

# 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 Circus – Cozy restaurant on Takasuna Street

A stylish restaurant, on the first floor of a four-story condominium on Takasuna Street, was providing visitors with a pleasant spot to relax on a sunny April afternoon. The cozy restaurant named “The Circus” also becomes a café and cake shop for customers who have a sweet tooth, and a pub for those who would like to have a drink.

The Circus is operated by a group of friends. The owner, chef and other staff members – many of them have known one another since kindergarten. They put their ambition into the name “Circus”, that is, like circus troupes, every performer should contribute to entertaining customers by serving delicious dishes and offering quality services. They also think the atmosphere in which they work sincerely and delightfully will prompt customers to feel refreshed and amused. The restaurant opened its door to customers on October 26, 2018, Circus Day\*, which may not be generally known.

Before moving to the Takasuna district, they ran an Italian restaurant for about six years in Asahigaoka in the city. The reason why they moved to the current place is that they had hoped to have their shop in the vicinity of the station. And while they were searching for a property, another childhood friend returned to her hometown after finishing her training as a pâtissière in France. Therefore, home-made cheesecakes and tarts as well as Italian-style meat, fish and vegetable dishes became the restaurant’s specialties.

One of their basic policies is to use quality foodstuffs, and to make the best use of its favor by limiting seasoning. Among foods sourced direct from farms are Olive Beef from Shodo Island, Kagawa; Daisen Jidori, the Tottori breed of chicken; LYB-Ton (the same pronunciation as the Louis Vuitton!), the brand-name pork developed in Fujinomiya, Shizuoka; and honey from Hiratsuka. In the hunting season, fresh wild boar meat from Ehime is sometimes served. Seasonal fresh vegetables and marine products come from the city and nearby areas. Needless to say, a good selection of alcoholic beverages waits for visitors. With some Japanese dishes on the menu, they hope their restaurant will become a favorite place of the young, middle-aged and old.

\*Circus Day: a French circus troupe performed, first in Japan, at Kudan Tokyo this day of 1871.



## City assembly election – Nine female candidates won

An election for city assembly members was held on April 21 (Sun), and vote counting was finished late the same night. The voting rate was around 40%, 6.4% lower than the previous time. Thirty-five candidates ran for 28 available seats, and incumbents accounted for 22, 78% of the new members.

The number of female members increased to nine, or 32.1%. According to a 2015 survey by the Toyo Keizai online of the nation’s 813 municipal assemblies on the percentage of female members, the highest was Kiyose in Tokyo at 45.0%. Chigasaki was the 48th out of the 813 cities at 28.6%. As for other cities, Kamakura was the 36th at 30.8%, Fujisawa the 337th at 13.9%, and Hiratsuka the 228th at 17.9%.



## New Facilities

**A new Community Medical Center**, on the north of AEON Central Chigasaki Store, started its services on April 1 (Mon). The former center, being located near the Chigasaki Municipal Hospital, became too small for the increased number of visitors. To cope with this and several other problems, the consideration of a future center started about 10 years ago.

In the three-story building, examinations in internal medicine, surgery and pediatrics are conducted on the first floor, and that of dentistry on the second. A dispensing pharmacy is located near the entrance. The Chigasaki Medical and Chigasaki Dental Associations as well as the Chigasaki and Samukawa Pharmaceutical Association also have their offices in this facility so that cooperation between the three associations will be promoted more readily than before in case of emergency, including disasters.

Internal medicine, surgery, pediatrics and dentistry provide treatment on Sundays, national holidays and New Year holidays from 9:00 to 17:00, excluding the one-hour lunch break. And thereafter internal medicine continues treatment until 23:00. On weekdays and Saturdays pediatrics and internal medicine are open to patients from 20:00 to 23:00.



Dentistry

The pharmacy is open while doctors continue treatment. The new facility has parking spaces for 44 cars, around three times the number of the previous center. Samukawa residents are also able to see doctors there.

