



# SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

367th edition, May 2023



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<https://www.city.shibukawa.lg.jp/kurashi/community/kokusaikouryukyoukai/p000024.html>



## Hello Everyone!

May in Japan is a month of fresh, green foliage and splendid weather, with bright and clear days called "Satsukibare", before the setting-in of the rainy season in June.

May the 3rd is Constitution Day, May 4th is Greenery Day, and May 5th is Children's Day, which makes three consecutive holidays. Since national holidays are strung together from Constitution Day through Children's Day, this period is called "Golden Week".

People enjoy the holidays taking trips together with friends, families, or participating in sport. Many people stream out of the city, so that resorts and roads are packed.

Children's Day was formerly called "Tango no Sekku", a day to celebrate the growth of boys. Today, Children's Day is a day to celebrate the growth of both boys and girls. Even now families with boys raise Koi-nobori (carp-shaped streamers). This originated from a Chinese legend of strong carps that could fight their way up to the Yellow River to become dragons. Toward Boy's Day, ornaments such as Gogatsu Ningyo (warrior dolls) and Kabuto (warriors' helmets) are displayed at home, in the hope that the boys will grow as strong and healthy as warriors. Kashiwa-mochi and Chimaki are the traditional Japanese sweets eaten on the day.

Mother's Day in Japan falls on the second Sunday of May (this year, May 14th).

May is the season for newly harvested tea. People especially prize green tea made from new tea leaves picked around Hachijuhachiya (the eighty-eighth day after Risshun, beginning of Spring). These are called "Ichiban-cha", first tea leaves and they have a wonderful flavor and fragrance.

## Azalea in Nagamine Park

(ながみね こうえん の ツツジ)



Nagamine Nature Park is located along the Prefectural Road Shibukawa-Matsuida Line connecting Ikaho Onsen, hot spring town and Lake Haruna, close to Tokutomi Roka Memorial Museum. The park, covering approximately 5 hectares, offers great views of the Ikaho Onsen, Mount Akagi, and of the Kanto Plain.

In the first half of May, about 12000 beautiful Mountain Azaleas growing in the park are in full bloom, creating a blaze of color in the park. There is an observation deck at 834 meters above sea level, that overlooks the park and visitors can enjoy the elegant contrast of red flowers and new green leaves of spring, against the backdrop of Mt. Akagi and the buildings of the hot spring town. With many Manyo Kahi (monument inscribed with a poem), this park lends itself to recreation.

**Peak season:** from early May to mid-May

## Kamishibai Exhibition (紙芝居絵展)

The Tokutomi Roka Memorial Literature Museum will display a collection of Kamishibai, Japanese picture-card show of the Gunma Prefectural Museum of Literature in Commemoration of Bunmei Tsuchiya Traveling Exhibition. Visitors will be introduced to various picture-story shows and their history, from the earliest street picture-story shows to educational picture-story shows, and others.

**When:** Monday, May 1 - Friday, July 28, 2023, from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm every day, except July 7

**Admission fee:** Adults 350 yen, elementary, junior high school, and high school students 200 yen

**TEL: 0279-72-2237** (Tokutomi Roka Memorial Literature Museum)

## Stroll Through Akagi Shizen-En (赤城自然園散策)

Enjoy a stroll through Akagi Shizen-En (Natural Park) and immerse yourself in the sights, scents and sounds of nature. It's a fun and relaxing way to keep healthy and make friends at the same time!

**When:** Friday, May 26. The meeting place is at Dainichosha Nishigawa Chushajo (the west side parking lot) at 10:00 am. Please bring a hat, towel, food, drink, vinyl sheet, rain gear, and a trekking pole if you need

**Limit:** 15 people (If applications exceeds the limit, participants will be selected by drawing lots.)

**Application:** at Shibukawa Kominkan, until Thursday, May 18 ( **TEL: 0279-22-0999** )

## Shibukawa Skyland Park Events (渋川スカイランドパークイベント)

Skyland Park is a family amusement park with fun for everyone. You can enjoy the panoramic view of Shibukawa from the Ferris Wheel, a varied range of fun activities and attractions, and also "Azalea view" this time:

- SekiAsshi Kamishibai picture-card storytelling on Wednesday, May 3
- Fantasy Adventure on Thursday, May 4
- Team ☆ Action - Ninja show on Friday, May 5
- Small Circus TALATTALATTA on Saturday, May 6
- Performer Takkin on Sunday, May 7

(All are free of charge and will be performed twice a day at 11:00 am and 2:00 pm.)

