

# 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.*

## The 6th Wave of COVID-19 and Booster Inoculation

Coronavirus infections have been rising sharply since the beginning of 2022. The number of daily cases across the nation jumped from 1,265 on January 4 (Tue) to 8,243 on the 9th (Sun). In Kanagawa prefecture, the figure increased from 152 on January 6 (Thu) to 443 three days later. Governor Yuji Kuroiwa said on January 6 that as many as 10,000 people would be infected by the end of January, according to a worst case scenario simulation by the prefecture with data from foreign countries.

In Chigasaki, single figures had continued for three months until 27 cases were found on January 10 (Sun). See the red arrow on the graph. The 6th wave has become real in the city.

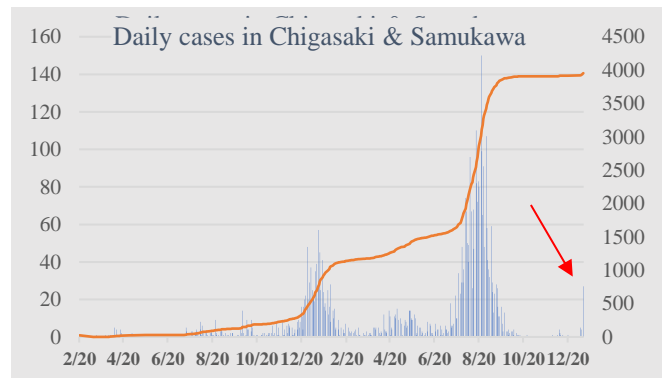
It is reported that the exponential infection rates are caused by the newly-detected Omicron variant. It is known that its transmissibility is higher than that of the Delta and other variants, and its incubation period is shorter than any other variant, so that the recent spread is mostly caused by the latest mutant, instead of Delta. On the other hand, several studies show that Omicron has caused less severe conditions than Delta, and the risk of hospitalization is much smaller with infections by Omicron than infections with Delta. However, experts warn that it is too early to think that Omicron is safer than the others.

The city has been preparing for the booster inoculation, and has already started sending vaccination tickets to citizens. The third shot will be administered at hospitals and mass vaccination sites (Chigasaki: Community Hall in City Hall annex, and Samukawa: Samukawa Shrine Sanshuden). As for hospitals in Chigasaki, go to

<https://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/kenko/yobotaisaku/1046020.html>

For free pcr test sites, go to

<https://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/kenko/1022933/1046065.html>



## The second snowfall in this winter

It snowed all day on January 6 (Thu). This has been the second snowfall of the season following a flurry on the afternoon of December 31 (Fri). The snow lay more than five centimeters deep on the roofs and fields in the city. Several school kids came to the Chuo Park and started running on the ground. In spite of being a weekday, the central district of the city was quiet, and showed fantasy scenery. As dry weather had continued for weeks, the snow might have inconvenienced some people, but it would have provided some with adequate moisture and a tranquil time.

This snow was brought about by the so-called south-coast cyclone. The Meteorological Agency issued winter storm watch all over the prefecture. Yokohama Local Meteorological Observatory says it has observed more than one centimeter of snow since March, 2020.

The weather report says fine weather will last up to January 18 (Tue), except the 11th (Tue), thus Coming-of-Age Day (Jan. 10, Mon) is going to be a fine day.



Chuo Koen, Jan. 6, 13:42 pm

## Flowers of the season      Narcissus

A flower arrangement of Japanese narcissus with the branches of pine trees or nandinas placed in the alcove of a traditional Japanese room is suitable to herald the arrival of the New Year. Narcissus flowers have a variety of colors and shapes, and are richly perfumed. The daffodil, one of the varieties of narcissus, is the national flower of Wales.

Narcissus are native to the Mediterranean, and came via China to Japan in the late Heian era. As the flowering plant grows well in Japan's climate, you can see them growing in clusters here and there nationwide.

In Tsumekizaki at the southern tip of the Izu Peninsular, for example, three million narcissus come into flower in January. After the flowering season is over, leaves and stalks continue to develop, and even as the above-ground parts of the plants wither, their bulbs get bigger and multiply by division. Old stocks remain alive so narcissus once planted freely grow in late winter or early spring.