**A new administration building in Chuo Koen** has opened to the public. Its construction started in August 2018, and took around seven months. The flat, 380-square-meter building, located in the north of the park, houses storerooms and a room for chatting and resting as well as ordinary and multipurpose restrooms. The latter restrooms are for wheelchair users, ostomates, people with infants and toddlers. Ordinary restrooms are open for 24 hours, and the multipurpose ones are accessible between 8:30 and 17:00.



## Volunteer groups in and around Chigasaki Solar cooker

At Sato-no-ie in the northernmost section of Satoyama-park, solar cooking is demonstrated by Toyoko Nishikawa and her supporters every first Sunday. On April 7 (Sun), as hot as a mid-summer day, conditions were suitable for solar cooking. She baked a pale pink crust in a small pan placed at the center of a parabolic reflector. Wrapping some sweet bean past in the crust, a Japanese cake, Sakura-mochi, was made up in just a few minutes. (See the photo on the right). The just-cooked Sakura-mochi with a salted cherry blossom on it made it feel more delicious under the fully bloomed cherry trees.



In addition to the parabolic reflector, various types of home cookers were lined up, and facing the sun. One was a Melba toast cooker, which was made of black partition nets and a cardboard box with black aluminum foil over its inner surface (the black box on the left photo). This cooker can make dried fish very well, she said. Another was made of a few cardboard sheets. Two parts, the back wall and the bottom, were covered by plain aluminum foil (the photo below). In this cooker, baked sweet potato and simmered cabbage with sausage were being cooked. She said meat loaf made in the solar-cooker tasted good. She also said almost all dishes could be made with solar-cookers.

Actually, she made all the dishes of Osechi, delicacies for New Year's, only using solar-cookers.

Ms. Nishikawa started solar cooking about 25 years ago when she joined the NPO Natural Energy Project as a staff member. At that time, she was shown a big parabolic reflector, but it was too big for private use, so she began to think of smaller, more convenient reflectors. She has visited Senegal, Tanzania, Nepal, Mongolia and Taiwan to advocate solar cooking. However, she is afraid it hasn't taken root on their soil yet. She added that to utilize solar cooking when electricity and gas supplies stop, you have to be accustomed to this method of cooking.



## Interested in Japanese proverbs?

### (1) 宝の持ち腐れ

(TAKARA NO MOCHIGUSARE)

**TAKARA** means treasure, (**NO** preposition for object), and **MOCHIGUSARE** a useless possession

No matter how excellent skills or treasures one has, they are useless possessions if one does not use them. Expensive brand-name clothes sitting in the closet, books that are kept shut, smart phones having too many functions, and unused language skills - all may be precious but useless possessions. World famous tidying-up consultant Marie Kondo says you should not hesitate to get rid of such things. It seems that American women who have started clearing their closets say, "I'm Kon Mari-ing." But it is more important to utilize those sleeping treasures. Use your brains! The writer was often told. The saying is in *Tatoezukushi*, a dictionary edited in the Edo Period. Its English equivalents are:

- Better spent than spared.
- It is better to wear out than to rust out.
- Goods are theirs that enjoy them.

### (2) 腹が減っては戦が出来ぬ

(HARAGA HETTEWA IKUSAGA DEKINU)

**HARA** means the stomach, **GA HETTEWA** to be hungry, and **IKUSAGA DEKINU** to be unable to fight.

One cannot fight on an empty stomach. When you are hungry, you cannot work hard. Or sufficient food to fill the stomach cheers people up. Many countries lost war because they failed to maintain supply lines. Once, people ate to live, but today quite a few people live to eat. The advancement of civilization has enabled people to enjoy eating, and to use energy for peaceful competitions such as sports. More generally, you cannot achieve your goals unless you get enough power, knowledge, skills, money or anything which helps you realize your desires. But to eat full is no good. It only raises your Body Mass Index (BMI). Eat in moderation. Its English equivalents are:

- The mill stands that wants water.
- An army marches on its stomach.
- Hungry and cold deliver a man up to his enemy.

## History of Chigasaki

## Takasuna Ryokuchi (Greenery)

A greenery surrounded by pine trees, on the south of the city library, is called *Takasuna Ryokuchi*. Otojiro Kawakami, a well-known actor of a new school in the Meiji Era, once lived there. There still remains the stone frame of a well, a trace of his house. Born in Hakata Kyushu in 1864, he became popular in Osaka in his 20s with *Oppekepe Song*, which sings of the Freedom and People's Rights Movement. In 1891, he established the Kawakami Shosei Play troupe in Sakai, Osaka Prefecture, aiming to promote the movement, and within the year the troupe moved to Tokyo, and achieved great success. He came to Chigasaki, as Kabuki player Ichikawa Danjuro IX, who he quite respected, built a cottage at Kowada, today's Hamasuka, Otojiro also built his and came to the city.

Later, Hara built a cottage there. Yasusaburo Hara bought this lot in 1919, and built a Western-style house in 1932, which was named *Shorai-So*. With Chigasaki Station having started business in 1898, a lot of celebrities built their villas in this district.



After WWII, many of these villas disappeared one by one, but Hara cottage remained with the vestige of what it looked like in its peak period. In 1984 the city purchased the villa, and named it Takasuna Ryokuchi, or Takasuna Greenery, and opened to the public. Meanwhile, the decrepit *Shorai-So* was demolished, and the city museum of art was built on the site.

**How to get there:** Walk along Takasuna Street about six minutes from the south entrance of Chigasaki Station. Or take a community bus, *Eboshi*, from the southern entrance of the station and get off at *Toshokan-mae*, or in front of the city library.



## Takasuna Village Flea Market

In the courtyard of a U-shaped condominium on Takasuna Street, a mini-flea market appeared on April 27 (Sat) in a soft rain. The venue is on the north of the city library. The tranquil, cultural area was quiet on the rainy weekend. Sporadic visitors looked around about ten booths, including that of the Circus. (See the story on page 1). These shops were selling sausages, beverages, small paper products, clothes, trinkets, imported vacuum bottles and some other hand-made products. Children and their mother were enjoying woodworking at the corner of the market. Passersby stopped there at times. If it had been fine, the market would have attracted many more people. The market was also held at the end of last year.

## Invitation to Kamakura (11) — Yakushi Nyorai

(A bimonthly serial)

The statue of Yakushi Nyorai represents the Medicine Buddha, or Master of Healing. According to a Buddhist scholar, mantra associated with Yakushi refers to a daughter of a clan that lived in northern Asia, so it has been suggested that Yakushi originated not in India, but in northern Asia, and later incorporated into Buddhism in the 3rd century.

The worship of Yakushi Nyorai was transmitted to Japan via China along the Silk Road and Korea in the 7th century. Originally venerated by ruling sovereigns and court nobles for their own personal benefits to cure life-threatening illnesses, Yakushi later became the center of people's worship in the 8th century because epidemics and natural disasters often broke out. In the middle of the Heian period (794-1185), major worship shifted from Amida Nyorai to Yakushi Nyorai, evidenced by an explosive increase in the production of images of Yakushi in the 9th and 10th centuries.

In those days, once people had a sickness, they had almost no ways to be treated, so they believed sickness was brought by evil spirits and had no choice but to pray. In that sense, Yakushi Nyorai was a savior as well as a doctor to them. Yakushi is typically shown with the right hand forming the fear-not mudra and the left hand forming the wish-granting mudra, but later the left hand showed him holding a small jar of medicine.

In Kamakura, the Yakushi Sanzon statue, which is a national treasure, is enshrined in [Kakuonji-temple](#), surrounded by beautiful nature. Unfortunately, to take photos of the statue is prohibited.

How to get there: Take a bus bound for Kamakura-gu from the eastern entrance of JR Kamakura Station, and get off at the last stop, Oto-no-miya. Then walk the uphill path along a creek for 10 min, and the temple is at the end.



## Nature in Chigasaki

### Yanagi-yato

Yanagi-yato is the largest natural preservation area in Chigasaki, where the traditional rural landscape remains almost unchanged. The valley-shaped terrain of about 24 ha has Serizawa Pond in the central low area, rice paddies, cultivated land used for other crops and sylvae around these lands. Most of the terrain, or 'yato' in Japanese, is part of prefectural Satoyama Park. The important area of Yanagi-yato in terms of natural environment is designated as the Satoyama preservation area by Kanagawa Prefecture. There are rice paddies, cultivated lands and wetlands on the valley floor, and grasslands and woodlands on higher places.

