

What's New?

Niihama City

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Temples and Shrines-Powerhouses of Energy

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I am one of the first Indian women to migrate from India to live in Niihama along with my husband 4 years ago. I have never imagined in my life that I will live outside my mother country because I Love my place very much.

I have lot of faith in worships and prayers. I always believe that visiting temples will give peace of mind and it is a special space in which the inner and outer worlds commune and we can experience Divinity. By true prayers we can achieve anything.

A temple incorporates all elements - presenting the good, the evil and the human, as well as the essence of life - symbolically presenting dharm, kama, artha, moksa and karma. It is a space and structure designed to bring human beings and gods together, infused with symbolism to express the ideas and beliefs in God.

Even in almost everyone's house we do prayers daily two times by offering fruits, flowers and lighting lamp in front of god. By doing this the worshipper is able to uphold a personal and private relationship with God.

Similar to my country I found lots of temples in Japan also. Then I began searching for the history of temples and type of worships. I was amazed to find the similarities in the prayers and method to worship God

In India God shiva is very popular and we have many temples across the country. In Japan, Siva comes in various forms, including Daikokuten , Daijizaiten and Ishanaten. Then the God Brahma who is known as The "Creator." In Japan, Brahma is known as Bonten and is one of the Twelve Deva. Often shown together with Taishakuten.

God , Vishnu is known as The "Preserver." who represents ultimate reality, the all-pervading essence. In Japan, Vishnu appears in numerous forms, including Bichuten Mishichiju and Ungy the latter the closed-mouth Nio Guardian who protects the entrance to the temple

Godesses Indra or Sakra or Śakro devānām indraḥ is a major Hindu god who serves as king of the gods on Mt. Sumeru and as a protector of the Historical Buddha Known as Taishakuten in Japan, one of the Twelve Deva, and often shown together with Bonten Saraswathi, The Hindu goddess of learning, known as Benzaiten in Japan, where she is worshipped as the goddess of music, poetry, learning and art. She is one of Japan's Seven Lucky Gods.

Myo-o(Myō-ō, or Mantra Kings). A class of Hindu deities incorporated into Buddhism. They appear in wrathful forms with furious faces, and multiple heads and arms to frighten non-believers into accepting the teachings of Dainichi Buddha. 12 Deva Guardians are the Deities of the 12 directions in Esoteric Buddhism, including the four directions and four semi-directions, up and down, and sun and moon.

Deva, a Sanskrit term meaning celestial being, is rendered as "Ten " in Japan (the latter literally means Heaven). The Deva are deities borrowed from Hindu mythology and adopted into Chinese and Japanese Buddhism as guardians of the monasteries of Esoteric Buddhist. They appear frequently in the Japanese mandala. Among the twelve, Bonten (Brahma) and Taishakuten (Indra) serve in the highest position.

There are many temples in and around Tokyo such as Shirdi Sai Baba Temple, Iskcon temple etc. The Temple Etiquette followed here sounds almost same as like in temples in my country. Examples are removing shoes before entering, Cleaning your body and mind at Water Place before visiting the main shrine, throwing coin in to offertory box, ringing the bell, burning incense (osenko) in large incense burners etc.

We often worship in temples without knowing much about the significance of each of them. But it is important to acquaint ourselves with the mythology behind a temple, its significance and stories that relate to it. That would make our worship more meaningful.



About Myself:

I am a homemaker living in Niihama along with my husband and our cute daughter. Finished Engineering in Computer Science. I have worked as Lecturer in an Engineering Institution and as Project engineer in a MNC. My family lives in India. I am much interested in cooking, watching movies and designing works in html. I like to walk around Niihama streets and enjoy all matsuri. My future aim is to find a challenging and exciting job. I am also interested in teaching children and helping orphans & elders.

June Events

Niihama City Pool

Open from June 20th to August 31st

Fee: 60 yen for adults, 10 yen for children (up to 2 hours)

Time: June 20th to June 30th Monday to Friday, 12:30 – 17:30
Saturday & Sunday, 9:30 – 17:30

July 1st to August 31st, 9:30 – 20:00

Saturday Evening Market

Every Saturday from June 6th to July 18th, 18:00 – 21:00 at Kikoji Shopping Arcade.

Monthly Special Sunday Market (100 yen Sun-sun Market)

Sunday, June 28th, at Noborimichi Sun Road

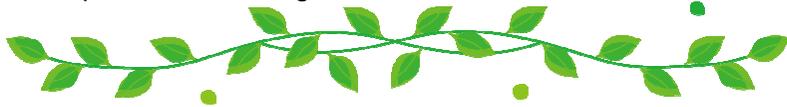


Japanese Speech Contest

Date: June 28th, 13:30 – 16:00

Place: *Sogo Fukushi Center (Fureai Plaza) 2F*

Please come and enjoy listening to the contest. The speakers are all non-Japanese living in and around Niihama and learning Japanese. They will give speeches about their experiences, opinions, and thoughts.



MOVIES

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

April 25 ~	CINDERELLA	2D Dubbed
May 16 ~	The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge out of Water	2D Dubbed
May 22 ~	The Maze Runner	2D English
June 5 ~	The Hunger Games : Mockingjay – Part 1	2D English
June 6 ~	Tomorrowland	2D English
June 20 ~	Mad Max : Fury road (R15+)	2D English

Information Service

Internet: <http://niihama-aeonmall.com>

Tape (24 hrs): 050-6868-5019(in Japanese)

Movies might be changed without notice. Please check.

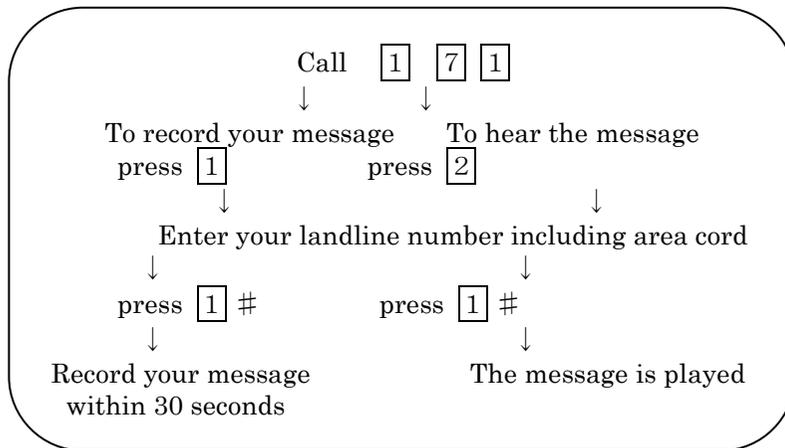
Talk with Your Family about How to Confirm their Safety in case of a Disaster (from Monthly City News, February issue, 2015)

When disaster happens and you are at your workplace or school, you may in many cases not be able to use your call phone. So please predetermine how to confirm your family member's safety in a disaster.

*Disaster Message Exchange Dial 171 for landlines.

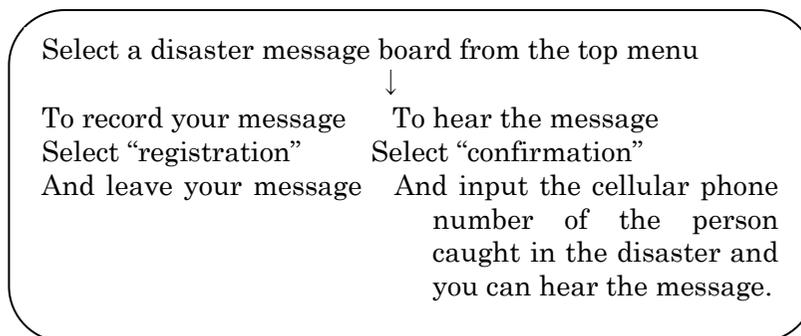
If your family members are caught in a disaster, they can record messages about their safety.

And you can listen to the message from anywhere in Japan.



The service can be tested on the first and 15th day of every month. Please take advantage of a trial use so that you can gain practical experience using the message service.

*Disaster Message Board for mobile phones.

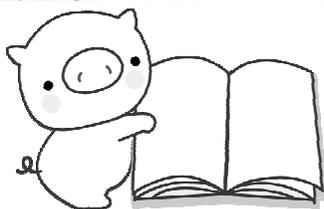


The details of service depend on each cellular phone company.

Additional notes from SGG

There are software applications for smartphones which allow you to use emergency message systems or check the safety of your family or friends. The systems vary from company to company. Please check them.

Machuri's Adventure



SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions, or ideas for monthly articles.

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* The editors for this month are E. Okada and M. Miki.

ONE POINT JAPANESE

掃除する 片付ける しまう 散らかる

A : いつ 来ても、きれいに 片付けて いますね。

Itsu kite mo, kirē ni katazuite imasu ne.

(Whenever I visit your house, it is neat and tidy!)

B : 実は、二人で 分担して 掃除 しているんです。

Jitsu wa, futari de buntanshite soji shiteirun desu.

(Actually, we divide the cleaning between the two of us.)

お風呂と トイレは 彼、キッチン周りは 私の 担当です。

Ofuro to toire wa kare, kitchin mawari wa watashi no tantō desu.

(He does the bath and toilet, and I'm in charge of the kitchen area.)

A : 部屋の 掃除 は? Heya no soji wa?

(How about your room cleaning?)

B : 時間がある 方が すること になっています。

Jikan ga aru hō ga suru koto ni natte imasu.

(Whoever has time does it.)

A : 食事の 後片付け は? Shokuji no atokatazuke wa?

(What about washing dishes?)

B : いつも 一緒に しています。 Itsumo isshoni shiteimasu.

(We always do it together.)

A : ラブラブですね。 Raburabu desu ne. (Lovey-dovey!)

A : 近くまで 来たから、寄って みた けど……。

Chikaku made kita kara, yotte mitan da kedo…….

(I was in the area, so I dropped in ...)

B : わあ、久しぶり! 散らか ってるけど、よかったら 上 がって!

Wa, hisashiburi! Chirakatteru kedo, yokattara agatte!

(Wow, it's been a long time! It's a mess, but if that's OK, please come on in!)

A : じゃ、お邪魔します。 Ja, ojama shimasu. (Well, thank you.)

B : テーブルの 上、ちょっと 片付け ね。

Teburu no ue, chotto katazukeru ne.

(I'll clear the table off a bit.)

A : 平気、平気。全然 気 に ならないから。

Hēki, hēki. Zenzen kini naranai kara.

(I don't mind. I don't mind at all.)

T : 今から 抜き打ち テストを 始 めます。 Imakara nukiuchi tesuto o hajimemasu. (Now, we're going to have a pop quiz.)

S : えーっ! Ee! (What!!)

T : テキストと ノート、携帯 は、机 の 中 に しま ってください。

Tekisuto to nōto, ketai wa, tsukue no naka ni shimatte kudasai.

(Please put your textbooks, notebooks, and cell phones in your desk.)

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

Feel free to contact us at: Tel **0897-34-3025** (Manami Miki).

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