



Hopefully this newsletter finds you well after the flood of school entrance ceremonies, personnel transfers, and cherry blossom blizzards which spring in Japan always seems to entail. Luckily in Okinawa the cherry trees bloomed somewhere around late January so we've had our stimulation in smaller, manageable doses!

The next thing to watch out for is *gogatsubyō* (5月病), or May sickness. I've heard a couple of explanations for this phenomenon. Some people say this condition comes about as a result of the lull which naturally follows all the excitement in April, while others claim that it comes on because one would prefer to go outside and enjoy the mild spring weather rather than working or studying. Whatever the case, if you find yourself feeling a little blue, there's a good chance that things will clear up as we ease into summer and everyone finds their rhythm again.

Over time the list of subscribers to this newsletter has grown progressively shorter, to the point that we are now thinking it may be more effective to post news in English online for all of those wishing to learn about what is going on in Urasoe. **This will be the last printed newsletter to be sent out using the subscriber list which has existed up to this point.** In exchange, from now on I will be maintaining an online blog at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/urasoeblog/>

The blog features up-to-date event information and city announcements for Urasoe. If you are unable to access the Internet at home or work, please contact me with your address details so that I can send you a printed copy of the information. Our goal is to continue offering information to all English-speaking citizens in Urasoe who require it.

As always, if there is anything I can help you out with, please feel free to contact me up here in the International Relations Section of Urasoe City Hall. - Patrick

Urasoe City Hall International Relations Section  
098-876-1234 (extension 2612) [urasoe.ir@gmail.com](mailto:urasoe.ir@gmail.com)



Due to a decrease in rainfall, Okinawa dams are at 50.9% of their capacity compared to the average of 74.6% for this time of year (as of April 15<sup>th</sup>). Now would be a good time to start being more conscious of water usage at home. Shorter showers, saving bath water for the washing machine, turning off the water while you brush your teeth...use your imagination!

### Uchinaguchi Corner

#### *Uta ya mimigusui*

唄や耳薬

うたやみみぐすい

Music is medicine for the ears.

*I couldn't agree more – take two sonatas and call me in the morning.*

## Supplementary Income Payments

As part of a Japanese government plan to stimulate the economy during this time of recession, you may be eligible for a one-time supplementary income payment of ¥ 12,000 or ¥ 20,000 (for those under 18 or over 65 years of age). Provided that you are a legal resident of Japan and you had an established residence here as of February 1st, 2009, all you need to do is fill out the application and designate a bank account into which the payment is to be transferred. The application must be postmarked by October 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

Please note that the payment is limited to those who have completed their alien registration in the municipality where they reside.

Urasoe City sent out applications for the Supplementary Income Payment in mid-April, so if you haven't received the forms already, it might be wise to check your mailbox or inquire at City Hall if you haven't received anything. Once you have filled out the application, you have one of two options:

- 1.) Send the completed application by mail along with a photocopy of some kind of identification (driver's license, alien registration card, passport) to Urasoe City Hall.
- 2.) Bring the completed application along with some form of identification (as listed in option 1) to the Supplementary Income Payment Affairs Office at Urasoe City Hall (2F).

It is estimated that it will take two weeks to a month before the payment is deposited into your account. We regret that payment on the day of the application is not possible.

If you need help filling out the forms or have any questions, please contact the Supplementary Income Payment Affairs Office at 098-876-1234 ( extension 5923~5926), or the International Relations Section at 876-1234 (extension 2612) for assistance in English.

More details are available at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/urasoeblog/>

**FEATURE: Neighborhood Associations**  
*from the Citizen's Livelihood Section*

We all want to live in neighborhoods which we feel are safe and friendly, yet it is sometimes difficult to promote this on our own. Neighborhood associations aim to bring people together and to resolve issues which would otherwise be difficult to deal with on an individual basis. If you would like to get involved, please contact the neighborhood association closest to your residence using the list below.

★☆☆Activities☆☆★

**1. Public Safety**

Installation and maintenance of street lights, applications for traffic signals, inspection of hazardous sites, etc.

**2. Social Welfare, Sports**

Calisthenics classes, volunteer activities, funds collection for charitable activities and aid, neighborhood sports meets

**3. Support for youth**

Calisthenics classes broadcast by radio during summer vacation, children's activity groups, Christmas parties, etc.

**4. Environment & Neighborhood Upkeep**

Neighborhood clean-ups, planting of trees and other plants, Green Day in Urasoe

**5. Traditional Events and Festivals**

Lion Dance in Nakanishi · Jichaku · Uchima, Kyo-zuka Drumming Group, Maeda Bow Staff group, Kowan Agibārī

**6. Public Announcements**

Distribution of announcements and information from Okinawa Prefecture and Urasoe City, bulletin boards, meetings related to local government policy, broadcasts of important information by neighborhood speaker systems.

URASOE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION CONTACT LIST

No	Name	Address	Phone Number	Area(s) Served
1	Nakama · 仲間	Nakama 2-35-2	098-876-1649	Nakama, Ahacha, Iso
2	Ahacha · 安波茶	Ahacha 2-7-1	098-879-5692	Ahacha
3	Iso · 伊祖	Iso 3-35-6	098-878-9624	Iso, Makiminato, Minatogawa, Gusukuma
4	Makiminato · 牧港	Makiminato 1-4-6	098-879-6373	Makiminato
5	Minatogawa · 港川	Minatogawa 326	098-876-5855	Makiminato, Minatogawa, Gusukuma
6	Gusukuma · 城間	Gusukuma 1-9-1	098-877-2072	Iso, Gusukuma, Yafuso
7	Yafuso · 屋富祖	Yafuso 3-1-1	098-877-2981	Yafuso, Miyagi
8	Miyagi · 宮城	Miyagi 2-22-3	098-875-1254	Yafuso, Miyagi, Nakanishi
9	Nakanishi · 仲西	Nakanishi 1-3-11	098-876-2083	Miyagi, Nakanishi, Kowan
10	Kowan · 小湾	Miyagi 6-13-1	098-877-3681	Miyagi, Uchima, Takushi, Ohira
11	Jichaku · 勢理客	Jichaku 2-19-20	098-878-8538	Kowan, Jichaku, Uchima
12	Uchima · 内間	Uchima 3-15-1	098-877-3251	Uchima, Takushi
13	Takushi · 沢岬	Takushi 1-31-1	098-878-9692	Takushi
14	Kyo-zuka · 経塚	Kyo-zuka 1-17-1	098-876-0104	Takushi, Kyo-zuka
15	Maeda · 前田	Maeda 1-28-7	098-879-8216	Nakama, Maeda

16	Nishihara 1・西原一区	Nishihara 4-11-8	098-876-0484	Nishihara
17	Nishihara 2・西原二区	Nishihara 4-11-8	098-876-0484	Nishihara
18	Toyama・当山	Toyama 2-37-6	090-9784-2677	Toyama
19	Ohira・大平	Ohira 1-15-5	090-9783-6150	Nakama, Ahacha, Iso, Yafuso, Kyozyuka, Ohira
20	Koei・広栄	Nishihara 3-8-2	098-876-6519	Nishihara
21	Chayama・茶山	Nakama 3-4-1	098-878-5245	Nakama
22	Midorigaoka・緑ヶ丘	Minatogawa 1-6-8	098-878-4272	Iso, Makiminato, Minatogawa
23	Urashiro・浦城	Gusukuma 4-9-8	098-878-1696	Minatogawa, Gusukuma
24	Urasoe New Town・浦添ニュータウン	Ahacha 1-13-9	098-877-7636	Ahacha, Ohira
25	Makiminato Heights・牧港ハイツ	Makiminato 3-17-13	098-876-2328	Makiminato
26	Urasoe Green Heights・浦添グリーンハイツ	Maeda 862-219	098-874-5977	Kyozyuka, Maeda
27	Asanoura・浅野浦	Iso 1-25-2	098-878-8378	Nakama, Iso, Gusukuma
28	Maeda Public Servant Housing・前田公務員宿舎	Maeda 1-55-23	098-877-9271	Maeda
29	Minatogawa Sakihara・港川崎原	Minatogawa 577-4	098-878-5147	Minatogawa, Gusukuma
30	Ueno・上野	Makiminato 5-19-2	098-876-0344	Makiminato
31	Machinato Town・マチナトタウン	Makiminato 4-1-15	098-876-5623	Makiminato
32	Kamimori・神森	Nakanishi 3-11-6	098-876-1694	Nakanishi, Jichaku
33	Uranishi・浦西	Nishihara 6-22-1	098-876-0767	Nishihara
34	Yasukawa Residential Area・安川団地	Makiminato 3-30-8	098-877-7871	Makiminato
35	Toyama Heights・当山ハイツ	Toyama 2-19-15	098-877-1764	Toyama, Nishihara
36	Urasoe Heights・浦添ハイツ	Nakama 1-15-8	098-877-1633	Nakama, Iso
37	Kyozyuka Prefectural Housing Project・県営経塚団地	Kyozyuka 560	098-876-3861	Kyozyuka
38	Urasoe Urban Housing・浦添市街地住宅	Makiminato 1-59-1	098-875-1996	Makiminato
39	Takushi Prefectural Housing Highrise Complex・県営沢岨高層住宅	Takushi 2-18-1	098-878-8699	Takushi
40	Yogeibashi・陽迎橋	Nishihara 5-12-6-103	098-875-9011	Nishihara, Maeda



## Events Calendar

Tedako Hall has a near-constant streams of events and concerts going on, but little information is available in English! After being notified of this by a reader, I decided to concentrate primarily on Tedako Hall's program for May and June to give others an idea of what they could be enjoying...

