

Chigasaki Wave



Chigasaki Wave Club

茅ヶ崎 波 倶楽部

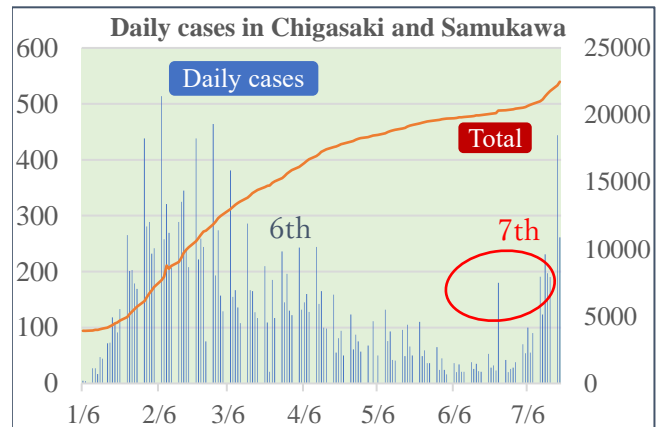
Sea breezes are like precious friends, easing your mind, and whispering encouragement to you.

The seventh wave of coronavirus pandemic has come.

The number of daily cases started rising in mid-June despite experts' forecast that another wave would not come this summer. On June 14 (Thurs), the number of daily cases reached 97,760 nationwide, 6,154 in Kanagawa, and 197 in Chigasaki. The rapid resurgence of infections is attributable to a new variant, Omicron BA5, which is reportedly more infectious and more pathogenic than BA2. Shigeru Omi, chairman of the government advisory panel, told Prime Minister Fumio Kishida that the seventh wave had come, but strict regulations, many of which deter business, would be unnecessary for the time being. But the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare said on July 19 (Tue) that the government would take any measure if necessary.

The government's basic policy is to prevent further infections while maintaining business activities. Kishida said the government would promote enough preventive measures for each age bracket. However, he proposed no new measures, enumerating only those we had taken for the last three years. Among them inoculation is still the pillar of the preventive measures. In fact, as of July 11 (Mon), the rates of the third vaccination nationwide were 50.1% for the 30s, 59.1% for the 40s, and 76.5% for the 50s, compared to 83% for the 60s and 90.7% for the 70s*. By contrast, a mere 3.7 million people ages 65 and older have received the fourth vaccination. In Chigasaki, citizens will be able to receive the third vaccination until September 30 (Fri), and the fourth vaccination is now underway.

*https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/content/kenbetsu_nenreikaikyubetsu-booster_data.pdf



The 2022 Upper House election, and Shinzo Abe's assassination

The Upper House election was held on July 10 (Sun). Two days before the election day, former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was shot dead in front of one of the Kintetsu stations, in Nara. He started a campaign speech for an LDP candidate around 11:30 am, and two minutes later was shot from behind by a 41-year-old man. The incident heated up election campaigns on the final day. The voting rate, however, was 52.05%, only 3.25% up from the previous election, but the fourth lowest since WWII. Candidates' energy did not move voters to polling



Abe near Kintetsu Yamato Saidaiji Sta.



Candidates for the Kanagawa constituency

stations. Thirty-five women won their election bids, the highest ever. In Kanagawa, twenty-two candidates ran for five seats, which were won by three members of the ruling coalition party and two representatives of opposition parties. The voting rate in Chigasaki was 55.65%.

By the way, the mayoral election in Chigasaki is scheduled for October 30 (Sun). A 65-year-old citizen who had run for mayor four times so far announced that he would run again. In addition, a city assembly election will be held in late April 2023. A citizen had submitted a petition to hold the two elections on the

same day to cut expenses, but it was rejected by a wide margin.

Flowers of the season Rose of Sharon

Rose of Sharon is a deciduous shrub, and bears many blossoms which show cool faces in the scorching summer of Japan. The Malvaceae family plant is so robust that it endures heavy trimming. The plant also has cold hardiness. Thus, it is widely planted as garden trees and roadside trees nationwide.

The blossom is indispensable for tea ceremonies in summer. Many blossoms have five petals and some have ten (double-petaled), with many colors ranging from white to pink to violet. Specifically, the white blossom having a red part in its bottom (the photo on the right) is called 'Hinomaru' (as it looks like Japan's national flag), and tea master *Sen Sotan* (1578 ~ 1658) loved the flower very much so the blossom is also named 'Sotan Mukuge' after the tea master. It blooms in the morning and withers away in the evening. The transient flower life matches the spirit of tea ceremonies, 'Ichigo-Ichie', which means 'Every encounter with a person should be treated as precious, because it may be a once-in-a-lifetime occasion.'