In the latest survey of Yanagi-yato on flora and fauna, conducted between 2015 to 2017, 22 index species in grass fields and 34 index species in the sylvae were confirmed. The figures were larger than any other surveyed area.

Such grass field indices contained *Viola keiskei* (a plant), *Micromys minutus* (a mammal), *Elaphe quadrivirgata* (a snake), *Emberiza cioides* and *Natula matsuurai* (birds), and the sylvae indices contained *Quercus acuta* (a tree), *Parus varius* (a bird), *Bufo japonicus formosus* (a frog). In addition, plants and insects which used to be common in this 'yato' were also found. Plants were *Chrysosplenium japonicum* (the picture left bottom), *Amana edulis*, *Huperzia serrata*, *Salix japonica* and *Elatoslema umbellatum*, and insects were *Euurobracon yokahamae* and *Agelastica coerulea*.



The wild rabbit population is relatively large so visitors may catch them out in the open during the daytime. The number of index species observed this time in grass fields, wetlands and sylvae increased compared to the first survey conducted ten years before. This is because the area's ecosystem preservation has jointly been promoted by the municipal office, the park office as well as citizen groups such as *Satoyama-koen club*, *Yanagi-yato no shizen ni manabu-kai* (a group learning from the nature in Yanagi-yato) and Chigasaki natural history museum. They have constantly got rid of nonnative species, thinned the bamboo grove, and produced rice and vegetables without using pesticides. In addition, they sometimes hold natural observation events.

However, if grass is excessively cut for the sake of visitors, the wild creatures may be deprived of their habitats. Bio-diversity is a yardstick for the soundness of the region and sustainable environment, and it exerts influence on human, too.



## Exhibition of Richard Gorman's work at the city museum

## Events in April

More than twenty works by Richard Gorman have been exhibited at Chigasaki City Museum of Art. His works consist of squares and circles, and these figures looked like dancing on the canvas. Irish film director Neil Jordan once called Gorman's works "Emotional Geometry". The Irish artist has been interested in Echizen paper made in Fukui Prefecture, and has used it since the 1990s instead of canvas for some of his works. He knew about Shonan through novels by Jun-ichiro Tanizaki. He once visited the city museum in 2015. The exhibition will

be held until June 2 (Sun). The photo shows a work drawn on pieces of Echizen paper.

## Exhibition of Le Reve Fleur

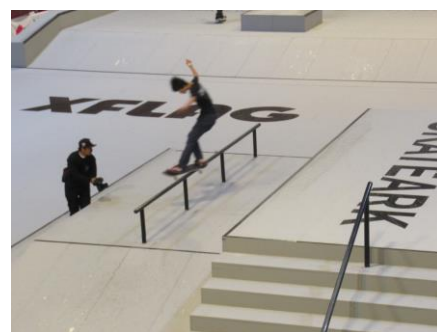
Can you believe these flowers were made of polymer clay? The exhibition of clay flowers took place at the Civic Hall from April 19 (Fri) to the 21st (Sun). All works were by a group named *Flower and Atelier Fukiko*: Fukiko Niwa and her students. Around 100 works made visitors assume that the group members possessed delicate fingers and a lot of perseverance.



## Ark League 2019 in Samukawa

Ark League 2019, consisting of bicycle flatland, breakdance and skateboard world competitions, took place from April 27 (Sat) to 29 (Mon) at the Chuo Koen of Samukawa, a town on the north of Chigasaki. It was the first league to be held in Kanto. Applicants advanced through qualification heats and semi-finals to the finals in each competition. \*Ark: Noah's ark,

Unfortunately, due to the constant rain, only skate board qualification was conducted, in the gymnasium, on the 27th (the picture on the right). The number of visitors was also small.



On the second day, blessed with fine weather, the venue was filled with a large crowd. Not many people probably have watched breakdancing and bike handling performances. Riders and dancers' high-speed rotations may have rolled spectators' eyes. Two photos on the left were taken during riding (left) and breakdancing (right) qualifications.

