

GIFU BULLETIN

Vol. II | No. 4

Featuring News, Events, and Updates from Around the Geefs

March-April 2016



SAKURA SEASON

This year, the sakura are supposed to bloom from the end of March to early April. A handy and comprehensive list of all of the sakura sites in Gifu has been put together into an excel spreadsheet and can be downloaded from the Gifu JETs Weebly site ([DL](#))

News – RPA Farewells & Introductions

Farewell Old Friends!

➤ CATHY ANATRA (MIZUTORI JUN) – CHUNO REGION

Greetings. Another winter is coming to an end which leaves me desolate. I love winter. I am extra bummed this year because in the summer I'll be leaving Japan. I wanted to stay longer on the JET Programme but there arose circumstances beyond my control. Alas. Still I want to look toward the future with hope like wings propelling me into the unknown. Entering the unknown is scary but it's the only way to transition to our next chapter. I knew coming in that leaving would be difficult. But I came anyway because I also knew that it would be worth it. Live long and prosper.

➤ JASMINE BERNHARDT – CHUNO REGION

Hi everyone! Thank you for having me as your RPA for these past two years - it's been great fun. I'll be stepping down as RPA this spring and then heading back out to the rest of the world in the summer. I'll be sad to leave, but there are lots of new RPAs with fresh ideas and perspectives, and I know they can bring something great to the Gifu community. I hope they treat you well! And again, thank you! Have a fantastic rest of the year!

➤ BRIANNA COSENZA – GIFU REGION

My time as an RPA was enjoyable thanks to my fellow RPA team members and all the JETs of Gifu. If you are staying on JET, enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. If you are leaving, I wish you all the best in your future.

➤ WILLIAM BAILEY – SEINO REGION

Will Bailey, out.

➤ RAJEEV RAHELA – HIDA REGION

I had a great time working as the Hida RPA. But an RPA is nothing but a voice for the people to whom they serve, the ALTs. In which case, I'm grateful to have such a wonderful group of people to have worked for. Everyone throughout Hida City, Takayama and Gero have made this a great experience, and I hope I did enough to serve them well! Hida can seem isolated at times, but there is a great sense of community and belonging between us all. No matter how much we complain about the snow and the cold, we wouldn't want it any other way. The RPA team this year has been lovely, and I've enjoyed working with you all. I know my successor will do a great job, and I wish her all the luck in working alongside the rag-tag bunch of Hida-ns! Keep it real.

➤ LAURA MACKLEY – GIFU REGION

Hi everyone! I'm Laura, one of the RPAs for the Gifu region. As I'll be leaving JET this year, I'm stepping down as RPA from April onwards. I'm sad to leave, but also really grateful to have had the chance to get to know you all better and make some great memories. I'll still be around in Japan after my contract ends in August, so please get in touch if you come to Tokyo/the Kanto area! Finally, I just want to say thanks to Shane and Adam, the RPA team, and everyone from the BoE and the Kencho for all of their help this year, as well as all the JETs in Gifu and elsewhere for all of their hard work in the SDCs (and for generally being fantastic people!). I wish everyone good luck for the future, and I hope to see you all again after JET!

Hello New Friends!

➤ THOMAS BLACK – SEINO RPA

Hi Everyone! My name's Tom. I'm from Canberra, Australia and currently working at Ogaki Technical High School. When I'm not at school I like to spend my time pretending to study by playing Japanese video games, traveling around the country or playing board games with friends. I'm excited to be one of the new RPAs for the Seino region.

➤ HELEN TRINH – HIDA RPA

I'm Helen, originally from Auckland, New Zealand and I'm from the Hida region, based in Takayama City. I'm somebody who loves to laugh, eat, and travel but I'm not afraid of putting in the hours to do what needs to be done. I'm coming into this position with some extremely large shoes to fill (thanks Raj!) but I'm going to work hard to ensure that I'm the best RPA that I can be for everyone. I look forward to meeting and working with everyone over the next year and a half!

➤ DENTON WILLIAMS – SEINO RPA

Hey y'all! I'm Denton, I hail from Hershey, Pennsylvania (arguably Pennsylvucky) where the world-famous chocolate was created. Now in Japan I live in another farm town, Sekigahara, and while it is quite different from chocolate and Amish baked goods, the kids in my town make my new home a pretty good substitute "Sweetest Place on Earth." Please let me know if you ever have any questions. I can literally never say "no" to meeting up for ramen and chatting!

➤ JOSIAH WILSON – CHUNO RPA

Hi, I'm Josiah. I'm located in Mizunami. I'm from the City of Philadelphia in the USA, so the inaka life has been a bit of an adjustment. Some of you know me, many of you probably don't, as I'm not the most social animal. That being said, I'm always down for a good conversation, so don't feel shy to strike one up if you see me.

➤ SARAH DEMERY – GIFU RPA

Hey everyone! I'm Sarah from Australia, and I'm one of the new RPAs for the Gifu city region! I'm currently teaching at Gifu Senior High School and living with most of the Gifu city JETs in the awesome Nishi-Gifu neighbourhood! You can generally find me adventuring around Japan, hanging out with other Gifians, or frequently dining at Sushiro. I'm really looking forward to hanging out with everyone and planning some awesome activities for our region!

➤ KRISTEN ELROD – CHUNO RPA

Hello! I'm Kristen! I live in Motosu and I'm excited to be one of the new Chuno RPAs this year! You've probably noticed I don't exactly live in Chuno, but because it's such a sweet place, I'm always hanging out in it. I'm can usually be found chilling at a *konbini* somewhere and if you ever need someone to go with you to McDonalds, I'm there! I'm excited to be joining the RPA team this year, and I'm looking forward to a great year ahead!

Flower Watching - Hanami

As the last of the snow begins to thaw and the heating button on your AC remote control begins to gather dust, in comes the welcoming fresh wind to signal the end of winter and the beginning of spring. If there is one thing you should know about spring in Japan it is the 花見 (hanami) tradition which literally translates to flower watching.

The practice is centuries old appearing in literature as far back as the 9th century and it holds a special place in the hearts of many Japanese people. In the modern day young people gather in parks to eat, drink and admire the cherry blossoms as they fall. In every nook and cranny up and down the country you will find revelers bathing in the falling cherry blossom trees and enjoying sakura flavoured, beer, kitkats, hamburgers and everything in between.

The sakura are said to represent human life, delicate and fleeting.

Japanese Phrase of the Month

For what you may have seen at your end of year party:

Nakute nana kuse (atte yonjuuhachi kuse)
無くて七癖 (あって四十八癖)

Even if they don't have 48 habits they have 7

This proverb refers to how everyone has eccentricities and quirks.

[Note: The second piece of the proverb in brackets may be omitted.]

See you next time !



What did you think?

Let us know what you think of the bulletin and what you would like to see in future issues by emailing us at

gifupas@gmail.com