

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.

Hasegawa Book Shop (2) - Picture books introduce children to reading

Shizuko Hasegawa has engaged in various activities in order to make real her desire; she hopes that every citizen becomes fond of books. In the late 1990s, the phenomena that primary school students were disrupting the classroom learning environment, the so-called classroom disruption, became a social issue. She considered how a book shop could help students who would open new prospects for the twenty-first century, and concluded that if parents and children enjoy picture books together, it would help the children develop emotions. Thus, she started up a monthly gathering, *Picture books and Storytelling*, in September 1998. A group of qualified reading advisors have since served as volunteer readers. It has been continuing for over 20 years, more than 250 times. The latest gathering was held on March 19 (Tues) on the 6th floor of N'EST-CE PAS Chigasaki. Using a panel theater method, two storytellers read children's books by turns with a slow speed and clear pronunciation so that the children could follow the stories. The readers sometimes spoke onomatopoeic words, sang nursery rhymes and made fingerplay. About 20 couples, mothers and children, spent a comfortable 30 minutes (the photo above).



Kikaseya Keitaro

(the photo above).

At another gathering, on September 18, 2018, about 20 couples enjoyed talks, dramatic reading, ukulele performances and singing by Kikaseya Keitaro (29th Chigasaki Wave, the photo on the left). The shop also gives public readings for adults. CW19 carried the recitation of Tomihiro Hoshino's poems by Ritsuko Nakayama during the 26th exhibition of his calendars and poems. The book shop participated in the Santa project Chigasaki 2018 with a church and two other book shops in the city to present books to children living in a nursing home (CW32). *A dramatic reading for adults by Ms Nakayama is scheduled for May 20 (Mon) at 14:00. Admission fee (including money for a book) ¥1,200. First 25 applicants will be accepted.*

Elementary school students in Honolulu visited Chigasaki

Seven schoolchildren and four teachers in Honolulu visited Chigasaki in mid-March in return for four Chigasaki children's visit to Honolulu in March 2018. The exchange program is part of the policies aiming to promote goodwill and mutual understanding with Honolulu, which has been the sister city of Chigasaki since 2014.

The students were fifth graders from three different schools. The party learned various aspects of Japanese culture from March 17 (Sun) to the 22nd (Fri): they experienced kimono dressing, tea ceremony as well as miso-soup and rice-ball cooking; visited Imajuku elementary school, tomato farm Oishii Farm, and Japanese-style hotel Chigasaki-kan; and made and flew kites with local schoolchildren under the guidance of the Yanagishima kite club.

Some of the students have Japanese relatives and they have been to Japan before, but this was the first overseas trip without parents for all of them, according to a female teacher who accompanied them. She also said this experience would help them gain an understanding of other people's way of thinking, and foster a spirit of independence.



Aiming for a beautiful Chigasaki Beach

A symposium on the future of Chigasaki Beach was held at the Civic Hall on the afternoon of March 23 (Sat). This was hosted by NPO Chigasaki coast regeneration promotion organization. With NPO leader Yoichiro Yamaguchi in the chair, five panelists, including city mayor Hikaru Sato, talked about their memories of the beach, what they think of today's beach and how to regenerate it. The NPO has been working to retrieve the once beautiful Chigasaki Beach since 2012. Until the 1960s the beach was covered with sea bells, beach peas and *Glehnia littoralis*. These grasses were found everywhere. And a vast beach spread between the water's edge and R134.

All the panelists agreed that the sea is one of the city's most valuable natural resources, but nature would deteriorate quickly, if it were not for maintenance efforts. In addition to shore reclamation which has been continuing at the Higashi Kaigan area, more improvements are needed. A panelist said a distant view of the beach is wonderful, but a close-up view of the facilities is disappointing. Another said he could find no place where visitors are able to relax for a few hours. Panelist Ms Kubota and her group's activities were introduced; they make wooden court rakes and place them on the cycling road, so that anyone can get rid of sand accumulated on the road with the tools anytime.

Court rakes



Volunteer groups in and around Chigasaki

ATHTEM SHONAN sports society

General incorporated association ATHTEM SHONAN sports society, set up by Go Tsubosaka five years ago, aims to promote local sports. He said he wanted to make a society in which citizens, from children to elderly people, are able to enjoy sports in their own styles. Thus, his activities are aimed at proposing to people of all ages how to enjoy sports. He said people enjoy not only doing sports themselves but also cheering players as you see at professional baseball, soccer, basketball and many other sport games. The sports society holds a female professional basketball team called WECTORIAS. Its 12 members are aged 21 to 28. The team went through to the national competition for the first time this year, after winning the Kanto-Tokai elimination rounds.



Mr Tsubosaka strongly hopes that the women's basketball team becomes well known so that the team will gain local citizens' enthusiastic support. Thus, he and the 12 members have made efforts to attend various events, including Konan ekiden and the children's relay road race in Fujisawa, as volunteer workers. They also hold sports classes and events, some of which are co-hosted by the city office. He strenuously carries on his activities, making the most of his careers in which he used to be a teacher of public primary school in Yokohama, a coach trainer for the TOTO basketball team, and a lifesaver at Chigasaki beach. He has cherished an ambition to have WECTORIAS make its debut to the first category of the Women's Japan Basket League Organization. <https://athtem-shonan.com/>

Interested in Japanese proverbs?

(1) 恩を仇で返す

(ON WO ADA DE KAESU)

ON means kindness, ADA ingratitude, DE with and WO KAESU to repay.

If one does not appreciate a favor one received from somebody else, but instead repays the person with ingratitude, his behavior is what this proverb indicates. Such cases are numerous in the man-woman relationship. Here is an example. A woman had devoted herself single-mindedly to her husband since they were young and poor (such a wife is called Soko-no-tsuma in Japanese.). Nevertheless, once her husband has succeeded in life, he divorces her, and gets married to a young and pretty woman. The case also holds true for women, doesn't it? This proverb appears in Genji Reizeibushi, a Joruri written by Monzaemon Chikamatsu in the 1710s. Its English equivalents are:

- The axe goes to the wood where it borrowed its helve.
- A beggar pays a benefit with a louse.
- I taught you to swim, and now you'd drown me.

(2) 我田引水

(GADEN INSUI)

GADEN means one's rice field, and INSUI to draw water.

When rice cultivation spread, settlements made their appearance. Residents worked together to irrigate each paddy field. As settlements grew larger, residents came to entrust the distribution of water to their leaders. The leaders had to play fair, but selfish leaders drew water into their paddy fields first. Similar acts are known in the modern age. Some politicians constructed train stations and stopped express trains at not-so-busy stations in their own constituencies. A Shinkansen station built in a green belt was once noted as an achievement of such a politician. This proverb is in Haibutsu Yanagidaru, a collection of senryu in the Edo Period.

Its English equivalents are:

- Every miller draws water to his own mill.
- Everyone rakes the embers to his own cake.
- To feather one's own nest.

Towards more attractive Chigasaki

A lecture entitled “Towards a more attractive Chigasaki” was held at the Chigasaki City Chamber of Commerce and Industry on March 1 (Fri). The lecturer, Yumi VINCENT FUJII, a Japan-France intercultural management consultant, explained why there are no empty streets lined with long-shuttered shops in French cities. She is now living in the city of Angers in western France. The 17th largest city in France, with a population of 150,000, was selected as the best city in France to live several times.

She says many cities were deserted and birth rates had dropped to 1.85 in the 1980s, but the cities started flourishing again and the birth rates recovered to 2.0 in the 2000s. This is attributable to the building policies of human-friendly cities, which have placed most importance on the safety of pedestrians. In most cities, streets are primarily for walkers. Various ideas make it possible for pedestrians to stroll downtown safely. This is the basic principle for constructing not only human-friendly but also prosperous cities. According to urban planners, to attract people to market places is important as they will shop a lot while they are loitering in shopping malls. That is, it is the walker not the driver who spends money, and consequently contributes to activating local economies. In the central part of cities vehicles' speed is usually limited to 30 or 20km/h.

