

SHINJUKU NEWS

No. 5

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Please use the version of website in other languages.

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

Please make your inquiries in Japanese when calling the coordinating division.

Let's Enjoy Summer - Summer Edition

Summer in Japan is the time of year when everyone from children to adults can enjoy such special events as summer festivals and fireworks at night. This issue will describe some of the summer festivals held in Shinjuku.

Come Dressed in Yukata! Ground Cherry Market

July 26 (Wed.) and 27 (Thu.), 6 to 10 p.m.



vivid vermilion-colored flowers, sales of "yukata" cotton kimonos, and a refreshing beer garden. Such services as yukata dressing and guided strolls through Kagurazaka, will also be available.

"Hozuki-Ichi" Ground Cherry Plant Market will be held mainly at Bishamonten with the red "torii" shrine gate. There will be potted ground cherry plants with their



Let's All Dance Together! Awa-odori Dancing

July 28 (Fri.) and 29 (Sat.), 7 to 9 p.m.



Originally from Tokushima Prefecture, awa-odori is a bon-odori festival dance that is now performed at events in all parts of Japan.

About 15 dance troupes (groups of tens of people) will dance along the slope to the lively "hayashi" music of the "shamisen" lute, flute and drum. Kagurazaka will be filled with excitement.

Inquiries: Tansumachi Branch Office, Tel: 03-3260-1911 <http://www.syoutengai-web.net/kagura/maturi14.htm>

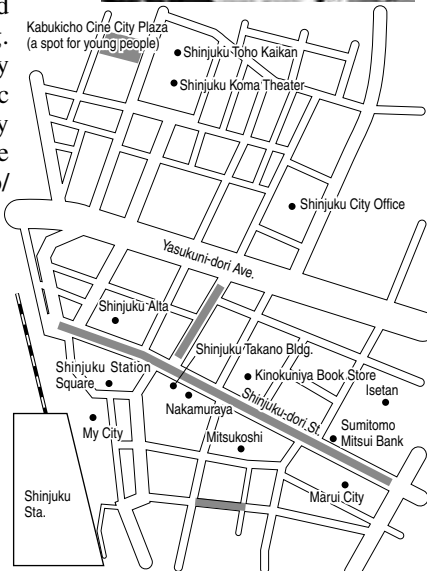
A Totally Okinawa Atmosphere - Shinjuku Eisa Festival

Eisa Festival is a traditional art of Okinawa. Eisa teams (a total of 500 people) from the original birthplace of Okinawa, as well as from Shinjuku and neighboring areas, will be performing. Shinjuku East Exit will have a totally Okinawan atmosphere with energetic festival drums and dancing. Why not catch festival fever? For more information, visit <http://shinjuku-eisa.jp/>



Date and Time: July 29 (Sat.), 1 to 9:30 p.m., tentatively (will be held in light rain)
 *Dancing in Shinjuku-dori Avenue will be held from 1 to 5:30 p.m.

Location: Shinjuku-dori Avenue, Kabukicho Cine City Plaza and other locations.



Sponsored by Nikkan Sports 2006 Jingu Gaien Fireworks Festival



This is the annual fireworks show in which about 10,000 fireworks are shot up into the summer sky.

You can enjoy the spectacular fireworks and events at any of the four Jingu-Gaien Viewing Sites (fees charged).

Date and Time: August 16 (Wed.) (Will be postponed to the 17th if the weather is inclement.)
 Fireworks start from 7:30 p.m. Scheduled to end at 8:30 p.m.

Location: Outer Garden of Meiji Shrine (1-1 Kasumigaokamachi)

Inquiries: Nikkan Sports News Convention Secretariat, Tel: 03-3547-0900

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

The Oya-Oya Club “Child-Raising Classes”

Free Interpreters Available

This club is an opportunity for foreign parents to find solutions to child-raising problems and make friends at the same time. Why not chat informally? No reservations are required. Please feel free to come to the site on the day of the event together with your children.

Date and Time: August 30 (Wed.), 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Location: Nishi-Shinjuku Public Health Center (7-5-8 Nishi-Shinjuku)

Eligibility: Foreign parents raising children from 0 through 3 years of age.

Interpreting: If you would like an interpreter for a language other than English, Chinese or Korean, please call in advance.

