

Chigasaki Breeze

Truly great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave, and impossible to forget.

No.0006

FIREWORKS DISPLAY at SOUTHERN BEACH

花火

During the hot and humid summer season, there are major fireworks displays throughout Japan creating a spectacular sight in the dark sky. This with a number of people in *Yukata* (summer kimono) watching from the water banks is a typical summer scene.



In Chigasaki this year the fireworks display is taking place at Southern Beach on August 5, from 19:20 until 20:30. (In case of rain, it will be postponed until the next fine day.)

The fireworks originated in the Edo Era (1603-1867) at Ryogoku, Edo (the present Tokyo) where the two fireworks specialty manufacturers, *Tama-ya* and *Kagi-ya*, were keenly competing to sky-rocket them on the Sumida River. People shout these names even today to express their delight.

The first fireworks in Chigasaki were displayed in 1974 under the name of Chigasaki Summer Evening Fireworks Display and it used to be held on August 1 every year. In 1999, when Chigasaki beach was named "Southern Beach", it became to be called "Southern Beach Chigasaki Fireworks Display" and the date was set on the first Saturday of August.

This year, it's going to be the thirty-third display. There will be about 3,500 fireworks including those with names such as "Star Mines" and "Magic-Flower-in-Water" making the sky over Southern Beach bright with colorful bouquets.

You will surely enjoy the beautiful festivity on the beach.

BON FESTIVAL

or O-BON お盆

O-BON is a Buddhist ritual observed from August 13 to 16. During this period, the spirits are believed to return to the home altars. To welcome the spirits a light is put out at the entrance of homes to guide their way, lanterns are lit inside homes, the home altar is cleaned up, and offerings of fruit and vegetables are served.

When this *O-BON* or Bon Festival is over, the spirits are sent back on their way with a light placed at the exit of homes. This is called the escorting of the spirits and in some areas paper lanterns are put out to float on rivers or the ocean. The candlelights reflecting on the water's surface is an impressive sight.

Autumnal Equinox Day

or Shubun-no-Hi 秋分の日

In September, there is an Autumn equinoctial week and the day in the middle of the week is called Autumnal Equinox Day. This is when temples hold memorial services and people pay visits to graves to comfort the spirits of their ancestors. This year, it is on September 23 and is a national holiday.

There is a saying, "*No heat or cold lasts over the equinox.*", so the week is a turning point marking the end of summer and the coming of autumn when the hours of the day and night are the same. The same goes with the Vernal Equinox Day which occurs around March 21.

Viewing the Moon

or TSUKIMI 月見



As in other countries in the orient, Japanese used to have a custom of viewing or admiring the moon on the night of August 15 by the lunar calendar or October 6 by the current calendar by preparing dumplings, pampas grass, seasonal fruits, etc. as offerings or *OSONAE* to the moon. These are put on a small table placed at the veranda. There used to be scenes such as children sitting behind the table, admiring the moon. Although nowadays we rarely see the scene as mentioned. The moon looks especially beautiful in the clear Autumn air and people enjoy gazing at the bright moon. *Tsukimi* is also a prayer for a beautiful crop, coming just before the rice harvest.

INVITATION TO THE WORLD OF HOKUSAI and HIROSHIGE

Chigasaki City Art Museum will exhibit *UKIYO-E* of *HOKUSAI* and *HIROSHIGE* from July 25 (Tue) to September 10 (Sun) this year. Both of them are world famous artists of wood-block prints. The exhibition specifically renders figures of Kabuki actors and sceneries from the Shonan area in the Edo period such as Mt. Fuji over Sagami Bay that you can see from the beach in Chigasaki. Also you will discover the typical life style of people in the Edo period through other wood-block prints. (Entrance fee: Adults ¥500, Univ. Students ¥300, High school Students and under Free. Closed on Mondays.)