Many cities have sufficient parking spaces on the suburbs, and then public transportation called the bus rapid transit* and light rail transit systems convey people to the central areas (Park and Ride system). Cars have to yield the right of way to pedestrians, which is in contrast to the situation in Chigasaki and other Japanese cities; cars would not stop even when pedestrians stand at crosswalks.

In addition, there are a lot of rest spots for walkers. Cities by the sea try to fit artificial objects such as benches and sign boards into the scenery by adjusting their design and colors to blend in with the nature.

*Similar buses run between JR Tsujido Station and Keio University, and in Atsugi and Ayase.



History of Chigasaki

Honzaiji Temple, Kumano Shrine and Oka Family

About 300 meters west of the former Mizukoshi family's residence, there is Honzaiji Temple on the left. And another 100 meters ahead there is Takata Kumano Shrine.

Kumano Shrine appears in the section of Takata village in Kokokuchishi*. According to the description, a separated spirit of Kumano Gongen in Kishu, today's Wakayama Prefecture, was brought to the shrine by proprietary lord Tadataka Oka, the father of the Tadasuke Oka, in 1658. In front of the shrine, there is an old stone basin for washing hands and faces before praying to God. In the south eastern corner, a roughly 250-year-old hackberry stands, and in the north of the shrine a Koshin tower and other stone Buddhist images are enshrined.



Honzaiji Temple used to be located in today's Karasawa in Fujisawa City, but the fifth generation of the highest-rank priest moved the temple to the current place in 1679. Tadasuke Oka held a memorial service for his real and adoptive parents there, while the 12th generation of the highest-rank priest, Nichigyō, governed the temple. Their memorial columns stand in the precinct. It is said when Tadasuke visited his ancestors' graves in Jokenji Temple, he always took a rest at the temple. The conflagration at Takata village between 1818 and 1830 burned buildings of the temple. They were soon

rebuilt, but in the Great Kanto Earthquake the main building and gate collapsed. They were reconstructed after WWII.

How to get there: take a bus bound for Shonan Life Town or Bunkyo University at north entrance of Chigasaki Station, and get off at Takata, and then walk three minutes.

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



People in Chigasaki (9) Yuko Maki

(A bimonthly serial)

If you are an avid climber, you may know about Yuko Maki, who made the first ascent of the Alps Eiger East Crest in 1921 with mountain guides Fritz Amatter, Samuel Brawand and Fritz Steuri. People called him Maki with respect. You can see a bronze statue of them in Grindelwald in Switzerland.

He had stayed there to prepare for climbing the crest since just after the end of WWI, and became close to local people. He made a contribution of 10,000 Swiss francs to construct the Mittellegi Hut in 1924. He loved knapsacks, ice-axes and mountaineering boots made in Switzerland and brought them back to Japan. These mountain goods were produced by Japanese makers and contributed to the prevailing mountain climbing nationwide.

World War II prevented him from leading a Japanese expedition to the Himalayas. However, he successfully led the third Japanese expedition to the summit of Nepalese mountain Manaslu on May 9, 1956, at the age of 62. When he made the ascent with 12 alpinists, 20 Sherpas, and 400 porters, he said “Those who stand on the summit achieve the highest honor, but it attributes to all the members who have supported them. It doesn’t matter who is the first one standing on the summit in the end.” His breakthrough not only underpinned the assertion that Japanese mental and physical powers matched up to western people, but also emboldened Japanese citizens who had lost hope and confidence after WWII.

He was born Maki Aritsune in Sendai City on February 5, in 1894. While he was living in Yokohama City in 1945, his house was burnt down in a WWII firebombing raid, and he had to evacuate to Nagano Prefecture. In 1947, after the war, he moved to Chigasaki, where the second house of his in-laws was located, and ended his life there on May 2 1989 at the age of 95. His consistent belief in his life was “Love, respect and live with mountains.”

If you are a mountain lover and want to know more about him, don't miss a chance to see the exhibition at the Chigasaki People's Museum from April 20 to September 29.



Nature in Chigasaki

Seven Key areas

Climate change and the loss of biodiversity are contained in the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Goals the United Nations adopted in September 2015. Companies and local governments have since been obliged to tackle the environmental issues so that their efforts help activate their local areas and improve corporate performances.

Chigasaki city, together with experts and citizen volunteer groups, has been doing research for environmental assessment since 2003. Discussions on how to make use of Yanagi-yato, a broad ‘Satoyama’ area in the northern part of the city, triggered a serious investigation into the region’s natural environment, as Satoyama, or undeveloped woodland near populated area, is traditionally where farmland meets the forest, and the habitat of various animals and plants. The study group divided the whole city into 76 sections and worked out a long-term plan to monitor index species. They selected 163 index species from six taxonomic groups of plants, mammals, birds, amphibia-reptiles, fish and insects as these plants and creatures are landscape elements of woods, grass fields, watery environments and the seaside. They picked up seven important areas for environmental protection, including ‘Satoyama park’, as these areas are rich in biodiversity.

Chigasaki, in which about 240,000 citizens live in an area of approximately 36 square-kilometers, is a typical dormitory suburb of Tokyo, Yokohama and Fujisawa. The city can be divided broadly into two different types of areas: the southern part, around two-thirds of the city, is urbanized, and the northern part is the green hillock with golf courses and a university campus spread across. The city’s green coverage ratio has drastically decreased, from 42.8 percent in 1989 to 33.8 percent in 2005, because farmlands have been converted into housing or parking lots, and other facilities.

People having a critical feeling are actively engaging in environmental preservation activities so that the



Yanagi yato



Heidayu shinden

environment of Yanagi-yato, prefecture-run Satoyama park and the other five key areas are preserved well. However, to maintain areas of nature needs a lot of manpower, so various volunteer groups join the preservation activities.

We will introduce the seven important areas in this series.

Talk on Fukushima, eight years after the devastating earthquake

Photojournalist Munetsuke Yamamoto gave a lecture "We never forget that day" at Ikoi-no-Sato, a welfare facility for elderly people in Hagisono, on the afternoon of May 17 (Sun). A facility-based citizen group invited him in commemoration of the 8th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Mr Yamamoto talked about people's daily lives in the cities and towns near the Fukushima dai-ichi nuclear power plant. Eight years has passed since the huge earthquake and subsequent tsunami caused nuclear accidents at TEPCO's nuclear power plant, which forced more than 150,000 residents of its neighboring areas to evacuate.

For people in Kanagawa, the nuclear accidents are becoming a distant memory. Mr Yamamoto, however, told the audience that these evacuees are still living under constant financial and physical fear. After the resident left, a huge number of domestic animals starved to death. Statistics say 3,500 cows, 16,500 pigs and 81,000 chickens were buried. Only a fraction of the former residents have returned to their home town. Most of them are elderly people, as younger generations have got jobs at the places they moved to, and their children are at school there.



An audience of about 25 people were impressed by the slides he projected on the screen, including a devastated port, a hospital, bodies of cattle and uninhabited districts. As he said, we may not be able to understand their feelings until we come to have sympathy for other people's grief.

About 50 photos taken by him were on display at the lobby on March 16 (Sat) and 17 (Sun).

Sports & Dietary Festivals and mini Morning Market

The 24th Chigasaki Sports and Recreation Festival was held at the Comprehensive Gymnasium on March 10 (Sun). The measurements of bone mass and body fat percentages as well as grasping power, abdominal muscles and flexibility attracted a lot of middle aged and senior people. Morning Market was held in front of the gymnasium, and Chigasaki Dietary Education Festa 2019 was at City Hall.



