

# What's New?

Niihama City

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## *South Louisiana Matsuri*

By

Audra Lambert



Every year at winter's end, people around the world become excited about a very unique holiday. In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Venice, Italy this famous holiday is called Carnival, and it is called Shrovetide in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Although in different places it has different names, where I am from in Louisiana, we call this holiday Mardi Gras. Mardi Gras came to Louisiana from France. Mardi Gras means Fat Tuesday in French. About 300 years ago, when Louisiana was first settled by the French, they brought with them the annual tradition of Mardi Gras. Even today, Mardi Gras is a very proud tradition in my home of South Louisiana.

Mardi Gras is more than one day, it is actually a season. It begins on the 6th of January, known as King's Day or the Epiphany to Roman Catholics. King's Day gets its name from a story in the Christian Bible. In the story, 3 Kings from the East came to honor newborn Jesus in Bethlehem on that day. This day is also the traditional end of the Christmas season. The Mardi Gras season lasts until Mardi Gras Day. The date for Mardi Gras depends on the Roman Catholic Church calendar—Mardi Gras is always the day before Ash Wednesday. Therefore it is 41 days before the Catholic Easter Sunday, a big spring holiday for Christians. This year, Mardi Gras day will be on Feb. 16,

2010. Mardi Gras day is usually from mid-February to early March, and it is the last festival before the start of the Lent season. Lent is a time of mourning for Catholics. The Mardi Gras colors are green, purple, and gold; green for Faith, purple for Justice, and gold for Power.

Mardi Gras is called the Best Free Show on Earth, and for good reason. At the start of every parade, policemen zoom by on motorcycles clearing the road for the parade. Then the colorful spectacle that is a Mardi Gras Parade begins! Marching bands and dancers walk by in the parade. Everyone is wearing green, purple and gold clothes, and some people wear masks. Every parade has moving platforms called 'floats' pulled by trucks that can be over six meters tall. On every float members from a Mardi Gras Krewe stand wearing costumes. Mardi Gras Krewes are organizations of people who hold parades during Mardi Gras. They throw things like bead necklaces, candy, toys, and special fake coins called Doubloons to people in the crowd. Everyone wants to catch these objects, so people line up on the sides of the road that the parade is on. To catch these objects, you have to shout loudly 'Hey! hey!' or 'Throw me something Mister!' There are also songs that are famous during Mardi Gras season, such as 'Iko Iko' or 'Mardi Gras Mambo.'

During Louisiana's Mardi Gras, everyone meets friends and family to eat delicious Cajun food together such as gumbo, and jambalaya, and to share a King Cake. King Cakes are delicious pastries that are only eaten during Mardi Gras. They have an oval shape, and are covered with icing in the Mardi Gras colors (green, purple, and gold.) They come in many flavors. Inside every king cake is a small baby Jesus figure, slightly smaller than a marble. It reminds everyone about the birth of Jesus and the story of the three kings.

If you get a chance, please go and celebrate Mardi Gras yourself! Like any festival, it is something that must be experienced to really appreciate it. So, have fun, and laissez le bons temps rouler! (Let the good times roll!)



Audra Lambert is an ALT for Saijo City in Ehime prefecture. This is her first year teaching in Japan. This year, in place of marching in Mardi Gras, she proudly marched behind her Saijo Matsuri danjiri.

# The 20th Niihama Global Party

## "Hello Again"

If you are looking for a party with a lot of fun, please join the Global Party, where you can have a good time talking, tasting various sweets, enjoying performances on stage and meeting people from different cultures.

Please don't miss this chance, come and find the fun. Let's have a wonderful time !

This is a tea party (instead of a potluck party).  
Please come after you finish your lunch.



**Date :** Sunday, 14th February, 2010

**Time :** 13:00 to 15:30

**Venue :** Niihama Women's Plaza

Address : 4-4-9 Shonai-cho , Niihama-shi  
Phone : 0897-37-1700



**Admission :** ¥500/person to be paid at the reception.

(Free for children of 6-year-old and under)

Volunteer help in preparation of various sweets is warmly welcomed. If you are interested, please contact the people below.

Organized by : The Global Party Association

& SGG Niihama

Sponsored by :Niihama City Office  
& Niihama Board of Education  
Enquiry : Ms. Okame 0897-34-8914

[yasumi@galaxy.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:yasumi@galaxy.ocn.ne.jp)

Mr.Yamamoto 0897-55-8808


[haru0841@ybb.ne.jp](mailto:haru0841@ybb.ne.jp)




## About Garbage and Trash Collection: P.S.

from the Monthly City News, January 2010

### ★ Recyclable plastic containers and packaging

even with this mark , if they are not completely clean, must go into **Burnable** because they cannot be recycled.

★ Plastic without this mark  goes into **Burnable** because it cannot be recycled.

★ **Bottles and Cans** should be put directly into the containers at the garbage station. Please take the plastic bags back home.



## **Five Industrial Heritage Sites in Niihama have been registered as Tangible National Cultural Properties. (2)**

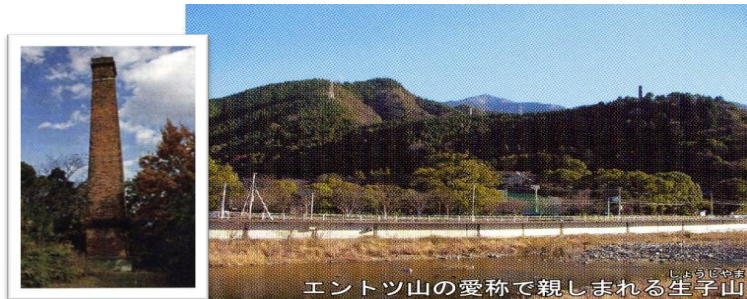
(from the monthly City News 2009/8)

This time we will introduce another remaining site.

### ④ The Old Yamane Refinery Chimney

The Yamane refinery was built in 1888 and was designed by Iwao Iwasa, a professor at Tokyo University. He was invited to Niihama by Hirose Saihei, the general manager of Sumitomo and became involved in abstracting chemicals like sulfuric acid from low quality copper ore which had been dumped and also refining iron contained in that ore. Unfortunately the process was found to be unprofitable and the refinery was closed 6 years later.

However, the chimney has now existed for 122 years and is one of the oldest reminders of Japan's heavy chemical industry. The mountain on which the chimney is sited is called Entotsu yama by locals, meaning Chimney Mountain because of the old chimney made of red bricks. As a symbol of Niihama, it has been a silent witness of the development of Niihama.



# MOVIE

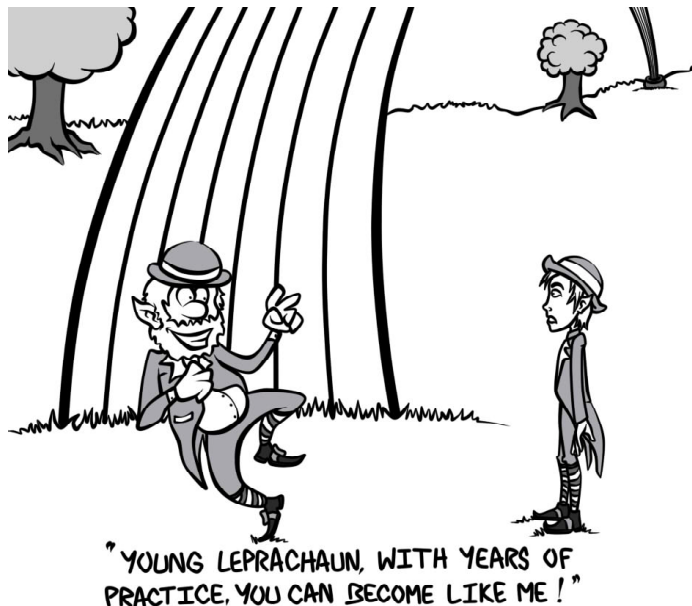
## TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Shopping Center)

December 23 ~	AVATAR	English/Dubbed
January 15 ~	WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE	Dubbed
January 22 ~	OCEANS	English
January 22 ~	SURROGATES	English
January 23 ~	THE IMAGINRIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS	English
January 29 ~	THE LOVELY BONES	English
February 5 ~	INVICTUS	English
February 19 ~	IT'S COMPLICATED	English
February 26 ~	PERCYJACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTING THIEF	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.

email: [yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp](mailto:yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp)

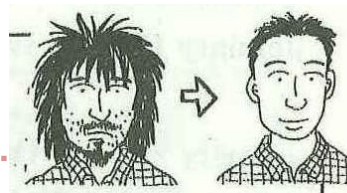
[kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp)

[sheep@abeam.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:sheep@abeam.ocn.ne.jp)

The editors for this month are Eiko Kato & Taeko Oishi.

## ONE POINT JAPANESE

### いろいろな“さっぱり”(1)



A : 髪を切ったんですか。

Kami o kittan desu ka. (Did you have your hair cut?)

B : ええ、実はあした、面接試験があるんです。

Ee, jitsuwa, ashita mensetsu shiken ga arun desu.

(Yes. Actually, I have a job interview tomorrow.)

A : そうですか。Sōdesu ka. (Really?)

さっぱりして、いい感じになりましたね。

Sappari shite, ii kanji ni narimashita ne.

(You look refreshed and very nice.)

・スポーツジムで Supōtsu jimude (At a fitness gym)

A : 汗びっしょりになりましたね。

Ase bisshori ni narimashita ne.

(We are sweating all over, aren't we?)

B : シャワーを浴びてきましょう。

Shawā o abite kimashō. (Let's take a shower.)

・しばらくして Shibarakushite (After a while)

A : ああ、気持ちよかった～。

Aa, kimochi yokattā. (Ah, that felt great!)

B : ああ、さっぱりした!

Aa, sappari shita! (Ah, I'm refreshed!)

・レストランで resutoran de (At a restaurant)

A : 何にしますか。

Nan ni shimasu ka. (What will you have?)

B : カロリーが少なく、さっぱりしたものにしたいな。

Karori ga sukunakute, sappari shita mono ni shitai na.

(I'd like to have low-calory and plain food.)

C : わたしも食欲がないので、さっぱりしたものがいいです。

Watashi mo shokuyoku ga nai node, sappari shita mono

ga ii desu. (I don't have any appetite either, so plain food

would be good.)

A : わたしはスタミナラーメン 大盛!

Watashi wa sutamina rāmen ōmori!

(I'll have a large serving of STAMINA RAMEN!)

・食事の後で Shokuji no ato de (After lunch)

A : ラーメン、思ったよりさっぱりしてて、美味しかったですよ。

Rāmen, omotta yori sappari shitete, oishikatta desu yo.

(The ramen was lighter than I expected and very good.)

< 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).

e-mail : pxyfy438@ybb.ne.jp