

Chigasaki Wave



Chigasaki Wave Club

ウエーブ
茅ヶ崎 波 倶楽部

Sea breezes are like precious friends, easing your mind, and whispering encouragement to you.

Cyclamen cultivator

As the year-end season draws near, people think of flowering plants for presents and the decoration of their rooms. Cyclamens are one of the most popular plants around this time of the year. The perennial plant is native to the Mediterranean and surrounding areas, and was introduced into Japan in the Meiji Era (1868 ~ 1912). It bears flowers from November to May. Cyclamen growers sow the seeds in pots in November and start selling the plants in bloom also in November the next year, so they are busy shipping and seeding in early winter.

Negishi Farm by the Mekujiri River is one of five cyclamen growers in Samukawa. The father of the current owner, Shigekazu Negishi, started to raise the flowering plant about 60 years ago when the then chief priest of Samukawa Shrine asked him to grow flowers so that visitors to the shrine could buy them as souvenirs.

Today, Mr Negishi, his wife, son and grandmother engage in the family business. In the greenhouses, cyclamens with colorful flowers are almost ready for going on sale. The farm grows about 40 varieties, some of which are grown only by them in Samukawa. One of the popular varieties is the "Plumage Cyclamen", which most commonly bears either red, pink, orange or purple flowers, but also comes in other colors.

The cultivation of cyclamens begins with the sowing of the seed in November. Then, seedlings are transplanted in March, June and September. During summer, greenhouses are shaded so that the room temperature is kept ambient.

The farm sells most of the plants directly: at a shop in the garden, which is usually set up in late November; in greenhouses; and via parcel delivery service. It started delivery by courier about 30 years ago. Orders from remote areas have been increasing due to a virtuous circle; some of the receivers who are impressed by its quality turn into givers. The firm's cyclamens are designated as a gift in return for hometown tax payments.



Nanko-In will be registered as a tangible cultural property of the nation

The Agency for Cultural Affairs has notified the education minister of the certifying the No.1 ward of Nanko-In, a former TB sanatorium, as a tangible cultural asset. The agency's decision will make the sanatorium the third registered national tangible cultural property in the city, following Chigasaki-kan and the main house of the Toma family. For more information, read the article about Koan Takata on page 4, and CW 16.

Two Space Azaleas have come to Chigasaki

Two azalea shrubs were given to Chigasaki by the city of Tatebayashi in Gunma, the home town of the nation's first female astronaut Chiaki Mukai. The azaleas are among the Yama-tsutsuji (*Rhododendron kaempferi*) which have been grown from the seeds she took to space with her in space shuttle Columbia in 1994. So, they are called space azaleas. The two azaleas were planted near the entrance of Chuo Koen by Mayor Nobuaki Hattori and the Deputy Mayor of Tatebayashi, Sadao Koyama, on the morning of November 18 (Sat).



Nursing Adviser

The Childminders Association of Chigasaki has presented a paper on what they can do to help children grow up and progress, representing the Kanto area, at the 61st national convention in Kobe on November 16. The association, consisting of delegates from six city-run and two private day-care centers for children, have studied and held monthly meetings for the last two years. Yoshi Hayashi supervised a team which was responsible for preparing handouts and crafting the presentation.

Before coming to Kanto, Mrs Hayashi conducted research on 'growth and disabilities' as a trainee in Dr. Masato Tanaka's laboratory at Kyoto University in those days while working for a kindergarten in Kyoto.

After getting married, she moved to Yokohama and was involved in parental care support work: she worked as a counseling staff member for an 18-month children follow-up program at a local health center, as an advisor at a nurturing and advising center, and as an instructor cooperating with a neurosurgeon at a counseling and rehabilitation complex for physically handicapped children. She received the Distinguished Service Award from Yokohama in 1995 for her devotion to nursing services.

Then she worked for a kindergarten in Atsugi as a manager for 11 years starting in 2001. She is now working as an instructor at a vocational technical school for childcare, and at some kindergartens, including Nihon University kindergarten, and day-care centers in Chigasaki and Kamakura. In addition, she has published books regarding child rearing.



Volunteer groups in and around Chigasaki

Flying kites was one of the traditional pastimes during the New Year and windy days that follow until the 1970s, but recently kite-flying has almost disappeared from sight. However, in Yanagishima, Hideo Kanai and his friends (see the picture on the right) have kept making Japanese chess-shaped kites, or *shogi-dako* in Japanese, which is considered a characteristic kite of Chigasaki. Mr. Kanai assumes that one of his relatives in the Meiji Era was the first person to make this type of kite. He heard the relative made and flew the kites to celebrate when his babies were born, wishing them happiness.

