

What's New?

Niihama City

No.215

July

2013

Published by SGG Niihama

My Year on the Neighborhood Association Board

Barbara Ito

I've lived in Niihama for over 25 years in all and I thought I knew life here pretty well. So last year in March when it was our turn to serve on the neighborhood association board, I headed off to the meeting interested in what job I would get.

To give you a little background -Niihama is divided into jichikai (自治会) neighborhood associations that correspond roughly to the "-cho" that's part of most addresses. They can include from 150 to a thousand households. You don't have to join, but about 70% do. We pay dues every year, rotate serving in the governing group, and join in many activities.

As a board member, jobs you might get for the year include PA system announcer (yes, those broadcasts), neighborhood safety officer, liaison in charge of getting everyone to participate in the sports day, and managing the collection of fees and distribution of the monthly city newsletter to every house.

At the meeting to assign positions, no job could be filled

until the chairman had been decided. If nobody volunteered, they announced that we would draw lots for all the jobs –no choice. Dead silence. Everybody stared at the floor trying to be invisible.

I knew I didn't want to do many of the jobs, and I really didn't want to be the PA announcer. So I took a deep breath, raised my hand, and volunteered to be the chairman. For a year. I had no idea what I was in for, but it turned out to be the experience and the education of a lifetime. I got four bags of papers from previous years, learned I would be drawing up the agenda and chairing the monthly meetings, and found myself a member of the local shrine committee, the regional association of neighborhood chairmen, the city beautification committee, and several other groups.

And I was the back-up PA announcer. (So much for that strategy...) The saving grace was the other officers. They checked that I knew where to be, what would happen, and what to say. One pointed out my Japanese typos, kindly and with humor. Another advised me about the Shinto shrine rituals I was expected to perform as representative of the neighborhood. Still another helped me with all the responsibilities surrounding wakes and funerals of members of the neighborhood. I made good friends, sitting around over a beer after the meetings in the association house, working together on neighborhood cleanup days, and talking with people about their complaints, concerns, and suggestions. It was a long and very busy year, but I got to see another side of Niihama that made me feel much more a part of the neighborhood and this city. Thanks everybody!

You can read on the Web.

***What's New?**

***Garbage and trash Collection Calendar**

***Information living in Niihama**

Click  <http://www.city.niihama.lg.jp/english/>

Clair:*Multilingual Living Information

<http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengorev/en/index.html>

July Events

☆July 14(Sun.)

Yuragi-no-mori,

Ajisai-Matsuri

10:00 – 15:00

Location : Yuragi-no-mori in Besshi

- Visitors will be able to see a variety of hydrangeas, and purchase fresh vegetables. “ Somen-nagashi ”, eating noodles as they run a stream of water, is also available.

Fee(somen-nagashi) : ¥700(junior high school students and over)

¥500(elementary students and under)

☆ ☆July 20(Sat.)

Yossha-Konga dancing

Festival

☆ 17:00 – 21:30

☆ Location : Kikouji shopping arcade

☆ Phone : 0897-41-5420

☆ –People dance enthusiastically to lively music in groups called “ ren. ” If your group wants to join the festival, please contact the number above.

☆August 4(Sun.)

Niihama Summer Festival

Location : Domu Niihama, Showa Dori and Noborimichi shopping arcade

Phone : 0897- 37-6677/niihama@n-akindo.com

-The highlight will be seeing 12 taiko-dai getting together.

Exploring Restaurants: Izakaya

Wataminchi

by **わたみんな家** **erson**



My company recently hosted a welcome party at Wataminchi. The atmosphere inside is like many izakaya, but much larger. Since we had a group, we opted for the course menu with all-you-can-drink. The included food was good and the variety was interesting, although not quite enough for a large group. Some of us also ordered from the regular menu and were presented with delicious izakaya offerings, from yakitori to basashi. A little crowded on the weekend, but the extensive menu is sure to please even the least adventurous diners. 新居浜市若水町1-9-7
Tel: 0897-65-1150. Located on the corner of Shikishima Dori and Noborimichi.

Cycling Tour revitalizes Oshima Island Off-shore of Niihama

(From the Ehime Shimbun, May 21, 2013/06/11)

The NPO “Genki Project” has been conducting a cycling tour of Oshima Island aimed at revitalizing the island of 280 residents, which is just off the coast of Niihama. The tour is called “Treasure Island in Niihama” or “Soothing Island surrounded by nature”.

You don't need to have an expensive bike or special sportswear, so even those who are not used to cycling can easily enjoy the activity. The cycling course covers about 10 km around the island and takes about 2 hours. It includes 75m slopes and allows riders to enjoy diverse scenes of coastlines and mountain roads. There are about 10 scenic spots to visit such as the old Murakami Pirate castle ruins and the masses of Prunus Zippeliana plants which turn red after their bark

peels off and are designated as natural treasures by Niihama City.

