

SHINJUKU NEWS



Foreign Language Website <http://www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/foreign/english/>

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

No. 21

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Have Fun in Shinjuku City



Summer Festivals

Kagurazaka Festival

Ground Cherry Plant Market

July 21 (Wed.) and 22 (Thu.), 5:30 to 10 p.m.

Potted *hozuki* (ground cherry plants) with their vivid vermilion-colored flowers will be on sale, and a refreshing beer garden will be open. There will also be a *yukata* (summer cotton kimono) dress up service and information on strolling through the Kagurazaka area.

Awa-Odori Dancing

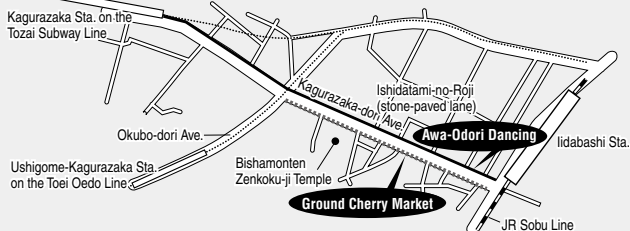
July 23 (Fri.) and 24 (Sat.), 7 to 9 p.m.

A total of approximately 15 groups (each consisting of dozens of people) will dance along the slope to the sound of the shamisen, flute, and Japanese drum.

Location: Kagurazaka-dori Avenue

Inquiries: Kagurazaka-dori Merchants Association Office,
Tel: 03-3268-2802

Web site: www.kagurazaka.in/matsuri/index.html



Yakuo-ji/Yanagicho Tanabata Star Festival

July 4 (Sun.), 1 to 5 p.m.

Tanzaku (oblong cards) with wishes written on them will decorate large bamboo branches—a *tanabata* (star festival) tradition—along the full 430-meter length of the street. The annual Samba Parade will be winding its way along this street with authentic samba dancing. Along the sidewalk, there will be rows of various vendors, such as those providing goldfish scooping, *yakisoba* (fried noodles), and water balloon yo-yos.



Location: Gaien-Higashi-dori Avenue (Yanagicho Intersection to Nakanochi Intersection)

Inquiries: Yakuo-ji/Yanagicho Tanabata Star Festival Executive Committee, Tel: 03-3353-1461

Shinjuku Eisa Festival

July 31 (Sat.), 1:30 to 9 p.m. (tentative)

More than 1,000 people from Okinawa, Shinjuku City, and neighboring areas will perform in teams. The dancers will look spectacular in their colorful kimonos while dancing to festival drums.



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

We Have All Kinds of Information for All Foreign Residents!

Shinjuku City offers locations where foreign residents can obtain all the information they need, such as information and announcements about services available at Shinjuku City Office, Japanese-language classes in Shinjuku City, and information on international exchange events. Please come to Shinjuku City Office Main Building 1F (at the foreign resident registration waiting area) or Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza (see page 4).

The next issue of *Shinjuku News* will be published in September 2010. *Shinjuku News* is available at various public facilities, such as Shinjuku City Office, branch offices, Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza, and public libraries.

Cool Off with Your Children! Water and Greenery Spots in Shinjuku City

Summer in Japan is hot and humid, so it is an ideal time of year for children to splash around in water. Although Shinjuku City has the image of having nothing but high-rises and crowded shopping areas, there are actually many spots with water and greenery where you can feel free to play with your children. Why not step out with your child and enjoy cooling off?

1 Seseragi-no-Sato (1-1 Kami-Ochiai)

With a stream (*seseragi* in Japanese) flowing through it, this park is an ideal location for children to play. Because there is a spacious grassy area, it is the perfect place to enjoy a picnic. Also available are slides and park recreational equipment.



Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (until 5 p.m. from November through March), closed on Mondays (Tuesdays if Monday is a national holiday)
How to Get There: A three-minute walk from Shimo-Ochiai Station on the Seibu-Shinjuku Line

3 Toyama Park Hakoneyama Area (2 and 3 Toyama)

The peak of Hakone Hill (Hakoneyama), the highest mountain in Shinjuku City (44.6 m), is an ideal spot to enjoy a panoramic view of the city's high-rises. In addition, the park features Jabu-Jabu Splash Pond, Seseragi Plaza, park recreational equipment, and other attractions.



