



Shinjuku News

No. 35

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Regional and Cultural Affairs Department, Shinjuku City
1-4-1 Kabuki-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-8484
Tel: 03-5273-3504 Fax: 03-3209-1500

Foreign Language Website

www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/foreign/english/

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

2014 Shinjuku Coming-of-Age Ceremony

Be a Part of the “Gathering of 20-Year-Olds”!

The “Gathering of 20-Year-Olds” will be held on Coming-of-Age Day—which falls on January 13 this year—to celebrate the milestone of young people reaching twenty years of age during the current fiscal year. All new adults are welcome to participate.



Date and Time

January 13 (Mon., national holiday),
1 to 3 p.m. (Reception will be open
from 12 noon.)

Location

Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo (2-2-1
Nishi-Shinjuku)

Eligibility

Those born between April 2, 1993,
and April 1, 1994. Information was
mailed by the end of November to
those eligible.

Program

Ceremony and buffet party

Inquiries

General Affairs Section, General
Affairs Division (Main Bldg. 3F), Tel:
03-5273-4209

Q & A for Gathering of 20-Year-Olds

Q1 I used to live in Shinjuku City. Can I participate in Shinjuku City’s coming-of-age ceremony?

A1 Yes, you can. Please explain your situation at the reception desk on the day of the ceremony. There is no need to contact the Shinjuku City Office.

Q2 I lost the event information/announcement. What should I do?

A2 You can participate in the ceremony without the information/announcement. Tell the staff at the reception desk on the day of the ceremony that you lost it.

Q3 Although I currently live in Shinjuku City, I used to live in a different municipality. Can I participate in the coming-of-age ceremony in the municipality where I previously lived?

A3 Since procedures are handled differently depending on the local government involved, please contact the municipal office administering your previous address about this.

Q4 If I arrive after reception hours are over, can I still join the ceremony?

A4 Yes, you can, and there is no need to call. Simply go in through the reception area.

The Coming-of-Age Ceremony—Are You Familiar With This Japanese Tradition?

In Japan, a coming-of-age ceremony is a rite of passage that celebrates the milestone of young people reaching the age of twenty, the age of adulthood. Designated as Coming-of-Age Day and originally celebrated on January 15, this is a day to encourage young people to raise their self-awareness as adults and live responsibly. Since 2000, Coming-of-Age Day has been celebrated on the second Monday of January. Most communities now hold this ceremony.



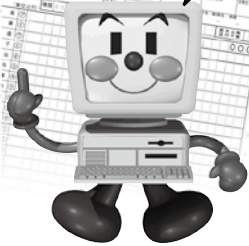
The next issue of *Shinjuku News* will be published in March 2014. *Shinjuku News* is available at various public facilities, including the Shinjuku City Office, Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza, Branch Offices, and public libraries.

Locations for Completing and Submitting

✓ Your Income Tax Report

Complete your income tax report by computer!

The Shinjuku and Yotsuya tax offices will set up a place for completing and submitting income tax reports, donation (gift) tax reports, and individual consumption tax reports for 2013 at Aqua Plaza, located at Shinjuku I-Land B1F (6-5-1 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku).



- Dates:** February 6 (Thu.) through March 17 (Mon.); closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays
- Hours:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; the service counter for submitting reports will be open until 5 p.m.
- Consultation Hours:** 9:15 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- How to Get There:** A five-minute walk from Nishi-Shinjuku Station on the Marunouchi Subway Line, or an eight-minute walk from Tocho-mae Station on the Toei Oedo Line
- Notes:**
 1. There is no place for completing tax report forms at tax offices.
 2. If you simply need to submit a completed tax report form, you can do so at a tax office.

International Exchange Residents' Gathering



Hina Matsuri (Doll Festival)

You can try on kimonos and experience flower arrangement, tea ceremony, calligraphy, and calligraphic painting. The festival will also feature a seven-tier display of hina dolls, a Japanese game corner. Please drop by!

Date and Time: February 22 (Sat.), 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Closing time is subject to change.)

Location: 3F small hall, 4F meeting room, and B1F exhibit hall of Shinjuku Bunka Center

Fee: ¥500 (Free for children of elementary school age and younger)

To Apply: No application is necessary. (Simply come directly to the site on the day of the event.)

Inquiries: Cultural Exchange Division, the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future, Tel: 03-3350-1141



The Twelfth Shinjuku City Half-Marathon/City Residents Health Marathon

Date January 26 (Sun.); will be held even in the case of rain

Location National Stadium (10-2 Kasumigaoka-machi, Shinjuku-ku) and other locations

- Notes:**
 1. Please refer to the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future's website concerning the courses.
 2. The deadline for applying as a runner has passed.

