

Kagura is a traditional Japanese dance and performance that is often done to entertain the gods and spirits. It is usually performed at Shinto shrines during special ceremonies or festivals.

広島づくりセンター
Hiro Community Development Center <https://www.city.kure.lg.jp/soshiki/111/>



Website



HIRO

Hiro Community Newsletter

Year of Snake & Yamata no Orochi

Time flies like an arrow. The season for preparing for the New Year has arrived once again. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the tremendous support and cooperation we received from the community during the Hiro District Educational Festival held in November. We look forward to your continued support for our center. This new year marks the Year of the Snake, it symbolizes change and, often associated with new movements and innovations.

On November 10, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Hiro Cultural Federation with a special performance of *KAGURA* titled "*Yamata no Orochi*."

Susanoo, the younger brother of the sun goddess *Amaterasu*, was exiled to *Izumo* due to a conflict

with his sister. *Susanoo* encountered an elderly couple weeping, with their daughter standing between them. When he asked them the reason for their sorrow, they explained, "We have eight daughters, but every year, the eight-headed serpent from the mountains comes and devour one daughter in a year. Now, the time has come again, and we fear the last one will be devoured too."

The eight-headed serpent, known as the *Yamata-no-Orochi*, is a monstrous creature with eight heads and eight tails, its has red eyes, and its body is surrounded by cedar and cypress trees. *Susanoo*, after consulting with the local gods, devised a plan to defeat the serpent. To intoxicate the beast, he prepared a large amount of sake and tricked the serpent into drinking it. The creature, drunk from the sake, fell asleep. Seizing the opportunity, *Susanoo* attacked with his sword, bravely cutting off the serpent's heads and tails. From one of the tails, a legendary sword known as the *Kusanagi-no-Tsurugi* emerged. Having slain the serpent, *Susanoo* saved the people of *Izumo*, earning their deep gratitude. He went on to marry the last daughter, *Kushinadahime*, and established his position as a god in the land of *Izumo*. This story teaches valuable lessons: "wisdom and planning," "self-sacrifice and mutual aid," "rebirth and new beginnings," and "embracing change." With the positive energy of the Year of the Snake, I hope this year brings good fortune to everyone in the Hiro area.

Director Hosokawa

2025
元日
January

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Population of HIRO
at the end of October
(in comparison to September)
Population 42,765 (-39)
●M E N 20,699 (-6)
●WOMEN 22,066 (-33)

When setting future goals and striving to achieve them, the initial step requires the utmost care and attention. A useful approach is to first calm your mind and then carefully reflect on your strengths and weaknesses. By comparing these aspects in detail, you can determine your greatest abilities and establish clear future objectives based on them. At the same time, it is essential to deeply reflect on whether one's circumstances will allow for the achievement of that ambition. *Eiichi Shibusawa*

Information from Hiro C.D.C. Registration starts on Jan. 20th (Mon.) ①Delicious & Fun Medicinal Cuisine ~Coldness is the root of all diseases IV~

Target: 18 years old and above
Date and time: Wed 26th Feb 10:00-13:00
Location: Hiro C. D. C 6F (Kitchen Room)
Fee: ¥1,900
Capacity: 16 people (first come, first served).

②Mimosa Swag Workshop
Target: 18 years old and above
Date and time: Wed 19th Feb 10:00-12:00
Location: Hiro C. D. C 6F (Workshop Room)
Fee: ¥2,400
Capacity: 12 people (first come, first served).

Announcement from the Kure City Family Support Center Training Course for Kure City Family Supporters

We are holding a training course for individuals interested in supporting child-rearing families, such as through "child-care services." This course is 2-days program.

Dates: Jan. 20th, 2025 (Mon) from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM
Jan. 21st, 2025 (Tue) from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
Location: Kure City Healthy Child-Rearing Support Center
'Hirohiro-ba' Training Room (3F Hiro Civic Center)
Eligibility: Residents of Kure City wish to engage in activities that support children and families in the community.
Application Period: Dec. 16th(Mon) to Jan. 10th(Fri) Please provide your name, address, age, and contact information.
Application Contact: Kure City Family Support Center
TEL: 0823-25-4122 **FAX:** 0823-21-2167
Email: family@kure-kosodate.com

Notice from Hiro Community Development Promotion The 4th Hiro Family Mochi Festival IV

The 4th *Hiro* Family *Mochi* Festival is to be held at *Hiro* Civic Center Parking Lot. This event is made possible with support from our sponsors and It's an event packed with all the unique charm our community has to offer! Kids will love the popular *Kuresshi* slide, and we'll have food trucks on site as well! Back by popular demand, the "All-You-Can-Fill *Mikan* (Mandarin Orange) Bag" event—sold out in just 30 minutes last year—will once again be led by local students. At 13:00, enjoy a captivating Lobby Concert in the 1st Floor Gallery, featuring guitarist *Toshimitsu Kamigaichi*.
Event Details:
Date & Time: Sun. Dec. 15th, 10:00 - 15:00
※*Mochitsuki*: 10:00 - 13:00
※*Lobby Concert*: 13:00 - 13:30

Location: Hiro Civic Center Parking Lot & 1F Gallery
Contact: Hiro Community Development Council ☎73-7191

Educational Achievement Award Recipients 2024

The following individuals have been awarded the Education Merit Award at the 76th Hiro District Educational Festival:

Hisataka Kuwahara	Masayoshi Nakamatsu
Sachiko Yoshinaka	Obiro Kodomokai
Teruko Hada	(Local Children's Association)
Mikiko Hamada	Itsuki Hashimoto
Kuniko Shirataka	Miyori Fujii

Information from Hiro Library

Hours of Operation: 9:30 AM - 8:00 PM
Closed on: Thursdays and public holidays
Closure Dates of Jan.: 9th · 13th(Holiday) · 16th · 23rd · 30th
Year-End & New Year Closure: from Dec. 28th to Jan. 4th
Reopen Jan. 5th Sun & No Picture Book Meeting in Jan.

Eiichi Shibusawa is called "the father of Japanese capitalism". Thanks to his hard work, Japan became stronger and more connected to the rest of the world.

Introduction of Short Courses of Hiro C.D.C.

⑩ Autumn-Color Schtaab

What did you particularly enjoy about participating?

○I appreciated that it was not difficult, allowing us to create beautiful seasonal arrangements easily. I'm delighted to have seasonal flowers to display at my entrance.

○The opportunity to communicate with other participants made the event very enjoyable. The instructor was incredibly attentive, and I would love to participate again.

○It was great to create something enjoyable alongside all the other participants. ○This was my first experience, but the instructions were clear and easy to follow.

○This was my first time attending a workshop at Hiro Community

Development Center, and I had a wonderful time participating alone. I also found it helpful to see and appreciate the works of others. ○The fragrance of the plants was soothing, and I had a very enjoyable time. ○The instructor provided careful guidance, which allowed me—despite my clumsiness—to create something tangible. I had a lot of fun. ○I'm thrilled with the beautiful piece I created, and I appreciated the gentle instruction. ○It was enjoyable, and the teacher's guidance was easy to understand. ○The time flew by because it was so much fun.

What types of workshops would you like to participate in the future?

○Seasonal arrangements, wreaths, swags, and container gardening. ○I enjoyed creating something in about two hours, as it provided a sense of accomplishment. ○Moss balls. ○I would love to participate again (in similar workshops). ○I'm interested in experiencing similar wreath-making activities. ○I'd like to try patchwork.

○I'm open to any projects that can be completed in about two hours.

Any other comments?

○I hope to see more workshops by Professor Ishikawa!

○Please let me participate again. ○I had a great time today. The explanations were clear, and I'd love to display the finished piece. It's quite challenging to gather all the materials and create something from scratch, so I really appreciate this experience. ○Thank you! It's enjoyable to participate with younger people, even at my age.



Our office is normally closed on 4th Monday
January Monday 27th

Information from HIRO Sports Association

Results 22nd Hiro Mini Basketball Match

The 22nd Hiro Mini Basketball Tournament was held on Sun. Nov. 2nd ~9:00 AM, Oak Arena

【Boys' Block】

1st Shiratake Mini Basketball School

2nd Yokoro Mini Basketball School

3rd Hiro Mini Basketball Club

【Girls' Block】

1st Gohara Mini Basketball Club

2nd Hiro Mini Basketball Club

3rd Waki Mini-Bas



Results 44th Hiro Ground Golf Match

Date and time: Held on October 30th Mon.

Location: Hiro Park Sports Field

1st: Tomio Takahara, 31-2 2nd: Toshiko Nakagawa, 33-2

3rd: Akemi Egawa, 37-2 4th: Isao Soga, 37-1

5th: Eiji Hinoki, 37-1 6th: Masayuki Oda, 39-1

7th: Mayumi Kamigaki, 39-1 8th: Hironobu Yamamoto, 39-0

9th: Kazufumi Tsuboi, 39-0 10th: Shigeo Habu, 39-0

71st Kure City Sports Festival Results (Hiro)

1st Place: Overall Scores for All Competition, Men's &

Women's T&F, Men's T&F, Women's T&F,

Softball Block I, Table Tennis, Tennis, Golf

2nd Place: Badminton, Bowling

3rd Place: Basketball, Kyudo

4th Place: Kendo

Cancelled: Men's Volleyball, Women's Volleyball, Handball



Recipients Hiro Sports Association Sports Merit Award 2024

Hiro Sports Association Award 2024 (Individual competition)

Kazuki Hashimoto (Hiroshima Prefectural Hiro High School)

Achievements: ①3rd Place, Men's High School Division,

26th Chugoku High School Kendo Tournament

②1st Place, Youth Men's Division, 78th National Sports

Festival Chugoku Regional Tournament

Hiro Sports Association Award 2024 (team competition)

Hiroshima Prefectural Hiro High School (Girls' Kendo Team)

Achievements: 2nd Place, Women's Team, 70th Chugoku High

School Kendo Championships

Team Members: Kokone Hatanaka, Hiyori Ishiko,

Rena Sato, Himari Yoshikawa, Shino Yumiya,

Mihiro Ono, Mei Matsunaka

"Hiro Hiro-Ba" Christmas Event

Event for Parents and Toddlers (Ages 0-2) & Siblings

(Ages 3+) Date & Time: Sat. Dec. 21st, 10:30 - 12:00

Location: Hiro Civic Center, 3F Hall

Capacity: No limit Admission: Free

Description: A performance by LCF, a student volunteer group from Hiroshima International University.



Information from HIRO Collaboration Center

At the Hiro Collaboration Center, we regularly post information about volunteer opportunities and community events. Our display space features local newsletters, group bulletins, and maps of the Kure area. If you're interested in learning more about local events, feel free to visit us on the 4th floor of the Hiro Civic Center. ☎71-0321

Opening Hours: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Closed: Wednesdays

Walking Event & Exercise Class

Event Date: January 21, 2025 (Tuesday) RAIN OUT!

Meeting Location: JR Kure Station Front Plaza

Meeting Time: 9:00 AM (Departure at 9:30 AM)

Course: Miyahara-Mangwanji Walk: 8 km

JR Kure Station→Aoyama Street→Miyahara→Mangwanji Temple→Alley Karasukojima→finish

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

Exercise Class

Event Date: January 7, 2025 (Tuesday)

Meeting Location: Hiro Civic Center, 7F 701

Registration Time: 9:00 AM onward

Please bring clothes suitable for exercise, indoor shoes, and a towel. Drinks will be provided.

Please register at the reception for participation in the recreation insurance.

For inquiries, contact Hori at ☎ 080-1919-6088.



Editorial Note Snake's shed skin is considered an embodiment of Benzaiten

The snake, known for its shedding process, evokes associations of "resurrection and rebirth." Its ability to survive for extended periods without food has led to its veneration as a "messenger of the gods," with numerous shrines dedicated to snake deities found across the country. One of the Seven Lucky Gods (*shichifukujin*), *Benzaiten*, is the goddess of wealth and the arts. At *Engaku-ji* Temple in *Kamakura*, there is a statue of *Benzaiten* seated on a coiled white snake. Nearby, the "*Shirohebi* of *Iwakuni*" is also well-known. The practice of keeping a snake's shed skin in one's wallet as a talisman for financial prosperity is common. However, the reality is that accumulating wealth can be quite challenging, and I have yet to find a snake's shed skin. Still, I hope to hold onto that aspiration.



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In Japan, there is an old belief that putting a snake's skin in your wallet can bring you good luck and make you rich.