The flower has round pollens 0.1 mm in diameter, which are visible to the naked eye, and bigger than those of other plants. Each pollen is covered with spines so that it easily clings to insects. The berry is also thickly covered with solid short hairs.

The Chinese indigenous plant came to Japan before the Heian era (794 ~ 1185). The plant is known as a natural medicine. Its dried tree bark is said to have a natural infection-fighting property, whilst its buds have been used as a medicine for the stomach after being dried in the sun.

Rose of Sharon is often seen in parks in Cairo, Damascus and Tel Aviv. Incidentally, the scientific name is *Hibiscus Syriacus*. In addition, Rose of Sharon is designated as the national flower of South Korea.

History of Chigasaki

Nakajima Village (2)

There is a dictionary of Japanese names, called *Wamyoruijusho* (hereafter *Wamyosho*), which was completed sometime between 931 to 938. The dictionary says there is a district called Nakajima in Osumi-gun (on the west of the Sagami River). - Up to here in CW69

新編相模風土記稿 (the new edition of Sagami province topography) says this Nakajima indicates today's Nakajima Village. As the Sagami River flowed east of Nakajima Village in the Heian era (794 ~ 1185), the dictionary described the locations of the river and the village at that time. Later, the river flowed west of the village.

Based on the description, Raisuke Numata, a historian in the Meiji and Taisho era (1868 ~ 1912), studied the wood logs which appeared in Shimomachiya after the Great Kanto Earthquake, and proposed that the logs were the piers of a bridge constructed in the Kamakura era (1185 ~ 1333), explaining that the Sagami River flowed through the site. Whether or not Nakajima in *Wamyosho* is really Nakajima Village, and the Sagami River flowed as described above remains as yet unresolved, and further study is required.

Hie Shrine is the village shrine of Nakajima. The area in front of the shrine is called Jin-ya ato (the site of the magistrate's office), or Tono-yasiki (the residence of the lord). The lord of Nakajima Village was served by the Yamaoka family in the Edo era. Ieyasu Tokugawa gave the area to Shoemon Kagenaga Yamaoka. An ancient document dated May 1591, which is displayed in the Kanagawa Prefectural Museum of Cultural History, chronicles that Nakajima Village (about 80,000m²) and Hamanogo Village (about 119,000m²) went under the rule of the family. The Yamaoka family had since controlled the two villages until the end of the Edo era. As the place is called Jin-ya ato, or Tono-yasiki, it is thought that there was a residence of the Yamaoka family in this area.



Hie Shrine



As *Hatamoto*, or direct retainers of the shogun, had to live in Edo, the Yamaoka family lived in Nakajima for only a short period just after the family came into power.

The path going from Jin-ya ato towards the Tokaido Line is called Tono michi, or the path the lord walked on. Once, Tono michi was thought to give good fortune to walkers. Decades ago, when wedding ceremonies were held at home, brides used to walk this path towards the houses where their bridegrooms were waiting, even though taking this path would take longer.

← Tono michi

Interested in Japanese proverbs?

1) 敵は本能寺にあり

TEKI WA HONNOJI NI ARI

TEKI means the enemy, WA to be, HONNOJI Honnoji Temple, NI at, and ARI there to be

The saying literally means that our enemy is at Honnoji Temple. In 1582, Mitsuhide Akechi was ordered by his Lord Nobunaga Oda to support Hideyoshi Hasiba (later, Hideyoshi Toyotomi), who was engaging in battles with the Mori family at Bichu, today's western Okayama.

However, after leaving his castle, Mitsuhide changed direction to the east to attack his Lord at Honnoji Temple in Kyoto. He said, "Our enemy is at Honnoji Temple." These famous words appear to be reported by Confucian scholar Rai Sanyo in the "History of Japan" finished in 1826.

The saying means one's true purpose is different from what he has told his friends.

- He that wipes the child's nose kisses the mother's cheek.
- A false friend has honey in his mouth, gall in his heart.
- Dogs wag their tail not so much in love to you as your bread.

2) 二階から目薬

NIKAI KARA MEGUSURI

NIKAI means the second floor, KARA from, and MEGUSURI eye medicine

It is hard to drop eye medicine from the second floor into the eyes of a person lying on the first floor. The saying figuratively means a project does not progress as planned if the method is too roundabout. We sometimes encounter such cases. When there are many obstacles, and it is hard to take the most effective way, we are irritated. To solve problems in the real world is different from solving arithmetical exercises. Decades ago, a TV program asked which do you think was more difficult, to launch a rocket to the moon or to drop eye medicine from the second floor?

The saying is in 御前義経記, or Gozen-gikei-ki, a popular literature, depicting the everyday lives of ordinary people, written by Ippo Nishizawa, completed in the mid-Edo era. Its English equivalents are:

- Far water does not put out near fire.
- To labor in vain.
- To sow seed in the sand.