Incidentally, the plants have toxic materials such as calcium oxalate, specifically in the bulbs. According to the health ministry, 47 cases of food poisoning by narcissus were reported from 2008 to 2017 because their leaves resemble Chinese chives. The number was the largest among a total of 188 food poisoning cases during the period. For gardening, if narcissus do not have flowers, the reasons are excess nitrogen or shallow planting, in addition to crowded bulbs.



For narcissus of Tsumekizaki, go to <https://www.shimoda-city.info/event/suisen.html>

## Ambulances conveyed 10,753 people in 2021, increased by 944 or 9.6% from a year earlier.

Ambulances were dispatched 11,350 times last year, an increase of 905 times or 8.7% from a year earlier. The figure indicates that the emergency vehicles were sent out on average 31 times a day, that is, each one of the city's seven ambulances rushed to 4.4 incidents a day on average.

In 2021, 10,753 people were conveyed to hospital, an increase of 944 or 9.6% from the previous year. The increase may be attributed to unstable living conditions due to the coronavirus pandemic, according to the city fire station. About 64% of the 10,753 were the elderly, decreased a little from 65.1% in 2020. Nearly 39.1% of those conveyed were the slightly injured, also decreased from 42.1% in 2020. The fire station keeps asking citizens to think whether they really need quick treatments before they call an ambulance.

Thirty-eight fires broke out in 2020, less than 40 for the first time in five years.



## Dondo-yaki

One of the traditional events in early January, Dondo-yaki, was held at a neighborhood association in Samukawa on the afternoon of January 8 (Sat) for the first time in two years. The custom was once prevalent across the nation, but a quite limited number of areas still conduct the event today. It stems from the festival of the Imperial Court more than 1000 years ago. Dondo-yaki is a kind of fire festival, in which the New Year's decorative pine trees, sacred straw ropes and other good-luck tokens as well as used calligraphic paper are burned. The festival is to pray to God to provide residents with bumper crops, happiness, and prosperity as well as to help children develop their writing skills.



To the event, over one hundred residents of all generations gathered. Children browned colorful dumplings they had made. The elderly believe that the dumplings protect the children from cold. The event also provided participants with an opportunity to socialize with neighbors. Dondo-yaki is one of the events which are destined to disappear. It has become difficult to find places for a bonfire, and many young residents cannot afford to participate in the event.

A large-scale Dondo-yaki at Chigasaki satoyama koen was cancelled two years in a row due to the coronavirus pandemic.

## Interested in Japanese proverbs?

### 1) USHI NI HIKARETE ZENKOJI MAIRI

USHI means a cow, NI by, HIKARETE to be led, ZENKOJI Zenkoji Temple, and MAIRI to visit.

Once an old woman with no religious beliefs lived near Zenkoji Temple, in Nagano. One day she watched a cow of her neighboring house running with a piece of cloth she had left in the sun to dry on its horn. To retrieve the cloth she went after the cow, and the cow ran into Zenkoji Temple. Noticing that she came to a sacred place, she reflected on her past conduct. Thereafter, she often went to pray at the temple.

The saying means what you happened to do brings a good result. Or while you are cooperating with others, things become favorable to you. If a friend invites you to a museum, and you have an interest in looking at paintings and statues, you should be thankful to them.

The saying is in 本朝俚諺, Honcho Rigen, a dictionary of proverbs, published in 1715. Its English equivalents are:

- Goslings lead the geese to water
- Being led to good by some accidental occurrence.

### 2) KYU SUREBA TSUZU

KYU means in an extremity, SUREBA when, and TSUZU there are some solutions

When we are placed in an extremity and are at a loss, we sometimes hit on a good idea, and can get out of the trouble. When we are driven into a corner, we sometimes become diligent, and fully use our brains, and consequently we have a good idea. Likewise, power surges in us in emergency situations such as fires or natural disasters.

Most people have experienced such situations, and in many cases, they managed to get over difficulties. Perhaps there are few people who never stayed up overnight to cram for an exam. On the contrary, there are some people who never try to solve the problem unless they are really cornered. Everything is going to be fine.

The saying is in 易經, or Yi Jing, one of the five sutras of Confucianism. Its basic style was established in the 8th century BC. Its English equivalents are:

- A hungry man smells meat afar off.
- Men's necessity is God's opportunity.
- The darkest hour is that before the dawn.

## Invitation to Kamakura (25) Uji-Shui Monogatari

(Bimonthly serial)

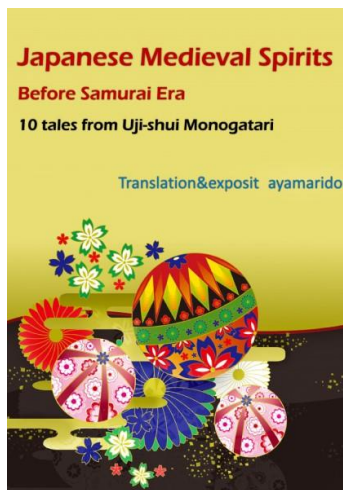
*Uji-Shui Monogatari* is a collection of 197 short stories written in the Kamakura era. The author is unknown. It contains a variety of folk stories and folk traditions, mainly based on Buddhism teachings. Varied characters from commoners to nobles are depicted humorously and vividly. These are the originals of the Japanese folk tales for children. A brief plot of a story is as follows.

### *Rich Man with a Straw (Warashibe Choja)*

A very poor, young man worshipped at the Hase Temple and prayed to Kannon to help him out of poverty. Kannon appeared, saying "You must seize the first thing you touch when you leave the temple. He tripped at the exit, and involuntarily gripped a piece of straw. And he tied a buzzing horsefly to it and set out on a journey. A little boy, together with a lady, riding on an ox-drawn carriage pointed at the young man and asked his retainer, "What is he holding? I want it." The retainer demandingly said to the young man, "Our young lord wants what you're holding in your hand. Give it to him." The young man pleasantly said, "This was given to me by Kannon. OK. I'll give it to him."

The lady admired his generosity and gave him three big tangerines out of gratitude. He kept walking and met a woman of high standing. She was desperately thirsty, and so he offered her the tangerines. She was overjoyed and gave him 3 rolls of precious textiles in appreciation. He kept on traveling and met a man whose horse has just died. When the man was about to skin the horse, the young man felt pity for the horse and asked the man to trade his textiles for the dead horse. The man accepted it. The young man prayed to Kannon to bring the horse back to life. The horse came alive. Next, he traded the horse for rice paddies, finally he became a rich man. He attributed all his success to Kannon.

Ryunosuke Akutagawa drew inspiration from *Uji-Shui Monogatari* for his short stories.



The monument in the precincts of Honjya-Gu says that after Hachiman-sha was moved to Hamanogo, Honjya-Gu was built on the site where Iwashimizu Hachiman once stood. For one reason or another, however, the shrine was relocated 400m to the north, on the south of the current Honjya-Gu, between 1830 and 1843. In 1927, the shrine was moved again to the current place.



Ugajin in Honjya-Gu

In Honjya-Gu, Hayagriva (horse-headed Kannon), Ebisu holding a carp, Ugajin (a god of harvests and wealth, often represented by a coiled snake) which is designated as one of the city's cultural assets, and three travelers' guardian deities are enshrined. These were gathered together from different places of the village when roads were maintained or constructed.

On the south of the shrine, there is Cozenji Temple of the Kogi-Shingon Sect (traditional or orthodox Shingon Sect). About 100m south of the temple there is a hall called Mitake-do, in which the goddess of childbirth and children is enshrined. There seems to be a wood block to print the talisman, *Mitake-Daimyojin*, in the

hall. The members of a religious group recite a sutra on the 8th of every month there\*.

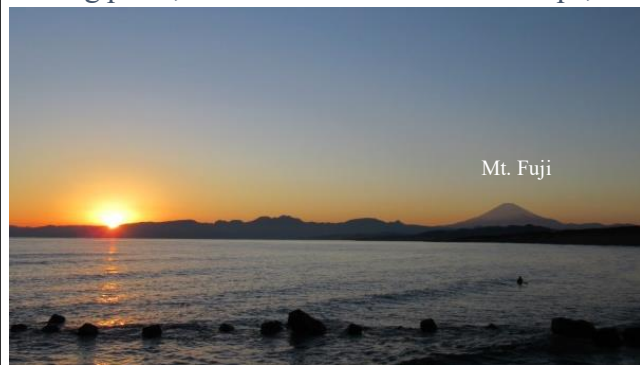
The area on the east of Mitake-do is called Kurayashiki. A historical book called "Shinpen Sagami no kuni fudokiko", or the new local reports of Sagami Province, says that most of the area has turned into farmland and a bamboo grove. But while Nakahara Palace, in Hiratsuka, served as a cottage of Ieyasu Tokugawa, the land of about 2,000 square meters was surrounded by a trench 3.6-meters wide. Nakahara Palace was visited by Ieyasu when he hunted with a falcon in today's western Kanagawa. In the warehouse in Kurayashiki, tribute rice to be sent to Edo was placed tentatively. Benzaiten; the Goddess of Music, was enshrined somewhere along the trench. The Ugajin of Honjya-Gu might also have been in the trench.

\* The group broke up in 2003. *Kishimojin* was moved to Jyokokuji Temple in Imajuku.

一陽来復 (Ichiyou Raifuku), or the Winter Solstice

一陽来復 means the winter solstice. The photo at the lower left was taken on the evening of December 21 (Tue), the day before the winter solstice, from the western breakwater of the Chigasaki fishing port. The sun sets almost at the southern turning point of the Izu Peninsular. After the solstice, the sunset point moves northward day by day, or to the right on the photo, passes Mt. Fuji on Vernal Equinox Day (see the photo at the lower right, taken on March 25, 2020 from the bank of the Sagami River), and reaches Mt. Oyama in the Tanzawa Mountain Range, the northern turning point, at the summer solstice. Perhaps, there are not many places where the seasonal shift of the sunset point is observed so clearly like this.

一陽来復 also means the arrival of spring, and figuratively, the turning point from the negative to the positive. Corona may go away soon.



in 3 months



More people visited Samukawa Shrine on New Years' Day than last year

As coronavirus infections had remained low by the beginning of the year, more people than last year visited Samukawa Shrine, the nation's sole happo-yoke shrine, which enshrines God protecting visitors from every evil and misfortune, and providing them with prosperity.

However, the number was still smaller than usual, and it did not take long to reach the offertory box. Visitors seemed to spend more time praying to God for happiness. The main square was tranquil as visitors wore masks and spoke in low voices.



Jan. 1, 2022, 6:31 am



Jan. 1, 2021, 10:03 am

## Events in December and early January

### Picture exhibition by Koichi Sato

About 20 works he had drawn for the last two years were displayed on the 4th floor of Citizen Gallery (N'EST-CE PAS Chigasaki Building). Many of the works were pictures of the sea. He seems to be mesmerized by the beauty of the sea. The sky, the sea, clouds, and mountains look differently depending on time, weather and season. He emphasized the contrast between light and shadow in some works. The exhibition was held from December 15 (Wed) to the 20th (Mon) for free. Sato is going to hold the exhibition at Citizen Gallery in 2023.



### Shonan Wind Sketch Club

Watercolor paintings were displayed at the Citizen Gallery from Dec. 21 (Tue) to the 26th (Sun) for free. About 70



pictures were painted by 18 members of the Shonan Wind Sketch Club and their tutor. Landscapes drawn with light colors expressed warm, gentle and soft moods. Some visitors might have remembered their home towns, places they once visited, or distant memories.

As well as literary works, graphic arts have power to help visitors stretch their imagination.

### Print and sculpture exhibition entitled *Irony & Humor* by Chimei Hamada at the city museum

Etching prints and sculptures by Chimei Hamada (1917 ~ 2018) have been exhibited at the city museum since December 11 (Sat). Based on his hard experiences in the military, he depicted agonies new military recruits had suffered. The series drew the attention of senior artists. Thereafter, his interest gradually grew to society, human and himself. His sharp sensitivity made him see through things which could affect the world, and he warned people of these events through ironical and humorous works. On display were 65 prints and 4 bronzes. The exhibition is going to be held until February 6 (Sun).

