

SHINJUKU NEWS

新宿ニュース



We made a version of website in other languages.

<http://www.city.shinjuku.tokyo.jp/foreign/english/>

No. 3

Publishing Date: January 1, 2006
Published by: Cultural and International Division, Regional and Cultural Affairs Department, Shinjuku City
Tel: 03-5273-4069
Fax: 03-3209-1500
1-4-1 Kabukicho, Shinjuku City, Tokyo 160-8472

Shinjuku ★ 2006 Calendar

There are fun events and helpful city programs that anyone can join in. (Please note that the schedule is subject to change.)

Regular Events and Classes

- ★ 2nd Friday of the month, International Exchange Salon
- ★ Once or twice a week: Shinjuku Japanese Class (for Beginners)
- ★ About twice a month: Oyako (Family) Japanese-Language Class
- ★ About once a week: Japanese classes (Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced) by various volunteer groups
- Tutoring for foreign children
- Inquiries:** Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza, Tel: 03-5291-5171
- ★ About four times a year: The Oya-Oya Club ~ Child-Raising Classes for Foreign Residents ~
- Inquiries:** Regasu Shinjuku, Tel: 03-3232-7701

Enrollment is open on a year-round basis.

- ★ refers to events geared toward foreign residents.
- ◆ refers to city programs.
- refers to other events.

For inquiries concerning the following events, please call the Foreign Resident Consultation Corner.

English: Monday through Friday, Tel: 03-5272-5060

Chinese: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Tel: 03-5272-5070

Korean: Tuesday and Thursday, Tel: 03-5272-5080

9:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m.

January New Year

- ★ 7 - Japanese New Year Games = Yuttarino ○ 9 - Coming of Age Day Gathering = Keio Plaza Hotel
- ★ 21 - Storytelling in Korean (Picture book reading) = Kita-Shinjuku Library
- ★ 21 - World "Waku-Waku" Talking Session = Shinjuku Cosmic Center ○ 29 - Ushigome-Tansu Chiiki Festival = Ushigome-Tansu Chiiki Center
- ◆ From early through mid- January - Acceptance of After-School Club Applications from April

February 3 "Setsubun" Day before the Beginning of Spring

- 3 - Setsubun - Ancient Devil-Chasing Rite = Yoroi-Jinja Shrine
- 8 - "Hari-Kuyoh (Memorial Service for Broken Needles)" = Shojuin Temple
- ★ 25 - International Exchange Residents' Gathering "Doll Festival" = Shinjuku Bunka Center
- ★ Early February - Seeking Students for Shinjuku Japanese Classes! (first semester)
- ◆ Until late February - Applications for Regular Bicycle Parking Lot Users



Setsubun

March 3 "Hina Matsuri" Doll Festival

- ★ From early March - Seeking students for Family Japanese-Language Classes!
- ◆ 1 through 7 - Children's Immunizations Week
- 11 - Viva! Ochiai (Chiiki Center Festival) = Ochiai Dai-Ichi Chiiki Center
- 18 - Tansu District Flea Market = Ushigome-Tansu Chiiki Center, etc.
- ★ 22 - Oya-Oya Club "Child-Raising Classes" = Nishi-Shinjuku Public Health Center
- 25 and 26 - Shinjuku Chuo Park Spring Festival
- 26 - Yotsuya Fureai Festival (stage performances, flea market and more) = Yotsuya Chiiki Center

April Flower-Viewing



Cherry blossom trees along the Kandagawa River

- Flower-viewing = Shinjuku Chuo Park, around Hakoneyama, Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden, along the Kandagawa River at Nishi-Waseda, along Sotobori and other locations
- Mid-April - Peony-viewing = Yakuo-in Temple
- 20 through May 5 - Azalea Festival = Kaichu-Inari Jinja Shrine
- ★ First semester of Shinjuku Japanese classes begins = 8 locations in the city
- ★ Family Japanese-Language Classes begins = Okubo elementary school

The next issue of Shinjuku News will be published in March 2006. Shinjuku News is available at various public facilities such as Shinjuku City Office, Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza, Branch Offices and public libraries.

International Exchange Residents' Gathering Doll Festival



Why not enjoy traditional Japanese culture? Let's see beautiful "hina" dolls, watch fun Awa-odori dancing, play ring toss and origami and face the challenges of trying Japanese flower

arrangement, tea ceremony, calligraphy, ink painting and wearing a kimono! Please feel free to come to the site directly on the day of the event. There is also a Bingo game.
Date and Time: February 25 (Sat.), 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Location: Shinjuku Bunka Center (6-14-1 Shinjuku)
Fee: ¥500 (However, free for elementary school children and younger)
Inquiries: Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza, Tel: 03-5291-5171

May 5 "Tango-no Sekku" Boys' Day

- Mid-May – May Festival = Okubo Chiiki Center

June "Tsuyu" Rainy Season

- ★ 10 – Japanese-Language Speech Contest "Shabereon '06" = Shinjuku Bunka Center
- ★ Oya-Oya Club – High School Entrance Information for Foreign Residents ◆ 4 through 10 – Dental Hygiene Week (Free dental checkups/consultation and more) ◆ Open house and explanatory meetings for all municipal elementary/junior high schools (1st of series)

July 7 "Tanabata" Star Festival

- 19 through 22 - Kagurazaka Festival (Ground Cherry Market and Awa-odori dancing)
- Mid-July – Firefly Watching and Night at Otomeyama Park = Otomeyama Park
- 29 – Shinjuku Eisa Festival (Okinawa Traditional Bon-odori Dance) = Shinjuku-dori Avenue and more.



Awa-odori Dancing in Kagurazaka

August "Obon" Festival

- Early August - Jingu Gaien Fireworks Festival = Jingu Ball Park
- ★ Early August – Seeking Students for Shinjuku Japanese Classes! (Second semester)
- Mid-August – Shinjuku Chuo Park Summer Festival (Bon-odori dancing and more)
- Late July through late August – School pools open free of charge during summer vacation
- 27 – Comprehensive Disaster Prevention Drills

September

- ~ Festivals (annual grand festivals) with "omikoshi" shrine processions and vending booths held at local shrines in the city ~
- ◆ Open house and explanatory meetings for all municipal elementary schools (2nd of series)
- ◆ Start of application period for school selection system (Elementary schools)

October "Jugo-ya" Full Moon Night



"Yabusame" Horseback Archery Demonstration

- 1 through 15 – Shinjuku-ku Grand Festival (parade, street performances and more)
- 9 – Sports Recreation (playing sports, open pool and more) = Shinjuku Sports Center and other locations
- 9 – Okubo Festival, Hyakunincho Festival = Okubo-dori Avenue
- 9 – Takadanobaba "Yabusame" Horseback Archery Demonstration = Ana-Hachimangu Shrine
- Early October – Takadanobaba Grand Festival (samba dancing and more) = Takadanobaba Station-Front Plaza Area
- Early October – Wakamatsu Fureai Festival = Wakamatsu Chiiki Center
- 15 – Fureai Festa = Toyama Park and other locations
- ★ Second semester of Shinjuku Japanese classes begins = 8 locations in the city
- ◆ Open house and explanatory meetings for all municipal junior high schools (2nd of series)
- ◆ Start of application period for school selection system (Junior high schools)
- ◆ Mid-October through Early November – Seeking Entering Kindergarten Students for April

November

- 1 through 15 – Chrysanthemum Flower Garden Open; Inquiries: Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden
- Tori-no Ichi Market (3rd day of the rooster: November 4, 16 and 28) "Otori" Festival = Kaichu-Inari Jinja Shrine, Kumano Jinja Shrine, Suga Jinja Shrine, Narukoten Jinja Shrine, Hanazono Jinja Shrine and other locations
- Early November – Shinjuku Kashiwa Festival = Kashiwagi Chiiki Center

December New Year's Eve

- ◆ Mid-December through mid-January 2007 – Seeking Entering Municipal/Private Nursery School Students for April
- Early December – Tsunohazu Wai-Wai Plaza (Chiiki Center Festival) = Tsunohazu Chiiki Center
- 31 – New Year's Eve "Joya-no Kane" Bell = Shojuin Temple, Tenryuji Temple (The general public may also ring the temple bell. From 11:45 p.m.) *Shinjuku City Office is open until December 28, and reopens from January 4.

