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The Origins & Customs of Tanabata and Fumizuki

When we think of July, many of us imagine the romantic tale of *Orihime* and *Hikoboshi*—two celestial lovers who are allowed to cross the Milky Way and reunite just once a year, on the night of *Tanabata*. But July holds more than just that timeless legend; let's take a closer look at the deeper cultural beauty this month offers. In traditional Japanese naming, July is known as *Fumizuki*, often interpreted as "the month of letters." One popular theory traces its origin to *Fumihirazuki*, referring to the ancient custom of writing poetry on *kaji* leaves as offerings during *Tanabata*, a tradition rich in literary spirit. During *Tanabata*, there is a custom of eating *somen* noodles, whose long, flowing strands resemble the Milky Way and the threads *Orihime* is said to weave. This practice is rooted in a Chinese folktale: on July 7th, an emperor's child, who had passed away, was believed to have returned as a malevolent spirit spreading illness. To appease the spirit, people offered *sakubei*—a rope-shaped sweet the child had loved. As this tradition crossed the sea to Japan, *sakubei* gradually evolved into *somen*. In some regions of old Japan, people even competed to see who could make the longest noodle—another charming thread in the tapestry of *Tanabata* customs. *Tanabata* decorations themselves carry deep symbolic meaning. Bamboo branches are adorned with charms such as *kinchaku* (pouches), symbolizing wishes for financial well-being; *toami* (casting nets), expressing gratitude for the ocean's bounty and prayers for a good catch; *kanikoromo* (paper-*kimono*), hoping for skill in sewing and for a life free from want; and *fukinagashi* streamers, which represent weaving threads and honor *Orihime*'s craft. The tradition of writing wishes on colorful paper strips called *tanzaku* began with hopes for improvement in arts like poetry, calligraphy, and sewing. The 5 colors of the *tanzaku*—**red, black** (or **purple**), **blue** (or **green**), **white**, and **yellow**—are said to bring good fortune when used together, a belief rooted in the Chinese philosophy of the **Five Elements** (*Wu Xing*). This philosophy views the world as composed of 5 elemental forces: **fire** (red), **water** (black), **wood** (blue), **metal** (white), and **earth** (yellow). Over time, in Japan, black was often replaced with purple due to its inauspicious connotations, and the term "blue" came to include shades of green, as the Japanese word *ao* (blue) traditionally refers to both. As summer unfolds, why not reflect on these meanings while crafting your own *Tanabata* decorations? In understanding the layers of tradition behind each paper strip and charm, the celebration becomes all the more meaningful.

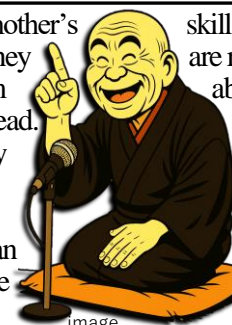
As the heat of summer begins to rise, may we all stay healthy and well in both body and spirit.

Director Hosokawa



Published monthly on the 10th No 342 Population of HIRO
 【Editorial and Publishing Office】 As of the end of April,
 Hiro Community Development Center compared to March
 〒737-0112 Total 42,207 (-65)
 2-1-3 Hiro Koshingai Kure-City OM E N 20,461 (-39)
 ☎ 71-2151 ☎ 73-5034 ●WOMEN 21,846 (-26)

When you observe another's skill of *Rakugo*, "They are unskilled," it means they are roughly at your own level. If you find them about equal, then they are actually quite a bit ahead. And when you truly admire their skill, they have journeyed far beyond you. Being favored and lifted up by those above is not your own strength. Even if you become an outcast, rejected by all sides, I resolved to rise through my own power alone. Kokontei Shinshō



Information from Hiro C.D.C. Registration starts on July 20th (Sun.)

① Delicious & Enjoyable Herbal Cuisine Cold Prevention Through the Lens of Traditional Eastern Medicine

Participant: Ages 18 and above
Date & Time: Sep. 3rd (Wed)
 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Participation Cost: ¥1,900
Capacity: 16 (first come, first served)



For Adults

② Children's Baking Workshop Let's Make Decorated Cupcakes

Participant: 1st - 6th Graders
 (*accompanied by a guardian for 2nd graders and below)
Date & Time: Aug. 29th (Fri)
 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Participation Cost: ¥1,500 (fee free for guardians)
Seating Capacity: 16 (first come, first served)

For Elementary School Students



③ Handmade Pasta Workshop for Parents and Children ~Today's Our Lunch is Carbonara!~

Participant: 1st - 9th Graders & Guardians
Date & Time: Sep. 7th (Sun)
 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Participation Cost: ¥1,100/a person
Capacity: 12 (first come, first served)



For Parents & Children

Information from Hirohiro-Ba Hiro Hiro Ba' Summer Festival

Target: 0-2 years old, preschool children over 3 years old (Note: Siblings of participating preschoolers can participate)
Date: Saturday, July 5th, 2025, 10:30-12:00
Place: Hiro Civic Center, 3F Hall
Content: Performance by LCF, a student volunteer circle from Hiroshima International University
Capacity: No capacity limit
Registration: No registration required
Fee: Free **Inquiries:** "Hiro Hiro Ba"



From Community Collaboration Center Kure Talk, What You Want to Do & About This Town

Want to get more involved in the community or unsure where to start? Why not begin by sharing what's on your mind? Sometimes, a simple conversation can offer helpful tips. Join us for a casual roundtable discussion and feel free to participate!
Date: Fri. July 25th, 2025, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM
 (*You can join or leave anytime during the session.)
Location: Hiro Collaborative Center (Hiro Civic Center 4F)
Target Audience: Residents of Kure City Participation
Fee: Free **Registration:** Not required **Phone:** 25-5602
Inquiries: Kure Collaborative Center
 ☎ Tue. to Sat.: 9:00-20:00 Sun. & Holidays: 9:00-17:00
 *Closed on Mondays If that day is a national holiday, the following day

Information from Hir-Library

Opening Hours: 9:30 AM to 8:00 PM
 Closed on Thursdays & Public Holidays
Closed days in July:
 3rd · 10th · 17th · 21st · 24th
 *Picture Book Exhibition July
 There will be no picture book session in July.



Severe heatstroke requires immediate action if symptoms like dizziness, nausea, headache, muscle cramps, or confusion occur in a hot environment.

Introduction of Short Courses of Hiro C.D.C. Thank You for Your Feedback! The Mimosa Swag Workshop

"The detailed, attentive guidance I received was exceptional." "The instructor patiently and steadily led me through the process, without any rush." "With the teacher's assistance, I successfully completed my work and felt delighted to be praised for it." "The instructor's meticulous approach is always admirable." "The quality of the teaching was so impressive that I'm eager to participate again."

"Shaping the swag was challenging, but in the end, I created something stunning! It's all thanks to what I learned." "It was a joy to arrange seasonal flowers. Since I can't usually gather such materials myself, this was a wonderful opportunity." "Being able to bring home a beautiful creation to admire adds so much value." "I was thrilled to work with my favorite mimosa and craft my first-ever swag." "The fragrance was soothing, and the gentle instruction made it a truly enjoyable experience." "There's both the delight of making something and the joy of decorating my home with it." "I'm always grateful for the teacher's assistance. I've wanted to create a swag for ages, and it was so much fun." "Although I struggled to get it right this time, I'm motivated to do better next time!"

To All Users of the Facility and Grounds

If a "Heatstroke Special Alert" is issued in Hiroshima Prefecture, extreme heat is expected, and there are serious concerns about the potential health impacts, including heatstroke. In the event of such an alert, the use of the Nijimura and Tagaya Grounds, as well as indoor facilities without air conditioning, may be suspended. If you wish to cancel your reservation, please contact our center.

The "Heatstroke Special Alert" is issued by the Ministry of the Environment around 2 p.m. the day before when the predicted Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) for the following day is expected to exceed 35°C at all heat index reporting stations across the prefecture. We ask for your continued understanding and cooperation.

Hiro Community Development Center

Our office is normally closed on 4th Monday
Next : Mon. 28th July

From Hiro Sports Association 37th Hiro Badminton Tournament

Date & Time: Sun. Aug. 10th, 2025, 9:00 AM Opening Ceremony
Venue: Kure City General Gymnasium (*Shishinyo* Oak Arena)
Participation Categories: ① General Division (Doubles)
② Junior Division (Singles for

Elementary & Junior High School students)
Eligibility: *People live in *Hiro*, students attending schools in *Hiro*, and people working at businesses in *Hiro*
Participation Fee: General Division: ¥500 • Junior Division: ¥300
Application Deadline: Sat. July 19th, 2025
Office: Hiro Sports Association Office (5F Hiro Civic Center)

31st Hiro Kyudo Tournament

Date & Time: Sun. Aug. 24th 2025 Opening Ceremony 9:00 AM
Venue: Kure Municipal Kyudo Range (Short Distance Target)
Eligibility: People who live in *Hiro*, students attending schools in *Hiro*, & people working at businesses in *Hiro*
Participation Fee: General Division: ¥300

High School Division: Free
*Please pay the fee at the venue on the day
Application Deadline: by Tue. Aug. 5th, 2025
Office: Hiro Sports Association Office (5F Hiro Civic Center)
For inquiries: Kyudo Captain **Seiki Shindo** ☎ 080-6988-1754

Sports Bowling Class 2025

Instructor: Professional Bowler *Yoshimi Takemoto*
Instructor: *Toru Sakimoto*
Date & Time: Sun. Aug. 24th, 2025 9:30 AM
Venue: Ten Point Bowling, 2-6-39 *Hiro, Shiraishi, Kure City*
Eligibility: Elementary and middle school students living in *Hiro* area, along with their guardians.

Capacity: 40 participants (First come, first served)
Participation Fee: ¥500/a person (at the venue on the day)
Registration: Hiro Sports Association Office
Inside the *Hiro Civic Center* 5F

➡ Please submit the designated application form.
You can submit it in person or via fax at (0823) 73-5034.
Inquiries: *Toru Sakimoto* ☎: 72-4511 📠 Fax: 71-0324



Event details & the application form (front and back), and brochures are available at both the Ten Point Bowling and the Hiro Community Center. You can also download them from the Hiro Community Center's website.

Results of 45th Hiro Townspeople Ground Golf Tournament

Date: Tue. May 13th **Place:** *Hiro Park Stadium*
Organizer: Hiro Sports Association
participants: 61 (16 holes)

rank	name	hits	H.I.O	rank	name	hits	H.I.O
1st	Funaki Fumiko	30	2	6th	Omori Toyohiro	35	1
2nd	Higashi Takehiro	34	2	7th	Kondo Chuyoko	36	1
3rd	Yamamoto Hironobu	34	1	8th	Ishimoto Shoji	36	1
4th	Yamamichi Yasumasa	35	2	9th	Araki Kazue	36	1
5th	Hamano Akio	35	1	10th	Tsuboi Nobufumi	37	1

Gymnastics Class Announcement

Date: Tuesday, July 15th, 2025
Location: Hiro Civic Center, 7F Room701
Registration Time: 9:00 AM
Important Notes: Please bring workout attire, indoor shoes, and a towel.
Drinks will be provided.
For recreational insurance purposes, please sign in at the registration desk.
For inquiries: *Hori* ☎ 080-1919-6088

Instructor:
3B Gymnastics
Miori Fujii

Editorial Note Tanabata Night, Magpie Gather Milky Way

On the night of *Tanabata*, *Orihime* and *Hikoboshi* cross a bridge to meet each other. This bridge is known as the "Magpie Bridge," formed by a flock of magpies spreading their wings. In ancient Japanese legend, magpies have long been considered birds that bring good fortune. If rain falls, the magpies cannot take flight, and the lovers are left on opposite sides of the Milky Way. This rain said to be the tears they shed in grief, is called "rain of longing". This legend has long been cherished, woven into countless verses and poems over the centuries. *Sugawara no Michizane* once expressed his yearning in these words: "Oh, magpies who weave a bridge for *Hikoboshi* as he waits for his beloved—if only such a bridge would appear for me, so that I might reach the one I long for..." and *Kiyohara no Motosuke* expressed: "The mist upon the Milky Way clears with the breeze of a fan, unveiling a sky so pure that even the Magpie Bridge stands in crisp relief..."

Through these poetic verses, one can feel the deep longing of separated lovers and the quiet devotion of the magpies who make their fleeting reunion possible—a tale to be passed down through generations, ensuring its beauty endures. I would like to pass these poems on to my children and grandchildren.

The magpie is a global symbol of luck and happiness, a celestial bridge for lovers, a messenger of wisdom, and a bearer of fate.