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WEB PAGE

# HIRO

Hiro C.D.Center

## Hiro Community News Letter

Ooharae, Nagoshi-no-Harae & Ajisai-Mamori

As June arrives, so does the rainy season, but we can feel summer gradually approaching. Let's delve into the large grass ring found at shrines in late June. This ring, known as "*Chinowa*," is made from a plant called *Chigaya*.

The *Chinowa* is part of a traditional ritual to cleanse oneself of sins and impurities. In Japan, it has long been believed that various impurities arise in daily life, and thus, the "*Ooharae*" ritual using *Chinowa* is performed twice a year to purify these impurities. In December, the ritual is called "*Toshikoshi no Ooharae*," preparing people to welcome the new year with a purified mind and body. The ritual performed at the end of June is known as "*Nagoshi no Harae*." The *Chinowa* is passed through three times in a figure-eight pattern — left, right, and left again—to cleanse the impurities of the first half of the year and pray for a safe second half.

However, the specific practices may vary by shrine. In some regions, instead of *Chinowa*, "*Katashiro*" is used for purification. *Katashiro* are paper or straw dolls shaped like humans, onto which impurities and misfortunes are transferred, then cast into rivers or seas, or burned in a purification ceremony. This is known as "*substitute belief*," where the doll takes on the misfortunes in place of the person. It is said that in the Heian period, Abe no Seimei also used *Katashiro* for divination. Additionally, there is another June purification ritual called "*Ajisai Mamori*." This involves wrapping hydrangea flower branches in Japanese paper or washi, tying them with red and white strings, and placing a note inside with one's birthdate, name, and wishes. These are then hung under eaves or at entrances.

*Ajisai Mamori*, talisman, is believed to bring good fortune and ward off misfortunes, with varying powers depending on the region. Hydrangeas are a representative flower of June, and their large, rain-soaked blooms are a beautiful sight.

Why not make an amulet with a hydrangea this year? We hope that everyone in the *Hiro* district will have a peaceful second half of the year. **Director Hosokawa**



2025  
June

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Population of HIRO (at the end of Mar.)  
(in comparison to Feb.)  
Population 42,372 (-196)  
● M E N 20,500 (-100)  
● WOMEN 21,968 (-96)



Just being a little smarter or knowing more than others doesn't really matter. If you are proud of such things, you are already a loser. Don't be prejudiced. Whether someone is a noble or a beggar, if they have something to teach, I will learn from them.  
**Sakamoto Ryoma**

## Information from Hiro C. D. Center

Registration starts on June 20<sup>th</sup> (Fri.)

### ① Summer Homework Strategy Course 'Painting' ~How to draw Posters~

**Participant:** Elementary School Pupils  
※Children 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> graders must be accompanied.  
**Date and Time:** ① Sun. Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> 13:00~16:00  
Any 1 Day ② Mon. Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> 13:00~16:00  
**Participation cost:** ¥500 ※Guardians not required  
**Seating Capacity:** Each class 15 (first come, first served)

For Kids



### ② Summer Homework Strategy Course 'Calligraphy' ~Key to writing grade-specific assignments and names neatly~

**Participant:** Elementary & Junior High School Pupils  
※Children 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> graders must be accompanied.  
**Date and Time:** Tue. July 29<sup>th</sup> 10:00~12:00  
**Participation cost:** ¥900 ※Guardians not required  
**Seating Capacity:** 15 (first come, first served)



For Kids

### ③ Porcelain Art (Porcelain Ceramics) ~Create Your Own 'Cute' with Porcelain Art!~

**Target Participant:** Ages 3 and up  
※preschoolers must be accompanied by a guardian  
**Date and Time:** Sat. July 26<sup>th</sup> 10:00~12:00  
**Cost:** ¥400 + additional ¥1000-¥2000  
※Guardians not required  
**Seating Capacity:** 10 (first come, first served)



For Kids & Adults

### ④ Make Your Own Hand-Drawn Fan with 'ONORESHO'

"ONORESHO" is truly a one-of-a-kind calligraphy, meaning 'calligraphy of one's own.' Letting your brush run freely, expressing your worldview joyfully.

**Participant:** 1<sup>st</sup> graders and up  
※Under 2<sup>nd</sup> graders must be accompanied by a guardian  
**Date and Time:** Sat. July 19<sup>th</sup> 10:00~12:00  
**Participation cost:** ¥900 ※Guardians not required  
**Seating Capacity:** 10 (first come, first served)

For Kids & Adults



## Hiro Cultural Federation Spring Festival

The "*Hiro District Spring Cultural Festival*" was held over 2 days on Sat April 12<sup>th</sup>, & Sun April 13<sup>th</sup>.

As in previous years, many people attended, enjoying stage performances in the hall and exhibitions in the lecture rooms. This year, the stage performances in the third-floor hall featured 12 groups, showcasing a delightful mix of seasoned skills and lively movements from children, making for an enjoyable experience.

The exhibition of works included contributions from four ikebana (flower arranging) groups, displaying the fruits of their daily practice. Additionally, on Sun 13<sup>th</sup>, "tea ceremony" was held in 5F, where members of "*Enshu School of Tea Ceremony's Hiro Branch*" warmly welcomed many guests. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended.

Furthermore, the various cultural groups are always looking for new members. If you are interested in any of the groups, please feel free to contact us.

**Director Hosokawa**



## Introduction of Short Courses of Hiro C.D.C. What Did You Think? Let's Make Jam Cookies!

○They explained everything in vivid detail.  
○It was such an enjoyable experience.  
○I was thrilled to successfully make jam cookies.  
○Getting hands-on experience cooking was wonderful!  
○Learning how to make cookies was truly insightful.  
○I cherished the fun of creating them with friends.  
○I now have a much clearer understanding of the cooking process.  
○Making cookies was a delightful experience, and I'm so glad I learned the method.  
○It brought me joy to craft something entirely by myself.  
○Participating in the session was so worthwhile—I think making cookies, with all its intricacies, helped develop my proactive skills.  
○It immensely enjoyable activity.  
○I loved trying my hand at cookies I'd never made before and gaining so much knowledge along the way.  
○It was wonderful to interact with friends throughout the process.  
○I followed the recipe and created cookies from scratch—it was such a fulfilling task.

○Opportunities to cook are rare for me, so this was an exciting experience.  
○If there's another cookie-making workshop in the future, I'd love to join again.  
○Next time, I'd like to try baking a cake.

## 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



**Our office is normally closed on 4<sup>th</sup> Monday**  
**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June** **CLOSED**

## From Hiro Sports Association 56<sup>th</sup> Hiro Town & Suburban Open Table Tennis Tournament

**Date & Time:** Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:00~ Opening ceremony  
**Venue:** Kure City General Gymnasium (*Shishinyo* Oak Arena)  
**Qualifications for Participation:**

- (1) Those who reside in **Hiro** district and adjacent areas (**Aga/Gohara/Nigata** district)
- (2) Those who work at companies, schools, government offices, shops, etc. in **Hiro** district
- (3) **Hiro/Aga/Gohara/Nigata** Community Development Center table tennis class students and instructors
- (4) Students and pupils enrolled in schools in **Hiro** district and adjacent areas (**Aga/Gohara/Nigata** district)

**Participation Fee:** General section ¥500, Junior high school students and below section ¥200 ☞ Collected at reception on the day. If you cancel on the day of the event, you will be charged a participation fee.

**Application Destination:** Hiro C.D. C.

☆ **Hiro** Sports Association Office

☞ Submit the prescribed application form.

**Application Deadline:** Sun, June 22<sup>nd</sup> 17:00

**Hiro** Sports Association Office ☎ 71-2151 ☎ 73-5034

Please avoid wearing white & wear clothes suitable for the match.

## 56<sup>th</sup> Hiro District Junior Soft Tennis Tournament

**Date:** Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup>, 9:00~ Opening ceremony  
**Place:** National **Kure** Technical Counlege Tennis Court  
**Eligibility:** \***High school division:** Students enrolled in high schools in **Hiro** district and **Kure** Municipal High School, and students of National **Kure** Technical College (up to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade)

\***Junior high school division:** Students enrolled in schools in the **Hiro** district

**Participation Fee:** Free

**Application Deadline:** Tue. May 20<sup>th</sup>

**Application Destination:** **Hiro** Sports Association Office

☎ 71-2151 ☎ 73-5034

**Contact Person:** **Yatsu** ☎ 73-5351 ☎ 090-8363-1400

## Information from Hiro Library

**Opening Hours:** 9:30 AM to 8:00 PM Closed on Thursdays and public holidays

**Closed days in June:** 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>

\***Baby Toddles Babar Picture Book Exhibition**

**Date & Time:** June 24<sup>th</sup> (Tue) 10:30 to 11:10

**Location:** 6F of **Hiro** Civic Center, Room 604



## How about Walking with us?

**Event Date:** Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Meeting Point:** JR Kure Portopia Station

**Meeting Time:** 9:30 AM



**RAIN OUT!**

**Course:** **Tenou Hydrangea Road 6km**

JR **Kure** Portopia Sta. → Hydrangea Road → **Kamijo** Park (Lunch Break) → JR **Yoshiura** Sta.

**Note:** Participants are free to bring their own lunch.

The course may be subject to change due to weather or other circumstances.

**Contact:** **Hori** 080-1919-6088

Please sign in at the reception for recreational insurance.

| Hiro Sta. | Shin-Hiro Sta. | Kure Portopia Sta. |
|-----------|----------------|--------------------|
| 8:40      | 8:43           | 9:06               |
| 8:57      | 9:00           | 9:21               |

## Information from Hirohiro-ba First Daddy Workshop 2025

We stand by men who want to relish the joys of parenting and quality time with their families.

**Who Can Join:** Fathers and grandfathers with children aged 0-2 years. **Date and Time:** Saturday, June 21, 2025, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. **Location:** **Hirohiro-ba** Training Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the **Hiro** Civic Center.

**Content:** "Rhythmic Fun with Dad!"

**Capacity:** Limited to 15 **Fee:** Free

**Registration:** Reservations are required and open from Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Simply scan QR code to sign up.

For further inquiries, please contact the Kure City Healthy Parenting Support Center "Hirohiro-ba"

**Phone:** 76-1616 **Email:** kosodate@key.ocn.ne.jp



## Editorial Note Snails & Slugs are Different Creatures

When I was young, I often saw snails on hydrangea leaves during the rainy season. Snails, also known as "**dendenmu-shi**", are not insects but belong to the mollusk family. Most snail shells in Japan spiral to the right, while left-spiraling shells are extremely rare. If you spot one, take a moment to observe it closely. The average snail moves at a speed of 1.3 cm/hour, managing to cover only 31.2 cm/a day. Although snails and slugs have similar appearances and movements, they are different creatures. Snails are born with their shells as part of their bodies, and removing the shell would be fatal, so a snail without its shell does not become a slug. It seems that snails in parks have become less common in recent years. On rainy days, I feel like rereading the picture book "**Dendenmushi no Kanashimi**" by Nankichi Niimi.



(S.H.)