The club members want to convey the tradition to younger generations. As part of their activities, they hold lessons how to make the kite at local Nakajima Junior High School every year. They prepare everything from sheets of *shogi*-shaped Japanese paper to thin bamboo sticks. Students draw their favorite pictures on the paper and when they finished putting the parts together, they enjoy flying their products, but there are always some kites that do not fly well probably due to a lack of balance, according to Mr. Kanai.



Yanagishima Kite Flying Club



They also prepare 500 plastic kites this time of year to pass them out to children who gather to cheer for runners in the Hakone Ekiden.

Various kinds and sizes of kites pack into Mr. Kanai's workshop. They are not only *shogi-dako* but rectangular and hexagonal kites, cicada-shaped ones and many others. The largest one is four meters long. See the photo on the left. They enjoy flying this all together on extremely windy days at Shiosai Park, which was constructed on the roof of the wastewater treatment facility near the Yanagishima beach. They say they are fascinated by the roaring sound of the kite.

The group's activity was broadcast on NHK BS in autumn. On January 2 and 3, they fly a kite chain on the beach to celebrate the Hakone Ekiden. See the photo in the event article on the last page.

Public reading of poems written by Tomihiro Hoshino

The 26th exhibition of Tomihiro Hoshino's calendars, and collected poems and paintings was hosted by Hasegawa book store from November 10 to 19 on the 6th floor of Nespa Chigasaki. On the afternoons of 12 (Sun) and 15 (Wed), Ritsuko Nakayama read aloud for about an hour literary jottings and poems mostly from his latest collection, "Memories of those days when I was able to walk on my Feet". Twenty people were invited to the public readings, but more than forty attended. Mrs Nakayama, a noted narrator and lecturer of dramatic reading, read the jottings with emotion, sometimes powerfully and sometimes calmly.



Between her recitations a flutist played popular songs, which relaxed the atmosphere and helped listeners concentrate on her voices.

Mr Hoshino used to be a junior high school teacher. While teaching students in the extracurricular activities, he injured his cervical cord, which paralyzed his limbs for life. He started learning paintings with a brush held in his mouth while hospitalized. He has since written various poems, literary jottings and painted pictures. Some of these works are carried in school textbooks. The book shop says it will go on holding the exhibition annually at this time of year as long as Mr. Hoshino keeps writing poems, painting pictures and making calendars.

History of Chigasaki

Pathways in the Koide district (2) Fujisawa-Ichinomiya Road (1)

In addition to Oyama highway, there is another road which links Fujisawa to Ichinomiya in Samukawa, passing through the city's northern area; Fujisawa-Ichinomiya road. The road is roughly parallel with the one which connects Kami-Akabane via Tsutsumi to Shimoterao.

Elderly people say many settlements existed along Fujisawa-Ichinomiya road, and residents in Tsutsumi went along the road to Fujisawa or to Ichinomiya for shopping instead of going to Chigasaki.

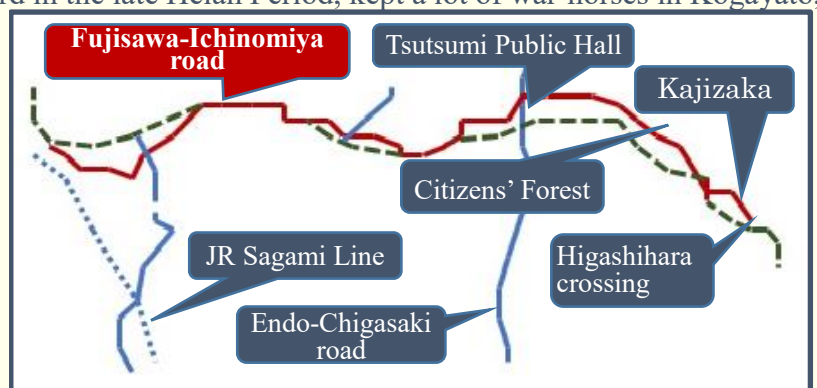
From the Higashihara crossing westwards, the road goes downwards. The slope is called *Kajizaka*, or *Kaji* slope in English. A legend says Kagechika Oba, a warlord in the late Heian Period, kept a lot of war-horses in Kogayato, which is today's Oba, in Fujisawa, and horseshoes were produced in the vicinity of the slope. It is said forged materials and forging tools were excavated here when the road was constructed. So it is assumed that there was a blacksmith's shop, *kaji* in Japanese, for forging farming tools near the slope.