On other occasions, the museum exhibits the works of artists connected to Chigasaki and gives various lectures and concerts. The museum is in a beautiful setting surrounded by greenery, and it takes only about eight minutes on foot from the station's south exit.

If you're interested in *UKIYO-E*, this is your great opportunity!



Chigasaki City Art Museum



Wood-block print of Hokusai

CHIGASAKI PEACE DAY

Come, join and sing!

"WE ARE THE WORLD"

Gospel Shonan, a choir in the city appears on the pedestrian deck of the station at 6 pm, on August 6, to sing a variety of gospel songs for 40 minutes with the spirit of supporting the **CHIGASAKI PEACE DAY** sponsored by the city.

The song, "We are the world" is programmed as the last number, as they wish to sing it with all the audience. Anyone is welcome to join and sing together. The English lyrics will be prepared for each participant.

For inquiries, call Tetsuo Takamoto at 090-3912-1073.

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PEOPLE IN TOWN

Amit and Neerja Koul

“My father taught me of the Land of the Rising Sun.”

Amit Koul came from a city near Delhi, India to Japan in July 2003. He first went to Jo-hana, Toyama prefecture, to work for a company as an automobile design engineer. He had studied Japanese by himself back in his home country.

He then moved to another company in Tokyo staying for a year and half, and came to Chigasaki to work for an automobile company in Hagisono. He lives close to his office and enjoys living in Chigasaki as the climate is similar to his birthplace Turkwangam, Jammu-Kashmir. The cool and calm atmosphere is very precious to him, he says. His home is surrounded by rice fields, he can see a great view of Mt. Fuji early in the morning, and to him it is a favorite part of his life here. He likes to eat Sushi with chopsticks.

When he was a young boy, his father used to talk about “the Land of the Rising Sun”. This is why he wanted to come here. In Japan, he has found that everything is well organized, people are kind, and his work environment is excellent.

Neerja came to Chigasaki in November last year to start a new life with Amit. In India, she has obtained a Master's Degree and was teaching mathematics at a high school. She has almost memorized *Hiragana* but cannot speak Japanese so well yet. She is a pure vegetarian, and she feels happy living in Chigasaki too.

Amit and Neerja would both like to stay in Japan for a long time. In fact, they really looked happy enjoying their present life with a lot of love when we saw them walking back home hand in hand after this interview. (*H. Yuge*)



IAC ACTIVITIES

University students
from FRANCE in July

From July 1 through 30, seven university students from France were home-staying separately in the city. Their main purpose was to study Japanese and the culture, and practice the Japanese in every-day situations. This time they visited Shorin Junior High School, Tsurumine High School, Bunkyo University, Shonan Institute of Technology and *Jyochi-Ji* Temple in Kamakura to practice ZAZEN (Meditation sitting cross-legged). They also paid a courtesy visit with the city mayor plus they had lessons on *IGO* (the game of Go), *SADOH* (the Tea Ceremony), *KIMONO* wearing, brush painting, etc., all prepared by IAC.

There also was a farewell party at Kinro Shimin Kaikan (Work Civic Center) on July 29 and at the party each student gave a briefing in Japanese on what they learned during the stay.

This program has continuously been held since 1999 and is well reputed among students in France. So much so, that some of them are coming back to Japan to study further or to work either in Japanese or French organizations.

A STORY OF

YAGI JUKICHI (1898-1927)

Yagi Jukichi was a poet in the Taisho Era whose works were written with plain, easy to understand words. He wrote his poems in the spirit of Christianity.

He was born in Machida, suburban Tokyo. He studied at Kamakura Teachers College from 1912 to 1917. He was a very good student of English and attended the Japan Methodist Church in Kamakura.

After graduating from college, he went on to Tokyo High Teachers College. During this period, he was baptized and became a Christian.

His first career was an English teacher at a school in Hyogo Prefecture. It was around this time that he started writing poems. In 1922, he was married to Shimada Tomi, then 17. They had two children, a girl and a boy.

