290th Edition **February 2018**





Takasaki International Relations Society 高崎市国際交流協会

Population: 374,543 Area: 459.16 km² Takasaki City:

Registered Foreign Residents:

There are 5,095 foreign residents from around 60 different countries residing in Takasaki City from China, Philippines, Vietnam, etc... (as at 31st December, 2017)

=Information from TIRS=

Cool Takasaki

Cool Takasaki is the name given to special classes that aim to bring authentic cultural experiences to the city. Participants use Facebook and other social media to record their experience, and promote the rich selection of Japanese and international cultures in Takasaki.

Shinmachi Doll Festival & **Decorative Sushi Roll Making Class**

Exclusively for non-Japanese residents

Hina Matsuri is celebrated on the 3rd March each vear, and is often referred to as the Doll Festival because of the tiered displays of ornamental dolls that are put on show in private homes and businesses. Every year the Shinmachi area of Takasaki puts on a huge event celebrating the festival, and stores and houses in the area display their dolls for the public to admire. There are also flea markets, outdoor food and drink stalls and live entertainment in the nearby park.

Class Details: Learn to prepare sushi in the shape of prince and princess Hina dolls made by rolling different colored sushi rice decorated with sesame, seaweed, egg, cucumber, etc. (see picture). Enjoy eating what you've prepared accompanied by green tea. Take a short tour of the beautiful doll displays near the community center.

Date & Time: Saturday 3rd March, 11am-2pm Place: Shinmachi Community Center (Shinmachi 2271-1), a 5 minute walk from JR Shinmachi Station. Cost: ¥1000

About the Teacher: Licensed decorative sushi in-

structor, Ms. Fumiko Takahashi

Sign Up: Call, email, or contact us by Facebook now contact details at bottom (first 16 people)



European Sweets Baking Class

Class Details: Learn to bake Galettes Bretonnes (buttery French cookies), enjoy accompanied by European black tea and then chat with the other participants and the class teacher who is a lovely lady from Mongolia.

Date & Time: Friday 16th March, 1pm-3pm Place: Socius (Ashikado-machi 1669-2) Cost: ¥1000 (includes cookies to take home) About the Teacher: Ms. Tsolomontes Mashimo is a foreign resident of Takasaki who bakes homemade sweets that she sells at a local café.

Sign Up: Call the office from 10am on Tuesday 27th February (first 10 people)

Tabunka Speech

Details: Speeches in Japanese will be given by 5 quest speakers from Australia, Philippines, China, etc., followed by conversation activities and time to make friends with the other participants.

Date & Time: Sunday 11th March, 1:30pm-4pm Place: General Welfare Center (Suehiro-cho 115-1) **Cost**: ¥300

Sign Up: Call or email the office (first 40 people)

Become a Member of TIRS

Membership Dues: ¥2000/year Period: April 2018-March 2019

Benefits: Priority sign up and discount for some events, bi-monthly newsletter delivered to your door, join 300 other likeminded members to support international relations in Takasaki! Contact the TIRS office for more information on how to join.



高崎市国際交流協会

Takasaki International Relations Society

TIRS Takasaki International Relations Society (International Relations Corner, 2nd Floor Takasaki City Hall)

TEL: 027-321-1201 (in English OK), FAX: 027-330-1819, Email: office@takasaki-irs.org Website: www.glocalfive.net/tirs/ (Japanese, English, Chinese & Portuguese versions) Facebook: takasaki.international

February 2018



=Information from Takasaki City=

6th Haruna-san Hill Climb in Takasaki Saturday & Sunday 19th & 20th May, 2018

Enjoy Haruna-san Hill Climb's challenging courses and the beautiful landscapes of Takasaki!