The Oya-Oya Club Child-Raising Support Classes for Foreign Residents Japanese New Year Games
Interpreters available

What do Japanese people do on New Year's Day? Lots of fun activities planned, such as "mochi-tsuki" rice-cake making. Why not enjoy friendly international exchanges? Held at the Child-Raising Support Facility "Yuttarino," which was formerly Kita-Yamabushi Nursery School. Please feel free to come to the site on the day of the event.

Date and Time: January 7 (Sat.), 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Yuttarino (2-17 Kita-Yamabushicho)

Eligibility: Foreign resident families with preschool children

*Elementary school children can play at the children's hall on the second floor.

Fee: ¥100 per family (For mochi, handcrafts and ingredients)

Co-sponsored by: Yuttarino Steering Committee, Shinjuku Niji-no-kai (Rainbow Club)

Application: No advanced reservations required. However, if you would like an interpreter for languages other than

Korean, Chinese or English, please call or fax the Shinjuku City Lifelong Learning Foundation "Regasu Shinjuku" (Tel: 03-3232-7701 Fax: 03-3209-1833)

The 3rd World "Waku-Waku" Talking Session

Free of Charge

Interpreters and Babysitting Available

Children? Parents? What are they thinking? Let's talk freely in groups about child-raising in your mother tongue. Come directly to the site on the day of the event.

Date and Time: January 21 (Sat.), 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Eligibility: Foreign resident parents (Japanese residents are also welcome)

Location: Cosmic Center (3-1-2 Okubo)

Other: There is a babysitting service for the first 12 people. Besides that, there is a play area for children.

Application: "Waku-Waku" Executive Committee Office, within Shinjuku City Lifelong Learning Foundation

Tel: 03-3232-7701 Fax: 03-3209-1833



Complete Your Tax Returns Accurately and As Early As Possible

The Deadline for 2005 Income Reports and Tax Payment is For Income Tax/Donation Tax: by **March 15** (Wed.)

For Individual Business Consumption Tax/Local Consumption Tax: by **March 31** (Fri.)

For information on final income tax returns, see the National Tax Agency website (<http://www.nta.go.jp>).

★ Even businesses (individuals) who did not have to pay consumption tax until now, must file a consumption tax report for 2005 if the amount of taxable sales for 2003

exceeded ¥10,000,000.

★ Please use convenient financial account-debit services to pay income tax, consumption tax and local consumption tax.

★ Please beware of fraudulent tax accountants.

Inquiries: Yotsuya Tax Office (24 San'eicho, Tel: 03-3359-4451)

Shinjuku Tax Office (1-19-3 Kita-Shinjuku, Tel: 03-3362-7151)

Announcement from Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza

Various consultation services and information are available at the Plaza. Please feel free to use them.

Hygeia 11F, 2-44-1 Kabukicho (A 10-minute walk from Shinjuku Station East Exit)

Foreign Resident Consultation Corner

Consultation is available in various languages for foreign residents with difficulties in their everyday living in Japan.

Staff offers advice to resolve concerns. Consultation are free of charge.

Consultation Hours: Weekdays, except 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 5 p.m.

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
Korean	Chinese Thai	Korean English	Myanmar Chinese English	Korean English

Inquiries: 03-5291-5171



Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza (Hygeia 11F)

Shinjuku Foreign Resident Center
 ~ Information on Immigration and Visas for Foreign Residents ~

Shinjuku Foreign Resident Center offers specialized consultations on immigration and visas for foreign residents. Telephone consultations are also available.

Consultations are also available in English and Chinese. **Consultation Hours:** Weekdays, except 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

Inquiries: 03-3209-6177

Traditional Japanese Events

In reading the Shinjuku 2006 Calendar on page 1, you probably noticed that many events are related to Japanese traditions. In this section, we will describe these types of traditional Japanese events.

New Year's Day (January 1)

New Year's is an important milestone marking the start of the year. People pray for good health and prosperity during the year. They celebrate by decorating their home with "kagami-mochi" round rice cakes and "kado-matsu" pine tree decorations. Some people wear kimonos to visit the local shrine or temple ("hatsu-mode" the first visit of the New Year to a shrine or temple) or visit friends and relatives to wish them a happy new year. People send "nengajo" New Year greeting cards if they are unable to greet people directly. Children look forward to receiving "o-toshidama" New Year's pocket money from their parents and relatives.



