us to retire the fax machine and adopt a new name for the English newsletter. Here at the association, we've been putting our heads together to think of new possible names, and now we'd like to hear your ideas too!

↓↓ Please visit the survey page below ↓↓
to vote on submitted names or suggest a new name!



<https://linkto.run/p/G32GZ68N>

The survey will be open until
November 30th.

We're looking forward to hearing your ideas and feedback!

Message from the Editor

Hello everyone! Thank you for reading this month's issue of JTF! The mornings in Aizu are starting to get chillier, and lately I've been eying the kotatsu blanket folded up in my closet, wondering if it's finally time to bring it out. What fall-time traditions do you look forward to each year? Do you have a favorite food or drink that gets you in the autumnal mood? I'm a coffee person through and through, but even I can't resist the quintessential fall atmosphere that comes from brewing up some apple cider on a foggy November morning, and letting the smell of apples and cinnamon fill the house.



We're on Instagram!

Follow us for photos and news about our upcoming events!



AWIA_PHOTO

<http://facebook.com/awiajp>



Visit our Facebook page for the latest updates in multiple languages!

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