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Life in Japan in the winter



It's finally winter! Today I'll tell you about life in Japan in the winter. Let's all enjoy winter together!

“Nabe ryori” (hot pot cuisine)

“Nabe cuisine” is a representative food of winter that warms your body. Anything is used for ingredients, such as fish, vegetables, mushrooms, and tofu, and the nutritional balance is perfect! “Sukiyaki” and “Shabu-shabu” are famous, but depending on the region, there are a variety of types of nabe cuisine.



“Atsukan” (warm sake)

Sake is Japanese liquor that is made by adding rice malt and water to steamed rice, and fermenting it. It is said to have been transmitted to Japan along with rice-making, and has a very long history. Japanese people enjoy warming up sake in the winter to a temperature from 36 – 60°C, and drinking it. A year-end party is called a “Bonenkai” in Japanese, and warm sake is often drunken there.



“Kotatsu” (table with an electric heater)

Long ago Japanese houses had thin roofs and walls, and it was very cold inside houses in winter. For that reason families would gather together in one room to warm their cold bodies by a heater called an “irori” that uses charcoal. The “kotatsu” originated from a square stand assembled on the “irori” with a futon placed over it to not let the heat escape. Now there are many “electric kotatsu” that use electricity, and this is a place where all family members gather to talk.



“Oshogatsu” (New Year)

The new year is called “Oshogatsu” in Japanese. On the morning of January 1, families eat “Osechi Ryori,” which is the first cuisine eat of the year. They drink “Otoso,” which is sake marinated medicinal plants, and leisurely spend time together. Japanese people also send “nengajo,” which are postcards with a New Year's greeting, to each other. The history of nengajo is old, having started in the Heian Period (8th century-).



This is a good time to have a My Number card made!



Your life will become more convenient with a My Number card!

As with your Residence card and passport, a My Number card can be used as personal ID.



You can have a resident's card copy, seal registration certificate, taxation/income certificate (proof of income) issued at a convenience store using a My Number card.



This is a good time to apply!

- You will receive your My Number card 1 – 2 months after applying.
- If the number of people applying increases, then it may take more than 2 months to receive your card, so now is a good time to have one made.

In the future you will be able to use it for a variety of government and city hall services!

Please contact the Shimin-ka (Citizen's Division) for details on the procedure, etc. ☎ 632-5266

Please be careful not to cause a fire

7 points to protect precious life and property from fire

1. Do not smoke in bed.

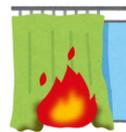


2. Keep flammable objects away from the stove.

3. Be sure to turn off your gas stove when going away from it.



4. Install a smoke detector in your house so that you will be able to escape in time.



5. Use items, such as curtains, made of material that doesn't burn easily.

6. In order to put out fire when it is still small, have a household fire extinguisher on hand.



7. In order to protect elderly and handicapped persons, make an effort to talk with neighbors on a regular basis.



Fun events 🎵 🎵

A Tuesday Advanced Level Japanese Class is Starting!

- 🕒 Every Tuesday 1:30 - 3:30PM
- Sign up** Please register if for first time.
- 😊 Learn smooth conversation, Japanese culture, and improve your Japanese skills.
- For** Persons who passed the Japanese Proficiency Exam Level 1 or have Japanese ability that is equivalent
- ¥ 1,000 yen per month
- @ Utsunomiya International Plaza Konwashitsu
- ☎ Utsunomiya City International Association
028-616-1870



International Exchange Salon 🎵

- 🕒 Every 4th Saturday 4:00PM – 6:00PM
- Dec. 23 Christmas special event 🎵
- Jan. 27 Traditional Japanese games
- 😊 An event at which you can talk with people from various countries.
- ¥ Free
- @ Utsunomiya International Plaza
- ☎ 028-616-1563



“A Drop of Milk” Milk & Snacks Festival!

- 🕒 January 7 (Sun) 3:00PM - (2:00PM doors open)
- 😊 Musical for children put on by children.
Farm-related persons have booths in lobby.
Snack contest
- ¥ 1,000 yen
- @ Tochigi-ken Sogo Bunka Center
Main hall & lobby in hall
- ✉ Tochigi Musical Kyokai (Assoc.)
<http://tochigi-musical.com/>



Pound New Year's Rice Cakes!

- 🕒 January 6 (Sat) 11:30AM – 1:00PM
- 😊 Try pounding mochi (rice cakes) the old-fashioned way, using a mortar and pestle. 100 servings for first come first serve. When they're gone, that's it!
- For** Persons living in or attending school in Utsunomiya
- ¥ 100 yen (materials cost)
- @ Seishonen Katsudo Center
(3007 Imaizumi-cho)
- ☎ 028-663-3155



Watch the first sunrise of the year from Utsunomiya Tower!

- 🕒 January 1 (Mon/holiday) 6:00AM - 7:15AM
- 😊 Watch the first sunrise of the year at the Utsunomiya Tower

Sign up On a reply-paid postcard write the following information for all persons wanting to participate: address, name, telephone no., and age. Write the postal code, address, and name of the representative for the return address.
Send it to: Hachimanyama Koen Kanri Jimusho, 5-1-1 Hanawada, Utsunomiya-shi, 〒320-0027
Deadline: December 13 (must arrive on or by that date)
Up to 5 people can apply on 1 postcard. A person cannot apply multiple times.

- For** People living in Utsunomiya City
- Max** 80 people selected by a drawing
- @ Hachimanyama Park Utsunomiya Tower Tenbodai (Observation platform)
- ☎ Hachimanyama Koen Kanri Jimusho (Hachimanyama Park Management Office)
028-624-0642





UCIA 10th Anniversary Commemorative Event Japanese Speech (2)



3 things I do to make an effort to study Japanese

My name is Liu Qian. I came to Japan three years ago due to my parent's work. I am a first year high school student. When I first went to a Japanese school, there were many things I didn't understand about school life and I couldn't speak well, so in order to be able to express my feelings, I began to study Japanese.

I have three ways to study Japanese. The first way is making friends and speaking with them. My friends always tell me the correct pronunciation and word choices, so they are just like Japanese teachers. I have learned from this experience that friends are very important. The second way is watching TV. In the news when there is a word I don't understand, I promptly look it up in a dictionary. Also, drama programs use a lot of everyday words, so I recommend watching them because that is useful in everyday life. The third way is having confidence. Thinking that what I say may be incorrect Japanese and then not being able to say anything is not very good at all. I have courage and try to express my feelings. I speak a lot and make many mistakes, but want to continue to express my feelings with confidence to everyone.

Liu Qian

This is an extract from her speech. We will also post other presenters' speeches in subsequent issues. Don't miss it!

Utsunomiya International Plaza Services



Interpreter Volunteer Service

Go with someone needing language assistance to such places as national and prefectural facilities and the city hall, and interpret for them

- ▶ Monday – Sunday 8:30AM – 7:00PM
- ▶ 1 time (2 hours) 2,000 yen
- ▶ Please fill our application form at UIP, pay the fee, and submit the application.

“Oh-i!” is published in easy Japanese, English, Chinese, Portuguese, and Thai, and is also available on the UCIA website. <http://www.ucia.or.jp> There, you can enjoy reading past issues of the “Oh-i!” too.

Consultation for Foreign Residents

		Spanish Portuguese	Chinese	Thai	English
UIP ☎616-1564	3:00PM - 6:00PM	Mon	Tues	Wed	Fri
		4 th Sunday of month (appointment needed)			
City Hall ☎632-2834 (during office hours)	9:00AM - 12:00PM	Thurs	2 nd Thurs	—	—
	2:00PM - 5:00PM	Thurs	—	2 nd Thurs	2 nd Thurs
Administrative Scrivener ☎616-1564	3:00PM - 5:00PM	3 rd Monday (appointment needed)			