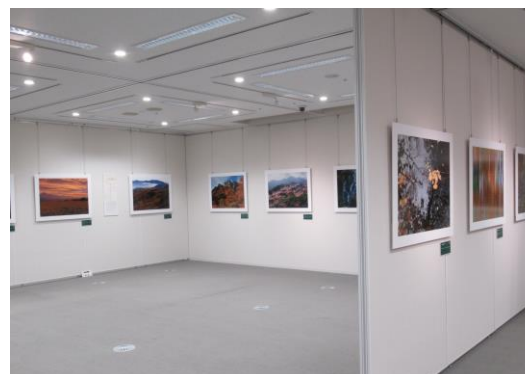
Events in March



Photo exhibition at the Civic Hall

The 15th photo exhibition by the Kanagawa branch of the *Japan Nature Scenery Photograph Association* was held at the Civic Hall from March 5 to the 10th. Sixty-one photos were on display. Every one of them cut a splendid scene. The contrast between light and shadow was fantastic. The association holds regular exhibitions, so you will be able to see these photos someday. These photos are displayed on its website below.

<http://jnp-kanagawa.sakura.ne.jp/wp/>



The 7th Yurui Chara Party in Shonan Chigasaki



City and district characters gathered on the roof stage of Lusca Chigasaki on March 23 (Sat) and the 24th (Sun). On the two days, around 200 people surrounded the stage. Most of them were, surprisingly enough, teenage girls as well as children with mothers and/or fathers.

City characters were, in addition to Chigasaki's Eboshimaro, Ayukoro-chan (Atsugi), Zamarin (Zama), Ebinya (Ebina), Sanomaru (Sano) and eight others. The live stage of singer and songwriter Takahiro Kanzaki's delighted the wide audience. Dance performances by local groups were also attractive. The event has become familiar among not only children but also teens and older people.

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

The 20th painting exhibition by *Seishokai*:

April 4 (Thurs) to the 6th (Sat) 10:30 ~ 18:00, the 7th (Sun) 10:30 ~ 16:00

Hakusei Calligraphy exhibition by *Hakusei-kai*:

April 11 (Thurs) to the 13th (Sat) 10:00 ~ 18:00, the 14th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00

Water color sketch exhibition by *Shonan sketch club*: April 16 (Tues) 13:00 ~ 18:00, the 17th (Wed) to the 20th (Sat) 10:00 ~ 18:00, the 21st (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00

The 7th Sousai exhibition by *Kawasaki Atelier*: April 23 (Tues) 13:00 ~ 18:00, the 24th (Wed) to the 27th (Sat) 10:00 ~ 18:00, the 28th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00

The 10th scenic picture exhibition by *Nature photo Chigasaki*: April 30 (Tues) 13:00 ~ 17:00, May 1 (Wed) to the 4th (Sat) 10:00 ~ 17:00, the 5th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00

Ark League 2019 in Samukawa

Ark League, bicycle- and skateboard-performance world competitions, will be held at Chuo Koen and comprehensive gymnasium in Samukawa from April 27 (Sat) to 29 (Mon). Three competitions: bicycle flatland and breakdance, and skateboard are planned. It will be the first league to be held in Kanto. The competition was established in Kobe in 2013. Performances on bicycles and skateboards are called *street sports*, and are becoming popular among young people.



Chigasaki Aloha Market 2019

The aloha market will be held at Chigasaki ball park on May 11 (Sat) and 12 (Sun)



The 64th Oka Festival

One of the city's four major festivals, Oka Festival, will be held on May 18 (Sat) and the 19th (Sun).

The 18th (Sat): Concert, Chigasaki brand bazaar and Joken Temple Festival

The 19 (Sun): Chigasaki brand bazaar, Mikoshi parade, from 12:30 to 14:00, and Big parade from 13:00 to 15:00

Chigasaki Industry Fair 2019

The industry fair will take place at the courtyard of comprehensive gymnasium and the Civic Hall on May 18 (Sat) and 19 (Sun) from 10:00 to 17:00. About 70 companies displayed their products and 38,000 people visited last year.

Spring Citizen Festival

The 35th Spring Citizen Festival will be held at Chuo Park on May 19 (Sun) from 10:00 to 16:00. About 60 groups will set up their tents. On the stage, citizen groups will dance, play musical instruments and show other performances.

Shonan Festival 2019

Another major festival, Shonan Festival 2019, will be held on May 25 (Sat) and 26 (Sun) at Southern Beach.

For more information on May festivals, see CW36.