Admission fee (yen): Adult; 700, Univ. student; 500, Resident aged 65 and over; 350, HS student and younger as well as person with certificate of disability; free.



Scenery, 1967



### Daruma market

The traditional year-end fair, Daruma market, was held on Dec. 27 (Mon) at Dairokuten Shrine on Route one. Four daruma shops and two shops for New Year's decorations opened along either side of the approach. When the sun started setting, more visitors came, and the sound of hand clapping, a sign of negotiations being closed, was heard more often.

### Hakone Ekiden 2022

One of the nation's oldest ekiden races was held on Jan 2 (Sat) and 3 (Sun) with 20 university teams and one from the Kanto student union. They started from Tokyo at 8:00 on Jan 2 toward Hakone. The runners of Tokyo Kokusai and Aoyama Gakuin Unis first arrived at Yanagishima Kaigan, 5km this side of the Hiratsuka relay point at 10:53.

On the second day, from Hakone to Tokyo, Aoyama Uni's runner passed Yanagishima Kaigan at 10:18, and reached the finish line faster than any other team. The university won this year with a record time of 10hr 43min 42sec. Tokai and Kanagawa Unis, in Kanagawa, finished at 11th and 12th places. (at Yanagishima)



## Events in January and February

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

The 32nd exhibition of unearthed articles by Chigasaki city board of education social education section:  
Jan. 14th (Fri) to the 18th (Tue) 9:30 ~ 16:45, the 19th (Wed) 9:30 ~ 12:00

Gagetsu calligraphy school exhibition:

Jan. 28th (Fri) 12:00 ~ 18:00, the 29th (Sat) 10:00 ~ 18:00, the 30th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 17:00

Photo exhibition by photo loving group Eboshi:

Feb. 8th (Tue) 13:00 ~ 17:00, the 9th (Wed) to the 12th (Sat) 10:00 ~ 17:00, the 13th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00

### Chigasaki Wind Symphony New Year Concert

The Chigasaki Wind Symphony will give its concert at the Civic Hall on January 22 (Sat) at 1:30 pm. The local symphony has a large number of fans as it performs many kinds of music, from the classics to popular music.

Program: Procession to Peace (composed by Akira Toda), Gifts from the Forest (composed by Itaru Sakai), Romeo and Juliet, Back to the Future, Japanese Graffiti XVII, Hibari Misora songs, and the Phantom of the Opera.



### The 61st Citizen Cultural Festival

The recorded drama “Kanjuro Mitsuhashi” is going to be released at the training room of the Civic Hall on January 29 (Sat) from 13:00 to 16:00. Kanjuro Mitsuhashi was the headman of Kagawa Village around 1790. In those years, villagers had poor crops of rice every year so that Kanjuro petitioned the local magistrate office to get a deduction for tribute rice, but was rejected. Then he went directly to the shogunate to appeal for partial exemption of rice. His plea was accepted, but a direct appeal was strictly forbidden. He was sentenced to capital punishment and was executed. In 1793, all the residents of the village established a stone tower in Jyoshinji Temple, and held a memorial service.



Button A, 1988

### Print and sculpture exhibition by Chimei Hamada at the city museum

Etching prints and sculptures, 65 prints and 4 bronzes, by Chimei Hamada (1917 ~ 2018) are being exhibited until February 6 (Sun).

Admission fee (yen): Adult; 700, Uni. student; 500, Resident aged 65 and over; 350, HS student and younger as well as person with certificate of disability; free.

### The 16th Shonan International Marathon

The new year marathon is going to be held on Feb. 20 (Sun) for the first

time in two years. Different from past races, only full marathon (Seisho bypass Oiso nishi – Hiratsuka – Chigasaki – Enoshima (the turn) – Chigasaki – Hiratsuka – Seisho bypass Ninomiya – Oiso Prince Hotel) is scheduled. The other races; 10km, 2km, and 1.4km, will be cancelled.



Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon!