

# Chigasaki Wave

Chigasaki Wave Club

茅ヶ崎<sup>ウエーブ</sup>波倶楽部

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

## R&D-oriented Machining Company in Chigasaki (1)

Otsubo Screw Company, which is now YUKI Precision, was established in Honson in 1950 to manufacture small screws for electric devices. In those days, the company produced most parts with belt-driven turning machines and homemade tools. The cutting technology has since been one of its most important technical assets, and the built-up knowledge of the processing techniques has been the driving force of YUKI Precision's development.

Today, the sales of airplane and spacecraft parts account for 40% of its business, followed by parts used in medical fields at 20%. High-performance machine tools as well as slightly outdated machines are placed in the main plant in the Enzo Industrial Park. In addition, the company has two branches, one in Yokohama and the other in France. Its 65-year history consists of several stages, says the third president, Masato Otsubo.

During the 25 years starting in 1960, sales of appliance parts rose continuously. In the plant, the turning machines were gradually replaced by cam-operated automatic lathes, which were suitable for mass production. Once work material was set up, they could *automatically* produce tens of thousands of any given part.

Over the next 16 years, until the dot-com bubble collapsed in 2001, sales were relatively stable. Lathes were upgraded to numerically-controlled types, because the former cam-operated ones required longer times for set-up changes, and this drawback posed a large obstacle to the transition to more flexible manufacturing, with which the company would expand in earnest. (To be continued.)



## What do artifacts tell us about ancient Chigasaki?

Excavation research at the Shimoterao Kanga Remains and other archaeological sites was reported on in a session at the City Hall on December 10. Next day, a symposium was held to discuss how to utilize the remains in Shimoterao. And excavated artifacts from remains in the city during the past year and a half were exhibited in the Civic Hall from December 8 to 14. (See the photo on the right.)



## Christmas Concert at Chigasaki City Hospital



The Christmas concert, which has been held for more than 15 years, took place in the hospital lobby on December 16 (Fri) from 17:30 to 18:00. Present and former members of the Shyorin JHS choral club sang around ten popular Christmas songs, including *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*, presenting a calm evening to inpatients and visitors. (See the photos on the left.)

## Volunteer groups in the city

## The Chigasaki Scenery Forum

Chigasaki Scenery Forum, a volunteer group commonly known as *Machi-Kei*, started its activities in May 1996 with 19 citizens who had joined in a project led by the City Office a year earlier aimed at doing research on the city's landscape resources. Based on their studies, the municipal government drew up their master plan for urban landscape. They formed *Machi-Kei* to observe how the City would make use of their fieldwork.

When high-rise condominiums appeared on the hill of Akabane, they were on the opinion that those buildings substantially diminished the vista of the hill's landscape. This finding prompted them to launch the Mt. Fuji Project, in which they encouraged citizens to find places having a good view of Mt. Fuji. One of the project's purposes was to raise anti-high-building sentiment among residents, which they expected would be a deterrent to the construction of tall buildings.

When a plan for the construction of a condominium on the site of a fish restaurant near the beach was announced, they co-operated with other environmental groups in a campaign opposing the plan, and persuaded the construction company to downsize the building.



Their other major achievement is the Futokoro-jima Project. As they knew the community named Futokoro-jima in the center of the city, had preserved the lifestyle of the Middle Ages, they researched the region's history, folklores and landforms. In addition, they made maps and repaired strolling routes to attract visitors. Strollers can listen to an audio guide in Japanese along the routes.

According to the leader, Kazuko Takamizawa, their activities have been ongoing for 20 years, so she is planning on breaking up the group to form a new one having higher technicality, called the Urban Design Center Chigasaki, next March.

Inquiry: [chigasaki.urbandesign@gmail.com](mailto:chigasaki.urbandesign@gmail.com)

## Welcoming Spring Nebuta Lights

Customary Nebuta lights (9 meters long and 2.6 meters high) on the gate of Samukawa Shrine will be turned on from sunset to 22:00 from January 1 (Sun) to February 3 (Fri). This year's Nebuta features a Japanese myth, [The White Hare of INABA](#), in Kojiki, or Records of Ancient Matters. Where is the hare? Can you find it?



## Interested in Japanese proverbs?

(1) 情けは人のためならず

(NASAKE HA HITO NO TAME NARAZU)

NASAKE is sympathy, HA to be, HITO other people, NO TAME NARAZU to do one no good

If you give kindness to others, they will give it back to you. And if you do good deeds for others, they will repay your goodness. This proverb appeared in [the tale of Soga](#) (in the 13th century), [Taiheiki](#) (in the 14th century) and [the tale of Heiji](#) (in the 15th century).

Many people mistakenly think this proverb means that to help people or to say kind things to them does not always do them good, and thus this saying is sometimes in tests; Japanese tests for students, and common sense tests for adults.

Its English equivalents:

- One good turn deserves another.
- Charitable men lose nothing.
- Kindness is never lost.

(2) 百聞は一見に如かず

(HIYAKUBUN HA IKKEN NI SHIKAZU)

HIYAKUBUN is to hear 100 times, HA to be, IKKEN to look one time, NI SHIKAZU to be merely.

To see something once is more helpful to understand than to hear 100 times. The source of this saying is [the Book of Han](#) (a Chinese book in the late 1st century).

This teaches us that we should confirm something ourselves, and should not be satisfied with just hearing from others. Recently some people seem to like a longer version better than the original: to see one time is better than to hear one hundred times, but to practice one time is better than to see one hundred times. And hands-on learning, or learning by doing, is becoming popular.

Its English equivalents are:

- Seeing is believing.
- Better have it than hear of it.
- One eye witness is better than many hearsays.

## Through Another's Eyes

Exciting is not a word I would use to describe Chigasaki. And that's fine with me. After the stress of living and working in London, the calm and predictability of everyday life in what feels like a quiet seaside town has, I'm sure, added years to my life expectancy. Touch wood.

Fascinating, however, is. Why? Growing up in a leafy residential suburb of London, the one thing you took for granted was that the landscape never changed. Tudor, Georgian, Victorian, Edwardian; take one look at the architectural style of any British street and you can imagine the decades, sometimes centuries, of history that those bricks have witnessed and endured. Chigasaki, on the other hand, feels like it is undergoing constant change and renewal. Walk along a road that you haven't been down for a while and, sure enough, a new abode will have popped up seemingly out of the blue, or an immaculately-tidied rectangle of flattened soil will testify to the fact that a building once stood there.

Impressive and amazing would not be inappropriate either. Impressive in that it only takes a couple of days to magically disappear an old mansion completely, with a level of diligence sadly unmatched by many British builders. And, amazing when you see the speed and efficiency with which Japanese carpenters can assemble the framework of a new dwelling, usually within just three or four days.

Surprising is the last adjective that springs to mind when thinking about Chigasaki homes. Whereas in the UK all the houses in a street have usually been constructed at the same time and to the same design, strolling around my neighbourhood no two residences look the same, either in structure or in decoration, which seems contradictory to the commonly-held image of Japan as a homogeneous society where being different is frowned upon. I wonder, then, whether all this reflects a desire by many Chigasaki citizens to find some acceptable way of expressing their individuality.

Adrian Wilson

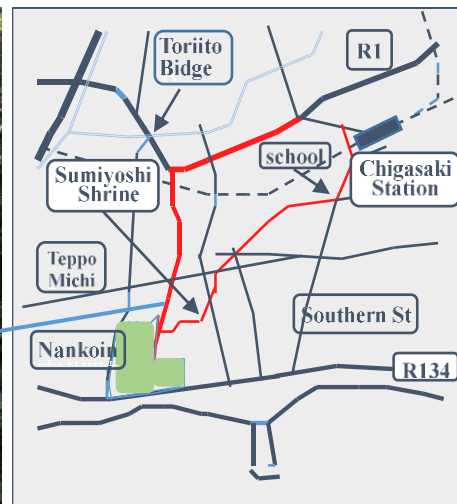


### History of Chigasaki

### Hospital Street, or Nankoin Street (2)

Nankoin gave patients the most advanced treatment with the state-of-the-art equipment of those days, so that it was called the most modern sanatorium in East Asia, and many doctors and officials visited the hospital. One of the hospital's characteristics was friendly relationships with local society. The largest annual event was the Christmas festival called *Iousai* (医王祭). As Koan Takada, the founder of Nankoin, had been baptized when a medical student and had become a devout Christian, he sent picture invitation cards to people in the medical field across the nation. He invited local people as well, and the festival gave them many pleasant memories, which have been handed down through several generations among Nango residents.

Nankoin lost about one-third of its eleven buildings in the 1923 Great Kanto Earthquake. Records say four people out of a total of 411 patients, doctors, nurses and other hospital workers, were killed or injured. The ensuing reconstruction and development continued until the site reached its largest scale: twelve buildings with a floor area of 14,850 square meters on a 165,000 square meter lot in 1935. Most wards were wooden flat houses, and the tranquil setting of those white buildings which could be viewed through pine trees on the sand hill near the beach was said to have been quite suitable for a sanatorium.



In 1944, one year before WWII finished, part of the hospital was requisitioned by the Imperial Navy. In February of 1945, Takada passed away at the age of 83, and in May of that year, the hospital ended its 46-year history as the Navy took over the whole of the hospital.

(Source: Chigasaki City Museum of Heritage Booklet 1)

## Let's Develop Speech Skills Together! Southern Beach Toastmasters Club

Our activities are to help each other enhance and improve communication and leadership skills in both English and Japanese. The Southern Beach Toastmasters Club (SBTMC) is a member of NPO Toastmasters International (TI). TI was established in 1924 in the US and now has more than 15,900 clubs and 345,000 members in 142 countries.

Members can improve their skills through taking the roles of speakers or leaders in meetings based on the sophisticated educational system. In addition, the SBTMC has some enjoyable events, such as "Aloha meeting", where we enjoy Hawaiian costumes and hulas and an after-party with other club members.

Come to our club and enjoy Toastmastering! Guest attendants are always most welcomed free of charge.

If you are interested in our activity, please contact us via our URL: <https://southernbeachtmc.wordpress.com/> or email: [southern.beach.tmc@gmail.com](mailto:southern.beach.tmc@gmail.com)



(Photo contributed by SBTMC member)

## Wagashi in Winter --- Ichigo-daihuku ---

Have you ever enjoyed *ichigo-daihuku* (いちご大福)? *Ichigo* means strawberry and *daihuku*, or *daihuku mochi*, is a soft rice cake filled with sweet bean jam. In Japan, strawberry is the most popular ingredient for decorated cakes, especially in Christmas season. Fresh red berries on a cake covered with snow-like whipped cream attract children and adults alike. However, most *ichigo-daihuku* look like ordinary *daihuku*. Where is the strawberry?



As you may imagine, a fresh berry mostly hides inside modestly. *Daihuku* is said to have been made for the first time in the latter half of the Muromachi Era (1336 – 1573) and called *Uzura* (quail)-*mochi* at the time. In the 18th century, smaller ones appeared and came to be called *daihuku-mochi* (大腹もち) which means potbelly or full stomach. Afterwards, the letter 福, which means fortune, replaced 腹 (belly). And finally, *ichigo-daihuku* appeared in the 1980s on TV. If you do not like very sweet bean jam, why not try this sour-sweet *daihuku*, a reasonable confection with the common touch? These days, you can see a variety of *ichigo-daihuku* at most Japanese-style confectionary stores.

## Dondoyaki

Around Koshogatsu (Little New Year's Day, January 15), a big bonfire is lit in the grounds of a shrine or its vicinity. Local people gather around the fire and pray for perfect health throughout the year. They bring New Year's decorations such as Shimekazari, which is made of rice straw and decorated with various auspicious objects, such as bitter oranges, fern leaves and lobsters; last year's talismans; and Kakizome paper (the first calligraphy of the year), and put them on the bonfire. In addition, people hold branches decorated with small ball-shaped rice cakes over the fire to roast them. These rice cakes are mostly white, pink or green. It is believed that people who eat these roasted cakes will not catch a cold during the year. Many Japanese people are reluctant to throw away those sacred decorations with kitchen garbage. The festival also provides residents with a good opportunity to chat with neighbors they have not seen for quite some time. Bonfire at Satoyama Park is scheduled for January 14 (Sat) from 13:00 to 15:00 at the square in front of [Yato-no-Ie](#) (a house by the wetland). The event will also be held at other districts in the city. The picture above was provided by the Satoyama Park office.