Going down the slope a little further to the west, there is a settlement called Ogami. In the neighborhood of the settlement, Citizen's Forest spreads, and near its entrance is Hachioji Shrine. In the precinct of the shrine, a Koshin Tower, a stone tower from Taoism, set in 1804 is situated. On its right side "Westward Ichinomiya, Eastward Fujisawa" is carved, and "to Nango" and four names which begin with Hachiman are on its left side *. It is not clear which path "to Nango" indicates.

Near the point where Fujisawa-Ichinomiya road intersects Prefectural Endo-Chigasaki road, there is Tsutsumi Public Hall. The district is called Fuda-no-tsuji. In the Edo Period, there was a *Kosatuba*, a place at which the Edo Shogunate informed people of new rules by writing them on wooden plates and raising the plates high.

* Because of the corrosion of the surfaces, it is hard to read these words.

Source: Chigasaki City Museum of Heritage booklet 1



People in Chigasaki (1) Koan Takata

(A bimonthly serial)

Do you know a doctor called Koan Takata? He established a sanatorium for tuberculosis, Nanko-In, near the Chigasaki beach in 1899. At that time, tuberculosis was thought to be an incurable disease, so patients seriously hoped to get advanced medical treatment. Quite a few patients came from distant places to the sanatorium, which was surrounded by a comfortable environment under a mild climate. It developed into one of the best sanatoriums in the East.

He was one of the disciples of a German doctor, Erwin Von Bälz, who was invited by the Japanese government eight years after the 1868 Meiji Restoration, and contributed to medical development in Japan.

Takata was also a devoted Christian. He built a chapel called Iou-do (医王堂) in the compound. Iou means the God of Medicine, indicating Jesus Christ. He held Christmas parties for citizens every year, and opened Sunday schools for children to offer talks and to show movies. He put a high premium on strengthening ties with the neighboring community and hospitalized patients. He collapsed during one of his talks in the chapel in 1945 and passed away at age 83.

If you want to know more about him, visit the Chigasaki-Yukari-no-Jimbutsu-Kan, (People's Museum). Special displays and movies are waiting for you.

The No. 1 ward of Nanko-In will be registered as a tangible cultural property of the nation. The ward was built in 1899 and is one of the rare assets remaining in Shonan, which used to be a noted rest area. The two-story wooden building has a lot of large windows, suggesting rooms were light and well ventilated.



Chigasaki Folk Entertainment Festival

The 45th Chigasaki folk entertainment festival was held at Comprehensive Gymnasium on the afternoon of November 23 (Thurs). Fourteen traditional dances were performed to traditional songs by nine groups and students of two schools. Every dance and song are deeply connected with people's daily lives. Some are performed at festive events, some during Bon Festival, some are to pray for bumper crops and some are songs of big fish hauls. The slow rhythms of these songs with only Japanese drums and flutes makes a vivid contrast to fast and lively songs which are popular with younger generations.



Today, occasions on which we enjoy these folk entertainments are rare, and many of the performers are the aged. But these folk entertainments are precious cultural assets as many traditions are preserved in them. The photo on the left: the Nango threshing wheat song preservation group is performing to a chorus the threshing wheat dance, which was designated as an important cultural asset of the city.

Interested in Japanese Proverbs?

(1) 油断大敵

YUDAN TAITEKI

YUDAN means carelessness, negligence and all that, and TAITEKI a formidable enemy.

When you are careless, you do not pay enough attention to what you are doing, or what is happening around you. Thus, you often make mistakes or undergo unpleasant experiences. This saying was in one of the books about everyday life in the Edo Period, Teikin-zome-Nioiguruma (庭訓染句車). Some readers may remember the Lower House election in October. Careless remarks by Ms Koike, the leader of the Party of Hope, brought trouble to her party and herself.

Its English equivalents:

- Security is the greatest enemy.
- He that thinks himself surest is often deceived.
- The tortoise wins the race while the hare is sleeping.

(2) 寄らば大樹の陰

YORABA TAIJU NO KAGE

YORABA means if you take shelter, TAIJU a big tree, NO of, and KAGE a shadow.

When you take shelter from the rain, you should choose a big tree rather than a small one. Likewise, you will feel secure and protected when you are with a strong man, or in a large organization. This proverb advises us to attach importance to reliability and security, and to refrain from engaging in taking risky chances. But another old truth says it's better to be a big fish in a small pond than a small fish in a big pond. Naturally, most people like to be a big fish in a big pond.

Its English equivalents:

- A good tree is a good shelter.
- Who leans on a good tree, a good shade covers him.
- He that serves a good master shall have good wages.

