

"Okuribi" is a Japanese tradition where people light fires to send the spirits of their ancestors back to the afterlife after they have visited during the Obon festival.

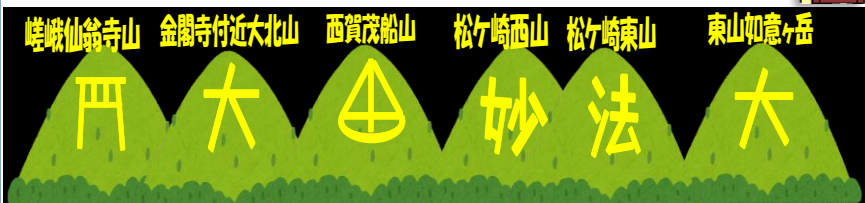
Hiro Community Newsletter
Hiro C. D. Center
Website
HIRO
Hiro C.D.C. : Hiro Community Development Center

Origin of Yukata & Kyoto-Gozan Okuribi

As August approaches, you'll start to see *yukatas* here and there. The origin of the *yukata* dates back to the *Heian* period, when it was worn by aristocrats as a bathrobe called "*yukatabira*" for steam baths, to prevent burns and absorb sweat. During the *Edo* period, public baths became popular, and commoners also began wearing *yukatas* after bathing, which gradually evolved into outdoor attire. During the *Tenpo* Reforms (major reforms implemented by the *Tokugawa* shogunate under the regent *Mizuno Tadakuni* during the *Tenpo* era, 1830-1843), silk *kimono* and other traditional clothing were banned, further popularizing cotton *yukatas*. Since the *Meiji* era, it has become established as summer casual wear, a tradition that continues to this day. Speaking of occasions to wear *yukatas*, there are festivals and fireworks displays, but today I'd like to delve into the "Gozan no *Okuribi*" (Mountain Bonfires) of *Kyoto*. Currently, it is conducted with five mountains: "*Daimonji*," "*Myo-ho*," "*Funagata*," "*Hidari Daimonji*," and "*Toriigata*," all lit in succession from the north of the *Kyoto* Imperial Palace. While there are various theories about their meanings and origins, such as the belief that when Mount *Daimonji* was struck by fire, Amida Buddha extinguished it with his light, and Kukai imitated this act with fire, forming the character "大" (meaning "big"), the precise meanings and origins of all the shapes lack clear records.

Researchers and history enthusiasts are still trying to unravel these mysteries. For those interested, why not delve into the research? This year's bonfires will be lit on August 16th (Friday) from 8:00 to 8:20 PM. It's something worth seeing in person at least once. We hope you all enjoy a wonderful summer by participating in local events. Take care of your health in this hot weather and have a fantastic summer.

Director Hosokawa



2024



August

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Population of HIRO at the end of May
(in comparison to Apr.)
Total 42,878 (-19)
MEN 20,769 (-11)
WOMEN 22,109 (-8)



Learning is something you can forget as soon as you remember it. But even if you forget everything, at the bottom of that training lies a handful of gold dust. This, this is precious. You have to study.
Osamu Dazai

Information from Hiro C.D.C.

Registration starts on Aug. 20th (Tue)

① Senchado (Ogasawara Tea School)

Target: 18 years and older
Dates & Times: Oct. 11th, Dec. 13th, Jan. 10th, Feb. 7th, Mar. 7th All sessions are on Fridays from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Location: Hiro Community Development Center, 6F Room 605

**Note: on Jan. 10th will be held in Room 606*

Fee: ¥4,000 **Capacity:** First 15 applicants

② Autumn Color Schtaab

A "Stab" (German for "stick") is a traditional vertical wall decoration made by bundling or weaving eucalyptus and autumn-colored plants. It's a charming ornament that isn't quite a wreath or a swag.

Target: 18 years and older
Dates & Times: Wed. Oct. 2nd, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Location: Hiro Community Development Center, 6F Room 606

Fee: ¥2,400 **Capacity:** First 15 applicants

Information from Hiro Library

【Opening Time】 from 9:30 AM to 8:00 PM
【Closing Days】 Thursdays and National Holidays

Closed days in Aug. :

1st · 8th · 11th(Sunday) · 15th · 22th · 29th

Babar's Picture Book Meeting

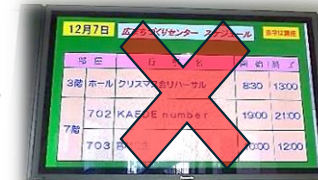
and time: Aug. 20th (Tue.) 10:30AM -11:10AM
Location: 6th floor Japanese-style room (604) of Hiro Civic Center ☎:71-7470



Event Schedule Monitor

We would like to inform you about the changes concerning our "Event Information Monitors." Due to deterioration, the monitors that were previously located on each floor have been removed. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

For information on events at our center, please refer to the notices posted in the elevator hall. For details on other events, please check with the service desks on each floor. Thank you for your understanding.



Part of the Community-Based Health Promotion Project Gymnastics Class Will Be Holding

◎**Date:** Tuesday, August 20th, 2024
◎**Meeting place:** Hiro Civic Center Room 701
◎**Reception time:** 9:00 AM

Instructor: 3B Gymnastics **Ms. Miyori Fujii**

- ※Please bring clothes and shoes that are easy to move in and a towel.
- ※Drinks will be provided.
- ※Please sign up for recreational insurance at the reception desk.

Contact: Hori ☎ 080-1919-6088



Osamu Dazai was a famous Japanese writer who wrote "No Longer Human" "The Setting Sun" "Run, Melos!" etc.

"Kimono culture" refers to the traditions and practices associated with wearing kimono, which are traditional Japanese garments.

Introduction of Regular Courses of Hiro C.D.C.

