

# 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.*

## CHIGASAKI BASE – A custom furniture studio

A young woodworking company in Nishikubo makes wooden furniture to order. Orders have come from individuals so far. Its custom handmade furniture is tasteful, and slightly different from that displayed in furniture stores. That is, the company's products are simply designed, are stiff and durable, fit well into the space and match their surroundings. Some of its offerings are shown on its website (<https://chigasaki-base.com>). Compared to things made of plastic or metal, wooden items have warmth and softness, and are easy on the eyes.

Mr. Yano and his family moved to Chigasaki from Kawasaki when he was 15 years old. About five years ago, he began DIY, and has since tried to make anything he wants. While doing interior furnishing, he established CHIGASAKI BASE in May of 2018, which mainly engages in woodworking and renovation. His wish to help craftsmanship grow in Chigasaki is expressed in the name, he says. He has held DIY workshops regularly at the Uniart Shonan Hiratsuka shop and the Tsurumine Nishi community center. This activity must be an expression of his wish.

His workplace is filled with raw timber he bought at lumber dealers in the city, wood pieces, tools such as saws, vices and measuring devices, and a vacuum cleaner. The not so large room is kept tidy so that he can work with high efficiency.



Mr. Yano entered a wooden ornament named *Chigasaki C* (the picture on the left) in a contest, which chooses items to be displayed at a michi no eki\*, a facility consisting of a rest area and a shopping corner of local specialties. It is going to be opened on R134 in Yanagishima in March of 2022. Seventy-three items – foods, hands-on learning, T-shirts and the like – were entered, and will be selected by vote. *Chigasaki C* is based on an Eboshi rock design, and is expected to be hung on the entrance door or to be used as a hanger for scarfs, ties and other things.

**\*The michi no eki literally means the station on the roadside. It is to the car what the station is to the train.**



## North Macedonia Fair

North Macedonia Fair is now underway. The fair is a means to support the country, as Chigasaki was registered as one of its host towns. Eleven shops consisting of restaurants, supermarkets, a book shop and a liquor shop have been participating in "Let's eat, relish and buy the wine and cuisine of Macedonia" campaign. Many of the shops have already begun to provide services and will continue the services till September 6, the last day of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, and some will start by May and end in August. The shops offer services of their own. The city's website below shows details.

[https://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/bunka\\_rekishi/1005651/1034523/1036980.html](https://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/bunka_rekishi/1005651/1034523/1036980.html)

The Chigasaki 2020 implementation committee has been promoting a fund-raising drive for carrying out cultural exchange with North Macedonia. To people who contribute 500 yen or over, the badge in the right picture will be provided. To contribute money, fill in the application form shown on the website below, transfer money to the specified account and fax the form to the committee. (the committee, at the municipal sports promotion section in the comprehensive gymnasium, will also accept the donation.)

<https://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/sports/1036315.html>



The Tokyo Olympic Organizing Committee has announced that the Olympic Flame is to pass through Chigasaki on June 29 (Mon) on its way to Fujisawa from Hakone, by way of Isehara, Odawara, Oiso and Hiratsuka.

## Volunteer groups in and around Chigasaki

## Hagisono Ikoinosato-based event planning committee



There is a three-storied public building named Hagisono Ikoinosato in the Hagisono district of the city. The social welfare corporation Sho-no-kai has received a commission to operate the building from the City office. The municipal facility has a free space on the first floor, where visitors, from children to elderly people, can spend their time in their own right, and a care center for those who need support on the second floor, and several rooms, on the third floor, for senior people's social gatherings, meetings and amusements such as karaoke and shogi (a board game similar to chess). The backyard of the building directly leads to a park. They are side by side, and there are no walls between them, so that children playing at the park can enter the facility anytime, and the other way around.

The head of the superintendents, Junko Utsu (photo below), who has engaged in operating the facility since 2006, says three staff members, including herself, and six residents established an event planning committee in the year, and have since held several kinds of events regularly at the lobby. The six residents are retired office workers, farmers, high school teachers, self-employed persons and so on. These events include 'Saturday music salon' on the third Saturday of every odd month, 'Let's cook and eat with all together' on the fourth Sunday of every even month, and 'Let's read picture books for children' on the fourth Thursday every month. In addition, they recently began screening old movies and documentaries at random times.

