

Participate in the Tanbo-Art Rice Planting Event

Come participate in a rice planting event near Onogawa Hot Spring! Participants will be planting different colored rice seedlings which, when fully grown, will form an image of the samurai Maeda Keiji, the protagonist of the manga "Hana no Keiji". The rice-field art can be observed from the viewing platform located on a hill near the field as well as from the live web cam on the Yonezawa Agricultural Festival Homepage.

When: May 30th (Sun) 9:00~ 13:00

Cost: Junior High School Students and Older ¥1,500
Elementary School Students and Younger ¥1,000

Benefits:

- Free Lunch
(Rice balls made from delicious local rice, pork soup, tea)
- 2kg of the harvest rice and ancient kodai rice (sent in fall)
- Free hot spring ticket for Onogawa Hot Spring (valid only on day of event)

Meeting Place: Misawa Community Center (Near Onogawa Hot Spring)

Sign-Up Deadline: May 10th (Mon) *Limited to the first 200 people who apply

What to Bring: Towels, sandals, change of clothing, mat or rug, rain gear, etc.

(Please wear clothing that you don't mind getting dirty. The rice planting will be done barefoot.)

Application: Yonezawa City Tourism Section TEL 22-5111

Yonezawa Agricultural Festival Home Page: <http://umai-yone.sakura.ne.jp>



(Last Year's Tanbo Art)

Did You Know ??

Togenji Temple (5-2-31 Chuo)

This temple was originally built in Shinshu (present day Nagano Prefecture) in 1476 by a monk named Kakuei.

It was transferred to the Chuo area of Yonezawa following the transfer of the Uesugi clan to Yonezawa.

Togenji is famous for its 500 Arhat statues that are located inside the Arhat-Hall within the grounds of the temple. Arhats (Rakan in Japanese) are Buddhist holy men who have attained enlightenment. The 27th monk of Togenji named Sogaku decided to create these Arhat statues to pray for a fruitful harvest and to save the souls of the people after seeing them struggle from a famine during that time. A sculptor of Buddhist statues in the Kita-Teramach area worked on the statues for over 20 years and finally completed all 500 in 1863. Each of the statues have a different expression, and it is said that you can find one that looks very similar to someone close to you. Each statue also holds an item that helped them attain enlightenment and has a golden "wheel of law" behind their head.



The 500 Arhat Statues

The New Child Allowance System Has Begun From April 2010!

The new child allowance system (kodomo-teate) provides families with a monthly allowance of 13,000 yen for each child until they finish junior high school. The system was initiated to support the healthy growth of children who will be our future leaders, and for the growth of society as a whole. If you have not already applied for the allowance, please do so as quickly as possible at the Children's Section on the second floor of City Hall (you will not receive the allowance unless you apply for it). To receive the allowance for June, applications must be completed by May 14th.



Who Must Apply for the Allowance

1. People who need to make a new application

Those who were not receiving the previous jido-teate child allowance as of March 31st, 2010 and are raising children up to junior high school age.

2. People who need to make an application for increased allowance amount

Those who were receiving the previous jido-teate allowance but are currently raising second and/or third year junior high school children.

*Application Extension Period

If you currently fit the criteria for receiving the allowance as of April 1st 2010, you can still receive the previous months' allowances if you apply by September 30th.

*Continued on the next page.

Q. I did not receive the previous jido-teate child allowance since my income was over the income limit. Do I need to apply for the new kodomo-teate allowance?

A. Yes. Please contact the Children's Section for details.

Q. When will I receive the allowance?

A. The allowances will be paid in June, October, and February (the sum for the previous months will be paid together). If the payment date falls on a weekend or holiday, it will be made on the previous day.

Q. How much will I receive for the allowance in June?

A. Those who were receiving the jido-teate allowance will receive the jido-teate allowance amount for February and March and receive the kodomo-teate allowance amount for April and May.

Summary of the Child Allowance System

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|---------------------------|--|
| Who Can Receive it | The main income earner of families with children |
| Eligible Children | Until they graduate from junior high school |
| Allowance Amount | 13,000 yen per month |
| Income Limit | None |
| Pay Date | June, October, February |
| Method of Payment | Bank Transfer |
| Donation System | Available |

Other Events & Information

○Taisho Koto Seasonal Recital

When: 5/15 (Sun) 13:00~

Where: Denkoku No Mori Okitama Cultural Hall

Cost: Free

Inquiries: TEL 56-2788 Contact Takahashi

○Dramatic Ebisu Festival

When: 5/23 (Sun), 6/13 (Sun) 10:30~15:30

Where: Aramachi Shopping District

What: This fun street festival features over 100 food & craft tents, street performances, and much more!

Inquiries: TEL 090-7337-1015

○"Jazz Live on Rakuchu-Rakugai Folding Screen" OHKUCHI JAZZ TRIO

When: 5/19 (Wed) 19:00~

Where: Denkoku No Mori Okitama Bunka Hall

Cost: General 2,000 yen, Students 1,000 yen

(500 yen extra for tickets bought at-the-door)

Tickets Sold At: Onuma Yonezawa Store, Yonezawa Saty, Yonezawa Music Store, Ongaku Azm-kan, Denkoku No Mori

Inquiries: Denkoku No Mori TEL 26-2666

○Yonezawa Women's Choir Concert 2010

When: 5/29 (Sat) 18:30~

Place: Yonezawa Shimin Bunka Kaikan

Cost: 500 yen

(Free for high school students and younger)

Inquiries: Shimin Bunka Kaikan TEL 23-8510

Yonezawa City International Relations Association (YIRA) Information



YIRA CAFE

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 join us for a cup of tea!

When: 5/20 (Thu) 14:30~16:00

Where: City Hall 7F Meeting Room 701

Cost: Free

Inquiries: YIRA Office TEL 22-5111

Email: yira@omn.ne.jp

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

○A Musical Storybook

When: 5/30 (Sun) 15:00~

Where: Yonezawa Shimin Bunka Kaikan

What: A fun family concert performed by animals that even small children can enjoy.

Cost: Adults 1,500 yen, Children (Elementary school students and younger) 500 yen (Children 3 years old and younger can attend for free if they can sit on the laps of their guardian)

Inquiries: Yonezawa Shimin Bunka Kaikan
TEL 23-8510

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

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