Applications/Inquiries: General Affairs Division, Shinjuku City Lifelong Learning Foundation

Tel: 03-3232-7701

Fax: 03-3209-1833

**Worthwhile
Information**

Relaxing Hot Springs – At a Municipal Resort

There are many hot springs in Japan, and they say that the Japanese are a people who love hot springs the most in the world. Hot springs have their own unique qualities, and people have enjoyed them for refreshment and for health reasons from ancient days.

Why not use a municipal resort and relax in a hot springs of Hakone? You can also enjoy excellent seasonal cuisine.

Municipal Resorts: Hakone Tsutsuji-so and Hakone Ajisai-so (Kanagawa Prefecture)

Lodging Rate: For one night and two meals

¥5,700 for Shinjuku residents

¥7,100 for others (Payment at the site)

How to Apply: Reservations can be made over the telephone by non-residents if there are any vacancies after reservations are taken giving priority to Shinjuku residents. Please inquire below for more information.

Inquiries: Kinki Nippon Tourist Co., Ltd. Sales Office inside Shinjuku City Office No. 1 Bldg., B2F, Tel: 03-5273-3881 (Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Tsutsuji-so URL: <http://www17.ocn.ne.jp/~tsutsuji/>

Ajisai-so URL: <http://www.hakone-tozan.co.jp/hakone-ajisai/index.htm>



Tsutsuji-so Hot Springs – Thick Rinsing Water

How to Take a Bath Japanese-Style

Wash your body outside of the bathtub, and soak in the bathtub after rinsing your body off clean. This is how the bath water is kept clean for everyone to use.



Ajisai-so Dinner Sample

To Those Who Wish to Enroll Their Child in a Municipal Elementary or Junior High School for the School Year Starting April 2007

In Japan, compulsory education includes six years of elementary school and three years of junior high school for a total of nine years, for children between the ages of 6 and 15.

Although foreign children are not required to attend a Japanese elementary or junior high school, they may do so upon application. Currently, there are about 300 foreign children attending public schools.

Please note that according to Japanese law, a child may not be admitted to a Japanese junior high school unless he/she has completed education in Japanese elementary school.

If you would like to enroll your child in a municipal elementary or junior high school, please complete the following procedures:

Eligibility for Entrance to Elementary School: Those born between April 2, 2000, and April 1, 2001

Eligibility for Entrance to Junior High School: Those born between April 2, 1994, and April 1, 1995

Application Period: For entrance to elementary school, September 1 (Fri.) through 29 (Fri.) For entrance to junior high school, October 2 (Mon.) through 31 (Tues.)

How to Apply: Bring the notification mailed in advance by the School Operations Division and your child's Foreign Resident Registration Card and complete application procedures at the School Operations Division of the Shinjuku City Board of Education. If you cannot speak Japanese, please come with someone who can.

Application/Inquiries: School Operations Division, Tel: 03-5273-3089

To Parents Raising Children Up to Completion of Junior High School

As of April 2006, the eligibility requirements for the national child allowance program have been extended to the completion of elementary school, and income restrictions have also been relaxed.

In addition, Shinjuku City has established the Shinjuku City Child Allowance program, which is available for those raising junior high school students who have completed receiving the national child allowance program. Designated procedures must be completed if you are newly eligible for these programs. However, please note that income restrictions apply.

In addition, if you have not filed a Resident's Tax Report, then please do so before applying for child allowance. Please call for more information.

Inquiries: Child-Raising Section, Children and Family Division, Tel: 03-5273-4546

Let's Be Careful About Preventing Food Poisoning During the Summer

Summer is the time of year when food poisoning happens the most. The main symptoms of food poisoning are diarrhea, stomach ache and vomiting. A person can become seriously ill, depending on the type of bacteria. In this issue, we will describe simple steps to prevent food poisoning.

Three Rules for Food Poisoning Prevention

1. Keep everything clean. (Wash your hands and utensils well so bacteria will not touch food.)
2. Store foods in low temperatures, such as in your refrigerator. Eat cooked foods soon after preparing them. (Do not let bacteria breed.)
3. Cook foods thoroughly. (Destroy bacteria.)