Film Screening by Cinematheque Chigasaki



A non-fiction movie entitled 'Mr. Jones' was screened at Chigasaki City Library on June 26 (Sun) by a volunteer group in Chigasaki. The showing was for the first time in three years due to the coronavirus pandemic. The movie was shot based on resolute coverage by a British journalist, Gareth Jones. The film, named 'Red Darkness' in Japanese, depicts a hidden historical fact of the Holodomor (man-caused great famine) in Ukraine (1932 – 1933) caused by Stalinist Russia. The film was presented at the 2019 Berlin International Film Festival, and the story indicated various problems leading directly to the current situation.

The Polish director, Agnieszka Holland, said she was attracted to Jones, who had deeply understood the significance of journalism, and bravely pursued the truth ethically as a journalist and a human being, while conformity by bribe and egoism thrived in journalism. She thought her role was to convey the facts he saw as well as his courage and conscience. She was born in Warsaw and her grandparents died in a ghetto. Andrzej Wajda was her mentor. The scriptwriter, Andrea Chalupa, said her grandfather was born

in Donbass and experienced the Holodomor. In addition, he was caught by the secret police and suffered torture in the Great Purge by Stalin but survived and lived to be 83. She also said she wanted to depict true stories behind the Kremlin's propaganda which even journalists and politicians of the West had participated in distributing worldwide.

Jones, born in 1905 in Wales, was widely known as a first foreign journalist to interview Hitler and wrote an article about him in 1933. He had a relationship with George Orwell, who later published books, including 'Animal Farm' (1945) and '1984' (1949), in which Orwell expressed crushing criticism against totalitarianism.

Jones doubted whether the Soviet Union's numbers - the economic growth rates and other statistical figures - were correct. He wondered why only the socialist country could have developed along its growth plan amid the Great Depression. Western leaders were inundated with domestic issues, and they could not afford to pay attention to the USSR.

Thus, he left for Moscow to make sure himself that the numbers were fake, and he saw terrible scenes in Ukraine.

He contributed reports on the miserable state of Ukraine to the New York Post and the Guardian. He was shot and killed in 1935 at the age of 29 in retaliation for letting the public know the Soviet Union's fake prosperity. Three bullets were found in his body. Now, Ukraine is again in the grip of a nightmare. History has a way of repeating itself.



Invitation to Kamakura (28) Yoshitoki Hojo

(Bimonthly serial)

Kamakura has been in the spotlight thanks to the NHK historical drama, *The 13 Lords of Shogun*, which is based on the historical book *Azumakagami* and dramatized with gorgeous casting. The main character is Yoshitoki Hojo, who is performed by Shun Oguri. See the photo on the right.

Yoshitoki Hojo (1163-1224) was the second son of Tokimasa Hojo and his sister Masako was the wife of the first *shogun* Yoritomo Minamoto in the Kamakura government. When Yoritomo was called on to overthrow the Taira by Prince Mochihito in Kyoto, the entire Hojo clan in Izu led by Tokimasa supported Yoritomo in battle. After the Minamoto defeated the Taira in 1185, the Minamoto established their base in Kamakura. This also placed the Hojo in a very powerful position. In fact, Tokimasa Hojo received from cloistered emperor Go-Shirakawa the first appointment as *jito* and *shugo*, or constable and steward.



From the NHK website, Shun Oguri

Yoritomo died suddenly in 1199, and then Masako became a nun, but was actively involved in politics. Yoritomo's 13 lords, including Tokimasa, Yoshitoki, and Masako, set up a council system for the first time in Japanese history to help Yoriie, Yoritomo's first son, in ruling the country. Later on, Tokimasa Hojo became a regent for shogun Yoriie. The Hojo seized the real power. (Here, we need to be aware Tokimasa was his grandfather.)

However, Yoriie distrusted Tokimasa, then Tokimasa banished Yoriie to Izu, and had him assassinated in 1203. When Sanetomo Minamoto, Yoritomo's second son, became *shogun*, Tokimasa also tried to have Sanetomo assassinated. Yoshitoki and Masako foiled his scheme and Tokimasa lost his position. Yoshitoki succeeded to Tokimasa's regency in 1215. Yoshitoki's governance was very quiet and the time was uneventful aided by Masako. In the Jokyū War of 1221, Yoshitoki won a victory over emperor Go-Toba, sapping the power of the Imperial Family in Kyoto. Finally, Yoshitoki attained supreme power. It is said that Yoritomo put great trust in Yoshitoki. Yoshitoki seemed to have a sharp eye for people and the time.



