

THE OSMONET

January 2019 (vol.258)

The following articles are taken mainly from "Koho Ashiya" – the bulletin of Ashiya City (May 15th & June 1st issue). It is, of course, a Japanese edition, and translated into English by a voluntary group from the Shio-Ashiya Exchange Center.

Please understand that some phone numbers listed under the various events are staffed by people who may not speak English.

Garden City Ashiya



Happy New Year 2019

This is the year for us to create the New General Plan through drawing up together with you, the citizens.

Besides further refining the charm of our city, which our predecessors have developed, we would like to work on making Ashiya, where everyone wants to continue living or longs to live at least once, take a leap forward to the future.

➤ We look forward to your further support and cooperation.

Ken Yamanaka, the Mayor
Ken-ichi Nakashima,
the Chairperson of Ashiya Assembly



Coming-of-Age Ceremony 2019 (The last Ceremony in the Heisei Era)

◆ **Date and Time:** Monday, National Holiday Jan.14

Registration: 0:15 p.m. – / Ceremony: 1:00– 3:30 p.m.

◆ **Place:** Luna Hall

◆ **Eligibility:** Those who were born between April 2, 1998 and April 1, 1999

* If you are at eligible age, but have not received an invitation, you will be admitted to the ceremony.

See the city's homepage for details



Inquiries: The Youth Development Section
(Phone: 0797-38-2110)



1.17 Ashiya City Prayer and Pledge

In memory of the victims, a “1.17 Ashiya City Prayer and Pledge” will be held marking the 24th year since the Great Hanshin– Awaji Earthquake.

■ Date and Time: Thursday, January 17 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (rain-or-shine)

■ Venue: In front of the “Monument to the Great Hanshin–Awaji Earthquake Memorial and restoration” (in Ashiya Park, Hama–Ashiya– cho)

■ Ceremony: Signing the condolences book
Offering flowers (prepared by the city)

※No parking available for cars or bikes

※Other flowers and offerings will not be accepted.

■ Inquiries: Mayor’s Secretarial Section ☎ 0797–38–2000



1.17 Hyogo Memorial Walk 2019

We will hold the following event in order to remember and pass down the experience and the lessons of the Great Hanshin–Awaji Earthquake to future generations.

■ Date and Time: Thursday, January 17 8:30 a.m. (Registration starts at 8:00 a.m.)

※The walk will take place even if it rains, but will be cancelled if there is a weather warning such as for heavy rain, storm, heavy snow or storm surge in Ashiya, Nishinomiya and Kobe City.

■ Meeting Place: Kawanishi Athletic Ground

■ Content: Approximately 10 km walk to ‘HAT Kobe’

1.17 Gathering

■ Date and Time: Thursday, January 17 11:50 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
(Flower offering until 5:00 p.m.)

■ Venue: HAT Kobe, in front of the Memorial Monument at the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution

※Please refer to “Hyogo Safety Day” website for details.

ひょうご安全の日	検索
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■ Inquiries: Hyogo Safety Day Promotion Office
☎ 078–362–9984 / Fax: 078–362–4459

The Great Hanshin–Awaji Earthquake Related Panel Exhibition

■ Exhibition period: Until January 18

■ Venue: 1F North Wing, B1 East wing of City Hall

- We Guard our Hometowns by Ourselves -

Sunday, January 13: Fire Brigades New Year's Parade 2019



◆ Time and Place

<Part I Ceremony> 10:00- Seido elementary school ground

<Part II Performance > 11:00- Seido elementary school ground (canceled if it rains)

* In case of cancelation due to rain, only Part I will be held at Seido elementary school gymnasium.

◆ Content:

<Part I >: Ceremony / Marching parades by Seido Junior high school brass band, etc.

<Part II >: "Danjiri Bayashi" by Seido Float Preservation Society/ Performance by Fire-fighting Boys Club/ Women's fire-fighting operation drill /Firehose demonstration / Challenge rescue (for children), etc.

* Fire-fighting original presents will be given to the first 200 spectators (elementary school students or younger).

* For the cancellation of Part II due to bad weather, see the city's webpage on or after 9:00 on Saturday, Jan. 12.



◆ Inquiries: General Affairs Section, Fire Department Headquarters (Phone: 0797-32-2345)



Gardening Seminar at Ashiya City Grand Park (Sogo Koen)

* Date, Content and Time:

(1) Monday, Jan.21 Make an early spring Primula garden 1:30-3:00 p.m.

(2) Saturday, Jan. 26 Make a silver-colored New Year's arrangement with preserved white roses 10:30-Noon

* Instructor and Cost: (1) Takako Tsukuda 2,500 yen
(2) Noriko Maeda 3,000 yen

* Capacity: 20 people for each class

* What to bring: Writing materials and a bag to carry the work home in

* Application: Call, fax or E-mail your name, address, phone number and course which you want to take by 5:00 p.m. of Monday, Jan.14 for (1), and Saturday, Jan.19 for (2).

* Inquiries: Ashiya City Grand Park (Sogo Koen)

(Phone: 0797-38-2103/ Fax: 0797-25-2026) / (E-mail: ashiyasogo@mizuno.co.jp)

Music Hiroba (Square) for Mentally Challenged Children and People

Date and Time: Sunday, Jan.13 1:30-3:30 p.m.

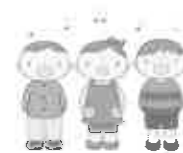
Place: Kiguchi Memorial Hall

Instructor: Ms. Keiko Toshima and Ms. Miharu Tomioka

Fee 200 yen for members / 500 yen for general adults

Application and Inquiries: Fax your name and address, age, sex and phone number to the following. * Should be accompanied by a guardian or a helper.

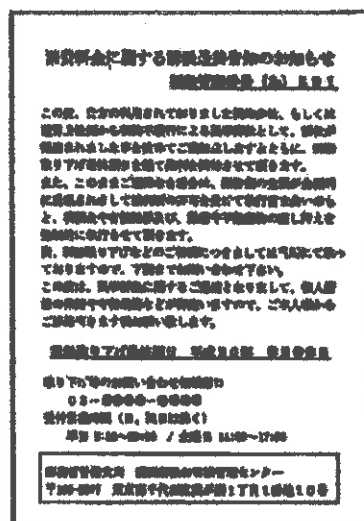
Asakura from Ashiya City *Te-o-tsunagu Ikuseikai* (Fax: 0797-31-0670)



Beware of Fraudulent Billing Postcards!

◆ Examples:

Postcards claiming to be from “official” institutions such as “国民訴訟通達センター (National Information Center for Legal Disputes)” or “民事訴訟管理センター (Administrative Center for Civil Litigations)” have been received. Words like “最終告知 (Final Warning),” “契約不履行 (Breach of Contract),” and “裁判 (Trial)” are making recipients of such postcards afraid and concerned. There are cases where personal information protection stickers are affixed or where letters are sealed in envelopes with “重要 (IMPORTANT),” “至急 (URGENT),” etc. on them.



Sample of a fraudulent billing postcard

◆ What to Do and What Not to Do:

- ◆ Ignore bills you did not expect and have no idea about.
- ◆ Do not get in touch with the listed contact information.
- ◆ If you made contact or are concerned, consult the Consumer Affairs Center or the police.



- ◆ Contact the Consumer Affairs Center for Contract Troubles: **☎0797-38-2034**
 Kimmitsu Branch Office South-Wing 1st Floor, 5-10 Kimmitsu-cho
 Mon. – Fri., 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon and 12:45 – 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ When the Center is Closed, Contact the Consumer Hotline: **☎188 (-YA-YA)**

Notification of Paid Insurance Premium Amount

Notification of insurance premium payment amounts confirmed to have been paid during 2018 will be sent out at the end of January to enrollees of National Health Insurance, Medical Care System for the Latter-Stage Elderly and Long-Term Care Insurance.



Please make use of this notification for final tax returns, etc., as insurance premium payments may be claimed as income deductions towards resident tax, etc.

※ Insurance premium payment made at the end of December may not be reflected.

◆ Inquiries:

- ◆ National Health Insurance
 Insurance Section Collection Subsection **☎0797-38-2226**
- ◆ Medical Care System for the Latter-Stage Elderly
 Insurance Section Medical Care for the Elderly Subsection **☎0797-38-2037**
- ◆ Long-Term Care Insurance
 Senior Citizens' Long-Term Care Section Management Subsection **☎0797-38-2046**

New Year Special Interview – Yutaka Sado (Abridged)

Tickets for “Yutaka-Sado – Talk and Concert” on Saturday, January 12 at Luna Hall were sold out in three hours. This tells his overwhelming popularity. He willingly agreed to our interview. We were impressed by his deep voice and carefree smile.



Have you ever conducted at Luna Hall?

– Yes I have. I conducted Haydon’s Symphony No.101, popularly known as “The Clock” by the Ashiya Symphony Orchestra. Since I was 23 years old, I had been an instructor for Ashiya Symphony Orchestra for three years. Then I conducted three times for other orchestras. So I will do at Luna Hall after 35 years’ absence. I live in Ashiya, so I have wanted to do something for the city. This time, I willingly agreed to accept this offer with the Super Kids Orchestra. On the same day, I am going to give music lessons to children and their parents at Yamate Elementary School.

Would you introduce the Super Kids Orchestra to us?

– The Super Kids Orchestra was established in 2003 as one of the projects at the Hyogo Performing Arts Center where I serve as Art Director. It consists of children with top class technique to play strings, chosen through strict auditions. We want to express that the Center is not only a place to play symphonies or operas, but has another reason for its existence.

The first performance was “Air on G String” by Bach. I had received a letter from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Akashi, which mentioned that it was one year since 11 people including nine children died in the Akashi Pedestrian Bridge accident at the Fireworks Show. We wanted to send something to console the bereaved and children. I believed the Orchestra children could do very well.

What made you decide to become a conductor?



– I would not have thought of becoming a conductor if I had not met Seiji Ozawa and Leonard Bernstein. At the age of 26 years old, I succeeded in entering the Tanglewood Music Festival. And my life changed. I found there was a light that only Bernstein or Ozawa could see, and they had a rarefied air about them. In the collection of graduation compositions at elementary school, I wrote: When I grow up, I would like to be a conductor at the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. It was just that I wanted to do something big. Gradually as I followed the music course at high school and at university, however, my wish to become a conductor became intense. Everyone around me tried to persuade me to give up. That was quite natural. No one knew how to be a conductor.

What were you doing until you went to Tanglewood?

– When I was a junior student, I started to instruct housewives chorus group for 3,000 yen

per lesson. In the daytime, I took on the conducting of my university's brass band, and at night I practiced my skill as a conductor. Then I was engaged in the recording of *karaoke* music till around 1' o'clock in the morning. We had to record three parts, bass, alto and treble, separately because it was still a time of analog recording. I was happy doing these jobs for about 6 years. But sometimes, in between periods of practicing, I wondered if I could be happy following the path of music. In those days, wishing to be a conductor at Berlin Phil. was like going on a space travel. I was involved in long rehearsals from afternoon to night, but I fell into the red by having supper. Still, I was encouraged by many people's words: it's a pleasure to create music by *Sadosan's* conducting. I believe those voices gave me the energy to make me what I am now.

Please tell us your image of Ashiya.

– Ashiya is a self-sufficient city where I can do all my business within the city. I love golf and I can go Ashiya Country Club easily.. Arima Onsen is easy to access by the Royu Highway. There are many reasonably priced restaurants. Ashiya ladies are strict with money. That's the essence of Ashiya.

Could we have a message for the children?

– It is important to have a dream or vision for the future at the elementary school stage. My dream of the Berlin Phil. conductor was realized when I was 50 years old. My respected senior often said that we need effort, talent and luck to make our dreams come true. If you add a sense of appreciation to these three, the power will be multiplied. If you have 1.5 times appreciation, the effect of your effort, talent and luck will be 1.5 times larger. I feel this way. When I was very exhausted and in difficult times, nevertheless, I tried to say thanks with a strained voice and a cry. Words have amazing power. I was saved. It is one way to come out of a slump.

Children have limitless potential. Try and see that hidden potential. Everyone has their own mission in life. To have a family, to be a writer, to work at a hospital, to act on stage; these have nothing to do with status or honor. You will be happy when you get remuneration for your potential, for what you feel is a gift from Heaven.



Yutaka Sado: Profile

Won the first prize at the International Besançon Competition for young conductor in 1989.