In 1925 when he was teaching in Chiba Prefecture after ending his job in Hyogo, he published *Aki-no-hitomi* (Eyes of Fall). The next year, however, he developed tuberculosis and moved to Chigasaki to receive treatment at Nankoin (now Taiyo-no-sato), which was the only sanatorium in Asia in those days. After two months of treatment at Nankoin, he chose to rest at his home and share his days with his family in Jukkenzaka, Chigasaki. He passed away the following year at the age of 29.

After his passing, several books of his poems were published, among them *mazushiki shinto* (poor flock), *Yagi Jukichi poem collection*, *Hanato sorato inori* (Flowers, Sky, and Prayer).

Last year, a monument was built in his memory by the side of the gentle slope at the Chigasaki Art Museum located in Takasuna Ryokuchi garden. A group of citizens who respect Yagi's distinguished achievements were dedicated to founding the monument. Carved on the surface of the stone monument is his poem titled *Mushi* (Bugs) which reads:

Bugs are singing/ Bugs are singing/ They are singing as if they cannot sing any longer unless they sing now/ That makes me sad and I find myself weeping.

Confucius says

“At fifteen, I set my heart on learning; at thirty, I established my original standpoint; at forty, I was free from delusion with a clear concept; at fifty, I understood what Heaven decreed to me; at sixty, my ears came to accept whatever anyone said while catching the essence; at seventy, I was able to follow the desire of my heart without overstepping the way and morality, and enjoy real freedom.”

Medical Information Series VI**Doctors Available for Consultation in English**

Kawahara Ganka Clinic (Op) Saiwai-cho 24-1 Tel:82-2830
Gotoh Jibi-Inko ka Clinic (Ot) Higashi-kaigan Kita 1-1-16 Tel:85-6124
Shohnan Shinryo-Naika (Pm) Saiwai-cho 21-3 Unimat bldg.8F Tel:83-7555
Shohnan Suzuki Clinic (Im,S,G,Pr) Hibariga-oka 7-10 Tel:84-0630
Tamura Shohni ka Clinic (Pe) Saiwai-cho 6-16-201 Tel:86-0415

Remarks: Op=Ophthalmology Ot=Otolaryngology
Pm=Psychosomatic medicine Im=Internal medicine S=Surgery
G=Gastrointestinal clinic Pr= Proctology Pe=Pediatrics

Everyday Conversation**What do you say in such situations?****At a post office:**

- Hagaki o kudasai. **hagaki:** postcard
はがき/封筒をください。 **kudasai:** want to buy; give me
(I want to buy a postcard.)
- Hachiju (80) yen no kitte o kudasai. **kitte:** stamp
80 円の切手をください。
(I want to buy the stamp of 80yen.)
- Kōkūbin de America e okuritai-n desuga. **kōkūbin** (de): (by) air-mail
航空便でアメリカへ送りたいんですが。 **okuritai:** want to send
(I want to send it to America by air-mail.)

- To say “okuritai-n desu ga” as above is more casual or more of an oral expression than “okuritai no desu ga”. The meaning is same.

Classified Ads

(1) Family Camp and Day Camp 2006. Gateway Int'l Center, Fujisawa, will be holding a summer camp for families in the Amaagi mountains of Izu in addition to our annual summer day camps. We have invited the most innovative instructors for a variety of workshops to choose from. More details at: www.gatewayinternational.org or go to <http://gatewayinternational.tripod.com/summercamp/>

Or call Regina Splees: 0466-54-5755

(2) Percussion classes. Casual and fun!

For more information call 0467-86-3285 Akira

CONSULTATION FOR FOREIGNERS

BUNKA SUISHIN-KA of the city hall will receive phone calls at any time on weekdays either for an interview or consultation to be arranged later depending on the availability of interpreters. Calls are accepted in English, Chinese, Korean, and Portuguese.

(Tel: 0467-82-1111 extension: 3309)