Hours: Jabu-Jabu Splash Pond, late July (subject to change) through August 31 (Tue.), 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (closed on rainy days)
How to Get There: A 15-minute walk from Waseda Station on the Tozai Subway Line or an eight-minute walk from Nishi-Waseda Station on the Fukutoshin Subway Line

5 Minami-Motomachi Park (20 Minami-Motomachi)

Jabu-Jabu Splash Pond, with its clear flowing waters, has stone pillars that emit misty waters at scheduled times. Because the Futaba Community Child Raising Support Center is within walking distance from the park, it is a good idea to take a break from your recreational activities and rest there.

Hours: Jabu-Jabu Splash Pond, late April through late October, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
How to Get There: A seven-minute walk from Yotsuya Station on the JR Line, Marunouchi Subway Line, and Namboku Subway Line or a five-minute walk from JR Shinanomachi Station

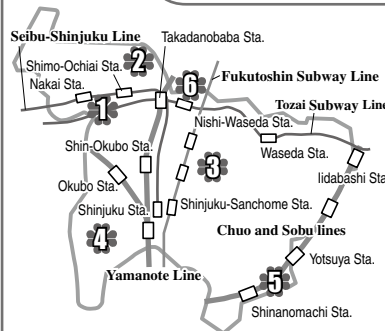


2 Otomeyama Park (2-10 Shimo-Ochiai)

This park has natural springwater, which is unusual in such an urban area. Fireflies are raised using this natural springwater. There are not only many carp and turtles living in the lake in the park but also spot-billed ducks that use the lake to raise their young. In addition, you can enjoy a panoramic view of Takadanobaba from a lookout.



Hours: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (until 5 p.m. from October through March)
How to Get There: A seven-minute walk from Takadanobaba Station on the JR Line, Tozai Subway Line, and Seibu-Shinjuku Line



4 Shinjuku Chuo Park (2-11 Nishi-Shinjuku)

This park is situated next to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building and serves as an oasis amid many high-rise buildings. Every summer, you can hear the delightful squeals of children playing in Jabu-Jabu Splash Pond. Also, Shiroito-no-Taki Waterfall and the magnificent Niagra-no-Taki Waterfall are must-sees.

Hours: Jabu-Jabu Splash Pond, July 10 (Sat.) through September 7 (Tue.), 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed on rainy days)

How to Get There: A 10-minute walk from JR Shinjuku Station or a five-minute walk from Tocho-mae Station on the Toei Oedo Line

6 Totsuka Chiiki Center (community center) (2-18-1 Takadanobaba)

This community center just celebrated its grand opening on February 27 of this year. In the lobby on the first floor, there is a large 4.3-meter-long aquarium filled with fish from the Kanda-gawa River, which flows next to the center. On the third floor, there is the Kanda-gawa River Fureai Corner, which has photographs, a video, models, and other displays showing the history and life of the Kanda-gawa River so you can have fun as you learn. Visitors are free to tour the area during the center's business hours.

Hours: 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Closed: 2nd Sunday of February, May, August, and November and during the year-end/New Year holidays (December 29 through January 3)

How to Get There: A three-minute walk from Takadanobaba Station on the JR Line, Tozai Subway Line, and Seibu-Shinjuku Line

File Your Application for the New Child Allowance, Kodomo Teate, as Early as Possible (Information on How to Apply)

Notifications detailing application procedures for the new child allowance (Kodomo Teate) were mailed on April 16, 2010, to heads of households with children who are eligible for the allowance as of April 1, 2010. If you have not received a notification, please call the number below.

As a rule, those who received the former child allowance (Jido Teate) as of March 31, 2010 (except those who have not filed current status reports or those whose benefits have been stopped), will automatically receive the new child allowance. Therefore, there is no need to file an application, and a notification of authorization will be mailed at a later date.

Please note that those who have given birth or moved into Shinjuku City on or after April 1, 2010, are not eligible for the above-mentioned allowance. As a rule, applications for the new child allowance must be filed within 16 days after and including the date of entitlement (date of child's birth or date moved into Shinjuku City).

■ Eligibility

Those who live in Shinjuku City and fulfill the following conditions:

- Those who have completed foreign resident registration in Shinjuku City

Note: However, those who have temporary visitor or entertainer visas, those whose periods of stay (as indicated on their visas) are less than one year, and those who are not recognized as living in Japan (i.e., their primary countries of residence, where they live on an everyday basis, are elsewhere) are not eligible for this program.

- Those who are raising children (until the first March 31 after the child's 15th birthday)

Note: Either the father or mother may apply, but it should be the one who has the higher income.



■ Allowance Amount

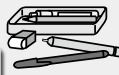
¥13,000 per month per eligible child

■ Child Allowance Application

Various documents are required for application. Please call for more information on what is required.

Children's Medical Care and Allowance Section, Children's Services Division, Children and Family Department (counter No. 14, Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 2F)
Tel: 03-5273-4546

Municipal Elementary and Junior High School Enrollment in April 2011



Compulsory education in Japan comprises six years of elementary school and three years of junior high school for a total of nine years for children from 6 to 15 years of age. Although foreign residents are not obliged to go to a Japanese elementary or junior high school, parents can apply for their children's admission to a Japanese school if they so desire. (There are currently about 460 foreign children attending public schools in Shinjuku City.)

Please note that a child may not enroll in a Japanese junior high school if he/she did not graduate from a Japanese elementary school. If you would like to enroll your child in a municipal elementary or junior high school, please file an application for admission.

In addition, there is a school selection system for those starting the first grade of elementary school or first year of junior high school. Under this system, you may choose from a selection of schools outside the regular school district. If you would like to choose such a school, you will be issued a school selection application form at the time of application.

Elementary schools hold open-house events in September, and junior high schools hold them in October. This is an opportunity to see a school and observe a class in session. Please call for more information on the date and time.

Eligibility for Entering Elementary School: Those born between April 2, 2004, and April 1, 2005

Eligibility for Entering Junior High School: Those born between April 2, 1998, and April 1, 1999

Application Period (for Submitting an Application for an Optional School):

For elementary school—September 1 (Wed.) through 30 (Thu.)

For junior high school—October 1 (Fri.) through 29 (Fri.)

To Apply: Bring the notice mailed by the School Management Division and your child's foreign resident registration card to the School Management Division of the Board of Education. If you cannot speak Japanese, please come with someone who can.

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

Okubo Library

Multicultural Services Have Improved

Aiming to be a library specializing in multicultural services, Okubo Library conducts the following programs. In addition, as of April, library hours from Tuesday through Saturday have been extended; they are now from 9 a.m. to 9:45 p.m. Please drop by for a visit!

Inquiries: Okubo Library (2-12-7 Okubo, Shinjuku City), Tel: 03-3209-3812

■ Multicultural Book Corner

We will expand our selection of Japanese and foreign-language books that promote understanding of Japanese and foreign cultures. In addition, we would appreciate hearing everyone's ideas and requests concerning a particular book or type of book.

■ Consultation on Searching for Foreign-Language Books

There are Chinese- and Korean-speaking consultants available for book searches.

In addition, Okubo Library has library staff members who can speak English, Chinese, Korean, and Italian. If you have any questions or problems concerning books, just ask for help at the counter.

Hours of Consultation concerning Book Searches

Korean: 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturdays, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Chinese: 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Consultation Procedures

No reservations are required. Simply ask at the counter (free of charge).

■ Foreign-Language Signs within the Building

There are easy-to-read signs within the library in English, Chinese, and Korean as well as in *hiragana*, of course.

Recruiting Students

Shinjuku City Japanese-Language Class, 2nd Term

Let's learn basic Japanese for everyday living! If there is an opening, you can start in the middle of the year.

Eligibility: Beginning level—Those who need to learn basic Japanese necessary for everyday living (However, those who are of junior high school age and younger are not permitted to join the class.)

Date and Time: Weekdays, September through December, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (Evening classes are on Thursdays only.) There are classes that meet once a week and those that meet twice a week. Schedules vary depending on the class location.

Location: 10 locations in the city, including Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza

Fee: Classes that meet once a week—¥2,000
Classes that meet twice a week—¥4,000
Note: There will be no refunds of fees.

To Apply: Send a postcard, fax, or e-mail to the address below between June 25 and August 7, giving (1) your address, (2) your name (with *furigana*), (3) your telephone number, (4) your nationality, and (5) the day of the week and time of the Japanese-language class you wish to participate in. All applicants will be notified of the results by mail by August 23.

Inquiries: Cultural Exchange Division, the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future, 6-14-1 Shinjuku, Shinjuku City 160-0022, Tel: 03-3350-1141, Fax: 03-3350-4839, E-mail: bunka@regasu-shinjuku.or.jp

Living Together

Multicultural living refers to people of different nationalities and ethnic races living together and accepting and understanding the differences between their cultures.

In this issue, we will report from the front lines of multicultural living.

Is there anyone out there who has just come to Japan and has concerns or questions, such as *I cannot communicate well because I cannot speak Japanese* or *I do not completely understand my visa status*? The Consultation Support Center for Foreign Residents at Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza is available to help all visitors with their various concerns and questions in foreign languages. In this issue, we interviewed Mr. Teppei Yamamura, who works at the center as a coordinator.

The Consultation Support Center for Foreign Residents: A Multilingual Safety Net

Please tell us about some of the main programs and activities of the center.

“As a national institution under the jurisdiction of the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau of the Ministry of Justice, we mainly handle inquiries concerning visa status and offer consultation. In addition, we try to give as much information as possible on various issues that occur in everyday life, such as marital problems and questions about education for children. Because we can provide help in foreign languages that are not spoken at other local government offices, I think we serve as a multilingual safety net.”

What kinds of concerns do you often find yourself giving consultation on?

“Although we are often asked about visa status, we receive questions that are tangentially related to visa status as well. We offer consultation on an extremely wide range of subjects, for example, on marriage or divorce, education for children, the kinds of work that can be done, and things like that. We often help people who do not feel attached to their communities and who cannot speak Japanese.”

Do you work with Shinjuku City Office in any way?

“Because we are located right inside Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza, which is a municipal facility of



Shinjuku City, we work together with the City Office on a daily basis. We provide assistance in Portuguese, which Shinjuku

City Office is unable to handle, and we ask Shinjuku City Office for help in Thai and Myanmar, which we are unable to handle. In addition, upon the request of Shinjuku City Office, we are sometimes connected by telephone to someone who has come to the Shinjuku City Office service counter and serve as an interpreter for them.”



Center, Mr. Teppei Yamamura, coordinator/consultant

Tell us about your policies for future activities and the kind of entity you would like the center to be for foreign residents?

“I hope the center will be the kind of multilingual safety net that foreign residents can feel they can turn to whenever they have a question or problem. I believe that it is the duty of the Japanese government to be able to offer assistance in languages that are not available at any local government office. We currently offer services in seven languages, but I hope we can expand this number in the future according to the needs of foreign residents.”

Do you have a message for our foreign-resident readers?

“Your visa is very important for living in Japan, so please call for accurate information if you have even the slightest of questions. For example, if you work part-time, you need a special permit, and there are restrictions as to the hours and types of jobs you can do. Because we are conveniently located for Shinjuku City residents, please drop by if you have any questions about everyday life.”

Consultation Support Center for Foreign Residents

Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 4 p.m. (closed during the year-end/New Year holidays, national holidays, and on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays)

Consultation Methods: In person at the counter or over the telephone

Consultation Fee: Free of charge (Please note that all matters will be kept strictly confidential.)

Languages: English, Chinese, and Portuguese are always available. For other languages, please refer to the chart.

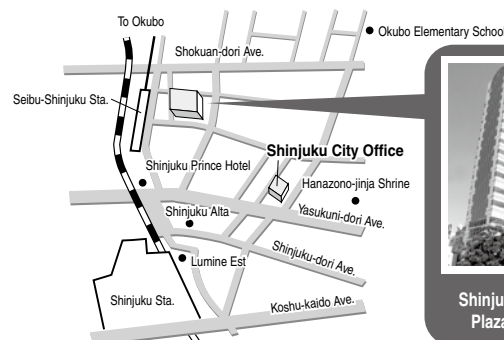
| | Mon. | Tue. | Wed. | Thu. | Fri. |
|----------------------|------|------|--------|------|------|
| 1 st week | ③ | ① | ③ | ③ | ③ |
| 2 nd week | ③ | ② | Closed | ③ | ④ |
| 3 rd week | ③ | ① | ③ | ③ | ③ |
| 4 th week | ③ | ② | Closed | ③ | ④ |

- ① Vietnamese
- ② Indonesian
- ③ Spanish
- ④ Bengalese

Tel: 03-3202-5535, 03-5155-4039

Web site: www2.ocn.ne.jp/~ccf/

Address: Inside Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza, Hygeia (Tokyo Metropolitan Health Plaza) 11F, 2-44-1 Kabuki-cho, Shinjuku City 160-0021



Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza (Hygeia 11F)