

MOVIE

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

August 21 ~	Onward	Dubbed
September 10 ~	Break The Silence: The Movie	Korean
September 11 ~	Midway	English
September 25 ~	The Adams Family	Dubbed
September 25 ~	The Kings Man	English

Due to the new coronavirus infection, movies might be changed without notice. So please check the homepage for information.

Information Service

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

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



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. Shimamura & Y. Miki

ONE POINT JAPANESE

「さりげなく・なにげなく」の使い方

A: **ねえ、Cさんて、すてきだよ。**

Nē, C-san te, suteki dayo ne.
(Look! C-san is nice, isn't she?)



B: **どうしたの。Dō shita no?**

(What happened?)

A: **お昼を食べていたら、気がつかないうちにさりげなく
お茶をいれてくれたんだよ。**

Ohiru o tabete itara, ki ga tsukanai uchi ni sarigenaku
ocha o irete kuretan da yo.
(When we were eating lunch, she just brought me tea without
being asked.)

B: **気がきくね。**

Ki ga kiku ne.
(She's very considerate.)

A: **昨日、何かを見たいんじゃなく、なにげなく外を見ていたら、
光るものが落ちてきたんだ。**

Kinō, nanika o mitain ja naku, nanigenaku soto o mite itara,
hikaru mono ga ochite kitan da.
(Yesterday, when I was looking outside at nothing in particular,
something shining fell from the sky.)

B: **ええっ！ UFOですか。まさかね。**

Ē! UFO desu ka? Masaka ne.
(Really? Was it a UFO? No way!)

A: **まさか。後でニュースで言ったんだけど、隕石だって。**

Masaka. Ato de nyūsu de itte tan dakedo, inseki datte.
(No way. Later, on the news, they said it was a meteorite.)

B: **でも、見られてラッキーだったね。**

Demo, mirarete rakkī datta ne.
(Anyway, you were lucky to see 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).
e-mail : manami-m@js6.so-net.ne.jp



What's New?

Niihama City

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Can the USA Mount a COVID Comeback?

James Whittle

Have you ever sat down to watch a game on TV, maybe baseball or another sport, between your favorite team and an intimidating opponent? Despite the expectations being against your team, you have faith that with the right balance of grit, teamwork, and a little luck, they will pull through. Then, less than halfway through the game, you realize that it just isn't going to happen, your team just isn't up for it. The reasons might vary: poor coaching, lack of communication, unpreparedness, perhaps a combination of all the above. Or maybe it's a deeper problem. Something within the culture of your team that has existed for many years, creating the exact wrong set of circumstances needed to win in this moment. A reliance on showcasing stars rather than emphasizing teamwork? Neglect of certain individuals that has created resentments within the team? Something.

This is what it feels like watching my country try to tackle to current COVID-19 crisis. The effort to contain the virus has been dismal in many parts of the United States. As of writing this, the country has the most cases of any nation in the world at nearly 5 million confirmed, with the curve peaking in mid-July, months after epidemiologists advised against the rapid re-opening of society. The country

has nearly 15,000 cases per one million people, placing in the top ten worldwide between Oman and Peru. This is a strange distinction for the United States, a country which many assume would have the resources, medical infrastructure, and knowhow to tackle this problem.

I recently gave a talk to a local volunteer group about the American COVID-19 situation and my thoughts. In preparation, I used social media to reach out to friends and family stateside. I wanted to know specific ways the pandemic has affected them, and if possible any silver linings behind the dark cloud of the virus. The positives mirror my own experience during Japan's state of emergency in May: more time spent with family, spent outside, spent catching up on reading or a long delayed art project, spent appreciating life. To my surprise, one friend mentioned that between her regular salary still coming and not having to pay for childcare, she was actually able to save \$1,800 in a month, which highlights another underlying economic problem in the United States. I worry now however, with more people losing work and, at the time of writing, the US government unable to compromise on a sufficient financial aid deal for citizens, darker times still await.

When it came to the negative side of things, there was one through line connecting all of my friends and family: anxiety. This is no doubt true among people all over the world, but the feeling might be amplified in America given the piecemeal, "leave-it-to-the-states" response from the federal government coupled with the overwhelming number of new cases every day. With no end in sight and nothing to look forward to, people cite increasing levels of depression or other mental illness. The mask issue has become unnecessarily politicized and many feel unsafe to be out in public around unmasked people. With many states preparing to reopen schools at the end of August, friends who work in public schools worry that it will be impossible to maintain safety guidelines and there will be a high risk of infection.

Though a country with a population the size of the US does face a particularly difficult challenge in containing the virus,

there are some models to follow. The examples set by countries like Taiwan, New Zealand, and even Greece can serve as a template for success. To varying degrees, successful countries have used lockdowns, cohesive messaging about social distancing, guaranteed housing/rent coverage, and other fiscal guarantees to put their citizens' minds at ease and encourage them to stay home.

Indeed there are a great number of Americans who are ready and willing to change their lifestyle in order to quell the spread of infection and have been doing so already. Perhaps as cases and fatalities continue to increase, people will take the pandemic more seriously. Perhaps it takes a friend or loved one becoming infected in order for some to realize the seriousness of this situation. But by then it could be too late. Americans must continue to wait for an answer from the federal government, but in the meantime, on a community level, the time to mount a comeback is now.

James Whittle drifted between Japan and the USA for several years, until finally settling in Doi. He and his wife own and operate Jade Eikaiwa in Niihama.



At Akagane Museum

9/5 Sat.-10/18 Sun.

☆The exhibition of future paintings of Niihama
9:30-17:00 2F Lobby For Free

☆The corner for coloring of illustration by Hiroshi Manabe
10:00-16:00 1F Entrance Lobby For Free

For further information please call 31-0305.



Do you Know the "Help Mark"?

(Monthly City News of May 2020)

Human Rights Education Section

(人権教育課) TEL: 65-1243

Discrimination and prejudice may be dissolved by understanding the other party. Have you ever seen signs in a big crowded place such as a station that use pictures to show you where to find the parking lot, rest room, etc? Among these pictographs there is one that asks you to consider how to live in a way that allows everybody to take part in a social life with peace of mind. The purpose of the help mark is to make others aware that there are many people who need assistance or help, even though they are "invisible" to others, such as people using an artificial leg or joint, or suffering from an internal hazard or intractable disease, or are in the early stages of pregnancy. When you see a person who bears a help mark, offer your seat or help if the person seems in trouble. The Help Mark is available for free to any person or family who needs it at the Community Welfare Section of the City Hall. (市役所地域福祉課 Shiyakusho Chiikifukushika).

Online Information in English

☆ Garbage Rules in Niihama:



How to sort and put out your trash and garbage

https://www.city.niihama.lg.jp/soshiki/gomi/gomibu_nbetu-1.html

☆ What's New? in English



☆ Multilingual Living Information from Clair:

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