

# 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.*

## MIKAWAYA Rice confectionery manufacturer noted for Hamaori Senbei

As the company name implies, the founder is from the Mikawa area, today's Aichi Prefecture in central Japan. He learned how to make senbei, or rice crackers, and improved his skills at his relative's shop in Atsugi, before establishing his own shop near JR Kagawa Station in 1963 at the age of 25.

According to the second-generation owner Yukio Kawai, the company makes and sells more than 60 items of rice confectionery: *senbei*, which are made from ordinary rice, and *okaki* and *arare*, made from glutinous rice. The difference between *okaki* and *arare* is their sizes. *Okaki* are larger than *arare*. *Arare* means hail in English. The size of this type of cracker is similar to that of a hailstone.

The major raw material is Koshihikari, a popular brand-name rice, cultivated in Niigata and the Tohoku area. In the factory behind the shop, the company starts the production from rice polishing. The local public health center once said Mikawaya seemed the only rice confectionery producer in Kanagawa which polishes rice themselves.

Brand name "Hamaori", of course, comes from Hamaori Festival. Mr. Kawai says his father adopted the festival's name, hoping to activate his business in summer as the sales slowed down in the season except for Obon in August in those days.

Another shop was opened in Jytsuken-zaka in 1978. The two shops are filled with colorful bags of rice confectionery. In addition, Hamaori crackers are sold at AEON Central Chigasaki, the shop of Chigasaki City Tourism Association next to Chigasaki Station in LUSCA, shops in Izumisano in Osaka and Yoshimoto Kogyo's theaters. The number of orders through the internet has been increasing gradually. Some products contain ancient rice cultivated by the volunteer group Sansuikai (See an article about the volunteer group in CW6).

Mikawaya's products, including *Hachimitsu Okaki* and Hamaori, have won awards quite often at various prestigious contests. URL: <http://www.mikawaya.jp/>



Mikawaya Kagawa shop

## Exhibition of photos representing Chigasaki Life



About 300 photos were exhibited in the entrance of City Hall from June 11 to 15. Responding to the city's request to suggest Chigasaki's most characteristic scenes, citizens and city hall officials provided their favorite photos.

About 40% of the photos were of the beach and sea. They were of waves in the glow of morning and evening sun, surfers, children strolling on the beach at dusk and many more familiar scenes to us. Another 20 photos were taken with Mt. Fuji in the background, indicating citizens are happy to live near the nation's highest, most beautiful mountain and to see it every day. And some others were taken in Satoyama Park and Chuo Park. Many visitors seemed to feel certain that Chigasaki was blessed with an excellent natural environment. Some photos will be used for city brochures.

## Ride a bicycle safely in a bicycle city

Lectures about how to ride a bicycle safely and healthily were held at the entrance hall of AEON Central Chigasaki on July 2. "Riding a bicycle is basically aerobics exercise so that if you ride a bicycle often, the quality of your blood and vessels will be improved," said the lecturer. "Cycling offers protection against lifestyle-related illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease and cerebrovascular disease." She added cycling had many more advantages: it stimulates the brain and neural systems and makes the heart and lungs stronger. In addition, riders' bodies metabolize more actively, thus they look younger.

While riding a bicycle, loads to the heart and knees are very light, so that cycling is effective to reduce your weight and to prevent gain weight with little damaging effects on the body. For people weighing 60kg, about 20 mins' ride as well as 25 mins' walk consumes 100 kcal. Cycling mostly strengthens quadriceps muscles, which enable people to run, to walk and to move in a more lively way. Thus, cycling enables people to maintain a good QOL. Let's cycle healthily and safely.



## Invitation to Kamakura (6) Tokeiji-Temple

(A bimonthly serial)

When you want to see flowers in riotous profusion, visit Tokeiji temple in Kamakura. Ume (Japanese apricot), magnolias, cherry blossoms, alpine gesneriads, irises and hydrangeas bloom each season. Sunshine reflects the leaves of trees. Green mountains make a sharp contrast with the blue sky. You will surely find the peace of mind there.

The temple was founded as a nunnery in 1285 by Kakuzanni, the widow of Regent Tokimune Hojo. It played an important role in saving women who wanted to divorce. While men could easily divorce, women were not allowed to without their husbands' permission at the time. The last resort for the women

was to run into the temple to be sheltered, so the temple was nicknamed a 'Refuge Temple' or *Kakekomi-dera*.

It might be a little funny to know the fact that the running women threw any of their belongings such as a sandal or a comb into the gate of the refuge temple. But it is, of course, because they were so desperate not to be caught by their husbands near the temple.

Tokeiji-temple served as a refuge until 1873, the beginning of the Meiji period, and sheltered an estimated 2,000 women, in the Edo period alone.

Trees and flowers there, knowing the temple's dedication to the sad history of women, look proud and warm.

\*How to get there: [Tokeiji-Temple](http://www.tokeiji.com/english/about/) is a 5-minute walk from Kita-kamakura Station. You can experience copying of a sutra, Zen meditation, and tea or incense ceremony. No parking lot.

URL: <http://www.tokeiji.com/english/about/>



## Let's review how to dispose of plastic waste

Plastic waste materials (plastic containers and packing materials) from households in the city amounted to 2,322 tons in 2016, all of which should have been recycled. However, about 17% of it was burned up because such waste was dirty or not plastic, but combustible waste. So, it would be worth reviewing classification rules.

- Plastic waste with the "プラ" mark (see the mark on the right) is classified as a plastic container or packing material to be recycled. Rinse it with water before disposing of it.
- Plastic bags, clear files and disposable razors are combustible waste, and plastic buckets are non-combustible waste if they don't have the mark.



- Plastic bottles without the PET mark (see the mark on the left) or the "プラ" mark are classified as combustible waste.

- Plastic bottles with the PET mark are classified as pet bottles. But caps are plastic containers and labels are packing material, that is, both are types of plastic waste.

## Interested in Japanese Proverbs?

### (1) 女三人寄れば姦しい

(ONNA SANNIN YOREBA KASHIMASHI)

**ONNA** means women, **SANNIN** three women **YOUREBA** to gather and **KASHIMASHI** to be noisy.

女 means one woman in English and 姦 very noisy. Therefore, when three women get together (姦), they become very noisy. The proverb may lack respect for women. Actually, many women like to gather and gab. But chatting is a communication skill which plays quite an important role in modern society. Don't you think there are things men can learn from them? Chatting may help men get rid of barriers between themselves. The saying was in Kotowazazukushi, a collection of proverbs published in 1787, when gender equality was not considered at all. Its English equivalents are:

- Many women, many words.
- Three women make a market.
- Where there are women and geese, there wants no noise.

### (2) 金持ち喧嘩せず

(KANEMOCHI KENKA SEZU)

**KANEMOCHI** means rich people, **KENKA** quarrels and **SEZU** not to do

Rich people never quarrel as they know they get nothing from quarreling. And they are not afflicted with financial problems, so they are always calm, composed and satisfied. Therefore, they do not have reasons for getting angry. These comments remind us of a certain god who is always smiling. Do rich people you know fit this image? We sometimes hear gossip concerning money, including disputes about inheritance money. This proverb, however, concludes that such people are not rich enough. Do you agree? The source is Kanjo, a Chinese history book completed in the 3rd century AD. Its English equivalents are:

- Agree, for the law is costly.
- Peace makes plenty.
- Law licks up all.

## History of Chigasaki

## Takehiko Shrine

About 100m west of the bus stop "Bunkyo University" on the prefectural road Fujisawa-Samukawa, a pathway goes down south. About 200m from the starting point there is a little dilapidated Takehiko Shrine on the left of the path, in luxuriant trees. Visitors will feel as if god appears behind a tall tree. Originally Suwa Shrine was there, but Kanayama Shrine in Namegaya and another Suwa Shrine in Shimoterao moved there in the late Meiji Period and the combined shrine was renamed Takehiko Shrine.



The name Takehiko consists of "建" of the deity of Suwa Shrine, 建御名方命 (Takeminakata-no-mikoto) and "彦" of Kanayama Shrine, 金山彦命 (Kanayamahiko-no-mikoto). In the trees southeast of the bell tower, the site of the previous bell tower, there is a Koshin tower built in 1659, on which two monkeys are carved. (See the photo on the left.) Not all shrines have such towers today because of the Meiji government's policy. (How to get there) Take a bus bound for Bunkyo University at the north entrance of Chigasaki Station, get off at a terminus and then walk for five minutes.



## Electric sounds from Bear and Bison, and pebbles make you feel relaxed



Pleasant electric sounds and sounds of waves filled the entrance hall of the Chigasaki City Museum of Art with a relaxed, comfortable atmosphere. These background sounds came from pebbles collected on the nearby beach by local JH students, and wooden bear and buffalo sculptures placed near the staircase to the basement. In addition, the pebbles and the two sculptures emitted slightly larger sounds when visitors touched or stroked them. Each stone and sculpture sounded with different tones.

A low current flowed in these objects, and if visitors touched one of them, the current in the object changed, and the change seemed to be transferred to a sound.

The system, designed by the group MAHTRAX, was awarded the HAPTIC DESIGN AWARD 2017. The group produced this system based on the story of a native Indian who kept training in order to survive in a harsh natural environment, and finally obtained the skill to hear voices from stones. The exhibition called the *Voices of Stones* was held till July 1.



## Nature in Chigasaki

## Killifish - were once everywhere but today nowhere

Killifish used to be so common that we often caught sight of shoals of the small fish in streams, irrigation ponds, rice paddies and lakes nationwide. The fish is well-known as a beneficial fish because it is fond of mosquito larvae, so people of older generations feel a sense of familiarity to the small and agile fish, and are able to sing a children's song entitled "School of killifish". According to studies, the fish has 4,680 dialect names nationwide.

Oryzias, a synonym for the killifish, inhabit Japan, Taiwan, North and South Korea and China. The two Oryzias families, Oryzias Latipes and Oryzias Sakaizumii, are indigenous to Japan. The spawning season, from spring to summer, is coincident with the time farmers irrigate their rice paddies so it is said the life cycle of the fish is suited to Japanese culture, in which rice cultivation plays an important role.

However, since the 1980s, the number of killifish has significantly decreased because agrichemicals, household effluents, bank protection work and highly reproductive introduced species, including the bluegill and mosquitofish, have adversely affected the killifish's propagation. Above all, fatal damage has been caused by the so-called separation of irrigation and drainage canals, promoted as an agricultural land reform project. The fish has a nature to spawn in temporal water areas like rice paddies, but it can go there only through irrigation canals, as it is almost impossible to swim up drainage canals.

The environment ministry designated the killifish as an endangered species in the Red Data Book in May 2003. Conservation work has since been actively conducted across Japan. We can see killifish sometimes in ponds and biotopes, but they were brought in by people. In Kanagawa Prefecture, its natural habitat has only been found in Odawara. It is not easy to find killifish in the city today. The picture of a killifish in a company's pond was taken through the courtesy of the company in the city.



## Volunteer groups in and around Chigasaki

## Chigasaki-Kyodokai

### (Group exploring local histories)



Chigasaki-Kyodokai was set up in 1953 by citizens who loved Chigasaki and had a passion for local history. In those days there were dozens of vacant lots, the sites of famous people's villas, to the south of the Tokaido railway. The owners of those villas were actors, scholars, writers and many other prominent figures. Amid progressing urbanization, the group investigated local areas and recorded the results in order to keep them in the municipal reference room. They have since actively cooperated with the City office in editing the local history, dispatching members for the protection of cultural properties, publishing leaflets, and exhibiting the written work to get citizens to notice these cultural assets.

The group reports their activities in newsletters three times a year.

The editor as well as the leader, Fumiaki Hirano, said the predecessor of the current "Kyodo-Chigasaki" was first published in 1957, and the then editor seemed to have been Shozo Saito. All of this research is available to readers in the municipal library. It covers cultural assets established after the Kamakura era, and mostly in the Meiji era. Mr. Hirano also said he was confident that the designation of the city's precious assets - Hamaori Festival (1961), Epiphylla in Jokenji Temple (1971) and Three bodies of Buddha Amidah in Hoshoji Temple (1959) - as prefectural or national cultural properties was attributed to their forerunners' efforts.

A group member, Kuniaki Minamoto, said they made *I-ro-ha Karuta* in 2010 based on their studies, making use of municipal subsidies; one set consists of two cards, that is, a picture and sentence cards, and they prepared 45 sets, each set explains a historical spot or figure of the city. They provided the *karuta* for all the primary and junior-high schools of the city, hoping that children learn the local history while playing the cards. However, they are afraid these cards are not utilized much, so they plan to launch a *karuta* competition this year in the Shorin community hall; the entrants compete with each other to find a picture card that matches with the sentence card being read aloud, in addition to their annual activities such as historical site tours and study meetings on local ethno-history.

URL <http://chikyodokai.wp.xdomain.jp/>



## 2018 Oppekepe Festival

The festival was held in Takasuna Ryokuchi on June 2 and 3. On the first day, a talk show by a duet and festival music performance by the local association attracted visitors. The next day, members of Oto-Sada Juku and Shonan-za performed their original play twice, from 10:00 and from 13:50. The nation's first Prime Minister Hirobumi Ito, accomplished Kabuki player the ninth Danjuro Ichikawa and a fishmonger as well as Otojiro and Sadayakko took part in the play. The stage moved to several places in the garden, and each time a large audience accompanied.

In Shorai-an tea ceremonies and Chigasaki karuta games (see the article about Chigasaki Kyodokai on the previous page) were held.

## Events in June



## The 10th Koide River Hydrangea Festival



The annual festival was held on June 17 (Sun) from 10:00 to 14:00. The event was originally scheduled for the previous Sunday, but postponed due to the rainy weather. The number of visitors was a little smaller than usual. They strolled on the bank of the Koide River between Hagisono Bridge and Ken-o-high way, appreciating blue, violet, pink and white hydrangea blossoms under a slightly overcast sky. There were tents selling local farm produce and toys as usual.

The local group, *To Live with Flowers*, also hosts the Kawazu cherry festival in early spring and the Red spider lily festival in autumn.

## The 7th Chigasaki Cinema Festival

The smallest cinema festival in the world, Chigasaki Cinema Festival, was held from June 9 to 24, screening ten films by the volunteer group Chigasaki Cinema Festival Committee. The group began the festival in 2012, hoping it would provide residents with opportunities to discover something new about Chigasaki. The chairman, Hiroaki Mori, the owner of the old inn *Chigasaki-kan*, at which world-famous movie director Yasujiro Ozu had frequently stayed, said the festival was also aimed at revitalizing the city by encouraging people to go out more often and that he believed cinema had enough power to change a person's life. Let's tell you the stories of two of the films.

● *Kwai gawa ni niji wo kaketa otoko*, or a man who devoted his post-war life to reconciling former laborers with Japanese soldiers. (at City Hall annex on July 15)

Takashi Nagase served as a translator with the Japan Imperial Army at a construction site of the Thai-Burma Railway, or Death Railway, during WWII. The 400 km railway was completed in less than a year and a half. This remarkable construction speed was achieved due to a tremendous number of laborers: prisoners of war and local people about 200,000 in total. It is said hard labor under inferior conditions killed about 40% of them. Having witnessed laborers' hardships, he started going on a pilgrimage with his wife in 1964 as atonement for the Japanese Army's atrocities. Since then they had visited Thailand 135 times until he died in 2011 at 93.



Audience in City Hall annex

● *Koko ni izumi ari*, or here is a fountain in English. (at Husky's Gallery on July 23)

The movie was shot in 1955 in Takasaki, Gunma Prefecture, depicting a local symphony orchestra's struggle in its founding period. Just after the war the Takasaki citizen orchestra, the forerunner of the present Gunma Symphony Orchestra, was established. Despite extreme poverty, orchestra members visited schools across the prefecture to provide children with good music. In the cinema, Kosaku Yamada, who is noted as the composer of "Red dragonfly" and once lived in the city, played the role of the conductor of a Tokyo-based orchestra, which was why the committee selected the film, said one of its members.

## Exhibition—Scenery in the old days of Chigasaki and nature of today

Environmental protection groups and City Hall co-hosted the exhibition on the 4th floor of Nespa Chigasaki from June 19 to 24. Sansui-kai (See CW6), Yuhi (CW11), the Koide River protecting group and several other groups displayed photos and brochures which explained their activities. Drawings of Chigasaki in the 1950s by Yoshitaka Moriue of Sansui-kai show there were plenty of trees, fields and creeks in the city. Environmental protection is necessary but not easy.



## Events in July and early August

### **Chigasaki City Museum of Art** (☎ 0467-88-1177, URL: <http://www.chigasaki-museum.jp>)

- The 36th exhibition of the Chigasaki artist association: July 10 (Tue) to Aug 4 (Sat)
- “Play”; the exhibition of items related to “play”, in the museum’s collection: Aug 11 (Sat) to Sept 22 (Sun)

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

Painting exhibition *The 13th Four season hues by Studio four season hues:*

June 26 (Tue) 13:00 ~ 18:00, 27 (Wed) to 30 (Sat) 10:00 ~ 18:00, July 1 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 17:00

Painting exhibition *The 41st Chigasaki citizen art circle exhibition by Chigasaki citizen art circle:*

July 3 (Tues) 13:00 ~ 17:00, 4 (Wed) to 7 (Sat) 9:00 ~ 17:00, 8 (Sun) 9:00 ~ 16:00

Calligraphy exhibition *Sho in Chigasaki by Chigasaki Sho-yu club:*

July 12 (Thurs) to 15 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 18:00, 16 (Mon) 10:00 ~ 17:00

Photo exhibition *Chigasaki Chamber of Commerce and Industry Photo class exhibition:*

July 18 (Wed) to 21 (Sat) 10:00 ~ 18:00, 22 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 17:00

Paint exhibition *The 29th Chigasaki Kakusai-kai watercolor painting exhibition by Chigasaki Kakusai-kai:*

July 24 (Tues) 13:00 ~ 18:00, 25 (Wed) to 28 (Sat) 10:00 ~ 18:00, 29 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00

### **Southern Beach Chigasaki opening ceremony**

The formal swimming season at Southern Beach will start on July 7 (Sat). The opening ceremony is to be held on the day from 10:00 to 12:50. This year marks the 120th anniversary of the setting up of the Chigasaki bathing beach. After Shinto ritual, an announcement of the 8th Smile Chigasakis, the opening of a big decorated paper ball, life-guard demonstration, a tsunami evacuation drill, music performances on the stage and games for children will be carried out in this order.

Beach houses have been constructing hurriedly. They will do business until August 31 (Fri).



### **Hamaori Festival 2018**

About 40 mikoshi gather on the Nishihama beach early in the morning on July 16 (Mon, Marine Day). The festival, which heralds the arrival of summer, was designated as one of Kanagawa’s intangible cultural assets in 1978 and was selected as one of the 50 best festivals in Kanagawa in 1982. Shinto ritual will be held from 7:00 to 8:00. Before returning to their shrines, many of them go into the sea for purification, which is one of the festival’s must-see sights.

### **The 44th Southern Beach Chigasaki Firework Display**

About 3,000 fireworks will brighten the evening sky on August 4 (Sat) from 19:30 to 20:20. In addition to Starmine (to send up rockets quickly and continuously) and underwater peacocks, rockets (No.4, 5, 6, 7 sizes) will be launched successively. Have a wonderful time in the breeze. As there will be no parking lots, take a shuttle bus between Chigasaki Station south entrance and the beach.



Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon!