

Welcome to Atami SGG International Club and our May newsletter. We are a group of like-minded volunteers, Japanese and foreign, all living in Atami.

If you have any language problem, please contact us. We have several members who, between us, speak English, German, Spanish, Italian, French and Chinese. Also, we are offering free Japanese lessons so please contact us at info@atamisgg.com if you would like to join the lessons.

The solar calendar (太陽曆) is now the official calendar however, Japanese traditional events/festivals are often based on the lunar calendar (旧曆, 太陰曆) which was used until 1872. Hachijyu-Hachi Ya (八十八夜, 88th day) is interesting. The 88th day is counted from the Lunar New Year (Feb. 4th) and falls on May 1st in 2024. This marks the start of agricultural work for farmers, as the risk of frost decreases after this time. In rice farming, sowing the seeds on this day is believed to bring delicious rice in the fall, because the kanji characters of 88 (八十八) has the same strokes as rice (米). Hachijyu-Hachi Ya is also the time when the first flush of green tea is harvested. Newly grown soft leaves are full of umami, therefore, let's enjoy tasting the first tea (新茶) in May!

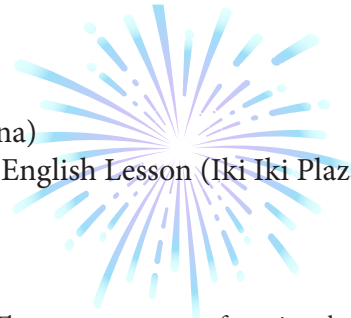
Members of SGG had the pleasure of visiting Geisha House Atami in April to hear captivating tales from Australia. John and Miranda Bertram, Australian nationals and Atami residents who own Geisha House, kindly shared insights into their country's history and culture. They treated us to a traditional song sung by sheep shearers and unraveled the nuances of its lyrics, which felt like a foreign language to us.



Australia has had many waves of immigrants over the generations and each group has added a new flavor to the culture of the country. Following the talk, everyone enjoyed sweets and tea, providing opportunities to get to know each other better. A special thanks to John and Miranda for opening their home and offering us valuable insights into their country.

May 2024 Events

- 5/1 Himenosawa Park Flower Festival
- 5/2 Fireworks at Atami seaside
- 5/3-5 11th Annual Atami Spring Beer Festival (in front of Atami marina)
- 5/13 14:30-15:30 Atami SGG Mnthly Mtg; 15:30-17:00 Dr. Kinoshita's English Lesson (Iki Iki Plaza, 6th Fl)
- 5/3 - 6, 18-19 Market at Nagahama Kaihin Park
- 5/12, 26 Sunday morning market at Nagisasho Park
- 5/25 Hatsushima Tokoroten (gelidium jelly) festival



*If you are over 50, you can get a 4,000 yen subsidy for the vaccination of shingles. There are two types of vaccines but you can get the subsidy only once. Please use the application through the Atami City homepage.



CHAPORTE is just a one minute walk from Atami station

AKAO SHOTEN Co., Ltd. has renovated a 90-yr-old souvenir shop in front of Atami station and opened **CHAPORTE**, specializing in Shizuoka tea and cheese-cake sweets. The concept of "a new proposal of arranged tea", aims to provide a new experience of drinking the prefecture's tea in Atami, the gateway to Shizuoka. The shop is an entry point to Atami and is located just a minute's walk from Atami Stn. CHAPORTE is from the Japanese word "CHA" (tea) and the French word "PORTE" (entrance). It is hoped that the shop will be a lively place to gather for a cup of tea. It is a new way to enjoy "arranged tea" as an entry point to encounter the world of free-flowing tea.

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We are developing our resources for the benefit of Atami residents. Is there some useful information about life in Atami you would like to know or share? We would be delighted to hear from you at info@atamisgg.com. The QR codes will take you to our website & Instagram account (you may see a google ad).

