

VIVA! ひめじ

Sept. 2018 Vol.66

English

The Newsletters for foreign residents

<People> InterviewP1
Himeji International Friendship FestivalP2
Outing Information (Autumn, 2018)P3
Do you know the symbols around us?P4,5
Information / Editor's PostscriptP6

Himeji Cultural and International Exchange
Foundation newsletter editing volunteers
URL <http://www.himeji-iec.or.jp>

<People> Ms.Pirozhnik Palina

Ms.Palina comes from Grodno in the Republic of Belarus. Belarus is located between Russia and Poland. It is said that the capital city, Minsk, is one of the most beautiful city in Europe with a long history. Palina lived in a small town about 3 hours by car from Minsk. She lives in Himeji city with her husband now.



Q: Can you tell me about Belarus?

A: Belarus has a population of 10 million. We don't have a sea, and almost all the land around the country is flat. Our country is an agricultural country and our main industry is manufacturing agricultural tractors and production of fertilizer and linen. We also have four seasons like Japan; summer is short, and winter is cold and long. There is a Belarussian language, but mainly Russian is spoken.

Q: What did you do in Belarus?

A: I studied geography at the university in Minsk. I also learned Chinese by myself.

Q: Why did you come to Japan?

A: At first I went to a university in Beijing, China to study geography. When I worked in Beijing after graduation, I met a Japanese man and married him. After that I came to Himeji, my husband's hometown.

Q: Do you enjoy your life in Japan?

A: I love Japan. Japanese people live by following rules not to trouble other people, and working diligently. In Japan, food is delicious, and I have a comfortable life. I work every day, and grow vegetables and fruits in the garden of my house. On holidays, I enjoy my hobby - going cycling with my husband. The other day we visited the "Shimanami Kaido".

Q: What do you want to do in Japan?

A: At first, I want to study Japanese. I also want to make a beautiful garden by growing flowers and crops. I like to travel; I'm planning to go to Miyakojima with my husband someday.

The 23rd Himeji International Friendship Festival

We will be holding the Himeji International Friendship Festival, where you can meet people from around the world and experience new cultures. We are planning new things for this year, so even people who came in the rain last year will have fun! So please come and join us!

【Date】 Sunday, October 28, 2018, 10a.m.~3p.m.
(Rain or shine)

【Place】 Otemae park



◆Food from around the world

There will be 13 dishes from 11 countries to try. They are 200 yen each. Food tickets will be available to buy starting at 11am. Please come early, because it will end when all of the dishes are sold out.

Syria Laham Bajine



It might look like pizza, but it has a Syrian flavor!

Poland Bigos



A flavor that has been passed down for generations in each home

Mexico Tacos



Hand made from scratch, it's a spicy Mexican food loved by all

◆Performances

Orchestra of Wind Instruments from KENMEI JOSHI GAKUIN and the traditional Moulin's Lion Dance from Vietnam will be presented, along with dances and songs from various countries. In the Fureai plaza, a Samuraigar show will take place.

◆Experiencing Foreign Cultures

The annually popular Australian Native Art, for 150 yen. A photoshoot with traditional clothes of different countries, for 300 yen. Short Chinese, Korean, English, and Vietnamese classes are available for 150 yen for ten minutes. There is also a Japanese Tea Ceremony, for 300 yen.



※In the interest of further promoting social diversity and cross-cultural connections, the city's CIR (Coordinator for International Relations) will be hosting a "Free Talk" event this year. Booth spaces will be open for various people to gather, meet, and learn about one another through casual conversation. Food and drinks are allowed, so be sure to drop by and make some new friends!

Also, in the games corner we will have a lot of fun with balloon twisting, Double Dutch, traditional Japanese games and Jumbo Soft-ball. And as part of the annual stamp collection campaign, if you answer all the questions from the quiz correctly, you can win a Ski Tour among other great prizes.

Outing Information (Autumn, 2018)

《Best Spots for Autumn Leaves》

Spring is about cherry blossoms, and autumn is about Japanese maples. We would like to introduce some of the best spots to enjoy watching Japanese maples.

✿ Shoshazan Engyoji-temple

Along the approach to the temple, and around Mani-den, you can enjoy colorful red and yellow maple leaves. In the “Maple Festival” between Nov.16 (Fri) and 18 (Sun), maple trees are illuminated and there is a special exhibition of cultural properties.

<Entrance Fee> Adults : 500 yen

High school students or younger : free

If you take the ropeway, an additional fee is necessary.

Adults (junior high school students or older) are 600 yen for a one-way trip, or 1000 yen for a round-trip.

Children (over 6 years old) are 300 yen for a one-way trip, 500 yen for a round-trip (one infant is free per adult).

✿ Koko-en Garden

The garden is illuminated at night on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and National holidays from Nov.16 (Fri.) to Dec.2 (Sun).

<Opening Hours>9:00am-5:00pm (till 8:00pm during illuminated event)

<Admission Fees> Adults : 300 yen

High school students or younger : 150 yen.

✿ Otemae street

Ginkgo trees line the street in front of the Himeji castle creating a yellow carpet when their leaves fall off.



《Autumn Festival》

Various shrine rites like *Shishimai* (lion dance) or *Yatai-neri* (carrying the *yatai* ‘wooden float’ through the streets) are held at shrines in Himeji.

<Major Festivals>

◆NADA NO KENKA MATSURI (Nada Fighting Festival)

at Matsubara Hachiman shrine: Oct.14 (Sun) and 15 (Mon)

◆ABOSHI NO CHOCHIN MATSURI (Aboshi Paper Lantern Festival)

at Usuki Hachiman shrine: Oct.21 (Sun) and 22 (Mon)

◆SHIMOTSUKI TAISAI (Shimotsuki Grand Festival)

at Harima-no-kuni Sohsha shrine: Nov.13 (Tue) to 16 (Fri)



《Events》

■Japan Pottery Market: Oct.31 (Wed) to Nov.4 (Sun) at Otemae park

This is an exhibition and sale of the best selected pottery from over 30 areas in Japan. There is a booth for trying out a pottery wheel, where you can get familiar with pottery.

■Human Shogi: Nov.10 (Sat) and 11 (Sun) at Sannomaru square in Himeji castle

Professional *Shogi* players play a game by moving human pieces in *Samurai* costumes.

♥Kokoro no matsuri Himeji: Nov.11 (Sun) at various places in Himeji
During the festival you can visit some private houses, studios, shrines and temples for free, which are normally not open to the public. This is a cultural exchange event to have an experience of Japanese culture and art. You can find more details in guide books which are distributed in the city hall, its branches, and the tourist information center.



Do you know the symbols around us?

We find various symbols around us. For example, ones leading to locations and accommodations, displaying traffic rules, etc. Now, let's learn important symbols for people with disabilities. When we understand their meanings and purposes, we will live together comfortably in today's universal society.



White Logo on
Blue Board

◆ International Symbol of Access for People with Disabilities

This is an international symbol for the disabled to access buildings and facilities without difficulty.

If you see it in a parking lot or a toilet, please give usage priority to the disabled.

Note: This symbol is for "all disabled people". It is not intended to be used only by people who use wheelchairs.



White Logo on
Blue Board

◆ International Symbol of Access for Blindness

This is an international symbol established in 1984 by the World Blind Union. It is displayed on buildings, facilities, equipment, etc. to be considered for the safety and barrier-free use of the visually impaired.

If you see this symbol at traffic lights, international Braille mail, books, etc., please try to act with care for the visually impaired people.



Blue Logo on
White Board

◆ Assistance Dog Symbol

This is a symbol under “the Act on Assistance Dogs for Physically Disabled People” in Japan. Assistance dogs refer to guide dogs, service dogs, hearing dogs that assist people with disabilities of the eyes, ears or limbs. The following places are required to accept the presence of assistance dogs according to the Act: public facilities, public transport, restaurants, hotels, department stores, etc.

Understand the role of the assistance dogs, and try to communicate with the assistance dog user, by speaking or writing, if you see them in trouble.



White Logo on
Blue Board

◆ Symbol for Drivers with Physical Disabilities

This is a symbol found on cars for drivers with physical disabilities.

Except in the case of risk prevention, a driver who unnecessarily cuts off or cuts in front of a car marked with this symbol will be penalised according to the provisions of the Road Traffic Act.



Yellow Logo on
Green Board

◆ Symbol for Drivers with Hearing Disabilities

This is a symbol to display on a car driven by a person with hearing impairment.

Except in the case of risk prevention, a driver who unnecessarily cuts off or cuts in front of a car marked with this symbol will be penalised according to the provisions of the Road Traffic Act.



Green Logo

◆ Symbol for People with Hearing Disabilities

This is a symbol displayed for / by people with hearing impairment or disabilities, to request help.

When you see it, understand their hearing difficulties, and try to communicate with them patiently.



White Logo on
Red Board

◆ Symbol for People Requiring Assistance

This is a symbol displayed by people who require general assistance. Some people carrying this mark may have difficulties that may not be easily seen at first glance; for example, people who are using artificial legs or artificial joints, people with internal dysfunctions or intractable diseases, or people in the early stages of pregnancy.

If you see a person holding this symbol, please give them your seat on the train or bus; and if they are in trouble, communicate and assist them kindly.

☆☆ Information about the Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation☆☆

◆“Nihongo Hiroba” - the place to practice Japanese conversation

The Japanese open space called “Nihongo Hiroba” on the 4th floor of Egret Himeji, is a place to study and practice Japanese conversation. Study material is tailored to the needs of the students. Since the students are divided into small groups by Japanese ability, you can practice Japanese conversation in your own space with a small number of people. “Nihongo Hiroba” is recommended to people who want to make friends while learning Japanese. You need an application to participate, but participation is free. Please visit the Himeji Cultural & International Exchange Foundation (International Exchange section) on the 3rd floor of Egret Himeji for an application and detailed schedule information.

※※※ Editor’s Postscript ※※※

The hot temperature of summer has decreased a little. There is a custom during the equinoctial weeks of Spring and Fall, when a religious service is held in honor of ancestors, called *Ohigan* in Japan. This year’s fall time *Ohigan* will be for a week around September 23rd. Japanese people pay a visit to graves, clean a household Buddhist altar, and make an offering of flowers and sweets on the tomb during this week. Japanese people have a practice to eat “*Ohagi*”, which is steamed glutinous rice enveloped by *azuki* bean jam. How do you hold a memorial service in honor of your ancestors at your hometown?



Translators and Proofreaders

English : Satoko Takimoto, Tomohiro Sugahara, Evan Stefanidis, Davi Cavinatto, Toshinori Toda, Akiko Hara, Louis Gutry

Chinese : Li Guo, Lu Le, Han Feili, Hashimoto Eigun, Jin Zhenshan, Zeng Ning,

Spanish : Lucrecia Coronado de Hashizumi , Chie Hattori

Portuguese : Yu Yamamoto, Marina Ishihara, Rose Ichii , Seidi Osato

Vietnamese : Huynh Tien Thong, Phan Thi Minh Xuan, Dinh Thi Thu Trang, Tran Thi Thanh Ha, Misa Kayama, Pham Thi Thu Trang

These names are used with the contributors’ permission.

Their assistance is much appreciated.

You can read back numbers of “VIVA! ひめじ” at the website of the Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation (International Exchange Section)(<http://www.himeji-iec.or.jp/>).

The next issue of “VIVA! ひめじ” will be available in December. Don’t miss it! We invite your comments and suggestions.

We are always looking for translators and native speakers to assist us with translating and proofreading upcoming editions of “VIVA! ひめじ”. If you are interested, please contact us at the following address.

Contact Office
Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation
3rd floor, Egret Himeji, 68-290 Honmachi,
Himeji City, Hyogo 670-0012
TEL : 079-282-8950 FAX : 079-282-8955
Email: info@himeji-iec.or.jp