## Events in May and early June

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

The 10th Scenic Photo Exhibition by Nature Photo Chigasaki:

April 30 (Tue) 13:00 ~ 17:00, May 1 (Wed) to the 4th (Sat) 10:00 ~ 17:00, the 5th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00

The 28th Sharakusai Photo Exhibition by Photo Club Sharakusai:

May 14 (Tue) 13:00 ~ 18:00, the 15th (Wed) to the 18th (Sat) 10:00 ~ 18:00, the 19th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00

The 20th Commemorative Special Painting Exhibition by Seishokai:

May 21 (Tue) 13:00 ~ 18:00, the 22nd (Wed) to 25th (Sat) 10:30 ~ 18:00, the 26th (Sun) 10:30 ~ 16:00

The 18th Serie Painting Exhibition by Group Serie:

May 28 (Tue) 13:00 ~ 17:00, the 29th (Wed) to June 2 (Sun) 10:00 ~ 17:00

## Chigasaki Aloha Market 2019

The aloha market will be held on May 11 (Sat) and 12 (Sun) from 10:00 to 17:00 at Chigasaki ball park (not in Nishihama this time!). About 70 shops will sell various goods. If you want to find genuine Hawaiian goods and experience Hawaiian culture, the event will be worth visiting. Enjoy Angela Maki Vernon's Yoga lessons and other workshops.





## 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):** a concert at the north entrance of Chigasaki Station from 10:00; photo exhibitions of remains of Oka Tadasuke from 10:00 at the Civic Hall and the former residence of the Wada family in front of Joken Temple; a Chigasaki brand bazaar from 10:00 to 17:00 at the comprehensive gymnasium and the Civic Hall; Joken-ji Local Festival from 10:00 to 14:30 near the temple.

**The 19th (Sun):** the Chigasaki brand bazaar from 10:00 to 17:00 at the comprehensive gymnasium and the Civic Hall; Mikoshi Parade from 12:30 to 14:00; and Big Parade from 13:00 to 15:00 in the neighborhood of the north and south entrances of the station.



## Chigasaki Industry Fair 2019

The industry fair will take place at the courtyard of the comprehensive gymnasium and the Civic Hall on May 18 (Sat) and 19 (Sun) from 10:00 to 17:00. About 70 companies in the city displayed their products and 38,000 people visited last year. A lot of tents will sell local specialties, foods and beverages. At the entrance of City Hall there were dance performances 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. On the stage, about 20 groups will perform various dances, including hula, Hip-Hop and street dances. About 50 tents will sell trinkets, clothes, plants and flowers as well as foods and beverages.

## Shonan Festival 2019

Another major festival, Shonan Festival 2019, will be held at Southern Beach on May 25 (Sat) and 26 (Sun) from 10:00 to 16:00. On the two stages, the main and Southern C stages, citizen groups will dance and perform live. The Shonan girls contest 2019 for junior high school girls and older will be held on the 26th for the first time in two years. As usual markets will sell foods, beverages and city specialties. Beach soccer, beach rugby and other beach ball games will also be held.



## A free screening at the city library

Cinematheque Chigasaki, a volunteer group in the city, will screen a Russian movie entitled "Hard to Be a God" for free at the Chigasaki city library on June 2 (Sun) from 12:30. The 177-min movie was directed by Alexei Gherman. As usual, Takehito Deguchi, a film critic, will give a lecture about the film. The first 60 will be accepted.

## Heisei to Reiwa

The Imperial era name was changed to Reiwa from Heisei on May 1 (Wed), for the first time in 30 years. The name Reiwa was quoted from a preface to poems about plum blossoms in *Man-yo-shu*, the earliest extant anthology of 31-syllable Japanese poems. Heisei, from 1989 to 2019, means achieving peace, and as its name implied, Japanese people had a peaceful 30 years. Reiwa means beautiful harmony, and the combination of the red parts of Heisei and Reiwa produces Heiwa, peace in English. Japanese people hope they will live tranquil, harmonious and peaceful lives for many more years to come. And everyone appreciates former Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko's years of hard work.



Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon!