



# いちご 1

No. 225

Seika Town News and Events Guide

January 2014

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## Pick Strawberries and Cook Different Cuisines! Homestay

in Seika いちご狩りと、いろいろな国の料理づくり

～せいかちょう精華町でホームステイ～

▼ **WHEN:** Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014

※The first day will be a cultural exchange program, while the second day will be spent with host families.

▼ **WHO:** Foreign nationals living, working, or attending school in Kyōto Prefecture

▼ **LIMIT:** First 20 applicants

▼ **FEE:** ¥1,000 ※Including strawberry garden entrance free and lunch on the 15<sup>th</sup>

▼ **WHAT TO BRING:** Clothes and shoes that can get dirty and are easy to move in

▼ **APPLICATION PERIOD:** Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup> to Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

Hours: Weekdays from 8:30 to noon and 13:00 to 17:00

▼ **HOW TO APPLY:** Please send the following materials to the Seika Global Network Office (Seika Town Office Planning and Coordinating Division) by post, fax, or e-mail.

Applications are available at both the Planning and Coordinating Division and the Kyōto Prefectural International Center, as well as from the Seika Town Homepage.

・ Homestay Application Form

・ Copy of one form of official identification (Residence Card, Special Permanent Resident Certificate, Health Insurance Certificate, etc.)

▼ **SPONSORS:** Kyōto Prefectural International Center, Town of Seika, Seika Global Network

▼ **PROGRAM:** < Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> >

10:00 Participants gather (Seika Town Office, North Entrance)

10:30 Strawberry picking (Kawanishi Strawberry Gardens) – 30 minutes to 1 hour

11:30 Party (Mukunoki Center)

・ Make dishes from Japan participants' home countries; cook with strawberries

15:00 Matching of participants with host families; go home with host families

< Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> >

Free day with host families

End of homestay

▼ **OTHER:** Event will be held rain or shine. No cancellations, please.

### APPLICATIONS/QUESTIONS

Seika Global Network Office (Planning and Coordinating Division) せいかグローバルネ

ット事務局 (企画調整課内) 〒619-0285 (no address needed) TEL: 0774-95-1900

FAX: 0774-95-3971 E-mail: kikaku@town.seika.kyoto.jp

## General Information

## くらしのじょうほう

Turning 20? Don't Forget National Pension! 20歳さいになったら国民年金こくみんねんきん

All residents of Japan between the ages of 20 and 59 are required to enroll in National Pension and pay premium fees.

For those who have trouble paying for financial or other reasons, there are exemption systems such as the Special Payment System for Students (students only) and the Contribution Postponement System for Low Income Youth (ages 29 and below). Those enrolled in National Pension will be able to recover some of their money when moving out of Japan; this is called a Lump-sum Withdrawal Payment.

The National Pension system offers the following three benefits:

- ▼ **For senior citizens:** Old-age Basic Pension
- ▼ **For those disabled due to illness or injury:** Disability Basic Pension
- ▼ **For the spouse and children of a deceased pension enrollee:** Survivors' Basic Pension

The public pension system is premised on the idea of intergenerational support, i.e. those currently in the workforce paying for the elderly's pension benefits with their premium fees.

For this system, each participant is assigned a number. Those who enroll in National Pension or Employees' Pension will receive a Pension Handbook with that number. This number is used to manage details regarding enrollment status and payment status.

This Pension Handbook will be required for any pension-related procedures. Please store it in a safe place.

## QUESTIONS

General Services Division, National Pension Section そうごうまどぐちか ねんきんがかり  
総合窓口課 年金係 TEL: 0774-95-1915

## Sōraku Emergency Medical Clinic Schedule

そうらくきゅうじつおうきゅうしんりょうじょ  
相楽休日応急診療所のスケジュールについて

Schedule for January and February			
Date	Specialty	Date	Specialty
Sunday, January 5 <sup>th</sup>	Internal Medicine (IM)	Sunday, February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	PD
Sunday, January 12 <sup>th</sup>	IM, Pediatrics (PD)	Sunday, February 9 <sup>th</sup>	PD
Monday, January 13 <sup>th</sup> (holiday)	IM	Tuesday, February 11 <sup>th</sup> (holiday)	IM
Sunday, January 19 <sup>th</sup>	IM	Sunday, February 16 <sup>th</sup>	IM
Sunday, January 26 <sup>th</sup>	IM, PD		

Please call in advance to confirm.

QUESTIONS: Sōraku Emergency Medical Clinic (Sōraku Hall)

そうらくきゅうじつおうきゅうしんりょうじょ そうらくかいかない  
相楽休日応急診療所 (相楽会館内) TEL: 0774-73-9988

## Upcoming Events

## こんげつのイベント

## January

Date	Time	What	Where
9 (Thu)	14:30~16:00	International Education Lecture: "The Real America" (6 <sup>th</sup> )	Seika Town Office 201 (2F)
10 (Fri)	13:00~	Checkup for 18-month-olds	Health Center
13 (Mon/Holiday)	13:30~	2014 Seika Coming of Age Ceremony	Keihanna Plaza Main Hall
15 (Wed)	13:00~	Dental Checkup for 2-year-olds	Health Center
"	14:00~16:00	Table Tennis Day	Mukunoki Center
21 (Tue)	13:00~	Checkup for 3-and-a-half-year-olds	Health Center
22 (Wed)	13:30~15:30	Parenting Class – Eating	Health Center
23 (Thu)	13:00~	Checkup for 9- to 10-month-olds	Health Center
26 (Sun)	9:00~12:00	Smile Sports Arena	Mukunoki Center
27 (Mon)	13:30~15:00	Training Room Orientation	Mukunoki Center
28 (Tue)	13:00~	Checkup for 3- to 4-month-olds	Health Center
"	13:15~14:15	Tuberculosis Vaccinations	Health Center
29 (Wed)		Mukunoki Center Closed	

## February

5 (Wed)	14:00~16:00	Table Tennis Day	Mukunoki Center
6 (Thu)	14:30~16:00	International Education Lecture: "The Real America" (7 <sup>th</sup> )	Seika Town Office 201 (2F)

## What to do if...

**You have a question about something in Ichigo:**

Call Steven Pelcovits, Coordinator for International Relations at the Seika Town Office. You may also call if you need an interpreter, as most of the events and classes in Ichigo will be in Japanese.

**You have a problem with life in Japan:**

If you have any questions or problems concerning life in Japan not related to an article in Ichigo, please first contact Steven Pelcovits, Coordinator for International Relations at the Seika Town Office.

TEL : 0774-95-1900 FAX: 0774-95-3971 E-mail: cir@town.seika.kyoto.jp or kikaku@town.seika.kyoto.jp (Planning and Coordinating Division)

**You have an issue with your visa or other questions:**

The Kyōto City International Foundation (located at 2-1 Toriichō Awataguchi, Sakyō-ku, Kyōto-shi) , offers advice and consultation on visa issues and general problems. Visa consultations are available on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of every month (appointment required). Consultations can be done in English, Chinese, Korean, and Spanish. General counseling is available Tuesday to Sunday from 9:00 to 21:00.

TEL: 075-752-3511 Homepage: <http://www.kcif.or.jp/en>

**International Education Lecture Series: “The Real America” (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>)**

こくさいこうりゅう にほんじん し だいかい だいかい  
国際交流サロン「日本人の知らないアメリカ」(第7回～第8回)



▼ **DATE:** ① Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> (7<sup>th</sup>) ② Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> (8<sup>th</sup>)  
14:30-16:00

▼ **LOCATION:** Seika Town Office, Meeting Room 201 (second floor)

▼ **LIMIT:** First 20 applicants per lecture

▼ **DETAILS:**

- ① American History (discussion of Japanese-American history)
- ② American Television and Cinema (discussion of popular television shows and movies in the United States)

▼ **APPLICATION PERIOD:** Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> to the day before the desired lecture

Application Hours: Weekdays from 8:30 to noon and 13:00 to 17:00

▼ **APPLICATION:** Please contact the Seika Global Network Office by phone, fax, or e-mail with your name, address, and telephone number.

▼ **SPONSORS:** Town of Seika, Seika Global Network

**APPLICATIONS/QUESTIONS**

Seika Global Network Office (Planning and Coordinating Division) せいかグローバルネットワーク事務局 (企画調整課内)  
TEL: 0774-95-1900 FAX: 0774-95-3971 E-mail: kikaku@town.seika.kyoto.jp

## Keihanna Commemorative Park Upcoming Events and Activities

### けいはんな記念公園の催し物

#### Suikeien Flower Arrangement Class★水景園のいけばな教室

WHEN: Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>; Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>; Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>; Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>

13:30-16:00 WHERE: Suikeien Kangetsurō Study Room WHAT: Come learn about the 500-year-old art of flower arrangement. FEE: ¥2,000 (please apply at least two days in advance)

#### Forest Plaza: Fun in the Forest★森っこ広場～森あそび～

WHEN: Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> 13:00-16:00 (participants may come at any point between start and end; canceled in case of rain) WHERE: Suikeien Budding Tree (Mebuki) Forest WHAT: Play on hammocks and swings, enjoy bonfires, and more. WHAT TO BRING: Working gloves FEE: Suikeien admission fee

#### Setsubun: Beans and Origami★節分～豆まきと折り紙～

WHEN: Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> 13:00-15:00 WHERE: Suikeien Kangetsurō WHAT: Throw beans and make origami ogre masks. FEE: Suikeien admission fee

#### Baked Sweet Potato Bonfire★たき火で焼き芋を焼こう

WHEN: Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> 13:00-14:00 (not canceled in case of light rain; postponed to Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> in case of inclement weather) WHERE: Meet in front of Suikeien reception area  
WHAT: Come roast delicious sweet potatoes. FEE: ¥500 (application required)

#### Saganaka Cotton Goods Museum★相楽木綿伝承館

WHEN: Every Sunday, Monday, Thursday, and Friday 10:00-17:00 (registration for hands-on workshop ends at 15:00) WHERE: Suikeien Kangetsurō Basement WHAT: Saganaka cotton goods were once a special product of the southern Yamashiro region. The museum offers information about the history and culture surrounding these goods. There is also a hands-on workshop which offers the chance to try making cotton goods. FEE: Suikeien admission fee (separate fee for hands-on workshop, application required) APPLICATIONS; Saganaka Cotton Goods Museum (TEL: 080-6186-9233)



**PARK INFORMATION:** Entrance to Suikeien and Shizenrin: Adults: ¥200, J.H.S. and E.S. students: ¥100 (free for those 60 or over with proof of age; free for holders of Disabled Person's Handbook and one accompanying person; free for one parent of family holding Child Care Support Passport; discount for groups of 25 or more) **HOURS:** 9:00-17:00 (last entry 16:30)

**QUESTIONS:** Keihanna Commemorative Park Mgmt. Office けいはんな記念公園管理事務所  
TEL: 0774-93-1200, FAX: 0774-93-2688 <http://www.keihanna-park.jp>

**Yōsuke Yamashita Jazz Concert: Solo and More**

やましたようすけ  
山下洋輔 Solo&More ジャズコンサート

**DATE:**

Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> 15:00

**LOCATION:**

Keihanna Plaza Main Hall

**FEATURING:**

Yōsuke Yamashita (piano), Yūya Yoneda (alto saxophone), Kenichi Akatsuka (trumpet), Hiroshi Kumamoto (percussion)

**TICKETS:**

In advance: ¥3,000

On the day of the concert: ¥3,500

Sold at: Keihanna Plaza, Ticket Pia, others

※ May choose seat when buying ticket at Keihanna plaza

※ Children below school age may not enter

**SPONSORED BY:**

Keihanna Science City Promotion Association

**WITH COOPERATION FROM:**

Erato Musical Office

**QUESTIONS:**

Keihanna Business Department けいはんな事業部  
TEL: 0774-95-5115

**Keihanna Plaza Upcoming Events**

けいはんなプラザの催し物

**Keihanna Movies** けいはんな映画劇場**WHEN:**

January 18<sup>th</sup> (Sat) ①10:30 ②13:30 ③16:15

January 19<sup>th</sup> (Sun) ①10:30 ②13:30 ③16:15

**WHAT:**

Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>

①③ Cinema Paradiso

② Roman Holiday

Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>

①③ Roman Holiday

② Cinema Paradiso

**WHERE:** Keihanna Plaza Main Hall

All tickets are ¥500 (no discounts available; tickets may only be purchased on the day of the movie)

**QUESTIONS:** Keihanna Business Department

けいはんな事業部 TEL: 0774-95-5115

**Keihanna Plaza Small Concert**

けいはんなプラザプチコンサート

▼WHEN ①Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> ②Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> 12:15-12:45

▼WHERE Keihanna Plaza Atrium Lobby

▼PROGRAM: See website for details

QUESTIONS: Keihanna Plaza Small Concert Committee けいはんなプラザプチコンサート実行委員会 TEL: 0774-95-6128

## Cooking

## クッキング

## Curry Rice Casserole

- Cut chicken into 2 cm squares and season with salt and pepper. Dice roux.
- Cut onion and potato into 1 cm pieces. Slice carrot into semicircles 5 cm wide.
- Heat half of butter in pot. Cook chicken at high heat, and remove when the surface turns white.
- Add some butter to ③ and cook ② on medium heat, stirring often.
- Add meat from ③ to ④, then add milk and simmer for 5 minutes.
- Add roux to ⑤ and boil. Add salt and pepper to taste.
- Grease a casserole dish with butter and add rice, then pour ⑥ on top and sprinkle cheese over dish. Cook at 230 degrees Celsius for 10 to 15 minutes until done.

**Ingredients** (Serves 2)

Chicken thigh-----140g  
 Onion-----80g  
 Carrot-----80g  
 Potato-----80g  
 Milk-----200g  
 Curry roux-----20g  
 Cheese (for pizza)-50g  
 Butter-----14g  
 Cooked rice-----200g  
 Salt, pepper----to taste

## Giseigo Corner

## 擬声語コーナー

Hello and welcome to the Giseigo Corner! *Giseigo* are Japanese words describing sounds. This corner will also include *gitaigo*, which describe conditions.

ぎ  
せ  
い  
ご

からから

**Kara kara**

**“State of having no moisture”**

During the winter, many things become *kara kara*, especially people's throats. Make sure to drink lots of water to keep up your health!



## Transportation to Kansai Airport

### かんさいくこうまでのこうつう

#### Kansai Airport Bus

関西国際空港エアポートリムジンバス

The Nara Kōtsū Airport Bus offers service to Kansai International Airport from Keihanna Plaza, available seven days a week (¥2,000 one way). Bookings are available. Call the number below to reserve a seat.

Departure	Arrival	Departure	Arrival
4:10	5:50	14:50	16:30
5:50	7:30	15:50	17:30
6:50	8:30	16:50	18:30
7:50	9:30	17:50	19:30
9:50	11:30	18:50	20:30
11:50	13:30	19:50	21:30
12:50	14:30		

For more information or to reserve a seat:

Nara Kōtsū Bus Reservation Center

奈良交通バス予約センター

TEL: 0742-22-5110 (Hours: 8:30-19:00)

## Note from the Editor

### へんしゅうしゃのことば

So, it's already 2014! Considering that the year I graduated college and moved to Seika was 2012, this is quite hard for me to believe. Time really has flown here.

Soon enough, it will be the coldest time of the year. However, it's now closer to spring, and the days have started to get longer. Also, Seika's famous strawberry-picking season will start soon. I absolutely love the strawberries here, so I plan to eat as many as possible while I'm still living here.

- Steven

Check out the Kyōto CIR blog!

<http://tabunkakyoito.wordpress.com/>

## Festivals and National Holidays さいじつ・ぎょうじ

### Coming of Age Day

せいじん ひ  
成人の日

January 13<sup>th</sup>

This holiday celebrates those who have turned 20, the official age of adulthood in Japan. Municipal governments all over the country hold ceremonies featuring speeches from officials, followed by parties. Young women participating in these events often wear extremely elaborate kimono which can take hours to put on. Seika will hold its Coming of Age Ceremony this year at Keihanna Plaza's Main Hall.

### Igomori Festival

いごもり祭

January 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>

According to legend, the Igomori Festival was first held around the year AD 770 to ward off an evil spirit bringing plague and famine upon the locals. Nowadays, the festival begins with the lighting of a huge torch after dark at Hōsono Shrine. The flaming torch, which weighs over 75 kilograms, is then paraded through the streets of Seika by six or seven men. Many food vendors set up around the shrine to add to the festive atmosphere. Residents of the area surrounding the shrine also hold a tug of war competition; it is believed that the winning team will be assured of a good harvest for the rest of the year.

### Setsubun

せつぶん  
節分

February 3<sup>rd</sup>

Although the name of this holiday originally referred to the day before the start of any new season, it has come to describe the festival marking the traditional beginning of spring. This festival is famous for the tradition of *mamemaki*, or bean throwing, among families. One member of the family dresses up as an *oni* (demon) while the others throw roasted soybeans at that person and yell, "*Oni wa soto! Fuku wa uchi!*," meaning "Demons out! Good fortune in!" All of the family members then eat the number of beans corresponding to their respective ages. There will be a *Setsubun* event at Keihanna Commemorative Park the day before the festival. Please see Page 5 for details.

#### Seika Growth Watch

じんこう うご  
人口の動き

Population as of December 1st:  
(Number in parentheses is change from last month)

Total:	37,177 (+36)
Male:	17,906 (+25)
Female:	19,271 (+11)
Households:	13,972 (+18)

#### Ichigo Corner

いちごコーナー

The Ichigo Corner is a place for readers to express their opinions on Seika, life in Japan, or anything else.

Submissions may be sent in by mail, e-mail, or fax.

#### Ichigo's Aim

いちごの目的

Since the advent of the Kansai Science City, the town of Seika, along with its foreign population, has been growing rapidly. In an effort to make the lives of foreign residents easier, the Seika Town Office produces this monthly newsletter. The newsletter's name, "Ichigo," means "strawberry," Seika's most famous product.

かんさいぶんかがくじゆつけんきゆうとし けんせつ  
関西文化学術研究都市の建設  
すす せいにかちょう ひと ふ  
が進み、精華町にすむ人が増  
え、その中で外国人の人口も増  
えています。精華町内に住む  
がいこくじん みな く  
外国人の皆さんが暮らしやす  
いように、精華町は毎月この  
じょうほうし ほつこう  
情報紙を発行しています。この  
じょうほうし  
情報紙のニックネーム「いち  
ご」(いちご せいにかちょう いちばんゆうめい  
苺、精華町の一番有名な  
もの)は、みんながわかるよう  
にひらがなでつけました。

#### Ichigo on the Internet

<http://www.town.seika.kyoto.jp/link/ichigo.html>