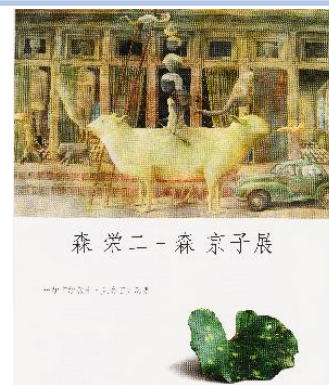


## Events in January and early February

Chigasaki City Museum of Art ☎ 0467-88-1177,

URL: <http://www.chigasaki-museum.jp>

- **Exhibition of works by Eiji Mori and Kyoko Mori** entitled 'Kasuka na Hikari Samete Miru Yume' (a glimmer, and dreams you see after waking up): **to Feb 5 (Sun)**, Admission fee (¥): Adult 500, University student 300, High school student and younger free.
- **Chigasaki & Samukawa HS Students Art Exhibition: Feb 12 (Sun) - 26 (Sun)**
- **Spring Collected Works Exhibition: Feb 12 (Sun) – March 26 (Sun)**, Admission fee (¥): Adult 200, University Student 100, HS student or younger, and citizens aged 65 or older free.



### Welcoming-spring lights featuring a myth, 'The White Hare of Inaba'

Samukawa Shrine: January 1 (Sun) at midnight ~ February 3 (Fri) See page 2.

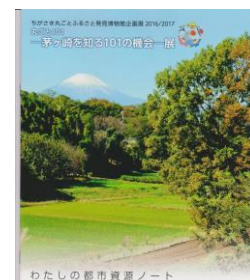
Civic Hall ☎ 0467-85-1123, URL: <http://www.chigasaki-arts.jp/>

- **New Year Concert 2017 by Vienna Johann Strauss Ensemble:** Jan 12 (Thu) 18:30 open, 19:00 start, Admission fee (yen) A seat 5,500, B seat 4,000, Student 3,000, Reserved seating, Inquiry: Civic Hall on 0467-85-1123
- **37th Shonan Philharmonic Orchestra Concert (Works by Tchaikovsky and Wagner):** Jan 15 (Sun) 12:45 open, 13:30 start, Admission fee: 500 yen, General seating, Inquiry: 080-5914-9649 (office mail [nposhonan@gmail.com](mailto:nposhonan@gmail.com)), <http://shonanphil.web.fc2.com/>
- **Hiroshi Miyama Concert (Enka songs):** Jan 20 (Fri) 13:30 open, 14:00 start, Admission fee (¥): S seat 5,800, A seat 4,800, Reserved seating, Ticket agencies: Civic Hall on 0467-85-1123, Music House Uchida on 0467-82-3918, IMO Promotion (also inquiry) on 048-645-9009
- **Chigasaki Yose (traditional Japanese variety show):** Feb 4 (Sat) 14:00 open, 14:30 start, Admission fee (¥): Adult 3,000, University student 2,000, HS – ES student 1,000, Reserved seating, Ticket & inquiry: Civic Hall on 0467-85-1123, Ichiba Ryutei, Ichinosuke Shunputei and others



### One hundred and one opportunities to learn about Chigasaki

Various events have been held across the city. They are aimed at providing citizens with opportunities to learn about history, culture, nature, industries and other specialties of the city. A free leaflet on the right shows events, venues and dates. You can obtain it at the Civic Hall, public halls, the city museum, Satoyama Park and City Hall.



### The 93rd [Hakone Ekiden](#)

The runners will run through Chigasaki on the morning of Jan 2 (Mon) and on the afternoon of Jan 3 (Tue).

### The 79th Konan Ekiden

The oldest Ekiden road relay in the prefecture is to take place on January 9 (Mon, Coming-of-Age Day) from 08:15 am, rain or shine. The starting and finishing lines are in front of Comprehensive Gymnasium. There are five categories: two for men, two for women and one for elementary school children (boys and girls).

### Dondoyaki



Festival to burn New Year's decorations will be held around Jan 15 (Sun). Satoyama Park, for example, on Jan 14 (Sat) See page 4.

### Setsubun Festival

Bean-throwing ceremony, part of Setsubun Festival, which celebrates the coming of spring, will take place on February 3 (Fri) at temples and shrines. For example, [Enzoji Temple](#), [Dairokuten Shrine](#) and [Samukawa Shrine](#). (at Samukawa Shrine)



Thanks for reading our stories. ...5, 4, 3, 2, 1! Happy New Year to all the readers of Chigasaki Wave. [Should auld acquaintance be forgot, - - -](#)