The twelfth Shinjuku City Half-Marathon/City Residents Health Marathon will be run on January 26 (Sun.), with National Stadium as the start and finish line. Let's root for all the competitors and make these races even more exciting! Various events will be going on at Meiji Park to make the day even more fun. "Shinjuku People on Stage" will offer music and dance performances, for example, and there will be exhibits of regional products and refreshment booths for your enjoyment.

Let's cheer for runners together!



Let's Make the Shinjuku City Half-Marathon Even More Exciting!

Tokyo Marathon 2014-Coming-Up-Fast

The Tokyo Marathon, scheduled for February 23 (Sun.), is a major marathon event with the center of Tokyo as the stage, and one in which many city residents participate. The race last year drew 36,000 runners, about 10,000 volunteers and over 1.7 million spectators. With runners in costume, people cheering enthusiastically and holding up huge banners, and performers filling the streets with music and dancing, you can enjoy this event whether you're a participant or a spectator.



● Main Sports Facilities in Shinjuku City

● Shinjuku Sports Center (3-5-1 Okubo)

The center's sports facilities include a jogging course and heated swimming pool, as well as a large gymnasium where you can enjoy such sports as basketball and badminton.

Tel: 03-3232-0171 (in Japanese only)

Hours: 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Closed: Fourth Monday of the month (Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday), during the year-end/New Year holidays (December 29 through January 3), and special holidays

● Okubo Sports Plaza (3-7-42 Okubo)

Besides areas for such sports as tennis and ping-pong, there are areas where you can enjoy *go*, *shogi* (Japanese chess) and karaoke.

Tel: 03-5285-1477 (in Japanese only)

Hours: 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Closed: Third Monday of the month (Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday), during the year-end/New Year holidays (December 29 through January 3), and special holidays

● Shinjuku Cosmic Sports Center (3-1-2 Okubo)

The center is equipped with various facilities, including a large gymnasium, a heated swimming pool, a martial arts hall and a multipurpose studio.

Tel: 03-3232-7701 (in Japanese only)

Hours: 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Closed: Second Monday of the month (Tuesday if Monday is a national holiday), during the year-end/New Year holidays (December 29 through January 3), and special holidays

Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza

The Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza is a place where foreign residents and Japanese can interact. Please drop by!

Address: Hygeia 11F, 2-44-1 Kabuki-cho, Shinjuku-ku 160-0021

Inquiries: Tel: 03-5291-5171, Fax: 03-5291-5172

How to Get There: A 10-minute walk from JR Shinjuku Station's east exit or a five-minute walk from Seibu-Shinjuku Station

Hours: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Closed: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays and during the year-end/New Year holidays (December 29 through January 3)

Website: www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/foreign/english/plaza.html



Recruiting Students for Shinjuku City Japanese-Language Class (January through March)

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

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, January through March, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (Evening classes are on Mondays and Thursdays only.) There are classes that meet once a week and those that meet twice a week. For classes that meet once a week, you may attend at up to two locations. Schedules vary depending on the class location.

Location: 10 locations in the city, including Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza (12 classes)

Fee: Classes that meet once a week—¥1,500
Classes that meet twice a week—¥3,000
Note: There will be no refunds of fees.

To Apply: Write the required information on the application form and either mail or fax your completed form to Shinjuku Bunka Center. In addition to Shinjuku Bunka Center, application forms are available at Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza and the Shinjuku Foreign Resident Advisory Corner in the Shinjuku City Office. The form can also be downloaded via the website of The Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future (<http://www.regasu-shinjuku.or.jp/?p=630>).

Inquiries: Cultural Exchange Division, the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future

6-14-1 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku 160-0022

Tel: 03-3350-1141, Fax: 03-3350-4839

E-mail: bunka@regasu-shinjuku.or.jp

International Exchange Salon

The International Exchange Salon is a place where people who want to make friends with foreign residents and foreign residents who want Japanese friends and to practice speaking in Japanese can get together and enjoy interacting with one another. Since no reservations are required, we hope that everyone will feel free to come join the fun.

Date and Time: Second Friday of the month, 6:45 to 8:30 p.m.

Fee: ¥200

Location: Multipurpose Space, Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza (Hygeia 11F, 2-44-1 Kabuki-cho, Shinjuku-ku)

Inquiries: Cultural Exchange Division, The Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future
Tel: 03-3350-1141 (inside Shinjuku Bunka Center)

Let's Enjoy Learning Together as a Family

Babysitting Services Available

Family Japanese-Language Classes for Foreign Residents



Wouldn't it be fun to learn Japanese with your family? There are babysitting services, so families with infants and toddlers can study in a worry-free environment. You can join in at any time.

Date and Time: Every Saturday from January 11 (Sat.) through March 15 (Sat.), from 10 a.m. to 12 noon for a total of 10 sessions

Location: Okubo Elementary School (1-1-21 Okubo, Shinjuku-ku)

Fee: ¥500 per person (for a total of 10 sessions)

Eligibility: Foreign children and parents whose Japanese is at an introductory or beginner level

Capacity: 20 families on a first-come, first-served basis

To Apply

Send a fax, e-mail, or postcard to Shinjuku Bunka Center (6-14-1 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku 160-0022; Fax: 03-3350-4839; e-mail: bunka@regasu-shinjuku.or.jp). Please be sure to write down (1) the parent's name (including *furigana*) and language he/she usually speaks; (2) the child's name (including *furigana*), age, and language he/she usually speaks; (3) nationality; (4) address; (5) telephone number; (6) fax number (if you have one); and (7) name of the class.

Inquiries

Cultural Exchange Division, the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future, Tel: 03-3350-1141 (inside Shinjuku Bunka Center)

Shinjuku Children's Spring Japanese-Language Class



If you do not know basic Japanese expressions necessary for school life, let's learn them together during spring vacation!

Date and Time: March 26 (Wed.) through 31 (Mon.), 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Location: Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza (Hygeia 11F, 2-44-1 Kabuki-cho, Shinjuku-ku)

Fee: ¥500 (for a total of 6 sessions)

Eligibility: As a rule, classes are open to children to whom either of the following applies:

- (1) Students between the first grade of elementary school and third year of junior high school who are attending a Shinjuku municipal elementary or junior high school and are not fluent in Japanese
- (2) Students between the first grade of elementary school and third year of junior high school who will be attending a Shinjuku municipal elementary or junior high school in or after April 2014 who are not fluent in Japanese

Capacity: 20 students on a first come, first served basis

Join Our Foreign-Language Storytelling Event!

Featuring panel theater shows, songs, finger games (children's songs with accompanying hand movements), and storytelling in various foreign languages!



Storytelling events are held in English and in Korean at the Yotsuya, Kita-Shinjuku and Okubo libraries. People from many countries come to the library to listen to storytelling in various languages and sing songs together.

In this issue we will recap the "Storytelling in English" event held on September 28 at Kita-Shinjuku Library. There were 37 participants, and they clearly enjoyed the panel theater show—which uses a series of pictures to help tell the story—and singing together in English. Some children acted shy at first, but they were drawn in by the pictures and words that appeared on the panels, and as they sang in English together they gradually grew louder and louder, making the event lively and fun.



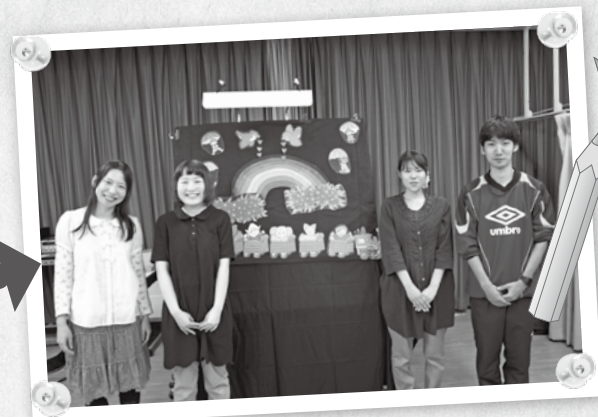
① Singing out loud in English! Let's have fun singing "If you're happy~!"



② Momotaro panel theater story in English. Familiar fairy tales feel brand-new when told in English.



③ A group picture taken at the end. "That was fun!" "I want to come again!"



④ Members of the "Denden-mushi (snail)" panel theater club, which performed at the event. "It was nice to see so many smiles!"

By enjoying songs and plays in different languages, children can become familiar with various cultures and make new friends. Why not join the fun?



From Ms. Yukari Hirose of Kita-Shinjuku Library

People from various countries—including Japan, China, Korea and the United States—come to the storytelling event. This event makes it possible for participants to become familiar with various cultures through songs and stories. Please come join the fun! In addition, the people who do the storytelling are members of university clubs and students of neighborhood Japanese-language schools. If you are interested in these events as well, please contact us.

Note: The schedule for storytelling events is announced on an ongoing basis in the city news bulletin, and via the foreign-language city website. Inquiries: User Service Section, Chuo Library, Tel: 03-3364-1421