Inquiries: Food Health Section, Sanitation Division, Tel: 03-5273-3827

Youths from Germany Come to Japan

Shinjuku City and Mitte, Berlin

These cities, which share the characteristics of being located in the nation's capital and having a large population of foreign residents, signed a Friendship City Agreement in 1994 after conducting many goodwill exchange programs. The youth exchange program in which youth groups from each country visit each other, has been conducted for the past 14 years. This year on April 9, 12 young men and women aged 14 through 22, came to Japan.



Courtesy Call on the Mayor.

Experiencing Japanese Society and Culture

Their 12-day stay included a variety of activities, such as a friendly gathering with a Waseda University student club, a home-stay program and cultural experience events. Actually experiencing the atmosphere of Shinjuku for themselves, they asked such direct questions as, "Will buildings be okay if there is an earthquake?" "There seem to be a lot of homeless people; are there social welfare programs for them?" and "Germany has a meister system, but is there one in Japan as well?"

In addition, the group tried their hand at Japanese flower arrangement, tea ceremony and wearing a kimono, under the

instruction of a member of the Shinjuku Women's Overseas Trainee Association. They enjoyed Japanese culture, sharing such comments as, "I felt like a samurai when I wore a kimono" (Georg), "I learned about the Japanese sense of beauty of space and simplification through ikebana flower arrangement" (Simon), and "I think I have grown in sensitivity" (Jasmin).

Voices of German Youth

At the International Understanding Class, the youths gave a pantomime performance for Shinjuku residents, with the theme "German Youth." They communicated that in Germany, there is a growing number of singles as well as people who remarry; that with the recent economic slump, unemployment is up to about 11.3%; and that karate and judo are growing popular besides soccer and ballet.

The audience asked the youths all kinds of questions, such as concerning the military draft system and vocational training which do not exist in Japan.

At the end of the program, Mr. Kurz, the Group Leader, shared his sentiments. "We were able to gain all kinds of experience with the warm support of all the Shinjuku residents. I think we were able to deepen our understanding about Japan and Shinjuku!"



Trying out the Japanese tea ceremony. Sitting Japanese style seems tough.

A Leisurely Stroll in Shinjuku City

No. 4

A City Oasis You Can Enjoy Every Season

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden.

Shinjuku Gyoen, which is rich in natural greenery, was constructed on the site of a private mansion belonging to Lord Naito, a "daimyo" (feudal lord) of the Shinshyu Takato Clan of the Edo era. Completed in 1906 as an imperial garden, it was opened as a national garden after World War II and is now enjoyed by everyone as a favorite relaxation spot in the city.

With an area of land of 58.3 hectares (144 acres) and a circumference of 3.5 km, it blends three distinct styles: French Formal, English Landscape and Japanese Traditional. It is famous as a rare scenic garden in Japan.

Among the 20,000 trees that grow in Shinjuku Gyoen, there are about 1,500 cherry blossom trees, which is a major characteristic of the park, drawing many visitors to view them in bloom in the spring.

Chrysanthemums are also grown here, carrying on the tradition of the Imperial House. The chrysanthemum garden which exhibits these flowers is a popular autumn event. In

Address: 11 Naitomachi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo

Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Park closes at 4:30 p.m.)

Closed: Mondays (or Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday) and during the yearend/New Year holidays (December 29 to January 3)

Admission: ¥200 for adults, ¥50 for elementary and junior high school students, free for preschoolers

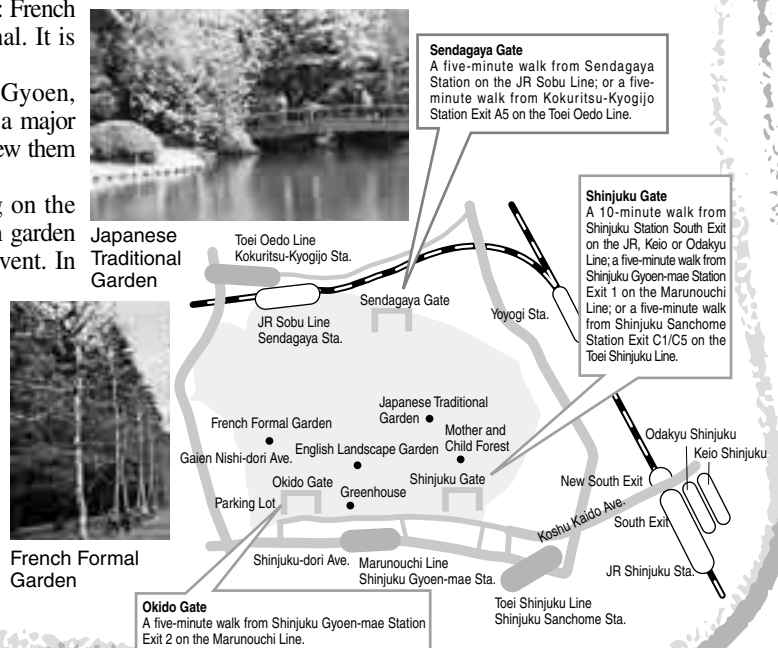
Inquiries: 03-3350-0151 (Maintenance Office)

English URL: <http://www.shinjukugyoen.go.jp/english/english-index.html>

Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden - Celebrating Its 100th Anniversary

in addition, the greenhouse complex has a stock of about 2,300 plants, such as brilliantly colorful tropical and subtropical flowers, rare plants and orchids. Visitors can enjoy a world of colorful flowers and greenery.

Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden plans to have a number of special events to commemorate its 100th anniversary. Shinjuku City also plans to conduct commemorative events as well.



Living Together

Forefront of Multicultural Living

It has almost been six months since Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza first opened. Many people come to the plaza every day and there are groups that conduct activities using the Plaza as their base. For this article, we visited the Russian Club in Tokyo and spoke with Mikhail the Chairperson.

Russian Club in Tokyo – Friendly Exchanges in a Free Atmosphere beyond the Borders of Age and Nationality

– Tell us how the Russian Club was formed.

I have lived in Japan for 14 years, and the first thing I thought was, “If there is an American Club here in Japan, why isn’t there a Russian Club? (Smiling) So I went to the Russian Embassy to negotiate matters, and the club started in 1992.”

– Who are the members?

There are Russians from various regions, such as Kazakhstan and Armenia. There are some Russian members who come all the way from Hachioji City and from Ibaraki Prefecture to participate in our activities.

No matter how long you live in Japan, there are times when people want to speak their mother tongue at times.

– I understand there are also some Japanese participants.

Yes, we welcome anyone who may have such thoughts as, “I want to be friends with Russian people” or “I want to know more about Russian culture.” Today, we have a Japanese university student participating who wants to study the Russian language. We announce the scheduled events at our website, and anyone who wants to participate can feel free to join in if it fits their schedule.

– What are some of the activities of the Russian Club?

Almost every weekend, we have events based on all kinds of themes, such as “Culture Study Day,” “Children’s Day” and “Chatting Day.” We practice the Japanese language and dressing in kimono, or sing Russian folk songs. On Children’s Day, parents with children – around 50 people –



Chairperson Mikhail Mozzhechkov also appears on the Russian Conversation program on NHK-TV.



“It is so nice that the plaza is conveniently located and is new” says Russian Club member Ms. Marina (on the right).

get together. In most international marriages, families speak Japanese at home, but the goal of our event was to let children play in Russian.

– There’s such a friendly atmosphere here!

Yes, and we also have fun outdoor activities as well. We’ve gone on “hanami” flower-viewing tours with Japanese members as our guides, had barbecues, or gone to root for boxers from Russia. Members often borrow and lend Russian videos, CDs and books with each other.

It is also important to resolve problems by talking things out with a friend. While there is a growing number of international marriages, there are some women who have husbands who are violent at home or do not support the family financially. When this is the case, lots of times women discuss their problems with other women and work toward a solution. In addition, for those who are having difficulty finding housing that fits their budget, we recommend public housing or sometimes people who have lived in Japan for a long time offer advice. The major role of the club is to offer fun, friendly exchanges and moral support.



Cherry blossom viewing at Nagatoro

– Would you like to say something in conclusion?

Yes, Russian Club strives to strengthen friendly ties among fellow Russians. At the same time, we hope to draw people who have an interest in Russian culture regardless of age or nationality. You don’t have to speak Russian! Most of the members can speak Japanese. (Smiling)

We hope to actively try our hand at “ikebana” flower arrangement, tea ceremony and calligraphy. Anyone who is interested in teaching us would be heartily welcomed! It would be great to have a club where people teach each other, learn from each other and understand each other’s culture.

Russian Club in Tokyo URL: <http://www.yaponist.com/>