

MOVIES

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

- December 1 ~ **The Exorcist : Believer** Sub
- December 8 **Wonka** Dub
- December 15 ~ **Wish** Sub / Dub
- December 15~ **Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie** Dub
- January 12 ~ **Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom** Sub

Movies might be changed without notice.
So please check the homepage for information.

Information Service

Internet: niihama-aeonmall.com

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



This newsletter is published by SGG, a volunteer group that helps foreigners living in and around Niihama. If you need any advice, information, or support, please contact SGG.

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

email: sheep@abeam.ocn.ne.jp
yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp
k.toshiko.0305@gmail.com
hayatine@nbn.ne.jp



* [The editors for this month](#) are N. Negoro & T. Oishi.

ONE POINT JAPANESE

「～べき」の使い方
(How to use 'should')

A : Bさん、また 牛丼ですか。
B-san, mata gyūdon desu ka?
(B-san, are you eating Beef bowl again?)

B : おいしいし、手軽だから 昼は 牛丼って 決めてるんだ。
Oishishi, tegaru dakara hiru wa gyūdon tte kimeterun da.
(Yes. It's delicious and easy, so I make it a rule to eat it for lunch.)

A : わかりますけど、栄養バランスも 考えるべきですよ。
Wakarimasu kedo, eiyō baransu mo kangaeru beki desu yo.
(I know, but you should think about nutritionally balanced meals.)

B : わかった。次は サラダも 付けるよ。
Wakatta. Tsugi wa sarada mo tsukeru yo.
(Got it. Next time I'll add a salad.)

A : すみません。ちょっと 熱っぽいので、早退しても いいでしょうか。
Sumimasen. Chotto netsuppoi node, sōtai shitemo īdeshō ka.
(Excuse me, I feel a little feverish, so could I leave work early?)

B : もちろん。仕事のことは 心配しないで。
Mochiron. Shigoto no koto wa shimpai shinaide.
(Of course. Don't worry about the work.)

A : 一晩 寝れば 大丈夫です。明日は 出勤します。
Hitoban nereba daijōbu desu. Ashita wa shukkin shimasu.
(If I get a good night's sleep, I'll be OK. I'll come to work tomorrow.)

B : 無理しないで。ゆっくり 休むべきだよ。
Murishinaide. Yukkuri yasumu beki da yo.
(Take care. You should get plenty of rest.)

A : 彼女、何で 怒ってるのかな。
Kanojo, nande okotteru no kana.
(I wonder why she is angry.)

B : それは、直接 本人に 聞くべきだと思いますよ。
Sore wa, chokusetsu honnin ni kiku beki da to omoimasu yo.
(I think you should ask her about it directly.)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.
Feel free to contact us at:
Niihama Kokusai Kōryū Kyōkai (Niihama International Center)
Tel:0897-65-1579 E-mail: niihamashikokusai@gmail.com

What's New?

Niihama City

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A Japanese-American Identity: Stories From My Childhood David Ryo Shimamoto

Our rich social and cultural environments shape our various identities. How we view ourselves and how others view us is not fixed; rather, our identities shift according to our surroundings and evolve as we gather new experiences. Our identities are not simply a matter of personal possession, either. Whether they are accepted or rejected by others can profoundly influence us. My identity as a Japanese American has been subject to such circumstances. If I may, I would like to tell a couple of stories that illustrate this.

I was raised in the United States to a third-generation Japanese-American father and a Japanese mother. My mother was steadfast in her desire for my brother and I to maintain, at least to a small degree, a Japanese identity. When we were kids, she sent us to an extracurricular Japanese language school. A primary motive of this school was to help Japanese children, who were temporarily living in America, preserve their Japanese identity. Textbooks were those that were used at public schools in Japan, and we even had typical Japanese school events, such as undoukai in the spring and mochitsukitaikai in the winter. All of my classmates were native speakers of Japanese, as I was the only American student learning Japanese as a second language. Studying at

this school was challenging. I constantly found myself severely unmotivated to even get in the car to go to this school. I viewed myself as an American and did not see the purpose of learning Japanese. In short, my identity did not align with my classmates' or the goals of the school.

Things could not have been more different when I attended Kitayoshii Elementary School near my grandparents' home in Toon City. Every summer from first to sixth grade, I took classes at this school like a normal Japanese student. At first, the culture and language barrier was difficult, but gradually, I started having fun. One of the main reasons for this was that my identity as an American student was not just acknowledged but valued at the school. My classmates and teachers often asked me questions about American life. In return, students were eager to teach me about Japan. Through these intercultural encounters, I made friends whom I still keep in touch with to this day. Because my identity was accepted with open arms, I enjoyed my time at Kitayoshii Elementary School and began to appreciate the utility of my Japanese skills.

Reflecting on these memories, it is ironic that my Japanese identity developed at the school that valued my American identity. This is not to say that I negatively view the experiences at my Japanese school in America; if it weren't for them, I wouldn't be the person I am today. However, it was undoubtedly the local elementary school in Ehime that helped me realize how precious my Japanese identity could be. This kindled my curiosity towards other cultures and set me on the path of an adventurous life, in which I have lived in two different countries and traveled to thirty others. And now, I have just begun a fulfilling career as an English teacher at Niihama Kosen, helping students develop their sense of identity as English speakers.

Just like my childhood, I am certain that my identity as a Japanese American will continue to take shape in unexpected ways. With every passing year here in Japan, will my Japanese identity grow stronger? As I become more integrated into Japanese society, what will become of my American identity? In what situations will my Japanese-American identity be valued by society? I hope to share these stories with you in the future.

Mr. David Ryo Shimamoto is from the USA. He has been living in Japan for seven years. He is currently an English teacher at Niihama Kosen.



Foreign residents compete in Japanese speech contest

(Ehime Shimbun: November 17, 2023)

The 18th Japanese Speech Contest was held at Akagane Museum (2 chome, Sakai-cho, Niihama) on November 12th. Twenty-three foreign residents from ten different countries living in Niihama city competed, talking about their lives in Japan, cultural differences, future dreams, etc.

The contest was held for the first time in four years by "Niihama Nihongo-no-Kai", a twenty-one member group that teaches Japanese language to technical intern trainees and foreign students. The contestants were divided into five categories based on their language ability, and were judged on expression, delivery, grammar usage and so on.

Jung Jaeun from South Korea (44), a staff member of the Niihama International Center, won first place in the advanced group. She talked about Korean food culture with many kinds of soup.

Bhandari Ashwin (28) from Nepal, a technical intern trainee, was awarded the gallery prize by the audience for his speech about the deep emotion he felt upon reaching the top of Mt. Fuji. He spoke, "My mental horizon has been broadened to see the amazing natural beauty".

-Sakai Toshihiro

Yamashita Kiyoshi: 100th Anniversary of Birth Exhibition

(Hoo-Ja! December 9, 2023 VOL. 463)



2022 marked 100 years since the birth of the genius, nomadic painter Yamashita Kiyoshi. An exhibition of his work is being held at Akagane Museum. About 190 work of art including "Harie" (images created by arranging and

pasting small pieces of various color paper) and pen drawings of the landscapes he saw in Japan and abroad are on display. Also being shown is a thirty-minute documentary film in which Kiyoshi himself appears, working on "Harie" and speaking in his real voice. The exhibition runs until January 21st, 2024. Museum hours are 9:30AM to 5:00PM every day, with final entry by 4:30PM. The museum will be closed from December 29th to January 1st, and again on January 9th. Elementary school students and under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. For further information call 0897-65-3580.

Niihama City Art Museum (Akagane Museum 2F) is ¥1,200 for adults, ¥1,000 for 65 and over, ¥800 for senior high school and university students and free for junior high school students and under.

January Events

☆ **January 13th (Sat) New Year's concert**

Seto Philharmonic Orchestra

2:00pm~4:00pm Bunka Center

Fee: S seats ¥2500 A seats ¥2000

☆ **January 28th (Sun) Sansan Market**

9:00am~12:00am Noborimichi Arcade



The 32nd Global Party

- Date: February 11th (Sun) 1:00pm~3:30pm
- Venue: Niihama Women's Plaza
- Fee: ¥500/person Free for children 6yrs and below
- How about wearing your national costume or trying Japanese Yukata?
- Learn some fun dance moves!
- Meet some new friends!
- Have some drinks and snacks.
- Choose some Japanese tableware or kimono from the Giveaway Corner.



Online Information in English from Niihama City

☆ **A Guide for Living in Niihama**



☆ **The Niihama Medical Institution Map**



☆ **How to Sort Your Trash and Garbage**



☆ **What's New? in English**



☆ **Niihama Tourist Information**

<https://niihama.info/>



☆ **Help with legal matters, discrimination, insurance, etc Japan Life Guide**

(Nationwide service) multilingual



☆ **Yoriso Helpline for foreigners**

[TEL:0120-279-338](tel:0120-279-338) 10:00 a.m.~10:00 p.m.

Multilingual Your privacy will be protected.