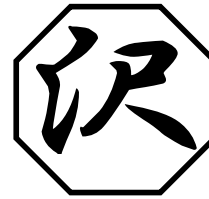
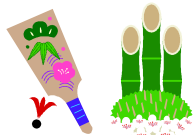




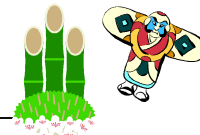
# YONEZAWAJIN



No.22 January 2009 (English Edition)



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!



## Tenchijin Expo 2009

*Experience the world of the Tenchi Muyo! Period Drama and the life of Naoe Kanetsugu*

The NHK period drama, "Tenchi Muyo!" which depicts the life of Naoe Kanetsugu, the famous Uesugi Clan General of Yonezawa, will finally begin this month! To celebrate this occasion, the Tenchi Muyo! Expo 2009 will be held throughout the year to promote Yonezawa, the city that Naoe Kanetsugu built the foundation for. Held at the Denkoku No Mori Uesugi Museum, Tenchi Muyo! Expo 2009 allows guests to learn more about and experience the world of the television drama through exhibits. Various artifacts related to Kanetsugu and the Uesugi Family during the Warring States period will also be on display. In addition, the Tenchi Muyo! Theatre will be shown in the permanent exhibit so guests can enjoy Tenchi Muyo! throughout the entire museum.

### Period Drama Information

Various information about the drama including the story and characters, actors and backstage production secrets along with costumes and props used in the drama will be on display.

### Tenchijin Collection

Various cultural artifacts that are thought to have been viewed or used by Kanetsugu along with documents written during and after the period that Kanetsugu lived in will be on display.

### The Fateful Battle of Sekigahara

The Battle of Sekigahara in 1600 changed the fates of the Uesugi Clan and Kanetsugu. Through the ideologies and actions of Uesugi Kagekatsu and Kanetsugu, guests will experience the importance of preserving "justice" and "love" in a time when most generals plotted to gain power.

**January 24<sup>th</sup> (Sat), 2009 – January 11<sup>th</sup> (Mon), 2010**  
**Denkoku No Mori Yonezawa Uesugi Museum**

### Advanced Tickets on Sale

(Includes ticket for permanent exhibit)

General 500 yen (700 yen at-the-door)  
Students 300 yen (500 yen at-the-door)  
Elem/Jr High Students 150 yen (300 yen at-the-door)  
Advanced tickets available at Yamagata Newspaper Branch Offices, select stores, and convenience stores near you.

### DID YOU KNOW???

**Kasugasan Rinsenji Temple**  
春日山林泉寺



The graves of the wives and children of the Uesugi clan lords, as well as Naoe Kanetsugu and other famous chief retainers of the clan are located at this temple. Rinsenji Temple was originally built in 1496 in Echigo-Koda (present day Joetsu City in Niigata Prefecture) by Nagao Yoshikage, the grandfather of Uesugi Kenshin, to commemorate his late father, Shigekage. Following the transfer of the Uesugi Clan, the temple was later moved to Aizu and then to Yonezawa to its present location. The temple garden which makes use of Mt. Naderayama in the background in its design, is considered to be one of the three best gardens in Yonezawa. You can also practice Zen meditation at the temple every Sunday morning (From 6:00am to 8:30am).

## Sasano Kannon Festival

**Date:** January 17<sup>th</sup> (Sat)  
**Time:** 14:00~15:30  
**Place:** Sasano Kannon Temple  
**Cost:** Free  
(500 yen for Fire Walk)



This annual festival is held at the Sasano Kannon Temple in the Sasano District of Southern Yonezawa. During the festival, a fire walk to pray for good health is held. You can participate in the fire walking if you buy an amulet at the temple on the day of the event. Sasano Ittobori wooden carvings will also be sold on the temple grounds and the streets outside.



# New Year's Traditions in Yonezawa



Here are some New Year's customs that were practiced in Yonezawa in the past and are still performed in some areas today.

## New Year's Eve

On New Year's eve, decorations made from pine were decorated around the house. Mochi that was made on December 28<sup>th</sup> was piled on top of each other and decorated to welcome Toshitokujin, the god of the New Year. For dinner, different foods that were thought to bring good luck were eaten including butterbur (fuki), chestnuts (kuri), salted whale soup (iruka jiru), pickled melon (uri no kasuzuke), and hyo, a type of weed noted for its vitality.

## New Year's Prayer

On the morning of New Year's day, people go visit the shrines and temples that they normally go to pray for a good year.

## New Year's Food

Although it varies in each region, food that is thought to bring you luck is often eaten including hyo and fuki.

It is also common to eat soba noodles on January 2<sup>nd</sup> and grated yam (tororo) on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Carp and shiobiki sushi (a traditional local sushi made with salted pink salmon) are often eaten on New Years as well.

## Hatsu Yume

To have a good dream on the night of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, a poem written in palindrome was written on a piece of paper which was then folded in a shape of a boat and put underneath your pillow.

## New Year's Greeting

On the 4<sup>th</sup> day of the New Year, people would bring mochi and sansai (mountain vegetables) and go visit their relatives for a New Years greeting.



## Other Events & Information



### **YIRA Café**

If you are interested in international exchange or want to chat with people in different languages including Japanese, English, Chinese or Korean, bring your friends along and come join us for a cup of tea!

When: 1/16 (Fri), 1/27 (Tue) 14:30~16:30

Where: City Hall 7F Room 701 Cost: Free

Inquiries: Yonezawa City International Relations Association (YIRA) TEL 22-5111

### **Cinema Kabuki: Jinjyobanashi Bunshichimottoi**

Date: 1/16 (Fri) Time: 13:30, 18:30 (Two showings)

Place: Yonezawa Shimin Bunka Kaikan

What: A screening of a High-Definition digital video recording of a famous kabuki stage performance which makes you feel as if you are really watching it onstage.

Cost: Adults/Students 1,400yen advanced · 1,800yen day tickets

Elem./Jr HS/ Sr HS Students 1,000yen advanced · 1,400yen day

Tickets: Available at Onuma, Lawson, and Ticket PIA.

Inquiries: Ticket YBC TEL 023-634-8600

### **Family Concert**

A concert by amateur orchestras in Yonezawa and other young musicians.

Date: 2/1 (Sun) Time: 14:00~

Cost: 500 yen (Anyone age 4 and older may attend)

Tickets: Available at Onuma, Saty, Denkoku No Mori.

Inquiries: Denkoku No Mori TEL 26-2666

### YIRA (Yonezawa City International Relations Association) Event



*Experience Japanese Culture!*

## **New Year's Mochi Making**



**Come join our New Year's Festival!**

**We will be making mochi (rice cakes) using a mortar and pestle and eating various mochi dishes.**

*You'll also be able to try out Japanese flower arranging and calligraphy. Come join us with your family and friends!*



**When:** January 10<sup>th</sup> (Sat) 10:30-14:00

**Where:** Seibu Community Center

**Cost:** Members 300 yen, Non-Members 600 yen

(The flower arranging will cost an extra 200yen. Please let us know if you want to participate in the flower arranging when you sign up.)

**Inquiries:** YIRA Office TEL 22-5111 FAX 24-4540

Email: yira@omn.ne.jp

Home Page: <http://www.omn.ne.jp/~yira>

## **Yoji-Jukugo of the Month**

b a j i t o f u

**馬耳東風**

**Meaning: To turn a deaf ear to something.**

**If you would like to be put on our mailing list, or if you have any feedback for the newsletter, please contact us at:**

Civic Exchange Section

Secretarial & Public Relations Division

Yonezawa City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

5-2-25 Kanaike, Yonezawa, Yamagata 〒992-8501

TEL: 0238-22-5111 Ext. 3005

FAX: 0238-24-4540

Email: [hisyo-ka@city.yonezawa.yamagata.jp](mailto:hisyo-ka@city.yonezawa.yamagata.jp)

Homepage: <http://www.city.yonezawa.yamagata.jp/shisei/matidukuri/kokusai/index.html>