

06.12

ht

hyogo times



Inside

The TTT Theater Program

Shin-Kobe and Surrounding Parks

Contents

- 3 ::** Message from the Editor
- 3 ::** Useful information
- 4 ::** Message from the PR
- 4 ::** Harima Happenings: What's on?
- 5 ::** Other Areas: What's on?
- 6 ::** BTOLA: Whirlpools Ahoy!
- 8 ::** Maigo in Hyogo
- 9 ::** JWord Play
- 9 ::** Life After the B.O.E
- 10 ::** Kicchiri Kitchen: Yahatamaki
- 11 ::** Engrish Corner
- 14 ::** Culture: Kimono
- 16 ::** Love & Relationships: What if?
- 20 ::** June Calendar

Features

- 12 ::** The TTT Theater Program
- 18 ::** Photo Feature: Shin-Kobe

Hyogo Times Staff

Editor: Emily Lemmon
Online: Jonathan Shalfi
Designer: Karen Cornish
PR: Sifton Anipare
Cover: Jon Burroughs

Contributors:
 Emily Lemmon, Paul Schubles,
 Alex Rogals, David Namisato,
 CJ Stearns, Dwayne Cobourne,
 Veronica Chung, Lauren McRae
 and Jon Burroughs.

All JETs in Hyogo are encouraged to send in articles, musings, poetry, prose and any ideas to improve the Hyogo Times for the betterment of the Hyogo JET community.

Submit by the 15th of each month to:
publications@hyogo.ajet.net

Message from the Editor

Hyogo, Hyogo,

Here we are in the approach of summer. As the heat and humidity ramp up into rainy season, grab your umbrella and some boots and try not to let the grey skies keep you inside! Seek out some gardens or else some new places to take in the air conditioning. While you're at it, check out or add a recommendation to our Readers' Recommendation section!

If you're still not satisfied with how much you are contributing to Hyogo Times, why not take on a regional correspondence, become a column writer, send us some English Sensei stories or suggestions, or write, draw, or take photos of something you like!

We've got a lot of great stuff for you this month. Happy reading!

Lemmon



Useful information

HYOGO PAs

078-362-3026

Mail: hyogo_pa@gmail.com

URL: www.hyogoajet.net/wiki/Living_Guide

JETLINE

03-5213-1729

Call the JETLINE and talk to a CLAIR Programme Coordinator about anything you like. We are former JETs, and can answer most questions regarding the programme, and will try to help with any issues or questions you have regarding the workplace, or life in Japan. Hours are Monday – Friday, 9am – 6pm Japan Standard Time.

AJET PSG

050-5534-5566

Need to talk? Call the AJET Peer Support Group, a free, anonymous listening and referral service for JETs by JETs, every night of the year from 8pm – 7am.

TELL (Tokyo English Life Line)

03-5774-0992

Call the Life Line for free, anonymous, and confidential telephone counseling from 9am to 11pm, 365 days a year. Trained volunteers can offer counseling and support, as well as information on a broad range of English-speaking services in Japan.

Message from the PR

Hey Hyogoers!

I hope my off-the-wall greetings have brightened your days this past year; sadly this is my farewell message to the JET Programme. It's been a wild ride, these past three years of orphanage visits, interprefectural events and riding the rails all over Hyogo. Good luck to everyone leaving the Land of the Rising Sun, and to everyone staying or just arriving, oh how I will envy you... until the cicadas and the heat of 1,000 suns arrive. Those I won't miss

so much. No no. But the sakura blossoms, the (cheap) okonomiyaki, the harbour, the baseball, the (cheap) karaoke, and having one of the country's three best night views right down the street...yeah, that's going to suck. Let's just hope the kindergarteners of the future will **LOVE** hearing about Japan - all the time - until my stories turn into Grandpa Simpson anecdotes... like the time I took the bus to Shelbyville...

And of course, I'm gonna miss all your warm, smiling faces. Can't forget those.

So until the next time I get too bored and too cold in America Jr., I say 色々お世話になりました, everyone! Keep reading **Hyogo Times** and supporting **Hyogo AJET**.

Peace out Japan! I'll be back! I'll never let go! **NEVER!**

Sifton



What's on in Harima.....

Things are heating up in

Hyogo, and it's getting rainy. With umbrella in hand, there are plenty of things to enjoy outdoors; flower gardens are a particular specialty. If you can't make it to Mimuroto-ji in Kyoto, there are some nice flowery places closer to home. We've already mentioned the Shiso Iris Garden before (just a bus ride away), but it bears repeating! Many varieties of iris are water-loving plants that bloom best in the rainy month

of June. Hours are nine to six, entry is ¥800! They also have some nighttime lightup dates. Direct buses begin running from Sannomiya on 6/1 (check the **Flower Park website** for the schedule), and **buses** to Shiso run frequently from Himeji!

There is also the **Kasai Flower Center** in the east side of Harima, which has flower events and displays all year round!

Himeji's Yukata Festival will be happening at the end of the month, so get ready to roll out your Japanese summer wear. June 22nd to 24th, you can meander through town, indulging in stall food and other festival fineries.

Emily Lemmon



What's on in June?

June is a good time for flower gardens and onsens, and then for indoor activities! **Check the calendar for other events happening in Hyogo this month!**

Tajima

Kinosaki Onsen is, naturally, home to lots of famous historical onsen baths.

◎ www.hyogo-tourism.jp/english/spot/108_kinosakihotsprings

◎ <http://heart-of-japan.com/2012/01/12/golden-route-plus-kinosaki-part-1-going-to-a-traditional-hot-spring-town>

◎ <http://heart-of-japan.com/2012/02/20/the-seven-spas-of-kinosaki-onsen>

Kobe

Until June 3rd, check out "The Mystery of the Western Kings on Horseback: Light and shadows in Namban art" in the Kobe City Museum!

From June 6th, check out works by Pissarro, Monet, and Renoir in the **Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art**.

The **Taira no Kiyomori Museums** are open now in Kobe.

On weekends and holidays, you can check out the **Kiyomori Chaya Café** near the Hyogo Great Buddha for performances and tasty things.

Arima Onsen is another great historical onsen area.

Hanshin

Until June 25th, you can check out the exhibit "**Binding Osamu Tezuka**" in the Osamu Tezuka Manga Museum in Takarazuka.

Takarazuka Revue's **Star Troupe** is performing *Dancer Serenata* until June 18, and the **Moon Troupe** will be presenting *Romeo and Juliet* from June 22nd to July 23rd!

Harima

There are some new baby white lions in the **Himeji Central Park Zoo**!

You can go up into the construction over **Himeji Castle**!

*Big things on
Little Awaji*

Whirlpools Ahoy!!!

12. Ride a pirate ship to see the *Naruto* whirlpools.

Just another item on my Awaji bucket list of things to do that I accomplished this month. I rallied my crew all the way from Nishiwaki to help me explore one of nature's natural wonders. Here is my log from the thrilling excursion:

Captain's Log, Kanrinmaru
05052012.645

It's too early to be functioning on a weekend. The price one must pay for adventure. Need to feed the crew a well-balanced meal before the tedious voyage. Fruit, Awaji yogurt, scrambled eggs, and toast. Good thing my first mate looked up the best times for the whirlpools online. There have been tales of other sailors who didn't research times beforehand and paid just to see the ocean. We must catch this early boat and beat the Golden Week crowds.

Captain's Log, Kanrinmaru
05052012.830

We have arrived in Minamiawaji exactly on time. We drove down the 28 (South) until the road reached the ocean. We turned left to find a free parking lot on the left and walked toward the big building harboring our pirate ship. In the building, we purchased our tickets for ¥2,000 and perused the Awaji omiyage shop. There was a list posted of the best times to see the whirlpools at the ticket counter as well. I shall inform the crew to use the bathroom before we set sail.

Captain's Log, Kanrinmaru
05052012.925

As the crew and I waited in line, we decided to entertain the passengers with LMAFO's "Party Rock" choreography to pass the time. At last! We were finally aboard the ship! It's a "Kanrinmaru" which is based off the warships used in the Edo

period (1860). As we boarded, we couldn't help but make typical Titanic jokes and gawk at the pirate-like ship. We quickly made our way to the top deck and picked our perching spot. During the voyage to find the whirlpools, we had more than enough time to snap vivid scenic pictures while soaking up the sun's rays.

Captain's Log, Kanrinmaru
05052012.1005

Look whirlpools! Ever since I saw Ursula try to kill Ariel with one in The Little Mermaid, I have been yearning to see one. Unfortunately, it isn't the same. Of course it's still pretty amazing and mysteriously mesmerizing. Capturing as many pictures and videos as I can. I heard that they get even bigger in June than the ones we just saw, and one can see them from the bridge connecting Tokushima (Shikoku) and Minamiawaji (Awaji). Maybe I will go back again. Getting hungry.

**Captain's
Log, Kanrinmaru**
05052012.1100

The memorable cruise took over an hour. Either way, the crew and I are hungry again. Lucky for me I know of a wonderful katsu place called, "Maman" (ママン). With its fresh ingredients and juicy meat, I declare it to be the best katsu restaurant on Awaji hands down. It's conveniently close to the dock (walking distance) and has pictures on the menu. My crew are ecstatic to eat.

Captain's Log, Kanrinmaru
05052012.1215

Yes, that meal never disappoints. So full and delicious. I wish I could eat more! It's worth the hour drive on its own. On the way back to the car, we made a quick stop at "G Elm" (Gエルム) on the 28 road. The parking lot is just behind the best gelato shop I've found thus far on Awaji. The gelato is made from Awaji milk

and the flavors vary depending on what is in season. I really like the black sesame or mikan with cream chocolate, but they are all really refreshing and scrumptious. It's like summer in my mouth.

Captain's Log, Kanrinmaru
05052012.1300

Heading home now. We just finished buying Awaji's famous onions from one of the local farms on the side of the 28. They are incredible delectable and sweet. I think they're cheaper when you buy them from the side of the road. They're so fresh right now that you can just bite into them raw and eat it like an apple if you'd like. They are really the best onions I've ever had in my life. The crew members each bought a giant bag.

**Captain's
Log, Kanrinmaru**
05052012.1340

Exhausted. Well worth it and happy to check off another interesting thing to see on Awaji. I would definitely recommend going. Must take a nap now. We are so happy and tired...

For more information and up to date time schedules for the whirlpools: www.uzu-shio.com/

For information about Maman's Tonkatsu:
1529-4 Fukurako Minamiawaji
Opening hours: 8:15 to 21:00
(last order 20:30) Wednesdays only until 14:30

For information about G Elm:
1530-2 Fukurako Minamiawaji
Business hours: 10:00 to 20:00,
Closed Sunday and Wednesday

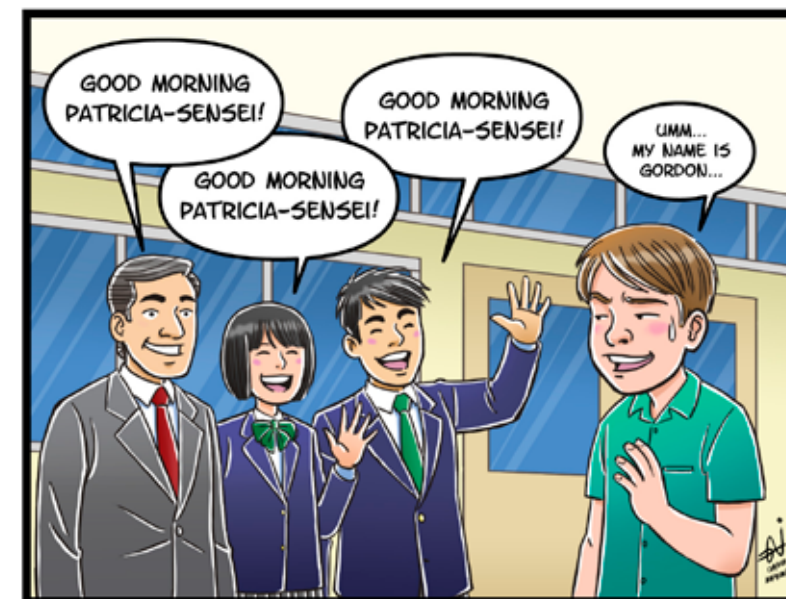
Veronica Chung



I-word play

いつも何かにチャレンジ
している国はどこですか？

The answer, as you might expect, is a pun. 朝鮮 (ちようせん) means Korea; that is, the area including both North and South. The same reading with different characters gives you 挑戦 (also ちようせん), which means to challenge or try.



Life After the B.O.E.....



www.lifeaftertheboe.com



Yahatamaki: Rolled beef with Burdock and carrot

Ingredients

(serves 4 as a side dish)

- ◎ burdock (gobou): Two pieces about 13cm long
- ◎ carrot: Two pieces about 13cm long
- ◎ 300 grams thinly sliced beef (sukiyaki you gyuniku)
- ◎ a little oil

Cooking sauce

- ◎ 1 cup dashi
- ◎ 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- ◎ 1 tablespoon mirin
- ◎ 1 tablespoon sake
- ◎ a little salt

Extra cooking sauce

- ◎ 2 tablespoons sake
- ◎ 1 tablespoon mirin
- ◎ 1 tablespoon soysauce

Step one

Wash and clean the burdock with a brush to remove dirt. Cut the burdock and carrot into pieces about 13cm long.

Step two

Soak them in a bowl of water.

Step three

Put the cooking sauce and the carrot and burdock in a pot. Cook for 10-15 mins until tender.

Step four

Remove from the pot and let them cool. When cool, quarter them lengthwise (still keeping their length).

Step five

Lay out the slices of beef slightly overlapped. Place two strips of the burdock and two strips of the carrot on the beef and roll them. Repeat to use all the beef and vegetables.

Step six

Put the beef rolls in a fry pan with a little oil. Saute all sides until they are brown. Pour the extra cooking sauce over them and saute until all the sauce is gone.

Step seven

Remove from the pan and slice into halves or 3cm thick slices.

Lauren McRae

This is an
interesting-looking
& **Delicious**
side dish, or it
can be added to your
bento.

English corner



Participate!

Hyogo Times is currently looking for writers to contribute to the following sections:

◎ Web Design Manager

◎ Sasayama and Kobe regional correspondent

Contact us today at publications@hyogo.ajet.net



The TTT Theater Program

One part of the culture

I really wanted to learn more about during my time as a JET was Japan's rich theater history. I had studied traditional theater forms like Kabuki, Noh and Bunraku Puppet theater in my college years, and when I was placed in Kyoto I was thrilled to be able to see all types of traditional performing arts. However, it wasn't until the summer of 2011 that I really got a chance to experience Japan's traditional performing arts first hand in the **Traditional Theater Training (TTT)** program offered at the Kyoto Arts Center.

TTT has been going on for about 25 years now and allows people from all over the world to work with Professional Noh, Kyogen and Nihonbuyo artists. Have you ever wondered what it's like to do a Japanese comedy?

You can do it. Have you ever wanted to wear a real Noh mask? You can do it. Or have you ever wanted to do some of the traditional dances that you might have seen at local festivals or on TV? You can do that too!

I participated in **TTT** as a student of kyogen, one of Japan's traditional comic theater forms. I got to work with world famous actors from the Shigeyama family and perform with students from Japan, Germany, and the United States. We spent three weeks working side by side for a performance that was held in one of Kyoto's old Noh theaters.

In addition to the amazing experience I had rehearsing, I often got to go out with the teachers after rehearsal. It was at that time that I really got the chance to not only learn about Japan's rich theater history, but also about the lives of all of the people who I was working with. I was a little intimidated when I first started, as my Japanese was only so-so, but some of the participants spoke absolutely no Japanese whatsoever, and many of the teachers spoke wonderful English. In this way, **TTT** went beyond theater and became an unforgettable cultural exchange.

One of the other things I really appreciated about **TTT** was it wasn't necessary to know a lot about Japanese theater, you just had to be eager to learn. The first week of the program we got to work with all the different styles of Japanese theater **TTT** offers as well as some other traditional forms they don't! In addition to performing a classic kyogen play, I also got to try out Noh shoulder drumming, Nihonbuyo dancing, and even a bit of Rakugo (the traditional art of Japanese comic storytelling).

And, of course I don't need to mention that all of this is in Kyoto, which is my absolute favorite place in Japan. From hiking Mt. Hiei to going to Iwatayama Monkey Park in Arashiyama, there is no shortage of incredible things to see!

If you're looking for an incredible experience, I highly recommend doing the **TTT** program this July-August in Kyoto!

Alex Rogals

Kyoto JET, 2007-2008
More information is available [here](#).

Kimono

You see them walking

down the street on the way to a wedding. You see them wrapped around white-faced maiko as they flutter past you in Gion. You see them at summer festivals and accompanying the click-clack of wooden geta along the riverfront of Kinosaki Onsen.

The Japanese kimono. There is nothing else like it. For those of us from the West, they look like wearable time capsules. There are so few cultures left in the world that still hold on as tightly to tradition as Japan. Our own styles of formal dress; the top hat, the coat and tails, the giant whale-bone supported tent-dresses and all of the forms and versions that came before them have disappeared from everyday life in the West, and remain only in our cultural memory. At least in the case of the giant dresses, that probably isn't a bad thing.

But the Japanese kimono, with its myriad styles, colors and forms, in its intricate but streamlined elegance, has withstood the wave of change that is human nature and time. True, they are worn now only for formal occasions, but do they still carry meaning for those who wear them?

The kimono was first made in its current form during the Heian period, when a new method of kimono making was invented: the straight-line-cut. The straight-line-cut was far more convenient for tailors to make than previous styles for two reasons: the cloth could be cut in straight lines and pieced together, eliminating the need for fitting the clothing to the specific shape of each wearer, and the straight-line cuts allowed every piece of the cloth to be used without waste. They were also easy to fold and store.

It wasn't long before kimono fashion took off, and the color of the kimono came to represent affiliations and status. During the Edo period of feudal lords, the samurai of each fief could be identified by the colors and patterns of the kimono they wore. In fact, the kimono played a large part in developing traditional Japanese color combinations and their meanings.

The kimono as everyday wear saw its end during the Meiji period, when Japan was opened up to the rest of the world and the influence of foreign cultures flowed in. During that time Japanese

government officials and military personnel were required by law to wear Western clothing for official functions (though that law is no longer in effect). Ordinary citizens were encouraged to fold up their kimono and wear Western clothing. Today, Japanese kimono are usually worn only for such occasions as weddings, funerals, tea ceremonies, summer festivals, other holidays and special occasions.

There are many kinds of kimono, and many ways to wear them. They are adaptable for all kinds of weather – they can be layered in the winter or be made thin and breathable, like the cotton yukata, for the hot summer months.

A kimono is worn with an obi, a sash worn round the middle to keep the kimono closed in the front and hold it in place. They are usually about four meters (13 feet) long and 30 centimeters (12 inches) wide. They are just as varied, colorful and intricately made as the kimono itself, and it can be quite a time finding just the right one to match a particular kimono cloth. The obi is tied in the back, and there are

various obi bow styles. The most popular bow is the taiko-susubi, or the “drum bow.”

Even the length of the kimono sleeves can carry meaning. The furisode kimono has long flowing sleeves, and is only worn by young, unmarried women. It suggests her youth and availability. After a woman is married, she begins wearing a tomesode kimono, with short sleeves, and are usually black, though they do often come in other colors. The patterns of tomesode kimono are always on the bottom half. The black tomesode is usually worn at weddings, while the colored ones are worn for festivals and other occasions.

Kimono cloth patterns also carry some significance. The *homongi* or “visiting kimono”, which are worn by women for formal visits, are covered entirely by a pattern. The *tsukesage* kimono, for tea ceremonies, flower arranging, weddings ect. Are decorated with patterns that run up from the hemline in front and back to the tops of the sleeves.

There are many, many types of kimono, though all are subject to season. Lighter colors, especially light green, is preferred for spring, and cool colors like dark blue or purple are worn in the summer. Autumn comes with kimono that imitate the colors of the changing leaves, and in winter strong colors such as black and red are worn to stand out against the white of the snow. Kimono are not as popular for men, though they do wear a *haori* or “half coat” for formal occasions and *yukata* in the summer.

Buying kimono can be expensive. While a cheap, run-of-the-mill yukata won't cost you much – somewhere around ¥5,000, a full *furisode* can cost you several thousand dollars, depending on the material and maker. The Japanese kimono has a long history bursting with cultural meaning. What do you think about the symbolism of kimono? What kind of kimono would you prefer to wear?

CJ Stearns



What if...

You wake up one

morning and find yourself beside your partner in the midst of your life as you know it and you wonder to yourself, "Was this all destined to happen like this?" Were you destined to marry your high school sweetheart? Were you destined to stay in an unhappy relationship? Were you destined to fall in love from a blind date that your friends set up? Were you destined to wake up beside the one person you love so much and want to share every moment, all your dreams, aspirations and the future with? Who knows? – *Destiny?*

The partner that you have is the partner that you were meant to have. That's what people tell you. Anyway, I would like to believe it. Everything else in the world seems so completely random. What if one little thing you say or do could make it all fall apart? What if you had chosen another life for yourself or another person? You might have never found each other. What if you had been raised

differently? What if your mother was never sick? What if you actually had a good father? What if you had chosen to live in a different country? What if? What if?

The only constants in life are the variables! Variables are the many "thank God that happened!"s in your life that have contributed to your relationship.

These are the little things that happen that at that moment seem so unfair, and in many cases disappointing, but at the end of the day it feels like an angel did something just for you. Picture this, August 3, 2011 [Sophia Petrillo's voice – *Golden Girls*]: in Egypt and trying to navigate through the gay underground world. On my way to meet a friend, but it turned out that I mixed up two numbers. Needless to say, when I arrived, I was in for a big surprise... I was meeting the 'wrong' person (at the time I thought). Throughout the evening, I tried to "escape" (I am glad I didn't), but couldn't. We ended up at dinner where

*"I can't control
my destiny, I trust
my soul, my only goal
is just to be. There's only
now, there's only here. Give
in to love or live in fear.
No other path,
no other way.
No day but today."*
Rent



he invited another friend to join us. Little did I know that that friend would turn out to be someone special in my life. What if I had met the 'right' person? What if I wasn't brave enough to dig my way into Egypt's underground gay world? What if I hadn't made a mistake with the telephone numbers and actually met the person I intended to meet, would my summer vacation have ended differently? What if? – *Destiny?*

At some point in your existence you start to wonder about all the elements of your life and how the many variables have played their parts so that you can end up happy. On some level, our parents/socialization/how we were raised have impacted our lives and by extension the quality of our relationships.

Do you believe you have control over your life and the events that happen in it, or are you just mere puppets hanging by strings of fate and so often are played on this stage of life? There are those people

who like the idea of control (and I am not talking the S&M kind; well, not today...) and therefore embrace the fact that we have "control" over what we do and what happens to us in a relationship. At least, we can blame ourselves when we mess up (as we often do) and unlike shopping online, we can look someone in the eyes and give them a piece of our minds when we are not pleased with our situations. But then, who likes to point fingers at themselves? Not me! Oh no, as human beings we love to dish the blame on someone else and who better to blame than, fate/destiny/life?

As we move through life, the force of fate creates events that we only appreciate when we reflect on our existence.

[Ronald Harmon]

Dwayne Cobourne



Shin-Kobe ropeway and nearby parks

By Jon Burroughs

Hyogo Times June Event Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
10	11	12	13	14	15 Ako Kotto-ichi Oishi Jinja U.S. Deadline for Filing Income Tax Return	16 Block Six and Seven Sayonara Farewell
17	18	19	20	21	22 Himeji Yukata Festival Osakabe Shrine, Himeji One of the biggest festivals in Western Japan.	23 Tajima Ultimate Frisbee June 23 – 24
24 Himeji Yukata Festival Osakabe Shrine, Himeji One of the biggest festivals in Western Japan.	25	26	27	28	29	30

For more indepth details about all the events, please visit our website: www.hyogoajet.net/hyogotimes