

AIZU WAKAMATSU INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION MONTHLY ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

SynthesAizu

April 2021
Volume 1 Issue 4

Association News

Membership Information

New Fiscal Year Membership Cycle
April 1st marks the start of the Japanese fiscal year and the beginning of a new membership cycle at the AWIA. The current membership cycle will last from April 1st, 2021 to March 31st, 2022.

About Membership Payments

Our one-time annual membership payments help support many of our international exchange activities here at the AWIA. If you would like to continue supporting the AWIA as a member, we are now accepting payments for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Membership payments made during the current fiscal year will be valid until March 2022.



AWIA Member exclusive event!

“Zoom for Beginners” Workshop Continues!

Have you ever found yourself asking “what exactly is ‘Zoom?’” or “I keep seeing information about online events, but how do I join?” If you have ever found yourself in this situation, then this FREE in-person workshop is for you! We will walk you through installing and using Zoom step by step so you can connect with friends and join a variety of online events in the future!



Date	April 10th (Sat), 9:30 - 11:00
Capacity	5 Participants
Sign Up	Contact the AWIA by <u>April 9th (Fri)</u>
Place	Aizu Wakamatsu International Association
Materials	Please bring headphones (with a microphone) and a laptop, tablet, or smartphone.

Qigong & Sakura—A fun, flower-viewing fitness event!

Baduanjin Qigong is a traditional Chinese exercise that focuses on stretching and helps improve overall health. Come join the international association under the cherry blossoms for this beginner-friendly fitness event!

Please remember to wear comfortable clothes and a mask.

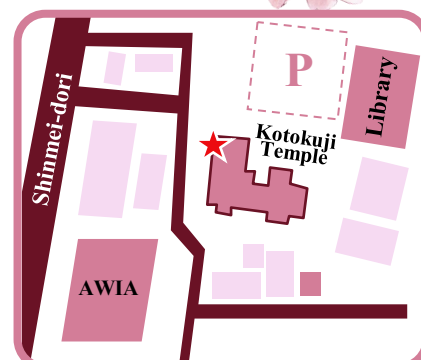
21.4.18 (Sun)*

10:30 ~ 11:30

Free entry

Kotokuji Temple Grounds
Aizuwakamatsu, Sakaemachi 2-12

*In the case of rain, the event will be moved to the AWIA.



会津若松市国際交流協会

AIZU WAKAMATSU INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Tsuruga Castle Sakura Festival! (April 3rd~May 9th)

It's almost cherry blossom season in Aizu! From mid-April to early May, the annual Sakura Festival will take place at Tsuruga Castle. In addition to nightly illuminations, the castle will host a variety of cultural events throughout the season. Drop by the Tsuruga Castle grounds to celebrate the cherry blossom season!

"Take a Walk in Aizu Kimono" <i>Spring Kimono rental campaign</i>	4/3 - 5/9: 9:00 - 16:00
Flower Viewing and Local Sake at Tsuruga Castle	4/16: 17:00 - 20:00 4/17: 14:00 - 20:00
"Aizu Jyuraku": Spring Lineup <i>Aizu Edo Culture Fair</i>	4/17, 4/18, 4/24, 4/25, 4/29, 5/1~5: 10:00 - 18:00
Tsuruga Castle Sakura Festival Stage Event	4/24, 4/25, 4/29, 5/1~5: 10:00 - 15:00



Hanami Around Aizu

1) Nicchu Line Weeping Cherry Trees

Kitakata City

Peak Viewing:
Mid- to Late April

This popular cherry blossom viewing site once was part of the old Nicchu railway line. Now, it is home to more than 1,000 weeping cherry trees.

<http://www.kitakata-kanko.jp/category/detail.php?id=104>

2) Sakura Tougei Pass

Urabandai



Peak Viewing:
Late April to Early May

This incredible Sakura grove located atop a mountain ridge is home to over 3,000 cherry trees!

https://www.urabandai-inf.com/?page_id=24982

3) Kannoji River Sakura

Inawashiro



Peak Viewing:
Late April

This beautiful 1km walking path along the river is known as one of the best places to see cherry blossoms in Tohoku!

<https://fukushima.travel/destination/kannonji-gawa-river-cherry-trees/3>

! FREE ENGLISH BOOKS !

At the Aizu Wakamatsu International Association, we are giving away **hundreds** of books and overhauling our library to bring you fresh new titles! Drop by the AWIA and take home some of our old books today!

Where: **Aizu Wakamatsu International Association**
When: **From now until Friday, April 30th**



Covid-19 Vaccine Updates

Aizu Wakamatsu City is preparing to start distributing the coronavirus Pfizer vaccine to residents ages 65 and older by the end of this month. Vaccination passes will be sent by snail mail to residents in waves according to their vaccination priority group. Residents ages 65 and older who live in elderly care facilities will be given the second-highest priority after healthcare workers. When you receive your vaccination pass, additional documents will also be included with details about where and how to receive your vaccine. The vaccine is free of charge.



A Year in Review at the AWIA

The 2020-2021 fiscal year was one of the most challenging we've experienced, but also one of the most rewarding. After Japan's first national state of emergency last spring, the staff here at the AWIA had to completely re-think the way we facilitate international exchange. Over the next several months, we worked to adapt events to suit new coronavirus guidelines, moved Japanese lessons online, and found new ways to revive events that had once centered around eating and drinking. We want to thank each and every one of our members and volunteers who helped and supported us as we navigated new trails this year. We couldn't have done it without you!

June



"Little Trip" to Canada

July



"The World of Chinese Poetry"

September



Inbound Guide Seminars

October



Halloween Open House

December



Japanese Speech Presentations

February



Valentine Brownie Making

February



Coffee Seminar

March



"Zoom for Beginners" Workshop

Events in April

1	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
2	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
3	SA	
4	SU	Closed
5	MO	Closed
6	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
7	WE	
8	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
9	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
10	SA	
11	SU	10:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba
12	MO	Closed
13	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
14	WE	
15	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
16	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
17	SA	
18	SU	10:30 Qigong & Sakura Flower Viewing
19	MO	Closed
20	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
21	WE	
22	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
23	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
24	SA	13:30 Newsletter Release Preparation
25	SU	10:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba
26	MO	Closed
27	TU	13:00 Nihongo Salon
28	WE	
29	TH	Closed
30	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)

Other Information

Aizu's "Shoku no Jin" Spring Theme

Aizu's "Shoku no Jin" is a year-round food festival that challenges restaurants and businesses to highlight local products by setting a menu "theme" for each season. The theme for spring is "Asparagus."

Starting April 1st and running through the end of June, 74 local restaurants, shops, and hotels will be offering limited-time menu items that feature locally-grown asparagus.

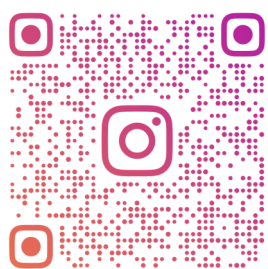
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Visit the Shoku no Jin homepage (Japanese) for details about participating shops and menu offerings:
<https://aizu-shokuno-jin.jp/>

Message from the Editor

Hello everyone! Thank you for reading this month's English newsletter. To anyone who has just joined the AWIA as a new member this month, thank you very much for your support! With the weather warming up and vaccine distribution on the horizon, we are greatly looking forward to bringing you lots of exciting opportunities for international exchange this year. At the end of this month, the long-awaited Golden Week holidays will begin!! I've been trying to think of ways to enjoy the holiday without breaking the bank or doing anything too risky in terms of travel during covid-19. In the past, I usually just rented out an Airbnb in the mountains for a week to enjoy a change of scenery, but since moving to Aizu, now I can see the mountains from my house! How do you enjoy spending your Golden Week? -Nola



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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