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hyogo times

11.12

.....*Inside*.....

Post-JET

The Saigoku Kannon Pilgrimage

Travel: It's a Seoul





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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](mailto:publications@hyogo.ajet.net)

## Message from the Editor

### Welcome to November everyone!

The days are getting shorter at a stupidly fast rate (sunset at 5 – seriously?!) and nights are starting to be more than a little bit chilly. It's pretty much the best time of year (apart from the short days, you don't have the time to appreciate as much as you might want to sometimes) and fantastic for going out and exploring Japan whilst avoiding heatstroke. With the 3 day weekend falling just after the Skills Development Conference, I hope everyone gets the chance to see some of the truly magical sights that Japan has to offer in this most colourful of seasons (if you're not madly cramming for the JLPT at the beginning of December that is ><).

Most JETs (except the unicorns of course) will have received their re-contracting papers in the past few weeks. It's a big decision to make as to whether you stay on or head home and that goes for 4th years just as much as first. There are a multitude of reasons to stay (not least because you can have

at least 1 more autumn in this fair land) but also factors that might make you want to go back home or somewhere new. You may have been given the papers now, but that doesn't mean you have to give them back yet. Since you don't have to decide now, don't if you don't want to. Take your time.

So what do we have as a distraction device to provide a break from these deep and ponderous questions, and doing all that wonderful preparation for the Skills Development Conference of course? Amongst other things, a very timely recommendation for travel within Japan, a trip report exposing the wonders of Seoul, an ex-JET's perspective on what he gained through his time in Japan and an interesting exploration of how we make choices in our relationships. Have a 休憩, and maybe an interesting kitkat a la my article from September, and enjoy.

Imi

## Useful information

### HYOGO PAs

078-362-3026

Mail: [hyogo\\_pa@yahoo.com](mailto:hyogo_pa@yahoo.com)

URL: [www.hyogoajet.net/wiki/Living\\_Guide](http://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

### Hi Everyone!

I hope you're enjoying autumn so far. Personally, it's my favourite season in Japan. I've really enjoyed getting around my local area and checking out the various autumn harvest festivals that have been going on. That said, I didn't enjoy getting woken up at 4 A.M on a Sunday morning by some overzealous taiko players in Futami! This year I managed to get to Sone and Hanagata for their festivals. It was really nice seeing some of my students carrying the Mikoshi/Yatai, and outside of school enjoying themselves. Classes the week after the festivals were also interesting. Some of my boys had lost their voices.

A couple of exciting events we have coming up are the Skills Development Conference enkai and an autumn hike. Places for the Skills Development Conference enkai are filling up fast and we will keep everyone informed about the details for the autumn hike through the facebook page. Autumn is a really good time to get around and see some beautiful scenery. One great place to visit is Arashiyama in Kyoto. I visited a couple of years ago and the food stalls that came out at night sold some really delicious snacks. The gardens in Arashiyama are incredibly beautiful in autumn. Also, a bit further west, Miyajima and Mount Daisen are also stunning at this time of year.

It's also the time of year when everyone who's not a fifth year, receives their re-contracting papers. It's an important decision and taking some time to make the decision to stay is important. Think about it for a week, a month or hand them in on the last day. I know I'll probably be handing them in as close to the last day possible!

Keep Smiling!

*Arjan Tulsi*

Seoul.....



## It's a Seoul

### I arrived into Seoul late

on a Friday night, still a bit confused by how short the flight was, and also unsure of many other things about my trip. I jumped on the subway and ended up at the stop where my hostel was, Hongdae. After a quick walk in the crisp cool night air I found the **Hongdae Guesthouse 2.0** and was warmly greeted by the amazing proprietor, Kim San. He showed me my room, then on a map showed me where to go if I wanted some food.

I set out at about 10pm, dragging myself down the street looking for some of the famed Korean street food I'd heard so much about. The first thing I tried was **ddeokbokki** (also known as **tteokbokki** or **topokki**), which is a cylindrical rice cake stew cooked in chili paste with pieces of fish cake. Quite weird in texture, soft and chewy like mochi, but also spicy to the

point where it hurt to eat after a while. Oddly delicious though.

I walked and ate as Hongdae began to slowly reveal itself to me. Everywhere I looked people were drinking, hanging out merrily, eating, laughing and having a great time. Street performers were everywhere: a man and woman playing guitar and singing for a huge crowd, a Brazilian capoeira group playing the drums while singing, and dancing, and my favorite, a semi professional boxer challenging drunk people (mostly westerners) to fight for about ¥100. He would dance around, dodging flailing fists and occasionally landing a quick jab on the opponent's face if they were getting testy. It was my kind of place, this Hongdae. The electric vibe in the air soon woke me up and I wanted more.

Before I realized it, I had a bottle of soju in my hand and I was hanging with a bunch of Korean people listening to a jazz group play under the trees of Hongdae Park. I blinked again and I was entering a club with my new friends. Another blink and it was 6 AM. I was now leaving the still packed club as the sun began to slowly appear. I could tell this place was something magical already and I had not even begun to explore the many cultural splendors Seoul had to offer.

Nights in Seoul are no doubt amazing, but when the sun comes up, Seoul has so much more to offer too. The endless museums are enough to capture your attention for days, especially the many art museums. One look at a map and you can see that this city has hundreds, so picking the right one might be a challenge. For example, the massive, but

well organized **Korean War Memorial Museum** is a must for anybody that is interested in the history of the war. The outside of the museum building is lined with 20 or so emotionally charged, huge metal statues depicting different moments throughout the Korean War. Historical Korean palaces like Changdeokgung offer you an amazing glimpse into the Korean past. Be sure to get there in time to watch the changing of the guards, which is another special treat.

The shopping in Korea is also world renowned and because of the weak currency (compared to Japan) and high exchange rates, there were times I felt like I was in Japan because of all the Japanese people around (many shopkeepers spoke only Japanese and Korean so be prepared). Go to the Namdaemun for an amazing

outdoor market experience with thousands of cheap food and clothes vendors. Try something strange to eat like the deep fried vegetable donut-like snack whose name escapes me or one of the many fried items on a stick.

A good way to end a day is to head up to **Seoul Tower** to watch the sunset from its beautiful high vantage point over the city.

Seoul has a bit of something for everyone. Whether you are looking for a cheap place to party for a weekend, a place to enjoy the history and culture of Korea, a place to shop, or a place to eat until you feel sick, you will find your niche in Seoul. With its close proximity to Japan, great exchange rates, cheap flights and endless offerings, there is no better time to visit our vibrant neighbor to the west.

### Information

**Peach Airlines** from Kansai to Seoul Incheon is the best way to fly. If you catch a sale you can fly for under ¥14,000. Seoul Incheon is a 35–40 minute subway ride to downtown Seoul.

*Jon Burroughs*





## Seoul, South Korea

All photos taken by Jon Burroughs





## The Saigoku Kannon Pilgrimage: 西国三十三観音巡礼

When I first moved to Japan, I had to google the difference between “shrines” and “temples.” If anyone had told me I would end up on a pilgrimage dedicated to Kannon, the bodhisattva of compassion, I would have said, *what [the hell]’s a bodhisattva?!* Actually, they’re called *bosatsu* in Japanese, and they are traditionally those who have reached enlightenment but defer heading off to Nirvana until all of the rest of us can be saved too.

**Kannon** (also known as Kuan Yin or Avalokiteshvara or Chenrezig), 観音 in Japanese, is *one who sees and hears all*; one who observes the cries of suffering, thus the western name ‘*Goddess of Compassion*’. This goddess is often a portrayal of the divine feminine in Japan today, but Kannon can also be masculine or genderless (especially in older and Indian contexts) depending on the place and situation of origin. Kannon is said to manifest in 33 forms, hence the 33 Temple Pilgrimage.

The pilgrimage route in its present form was set down by Emperor Kazan about a thousand years ago, but many of the temples along the route were (and are) pilgrimage sites in their own right, based on a particular miracle associated with that temple or aspect of its Kannon

image. Many of them are also included in other pilgrimage routes as well.

One of my fellow JETs, upon hearing about my latest temple excursion, was heard to say “I wish I’d known about this thing sooner.” So I’d like to share this information just in case someone out there wants to use a few weekends, off days, and other free time to explore this aspect of Japanese culture that a good many Japanese folk have insisted they know next to nothing about (and then proceeded to help me find bus information I would have been horribly stranded without). I’ve managed to visit 23 out of 33 temples, and I’ll be introducing some of those to you in subsequent articles.

Initially, I had hoped to do the pilgrimage in order from start to finish, but this decision and my attempt to visit number one, **Seiganto-ji** in the Nachi-Katsuura area, coincided with last fall’s typhoon wrecking that area, so all travels to that coast of Wakayama were put off (unless they were to be volunteer trips, which I think they may still be accepting). Instead, I’ll use a geographical order. I’ll be introducing first those temples that are in Hyogo Prefecture, and

then move on to some more that are farther afield.

The temples range greatly in scale and size, in popularity and in ease of access. Some of the temples are tiny, pressed in to city centers, and others are sprawling mountainside complexes which provide hours of exploration. Kyoto’s incredibly famous **Kiyomizu-dera** is one of the 33, but so are some little temples in older capitals with buses passing nearby only once every three or four hours. There’s even a little temple in the hills south of Lake Biwa which only has publically available transportation *once a month*.

Not surprisingly, the journeys were often more instructive than the destinations: having these far flung temples as targets often brought me to corners of Japan I would likely have never even thought about seeing otherwise.

If you’re interested in the pilgrimage experience, what you should know is there’s no problem with being Buddhist or not, and that most of today’s pilgrims are a sort of combination prayer-offerer tourist. You don’t have to do them in order, and you don’t have to wear

the white pilgrim outfit, but of course you are free to do so.

And if you don’t know the difference between a shrine and a temple, visit enough of them and you’ll see it for yourself. A few etiquette tips, though: it’s polite to put your hands flat together about chin-level (*gassho-rei*) and bow when you come through the gate, shortly after which you might like to ring the temple bell, if it’s allowed. When you make your prayer in the main hall, be careful of the shoes thing (some places let you wear them, others don’t, and still others don’t let you inside the main hall), and note that you aren’t supposed to clap after ringing the gong – that’s a shrine thing (but you’ll see some people doing it anyway). Usually the folks working in the temples are very kind and helpful, so feel free to ask them anything (though any attempt at Japanese is apt to get your farther than speaking to them only in English).

At most of the temples along the route, you are able to purchase the pilgrim book or *nokyochō*. These come with several different covers and versions with or without pictures. Inside you can collect the stamp and seal

from each temple. The almost accidental purchase of one of these is what set me off on my quest in the first place!

### Useful links

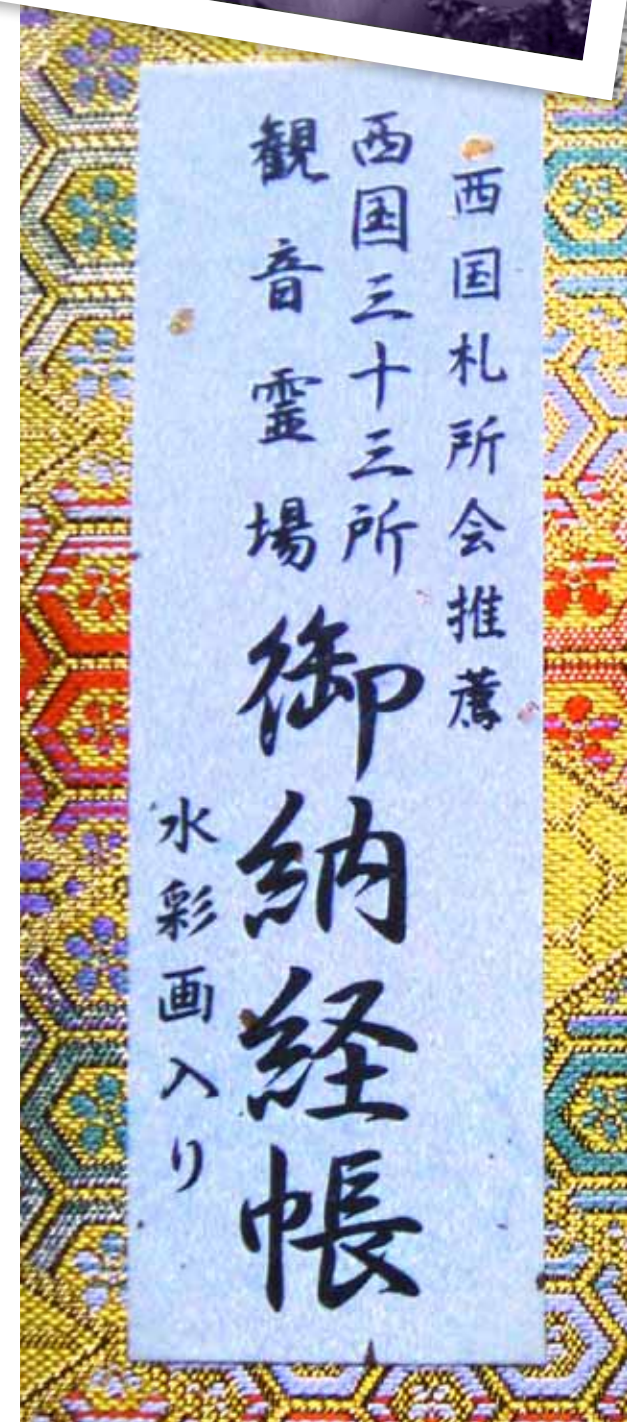
A map of the Kannon temples I compiled because I really wanted it to be a google map that my phone could *access*. (It’s based on *this* map.)

A chart of the temples, their locations, and the type of Kannon image found *here*.

List of Kannon forms.

A website I found very helpful up through September is *Sacred Japan*, though it seems to be experiencing some issues at the moment.

Lemmon





## Engyo-ji on Mt. Shosha 書寫山の圓教寺

### Mt. Shosha, or Shoshazan

is home to the temple known as **Engyo-ji**, recently famous for being the on-location film site of the 2003 film *The Last Samurai*. It is also number 27 of the *Saigoku 33 Kannon Temple Pilgrimage*, and is the farthest west of those 33. Established in 966, it is one of the youngest of the temples on the pilgrimage. The architectural style of the main hall is reminiscent of that of Kyoto's *Kiyomizu-dera*, and like that one, is designed without nails.

Mt. Shosha is sometimes called the *Hiei of the west*, after the location where many priests went for training. Shoku, the founder of **Engyo-ji**, received special spiritual enlightenment from Monju, the god of wisdom and intellect who told him that anyone who climbed Mt. Shosha would be purified in body and spirit.

You can still climb to the top today, although most people skip the purification and ride the ropeway. The start of the path up the mountain is not easy to find, so if you want to climb, go with someone who knows the way, or else ask at the ropeway counter and they can give you a map. Be prepared for a challenging climb that sometimes feels more like taking a large set of stairs.

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November is a particularly excellent time to visit **Engyo-ji** given its abundance of maple trees. They will have their annual **Momiji Matsuri** on the weekend of November 23rd – 25th, during which time some of the buildings that are normally closed have been opened in the past.

The Kannon image enshrined at **Engyo-ji** is **Nyoirin Kannon**, a six-armed representation also called the 'wish granting' Kannon, or sometimes 'omnipotent Kannon'. The six arms are associated with the six realms (those of humans, hungry ghosts, hell, animals, demons, and heavenly along with its four heavenly guardian statues, is made visible on the 18th of January only.

While exploring the temple grounds, a few things to note:

- ◎ Just beyond the front entrance (where you pay the fee), the path splits right next to the temple bell. You can ring this bell with a donation of any amount. The right path goes up a hill, along which are placed 33 statues, each a copy of its respective pilgrimage temple's dedicated Kannon image. At the end of this mini-pilgrimage is the **Niomon** or the main gate.

From here you will eventually make your way to the maniden, the hillside main hall. This is where you can get your pilgrim book stamped and sealed, and it also boasts a beautiful view of fall color.

- ◎ Another five minute walk will bring you to the three temple halls known as mitsunodo: the main hall (**Daikodo**), lodging and dining hall (**Jikido**), and gymnasium (**Jogyodo**). The Jikido currently houses the temple treasures which you may view.
- ◎ Give yourself plenty of time to explore the grounds; I made the mistake of going too late in the day at least twice before wising up. There is English information available at the front and also on signs throughout the area.

### Opening information

The temple is open from 8:30am to 6pm, though the hours will shorten to 5pm as the days get shorter. There are no closing days, but the ropeway will be out of service for maintenance for one week during December.

Admission to the temple is ¥500, including during the **Momiji Matsuri**. The ropeway

is ¥500 one way, or ¥900 round trip and departs every 15 minutes.

### Getting there

To get to the mountain by bus, take **Shinki** (orange, not white) bus number 8 from Himeji Station or castle to the last stop, "**Mount Shosha Ropeway** (書寫山ロープウェイ)" which departs every 15–20 minutes and takes 30 minutes, ¥260 one way.

There is also a "**Shoshazan Ropeway**" combo ticket that includes round trip by bus from the station to the ropeway and up the mountain for ¥1,300. You can get this at the Shinki Bus Terminal on the north side of Himeji Station.

Free 'rental' bikes are available through the Himeji Station tourist office, and it is also possible to bike to Shosha, but it takes a few hours. If biking, you'll follow the bike path along the Yumesaki River. If driving, head north from station toward castle and take a left at the top of the street; follow signs toward Mt. Shosha as it is well marked.

Emily Lemmon





## Stuffed mushrooms

### Ingredients

Serves four as an appetizer  
or a side dish

- ◎ 12 shitake mushrooms
- ◎ 150 grams fresh minced tuna (*maguro*)
- ◎ 5 spring onions (*aonegi*)
- ◎ 3 tablespoons ponzu
- ◎ a little black pepper
- ◎ a little starch (*katakuriko*)

### Step one

Cut the stems off  
the mushrooms.

### Step two

Mince the spring onions,  
tuna and mushroom stems.

### Step three

Put the black pepper,  
ponzu, tuna, spring onion  
and chopped stems in  
a bowl and mix well.

### Step four

Mix in some katakuriko  
to bind the tuna mixture.

### Step five

Stuff the mushrooms!



### Step six

Grill for about ten minutes.

### Step seven

Serve with extra ponzu  
to taste.

### Note

You can substitute minced  
chicken for the tuna for a  
less-fishy version.

Lauren McGee

Delicious  
shitake mushrooms  
stuffed with  
tuna &  
spring onion

## Firstborn: Define our Generation

### What is your “go-to” band?

Thinking about living in rural  
Japan during the winter months,  
with washi thin walls and  
windows, how do you find  
ways to get a sense of what  
is happening? For me, it  
was through music.

and thought-out introductions  
like those executed in the  
early 2000’s, then you will also  
enjoy the sound of **Firstborn**.

Mary J.  
Eberhardinger

mjeberhardinger@gmail.com  
Tanba-shi, Hyogo 2008-2010

It seems that everyone’s  
favorite band has the press  
kit; the promo photos, demo  
tape, list of shows, and fans.  
Digging beneath this band  
hailing from Sweden, you  
will find a melodic group  
of musicians using the medium  
of music in complex ways.

**Firstborn** is a band that blends  
sounds of post-alternative  
rock and the metal scene  
in their own, new way. Genres  
aside, **Firstborn**’s debut album,  
*Define our Generation*, includes  
songs that stand for more than  
rock and/or roll, the image,  
people, and other stereotypes  
that come with it. The newly  
formed band creates songs  
that convey greater messages  
about breaking through your  
comfort zones and doing  
what you want in life  
despite adversity.

If you are like me, and  
enjoyed screaming lyrics  
mixed with deeper meanings

### From the Editor

I will make no pretenses  
at knowing **anything** about  
Swedish alternative rock, so  
thanks to Mary for stepping  
in! (We were contacted by the  
band asking if we wanted to  
review the album). However,  
I’d thought I’d give it a listen  
and my 2 cents too.

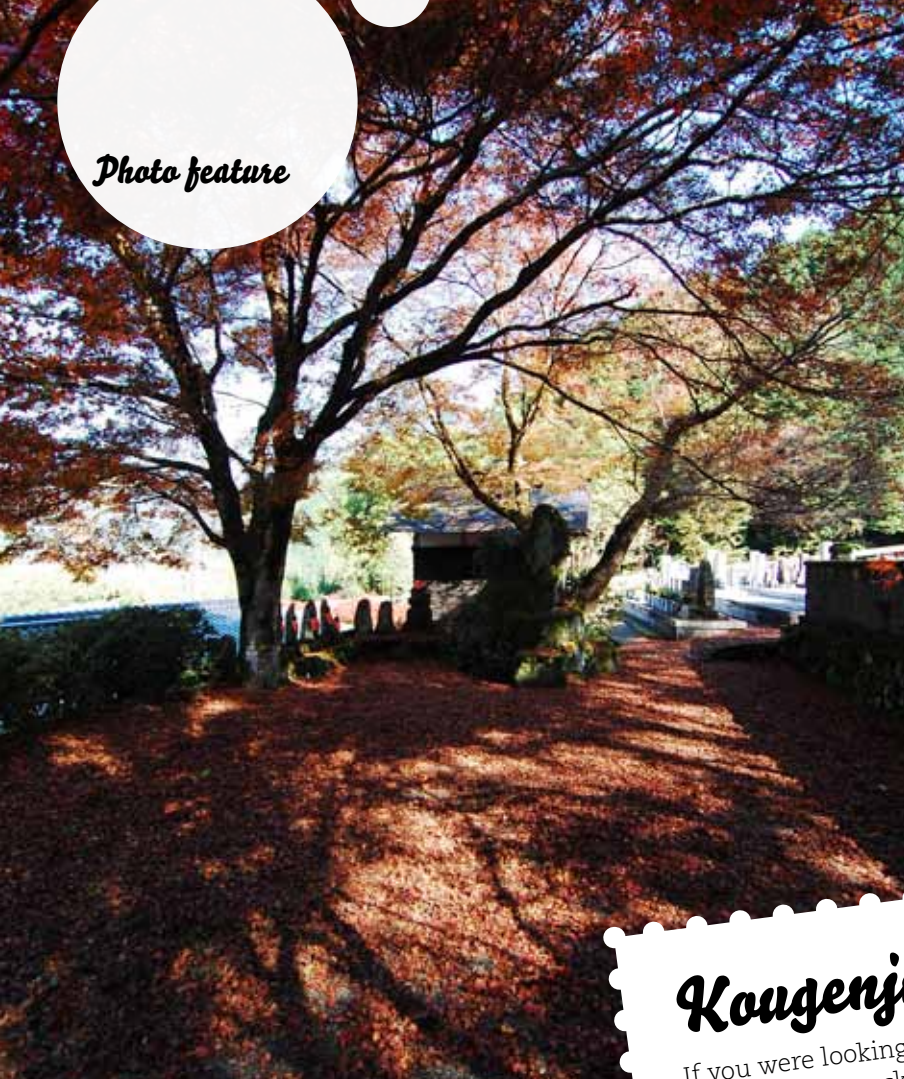
**Firstborn** reminds me of my  
youth. I feel old saying it, but  
the fact remains that the music  
started and I was transported  
back to good times going to gigs  
with school friends. I guess that  
means the band’s sound isn’t  
completely new, but I definitely  
wouldn’t turn off the radio if it  
came on. The instrumental work  
is fantastic and the melodic  
vocals regularly beautiful.



Living in Japan, I’ve been  
dreadful at keeping up  
with music from closer  
to the (well, my) motherland,  
so it’s been refreshing to hear  
something at once nostalgic  
and new. Give them a listen!

Imogen Custance





## Kougenji: 高源寺

If you were looking for somewhere slightly off the beaten track for your momiji-viewing pleasure, how about heading out to Kougenji in Aogaki, Tamba.

### Access

Maps and other information are available on the [temple's website](#) (Japanese only)

Clint Denison  
Sasayama-shi, 2007-2012





## A Rare Skill

### Living in a small, rural

Japanese village made me stronger.

It's like this. Now, after Japan, I train American students to prepare for the culture shock they will experience while living abroad. So, in small groups, I have them throw a tennis ball around to each other with one eye closed, using their bad throwing hand. This is awesome at first. Fun. They laugh.

Then I say to the students, "What if I asked you to do that for a year?"

"I'd get annoyed and want to open my eyes and throw with my normal hand," they say.

Well, this is an analogy for culture shock. At first, when I went to Japan, I was like "Woo Hoo! Life is a crazy train of fabulousness!" Then, after a while, I had to adapt to the difficulties involving Japanese language, social norms, and daily life, and – as if I was

asked to close my eyes and throw with my bad hand for a very long time – I became a bit annoyed and tired after the initial fun-filled period was over.

My point is that living in Japan for a long period of time is a skill. You have to adapt and improve yourself to do it well. So, if you don't give up, and can function like a normal human being in Japanese society after one or more years, you've acquired a skill: **Cultural Adaptability**. You're stronger now in ways others who stayed at home are not.

I had a networking phone interview with an executive coach from a major business in America, and he said, "Well, Brian, I look at your resume and I think, 'Gee, this kid has had some neat experiences, and now he's trying to make sense of it and turn it into a career.'" 'Neat?' It's lucky for me he couldn't see the "You did not just say that"

expression on my face. In Japan, I learned completely new ways to communicate – verbally, culturally, and physically; and I learned to stand on my own two feet when everyone and everything I ever knew were no longer there to support me. I am strong. That explanation's a bit long for the 'skill' section on my resume, and I can't just write down "**I am strong**" as a skill. But I am strong. And so are you. You who are reading this. Or, you will be after a year. Stronger. Sturdier on your own two feet.

I'm finished saying the word 'strong' now, because I know you get the point already. Sometimes though, people just need to be reminded of how great they are. That's why I'm writing. Sure, living in Japan won't help you with the skills you'd receive in grad school, or at a good job back home. But you can still get a good job or go to grad school later. For now though, you have the opportunity to sharpen different skills. Take it.

Stay in Japan for a year or longer. Re-contract, if you want, because sticking it out will only help you, as long as you meet your challenges head-on. If you threw a ball with your bad hand and one eye closed everyday for a year, you would be better at that. Well, everyday in Japan,

you stick with a situation that tests your communication skills, habits, perspectives, stomach, patience, and social identity. The skills you learn from Japan are rare, and make you a more capable human being.

**I want to see what you're capable of next.**

Brian Keller

briananthonykeller@yahoo.com  
Taka High School 2008 – 2011,  
Hyogo, Japan

## Paul Schuble's J-word play

# 洒落

## 夏の晴れた日に使うナビってどんなナビ？

**Answer:** 花火 (はなび, fireworks)

This one is more straightforward than some of our recent word plays. The question asks "**What kind of navigation system do you use on clear, summer days?**" The trick here is that 「ナビ」 (navigation system) is also part of the reading for the word 「はなび」, "fireworks." Now you can't use fireworks if it's raining or cloudy, so you use your (は)ナビ on clear, summer days. It's not a navigation system at all!



## Enie Meenie Minie Mo

### So, it's a typical Autumn

weekend: cocktails and pastry all Friday night while chit-chatting on Facebook; sleeping in late Saturday morning to be awoken by the mid-day sun; a lazy lunch date followed by light shopping; scouting out the sales; talking with my Mom on SKYPE... blah blah blah. But this weekend, the issue of 'choice' came up: the argument of passing up on one thing in order to do something else: the discourse of looking at ones limited resources, analyzing the options and making an informed decision to do 'A' instead of 'B'. I was forced to discuss OPPORTUNITY COSTS!

Some people hate making choices, while some find it an easy task to do. I'm not sure where I stand on this spectrum, but all I know is that some choices are second to nature and are self made. Some choices do not require the convening of a grand jury and the presentation of facts from both parties and a vote to determine the 'way forward'.

Some choices should be almost predictable. SHOULD!!

Now, opportunity costs may seem like one of those technical economical terms you only hear on the business segment of the news or if you stayed awake during your Economics lectures in college but it's such a basic part of nature! As fabulous human beings as we are, we encounter 'opportunity costs' on a daily basis. We have choices. We choose to do one thing instead of something else. We choose to buy a Ralph Lauren spring scarf instead of paying off that visa credit card. We choose to have another slice of pizza instead of a salad. We choose coffee instead of tea and fish instead of steak. We choose to date a tall, handsome European Investment Banker instead of a short, okay-looking Japanese school teacher. We choose to stay in an unhappy relationship instead of fighting the fear and leaving that bastard. We choose to surround ourselves with some friends instead of others. We choose to invest in some

friendships and relationships, leaving others by the wayside.

But one thing that is sure is that with 'opportunity costs' comes the "option" that wasn't chosen; the visa card that wasn't paid; the salad that wasn't eaten; the steak that wasn't ordered; the tea that wasn't drunk; the short Japanese guy; the happy life you could have lived if you had just been a little more brave and left him; and the friends and lovers you mistreated and constantly hurt.

I'm not naive! I know that life is filled with alternatives/options and we have to choose one over another and forgo the benefits of not having the one we didn't choose. But the beauty of life is that it gives us some simple choices so that when we analyze the benefits we can receive from acquiring either 'option', there is a clear winner. So then, why is it that some people constantly choose the "wrong" option? – hate over love; sadness over happiness; temporary vices or permanent friendships;

one night of lust over a long life of companionship. I'll never know!

OK!!!! So, I know that choices are an individual thing and no one should 'judge' someone else for making his/her choices. But, when it comes to friendships and relationships that you are a part of, clearly you are allowed to 'appeal' the ruling of the 'court' and the decision/choice that has been made. But then, do you really want to know why you were passed up for something 'better'? *[I would!]* Who likes to be the runner-up? Who likes to know that you have been consistently investing in a friendship, but when a simple choice was given, are left un-chosen? And I guess the most hurtful part is that if you were passed up for the simple things, what will happen when the big issues arrive?

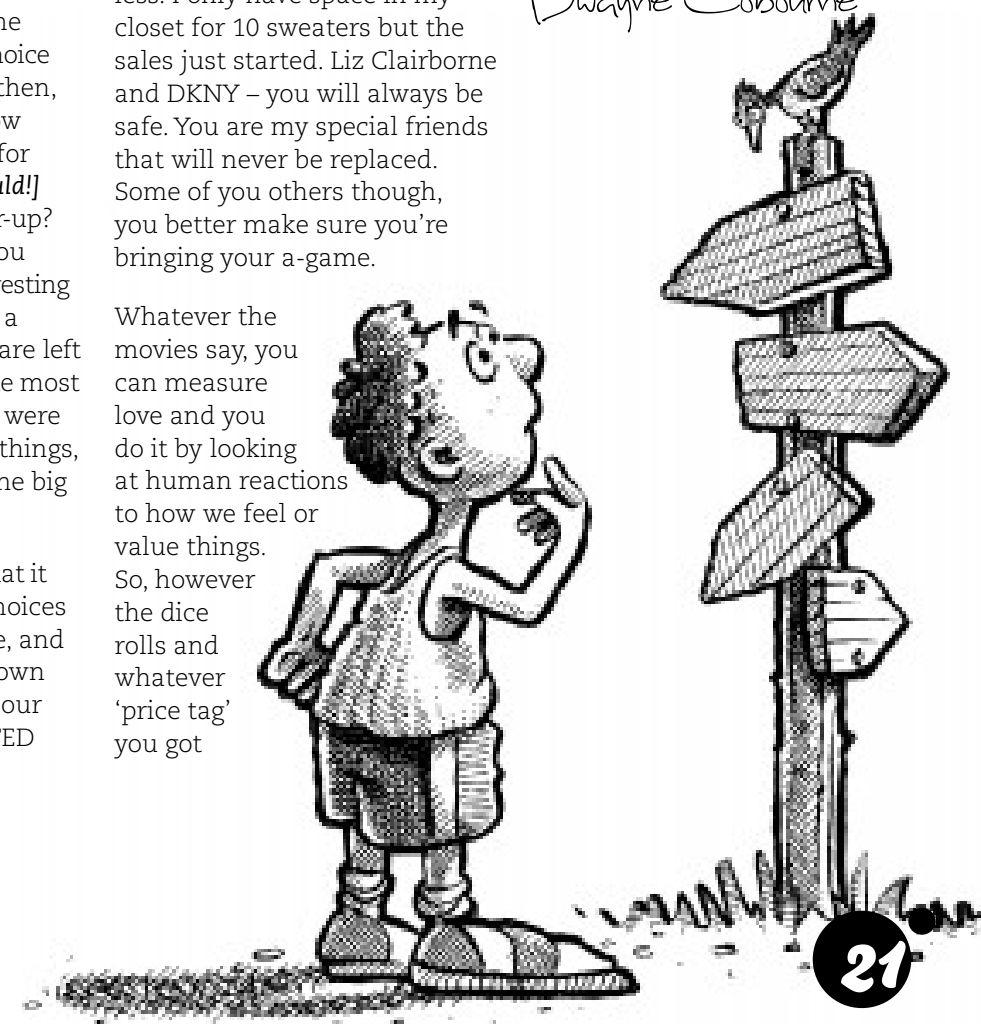
Choices! Values! That's what it all comes down to. The choices people make have a value, and we end up with our very own price tag stamped across our face – are you DISCOUNTED

or CUSTOM MADE? Choices aren't made in isolation. Each option on a decision tree has a value attached to it, so each time someone 'chooses' you (Pikachu!) you feel your stock price head skywards. Options you decide to leave behind are less important than those you take – you clearly value them less. I only have space in my closet for 10 sweaters but the sales just started. Liz Clairborne and DKNY – you will always be safe. You are my special friends that will never be replaced. Some of you others though, you better make sure you're bringing your a-game.

Whatever the movies say, you can measure love and you do it by looking at human reactions to how we feel or value things. So, however the dice rolls and whatever 'price tag' you got

stamped on your forehead, just make the best of it, because it's life. Different people, different price tag too. On the flip side (there we go again....choices) 'KARMA' is a big BITCH! Whoever decides you aren't worth it will get it in the end - watch out!

Wayne Cobourne





# Hyogo Times November Event Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<b>28</b> <b>Halloween Night</b> <b>Takarazuka Garden Fields</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Awaji Hanasajiki</b> Cosmoses flowers in bloom throughout October	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>03</b> <b>Culture Day</b> <b>Izushi Oshiro Matsuri</b> Izushi, Toyooka
<b>04</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>08</b> <b>Banshu Kiyomizudera</b> <b>Autumn Light-up</b> Kato City November 8th – 25th	<b>09</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Banshu Kiyomizudera</b> <b>Autumn Light-up</b> Kato City November 8th – 25th
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Ako Kotto-ichi</b> Oishi Jinja	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Banshu Kiyomizudera</b> <b>Autumn Light-up</b> Kato City November 8th – 25th
<b>18</b> <b>Banshu Kiyomizudera</b> <b>Autumn Light-up</b> Kato City November 8th – 25th	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Skills Development</b> <b>Conference</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Skills Development</b> <b>Conference</b> <b>Hyogo AJET</b> <b>Post-S.D.C. Enkai</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Labour Thanksgiving Day</b> <b>Crab Kingdom</b> Opening ceremony for Crab Kingdom in Kinosaki Onsen	<b>24</b> <b>Mt. Shosha Autumn leaf</b> <b>festival, Himeji</b> November 23rd – 25th
<b>25</b> <b>Mt. Shosha Autumn leaf</b> <b>festival, Himeji</b> November 23rd – 25th	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>01</b>

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