Nature in Chigasaki

Bird-watching along the Sen-no River

The banks of the Sen-no River, which runs through central Chigasaki, provide excellent bird watching spots. Walking along the banks from near the municipal hospital to the point where the river flows into the Koide River, specifically in winter, you can see many kinds of waterfront birds gathering in the river.

For instance, small herons (the left photo), which wear yellow shoes, and big herons having yellow beaks are often spotted. It is really spectacular to watch them flying in flocks above the river. Furthermore, you can see various kinds of ducks. The male Mandarin Duck has beautiful distinctive patterned feathers. Braces of the ducks are cited as devoted couples, but they change their mate every year.

Furthermore, the Anas Penelope (the right photo), Anas Falcata and mallard are also residents of the river. The head of the male mallard is thick green, and the bird is the origin of the Domestic Duck. In addition, the thrush, reed warbler and other resident birds can also be seen. If you are lucky, you can meet the kingfisher called the jewel of the birds.

Why don't you take a walk there on a fine day?



Chigasaki Citizen Cultural Festival - events in November



Clockwise from the top left

- Bonsai
- Art exhibition
- Chrysanthemums
- Handicrafts exhibition
- Exhibition of works by writers related to Chigasaki



Events in December and early January

Citizen Gallery (☎ 0467-87-8384) at the exhibition room on the 4th floor of Nespa Chigasaki
Chigasaki Citizen Cultural Festival **Admission free!**

- Photo exhibition by the city cultural group association – Dec 1 (Fri) & 2 (Sat) 9:00 ~ 17:00, Dec 3 (Sun) 9:00 ~ 16:00
- Photoshop picture exhibition by Photoshop study circle - Dec 5 (Tue) 13:00 ~ 17:00, Dec 6 (Wed) to 9 (Sat) 9:00 ~ 17:00, Dec 10 (Sun) 9:00 ~ 15:00
- Ritsu Yamashina exhibition of landscape paintings 15-year anniversary by Ritsu Yamashina – Dec 13 (Wed) to 17 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 18:00
- The 19th Shyaraku Kowada Photograph exhibition by Shyaraku Kowada – Dec 19 (Tue) 13:00 ~ 17:00, Dec 20 (Wed) to 23 (Sat) 10:00 ~ 17:00, Dec 24 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00
- Exhibition of craftworks for pleasure by Chigasaki western division of Kanagawa pensioners' association – Dec 26 (Tue) & 27 (Wed) 10:00 ~ 16:00

Chigasaki City Museum of Art (☎ 0467-88-1177,

URL: <http://www.chigasaki-museum.jp>

- Exhibition of works by junior high school students in Chigasaki and Samukawa until Dec 3 (Sun).
- Exhibition of works by Kosuke Oka: from Dec 10 (Sun) to Feb 4 (Sun)
Admission Fee (yen): adult 500, college student 300, HS student free



The 12th Shonan International Marathon

The 12th Shonan International Marathon will be held on Dec 3 (Sun) at 8:50. About 29,000 runners will join in four races: full, half, 10 km and family marathons. The start line is near the Oiso Exit of the Seisho Bypass, and they will run toward Enoshima Island, where full marathon runners will turn back. R134 will be closed in the morning and in the early afternoon.



Daruma market at Dairokuten Shrine



A traditional Daruma market will be held at Dairokuten Shrine in Jitsukenzaka on Dec 27 (Wed). Daruma shops will be ready to sell their daruma around 15:00 and will close around 21:00, according to a shrine worker. Stalls of daruma shops were once seen at street corners, in front of big stores, at shrines and many other places.

The 94th Hakone Ekiden

The traditional long-distance road relay will take place on Jan 2 (Tue) and 3 (Wed). The runners of 20 university teams and one mixed team will run the third stage from 10:30 to 11:20 on the morning of Jan 2, and from 10:15 to 11:15 on the morning of Jan 3. Pay attention to kite chains flown by the Yanagishima Kite Club.



The 80th Konan Ekiden

The oldest long-distance road relay in Kanagawa will take place on the morning of Jan 8 (Mon, Coming-of-Age Day). Five races: men and women inter-regional races, men and women inter-organizational races and an inter-regional race by mixed (boys and girls) school children teams. Runners start in front of Comprehensive Gymnasium, run a circular course and handover their sashes to the next runners at the takeover zone in front of the gymnasium.

Year-end scenery



Samukawa Shrine



Chigasaki Municipal Hospital



Square near Samukawa Station

Thanks for reading our stories.
Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
How about listening to Silver Bells?