

## MOVIES

### TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

January 10~ Ford vs. Ferrari PG13 English

January 17~ Richard Jewell R English Your Dragon :

January 24~ Cats PG English

January 18~ Bad boys for life R15 English

January 31~ Knives out PG13 English

#### Information Service

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

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

Movies might be changed without notice. Please check.

This newsletter is published by SGG, a volunteer group that helps foreigners living in Niihama. If you need any advice, information, or support, please contact SGG. SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions, or ideas for monthly articles.

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\* The editors for this month are M.Hada & H.Yamamoto

## ONE POINT JAPANESE

「\_\_\_\_\_ように」の表現

A : 毎朝 散歩してまいあさ さんぽるんですか。

Maiasa sampo shiterundesu ka.  
(Do you take a walk every morning?)

B : ええ、冬は 寒くて、運動不足にふゆ さむ うんどうぶそく なりますから。

Ee,fuyu wa samukute, undōbusoku ni narimasu kara.  
(Yes, I do. It's cold in winter, so we don't get enough exercise.)

毎日 1時間 歩くようにまいにち いちじかん ある しています。

Mainichi ichijikan aruku yōni shite imasu.  
(I make it a rule to take a walk for an hour every morning.)

A : 他にも、健康の ためにほか けんこう たに 何か していますか。

Hokanimo,kenkō no tameni nanika shite imasu ka.  
(Do you do anything else for your health?)

B : できるだけ 甘いものを 食べないようにあま しています。

Dekirudake amaimono o tabenai yōni shite imasu.  
(As much as possible I try not to eat sweets.)

A : 日本語の 歌が 歌えるにほんご うた ですね。

Nihongo no uta ga utaerundesu ne.  
(You can sing songs in Japanese, can't you?)

B : はい、カラオケで 歌えるように、何回もうた なんかい れんしゅう 練習しました。

Hai,karaoke de utaeru yōni,nankai mo renshū shimashita.  
(Yes. I have practiced many times so that I can sing at karaoke.)

今、10曲くらい 歌えるようにいま じゅっきょく うた になりました。

Ima,jukkyoku kurai utaeru yōni narimashita.  
(Now I can sing about ten songs.)

A : すごいですね。今度 聞かせてすご ください。

Sugoi desu ne. Kondo kikasete kudasai.  
(That's amazing. Please sing them for me sometime soon.)

A : みなさん、バスの 出発は 9時です。遅れないようにしゅっぱつ くじ してください。

Minasan,basu no shuppatsu wa kuji desu.  
Okurenai yōni shite kudasai.  
(Everyone, the bus will leave at 9 o'clock. Don't be late.)

B : はい、わかりました。Hai,wakarimashita.

(OK, got it!)

< 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).  
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# What's New?

Niihama City

No. 293 January 2020

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# 1月



## It's a New Electronic World

by Barbara Ito

Living in Niihama, in a 40-year-old house with far too few electrical outlets, I was very aware how home electronics have proliferated recently. Even in our old house, wi-fi is essential, and allows us to use streaming TV services. However, it also made us realize that we didn't need cable TV or even the landline phone. We cancelled both last spring and haven't missed them.

In September, I made my annual trip back to the U.S. to visit my family. Just since last year, there were changes in the airports, both in Japan and the U.S. Pay phones have all but disappeared, but every waiting area now has charging stations where you can plug in your electronic communication device of choice. And most airline passengers have their tickets on their phones. No more printed paper tickets - a barcode (and a passport) get you on the plane.

On the plane I took, lots of people were not watching the dozens of movies and TV shows available on the screen on the back of each seat. They had their own entertainment and were watching on their laptops, iPads, or even on smart phones. No more worries about running down the batteries - there's an electrical outlet for each seat.

In America, a lot of people's financial life is now online. U.S. banks don't have bank books. Those disappeared over 50 years ago and people went

to the bank to find out what their balance was. Now they do their banking online.

Thirty years ago, everyone paid for things with credit cards or cash, or by sending a check through the mail. No one used bank transfers. People still use credits cards, but now there are also debit cards to draw money out of your bank account when you pay in a store. You don't have to go to the bank for cash. And with online banking it's easy to send money directly to someone's bank account without going to a bank or an ATM machine. Which is fortunate, because there aren't as many convenience stores as in Japan and they tend not to have ATM machines. Even my 95-year-old mother, who can't drive to the bank, does all her banking on her computer.

In many ways, Japan is moving into the new electronic world. On my way back to Niihama from America, I spent a few days with my son in Tokyo. The wallet in my iPhone is set up with various payment methods, so I didn't need any cash there. I could just walk through the ticket gates for the trains and subway without even turning on the phone. No more trying to decipher the ticket machines. Just touch and go. Lots of vending machines, and of course convenience stores, also take payment by smart phone. You still can't do that in America.

I've used a bank in America via online banking for over 20 years with no trouble. Finally, my bank in Niihama has started online service. Years ago, when I asked at my local branch about checking my account online, the manager told me, "It's OK, you don't have to do that. You can just come to the bank!" But I wanted to do banking after hours, in my pajamas... Now I can! The new electronic world has made my dream come true.

Barbara Ito came to Niihama in 1978 and 1979-1980 to do research on women entrepreneurs for her Ph.D. in Anthropology. She and her husband Tetsuya moved back to Niihama in 1991 and now teach English at Boston English Company and Eigoya.

#### Information in English online from Niihama City

☆ For the garbage rules:



Go to: [city.niihama.lg.jp](http://city.niihama.lg.jp)

☆ For What's New in English:



Go to: [www.city.niihama.lg.jp/soshiki/chiiki/whatsnew2020.html](http://www.city.niihama.lg.jp/soshiki/chiiki/whatsnew2020.html)

☆ Multilingual Living Information from Clair:

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

#### The Father of Electric Rice Cooker

(from Ehime Shimbun Oct.25, 2019)

A permanent exhibition in praise of Mr. Yositada Minami is on display at the Ehime Prefectural Science Museum in Ojoin in Niihama-city. He was an engineer and inventor of the automatic switch, the life's blood of the electric rice cooker, born in Nakahagi-cho, Niihama-city. The display shows the true character of Mr. Minami, whose invention drastically reduced house chores.

Mr. Minami had been fond of mechanics from a young age and entered the Ministry of Railways after working at Niihama Station.

In 1927, he enrolled in the Osaka Municipal Miyakojima Evening Technical Senior High School while still working. In 1928 he retired from the Ministry at his own request and went to Tokyo and to start studying at the Shibaura Institute of Technology in 1930.

In 1932 he established the company Koshin-sha to manufacture optically precise measurers and other things.

While developing the automatic switch, Mr. Minami had to cook rice again and again to find out the optimal temperature. The display in the museum shows that, with the help of his wife and children, he collected enormous amounts of data day and night to invent the first rice cooking mechanism that automatically switches off the heating procedure to create the best rice cooking condition. According to Mr. Hisamitsu, the curator in charge of this exhibition, Mr. Minami had considered whether he should introduce this rice cooking mechanism to Toshiba or Hitachi. Toshiba took charge of design, and started selling 700 sets in December of 1955. However, according to Mr. Minami "Toshiba was not so interested in this technology at first." until a short time after, when sales exploded and the production rate per month peaked 200,000 sets, causing other manufacturers to follow suit.

Mr. Hisamitsu said, "Mr. Minami, the father of the electric rice cooker is hardly known even among local Niihama people, lacking any insight into his life. I hope that as many people as possible will learn about Mr. Minami by watching the chronology of his life from his birth, among other materials as well."

#### January EVENTS

##### ★1/1: New Year's Day

Many people pay a visit to a Shinto shrine to pray for happiness and good health.

##### ★1/13 (Mon) Coming-of-Age Day 11:00 a.m.~ Bunka Center

You can see many 20-year old dressed in beautiful kimono.

##### ★1/13 (Mon) Ohshima Island Todo Fire Festival 6:00 a.m.~

Special ferry boat leaves Kuroshima Port at 5:30 a.m.

##### ★Akagane Museum

##### ○1/2・1/3 Kakizome (First Calligraphy of the Year)

11:00 a.m.~3:00 p.m. Admission free

You can join and leave at any time.

##### ○1/4 (Sat) Making Japanese Kite 10:00 a.m.~3:00 p.m.

For elementary school students and their parent. ¥1,000 for one family.

Reservation is required. TEL: 0897-31-0305

First come, first served.

##### ○1/28 (Tues) Laughter Yoga 6:30~8:00 p.m.

Admission free.

##### ★1/26 (Sun) Hamasai Festival 10:00 a.m.~4:00 p.m.

Noborimichi~Domu Niihama~Showa-dori

Many kinds of local foods: fresh vegetables, fruits, meat, fish, and processed foods are sold. All family members can enjoy pounding rice cakes and watching a demonstration of tuna cooking.

#### The 30th Niihama Global Party

Date: Sunday, February 9, 2020 Time: 1:00 p.m. ~ 3:30 p.m.

Venue: Niihama Women's Plaza

4-4-11 Shonai-cho, Niihama-shi Tel:0897-37-1700

Admission: 500 yen/person. Free for children age 6 and Younger.

Join us for an afternoon of fun performances, delicious treats, and friendly conversation!

If you're looking to make friends from all over the world here in our very own Niihama, come on over and join the Global Party!

Enquiry: The Global Party Association

Tel: 090-9454-9688 Mail: [yasumi@galaxy.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:yasumi@galaxy.ocn.ne.jp)

Your volunteer help in preparation for the event is warmly welcomed.

If you are interested, please contact above.