Looking back on the days they started the events in 2006, Ms Utsu said she and her colleagues had strived hard to make the free space comfortable for everyone. They placed picture books in bookshelves, as the facility is located near the border with Hiratsuka and far from libraries. They ate some dishes with children in the lobby, and started those regular events, so that many people gathered in the lobby very often. A child of those days recently visited her, and she found him having become a self-composed good boy, she told us happily.



On the third Saturday of January, an hour concert of piano and song with sanshin, a three-stringed Okinawan instrument, will be held there from 13:45. Why don't you go and listen to the unique music?

## History of Chigasaki Eishoji Temple, in Murota

From the bus stop "松林中学校入口, or the Entrance to Shorin Junior High School" on Route One, going north along the street which reaches Oyama highway about 700 meters, you will see Eishoji Temple of the Soto sect on your left. It is said the temple was established in 1592, the year when Hideyoshi Toyotomi dispatched his troops to Korea.

In the Muroda village section of 皇国地誌, or an uncompleted local topography of the nation promoted by the Meiji government, Kagemasa Saburo Muroda, a vassal of Kagechika Saburo Oba, is recorded as living in Honson, and his house was in the compound of the temple. Today, the neighborhood is called Murota, a tribute to the historical fact. According to elderly people, there were places called 鍛冶屋敷 or a blacksmith's house and お蔵ん場 or a warehouse near the temple, a vestige of the warrior residence. There are a few stone images of Buddha and a koshin tower by the main gate.



How to get there: take a bus bound for Murota by way of the municipal hospital at the north entrance of Chigasaki Station and get off at Murota 1-chome, and walk for three minutes.



## Lighting ceremony of nebuta

A traditional year-end lighting ceremony of nebuta took place at Samukawa Shrine on December 20 (Fri). The myth, Jinmu Tosei, or eastern expedition of the Emperor Jinmu, is the theme this time. Just after sunset, the 2020 nebuta on the main gate emitted light, celebrated with the nebuta dance and musical accompaniment called nebuta bayashi. The nebuta, consisting of the Emperor Jinmu and a golden kite, will be turned on after sunset from Jan. 1 to Feb. 3 (Mon), Setsubun. The myth says the Emperor Jinmu left Kyushu for Nara to establish the Yamato Dynasty there. The golden kite helped the Emperor's soldiers by dazzling their enemies in the final battle.

## The 30th symposium on excavation studies in the city

In the 30th year-end symposium held at Civic Hall on December 8 (Sun), 18 excavation studies conducted in three areas in fiscal 2018 were reported. (1) In the Futokoro-jima area, a well of the Tumulus Period (250 – 538), dwelling sites and pits of the Nara and Heian Periods (710 – 1192), and a drain of the Feudal Period (1185 – circa 1600) were found. (2) From the sandbank and sandhill area along Route One, settlements of the late Tumulus to the Heian Periods (ca 400 - 1192), and many pieces of Heian earthen vessels were excavated. (3) From the national historic site, Shimoterao Nishikata remains on the city's northwestern plateau, a moat of the Yayoi Period (10th century BC to 3rd century), and mud walls of the Nara and Heian Periods constructed by the hanchiku technique\* were excavated.

\*a method to build up sturdy earthen walls from their foundation

In the exhibition room, earthenware and other artifacts excavated in fiscal 2018 were displayed from December 5 (Thurs) to the 10th (Tues). Comprehensive explanations by a curator seemed to raise visitors' interests in the history of Chigasaki.

In the city, 216 remains have been found, and among them, Shimoterao Kanga remains and the bridge piers of the Sagami River as well as Shimoterao Nishikata remains have been designated as national historic sites.



## Interested in Japanese proverbs?

### 1) 叩かれた夜は寝やすい

(TATAKARETA YORU WA NEYASUI)

**TATAKARETA** means to have been harmed, **YORUWA** at night, and **NEYASUI** to sleep well.

When you harm somebody, you feel guilty, and you may lay awake till late at night. But when you are harmed, you have nothing to regret, and you can sleep well. In short, victims can sleep better than perpetrators, as the former do not feel the pricks of conscience. *The Bad Sleep Well*, Kurosawa film released in 1960, however, suggested that consummate villains never appeared in public, and they slept well in their secret places. Its English equivalents are:

- A good conscience is a soft pillow.
- Better suffer ill than do ill.
- As you have done so shall you feel.