Kiyoji Utsumi, a member of the NPO and a freelance writer explains local history and legends during the tour, which is usually held once a month. It costs 500 yen including the ferry fee. About 10 to 20 participants from kids to the elderly can enjoy the tour. 17 bikes are available for rental. The bakery of Jack Maniyan from Switzerland is another popular spot to visit on the tour. The participants can try delicious fresh bread. More than 300 people have taken part in the tours since they first started a year ago

During the last Golden week, 35 people mostly families took part in the tour. Mr.

Cho Eikei, a part-time high school teacher, who has joined the tour several times had this to say, "The houses and alleys maintain the atmosphere of the 1920's. I can spend a very wonderful time there."

Mr. Utumi rents the bikes and guides on other days when required.

TEL: 090-4333-5989

MOVIE

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Shopping Center)

June 8 ~ G.I. JOE :RETALIATION English / 3D Dubbed
June 8 ~ OLYMMPUS HAS FALLEN PG12 English
June 14 ~ THE GREAT GATSBY English / 3D Dubbed
June 21 ~ AFTER EARTH English / Dubbed
June 22 ~ July 5 THE THIEVES Korean / Dubbed
July 6 ~ MONSTERS UNIVERSITY 3D · 2D Dubbed
July 6 ~ EURO MISSION English / Dubbed
July 12 ~ SILENT HILL: REVELATION 3D · 2D English
July 27 ~ EMPEROR English

Information Service

Internet: <http://niihama-aeonmall.com>

Tape (24 hrs): 0897-35-3322 (in Japanese)

Movies might be changed without notice, so please check beforehand.

Fireworks festivals in Ehime

★Niihama

Date : July 26(Fri.), 19:30 – 21:00

Location : Kokuryou-gawa, riverbed

Phone : 0897-65-1261 / 33-5581

In case of rain, it will be postponed to July 29,
30,31.

★Saijo

Date : August 17(Sat.)

Location : Kamo-gawa, riverbed

Phone : 0897-56-5151

(Saijo City Office)

★ Imabari – Onmaku festival

Date : August 4(Sun)

Location : Imabari Port

Phone : 0898-23-3939

★Matsuyama

Date : August 4(Sun.)

Location : Mitsuhamma Port Phone : 089-948-6556

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas
for monthly articles.

email : yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp

kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp

sheep@abeam.ocn.ne.jp

* The editor for this month is Keiko Takahashi.

ONE POINT JAPANESE

“ ~^あ明け ”

A : やっと ^{つゆ あ}梅雨明け しましたね。

Yatto tsuyu-ake shimashita ne.

(Finally the rainy season has ended.)

B : ええ、いよいよ ^{ほんかくてき なつ}本格的な 夏が ^{はじ}始まりま
すね。

Ee, iyoiyo honkakuteki na natsu ga
hajimarimasu ne.

(Yes. Summer will be in full swing at
last.)

A : ^{こんど れんきゆう}今度の 連休、どこか ^い行きませんか。

Kondo no renkyū, dokoka ikimasen ka.

(Let's go somewhere during the coming
holidays, shall we?)

B : ^{あつ}暑さに ^{よわ}弱いので、あまり ^で出かけたくな
いんですが・・・。

Atsusa ni yowai node, amari
dekaketaku naindesu ga...

(I'm sensitive to heat, so I really don't
want to go out...)

A : ^{ほっかいどう}北海道は どうですか。 ^{すず}涼しいですよ。

Hokkaidō wa dōdesu ka. Suzushi desu
yo.

(How about Hokkaido? It's cool there.)

B : ^{ほっかいどう}北海道ですか・・・。 いいですね・・・。

Hokkaidō desu ka... Iidesu ne...

(Well, Hokkaido... It sounds good.)

でも、やっぱり やめておきます。

Demo yappari yamete okimasu.

(But on second thought I won't go.)

実は、連休明けに 大事な 試験が あるん

です。

Jitsu wa renkyū-ake ni daiji na shiken
ga arundesu.

(Actually I have an important
examination just after the holidays.)

A : ^{ねむ}眠そうですね。Nemusō desu ne.

(You look sleepy, don't you?)

B : ええ、休み明けは いつも こうなんですよ。

Ee,yasumi-ake wa itsumo kōnandesu yo.

(Yes, I'm usually like this just after the
holiday.)

つい ^{あそ}遊^び過ぎて しまって・・・。Tsui
asobisugite shimatte...

(I had a little too much fun...)

A : ^{あした}明日 ^あ会える? Ashita aeru?

(Can I see you tomorrow?)

B : ええと、明日は 夜勤明け だから、^{ゆうがた}夕方な
^{だいじょうぶ}ら 大丈夫。

Eeto,asshita wa yakin-ake dakara, yū
gata nara daijōbu.

(Let me see. I finish nightshift tomorrow
morning, so I'm OK in
the evening.)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for
foreigners living in Niihama.

Feel free to contact us at: Tel 0897-34-3025
(Manami Miki).

e-mail : manami-m@js6.so-net.ne.jp