### MAY

#### Shigehiro Sano and Reiko Kaneshima Joint Recital (Opera)

May 1<sup>st</sup>, Tedako Hall, 7-9 p.m. Tickets divided into four classes:

A: ¥5000 B: ¥4000 C: ¥3000 D: ¥2500

#### 16<sup>th</sup> Nago Orchid Festival

May 2<sup>nd</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>, Neo Park Okinawa (Nago), 9-5:30p.m.

To celebrate the existence of the beautiful Nago orchid.

#### 35<sup>th</sup> Naha Dragon-boat Race

May 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>, Naha New Port Wharf, festivities all day long.

#### Liberty Wind Ensemble Concert

May 4<sup>th</sup>, Tedako Hall, 6-9 p.m. ¥800, ¥500 for students

**Theater Performance by Deigoza**, a well-known Okinawan theater troupe

May 10<sup>th</sup>, Tedako Hall, 1-5 p.m. ¥3000, ¥3500 day of event

#### Puccini Music Festival

May 16<sup>th</sup>, Tedako Hall, 6-9 p.m. ¥2500 ¥2900 day of event

#### Okinawa Performing Arts Promotion Association 43<sup>rd</sup> Recital (Traditional Arts)

May 17<sup>th</sup>, Tedako Hall, 2-4:30 p.m., 6-8:30 p.m. ¥1000

#### Charity Concert for Soru Shinjyo (Music & Dance)

(Soru is a little boy with a rare blood disease for whom they are trying to raise money right now in order to help pay for his medical costs)

May 20<sup>th</sup>, Tedako Hall, 7-9 p.m. ¥1000

#### Okinawa Pan Flute Concert

May 21<sup>st</sup>, Tedako Hall, 1-2:30 p.m., 7-8:30 p.m. ¥2000

#### Sounds From India – Sitar concert of traditional Indian Music

May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Tedako Hall, 6:30-9 p.m. ¥2800, ¥3000 day of concert

#### HIMIKO: Musical Performance

May 24<sup>th</sup>, Tedako Hall, 2-3:45 p.m., ¥2000, ¥1500 for students, ¥500 extra if tickets are bought day of event

#### Traditional Okinawan Dance Performance

Yumiko Kinjo Studio

May 30<sup>th</sup>, Tedako Hall, 2-4 p.m. ¥1000

### JUNE

#### Charity Film Screening

(To benefit handicapped children)

June 14<sup>th</sup>, Tedako Hall, 10:30-12:50, 2-4 p.m. ¥600

#### LIBERAL DANCE PARTY

To raise money for Urasoe High School Dance Club students who are hoping to participate in a national dance competition which will take place on the Japanese mainland.

June 14<sup>th</sup>, Tedako Hall, 2-4 p.m. ¥1500

#### Yaeyama Traditional Music and Performing Arts Recital

June 20<sup>th</sup>, Tedako Hall, 5-9 p.m. ¥2000, ¥2500 day of event

#### Okinawa Popular Music Festival (Karaoke Concert)

June 21<sup>st</sup>, Tedako Hall, 3:30-8 p.m. ¥1000

#### Coloris Wind Ensemble Concert

(I believe these folks are also a quintet)

June 26<sup>th</sup>, Tedako Hall, 7-9 p.m. ¥2000, ¥2500

## Special Child-Rearing Allowance

*An announcement for all parents or guardians with two or more children, at least one of whom was born between April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2002 and April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005.*

### Purpose

In response to the considerable expense of early childhood education in households with two or more children, a special one-time child-rearing allowance is being offered as one of several FY 2008 measures for aiding citizens in their everyday lives. Parents with two or more children are eligible to receive 36,000 yen per child starting from their second child.

### Eligibility

Households with two or more children between three and eighteen years of age, with at least one child who was born between April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2002 and April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005. Starting from the second child, all children who were born within this period are eligible.

### This allowance may be distributed to:

1. All Japanese citizens listed in the Basic Citizens Register.
2. All non-Japanese foreign residents who have completed their foreign resident registration.  
(Excluding temporary visitors and illegal residents)

### Amount

36,000 yen per child starting from the second child. The child-rearing allowance will be issued to the head of household for the domicile where the child is registered.

### How to Apply

The head of household for the domicile where the child lives must file an application with the municipality in which they live.

An application packet was sent out by Urasoe City at the beginning of April to notify those households who appear to be eligible for the benefit according to City Hall records. The application may be filed in person by bringing the completed form along with a photocopy of the head of household's proof of identity to the Children's Welfare Section of Urasoe City Hall (2F). City Hall is open from Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. ~ 17:15 p.m.

Alternatively, the application may be filed by mail. A photocopy of all necessary documents must be enclosed with the application, including the head of household's proof of identity and a photocopy of the applicant's checking or savings account passbook (the page which lists account details).

In the case where an application packet was not sent despite the presence of an eligible child in the household, a payment is still possible. Please inquire at the Children's Welfare Section either in person or by calling 098-876-1234 (extension 3617-3618). Phone assistance is only available in Japanese.

In principle, the special child-rearing allowance is to be issued by bank transfer to a designated account.