### 2) 習うより慣れろ

(NARAU YORI NARERO)

**NARAU** means to learn, **YORI** rather than, and **NARERO** to get used to.

When you want to master some technique, you can do so faster by practicing it and then using it rather than by learning it as knowledge. Why you can use PC software today is not because you read its manuals, but because you started using it and develop your skill almost every day. This proverb is in *Kokusenya-katsusen*, a jyoruri puppet show written by Monzaemon Chikamatsu, which was first played in Osaka in 1715. Its English equivalents are:

- Practice makes perfect.
- Custom makes all things easy.
- Use makes mastery.

## Nature in Chigasaki

### Fundamental plans for preserving greenery

The city is roughly divided into three areas: the northern mountainous area, the southern coastal area, and the central urbanized area. In and around the urbanized area there are seven regions with good environments that are rich in biodiversity. They are Yanagiyato, Namegaya, Shimizuyato, Nagayato, Akabane-jusanzu, Heidayu-shinden and Yanagishima, which Chigasaki Wave has reported so far. These are considered to be core regions for preserving the natural environment, and the City office has been making efforts to preserve greenery there. For example, they have planned to designate the vast area of Namegaya (the picture below), including paddy fields, idle farmland, creeks and surrounding groves, as a special landscape conservation zone in order to regulate development activities for the preservation of precious plants and insects. Under the regulation, landowners are forced to freeze the current status of their lands. In addition, the City is also proposing to designate the sloping grove in Akabane, to the south of Nagayato, as a special conservation zone.



As for the seven core regions, the city has conducted observation of the index species with citizen groups every five years. These species cover plants, birds, insects, amphibians, reptiles, fish and mammals in groves, grass fields, waterfronts and seashores.

Meanwhile, in the crowded residential area, the city plans to construct 14 new parks by 2028 so that virtually every citizen will have easy access to a park within 2 kilometers from their house. The city has also aimed to create allotment gardens and kitchen gardens, which will contribute to preserving the natural environment.

## Documentary film on Gender Identity Disorder at City Hall

She was a brisk girl while she was in the lower grades of elementary school. But she gradually came to feel uneasiness when she was among girls. At junior high school, she went to see a doctor, and was diagnosed that she had been suffering from Gender Identity Disorder (GID). She said she was very glad when the cause of her worry became clear, and obtained the GID certificate. A health guidance teacher persuaded the principal to treat her as a male student, and allow her to change the school uniform from girls' to boys'.

The screening of "Sora to Konomi to" was held, at City Hall on December 23 (Mon), at the *Gathering of Citizens Who are Conscious of Human Rights*, which started in 2003.



The film recorded her and his life from 15 to 24 years of age. She had the sex-change operation at 20, the youngest in Japan, and officially became a man named Takamasa Kobayashi. He felt he had finally got rid of the burden he had borne since childhood, he said. The mental and physical pains the young girl and boy had suffered impressed an audience of 250 strong, most of whom were women. The film also introduced Miyuki Yashiro, a world-famous cellist, who had the surgery at 78 to become a woman.

In the talk session, Takamasa said he always thought about what kind of life he wanted to lead. His mother, Miyuki Kobayashi, said her idea of happiness was always different from her son's, so she had never tried to control him. The audience accepted this comment.

## Invitation to Kamakura (15)

## Jizo Bosatsu

(A bimonthly serial)

Jizo Bosatsu has the same mission as Miroku Bosatsu and Yakushi Bosatsu; they vow not to enter Nirvana until they save suffering people. Jizo Bosatsu, in particular, saves people in the Hell Realm.

Jizo is revered as a high-ranking deity in China and Southeast Asian countries. In Japan, he is regarded as a familiar deity to people. In the Heian era, the belief of Jodo sect spread throughout the country due to its simple teachings. If you pray to Amida, you can reach the Pure Land. Yet the hidden idea that if you don't, you surely go to Hell urged people to seek relief. They went to reveal their troubles to Jizo statues, which stood close to people; they were on paths and street corners.

Jizo is portrayed as a monk with a shaven head, no adornments and nearly always dressed in a simple robe. In Japan, Jizo is seen as a protector, most of all, of deceased children, including miscarried, aborted and stillborn babies. He is sometimes dressed in red bibs or children's clothes by grieving parents in memory of their children.

There is a sad story in folklore called *Sai no Kawara*, or the Children's Limbo. Whether babies and children who died before their parents go to the Pure Land or Hell cannot be decided by Enma because they left their parents sad and hopeless. They are just wondering in limbo, which is the bank of the Sanzu River. Children must continue to pile stones up to build a stone stupa there because ogres always come to break the almost-finished stupas. While they are making these efforts as futile as those of Sisyphus\*, Jizo appears, hides them in his robe from ogres and guides them to salvation.