Course/Distance/Entry Fees:

- Lake Haruna Course: Total distance = 16.1km (Actual race distance = 14.7km/Average gradient = 6.0%), entry fee ¥6000
- Haruna Shrine Course: Total distance = 11.6km (Actual race distance = 11.4km/Average gradient = 5.21%), entry fee ¥5000
- Beginners Course: Total distance = 6.7km (Actual race distance = 6.5km/Average gradient = 4.64%), entry fee ¥4000

Entries: Accepted from 20th January, via Runnet on the event website (www.haruna-hc.jp) **Inquiries in Japanese**:

Haruna-san Hill Climb in Takasaki Executive Office 900-1 Shimo-Muroda-machi, Takasaki City TEL: 027-374-6715, FAX: 027-374-5035

Misato & Haruna Plum Grove Festivals

In early March, the city's two plum groves, Haruna and Misato, burst into bloom covering the hills with light pink flowers and spreading the sweet scent of plums. Both groves hold festivals to welcome these first breaths of spring.

Misato Plum Festival

Period: Early to late March, with live stage performances on Sundays 11th and 18th March, and

outdoor tea ceremony held daily between Saturday 17th and Wednesday 21st March.

Highlights: Handouts of plum products, local produce and foods on sale, stage performances, etc. **Place**: Misato Plum Grove, Zenji & Kanisawa areas

Parking: 300 yen per car.

Haruna Plum Festival

Date: Sunday 18th March, from 9:30am **Highlights:** Free samples of plum products, horse and cart rides around the grove, games, Japanese taiko drum performance, etc.

Place: Haruna Culture Center "Ecole" (Takasaki-shi Kami-Satomi-machi 1072-1)

Final Tax Filing FY2017 (Kakutei Shinkoku)

Tax filing on income earned between January 1st and December 31st 2017 is due between 16th February and 15th March 2018. If you've had income from more than one source and a tax adjustment was not done by your place of employment, go to one of the locations below with your completed paperwork, My Number card and all applicable pay slips or notices of tax paid to prove your total income, along with any other documents for receiving tax deductions (proof of payment for life insurance, earthquake insurance, proof of dependent family, house loans, etc.)

*People with dependents over 16 years of age can only file their tax at the Viento location.

Filing Locations: Takasaki City Hall 2nd floor Tax Division or Viento Takasaki (Tonya-machi 2-7)

きゅうじつとうばんい

休日当番医

'Kyujitsu toban i' are the medical clinics on duty on weekends and national holidays. Surgery hours are 9am to 6pm. Be sure to take along your health insurance card. **Schedule changes monthly, see 15th-of-the-month Takasaki Koho for full list. For other cities, see your local city magazine.



Night Clinic: (1F Public Heath Center Takamatsu-cho) Mon-Fri=7:30pm-10pm; Sat, Sun, pub. hol=7pm-10pm **Children's Emergency Health Consultations**: Dial #8000 to speak with a health professional for advice on whether to go to the hospital (Mon-Fri=6pm-8am next day; Sat, Sun, pub. hol=9am-8am next day).

Date	4th Feb (Sun)	11th Feb (Pub. Hol.)	12th Feb (Mon)	18th Feb (Sun)	25th Feb (Sun)
Internal Medicine (Naika)	Aihara lin (Shimo-Taki-machi) ••027-352-1272	Mizuno Shinkei-naika Naika Clinic (Kuragano-machi) 2027-395-0888	Shimizu lin (Shigoka-machi) 2 027-322-0534	Hara Naika lin (Midori-cho 3) 2 027-362-5959	Horigome lin (Kuragano-machi) ☎027-346-2336
	Kita Takasaki Clinic (Ohashi-machi) 2 027-322-2707	Nishioka lin (Hamagawa-machi) 2027-344-2252	Aoi Naika Clinic (Yachiyo-machi 1) 2027-310-3939	Yoshihama Naika Shonika Clinic (Tsurumi-cho) 2027-322-5865	Shimizu Ichoka Naika Clinic (Machiya-machi) 2027-3360-4771
Pediatrics (Shonika)	Inui Shonika Naika lin (Miyamoto-cho) ••027-322-3252	Koizumi Shigeta Shoni- ka (lizuka-machi) 2027-362-5811	Arai Kinder Clinic (Shimo-Nakai-machi) 2027-325-4152	Murata Shonika lin (Kataoka-machi 1) ©027-322-3254	Hamajiri Clinic (Hamajiri-machi) ☎027-363-8311