

Chigasaki Wave



Chigasaki Wave Club

茅ヶ崎 ^{ウエーブ} 波 倶楽部

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

N'EST-CE PAS Chigasaki Shop of Hasegawa Book Shop (1)

N'EST-CE PAS Chigasaki Shop, one of the three branches of Hasegawa Book Shop, is in a six-story building on the east end of Emeroad. Shizuko Hasegawa joined her family business as the head of the shop in 1992 when the branch opened in the brand-new building called N'EST-CEPAS Chigasaki, which was constructed as part of the redevelopment project in the area to the south of Chigasaki Station.

Her grandfather established the forerunner of the present book shop in 1947 just south of Chigasaki Elementary School, on today's Southern Street. The street, connecting the station and the beach, was the busiest street in those days.

Her father, the current president, drove to Kanda in Tokyo, a famous book town, two times a day to buy books when he was young. He also delivered books and magazines to subscribers, among whom were a lot of prominent and cultured people. Unlike big book shops in Tokyo, he knew the faces of most of his customers. They would drop in at the shop with a light heart, and sometimes have a chat with him. Since those days Hasegawa Book Shop has had deep roots in Chigasaki. In addition, just like the big book shops in Tokyo, the local book shop stocks many books worth reading, which cover various fields, including humanity, philosophy and ideology.

"Books help your mind and brain to grow" is the motto of her shop. Ms Hasegawa believes books are something like nutrients. She intends to provide local people with culture, information and emotion through the book-selling business and the promotion of book-reading activities, so she desires her store to be a base for the transmission of intellectual, cultural information.

Every morning, hundreds of different kinds of books are delivered to her shop. Soon, the shop clerks arrange them on the shelves. She says, in order to have a good selection, shop owners have to choose books themselves instead of relying on the distribution of wholesalers. Since the advent of online stores like Amazon, the business environment surrounding book shops has become severe. However, she is convinced that the book shops of a town can play an important role in local society, which Amazon cannot.

A highly individualistic Shonan book shop nicknamed Hase-Sho



Around 300 elementary students in the city suffered influenza in February.

Influenza has been rampant at schools throughout the city. Around 300 elementary school students suffered influenza, and more than 30 classes were temporarily closed in the first three weeks of February. A high fever, over 38 degrees Celsius, has been a common symptom.

The Kanagawa Prefectural Institution of Public Health, in Machiya, issued a preliminary alert early in January as the average number of influenza patients at designated medical institutions in the prefecture reached 36.50, exceeding a warning level of 30. As is often said, do not forget handwash and mouthwash after coming home.

According to the institution, vaccination against influenza is effective for infants and senior people to prevent the development of severe symptoms or additional complications. The number of vaccinations should be two for children ages 0.5 to 13, and one for over 13's. When children show symptoms such as a high fever, coughing, a sore throat and/or fatigue, take them to hospital. It is also important to give them enough amount of water to prevent dehydration.

Comic live show by a city official at City Hall

During the lunch break on February 13 (Wed), an audience of close to 200 citizens on the first floor of City Hall enjoyed comic performances by city official and former comedian Takeya Kishimoto and his friends. A live show at the municipal hall was the first of its kind in eastern Japan, and probably the first in the whole of Japan, according to Mr Kishimoto. With him, his friends Shonan Destrage and Tomoo Moriyama performed. The acts of the live show were songs, Chigasaki quizzes, skits, talk and the like. The city planned the show to have Mr Kishimoto, who once belonged to a Tokyo production, contribute to transmitting administrative information.



Volunteer groups in and around Chigasaki

Minnano-Ibasho

A reasonably-priced curry shop is open every third Friday from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at *Granma* * in the square of the Tsurugadai housing complex. The curry shop named “Minnano-Ibasho”, or a place everyone is allowed to make themselves at home, marked the second anniversary of its foundation in November 2018. Michiko Sagawa, one of the three founding members and the leader, said, looking back on the opening day, that she and a dozen volunteers had prepared 30 dishes, the shop’s capacity number of dishes, plus an extra ten, just in case. They were worried how many people would come, but about 50 people, mostly children and their mothers, queued up on the cold dark evening, which was far beyond their expectations. They rushed to prepare more dishes, screaming with joy.