There are various forms of Jizo statues. Please visit Kamakura to try to see some. If you go to Sugimoto temple, you can see Migawari Jizo. You can meet Shioname Jizo, meaning salt licking Jizo, at Kosokuji temple (the picture on the right). \*Sisyphus: a Greek king who appears in the myth for punishment, Sisyphus and his rock.



## An exhibition and sale of handicrafts

Fureai Sakuhinten, an exhibition and sale of handicrafts, took place on the first floor of City Hall from November 25 (Mon) to December 6 (Thurs). This was hosted by the Chigasaki district workshop association. Members of 11 facilities displayed pottery, woodwork, bags, mufflers, key rings, brooches, New Year's decorations, colanders and many more items. They were colorful and beautiful, indicating the producer's excellent skill, enjoyment and energies they concentrated on their works. These articles would alter the atmosphere of any corners they were placed in. Pottery caught the writer's eye, probably because he had watched the NHK morning TV serial story, *Scarlet*, which describes the life of a female potter. Once in a while, after finishing their jobs, people dropped in the corner and walked around the tables to look into the works, and some of them took exhibits they liked to the cash desk.



## Shonan International Marathon

About 22,000 people ran along the coastal road, R134, on December 1 (Sun). Participants of the 14th Shonan International Marathon enjoyed it in their own way. Some of the about 18,000 full marathon and 3,500 10-km runners tried to beat their best times, some aimed to complete the courses, and others seemed to place their importance on taking part. Full marathon runners started at Seisho Bypass Oiso-Nishi IC, went eastward on R134, passing by Chigasaki beach, to Enoshima Island and then turned back to Oiso. The best times were 2:22:54 for men and 2:44:54 for women. Blessed with fine weather, sea breezes and the blue ocean, the runners were pleased. Many Yanagishima residents supported the race near the Great Shonan Bridge.

## Events in December



(公財)茅ヶ崎市文化スポーツ振興財団 おでかけ公演 in 神奈川県立茅ヶ崎里山公園

### マリンバ&ピアノ きらめきクリスマスコンサート

里山公園に  
ステキなクリスマスの予感...!!  
即興にイメーションがけられ、  
即興にクリスマス・ムーンに染まり始める季節に、  
マリンバ&ピアノのフュージョンが奏するきらめきコンサート。  
輝きあふれる午後、  
ほっと心温まるのときをお過ごしください。

2019年  
**12月7日** 土

① 13:00 開演  
② 15:30 開演

1日2回公演(各20分前開演) (上演時間約60分)

## Marimba and piano concert

A short marimba and piano concert, entitled “Sparkling Christmas Concert”, took place at 13:00 and 15:30 at the multi-purpose hall of Chigasaki Satoyama Park on the afternoon of December 7 (Sat). Marimbist Mayumi Hama and pianist Megumi Hada played *Comedian’s Gallop*, *African Blues*, *Air on the G String* and seven other popular classical music. In her talk about the marimba, a percussion instrument, Ms Hama said she changed mallets according to the season, as woolen clothes absorb the sound, while T-shirts do not. Every instrument is very sensitive, so is the marimba. It was an hour with relaxation

for an audience of about 200, which was smaller than other concerts of this series due to the rainy weather. In fact, we have had a lot of rainy weekends recently.

## Christmas concert at Chigasaki Municipal Hospital

An annual Christmas Concert was held at the municipal hospital on December 10 (Tues). The concert has taken place since 1996 except for a few years. This year’s concert began with doctors’ violin and keyboard performances. Their *It’s a small world* and *We wish you a Merry Christmas* were really nice. Then, choruses of Heiwa Gakuen and Shorin Junior High sang Christmas songs. Some listeners might have felt as if the girls’ clear soprano voices had purified their spirits. About 100 mostly in-patients and their families and staff in the large room looked like they were really enjoying the evening. Even songs for children can fascinate adults and seniors if the singers’ and musicians’ skills are excellent.



## The fusions of pictures and photos at Chigasaki City Museum of Art

The exhibition of Keisuke Shirota’s works is now underway at Chigasaki City Museum of Art. Many of his works, the fusions of pictures and photographs, are fresh and have the power to attract visitors’ eyes. Visitors will also feel stillness and a sense of speed in these works. The exhibition will be held till Feb. 11 (Sat). Entrance fees (yen): Adult 500, University student 300, High school student and younger as well as 65 years of age and older free.