The winner of the first Leonard Bernstein Jerusalem International Music Competition in 1995

Principal Conductor of Tonkünstler Orchestra

Principal Conductor of Siena Wind Orchestra

Inquiries: Public Relations and International Exchange Section (Phone: 38-2006)

Your Cooperation is Wanted for UNESCO "A Chance to Learn"

If you have any miswritten (or damaged) post cards, New Year Cards, unused stamps, and pre-paid cards, please make use of them for the UNESCO "A Chance to Learn" Movement. This is an international cooperation program to provide adult illiterates and out-of-school children with opportunities to learn.

The Ashiya UNESCO Association is collecting miswritten postage-prepaid postcards issued by the Japan Post Co. Ltd including unused stamps to raise funds to support the movement. In Cambodia, eleven miswritten postcards could allow a child to go to school for a month. We appreciate your cooperation in assisting "Universal Education".

Campaign Boxes are located at:

Ashiya City Hall, every elementary school, junior and senior high school and Ashiya Municipal Hospital.

Inquiries: Ashiya UNESCO Association

c/o Lifelong Education Section (Phone: 38-2091)



Advanced First-Aid Training Class

Date and Time: Sunday, January 27 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Place: Main Fire Department All-purpose Room

Contents: AED cardiopulmonary and other emergency aids

The basic certification test will be held at the end of the class.

※ Certificates will be given to attendants.

Capacity: 20 people, first-come basis

Cancelled in case of less than 5 people.

Eligibility: Those who live, work and study in Ashiya (junior high school students and over)

Application: Please apply by phone no later than 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 25.

Inquiries: Main Fire Department, Emergency sub-section (Phone: 32-2345)



An Event for Recording Official Scores of Quoits & Experiencing Class

□ Date and Time: Sunday, February 24 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

□ Venue: Gymnasium, Hall at the Youth Center

□ Content: Experienced players will challenge a record by a single toss for Ashiya citizen's quoits official competition. Beginners will receive instruction from a judge authorized by the Japan Quoiting Association.

□ Application: Send a postcard or a fax with your name, address, sex, age and phone number to the following section no later than Tuesday, February 19.

※ Beginners are welcome to join this event.

□ Inquiries: Sports Promotion Section ☎0797-22-7910 / Fax: 22-1633
(15-3 Kawanishi-cho, 659-0072)



Accepting Applications for After-school Care (*Gakudo Hoiku*)

□Eligibility: School children residing in Ashiya who will be in the first to the sixth grade in the coming school year whose parents/guardians are not home during the day due to work, etc.

※If the number of applicants exceed the limit for each class, decisions will be made in order of priority.

□Fee: 8,000 yen per month / 2,000 yen per month for snacks and teaching materials/
500 yen per year for casualty insurance

※For Saturdays, add 1,600 yen per month.

※For extended care, add 3,000 yen per month.

※Extended care will be available only if the number of applicants reaches the prescribed minimum number during the application period.



□Application: Submit an application form together with necessary documents directly to or by mail to the after-school care classes at each elementary school or the Youth Development Section. Applications will be accepted from January 15, except Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays and must be received by January 31.

※Application forms are available at the after-school care classes, City Hall receptions and Laporte Citizens' Service Corner. They may also be downloaded from the city's website.

□Inquiries: Youth Development Section ☎0797-38-2110

芦屋市 学童保育	検索
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Ashiya Art Project (AAP) Talk Session

◆Date & Time & Venue: Saturday, January 19 / 2:00 - 4:30 p.m. / Ashiya Buddhist Hall.

◆Content & Lecturer: Talk Session 02: What are the connections between Paris, Ashiya and New York / Hiroko Koshino, fashion designer

◆Capacity & Fee: 80 people / 500 yen

※If there are too many applicants, a lottery will be held.

◆Application: Apply from the following website by Thursday, January 10.

◆Inquiries: Promotion Section ☎ 0797-38-2127

芦屋市アートプロジェクト	検索
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★ Starry Winter Sky Observation ★

■Date & Time & Venue: Saturday, January 19 / 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. / 401 Citizens' Center

■Content: Observing starlit winter sky and the craters on the moon through a telescope

■Capacity: First 50 people ■Lecturer: Takashi Handa

■Application: Apply to the following Section from January 4 to January 17.

(on weekdays, during office hours)

芦屋市 冬の星空観察会	検索
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■Inquiries: Environmental Section ☎0797-38-2051

~ Supporting volunteers ~



1.17 Ashiya Pheonix Fund Subsidy



The 1.17 Ashiya Pheonix Fund was established to pass down the experiences and valuable lessons learned from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake to the next generation and to build strong communities against disasters.

The fund is available to subsidize volunteer efforts such as the following by citizen groups, college students, etc.:

- ① Providing support for disaster victims in and outside the disaster-stricken regions and for the recovery and reconstruction of the regions.
- ② Raising awareness of disaster prevention/preparedness and establishing voluntary disaster prevention organizations.
- ③ Training volunteers for disaster prevention/preparedness and reconstruction.
- ④ Passing down the lessons learned from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.
- ⑤ Exhibiting materials pertaining to the devastation and recovery/reconstruction from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.
- ⑥ Holding memorial services for the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake
- ⑦ Any other activities that are in line with the objectives of the 1.17 Ashiya Pheonix Fund.

◆ **Inquiries:** Policy Promotion Section ☎0797-38-2127

~ Protecting Lives, Rewarding Work ~

Seeking New Volunteer Fire Corps

- ◆ **Responsibilities:** Periodic practice drills and training, duties in times of disaster, PR activities, first aid, etc. Acting as an instructor at community disaster prevention and preparedness drills, etc., upon certification.
- ◆ **Qualifications:** 18 years of age or older but under 50, living or working in Ashiya City.
- ◆ **Compensation:** Annual pay based on city ordinance. Allowance, etc. for disaster response and for participation in various training, etc. Occupational accident compensation, uniform rentals, awards system, etc. are also available.

◆ **Inquiries:** Fire Department Headquarters
General Affairs Section



☎0797-38-2095



Blood Drive

- ◆ **Date & Times:** Friday, January 18, 2019
10:00 – 11:30 a.m. and 12:40 – 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Sign-in:** City Hall North Wing 1st Floor Lobby
- ◆ **Inquiries:** Ashiya City Health Center ☎0797-31-1586

~eLTAX, electronic filing is available~

Taxation Section Notifications



■ **Individual City Tax Deduction for Donations**

The types of organizations qualified for tax-deductible donations were increased. Donations to corporate entities, etc., serving the public interest in Ashiya City, such as educational institutions were added. This change is applicable from FY2019 tax (to include donations made on or after January 2018).



◆ **Inquiries:** Taxation Section Resident Tax Subsection

☎0797-38-2016

■ **Salary Payment Report (給与支払報告書 KYUYO SHIHARAI HOKOKU-SHO)**

Please submit Salary Payment Reports for wages, etc. paid to employees (including part-time workers, "arubaito" part-time workers, and retirees), etc. during 2018.

◆ **Deadline:** Thurs., January 31, 2019

◆ **Submit to:** The municipality where each employee, etc. resides in as of January 1, 2019. For those who retired by December 31, 2018, the municipality the retiree resided in at the time of retirement.

※ In Ashiya City, submit the report to the Taxation Section Resident Tax Subsection (City Hall North Wing 2nd floor) or file via eLTAX.

◆ **For Ordinary Collection:** Please note the following:

① Attach a statement of reasons for ordinary collection (普通徴収切替理由書 FUTSU-CHOSHU KIRIKAE RIYU-SHO).

② State the reasons for ordinary collection on the Salary Payment Report in the remarks column.



※ Make sure that you fill in the Corporate Number and Individual Numbers, "My Number".

※ Documents to be submitted may also be downloaded from the city website.

◆ **Inquiries:** Taxation Section Resident Tax Subsection

☎0797-38-2016

■ **Depreciable Assets Declaration (償却資産申告書 SHOKYAKU-SHISAN SHINKOKU-SHO)**

For depreciable assets (i.e. business properties such as structures, machinery, equipment, furniture and fixtures) owned in Ashiya City as of January 1, 2019, please submit a depreciable assets declaration form, etc.

◆ **Deadline:** Thurs., January 31, 2019

◆ **Submit to:** Taxation Section Fixed Assets Tax Subsection (City Hall North-Wing 2nd floor No. 32 window)

※ Declaration forms and instructions may be downloaded from the city website.

◆ **Inquiries:** Taxation Section Fixed Assets Tax Subsection

☎0797-38-2017



Submission of Salary Payment Reports and declaration of depreciable assets may be filed electronically. Please take advantage of the Local Tax Portal System, eLTAX.