Recently, nearly a hundred people from small children to elderly people living alone have come to the shop as young mothers who joined this activity as volunteers have spread the information through SNS. In addition, the residents of neighboring areas who want to do something have come, seeking the company. When visitors finish eating, organizers suggest them to move to the neighboring empty classrooms of the primary school, to have a chat and to make friends. Young mothers who have met at the shop established a swap shop as a new activity.

Their activity has involved junior-high school students, too. Mrs. Sagawa said she was glad to see young people find what they missed and regain those things by themselves. She has been unexpectedly affected by younger volunteers, and those stimuli have made her break out of her shell. At first, they aimed to stimulate the declining shopping mall in the housing complex, the most aging community in the city. Their activities, however, may spread beyond their initial goal.

* Granma: A shop run by Social welfare corporation Syo-no-kai.



Live for today. Tomorrow may not come.

The 30th anniversary of the foundation of the Implementation committee of the peace-loving Chigasaki citizens’ group was held at the small hall of the Civic Center on February 23 (Sat). The hall was filled with an audience of close to 350 citizens, most of whom came to hear the talk of Sahel Rosa, an Iranian actress, and a talent and newscaster. She talked about half her life, which was full of hardship, for 90 minutes. Following is its summary.

In 1989, she lost all her family members in an air raid amid the Iran-Iraq war, and was taken into an orphanage in Teheran at the age of four. Three years later, she met a well-off female Teheran University student - now her mother - at the orphanage. Under Iranian laws, if a woman wants to adopt a child, she has to be rich, married and sterile. The student underwent sterilization to meet the third condition in spite of her family’s strong opposition before coming for her. As was expected, her family stopped financial support for her, and her mother and Rosa were reduced to poverty.

Her mother did not want to raise Rosa in the post-revolutionary Iran, so she decided to come to Japan with her to live with her husband, who worked as an instructor of karate in Saitama. On the day following their arrival, her mother started working at a nearby cosmetic company. At the age of eight, she entered elementary school. The two faced various obstacles, especially those of culture and language. In addition, the barrier between her father and herself gradually heightened. Finally, her mother chose Rosa and divorced her husband. They became poor again. But, a chain of hospitality provided by several Japanese people helped them live through extreme poverty. She owes her life, in particular, to her mother and three Japanese people. Her mother never deserted her, a woman provided them with food every day, another woman let them stay at her house, and a man kept giving her train fees. She has never thought she is unhappy. Her experiences tell her to live for today, as tomorrow may not come.



Interested in Japanese proverbs?

(1) 明日の百より今日の五十

(ASU NO HYAKU YORI KYOU NO GOJU)

ASU means tomorrow, NO on, HYAKU a hundred, YORI better than, KYOU today, NO on, and GOJU fifty.

If you can surely get fifty yen today, it is better than a promise that you will get one hundred yen tomorrow. Likewise, it is better to have a small reality rather than a big expectation. This saying may be understandable if you imagine stock prices. Some may prefer selling stocks now as they are a little higher than a week ago rather than waiting for higher prices to come, as stock prices may drop anytime. The first equivalent below is in *The Hawk and the Nightingale* of Aesop's fables. The Hawk said to the Nightingale that a little bird that he had already was more to him than a great one that had yet to be caught.

Its English equivalents are:

- ⊙ A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
- ⊙ An egg today is better than a hen tomorrow.
- ⊙ One hour today is worth two tomorrow.

(2) 氏より育ち

(UJI YORI SODACHI)

UJI means one's origin, YORI more than, and SODACHI breeding

Upbringing is more important than blood. That is, environment and education while people are growing up affects one more than family background. When you think of historical figures, you will understand this saying. Many Japanese leaders of the Meiji era were born into poor families. Education gave them powerful tools to create their own future. Equal opportunity in education made it possible for a small country in Asia to grow into a modern country in a short period. This was in an old book called *Hojyo Ujinao Jidai Kotowaza Tome*. Ujinao Hojyo was a feudal lord in the 16th century.

Its English equivalents are:

- ⊙ It is breeding and not birth that makes a man.
- ⊙ Birth is much but breeding is more.
- ⊙ Nurture is above nature.

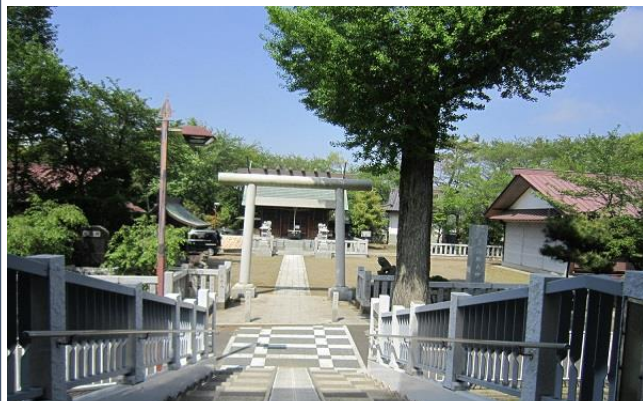
History of Chigasaki

Akabane Shinmei Shrine and a large zelkova

The approach to Akabane Shinmei Shrine starts toward the north from Oyama highway at a point about 50m west of Murota Elementary School's main gate. A 400-year-old zelkova about four meters in circumference at chest height stands beside the torii, or gateway. At the end of the entrance path, the shrine is located on a hillock about 200 meters from Oyama highway. As it was announced that a new express way named Shin-Shonan Bypass would pass through the precinct, some of the shrine's buildings were moved to the present site, and the others were newly built near them in 1983. A sidewalk was built over the bypass then.

The Akabane section in a geographical description planned by the then Meiji government* said Minamoto Yoshiie, an ancestor of Minamoto Yoritomo, the founder of the Kamakura shogunate, established the shrine between 1065 and 1069. The incomplete document also said the shrine used to guard six neighboring villages, but between 1655 and 1716, each of the six came to erect its own shrine.

In 1649, Akabane Shinmei Shrine was given a letter with a red stamp which guaranteed 900kg worth of rice a year by third shogun Iemitsu Tokugawa. There are 12 munafuda** in the shrine.



How to get there: a bus bound for Shonan life town or Bunkyo Univ. and get off at Takada, then walk for 11 minutes.

* Kokokuchishi, or the geographic description of the Empire: the Meiji government planned to publish the geographic description covering all the nation. The project started in 1872, but was discontinued in 1884.

** A wooden or copper plate placed in a high position of a temple as a record of the construction or renovation of the building.

Let's invite a new stadium to Chigasaki

Shonan Bellmare, a J league soccer team, is planning on constructing a new stadium and investigating several places, including Chigasaki. The stadium will be used for soccer, rugby and other sport games, musical concerts, citizens' activities and many more.

Chigasaki City Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Chigasaki City Tourism Association have already embarked on a signature-collecting campaign. They think the stadium will contribute to activating and developing the city and its economy. The stadium will also provide citizens with joy, and enhance the city's brand images, they say.



Nature in Chigasaki

Contemporary history of Chigasaki

Chigasaki celebrated the 70th anniversary of the city's incorporation in October 2017. The City held wide-ranging commemorative programs from October 2016 to September 2018, including the renovation of the Civic Hall.

Following the Meiji Restoration, the newly-established government embarked on the building of a centralized system in 1869 by dissolving the feudal government structure. It gave lands back to former owners, and liberated people who had been under feudal lords for about 260 years. In addition, it abolished domains and established prefectures. In the late Edo Era, today's city area was divided into 23 villages, which were ruled by a total of 40 lords. They were the shogun, the vassal lord (Ohoka family) and many direct retainers of the shogun as well as the chief priests of temples and shrines.

The Meiji Government established a new local government system in 1888, which gave villages autonomy. In those days the government was making an all-out effort to modernize the nation by getting rid of feudal systems, as the opening of the first Imperial Diet session was drawing nearer. The twenty-three villages in and around today's Chigasaki were merged into four: Chigasaki, Shorin, Tsurumine and Koide villages. In 1908 the three villages except for Koide coalesced into Chigasaki town (the year Meiji 41). The city was formed from the town on October 1, 1947. Eight years later, the city merged with Koide village, which made the city's area almost the same as that of today. The 23 blocks of the Edo Era are still the basis for today's school zones and disaster prevention activities.

According to folklore of the region, Chiga- of Chigasaki was derived from the grass chigaya, or cogon grass. As -saki means a cape (or large area of land sticking out to sea), Chigasaki means a cape with cogon grass. As the maps in the previous stories of this series showed, there were several small capes near the mouth of the Sagami River. The picture on the right was taken at Yanagishima beach near the estuary. The name of Chigasaki appears in a historical material about Kumano Nachi Taisya edited in 1470.

Since several decades ago, the beach has been eroded, which is attributed to the dams in the upper reaches of the Sagami River. That is, the river conveys less amount of sand than before as the dams trap most of it. The prefecture has been reclaiming the shore to stop this man-made transgression.



Invitation to Kamakura (10) — Shaka Nyorai

(A bimonthly serial)

For 500 years after the death of Shakyamuni Buddha, idol worship was taboo because Buddhists believed that overt representation of Buddha was too sacred to be etched in stone or wood. However, as genocide was perpetrated in Gandhara, people sought salvation. Buddha was for the first time depicted in a stone relief in the first century, aiming at consoling people. Images of Buddha or Shaka Nyorai in Gandhara had features as fine as Greek sculptures, influenced by Greek civilization through the invasion of Alexander the Great.

Shaka Nyorai were created one after another as the monks found it helpful to spread Buddhism. The images have elongated ears (all-hearing), a bump on the head (a lot of knowledge), a boss in the forehead (third eye, all seeing). They wear a simple robe without accessories and are sitting or standing on a lotus flower.



In Kyoto, Japan, the standing statue of Shaka Nyorai modeled after a statue in India was made by a Japanese monk, Chonen.

In Kamakura, this type of Shaka Nyorai has been enshrined since 1297 as the main object of worship in Gokurakuji-temple (the picture on the left). The statue is usually treasured in a storehouse, but is opened to the public from April 7 to 9 every year.

In Kenchoji-temple, the Shaka Nyorai in a sitting posture is unique, representing Buddha himself with skin and bones due to fasting (the photo on the right). A Buddha with a mustache is also rare to see. It is really interesting, isn't it?



Raw Wakame Festival

On the shiny morning of Feb. 2 (Sat) at 9:00 am, the raw wakame sale started. By that time, citizens had already made long queues in front of the counters set up in the fish handling area of Chigasaki fishing port. This event, along with a fish market, is an opportunity which enables citizens to obtain fresh local products directly from fishermen. The raw wakame, aka Eboshi wakame, is cultivated during winter around Eboshi rock, the biggest rock in the reef located about one kilometer off the port. The soft and delicious seaweed is fit for various dishes. As usual, the wakame was sold out within 30 minutes. As some counters sold out earlier than others, the citizens had to join other lines.



Ume Festival at Takasuna Greenery

The Ume festival was co-hosted by two local Machi-jikara associations at Shorai-an on Feb 11 (Mon, National Foundation Day). On the chilly and cloudy day, visitors took pictures of the deep-pink blossoms of plum trees. In the adjacent Takasuna Greenery, several tents sold rice balls made of Tageri rice, pottery, trinkets and beverages. The resident associations of the southern and coastal districts offered hot sweet milky *Amasake* to visitors for free, and school children of the associations sang folk ballads and performed Japanese drums and flutes. The photo on the right shows plum trees on the Koide River.



Chigasaki City Museum of Art

The city museum, in the northern part of Takasuna Greenery, has displayed about 150 woodcuts and a few lithographs since Feb. 10. The exhibition *Creative Woodcuts* is the final of the four-part woodcut exhibition series to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the founding of the museum. Most of the exhibits were by 20 artists when they were young, including Kanae Yamamoto, Koshiro Onchi, Kiyoshi Hasegawa and Kyokichi Tanaka, between the 1880s and 1930s. These works are to be displayed until Mar.

24 (Sun). Admission fee (yen): adult 500, university student 300, high school student and younger, citizen aged 65 or over, and handicapped citizen and his or her care giver free. Works by the students of Chigasaki Prefectural Special Support School's high school section were also displayed in room No 3. An exhibition *A Mysterious Zoo* showed pictures of animals and animal structures, each of which attracted visitors. Admission free. The exhibition was held until Feb. 24 (Sun).



Shonan Flower Exhibition 2019

Flower growers in Chigasaki, Fujisawa and Samukawa jointly held a flower exhibition on the 1st floor of Terrace Mall Shonan North atrium on Feb. 15 (Fri) from 10:00 to 21:00, and 16 (Sat) from 10:00 to 12:00. The corner, with a lot of colorful potted and cut flowers, was crowded with flower-loving people, shoppers and pleasure-seekers. Farmers conducted gardening classes for visitors on the 15th: how to cultivate orchids (at 11:00) and vegetables (at 14:00). On the late afternoon of the 1st day, people made a long line to buy some flowers they liked.

The 13th Koide River Cherry Festival

The 13th Koide River Cherry Festival opened on Feb. 24 (Sun), with *ohayashi* performances by a local group. Not so many buds had opened, but in another week or two most of them will open. On the weekends until March 10, various festive performances are planned: kite-flying on March 2 (Sat), popular songs live on the 3rd (Sun), and a karaoke contest on the 9th and 10th (Sat, Sun). As usual, stalls sold food, plants, vegetables, beverages and other goods. The site of the festival is a little way above Hagisono Bridge. On fine days you can see Mt. Fuji from the bank.



Events in March and early April

Citizen Gallery (☎ 0467-87-8384) at the exhibition room on the 4th floor of N'EST-CE PAS Chigasaki
Admission free!

Painting exhibition - *The 25th portrait exhibition* by the Chigasaki Art society:

March 5 (Tues) 14:00~ 18:00, the 6th (Wed) to the 9th (Sat) 10:00 ~ 18:00, the 10th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 17:00

Photo exhibition - *Each eye 2019* by Kagawa photo club: March 12 (Tues) 13:00 ~ 17:00,
the 13th (Wed) to the 16th (Sat) 10:00 ~ 17:00, the 17th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00

Painting exhibition – *The 10th pictures on the cloth* by the Momen-no-kai (Cotton club):

March 28 (Thurs) 13:00 ~ 17:00, the 29th (Fri) to April 2nd (Tues) 10:00 ~ 17:00

Morning market in front of the Comprehensive Gymnasium

A mini-morning market will be held in front of the Comprehensive Gymnasium on March 10 (Sun) from 10:00. Local farmers will provide fresh vegetables. The market is part of the Chigasaki Food Festa 2019.

Chigasaki City Museum of Art

The exhibition *Creative Woodcuts* will be held until Mar. 24 (Sun). Admission fee (yen): adult 500, university student 300, high school student and younger, citizen aged 65 or over, and handicapped citizen and his or her care giver free.

Spring Citizen Festival and Shonan Festival 2019 will be held in late April.

Scenes in late winter and early spring

Snowfall before Spring

The coldest ever air mass prevailed over northern Japan, and record low temperatures, 30 something degrees below zero Celsius were measured on February 9 (Sat) at four areas in Hokkaido. On the day there was snowfall in Yokohama and several other cities in Kanagawa due to the low pressure passing through off the coastal area of Kanto. Short-time snowfall was also observed in the afternoon in Chigasaki and Samukawa. We have snowfall more often in February and March than in January. It is a sign of coming spring. We had snowfall on January 22 last year. (Photo at Samukawa Shrine)



Practice on the afternoon of a spring-like day

On the afternoon of Feb. 24 (Sun), the brass band club of a prefectural high school in Fujisawa was practicing at a multipurpose ground on the Sagami River. There were about 150 members: brass instrument players, drummers, baton twirlers, xylophonists, conductors and others. They were preparing for regular concerts, which will be the last stage for the third graders, scheduled for a weekend late in March.

Onlookers were impressed by the energy, skill and enthusiasm of the students. The beat of drums made strollers cheerful. Brass instruments shone with reflected light from the sun. A warm breeze made the writer comfortable. Spring is just around the corner.



Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon!