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WEB PAGE

Hiro C.D.C. Center

Hiro Community News Letter

Boy's Day Festival & Kintaro of Mt. Ashigara

In this issue, we delve into the "Tango no Sekku" (Boy's Day Festival), tying it to the May edition. This festival, originating as a court tradition during the Heian period, later spread among the common folk during the Edo period. Over time, customs such as raising carp streamers, decorating with irises and mugwort, and eating rice dumplings and *kashiwa-mochi* became well-established.

A figure often associated with this time of year is "Kintaro," and here's a quick refresher on his story. Kintaro was born deep in the mountains of *Ashigara* (a mountain range in the western part of *Kanagawa* Prefecture), where he lived with his mother. From the moment of his birth, he was incredibly strong, to the point of dragging a millstone behind him. *Kintaro* befriended the mountain animals, particularly enjoying wrestling with bears.

One day, a warrior from the capital heard rumors of *Kintaro*'s feats and invited him to the city. Saying farewell to his mother and the animals, *Kintaro* made his way to the capital... There, as he grew older, he met *Minamoto no Yorimitsu* and became one of his retainers. At this time, he took the name "*Sakata Kintoki*."

As a member of *Yorimitsu*'s household, he became one of the legendary "*Four Heavenly Kings*"—*Watanabe no Tsuna*, *Urabe no suetake*, and *Usui Sadamitsu*—known throughout the land for their many exploits. *Sakata Kintoki*, under the command of *Minamoto no Yorimitsu*, fought off numerous monsters and villains.

One of his most famous achievements was his role in defeating the monstrous *Shuten Doji* (Sake-drinking Demon) of *Ōe* Mountain. During the *Heian* period, there were many mysterious disappearances in the capital. Through the divination of the *onmyōji Abe no Seimei*, it was revealed that these incidents were the work of the demon king, *Suten Doji*, who lived on *Ōe* Mountain. The demon had been kidnapping beautiful women, stealing treasures, and consuming human flesh.

Minamoto no Yorimitsu led *Kintoki* and the Four Heavenly Kings on a mission to eradicate the demon. With *Seimei*'s guidance, they learned that *Shuten Doji* had the ability to transform and wield powerful magic. Furthermore, his minions were fond of sake. With this knowledge, *Yorimitsu* and his men used alcohol to lure the demons and launched their attack. In the end, they defeated *Shuten Doji* and saved the people of the capital. The tale of *Kintaro* has become a symbol of "courage," "friendship," and "growth," representing the hopes for children's development. Let's all come together to cheer on the young ones who will one day vanquish the fearsome *Shuten-Doji*.

Director Hosokawa

2025

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Information from Hiro C.D.C. Registration Starts on May 20th (Tue.)

① Early Summer Standing Swag

Target: 18 years and older
Date & Time: Fri June 27th, 10:00 - 12:00
Location: Hiro Civic Center
Fee: ¥2,600
Capacity: First 10 applicants

② Reversed-Out Text Created with Fude

Target: 18 years and older
Date & Time: Wed June 25th, 10:00 - 12:00
Location: Hiro Civic Center
Fee: ¥900
Capacity: First 15 applicants

③ Challenge of Creating Insect Specimens

Join us for an opportunity to create specimens of summer insects such as beetles and grasshoppers. This activity also contributes to scientific research.

Target: 1st to 9th graders of school (Ages 6 to 15)
 ※ under 3rd graders must be accompanied by a guardian
Date & Time: Sat July 12th
 ①11:00 - 12:00 ②13:00 - 14:00
Location: Hiro Civic Center
Fee: ¥400
Capacity: Each Group First 10 applicants

Information from Hiro Library

Opening Hours: 9:30 AM to 8:00 PM
 ☞ Closed on Thursdays and Public Holidays
April Closed Dates: 1st (Thu), 3rd (Sat, Constitution Memorial Day), 4th (Sun, Greenery Day), 5th (Mon, Children's Day), 8th (Thu), 15th (Thu), 22nd (Thu), 29th (Thu)
Note: There will be no picture book reading sessions in May. **Inquiries:** Hiro Library

Population of HIRO (at the end of Feb.)
 (in comparison to Jan.)
 Population 42,568 (-98)
 ●M E N 20,600 (-51)
 ●WOMEN 21,968 (-47)

Too much food is being wasted by the wealthy. The ones who desperately need it are the poor and the suffering. Yet, the extravagance of a few robs them of this essential resource. Therefore, the wealthy should practice modest eating. Not only will it not harm their health, but it will also lead to a healthier body. *Mahatma Gandhi*

How about Walking with us?

◎ **Event Date:** Tue May 20th, 2025
 ◎ **Meeting Place:** Hiro Civic Center
 ◎ **Meeting Time:** 9:00AM

Course: Yasuniyama Tunnel Walk - 7km

Hiro Civic Center → Nijimura Bridge → Yasuniyama Tunnel → Kuramoto Street → JR Kure Station (disband at Kure Station)

*Please note that the event may be canceled or the course may be changed due to weather or other circumstances.
 *For recreational insurance purposes, please sign in at the reception.

Announcement for Circle Activities 2025

If you're interested, please inform the Hiro Community Development Center. The center will contact the group representative and get back to you with further details. ☎ 71-2151

Schedule for Circle Activity Groups at Hiro C. D. C. 2025			
Group Name	Room	Day	Activity Time
Sports Wellness Fukiya Aki Tsubaki Branch Club	702	2nd & 4th Sat	13:30~15:30
Rattan Craft	605	2nd & 4th Thu	13:00~15:00
Ball Exercise Class	602	1st & 3rd Tue	14:00~16:00
Ikebana Sogetsu Akatsuki	504	2nd Tue	9:00~12:00
English Conversation	605	2nd & 4th Thu	9:00~12:00
Etegami Circle Hiro Class	504	1st & 3rd Sat	9:30~12:30
Hiro Dance Sports Club	702	1st & 3rd Tue	9:00~12:00
Manabi Ballet	702	Every Sat	17:30~20:30
Strength Training Group	602	1st & 3rd Thu	9:30~11:30
Energetic Exercise	602	2nd & 4th Fri	9:30~11:30

Reflection My Experience Short-Term Course Personal Account of Making Mini Gugelhupf Cakes

This time, I attended a sweets workshop for kids with my son, hosted by **Kudo-sensei** has previously led several kids' bread-making classes at the Hiro



Community Development Center, all of which quickly fill up due to their immense popularity. She is also a mother to elementary and middle school-aged children, and she interacts with the kids in a very kind and gentle manner. Ms. Kudo truly values the children's desire to do something on their own, and she values the



children's desire to do things on their own. Ms. Kudo gives the children the freedom to explore while providing strong support when they make mistakes. The theme for this sweets class, in light of Valentine's Day approaching, was making Mini Gugelhupf Cakes using chocolate cake batter.

Gugelhupf is a traditional pastry, often enjoyed in France and Switzerland, that contains dried fruit and resembles a bread. It has a distinctive shape, featuring a conical design with twisted, wave-like patterns on the outside and a hole in the center. First, we made the chocolate batter. First, we made the chocolate cake batter. The process was simple—just melt, mix, and bake. While the cakes baked in the Gugelhupf molds, we decorated a sponge cake that Ms. Kudo had prepared with freshly whipped cream.

After decorating, we enjoyed a fun tasting time with everyone. It was also a great chance to chat with friends from different schools. When the Mini Gugelhupf Cakes were ready, the room filled with the sweet, fragrant smell of freshly baked goods. The joy of eating something freshly made is truly unmatched. The outside was crispy, and the inside was

light and soft—absolutely delicious. The cakes were then decorated with melted chocolate, cookies, powdered sugar, and candies before being wrapped

up beautifully. Kudo-sensei's workshops, "Handmade Bread Class", "Homemade Fresh Pasta Class", "Sweets Class" are scheduled to be held sequentially starting in April. If you're interested in taking any of these classes, be sure to check the "**Hiro** Community News Letter (**Koho Hiro**)" and "**Kure** City News (**Shisei Dayori**)" for details. Thank you.

(M.U.)

Our office is normally closed on 4th Monday
Next : May 26th Mon.

Short Course: 'Delicious and Fun Medicinal Cuisine' 'Thank You for Your Feedback!'

○I've learned which ingredients are beneficial for maintaining good health
○I've discovered ways to season food without relying on salt. I also now



understand the different types of sugar and their unique characteristics. ○I've gained knowledge about the health benefits of vegetables. ○I was grateful to receive knowledge about medicinal cuisine, and I'm happy to learn that it's possible to prepare these dishes easily. ○I had a lot of fun cooking! Thank you for teaching me how to prepare simple, delicious, and healthy meals. ○My attitude toward cooking has changed.

Before, I would make meals with whatever I had on hand, but now I'd like to incorporate at least one recommended ingredient into each dish. ○I've gotten some great ideas for creating easy, impressive meals. ○The kitchen equipment was well-stocked, which was very convenient.



○I now understand the unique qualities of various ingredients. ○I was able to make dishes easily with familiar ingredients, and I'm inspired to try these recipes at home.

○It was great how simple the recipes were, and they turned out delicious. Thank you!! ○I've learned which ingredients are good for my health and how to select them based on my physical condition.

○As someone who was completely new to cooking, I'm glad to have learned the necessary steps and cooking methods.

○The simple cooking techniques were very helpful and inspiring.



Information from HIRO Collaboration Center

At **Hiro** Collaboration Center, we continuously post information on volunteer recruitment and events related to volunteering, community building, and local activities.

Within the center's exhibition space, you can find local information papers, organizational newsletters, and maps of **Kure** City area.

If you're interested in learning more about volunteering or local information, feel free to drop by **Hiro** Collaboration Center on the 4F of **Hiro** Civic Center.

Opening hours: 9 AM to 5 PM

Closed: Wednesdays

Contact: ☎ 71-0321



Information from HIRO Sports Association

46th HIRO Town People Ground Golf Competition

Date & Time: May 13th (Tue) 8:30 meeting

If it rains, games will be postponed to May 14th (Wed)

Location: **Hiro** Park Ground (**Kure** City **Hiro** O-Shingai)

Eligibility: Those who live in **Hiro** and those who belong to GG clubs in **Hiro**

Application: Please submit your documents to **Hiro** Sports Association Office by Fri Apr 18th. You may also fax them to 73-5034.

Participation Fee: ¥500/person *Please pay on the day!*

◆**Contact:** **Onji Mitsunori** (☎ 73-0485)



67th HIRO Town People OBs Soft-Ball Game

Date & Time: May 18th (Sun) 8:30 meeting

*The game will start after the Opening Ceremony

※Canceled in case of rain

Location: **Nijimura** Park Multipurpose Plaza

Eligibility: Over 40 years old who live in **Hiro**

Participation Fee: ¥2,500/team *Please pay when you apply.*

Application: Please ensure your submissions reach **Hiro** Sports Association Office between Fri Apr 25th, and Wed May 7th, by 5 PM. *Deadline strictly enforced.*

◆**Contact:** **Hiro** Sports Association Office ☎ 71-2151



Results of the 9th Hiro Town and Surrounding Areas Soft Volleyball Tournament

《Free Division》 《180 Division》 《Queen Division》

Champion: **Satton** Champion: **Haguremono** Champion: **BONDS**

Runner-up: **Smile A** Runner-up: **Smile B** Runner-up: **PEANUTS**

Editorial Note Words Associated with 'May'

The month of "May" is associated with various terms, such as "May Dolls," "May Flags," and "May Carp," all of which are linked to the traditional "Children's Day" (**Tango no Sekku**). The "May Dolls" are part of the "Substitute Belief," where the dolls are thought to take on misfortune to protect the children. Particularly, the warrior-themed dolls are displayed to wish for the healthy growth of boys. Another word related to May is "五月蠅い" (means May Flies, pronounced **URUSAI**), which ironically means "Noisy" or "Annoying." This term is said to originate from the persistent buzzing of flies during the old lunar May. In the "**Makura no Soshi**," a classic text written during the **Heian** period, **Sei Shonagon**, a famous writer of the time, refers to flies as "detestable and unattractive," indicating that they have long been considered a "Nuisance." Although, one might also feel a bit sorry for the flies, as they are simply seeking food to survive. As the new fiscal year begins, with many people experiencing changes due to advancement in education or new jobs, I hope that, like the legendary **Kintaro**, they face this season with wisdom and courage and manage to overcome the challenges of "May Sickness."



(S.H.)