

GIFU BULLETIN

Vol. III No. VII Featuring News, Events, and Updates Around the Ken April 2017

It's time for the *sakura!*
I sure can't wait to enjoy
hanami with all of my
friends!



New RPAs!

Let's give a big Gifu welcome to all our new RPAs!

Phinashia Page (Hida Region)

Hello! I'm originally from Pensacola, Florida, but now live in the Hida Region in the beautiful city of Gero. I love going to Starbucks (drinking overpriced coffee while I study is my jam). I'm really excited to be working with the PA and RPA team this year. I'll do my best to be a great RPA!

Samuel Lee (Hida Region)

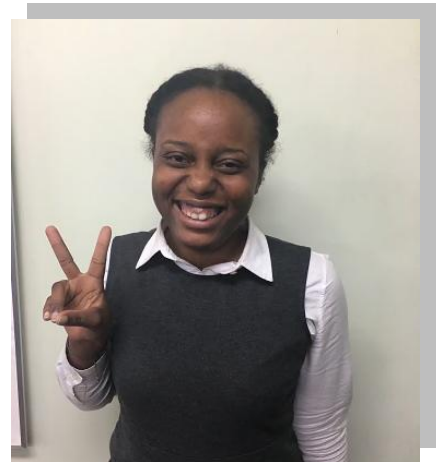
Hello All,

My name is Sam. I am one of the Hida RPAs. It is an honour and a privilege to serve the ALT community. I shall endeavour to do the role justice. Likes: mountains and the ocean.

Harly Lane (Chuno Region)

Hey Gifu peeps! I'm Harly, and I'm Chuno region's new RPA. My days are usually spent practicing *iaido* (the art of quickly drawing a sword and striking) and *kyudo* (Japanese archery), but when the weekend rolls around I do my best to travel. There are still so many places to see and still a lot of you to meet, so definitely reach out and say hey. I'm always looking for places to go and people to meet.

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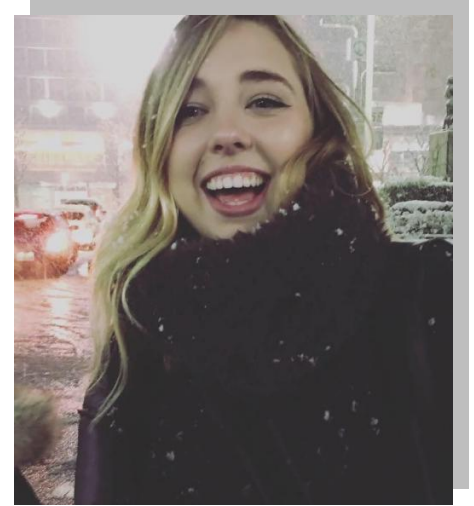
New RPAs!

Continued!

Victoria Seekman (Tono Region)

I'm Victoria, 23 years old living in Toki, Gifu. I'm originally from Houston, Texas. Currently I teach at 7 schools, 4 elementary and 3 junior high schools. I studied international relations, Japanese, and Mandarin in University. I spend my free time in Japan eating delicious food and traveling around Japan/Asia!

Good luck to all of our new RPAs!



Please feel free to send any suggestions for the Gifu Bulletin to [gifupas@gmail.com!](mailto:gifupas@gmail.com)

We're waiting for your messages!

Japanese of the Month!

今月の日本語!

一期一会

いちごいちえ

ichigoichie

Only one meeting in a lifetime; one should treasure every encounter with a new person as it only occurs once.

Gifu-ben of the Month

今月の岐阜弁

やっとかめ

yattokame

The equivalent of ひさしぶり (*hisashiburi*, it's been a long time) in standard Japanese.

ほかる

hokaru

The equivalent of 捨てる (*suteru*, to throw away) in standard Japanese.

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And Goodbye to our Outgoing RPAs!

Let's wish them the best of luck!

Helen Trinh (Hida Region)

Thank you Hida region, for having me as your RPA! I'll be returning home to little old NZ in July but Hida will always be a special place to me. Look forward to what your next awesome RPAs bring you! They're fantastic people, ready to take on the world! Or at least, the rest of Japan!!

Jim Hendricks (Hida Region)

Hello everyone,
Time goes by so fast, and it seems to go by even faster when you work in a school. It's difficult to believe that it's been over 4 years. It'll be even more difficult to leave in the summer. Thank you for having me as RPA these last two years. I wish you all the best of luck in the future.

Johnny Wilson (Tono Region)

To my fellow Tono ALTs, thank you for your support during my two year tenure as your RPA. It's been a great pleasure to represent Tono and its inherent independent spirit. To my fellow Gifu ALTs, I appreciate your support these two years and hope as an RPA team we've been able to help you make the most out of your JET experience. Thank you very much.

Be excellent to each other.

Laura Duvall (Tono Region)

In my wonderful year and a half serving as Tono RPA, I've learned so much about Gifu, the JET Program, and all of our amazing participants across the prefecture. Unfortunately due to scheduling issues I will not be able to continue my official service as an RPA, but I am still here to serve Gifu in any way that I can. Thank you all for the opportunity to grow professionally, and good luck to the incoming team!

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JTE Spotlight – Naomi Takada

Gifu Prefectural Nakatsu Senior High School

Interviewed by Laura Duvall

When did you decide that you wanted to be an English teacher?

At first I didn't want to be a teacher, because both of my parents are teachers. But, my mother told me to get my teaching license "just in case." After studying abroad in the US as a senior in university, it was May, so I missed the tests for many Japanese companies. So, I started teacher's training in June at Nakatsu High School and I thought it was very interesting! After that, I decided to be a teacher.

You trained to be a teacher at Nakatsu High School, and now are a full teacher here, at the same school you attended as a student. Does it ever feel strange?

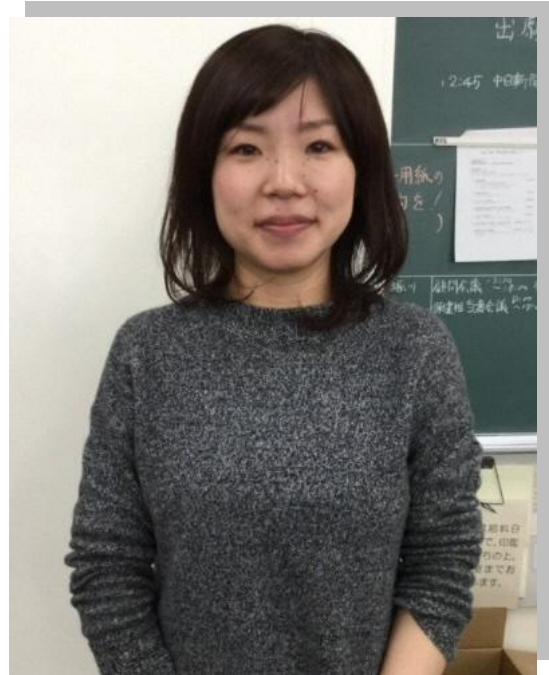
I felt it strange at first, but it reminds me of my good old days ☺ I feel very comfortable here, but I think it is because of the other teachers around me.

You were in the UK for English teacher's training this summer. What was it like to be in the UK during the controversial Brexit vote?

I was able to learn what local people thought about the vote, and learn a lot about politics. If I were in Japan when it happened, I wouldn't have been able to know the opinions of real people.

What do you think is the best thing about teaching English?

I love talking with students, and as an English teacher, communication is my job!



Kitchen Craft

Lauren Godbey, Seino RPA

One noticeable difference between Japanese cooking, and the cooking from many of our home countries, is the amount of dishes served with each meal. It can seem time consuming to prepare so many separate ingredients at one time, but I'm sure many of you have noticed the staples that Japanese meals frequently rely on: rice, soup, and pickles. These are often prepared in advance, and served with different variations through each meal.

Recently, western cooking is incorporating this philosophy into meal planning, referring to it as 'kitchen craft' or strategies of turning the labor of daily meals into easier more flexible recipes. It does take more planning and preparation on one day of the week, but leftovers from that meal can be modified into varied simple dishes through the following days.

Tom Philpott of *Mother Jones* offers the following

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example.

"Say on Sunday, you cooked a pot of beans, roasted a whole chicken (tip: butterfly it), and whipped up a simple vinaigrette as a salad dressing and marinade. Monday's dinner could be a quick chicken-bean soup; Tuesday could be taco night; Wednesday, these elements could be incorporated along with some quick-sautéed vegetables into a pasta; and so on."

Philpott also recommends a couple of cookbooks focused on kitchen strategies rather than the single meal model used by most cookbooks. While some ingredients may not be as accessible in Japan, and others of us may have dietary restrictions, similar cooking strategies can be something that can save time and energy while allowing us to re-use ingredients that might otherwise go to waste.

I know this is something I intend to incorporate into my cooking schedule (and save myself from monotonously eating the same pile of curry through the week), and I will try to give suggestions for in future recipes. If you have tried this or other cooking strategies, or if you have any general recipes you want to share, we would love to hear from you as well! Please send any recipes or advice to gifupas@gmail.com.

食べてみましょう!



<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/commentisfree/2017/feb/23/recipes-are-to-cooking-as-lecticles-are-to-journalism-theyre-intrinsically-flawed>

- The article that inspired Philpott's recommendations

<http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2017/02/its-time-burn-your-cookbooks>

- Philpott's article along with links to cookbook recommendations

<http://www.treehugger.com/green-food/my-beloved-cookbooks-are-falling-me.html>

- A blend of the two prior links, with consideration for vegetarian/vegan meals, along with helpful comments from the readers

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Key Events in April

Hida Takayama Hina Matsuri

When: 3/1 – 4/3

Where: Takayama City

About: Single women selected from all over Hida render service at a Shinto shrine, attired in costumes of the Empress, consort, ministers, and court ladies. The parade of Live Dolls, as it winds through the village, looks as if it were right out of a picture scroll of the Heian period. Rice cakes are scattered at the end of the festival.

Sunomata Cherry Blossom

When: 3/24 – 4/9

Where: 1742-1 Sunomata, Sunomata-cho, Ogaki City, Gifu

About: This site, famously known as Hideyoshi's "overnight castle in Sunomata" because of a legend which says that the castle was constructed so quickly it was as though it turned up almost overnight, was the point from which Nobunaga mounted his successful assault on Inabayama Castle, allowing him to conquer the entire Mino region.

Along the northwest side of Sunomata Castle lies the remnants of the overnight castle, which has been repurposed into a park. On park grounds is the Sunomata History Museum, which details Hideyoshi Toyotomi's life up until he became ruler of Japan, and on display on top of the watchtower is a solid gold killer whale, which is said to be the only one in Japan.

The cherry blossoms of Sunomata Castle and the surrounding Sai River are thought of as some of the most beautiful in the Mino and Hida regions. With over 1000 yoshino cherry trees blooming in the area, the combination of Sunomata Castle and the illuminated cherry blossoms is to die for.

Kisosansen Park Tulip Matsuri

When: 4/2 – 4/17

Where: 255-3 Aburajima, Kaizu-cho, Kaizu-shi, Gifu Prefecture 503-0625

About: The park will be abundant with tulips. Cherry trees are planted next to the colorful tulip beds and they may be enjoyed at the same time if the tulips bloom early.

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Tejikara Hi-Matsuri

When: 4/8 at 5:30pm—8:00pm

Where: Tejikarao Shrine, Kuranomae in Gifu. Take the Meitetsu Inuyama line to Tejikara station.

About: Come see groups of men proving their courage by carrying portable shrines with firecrackers exploding from them!

Don't worry if you can't make it this time, this festival will happen again in August!

Mino Hana Mikoshi

When: 4/8 – 4/9

Where: Kamijo, Mino, Gifu Prefecture 501-3743, Japan

About: As the birthplace of Mino washi paper, its only fitting that this festival features dozens of bright pink washi sakura trees swaying atop colorful festival floats. Watch as they are paraded around the traditional areas of Mino City on Saturday, and enjoy watching the tipsy float carriers parade through the streets. (Harly's participating!)

Oyada Shrine Hinkoko Festival

When: 4/8 – 4/9

Where: Oyada, Mino, Gifu Prefecture 501-3771, Japan

About: Following a children's play and taiko drum performance, Oyada Shrine features a 500-year old puppet show. The play is designated a National Important Intangible Folk-Cultural Property and is done to pray for a good harvest and to cleanse those who come to see it.

Tajimi's Pottery Matsuri

When: 4/9 – 4/10

Where: Honmachi area, Tajimi City, Gifu

About: During this large event in spring, the ceramics stores in Tajimi line the streets with stalls and offer their superbly crafted Mino yaki ceramics for equally superb prices. From everyday items to things you could use at work or plates and bowls for children, there is a wide variety of Mino yaki ceramics that fit all occasions. An event space with special activities is prepared for the festival, making it a great time for parents and children to enjoy spending time together.

Also hosted near the venue are crafting events and pottery displays, meaning potential

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visitors will have no shortage of things to do! With over 15,000 people visiting each year, the Tajimi Ceramics Festival is symbolic of springtime in Tajimi City!

Takayama Festival

When: 4/14 – 4/15

Where: Takayama, Gifu Prefecture, Japan

About: Similar to the Fall Festival, but held in Spring! This time, it will be the Hie Shrine hosting! Friday is the best day to visit!

April 18-19th = Seki Matsuri

When: 4/15 – 4/16

Where: Honmachi, Seki City, Gifu Prefecture 501 - 3886

About: Dozens of colorful caricature floats are carried through the streets of Seki. Each one has its own unique style, whether referencing a local shrine or promoting the beloved Jiban-nya from Yokai-watch, and many people of all ages come together to see them.

April 18th – 19th = Gujo Matsuri (Hachiman Spring Matsuri)

When: 4/15 – 4/16

Where: Gujo Hachiman, Japan, 〒501-4222 Gifu-ken, Gujō-shi, 八幡町島谷 520-1

About: As the last of the cherry blossom petals fall gently to the ground, the town comes alive for two days of colourful parades and celebration to welcome spring. This is the weekend when three different parades, each mounted by a different shrine, simultaneously wind their ways through the town's old narrow streets in the historic centre.

April 19-20th = Furukawa Matsuri (Wednesday-Thursday)

When: 4/19 – 4/20

Where: Hida-Furukawa Station, Japan

About: Ok, they're not butt-naked, but they're in fundoshi! Watch as the local men dash around a freezing town, wrapped in nothing but a fundoshi, climbing up wooden poles, and beating each other's (taiko) drums!

Public holidays:

April 29th (Saturday) = Showa no Hi



I'll see you
next time
folks!