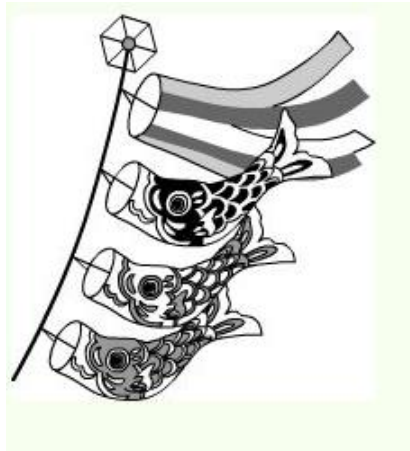


What's New?

Niihama City

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A Meaningless Comparison Diana Marie Linton

I would like to talk about one of the fundamental components of deepening intercultural understanding and effectively communicating with people from different countries, ethnicities, cultures, and backgrounds. There is no comparison between people's pain and suffering.

From my experience, people rarely express in words sincere pain or fear, rather, the action of putting their feelings into words makes the reality all the more tangible. Though speaking about pain can be therapeutic, the spoken word also has the power to give negative emotions life. While suppressing such feelings has consequences, it is more common to hide our pain from others. Should someone breathe life into their problems by speaking about them, it is proof of their trust in you. However, should you say, "But your suffering is nothing in comparison to that of others" in response, in an instant you will lose that person's trust. It will be unlikely for that person to reveal the troubles within their hearts to you a second time.

I raise this issue because racial discrimination within American society has had a large impact on my life. I am the child of Jamaican and Filipino immigrants, and my brothers and I have dark skin. Thanks to the unrelenting

efforts and unconditional love of my parents, I grew up in a blessed environment. Even so, my family is not fully protected from the realities of racial discrimination. Therefore, should I find myself growing closer to you, I may one day breach topics regarding my experiences of discrimination and social problems related to discrimination. There are times when I would like to halve the burden of my troubles with a close friend rather than carry the weight on my own.

I do not think that I particularly pity myself, as I endeavor to treat people justly and strive to achieve my goals through hard work and determination. I do not expect everyone to understand my point of view, but I hope that people do not meet my discussions of social inequality with opposition merely because they interpret my words as a criticism of their personal behavior rather than as my resolve that in 2018 we can do better – that we can always do better.

However, someone in Japan that I had once wanted to trust had said to me, “There is racial discrimination among white people as well. I read about it in a book, so it isn’t just an issue for black people,” and continued to compare the problems of other ethnicities to those of black Americans. Despite having never faced a similar form of discrimination and despite having little knowledge of the social problems born from a history of slavery and violations of civil rights that continue to affect present-day American society, she belittled the problems of the black American community, our pain, and our fears. To protect myself and to face everyday life, I built a wall between us.

It is not only disrespectful to compare the pain of others, but it is meaningless. Asking, “Who experiences the worst form of discrimination?” leads us nowhere and pulls us apart. We should be asking, “What barriers have been created by institutionalized discrimination? How do we address those barriers? What community endeavors are necessary to overcome the bullying, violence, and fatigue engendered from psychological discrimination?”

Should someone open up to you, do not compare their problems to those of others. If you would like others to understand the problems faced by a group of people for which you are concerned, do not elevate their suffering above that of others. Though your intentions may be good, you might lose your audience with the implication that attempts to improve upon social conditions should depend

on the *extent* and *category* of discrimination, rather than on its mere existence. We may not be able to eliminate discrimination, but people who give up have not considered the perspective of those who live in its shadow. To deepen intercultural understanding, step into the shoes of another.

My name is Diana Marie Linton. I was born and raised in Los Angeles, California (USA), but my father immigrated to America from Jamaica and my mother from the Philippines. Our house is a fun mixture of cultures! I have also studied and/or worked in South Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. Now, I work as the CIR in Saijo City! Yoitosa!



MAY EVENTS

Ehime Mandarin Pirates Baseball Game

5/13 (Sun) 12:00~ vs. Kagawa Olive Guyners at City Stadium

Elementary school & junior high school students who have a team flier can attend for free.

If it rains, it will be cancelled.

For details: Please call the City Office

TEL: 0897-65-1303



At Minetopia Besshi.

5/1~5/31 Peony Flowers

are in full bloom.

5/12 (Sat) You can enjoy seeing bonito cooked on the spot and listen to Japanese drumming. Admission free.

5/12 · 13 5/19 · 20 Tea Ceremony 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

at Senju-tei Admission ¥300

Kids' Sumo Wrestling Match 5/13 (Sun) 8:30 a.m.-12:00

at Izumigawa Elementary School

Elementary school students can wrestle.

Details: Niihama JCs TEL: 34-5559

5/16 (Wed) J-Alert about 11:00 a.m.

Disaster prevention training siren will sound all over Japan.

5/26 (Sat) Trekking around Sites

Related Besshi Copper Mine History 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

No charge.

The starting point is the entrance to Yamane Ground.

Please apply to City Hall Besshi Dozan Bunka Isan-ka

(Besshi Copper Mine Cultural Heritage Section) with your

name, your address, your phone number or e-mail address by

May 18. First come, first served.

For further information: TEL: 65-1236

E-mail address: dozan@city.niihama.lg.jp

Bird's Eye View Sightseeing Map of Niihama

You may think that Niihama City has nothing to do with tourism, but there are a lot of attractive and special tourist sites related to the growth, development, and industrialization of the city into the Niihama we know today.

You can get one free copy of the map in English, two kinds of Chinese (簡体。繁体), Korean, and Japanese at the Transportation & Tourism Section (運輸観光課) on the 4th floor of City Hall.



Eradication Campaign Against Illegal Hemp and Opium Poppy

(Monthly City News Letter, Shisei-dayori, April 2018)

Ehime Prefecture has a campaign underway from April to June to eradicate illegal hemp and opium poppy. The prefecture government wants people to be informed about hemp and opium poppy. They also want people who find illegal hemp and opium poppy to dispose of it.

Sometimes, however, hemp and opium poppy grow by themselves or are cultivated because the owner do not know they are illegal. If you find suspicious opium poppy in your yard or on any of your property, please pull it up, remove the soil, put it into a plastic bag and dispose of it as "Burnable trash".

Distinctive features

of illegal opium poppy:

*It grows higher than 1 meter.

The stem is thick and stern.

*It has almost no hair on the stalk or leaves.

*The color of the stem and leaves is whitish green as if they are waxed.

*The base of the leaf holds half of the thick stem.



If you find suspicious opium poppy in your neighborhood, please call Saijo Public Health Center. TEL: 0897-56-1300

ONE POINT JAPANESE

連休(renkyū)・母の日 (haha no hi)

A : 連休の予定はもう決まりましたか。

Renkyū no yote wa mō kimarimashita ka.

(Have you decided what you'll do during the holidays?)

B : 長い休みが取れたので、帰国します。Aさんは？

Nagai yasumi ga toreta node, kikoku shimasu. A-san wa?

(I got a long leave, so I'm going home. How about you, A?)

A : 天気がよかったら、山に登ろうと思っっています。

Tenki ga yokattara, yama ni noborō to omotte imasu.

(If the weather is good, I'm thinking of going mountain climbing.)

ひとごみが苦手なので・・・。Hitogomi ga nigate nanode...

(Since I don't like crowds...)

A : 連休はどうでしたか。Renkyū wa dō deshita ka.

(How was the holiday?)

B : 久しぶりに家族や友人とゆっくり過ごすことができました。

Hisashiburi ni kazoku ya yūjin to yukkuri sugosu koto ga dekimashita. (I was able to spend a leisurely time with my family and friends for the first time in a long time.)

A : よかったですね。Yokatta desu ne. (That's good.)

B : でも、家に帰ったら、どっと疲れが出ました。

Demo, uchi ni kaettara, dotto tsukare ga demashita.

(But when I got home, I was utterly exhausted.)

山登りはどうでしたか。Yamanobori wa dō deshita ka.

(How was the mountain climbing?)

A : 天気もよくて、新緑がとてもきれいでした。

Tenki mo yokute, shinryoku ga totemo kirei deshita.

(The weather was good and the fresh green was very beautiful.)

それに、ツツジが満開で、最高でしたよ。

Soreni, tsutsuji ga mankai de, saiko deshita yo.

(Plus, the Japanese azaleas were in full bloom; it was the best!)

(新居浜弁) (in Niihama dialect)

A : 13日は、母の日やね。Jūsan nichi wa hahanohi ya ne.

(The thirteenth is Mother's Day, right?)

なんかプレゼントするん？ Nanka purezento surun?.

(Are you gonna give her something?)

B : ううん、特になんもせんよ。Uun, tokuni nanmo sen yo.

(Nah, I'm not gonna do anything in particular.)

A : ほんと？ Honto? (Really?!)

B : 毎日が母の日やけん。Mainichi ga hahano hi yaken.

(Cause every day is Mother's Day.)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

Feel free to contact us at: Tel 0897-34-3025 (Manami Miki).

e-mail : manami-m@js6.so-net.ne.jp

MOVIE

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

March 30 ~	THE PENTAGON PAPERS	2D English
April 6 ~	Jumanji : Welcome to the Jungle	2D English / Dubbed
April 13 ~	PACIFIC RIM UPRISING	2D English / Dubbed
April 20 ~	Ready Player One	2D English / Dubbed
April 27 ~	Marvel Avengers : Infinity War	2D English
May 4 ~	12 Strong	2D English
May 18 ~	RAMPAGE	2D English
May 18 ~	Peter Rabbit	2D English

Information Service

Internet: <http://niihama-aeonmall.com>

Tape (24 hrs): 050-6868-5019(in Japanese)

Movies might be changed without notice. Please check.



Information in English & Chinese on the Web

***What's New?**

***How to sort garbage and trash**

Visit  <http://www.city.niihama.lg.jp>

Clair:*Multilingual Living Information

<http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengorev/en/index.html>

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas for monthly articles.

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*The editors for this month are Y. Fukuma & Y. Amano