## Chigasaki Yose – comic storytellers (rakugoka) show



The 4th amateur comic storytellers show took place at Kinro Shimin Kaikan, or Workers’ Hall, on December 21 (Sat) from 14:30 to 17:15. Seven amateur storytellers performed their favorite stories which included latest social problems and happenings seasoned with humor. Storytellers seemed to place an importance to how to produce a sound. Their voices were easier to listen to than those of comedians. In addition, in contrast to comedians, storytellers did not attack anyone, which makes the audience comfortable. More than 100 people also relaxed and enjoyed a soft atmosphere.

## Daruma market

Six daruma shops opened in the front garden of Dairokuten Shrine on Route One in Jukkenzaka on the late afternoon of December 27. Regular customers in the neighborhood visited now and then, and sellers shouted at them. Darumas are regarded as a symbol of good luck, fortitude and prosperity. Even today, self-employed people and shop owners have daruma in their office. The writer has bought one or two darumas every year recently to support the business, and consequently there are several darumas in his house. The next day the market opened at Samukawa.



## Events in January and early February

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

Gagetu Calligraphy exhibition by Gagetu calligraphy school:

Jan. 24 (Fri) 13:00 ~ 18:00, the 25th (Sat) 10:00 ~ 18:00, the 26th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 17:00

Photo exhibition by Chigasaki Shayukai:

Jan. 28 (Tues) 12:00 ~ 18:00, the 29th (Wed) to Feb. 1 (Sat) 10:00 ~ 18:00, the 2nd (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00

### The 6th Kite-flying Festival

The traditional festival will take place on Southern Beach on Jan. 2 (Thurs) and 3 (Fri) from 10:00 to 13:00. Several kite chains are flown every year by the Yanagishima Kite Club. Amazake and mochi will be provided free. Visitors will be able to watch the runners of the Hakone Ekiden, running toward and from Hakone along R134. And many groups of musicians and dancers will perform on the stage.



### The 96th Hakone Ekiden

The nation's oldest and the most prestigious intercollegiate long distance relay race, Hakone Ekiden, will be held on Jan. 2 and 3. Runners of 20 university's teams and one mixed team whose members are selected from the other universities in the Kanto area, will run through R134 at an incredible speed. Those in the top group are expected to pass by Southern Beach around 10:40 am on the 2nd and 10:20 am on the 3rd. Two local universities, Tokai and Kanagawa, both of which have their campus in Hiratsuka will participate.

### The 81th Konan Ekiden

Konan Ekiden will be held on Jan. 13 (Mon, Coming-of-Age Day). About 100 teams in the city will participate. The athletes will start at Yanagishima sports park, run new circular courses 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. A team of five men runs a total distance of 17.3 km, and a female team of five runs 14.1 km. "Konan" means the southern area of the former Koza-gun (from Chigasaki to Sagami-hara).



### Dondo-Yaki

Dondo-Yaki is going to be held in many places in the middle of January. For example, Satoyama Koen in Serizawa, Itsukushima Shrine in Sineicho and Shinmei Daijingu in Enzo, all on the 14th (Tues). The ritual marks the end of New Year celebrations. Children as well as adults throw their old ornaments, including *shimekazari* and *ofuda*, onto a big bonfire, and adults usually drink a small amount of alcoholic beverages, because the event is also a place to cultivate amity with neighbors.

### The New Year's Display by Fire Fighters

On Jan. 12 (Sun) from 9:30 to 12:00, the New Year's display by fire fighters will be carried out in the comprehensive gymnasium, in front of City Hall. (the display will be carried out indoors this year.) Water-discharge exercise, Japanese drum performances, and other ceremonies are scheduled. If visitors win a lottery, they will be allowed to get on a ladder truck. The tickets will be provided from 8:30 to 9:00 on the morning of the day.



### Let's paint pictures on stones to make paperweights

Koichi Sato will hold a workshop to make paperweights using pebbles at Umikazeterasu on Feb. 2 (Sun) and the 15th (Sat) from 10:00 to 15:00. The first 30 applicants for each lesson will be accepted. Preschoolers should be accompanied by their mother or father. (Umikazeterasu phone: 0467-85-0942) Mr Sato held his solo exhibition at Citizen Gallery last month for the first time in three years. The picture on the right was among 21 works, mostly pictures depicting landscapes in Nagano.



Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon!