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Web Site

Hiro-Community-Development Center

KOHO HIRO

Hiro-Community Newsletter February

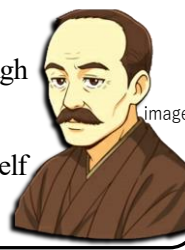
Crossing a Seasonal Gate: The Traditions of Setsubun

As the New Year settles in, the next seasonal milestone we observe in Japan is **Setsubun**. Originally, the word referred to the four points that mark the shift between seasons, but because the old lunar calendar viewed spring as the start of the year, **Setsubun** came to mean specifically the day before spring begins. This year it falls on Tuesday, February 3, though the date can vary—some years it has been on the 2nd or the 4th. When people think of **Setsubun**, they often think of scattering roasted soybeans, drinking **fukucha**, decorating with sardines and holly, and more recently, enjoying **ehō-maki**. These familiar customs trace back to an older court ritual known as **Tsuina**, practiced in the **Heian** period. Adapted from an ancient Chinese rite, it was performed to drive away illness and misfortune at the turn of the season. In Japan's imperial court, it became a major year-end ceremony in which a figure called the **Hososhi**, wearing a four-eyed mask and carrying a halberd and shield, symbolically chased away evil as he moved through the palace. Over time, **Tsuina** blended into the life of ordinary people, and the belief that grains carry protective power helped shape the modern practice of bean-throwing. Roasted soybeans, thought to embody vitality, are tossed to expel misfortune and pray for good health in the coming year. Eating one bean for each year of one's age is also customary, though it can be quite a challenge as the years add up. In such cases, a cup of **fukucha**—hot water poured over three roasted beans with a touch of kelp (**konbu**) and plum (**umeboshi**)—is said to bring the same good fortune. The use of sardines and holly likewise reflects the spirit of **Tsuina**, as these were traditionally believed to ward off harmful influences. **Ehō-maki**, by contrast, is a relatively new addition, often said to have begun with **Osaka** merchants who created a thick **sushi** roll inspired by the Seven Gods of Good Fortune. Despite its name, the “**first day of spring**” arrives during some of the coldest days of the year. This seasonal threshold has long been considered a moment requiring special care. As we move through midwinter, I hope you stay warm, stay healthy, and enjoy a peaceful beginning to the year. **Director, Hosokawa**



Published monthly on the 10th No.349 Population of HIRO
【Editorial and Publishing Office】 At the end of November, compared to October
 Hiro Community Development Center
 2-1-3 Hiro Koshingai, Kure City, Total 42,025 (-23)
 Hiroshima 737-0112 ●M E N 20,368 (-6)
 ☎ 71-2151 ☎ 73-5034 ●WOMEN 21,657 (-17)

Our first words and gestures upon meeting someone often shape the course of our lives. Rather than aspiring to be a great moon that shines only by borrowing the sun's light, we should strive to be a small flame that glows by its own power. To know what is enough is, in itself, a form of happiness. And when you have something to say to another person, say it fully and with clarity. If you cannot bring yourself to speak the whole truth, then it is better to remain silent from the start. —Mori Ōgai



Information from Hiro C.D.C. Registration starts on Fri, Feb 20

①Let's Make Icebox Cookies

Participants: Elementary school students (Grades 2 and under must be accompanied by a guardian)
Date & Time: Thu, March 26, 10:00–13:00
Venue: Hiro Civic Center, 6F Room 603
Fee: 1,500 JPY **Capacity:** 16 participants



②Senchado (Ogasawara-Ryu)

Participants: Ages 18 and up
Dates: Apr 10, May 8, Jun 12, Jul 10, Aug 14, and Sep 11 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Time: 13:00–15:00
Venue: Hiro Civic Center, 6F Room 605
Fee: 4,800 JPY **Capacity:** 15 participants



③Feel the Energy: Yosakoi Seated Dance & Strength Exercises for a Vibrant You!

Target: Ages 18 and up (elementary and junior high school students may attend with an adult)
Dates: April 4 & 18, May 16 & 30, June 6 & 20
Schedule: 6-session course **Time:** 19:00–21:00
Venue: Hiro Civic Center, 7F Room 701
Fee: 2,400 JPY **Capacity:** 20 participants
 Please note that for items ② and ③, registration will begin on February 20, as the event is scheduled for April. However, payment will be required in April.



Information from HIRO Collaboration Center

The Hiro Collaboration Center regularly posts information on volunteer opportunities, as well as events related to volunteering, community building and local initiatives. In the center's exhibition space, visitors will find local newsletters, organizational bulletins, and maps of neighborhoods throughout Kure City. Those interested in volunteering or learning more about the local community are warmly invited to visit the Hiro Collaboration Center on the 4th floor of the Hiro Civic Center.
Hours: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. **Closed:** Wednesdays **Inquiries:** Tel:71-0321



Information from Hiro Library

Opening Hours: 9:30 AM – 8:00 PM
Closed: Thursdays & National holidays
February Closures
Thursdays: 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th
National holidays: 11th (Wed) & 23rd (Mon)
***Babar Picture Book Storytime in Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Kure City Library**
Date & Time: Sat, Feb 21 10:30 AM–11:10 AM
Location: Hiro Civic Center, 6F Room 604



Community Walking Excursion

●**Date:** Tue. Feb 10, 2026
 ●**Meeting Place:** Hiro Civic Center
 ●**Meeting Time:** 9:00 AM
Course: Around the Nijimura Park 4km

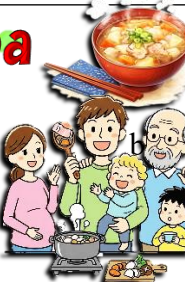


Hiro Civic Center ~ Around the Nijimura Park ~ Hiro Civic Center

*The event may be canceled or the course may be changed due to weather or other circumstances.
 *Please sign up for recreational insurance at the reception.
 *For inquiries, contact Mr. **Hori** at 080-1919-6088.

News from Hirohiro-ba "Papa Seminar" series III

We warmly invite fathers and grandfathers—current and soon-to-be—who are raising children (ages 0 to 2, or preschoolers aged 3 and up) to join us for a special family-centered event.
Event Title: “Let's Share a Meal: Pork Miso Soup, Made by Dad”
Date & Time: Saturday, February 7 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Location: Kure Civic Center, 6th Floor – Kitchen Room 603
Capacity: Limited to 15 families (first come, first served)
Fee: 300 JPY **Registration:** Begins Thu, Jan 15 by phone
Inquiries & Registration: Kure City Sukoyaka Childcare Support Center **Hirohiro-ba** Tel: 76-1616



Information from HIRO Sports Association

Results of the 66th Hiro Town Students Judo Match

Date: Sun, Nov 16, 2025, 10:00 a.m. **Participants:** 25
Venue: Shishinyo Oak Arena (Kure City General Gymnasium)
**All participants are affiliated with the Hiro Judo School.*

Kindergarten Division

1st: Tsumugi Tokumitsu
 2nd: Yuya Ishii

1st Grade Division

1st: Ryoma Taka
 2nd: Taisei Kinoue

2nd Grade Division

1st: Amane Yoshinaga
 2nd: Toya Ishii

3rd Grade Division

1st: Sora Fujiwara
 2nd: Tairiku Demizu

4th-5th Grade Division

1st: Juichi Nishioka
 2nd: Hiromu Uematsu

6th Grade Division

1st: Kyoya Taka
 2nd: Kotaro Yoshimoto

Results of the 66th Hiro Town Citizens Kendo Match

Date & Time: Sun. Nov 23, 2025 9:30 a.m. **Participants:** 61
Venue: Shishinyo Oak Arena (Kure City General Sports Center)

Grade 1 and Below Division

1st: Akari Katayama (Hiro-Kenseikai)
 2nd: Wakana Yoshioka (Aga Kenkokai)
 3rd: Hayato Toyota (Hiro-Shokikai)

2nd Grade Division

1st: Misaki Saito (Aga Kenkokai)
 2nd: Yuika Kubo (Aga Kenkokai)
 3rd: Hikaru Ikeda (Hiro-Shokikai)
 3rd: Mizuki Kado (Hiro-Kenseikai)

3rd Grade Division

1st: Mikuto Yamaguchi (Hiro-Shokikai)
 2nd: Akane Yoshioka (Aga Kenkokai)
 3rd: Serika Kimura (Hiro-Shokikai)
 3rd: Toshiyuki Ishida (Hiro-Shokikai)

4th Grade Division

1st: Miharuru Saito (Aga Kenkokai)
 2nd: Takahito Ochi (Aga Kenkokai)
 3rd: Mikoto Ishida (Hiro-Kenseikai)
 3rd: Koshiro Kano (Aga Kenkokai)

5th Grade Division

1st: Haruto Yamaoka (Hiro-Kenseikai)
 2nd: Takahito Ishida (Hiro-Shokikai)
 3rd: Haruse Kimura (Hiro-Shokikai)
 3rd: Soshi Koshobu (Hiro-Kenseikai)

6th Grade Division

1st: Hayato Masumoto (Hiro-Kenseikai)
 2nd: Atsuto Ikeda (Hiro-Shokikai)
 3rd: Emiru Tsukada (Hiro-Shokikai)



Results of the 60th Prefectural Open Soft Tennis Championship

Date: Sun, Nov 16, 2025, 9:00 a.m. **Participants:** 106
Venue: Kure National Institute of Technology – Tennis Courts

Men's Division

1st: Hirano & Shimagawa (Gōtama)
 2nd: Murakami & Inuyama (Gōtama)
 3rd: Kanekiyo & Harada (Kumano Soft Tennis Club)
 3rd: Matsuo (W) & Nakamura (Kure National Institute of Technology)

Senior Division – Group 1

1st: Ishimoto & Hibara (Kure STC / Coleman Club)
 2nd: Yamamoto & Ono (Hikari Soft Tennis Club)
 3rd: Tanaka & Kamita (Kazuyoshi Utsunoki Club / Iwami Ginza Club)
 3rd: Oka & Inai (STC48 / Japan Air Self-Defense Force – Miho Base)

Senior Division – Group 2

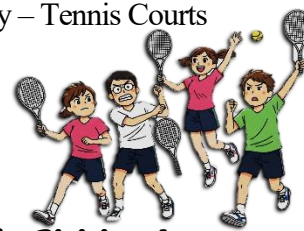
1st: Hayashi & Kakibayashi (Kure Hyakuseikai / Theory K)
 2nd: Fukuda & Murai (Theory K / Kure Hyakuseikai)

Women's Division A

1st: Yashiki & Takenouchi (Kaita Club)
 2nd: Takahashi & Okubo (Kiyomori Club / Theory K)
 3rd: Ota & Matsuo (Kure National Institute of Technology)
 3rd: Yamamoto & Daido (Theory K)

Women's Division B

1st: Yamane & Kinoshita (Ayame / Freed)
 2nd: Ueda & Masumoto (Hiroshima Saturday Club)



Guidelines 56th Hiro & Greater Hiro Area Table Tennis Tournament

Date & Time: Sunday, March 8, 2026 — begins at 9:00 a.m.
Venue: Kure City General Gymnasium (Shishinyo Oak Arena)

Eligibility: Participants must meet one of the following criteria: **1.** Residents of the *Hiro* district or its neighboring areas (*Aga*, *Gobara*, and *Nigata*). **2.** Individuals employed at businesses, schools, government offices, or shops located in the *Hiro* district. **3.** Students and instructors enrolled in table tennis classes held at the *Hiro*, *Aga*, *Gobara*, or *Nigata* Community Centers. **4.** Students attending schools located in the *Hiro* district or in its adjacent districts (*Aga*, *Gobara*, *Nigata*).

Entry Fee: General Division: 500 JPY, Junior Division: 200 JPY (*middle school and younger) Fees will be collected at check-in on the day of the event. Please note that entry fees are non-refundable, even in the case of withdrawal. **How to Enter:** Submit the designated registration form to the *Hiro* Sports Association Office.

Registration Deadline: Monday, February 9 *It will be strictly enforced.

How to Register for Regular Courses 2026

The regular lecture series for the coming fiscal year is scheduled as shown in the table below.

Detailed information on each course will be provided in the official prospectus to be issued in early February.

Priority Registration: Sunday, March 1, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

☞ This is reserved for participants who did not take the same course last year. Those joining mid-year are also welcome.

General Registration: Monday, March 2, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

A few points to keep in mind: Registration is not on a first-come, first-served basis. If the number of applicants exceeds the available spots, participants will be chosen by lottery. The lottery will be conducted at 5:00 PM, immediately after registration closes. Only those who are not selected will be contacted. If you receive no notification, you may consider your enrollment successfully confirmed. * For inquiries, please call the number Tel: 71-2151



List of Regular Courses 2026 at Hiro C. D. Center

Course Name	Course Frequency	Time	Instructor
☆ Children (from 4 to 6 years old)			
Kids Dance	2nd & 4th Saturdays	10:00~	Emi Hatasaka
☆ Children (from 4 to 12 years old)			
Classical Ballet	4/a month, Saturdays	18:00~	Yukie Furue
☆ Adults (General)			
Healthy Hula	1st & 3rd Mondays	10:00~	Kazue Minami
Calligraphy	4/a month, Tuesdays	9:30~	Kofu Shmizu
Calligraphy	4/a month, Tuesdays	18:00~	Sofu Iwata
Calligraphy	4/a month, Thursdays	9:30~	Enpu Matsuo
Tea Ceremony (Urasenke)	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	9:30~	Sugako Nakano
Japanese Dance (Fujima)	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	13:00~	Rishou Fujima
Flower Arrangement (Ikenobo)	2nd & 4th Wednesdays	9:30~	Sugako Nakano
Haiku	2nd Thursdays	10:00~	Yuriko Ishimoto
3B Exercise	4/a month Thursdays	9:30~	Miyori Fuji
Tai Chi	4/a month Thursdays	13:00~	Miki Kurushima
Let's Learn Chinese!	4/a month Thursdays	18:00~	Takashi Aimoto
Go(Igo)	4/a month Thursdays	18:00~	Yoshiki Adachi
Vegetable Smoothie for Gut Health Cooking1	2nd & 4th Fridays	10:00~	Nozomi Okamura
Vegetable Smoothie for Gut Health Cooking2	1st & 3rd Fridays	10:00~	Nozomi Okamura
Yoga 1	4/a month Fridays	9:00~	Miyuki Tamai
Yoga 2	4/a month Fridays	11:00~	Miyuki Tamai
W Stimulus: Brain & Foot	3/a month Mondays	10:00~	Mitsue Yabuki
☆ Women			
Flower Arrangement (Saga Goryu)	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	9:30~	Yuko Motonaka
Table Tennis 1	4/a month, Wednesdays	10:00~	Mayumi Omosako
Table Tennis 2	4/a month, Wednesdays	13:00~	Mayumi Omosako
Gentle Aerobics	4/a month, Tuesdays	19:00~	Naoko Oda
Easy Western-style Sewing (Basics)	1st & 3rd Thursdays	9:30~	Shihomi Hamaguchi
Kimono Dressing Workshop	1st & 3rd Thursdays	10:00~	Yuko Aida
Chorus	1st & 3rd Thursdays	13:30~	Fumiyo Takeda
Relaxing Ballet Stretching	1st & 3rd Fridays	14:00~	Mariko Ebisu
☆ Elderly (60 years and older)			
Silver Cheerful Exercise 1	4/a month, Tuesdays	13:30~	Ayako Watanabe
Silver Cheerful Exercise 2	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	10:00~	Ayako Watanabe
Lively Health Exercise	4/a month, Thursdays	10:00~	Mitsue Yabuki



Editorial Note "Honoring the Needles, Honoring Ourselves"

Sunday, February 8, is *Hari Kuyō*—a day when needles that have served faithfully for years, now bent, worn, or broken, are gently laid to rest by being pressed into *tofu* or *konjac*. The old belief that even tools possess a spirit invites a renewed appreciation for the sensitivity of those who came before us. And somehow, the idea that a needle's final resting place should be *tofu* feels like an especially tender stage for retirement. A traditional *kimono*-sewing teacher once explained it to me this way: "This ritual isn't really for the needles. It's for us—to tell ourselves, You don't have to work anymore." As she spoke softly to the needles, she was, in truth, quietly arranging her own heart. Then, with a wide smile, she added, "Besides, *tofu* never breaks a needle. It's the one day of the year when you absolutely can't fail." Her remark brings an unguarded smile.

In everyday life, we move forward with tense shoulders, always trying not to fail. And so, once a year, perhaps we should borrow a line worthy of a television drama and say, with calm conviction, *I don't fail*.

Maybe *Hari Kuyō* is exactly that kind of observance—a moment when forgiveness is offered, gently and silently, to oneself. (k)



Announcement of Scheduled Closure
Monday, February 16