Coming-of-Age Ceremony (January)



In Japan, a person receives the right to vote and is considered an adult upon reaching 20 years of age. This ceremony celebrates the coming of age of new adults. Shinjuku City also conducts celebrative events for new adults.

The Day before the Beginning of Spring (February 3)

In Japan, there are four distinct seasons – spring, summer, autumn and winter. The days marking the beginning of each season are designated on the calendar, and the day before that is called "Setsubun." "Risshun" or the start of spring is considered the most important day as the start of a new year, so "Setsubun" generally refers to the day before the start of spring. To drive out unlucky spirits, men who are born in the year with the same sign of the Chinese zodiac as the current year, as well as heads of families toss roasted beans while chanting "Fuku wa uchi...Oni wa soto (In with good luck...out with demons)," and it is said that eating the same number of beans as your age will bring good health for the year. The traditional driving out of demons ceremony is conducted at Yoroi Jinja Shrine.



Doll Festival (March 3)

"Hina Matsuri" Doll Festival is called "Momo-no Sekku (Peach Festival)" or Girls' Day. It is an important event from long ago, celebrated with hopes for the healthy growth of girls. People enjoy decorating their home with "ohina-sama" dolls, and sometimes people let "ohina-sama" dolls float down the river as a symbol of purifying themselves for the year.



Flower-Viewing (Late March through Early April)

The Japanese people have loved the cherry blossom flower since ancient days. "Hanami" flower-viewing also refers to watching cherry blossoms when they are in full bloom while eating and drinking with friends and coworkers to deepen friendly ties.

Shinjuku Chuo Park, around Hakoneyama, Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden and along the Kanda-gawa River in Nishi-Waseda and along Sotobori are popular places for flower-viewing in Shinjuku City. During cherry blossom season, these locations are always crowded with people.



"Tango-no Sekku" Boys' Day (May 5)

"Tango-no Sekku" is an event celebrated for the healthy growth of boys. People decorate their homes with "yomogi" fennel and irises to drive out evil, and set up festive "koi-nobori" carp streamers.



"Tanabata" Star Festival (July 7)



This is an annual event that originated from an old Japanese legend in which Hikoboshi and Orihime, who are separated from each other as they live on different sides of a river, meet once a year on the night of July 7. This event is celebrated by writing down wishes on colorful "tanzaku" cards and hanging them on a bamboo branch and hope for Orihime and Hiukoboshi to grant their wishes.

"Obon" Festival (July or August)

"Obon" is an event during which people hold memorial services of gratitude for ancestors and those who have died. The four-day period centering around July 15 is considered "Obon," but in many locations, it is celebrated one month later around August 15. Although "Obon" is originally a Buddhist event, many working people in Japan take a summer vacation during this week to return to their hometown and enjoy "bon-odori" dancing. It is an important event of the summer season. In addition, there are many bustling summer festivals (annual grand festivals) with "mikoshi" shrine processions and fairs held around this time of year at local shrines in the city.

"Jugo-ya" Full Moon (October)

In Japan, an event admiring and giving offerings to the moon with thanksgiving for the harvest has been conducted since the Heian Period. Today, decorative "susuki" Japanese pampas grass, "tsukimi" moon-viewing dumplings, "sato-imo" potatoes and green soybeans are placed wherever the moon can be seen along with "omiki" sake.



"Omiso-ka" New Year's Eve (December 31)

This is the last day of the year. In Japan, people do major housecleaning in preparation to welcome the New Year. The year-end/New Year holidays in Japan are from around December 29 through January 3, and most public offices and company offices are closed. In addition, since many shops and banks are also closed at the beginning of the New Year, it is a good idea to prepare stocking up on the things you need in advance. Also, please note that garbage collection is suspended at this time of year.

New Year's Eve "Joya-no Kane" Bell (December 31)

The temple bell is struck from New Year's Eve to the start of New Year's Day. It is struck 108 times. It is said that this is the number of worldly desires that human beings have, and the bell is struck to drive them out.

