

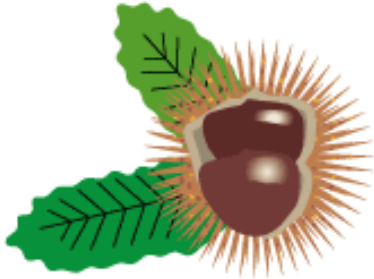
# What's New?

Niihama City

No.194

October 2011

Published by SGG Niihama



# 10 月

## Couch Surfing Is My Friend

Mark Anderson



(source: Google Images)

Do you guys know about `couchsurfing.com`? Anyone can create a profile and stay or host at other members homes for free. There`s around 3 million members worldwide (and growing) and almost every country and territory in the world is represented.

Interestingly, approximately half of the members come from Europe. In the 15 months, I've been in Niihama, I've had the pleasure of hosting 8 people. For example, a German 'o-henro-san' lady, who was walking the 1300km pilgrimage route around Shikoku, stayed for 2 nights at my apartment. A young French guy, who was walking the entire length of Japan, stayed 2 nights. A French-Canadian lady, who was cycling from Nagasaki to Kyoto, stayed 1 night. Needless to say, all 3 of them needed a nice hot shower when they turned up on my doorstep!

During Golden Week, I hosted a group of 3 people, aged in their 20's from Osaka – a Japanese guy, a Japanese lady and a German lady. We soon clicked and spent a fun 2 days together visiting Hirose House in Niihama, Asahi Brewery in Saijo and our friend Pat's DJ party at Kamo River, also in Saijo. However, the climax of the trip was the late afternoon/night-time hike of western Japan's tallest mountain, Mt Ishizuchi (1982m). We only left Niihama at 2 pm, which meant we luckily only just made it in time for the last ropeway ride up at 3pm. The cable car takes around 15 minutes so after that we began the long climb to the summit. One of our group walked for an hour and turned back to head to the car. This left the 3 of us – my new friends Yusuke and Lena, to continue the hard slog to the peak. We arrived at the top of Mt Ishizuchi at 6pm, and cheered 'banzai' 3 times. Unfortunately, there was no view to speak of as we couldn't see more than 20 metres ahead of us due to the low cloud that had formed. After resting and admiring our efforts, we set off back down the mountain. At around 8pm, darkness set in so we

donned headlamps and continued the descent. I am an experienced hiker from my days as a member of the Canterbury University Tramping Club (hiking is called tramping in New Zealand). This experience proved invaluable in finding our way in the pitch black conditions. We eventually arrived back at the car at 10:30pm. I certainly don't recommend anyone copy this idea, although if you are a confident hiker, know the route down and have headlamps, it should be trouble-free.

In August, I travelled to Germany and met up with my new German friend. Through this connection, I was able to stay 3 nights at her friend's house!

I think the `couchsurfing.com` website is a great idea to bring people together from all over the world and in doing so creates friendship and cultural understanding. So as well as making new friends everyone can save money on their accommodation costs. I look forward to many more couch surfing adventures in the future.



Mark Anderson is from Christchurch, New Zealand. Since August 2010, he has been an ALT on the JET Programme. He has previously lived in Yokohama (1 year) and Morotsuka Village, Miyazaki (2 years).

## "Auberge Yuragi"

(from The Niihama Shisei-dayori, September issue)

About one hour's drive from Niihama Station, up in the vivid green mountains, beside a clear stream you will find the "Yuragi no Mori" (Wavering Forest) forest park. The park, located on a highland, 700 to 900 meters above sea level, was opened in 2000 as a playing-and-learning facility so that visitors could become more aware of the importance of conserving the culture and natural environment of mountainous areas.

Visitors will find a restaurant, a hotel, and a workshop in which to experience flower-pressing art and woodworking, as well as a promenade which is always kept in good condition, so that they can enjoy a full day in the forest park.

The French-style restaurant "Auberge Yuragi" was reopened in March this year following refurbishment.

Why not come and enjoy the Chef's Special French dishes, savoring the slow passing of time there, and the peaceful atmosphere of the mountainous landscape, which will allow you to forget the busy routine of your everyday life?

"Auberge" in French means a restaurant providing accommodation so that tasty meals can be enjoyed leisurely.

Mr.Kamibayashi (29), the chef of the restaurant, cooks every dish with great care and has acquired a very high reputation. 80% of visitors to the restaurant are women. He also serves vegetable dishes agreeable to elderly people's tastes. He said, "The potatoes produced here are from Besshiyama are much sweeter and tastier than those from other areas." He has moved to live in Besshiyama with his family and boasts of the charms of Besshiyama, saying "Here it's cool in summer while the snowscape in winter is fantastic. "Why don't you come and taste the chef's favorite dishes using the fresh vegetables from Besshiyama?"

### Lunch Menu:

Sommelier select vegetable curry 1,100 yen

Seasonal pasta lunch 1,300 yen

Yuragi dejeuner 1,500 yen

(The restaurant may be crowded in the daytime on Saturday and Sunday, but is less crowded around 11 a.m. or after 1:30 p.m.)

Yuragi no Mori Tel:0897-64-2220

Website: <http://www.besshiyama.com/yuragi/>





MOVIES

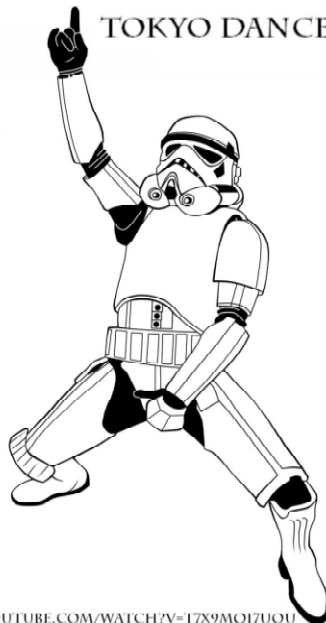
TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Shopping Center)

September 16 ~	SANCTUM	English
September 17 ~	BATTLE: LOS ANGELS	English
October 1 ~	FAST FIVE	English
October 7 ~	RISE OF THE PLANET	
	OF THE APES	English
October 14 ~	CAPTAIN AMERICA ·	
	THE FIRST AVENGER 3D	English
October 27 ~	COWBOYS & ALIENS	English
October 28 ~	THE THREE MUSKETEERS 3D	English

Information Service  
 Internet: <http://niihama-aeonmall.com>  
 Tape (24 hrs): 0897-35-3322 (in Japanese)



TOKYO DANCE TROOPER!



HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=17X9MQ17UOU

<Contributed by Adam Schartup>

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

email: [yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp](mailto:yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp)

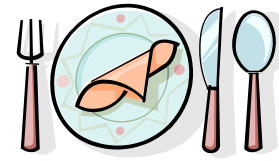
[kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp)

[sheep@abeam.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:sheep@abeam.ocn.ne.jp)

\* The editors for this month are K.Kawabata & E.Ishikawa.

## Exploring Restaurants: Western - style

# Bistro



by Michael Newlin

This is a very quaint and romantic French restaurant with a very good chef. While the food is not strictly French, it is a nice fusion between French and Japanese. Directions: Starting at Watamin-chi parking lot (located on the main eating and drinking road called Shikishimadori), turn right and follow the road for a number of blocks. When you come to an intersection with a gas station, turn right and Bistro is on the right side (look for the French flag on the sign).

## OCTOBER EVENT

Niihama Taiko Festival Oct.14(Fri)--18(Tue)

*Jobu area* Oct. 14(Fri)15(Sat)16(Sun)

Main performance

15(Sat)12:00-15:30 \*19 taikos at Yamane Park

*Ojoin area* Oct. 15(Sat)16(Sun)17(Mon)

Main performance

15(Sat)19:30-22:00 \*10 taikos at M2 Ojoin

*Kawahigashi area & Kawanishi area* Oct.16(Sun)17(Mon)18(Tue)

Main performance

17(Mon)10:00-12:00 \*11 taikos at Ikku Shrine

17(Mon)14:30-16:00 \*9 taikos in front of Takihama Station

18(Tue)8:30-9:30 \*11 taikos at Oe hama

18(Tue)14:30-17:30 \*11 taikos at Ikku Shrine

# ONE POINT JAPANESE

## いつでも

- A : Bさん、何をチェックしているんですか。  
B-san, nani o chekku shiteirun desu ka. (What are you checking, B?)
- B : 防災グッズです。Bōsai guzzu desu. (Disaster prevention goods.)  
いつでも避難できるように、定期的に点検しているんです。  
Itsudemo hinan dekiru yōni, tēkiteki ni tenken shiteirun desu.  
(I check them regularly so that I can evacuate at any time.)
- A : Cさんたちも準備していますか。  
C-santachi mo junbi shiteimasu ka. (C, have the rest of you prepared?)
- C : いいえ、まだ何もしていません。  
Iie, mada nanimo shiteimasen. (No, I haven't done anything yet.)
- D : うち、川の近くの、洪水が心配です。  
Uchi wa, kawa no chikaku nanode, kōzui ga shinpai desu.  
(My house is near the river, so I'm worried about floods.)
- E : 家の裏に山があるので、土砂崩れが心配です。  
Ie no ura ni, yama ga arunode, doshakuzure ga shinpai desu.  
(There's a mountain behind my house, so I'm worried about landslides.)
- A : 避難場所のチェックをしておいたほうがいいですよ。  
Hinan basho no chekku o shite oita hō ga ii desu yo.  
(You had better check the evacuation location.)
- B : うち、安全な場所にあるので、何かあったら、いつでも来てくださいね。  
Uchi wa anzen na basho ni arunode, nanika attara, itsudemo kite kudasai ne.  
(My house is in a safe place, so if anything happens, please come to my house at any time.)
- 全 : ありがとう ございます。Arigatō gozaimasu. (Thank you very much!)

- A : あした遊べる? Ashita asoberu? (Can you go out tomorrow?)
- B : 午前中は無理だけど、午後ならいつでもいいよ。  
Gozenchū wa muri da kedo, gogo nara itsudemo ii yo.  
(I can't go out in the morning, but in the afternoon anytime is OK.)
- C : わたしは、3時以降だったら、いつでも大丈夫。  
Watashi wa, sanji ikō dattara, itsudemo daijōbu.  
(I am OK any time after three.)
- A : じゃ、3時半にイオンのドトールの前で、待ち合わせね。  
Ja, sanji han ni, ion no dotōru no mae de, machiawase ne.  
(OK, let's meet in front of Dotour at Aeon at three thirty.)
- 全 : OK! じゃ、またあした。Okkē! Ja, mata ashita.  
(OK! So, see you tomorrow.)

< 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