

What's New?

Niihama City

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The World of Cosplay

Emily Didion

I first heard about cosplay when I started getting into anime about ten years ago. Back then, I knew very little about Japan or anime, and my access to the Internet was limited. So, while I watched Sailor Moon and Gundam Wing and other series on TV, I read countless anime and gaming magazines, and in photos I saw people going to conventions dressed up as their favorite characters. I had always loved to dress up, but Halloween costumes could not compare to the spectacle I was seeing in those photos. I decided as soon as I had the chance, I had to give cosplay a try, and I finally had the opportunity in my second year of college in 2007.

For my first attempt at cosplay, I decided on Princess Ai, the main character of a short manga series. I was a little

nervous going to my first convention, but my fears were immediately relieved when a girl at the convention recognized my outfit, and ran to give me a hug. I had never met her before, and I never even learned her name, but because we shared an interest in the same character, I instantly felt a connection with her. As I walked around the convention, taking pictures of other cosplayers and having my picture taken in turn, talking to people about what kind of anime and characters they liked, I felt like I had entered another world, one that was friendly and encouraging. Through cosplay, I had come to a place full of people who were just as interested in Japan, anime, and costumes as I was; I realized I was not alone.

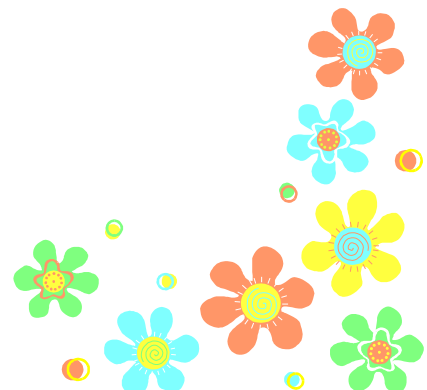
In America, particularly the Midwest, you can order some of the more popular costumes online, but for anything else, you must make your own, from clothes to shoes and even accessories. My Princess Ai costume had involved more cutting fabric up than sewing it, so it had been perfect for an inexperienced cosplayer like myself, but I vowed to get my mother to teach me how to sew properly, for next time. In the following years, with her help, I made two more costumes, Aeris from Final Fantasy VII, and Lenalee from the manga/anime series D. Gray-man.

Through an exchange program between The Ohio State University in America and Ichimiya Group in Niihama, I am working in Japan as an intern until August of this year. It was a little disappointing to find out that, especially on Shikoku,

there are not many opportunities to cosplay in big groups. Also, it seems like the majority of Japanese cosplayers buy their costumes rather than make them. Though it may be more convenient to buy a ready-made costume, I feel like it's much more rewarding for me to make my own.

I may not be able to cosplay while I am here on my internship, but while I continue to study and work in Japan, I am also looking forward to returning home and beginning a new project. This time I am planning on cosplaying as Princess Garnet from Final Fantasy IX, my favorite video game. It looks like I will have to employ some new techniques to make her costume, and it will take time and effort, but I am sure that, like any journey, working toward the finished product will be half the fun!

Emily Didion started her internship with Ichimiya Group in September 2009, and is currently working for Nissen Chemical Corporation in Niihama. She has too many hobbies to count, but enjoys cooking, music, and writing. Her biggest dream is to become a published fantasy novelist.



JUNE EVENT

* June 6(Sun)14:00~16:00

Niihama Citizens' Mixed Chorus Group Concert

at Niihama City Bunka Center ¥1000 free for students

* June 6(Sun)14:00~

Chopin Greatest Hits Piano Recital by Krzysztof Jablonski

at Saijo City Sogo Bunka Kaikan

¥3000, ¥1500 for students

for tickets at Yamaha Niihama

* June 12(Sat)18:30~20:30

the 32th Niihama Mandolin Club Concert

at Niihama City Bunka Center

¥300

* June 20(Sat) Niihama City Swimming Pool Opening

June 20~30 opening hours: 12:30~17:30(Mon-Fri)

9:30~17:30(Sat&Sun)

July 1~August 31 opening hours: 9:30~20:00

Fee: Adults ¥60 / 2 hours

JHS students and under ¥10 / 2 hours



the 8th JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST

by the people learning Japanese

June 20(Sun) 13:30~16:00

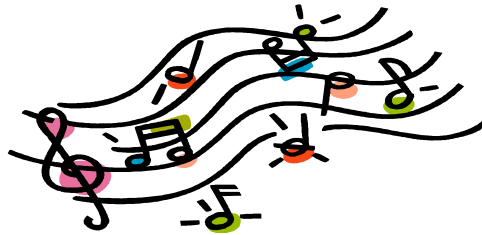
at Fureai Plaza 2F (the south of Niihama Police Station)

free entrance

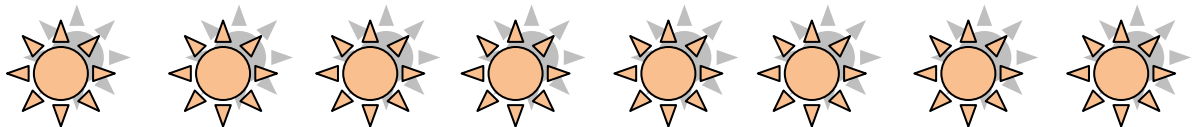
* June 27(Sun)14:00~

Piano Recital by Keiko Akizuki(graduated from Niihama West HS, Kunitachi College of Music and Toho Gakuen School of Music Graduate School.)

at Niihama City Bunka Center ¥1500, ¥1000 for students



The contributor for this month is E. Ishikawa.



About the solstice

Q: Day time is the longest at the summer solstice in June, while it is the shortest at the winter solstice in December. What is the difference in length between the two?

A: About 5 hours.

This year, the summer solstice falls on June 21st.

On that day the daytime in Tokyo (from sunrise to sunset) will be 14 hours 35 minutes, while during the winter solstice on

December 22nd it will be 9 hours 45 minutes.

The further north, the greater the time difference between summer and winter solstices.

About the earth

Q: The earth rotates once every day.

So how many times faster than the Shinkansen Bullet train, are we moving?

A: 4-5 times as fast.

We don't feel the speed we are moving because we are moving at the same speed as the earth.

In fact, Tokyo is speeding along at 1360 km per hour.

The nearer to the equator we are, the higher the speed that we travel at. We remain on the Earth's surface because of the force of gravity, which is much greater than the centrifugal force of the spinning Earth.

Split and grilled eels.

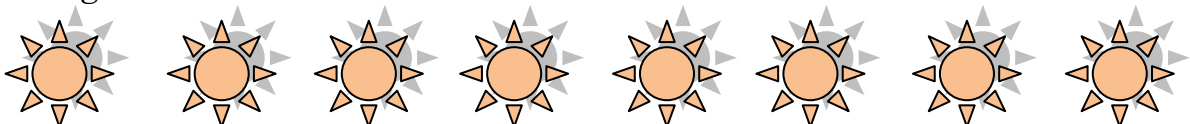
Q: On a certain day in summer, lots of split and grilled eels are sold, and many people buy and eat them. What is that day?

A: Doyo no Ushi no Hi (the hottest day of the summer).

The day comes around late July or early August, as it varies by several days depending on the year.

A man named Gen-nai Hiraga is said to have made the eel eating habit popular

during the Edo period, It was introduced to prevent summer fatigue.



MOVIES

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Shopping Center)

April 17 ~	ALICE IN WONDERLAND	English/Dubbed
May 14 ~	GREEN ZONE	English
May 28 ~	PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME	English
June 4 ~	SEX AND THE CITY II	English
June 11	IRON MAN 2	English
June 19 ~	THE BOOK OF ELI	English

Information Service

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

Tape (24 hrs): 0897-35-3322 (in Japanese)



<Contributed by Adam Schartup>

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

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ONE POINT JAPANESE

“あそぶ”

A : 子どもの時、よく 外で 遊びましたか。

Kodomo no toki, yoku soto de asobimashita ka.
(Did you often play outside when you were a child?)

B : ええ、友達と 暗くなるまで、遊んだものです。

Ee, tomodachi to kuraku naru made asonda mono desu.
(Yes. I would play with my friends until dark.)

A : 夏休みの 計画は、もう 立てましたか。

Natsu yasumi no keikaku wa mō tatemashita ka.
(Have you made plans for the summer holidays yet?)

B : ええ。Ee. (Yes.)

東京へ 遊びに行こうと 思っています。

Tokyo e asobi ni ikō to omotteimasu.
(I'm thinking of going to Tokyo for fun.)

A : うらやましいですねえ。Urayamashi desu nē.

(Oh, I'm jealous!)

一人で 行くんですか。Hitori de ikun desu ka.

(Are you going alone?)

B : いいえ、国から 両親が 遊びに来ることになって いるんです。

Iie, kuni kara ryōshin ga asobini kurukoto ni natte irun desu.

(No, my parents will come and visit me from home.)

A : 滞在期間は？ Taizaikikan wa?

(How long are they going to stay?)

B : 一週間の 予定です。Isshūkan no yotē desu.

(About a week.)

A : じゃ、あまり ゆっくり 遊べませんね。

Jā, amari yukkuri asobemasen ne.
(Well, they can't spend a lot of time leisurely.)

A : あっ、もう こんな 時間！ A, mō konna jikan !

(Ah, it's very late.)

そろそろ 失礼しないと…。Sorosoro shitsurē shinaito….

(I'd better go now.)

B : もっと ゆっくり して いて ください。

Motto yukkuri shite itte kudasai. (Please stay longer.)

A : ありがとう ございます。Arigatō gozaimasu.

(Thank you very much.)

きょう たの
今日は とても 楽しかったです。

Kyō wa totemo tanoshikatta Desu
(I've had a very good time today.)

B : また 来て くださいね。 Mata kite kudasai ne.
(Come and see me anytime.)

A : 今度は わたしの 家にも 是非 遊びに 来て ください。
Kondo wa watashi no uchi nimo zehi asobi ni kite kudasai .
(I really want you to come to my house next time.)

< by *Niihama Nihongo no Kai* >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in . Niihama
Feel free to contact us at ~Tel : **080-3920-0529** (Takako Hattori).
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