Yoshitoki Hojo

Benkei Zuka, or Mound of Benkei

related to NHK's drama "The 13 Lords of Shogun"

It is said that Musashibo Benkei was one of the priests of Hieizan Enryakuji Temple. He was proud of his strong arms, and he challenged any strong-looking passer-by on the Gojyo Bridge in Kyoto. He had never been defeated until he met Ushiwakamaru, Yoshitsune's childhood name.

During the fight, Ushiwakamaru moved so quickly that Benkei did not get a chance to attack him, and was finally defeated. Since then, he had been Yoshitsune's most important follower until they died at Hiraizumi, Iwate prefecture in June 1189.

In *The 13 Lords of Shogun*, Musashibo Benkei was played by So Kaku, who used to be a rugby player. See the photo on the right.



Benkei by So Kaku from NHK



Benkei Zuka

Yoritomo visited Chigasaki with his vassals to celebrate the completion of a bridge over a branch of the Sagami River in December 1198. On their way home, he fell from his horse near Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine.

A folklore says this was because the ghosts of Yoshitsune and his followers appeared, and Yoritomo's horse rose up on its hind legs. Later, villagers of Shimomachiya erected the Mound of Benkei, or Benkei Zuka in Japanese, to console their spirits near the site for the bridge piers, on the other side of Route One (see CW69).

Events in June and July

The 40th exhibition of Chigasaki Artist Society

The picture exhibition was held at Chigasaki City Museum of Art from June 14 (Tues) to July 10 (Sun). A total of 88 works: 39 by society members, 6 by semi members and 43 by art lovers, were on display. Painting size widths ranged from 60 cm to nearly 200 cm, and these paintings were categorized as still lifes, portraits, landscapes, marine arts, abstract paintings, and some more. The reporter felt that paintings require physical strength and stamina as well as creativity, imagination and concentration, and visitors sense their devotion to paintings, which pleases visitors. An elderly man who draws landscapes as a hobby said he started drawing at around 70. Encouraged by one of his grandsons, he has painted for ten years. His painting of Oze was on display.



A seasonal ritual for purification



A traditional June 30 purification – to pass through a ring made of thatch in order to drive away impurity, uncleanness, and the other evil matters which have haunted people in the past six months - was held at Samukawa Shrine from 10 am. It was a really hot day, but a long line had already formed by 10:00.

After a priest recited a prayer, people scrubbed their clothes with pieces of white paper to remove evil matters. Then they passed through the ring. Many of them were middle-aged and elderly people, but young people were also there, reflecting a boom among young people to collect red ink stamps (Goshuin) at temples and shrines.



(the photo on the right, from Samukawa Shrine HP)



Opening of Southern Beach for swimming

Chigasaki Southern Beach opened for swimming on July 2 (Sat) for the first time in three years. The opening ceremony started at 10 am with a Shinto ritual for safety. From the morning, strong sunlight raised the temperatures of sand and air, but a sea breeze sometimes blew. After the ritual, the red and white tape was cut, and then members of Kalokemelemele Hula Studio performed. During the ceremony, to cool the red carpet and to protect hula dancers' feet, water was sprayed several times.

A few handiwork shops standing on the beach were ready for business.



According to Kanagawa prefecture, toxic jellyfishes called *Katsuo-no-eboshi*, or *Portuguese Man O' War*, have been found along the Shonan coast.

If stung, you will feel a sharp pain like electric shock. In the worst case, you may suffer from anaphylactic shock.



<https://www.bikazaidan.or.jp/news/20220629/>

<http://www.pref.kanagawa.jp/docs/kb2/katsuono-eboshi.html>

Events in July, August and September

Citizen Gallery on the fourth floor of N'EST-CE PAS Chigasaki Entrance free

The 10th photo exhibition by Shonan Photo Club: July 29 (Fri) and the 30th (Sat) 10:00 ~18:00, the 31st (Sun) 10:00 ~ 17:00

Photo exhibition "Observation records of living creatures" by Hiroshi Naekawa: August 26 (Fri) 13:00 ~ 17:00, the 27th (Sat) 10:00 ~ 17:00, the 28th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 17:00

The third calligraphy exhibition by the group, "Sunshine through the leaves": Sept. 9 (Fri) 11:00 ~ 17:00, the 10th (Sat) 10:00 ~ 17:00, the 11th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 16:00

Chigasaki City Museum will be opened on July 30

The construction work has mostly finished, but the parking lot will be completed in December. Until then, go by public transportation, motorbike, bicycle or on foot. The museum will be open from 9:00 to 19:00 every day except Mondays and year-end holidays.

Address: 3786-1 Tsutsumi Chigasaki City



Southern Beach Fireworks Display for the first time in four years

September 4 (Sun) on Southern Beach. We will let you know the details later.

Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon!