

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.

The only fisherman doing gill-net fishing in Chigasaki

Almost every day he goes fishing. But when a strong east or west wind is blowing, and weather is rough, he has to take a day off, as waves are already or are expected to become high. He starts his day early. Before dawn, around 3 am in summer and 5 am in winter, he goes to pull out the fishing nets he set the previous afternoon. He returns to Chigasaki fishing port around 7am, then takes the fish to markets in Hiratsuka, Fujisawa and other neighboring cities, and after coming back he goes to the sea again to set nets in the afternoon. This is the cycle of his working days. He is busier in winter, as the days are shorter than in other seasons.

Yoshinobu Hashimoto became a fisherman because he liked fishing, and now he is the only person in the city to catch fish with gill nets. (The other fishing households in the city are engaged in surface trawl fishing targeting *shirasu*. See CW21 for one such fishing company.) He targets flatfish all year round. In addition, he catches seasonal fish, such as sole, sea bream, croaker and many others. He makes fishing nets himself. These are 65m long, 2.5m high and have floats and weights. It takes him about a week to make one, he says. When he needs a longer one, he ties several nets together, usually three nets. In high season, he sets his hand-made nets from the mouth of the Sagami River to the area off Chigasaki fishing port.

Mr. Hashimoto's fishing ground is usually around Eboshi rock. To be able to return to the spots he placed nets the previous afternoon, he remembers landscapes from each spot. Buildings along the coast, and the lighthouse on Enoshima Island are convenient landmarks. Weather is another important thing. He tries to forecast the weather around the city, including the wind direction, up to three days ahead, based on weather charts in the newspaper, and radio and TV weather reports. These skills, to find his location and to forecast the weather at sea, are indispensable for him, as they are a matter of life or death to him.

During the interview, he was preparing for the next fishing, and his talk reminded the reporter of a story about a fisherman by Ernest Hemingway.



Chigasaki park hands-on learning center, Umikaze Terrace, open

A hands-on learning center, Umikaze Terrace, or Sea Breeze terrace, has opened its doors to people. The opening ceremony was held at the multi-purpose room A on December 22 (Sat) from 10:30 with around 300 citizens and guests, including Foreign Minister Taro Kono and prefectural assembly members. The construction took about one and a half years, starting on June 29, 2017. The three-story building, one floor underground and two floors above ground, is located at the former tennis courts next to Chigasaki ball park. The center has 11 meeting rooms, two multi-purpose rooms, two music studios, a cooking room, a tatami room as well as a PC and book corner.

A section of the roof is designated as a tsunami evacuation place. The center is designed to provide all generations, as well as mothers and children, with a relaxed and pleasant environment, and space for various activities.



Remnants excavation symposium

Members of the city board of education and archeological companies presented the results of the excavations carried out in fiscal 2017 at the small hall of Civic Hall on December 9. The annual meeting held at this time every year attracts a lot of archeology enthusiasts in and around the city.

This time, they excavated seven housing sites in the southern part of the city before construction was started. Ceramics, wood stakes, old coins, earthenware and the like were found. At a site in the Shorin district, a lot of insect bodies such as scarabaeids were unearthed, which is quite rare in Kanagawa.

A follow-up study of the compound of the large temple complex, called Shichidogaran, is still ongoing. This year, several pieces of information on divisions and ditches in the southern part of the compound were obtained. A straight ditch, about 21m long, 0.7m wide and 0.6m deep, stretching from east to west as well as a line of postholes set about 3m apart were found. Ten earthen vessels, roofing tiles, and seven remnants of pit dwellings were also found.

Before the construction of public sewers in the Enzo district, excavation studies were conducted to find out whether or not there were buried cultural properties there, and earthenware of the Tumulus Period and the Middle Ages were found.

Exhibition of artifacts

Together with the symposium, the exhibition of artifacts was held on the same day at the exhibition room of Civic Hall.



Volunteer groups in and around Chigasaki

NPO Shonan-Style (1)

Incorporated non-profit organization Shonan-Style was set up in July 2005, aiming to activate Chigasaki and its neighboring areas, including Samukawa, Fujisawa, Kamakura, Zushi and Hayama. The NPO, consisting of 13 regular members and 34 supporting members, has launched wide-ranging projects which will hopefully be effective in putting good ideas into practice, solving regional problems and helping people to lead wonderful lives. They have attached their minds to create sustainable systems in which individuals, industries, including agriculture, fishery, commerce and manufacturing, and public administration cooperate beyond having an interest to establish win-win relations.

One of the projects they have been working on based on this policy is the development of branded products called "Shonan Koubou." They take up consumer needs, locally search for equipment capable of producing items, and then start making new products putting importance on quality, taste and other characteristics so that these products have a flavor of Shonan.

Another project they are also tackling is the "partnership for Japanese orange trees" program. An owner of an orange farm in Ninomiya fell from a stepladder, injuring his leg, and his wife called for help as it was during the harvest season. This accident gave an impetus to study about the status quo of the regional farming industry. Agriculture in Japan has serious problems, including aging producers, falling incomes and a lack of successors. The head of the group, Takahisa Warashina,



Behind their activities, strong networks are observed. You can obtain details on the website: www.shonan-style.jp
The photos are from the group's HP

said they had learned the advantages of farming in the suburbs of cities. One of these is the fact that face-to-face relationships between consumers and producers can be established, as their proximity to farms makes it possible for consumers to join farm work. So, they worked out a program whereby people who favor Japanese oranges and enjoy farming are invited to orange farms for harvesting in late autumn and for green fruit thinning in spring.

In addition, cropped oranges were processed into finished products by them. This program was awarded the prefectural community-business prize, and was also selected as a project which is guaranteed funding for the fourth consecutive year.

Interested in Japanese Proverbs?

(1)縁は異なるものの味なもの

(EN WA INAMONO AJINAMONO)

EN means destiny, WA to be, INAMONO mysterious, and AJINAMONO marvelous

The destiny of love is strange and marvelous. An unexpected factor often brings a man and woman together, and more often than not the two happen to be well-suited to each other. Fatalists will think they were destined to have a happy married life. There are many couples who make their friends wonder why they got married, and become well-matched ones. Even ordinary people will be convinced that God made them find their partners. Such an act of God often happens between men and women. This saying was in Tanba Yosaku, a Jyoruri story in the Edo Period.

Its English equivalents are:

- Marriages are made in heaven.
- Marriage is a lottery.
- Marriage and magistrate be destinies of heaven.

(2)君子危うきに近寄らず

(KUNSHI AYAUKINI CHIKAYORAZU)

KUNSHI means wise men, AYAUKINI danger, CHIKAYORAZU not to come close to.

As a wise man is discrete in his dealings with people and thing, he does not come near danger. He can also find danger ordinary people cannot. Today, we are surrounded by things which arouse a passion for gambling. And dubious people approach you with a moneymaking idea. In such cases, if you remember and reiterate this saying several times, you will come to your senses and save yourself. This saying, in Mengzi by Mencius in China, indicates the importance of sensing danger in advance. As NHK's Chiko-chan always says, don't sleep through life.

Its English equivalents are:

- Discretion is the better part of valor.
- A wise person never courts danger.
- He that fears drowning comes near no wells.

History of Chigasaki Shinryuji Temple in Imajuku

On the northeastern corner of the crossroads between route one and prefectural road 46, also known as the industrial road, there is [Shinryuji Temple](#). The temple belongs to the Nichiren sect, its honorific mountain prefix is Myogonsan, the same as that of Jyokokuji Temple, and its main temple is Hokekyoji Temple in Ichikawa, Chiba Prefecture.

It is said the first priest of the temple was Zenryuin-Nichii, who died in 1642, and its founder was Nobunari Takeda, a member of the Takeda family in Kosyu, today's Yamanashi Prefecture, who built the temple in 1624 to mourn his ancestors.

A medal shaped steel drum called "Waniguchi", one of the temple's treasures, was once placed in the seven-faced hall. The hall was burnt down, together with the main hall, in the air raid on Hiratsuka in July 1945, but the drum survived. The figure "1624" is engraved on it.



A seated statue of Nichiren (see the picture on the left), with the year 1564 inscribed on it, was designated as one of the city's cultural assets in 1996.

A pagoda, assumed to have been erected in the Muromachi Era (1336-1573), is located in a small concrete hall in the corner of the graveyard behind the temple. The pagoda, which has lost its *solin*, an antenna-like part on the rooftop, is taller than one meter, and is considered to have been erected early in the 15th century, according to a study conducted in 1985. Near the pagoda, small words such as "the back of the pagoda" and "the side of the pagoda" were found.

How to get there: take a bus for Hiratsuka Station at the north entrance of Chigasaki Station and get off at Imajuku, then walk for seven minutes.



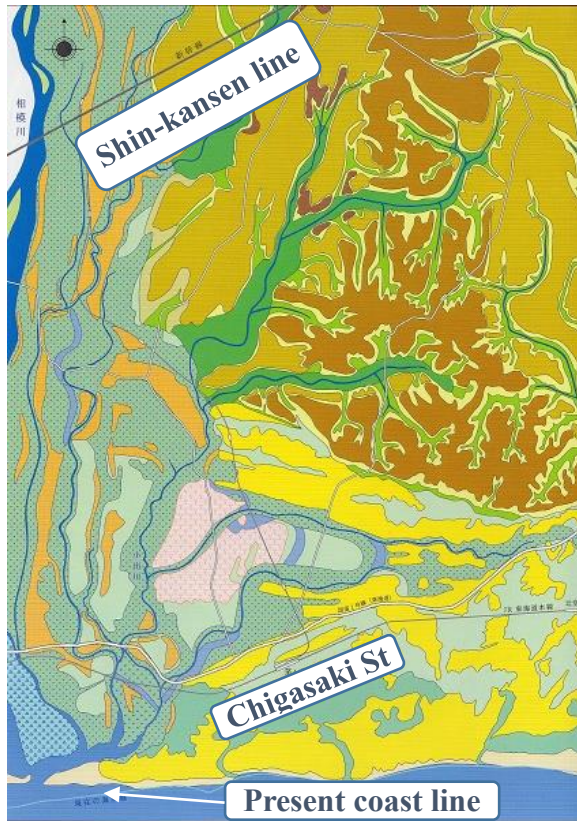
Exhibition and sale of handicrafts

The 52nd Fureai Sakuhinten, or the exhibition and sale of handicrafts for rapport, took place on the 1st floor of City Hall from November 26 to December 7. The event was hosted by the Chigasaki district workshop association and a social welfare corporation. Handkerchiefs, scarfs, bags, cups, dishes and many other pieces of craftwork were exhibited. Many of these works showed that the techniques of their creators were advanced. Visitors to City Hall walked around the corner and stopped in front of the exhibits they were interested in. Ten workshops in the city, including Rakuan, participated.



Nature in Chigasaki

Moated settlements appeared



Small-scale regressions continued between the late Yayoi Era (~1800 years ago) and the Kofun (burial tombs) Era (1700 ~ 1300 years ago). The coastline of Sagami Bay became almost the same as the current one. With the falling water levels, lowland swamps near the mouth of the Sagami River and those between sandhills turned into sandy plain fields. In Nishikubo, Enzo and Futokorojima, remains of settlements were found in such fields. It is conjectured that a natural bank on which Samukawa Shrine and its slightly curved approach were constructed was formed at that time.

The Sagami River seemed to meander through its final course to the sea: to the Samukawa side near Kamikawa Bridge and to the Hiratsuka side near the Hagisono district in Chigasaki. As it is also assumed that the river flooded often, paddy fields, if any, were located on low land along the Mekujiri and Koide Rivers. The sand conveyed by the Sagami River was thrown up on the shore, then blown away, and formed sandhills and sandbanks. One of the sandbanks extended eastward to Kugenuma in Fujisawa. The ninth sandhill (the Hamasuka sandhill) continued to grow and finally reached 10 to 15 meters high.

Nishikata Remains in Shimoterao, northern Chigasaki, about 13 meters above sea level, showed a settlement with 36 pit dwellings surrounded by double trenches: the cross-section of one trench was U-shaped and the other was V-shaped. The ruins measure approximately 400 meters from east to west and up to 240 meters

from north to south, the biggest Yayoi settlement in Kanagawa Prefecture. Almost all the pit dwelling sites the city's research group studied indicated that these had been burnt by humans. The remains left an aspect of the Yayoi Era, that is, there was a recurrence of battle. In addition, refined stone axes and iron axes were excavated from the ruins. These axes show ancient people lived in this settlement from the end of the long-lasting Paleolithic Era to the beginning of the Iron Age. Source: Chigasaki Museum of Heritage report (7): 1-14

Invitation to Kamakura (9)—Amida Nyorai (2)

Don't you sigh the word, "Gokuraku (paradise)!" when you soak in the hot spring or when you get a massage? The word comes from the Pure Land (paradise) of Amida Nyorai. Amida Nyorai has no doubt blended into our culture. Let's focus on the statues of the Amida this time.



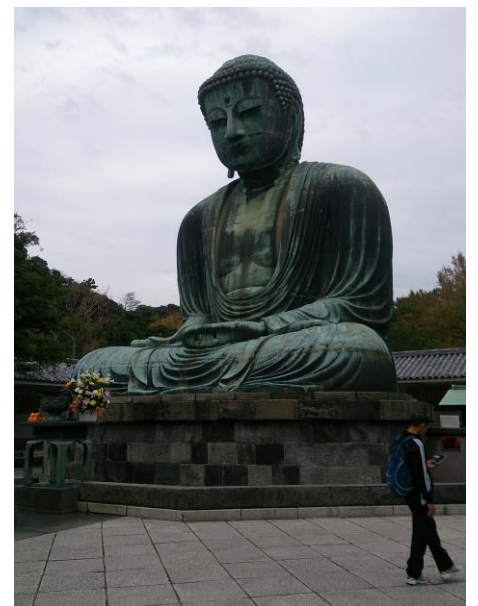
The Great Buddha of Kamakura is a typical seated Amida Nyorai. He wears a robe with both shoulders covered. The tips of his thumbs are touching, and the ends of the forefingers are turned up, forming two circles. This mudra or hand posture is found exclusively in Japan, representing *jobon-joshu*, the upper grade of mudras. Mudras were originally symbolic or ritual gestures in Hinduism and Buddhism in India which were used as metaphors of salvation, liberation or union with God.

We can also find Amida Nyorai in a standing posture. The Amida is often shown with the left arm bare and extended downward with thumb and forefinger touching, with right hand facing outward also with thumb and forefinger touching. This mudra means wisdom is accessible to even the lowest beings. The Amida is usually flanked by Kannon Bodhisattva on the right and Seishi Kannon on the left.

Honen, a monk, founded the Pure Land sect in 1175, which was revolutionary because his teachings were not meant for authorities but for the salvation of all the people. The new idea was harshly criticized by old Buddhists but it grew in popularity and many temples enshrining Amida Nyorai as the main object of worship were built all over Japan.

(Left photo, a standing Amida Nyorai, from Koshokuji Temple's HP)

(A bimonthly serial)



Why don't you become Santa Clause? Santa project Chigasaki 2018



(Hasegawa book shop in Nespia Chigasaki)

The project to present books to children living in a nursing home provided people with an opportunity to become Santa Claus. The event was held at Hasegawa, Kawakami and Toida book shops from December 6 to 18. If shoppers chose a child from among the children written on the board, and bought a book for him or her, and wrote a message on a Christmas card, the book and the card would be delivered on Christmas Day to the child at Hakujuji Rinkan Gakkou, a nursing home in Fujimi-cho. On the Christmas card, only the child's age and gender were written, and senders wrote only the message, so the senders did not know the receiver's name, and the other way around.

The project was started by Hideo Osawa, now a minister at Chigasaki Heiwa Kyokai (Chigasaki Heiwa Church), in 2009, and ten cities in Niigata, Sagamihara, Chigasaki and seven other cities in Niigata, Nagano and Kanto have had the events.

Shonan International Marathon

The first of the three traditional long distance races in winter was held on Dec. 2 (Sun). About 25,000 runners participated in the 13th Shonan International Marathon. In the morning, route 134 was filled with athletes instead of vehicles, a quite rare scene. Full marathon race and run & walk for handicapped people began at 9:00 am. The picture shows a mass of runners who came just after the top group in the full marathon race. In addition, 10km run and family run were also held. (The photo was taken near the water treatment facility in Yanagishima.)

Events in December



Lumie Saxophone Quartet

A saxophone quartet gave a wonderful performance at the multi-purpose hall in Satoyama park on the afternoon of December 2. The group consists of four graduates of Tokyo University of the Arts, living in Chigasaki. They performed their one-hour concert twice, at 13:00 and 15:30. Each time, over 200 seats were fully occupied. They played popular classical pieces by Johann Sebastian Bach, George Handel and several other composers. They also played a medley of twenty-two children's Japanese songs entitled Four Seasons in Japan. The beautiful and clear sound, autumn leaves outside the windows and comfortable atmosphere in the hall gave the audience a wonderful Sunday afternoon. Unfortunately, taking pictures of the pretty performers was not allowed. The writer wondered whether classical music makes them beautiful or they specialize in classical music because they are pretty.

Daruma market

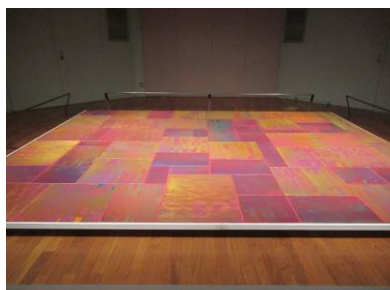
The traditional year-end event, a *Daruma* market, took place at Chigasaki's Dairokuten Shrine on the afternoon of Dec. 27, and along the street going south from the south entrance of JR Samukawa Station the next day. The stalls lined up on both sides of the streets reminded visitors of a year-end scene in the Showa Era. Life is full of ups and downs, and *daruma* is a symbol of tenacity of purpose: no matter how many times *daruma* stumbles, it always rises again. How about buying one?

Exhibition of woodcuts, lithographs and so on

The exhibition of woodcuts, lithographs and other items in its collection has been taking place at Chigasaki City Museum of Art since Dec. 9 (Sun). Over 300 variously-sized prints are displayed. They were produced by four artists and one group, between the post-war period and the present day.

The two pictures are one of the works by Koseki Ono, entitled *Namie*, or the picture of waves. The left of the two was taken at the entrance of the room, and the other was from the other side. The work, a silk-screen print, looks different from different places. The exhibition continues to Feb. 3 (Sun).

The entrance fee (yen): Adult 200, Univ student 100, High school student and younger, and 65 and older, Free



Events in January and early February

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

Calligraphy exhibition *Gagetsu calligraphy school exhibition*:

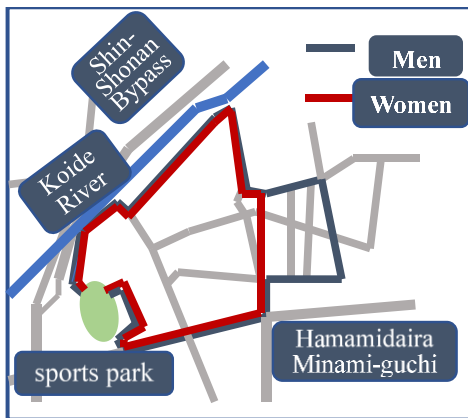
Jan. 25 (Fri) 13:00 ~ 18:30, 26 (Sat) 10:00 ~ 16:30, 27 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 17:00

Photo exhibition *Chigasaki shayukai photo exhibition* by Chigasaki shayukai:

Jan. 29 (Tues) 12:00 ~ 18:00, 30 (Wed) to Feb. 2 (Sat) 10:00 ~ 18:00, 3 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00

Hakone Ekiden 2019

On Jan. 2 and 3, runners of 23 universities in the Kanto area will run through R134 at an incredible speed. The second traditional long distance race in winter, following Shonan International Marathon, is the nation's oldest as well as most prestigious intercollegiate long distance relay race, the 95th Hakone Ekiden race. Each team consists of ten runners, and each of them runs over 20 km. The first runner starts at Otemachi in Tokyo and the fifth runner reaches Ashinoko Lake in Hakone on Jan 2, and the next day the other 5 runners similarly run from Hakone to Otemachi. Chigasaki is in the third stage on the 2nd and 8th stage on the 3rd. The Yanagishima kite club and other groups will hold events to encourage the runners, and to boost the festive mood.



The 81th Konan Ekiden

The third long distance race in winter, Konan Ekiden, will be held on Jan. 14 (Mon). About 100 teams in the city participate. The starting and finishing lines as well as the take-over zone so far have been in front of the comprehensive gymnasium, and participants have run circular courses in the central part of the city. From next year on, however, the athletes will start at Yanagishima sports park, run a new circular course and return to the park to handover to the next runners. There are five races: men and women inter-regional races, races among companies and high schools for men and women, and inter-regional races for mixed primary students.

Dondo-Yaki

Dondo-Yaki is usually held around January 15, marking the end of New Year celebrations. Children as well as adults throw their old ornaments onto a big bonfire, and adults usually drink a small amount of sake and/or beer, because the event with a nostalgic Showa flavor provides them with an opportunity for socializing.

The New Year's Display by Fire Fighters

On Jan. 6 (Sun) from 9:30 to 12:00, the New Year's display by fire fighters will be carried out at Chuo Koen. Water-discharge exercise, Japanese drum performances, and other ceremonies are scheduled.



From Heisei to a new era

A traditional Nebuta decoration was set up on the main gate of Samukawa Shrine on December 20. The theme this time was derived from Kojiki, the Ancient Chronicle. The era name will be changed in May, and the producer, Renmei Kitamura, said he had produced the Nebuta with his appreciation to the present Emperor.



Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon!