

What's New?

Niihama City

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My New Life in Seiyo

By Mark Anderson

Hi everyone, how's 2014 going for you so far? Did you make some New Year resolutions? I recommend you have at least one personal and one career-orientated goal. You must write them down and tell people. I'll share mine with you.

1. I want to stay fit and healthy and maintain my weight. To achieve this I will continue climbing mountains in Ehime, take regular walks, do a half-marathon and start road cycling.
2. My career goal is to make big inroads into becoming a work-at-home Japanese-to-English translator. I have studied Japanese off and on for the last 24 years. I finally passed Level One of JPLT (Japanese Language Proficiency Test) a couple of years ago (it took me long enough, didn't it!) Thank you to `Niihama Nihongo no kai` teachers for helping me pass this exam.

After three enjoyable and eventful years teaching at primary and junior high schools in Niihama on the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) Programme, I packed my bags in late July 2013 and moved to my wife Miho's hometown of Seiyo City (located in southern Ehime, between Ozu and Uwajima).

I am currently in my seventh year in Japan. My previous stays in Japan were in Yokohama as a high school exchange student (many years ago!) and from mid-1999 I was dispatched to a mountain village called Morotsuka in Miyazaki-ken on the JET Programme where I stayed for two wonderful years.

One thing I find exciting about living in Japan is each prefecture has its own distinct character, fun stuff to do, unique history and cuisine, not to mention, everywhere I go I meet friendly and interesting people – both Japanese and non-Japanese. After moving to a different part of Ehime, I have realized that these same things hold true even within the same prefecture.

I'm continuing on the JET Programme and now teach at primary and junior high schools in Nomura-cho, a town surrounded by low mountains. It has among other things, a silk museum and many dairy cattle. It's also very famous for sumo. In late November 2013, the 162nd Sumo tournament was held. There was one foreign entrant. Me. What a great experience, something that even in Japan is a very rare opportunity for amateurs to compete in such a big tournament. By the way, would you be comfortable wearing only a big g-string (called a *mawashi*) in front of 1000 people, not to mention a live TV audience, albeit a small one, as it was just the local cable TV station? Actually, I didn't mind too much. So how did I do? Well, I had four bouts, three for the city hall team and one in the individual competition. I tried my best but actually ended up losing them all, although two of the four could have gone either way.

Mark Anderson, from Christchurch, New Zealand is a self-confessed Japanophile. First captivated by the country from watching `The Karate Kid Part II` in the late 1980's, he likes hiking, beer, chocolate, watching international sport on TV (especially rugby, cricket and football) and has travelled to over twenty countries.

You can read on the Web.

***What's New?**

***Garbage and trash Collection Calendar**

***Information living in Niihama**

Click  <http://www.city.niihama.lg.jp/english/>

Clair:*Multilingual Living Information

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

A Picture Book about Shikoku's 88 Temple Pilgrimage, the Hospitality and Surrounding Scenery

(from Ehime Shimbun November 14, 2013)

It is refreshing and exciting to travel from temple to temple, enjoying the beauty of the sea, mountains, and old buildings. Every time you visit a temple, you can have a commemorative seal stamped on your stamp book. A picture book about the Shikoku 88 temple pilgrimage is being made by two former American ALTs, who were assistant language teachers in Ehime so that Shikoku's Sacred 88 Temples can be better known by people around the world.

One of them Chelcea Leasing is from Guam and the other Elena Staider is from Michigan. Both of them came to Japan in 2009 for the first time and began working in Yawatahama City and Ainan-cho. They had a simple question ... Why on earth are pilgrims walking in white clothes around the temples? This led to their own pilgrimage, enjoying the scenery of Shikoku by bicycle. With the minimum of luggage, clothes and a tent on their bicycles, it took them 15 days to visit all the temples.

Once, when they were having a hard time on a steep slope and felt like giving up, an elderly man kindly carried their bicycles to a temple on the top of a mountain in his car. Then, from the top, they admired the beautiful scenery. Whenever you have a hard time, you have a happy moment right after that, must be the most important thing they learned during their pilgrimage. In the US, a church is a place where you are supposed to make a prayer silently, but here in Japan elderly women are chatting pleasantly in a temple.

Another time an elementary student they were talking to helped them take shelter from the rain, they were warmly welcomed and were deeply moved by the kindness. They felt that they must share the precious experience with many people around the world, so they started to produce a book while living together in Maryland. They asked for donations on the Internet to help with the publication of the picture book and have received about 1,530,000 yen from 270 people from all over the world. It is the story of a girl making a pilgrimage on a bicycle. Snaider, who is good at drawing, drew pictures which look like Japanese woodblock prints. Leady is writing two lines of sentences on every page. They are planning to complete the book in February and are deliberately doing it themselves by hand.

They say that Ehime is their second home. Their website telling of the charm of Ehime and their progress in making the picture book is <http://bigricefield.com/>

The 24th Niihama Global Party

"Just One World"

If you are looking for a party with a lot of fun, please join the Global Party, where you can have a good time talking, tasting various sweets, enjoying performance on stage and meeting people from different cultures.

Please don't miss this chance. Come and find the fun.

Let's have a wonderful time!

This is a tea party. Please come after you finish your lunch.

Date: Sunday, February 9th, 2014
Time: 13:00 to 15:30
Venue: Niihama Women's Plaza
Address: 4-4-9 Shonai-cho, Niihama-shi
Phone: 0897-37-1700
Admission: ¥500/person to be paid at the reception.
Free for children age 6 and younger.

Volunteer help in preparation of various sweets is warmly welcomed. If you are interested, please contact the people below.

Organized by: The Global Party Association
& SGG Niihama
Sponsored by: Niihama City Office
& Board of Education
Enquiry: Ms. Okame 0897-34-8914
yasumi@galaxy.ocn.ne.jp
Mr. Nakamura 080-3403-3351
qq4k8q39k@hyper.ocn.ne.jp

February Events

Sunday Flea Market

Date: Feb. 2nd & 16th from 7:30 to 12:00
Place: On the road east of Chuo Park
(the park across from the City Hall)

MOVIE

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Shopping Center)

January 10 ~ ESCAPE PLAN 2D English
January 17 ~ The Story of CNBLE/NEVERSTOP Korean
January 18 ~ ENDERS GAME 2D English /Dubbed
January 31 ~ AMERICAN HUSTLE 2D English
January 31 ~ THE WOLF OF WALL STREET 2D English
February 1 ~ Thor: The Dark World 2D · 3D Not Fixed
February 7 ~ RUSH (PG12) 2D English / Dubbed
February 7 ~ 13 STAND BY ME 2D English
February 15 ~ Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit 2D English
February 22 ~ Kick-Ass 2 (R15+) 2D English
February 28 ~ THE HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG

Information Service

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

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

Movies might be changed without notice. Please check beforehand.

▪ General	¥ 1,800
▪ Student (college)	¥ 1,500
▪ Student (Junior or Senior high, Elementary)	¥ 1,000
▪ Child (3 & up)	¥ 1,000
▪ A married couple, either one over 50	¥ 2,000
▪ Senior (60 & up)	¥ 1,000
▪ The first day of every month	¥ 1,000
▪ Cine MILEAGE Day (members only, every Tuesday)	¥ 1,300
▪ Every Wednesday (only for women)	¥ 1,000
▪ After 20:00 (every day)	¥ 1,200
▪ The first show on Friday mornings	¥ 1,300
▪ TOHO Cinemas Day (14 of the month)	¥ 1,000
▪ The disabled or the helper	¥ 1,000
▪ 3D	add ¥ 400

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas for monthly articles. email: yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp
kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp
sheep@abeam.ocn.ne.jp

*The editors for this month are K. Kumata & T. Oishi

+ ONE POINT JAPANESE

“～ないと…”

^{ゆうじん} ^{うち}
(友人の家で)

A : あっ、もう こんな 時間。そろそろ 失礼しないと・・・。

Aa, mō konna jikan. Sorosoro shitsurē shinaito・・・

(Ah! Look at the time. I'd be better going.)

B : まだ 早いんですよ。ゆっくりして 行って ください。

Mada hayai desu yo. Yukkuri shite itte kudasai.

(It's still early! Take your time.)

A : ありがとうございます。とても 楽しかったです。

Arigatō gozaimasu. Totemo tanoshikatta desu.

(Thank you very much. I had a very good time.)

A : この DVD、いつまでに 返すんですか。

Kono DVD、itsu made ni kaesun desu ka.

(By when are you going to return this DVD?)

B : えーと、あっ、ヤバイ！ 昨日まで だった！

Eeto, a, yabai! Kinō made datta!

(Let me see... Oh, no! It was due yesterday!)

A : 早く 返しに いかないと・・・。Hayaku kaeshi ni ikanaito・・・。

(You'd better go return it right away.)

A : 今晚、映画に 行きませんか。Konban ēga ni ikimasen ka?

(How about going to a movie tonight?)

B : 今日はちょっと・・・。Kyō wa chotto・・・

(I'm afraid tonight is not good.)

A : 何か 約束が あるんですか。

Nanika yakusoku ga arun desu ka.

(Do you have an engagement?)

B : いいえ、でも 今日から オリンピックでしょ？

Iie, demo kyō kara orinpicchu desho?

(No, but the Olympic games start today, right?)

早く 帰らないと・・・。Hayaku kaeranaito・・・。

(So I should go home soon.)

A : 録画して、後で 見るとか。Rokuga shite, atode miru toka・・・

(Why don't you videotape them and watch them later...)

B : うーん、やっぱり オリンピックは ライブで 見ないと、ね。

Uun, yappari orinpicchu wa raibu de minaito ne.

(Well, ...No, you have to watch the Olympics live, after all.)

< 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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