**Operating Hours:** 10:00 am to 5:00 pm (closed on Tuesdays)



## Hime-gifucho (ヒメギフチョウ)



Hime-gifucho (Luehdorfia Puziloi), is a species of butterflies in the family swallowtail butterflies, found only in Japan. With black and yellow stripes on the entire wing and a purple band on the rear wing, this lovely creature adds to the color, joy and fascination of nature. Designated as a prefectural natural monument, Hime-gifucho is also known as the Spring Goddess or the Akagi Hime (the Princess of Akagi). In April and May, butterflies are plentiful around Mt. Akagi.

## Shibukawa City Public Library Events

(渋川市立図書館催し物)

All events will be held in the City Library and are free. Just show up!

- **Kids Movies:** "Nakayoshi Koinobori" on Saturday, May 13, from 11:00 am to 11:40 am and others.
- **Kamishibai storytelling by "Moe no Ko" group:** "Onabe onabe nieta ka na?" and others on Saturday, May 20, from 2:00 pm to 2:30 pm.
- **Movies:** The 25th Anniversary of "The Lion King" on Sunday, May 21, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

## Kyudo Course Registration (きゅうどうきょうしつせいとほしゅう (弓道教室生徒募集))

Kyudo, the Way of the Bow, is the ancient discipline of Zen archery. Students will be familiarized with the equipment (bow, arrow, glove), and will learn to shoot according to defined manner and rules.

**When:** from May 16 to July 4, every Tuesday and Saturday (15 times), from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

**Where:** Shibukawa Budokan, Kyudojo

**Limit:** 10 people (elementary students, grade 5 and older) (on a first come, first served basis)

**Cost:** 2,000 yen

**Tel:** 0279-22-0928 (Kyudo Club) or 0279-22-2241 (Sport Div.)



## Japanese Lessons (にほんごきょうしつ (日本語教室))

Learn Japanese (basic conversation, Hiragana, Katakana and basic Kanji) in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Lessons will be held at Shibukawa Chuo Kominkan, from May 23, 2023 through March 19, 2024 on Tuesdays: morning session, from 10:00-11:30 am and evening session, from 7:00-8:30 pm

**Limit:** 10 people for each session (on a first come, first served basis)

**Cost:** 3000 yen for all classes (excluding materials). You can also first visit the class and it's free to visit.

**Application:** by phone or by email (**Tel:** 0279-22-2396 / **Email:** [sia-shibukawa@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp](mailto:sia-shibukawa@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp))

For further information about the lessons, please refer to the URL below:

[www.city.shibukawa.lg.jp/kurashi/community/kokusaikouryukyukai/p001412.html](http://www.city.shibukawa.lg.jp/kurashi/community/kokusaikouryukyukai/p001412.html)

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## SOS Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents (がいこくじんむりょうほうりつそうだん (外国人無料法律相談))

**Where:** One-Stop Consultation Center for Foreign Residents of Gunma (1st Floor, Showa Chosha Wing, 1-1-1 Ote-machi, Maebashi)

**When:** Sunday, May 21, 2023, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm (Doors close at 2:30 pm.)

**Consultants:** Attorneys, Gyoseishoshi (Certified Administrative Procedures Legal Specialist), and Sharoushi (Certified Social Insurance and Labor Consultant), and Japan Pension Service Manager

**Interpreters:** English, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, and Vietnamese and Nepalese

**Reservation & Inquiry:** One-Stop Consultation for Foreign Residents of Gunma, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, weekdays

**Tel:** 027-289-8275 (Priority is given to those who have appointments.)

## Vehicle-related Taxes (じどうしゃかんするぜいきん (自動車に関する税金))

Automobile Tax and Light Automobile Tax are due on Wednesday, May 31, 2023.

Tax payment notification slips will be sent to all vehicle owners (registered before April 1st), during the beginning of May. Payments can be made at administrative service windows, banks, the post office, or convenience stores. Bank transfers are also possible. If you have problems with paying your vehicle tax, contact the offices below for inquiries and consultation.

**Automobile Tax:** Gunma Prefectural Vehicle Tax Office (Gunma-ken Jidoshazei Jimusho) (**Tel:** 027-263-4343) or at the Shibukawa Administrative Prefectural Tax Office (**Tel:** 0279-22-4050)

**Light Automobile Tax:** Your local Village / Town / City Hall.



## On-duty Clinics in May (5月の休日当番医)

	Internal Medicine		Surgery	Dentistry
5/3 (Wed)	Honzawa-iin (本沢医院) Tel: 23-6411	Okamoto-naika-clinic (岡本内科クリニック) Tel: 20-5353	Hokumo-byoin (北毛病院) Tel: 24-1234	Hoshino-shika-clinic (星野歯科クリニック) Tel: 22-0232
5/4 (Thu)	Yuasa-naika-clinic (湯浅内科クリニック) Tel: 20-1311	Shinto-Saito-iin (榛東さいとう医院) Tel: 54-1055	Otaki-clinic (大滝クリニック) Tel: 30-5800	Mitake-shika-iin (三剛歯科医院) Tel: 72-3430
5/5 (Fri)	Iguchi-iin (井口医院) Tel: 25-1100	Aoitori-family-clinic (青い鳥ファミリークリニック) Tel: 26-2681	Adachi-seikei-geka (あだち整形外科) Tel: 30-1170	Takizawa-shika-iin (たきざわ歯科医院) Tel: 55-6480
5/7 (Sun)	Shibukawa-chuo-byoin (渋川中央病院) Tel: 25-1711	Takeuchi-shonika (竹内小児科) Tel: 30-5151	Sekiguchi-byoin (関口病院) Tel: 22-2378	Kobuna-shika-iin (こぶな歯科医院) Tel: 22-4939
5/14 (Sun)	Kamiyama-naika-iin (神山内科医院)  Tel: 22-2181	Sato-iin (佐藤医院)  Tel: 54-2756	Ino-seikei-geka-rihabiri-naika (井野整形外科リハビリ内科) Tel: 30-5255	Esu-shika-iin (エース歯科医院)  Tel: 55-1181
5/21 (Sun)	Kosei-iin (厚成医院) Tel: 22-1060	Akagi-kaisei-clinic (赤城開成クリニック) Tel: 20-6500	Shibukawa-iryo-center (渋川医療センター) Tel: 23-1010	Akagi-shika-iin (あかぎ歯科医院) Tel: 20-6522
5/28 (Sun)	Tsukagoshi-clinic (塚越クリニック) Tel: 60-7700	Furumaki-naika-iin (ふるまき内科医院) Tel: 25-8881	Arima-clinic (有馬クリニック) Tel: 24-8818	Iizuka-shika-iin (いづか歯科医院) Tel: 22-0808

## Night Emergency Clinic (夜間急患診療所)

The Night Emergency Clinic provides medical services in cases of sudden illnesses or injuries between the hours of 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm daily, for conditions and issues related to internal medicine, surgery, and pediatrics, depending on the doctor in charge. The emergency clinic will introduce patients to another medical institution that is more suitable if specialized treatment is necessary.

**Address:** 1760-1 Nagatsuka-cho, Shibukawa

**Tel: 0279-23-8899** (Please contact the clinic before going if you are not sure if you can be treated.)

## Free Counselling Service (外国人生活相談窓口の案内)

The Shibukawa International Association is providing a free counselling service for foreign residents at Shibukawa City Hall every Thursday, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

**Tel: 0279-22-2396**



## Information (お問い合わせ)

Shibukawa City Office DX & Administrative Management Division, 80 Ishihara, Shibukawa City

**Tel: 0279-22-2396 Fax: 0279-24-6541 Email: sia-shibukawa@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp**

**URL: <http://www.city.shibukawa.lg.jp/kurashi/community/kokusaikouryukyoukai/p001414.html>**