24 Enjoy Japanese Culture! Kimono Dressing

I visited Ms. *Yuko Aida*'s lesson, "Enjoying Japanese Culture: Introduction to Kimono Dressing".

Ms. *Aida* was influenced by her two aunts—one running a traditional Japanese sewing school in *Tokyo* and the other managing a *Kimono* shop in *Hiroshima*—and entered the world of *Kimono* at a young age. Ms. *Aida* holds qualifications as a professional *Kimono* dresser, instructor, and associate professor. Ms. *Aida* is teaching on Tuesday evenings at the *Kure* City Lifelong Learning Center (*Tsubaki* Hall), but due to popular demand, she began offering classes at the *Hiro* Community Development Center in 2016.



[Ms. Yuko Aida]

What Ms. *Aida* values most is "Japanese culture." This is evident from the name of the course. *Kimono* play an essential role in Japanese life, worn during significant events like *Shichi-Go-San*, Coming of Age ceremonies, shrine visits, school entrance and graduation ceremonies, and weddings.

Even though opportunities to wear *Kimono* in daily life may be rare, they are indispensable for special occasions.

The class begins with about 10 minutes of learning about "Japanese culture" before moving on to practical *Kimono* dressing. The charm of *Kimono* lies in the special actions they necessitate—walking, sitting, and other movements differ from the everyday, adding an intellectual and elegant touch to one's appearance and inner beauty. Concerns like "I'm interested in *Kimono*, but I can't put one on by myself," or "Isn't it expensive to wear a *Kimono*?" might be making *Kimono* seem more daunting than they are. Young people are especially encouraged to join and experience this course.



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Information from HIRO Sports Association

HIRO Town People Japanese Archery Tournament

Date & Time: Sun. Aug. 18th, Opening Ceremony at 9:00AM

Place: *Kure* Municipal *Kyudo* Court
(close-range shooting)

Participants: High School Students who lives in Hiro and working or being in schools in Hiro.

Participation Fee:

① General Public Division : ¥300

② High School Student Division : FREE

☞ Please pay the fee on that day at the *Kyudo* Court

Time limit for application: Tue. July 30th

Application Desk: HIRO Sport Association Office

☎:71-2151 Fax:73-5034

Contact: *Shindo* ☎ 080-6988-1754



HIRO Town People Badminton Tournament

Date & Time: Sun. Aug. 25th, Opening Ceremony at 9:00AM

Place: *Kure* City General Gymnasium
(Shi-Shin-Yo Oak Arena) Sub Arena

Eligibility to participate: ① General Division (Doubles)

② Junior Division (Elementary & Middle School Singles)

※1: Residents of Hiro ※2: Enrolled in a school in Hiro

※3: Employed at a business, etc. in Hiro

Participation Fee:

① General Public Division: ¥500

② School Student Division: ¥300

☞ Please pay the fee on that day at the Arena

Time limit for application: Sat. Aug. 10th

※ Please note that the competition details may be subject to change depending on the number of participants.

Application Desk & Contact: HIRO Sport Association Office

☎:71-2151 Fax:73-5034

※ These two projects are operated by the *Kure* City Social Welfare Council, the *Hiro* District Residents' Association Federation, and the support members' subsidies. ※ If an injury occurs during the event, first aid will be given but no responsibility will be assumed afterwards. However, the organizers will provide one-day accident insurance. Please be aware of your own health condition on the day of the event.



The 6th Hiro District Bon Dance & New Shin-Hiro Ondo

Date and time: Sunday, August 4th, 2024
from 5:00PM to 8:00PM **Venue:** *Hiro* Park



Information from HIRO Collaboration Center How to Find Volunteer Opportunities

At the *Hiro* Cooperative Center Free Space, we are hosting an exhibition on "**How to Find Volunteer Opportunities.**"

The display includes information about volunteering in *Kure* City, featuring details from the *Kure* City Civic Cooperative Center's Volunteer E-mail Magazine, Volunteer Information Paper, Volunteer Bulletin Board, and Instructions on how to search the Volunteer Information Website. If you are interested in volunteering, please feel free to visit the exhibition at the *Hiro* Civic Center 4th floor *Hiro* Cooperative Center.

Event period Exhibition runs daily from July to the end of August (closed on Wednesdays).

Location *Hiro* Cooperative Center Free Space
(*Hiro* Civic Center 4th floor).

Contact *Hiro* Cooperative Center

☎ 0823-71-0321



Editorial Note ~Counting Sushi and Bread~

The other day, I went to a conveyor belt sushi restaurant. Usually, there are two pieces of sushi on a plate, but sometimes there's just one. The unit of sushi is called a "**kan**." This got me thinking. Is a pair of two pieces considered one "**kan**," or is one piece of sushi one "**kan**?" "**Kan**" is actually a unit of weight. According to the traditional Japanese measurement system, one "**kan**" equals 3.75 kg, which is far too much to eat in one sitting. In the **Edo** period, a "**kan**" of sushi consisted of multiple pieces and was quite large. It is said that sushi chefs reduced the size to around 40g per piece for the convenience of their customers, which marked the beginning of the modern "**kan**." Nowadays, it's generally accepted that one piece of sushi is one "**kan**."



Similarly, the term "**kin**" for bread is also a unit of weight. In the traditional Japanese measurement system, one "**kin**" equals 16 **ryo**, which equals 160 monme (1 **monme** = 3.75g), equating to about 600g. After the **Meiji** Restoration, when imported bread weighed approximately one pound (about 450g), it was standardized as one "**kin**." It's fascinating how many terms we use without knowing their origins.



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Our office is normally closed on 4th Monday
August ☞ Monday 26th

“1 kan(一貫)” is a big number – about 8.3 pounds (or 3.75 kilograms). “1 kin(一斤)” is about 0.75 pounds (or 340 grams).