



MIA news

Miyakonojo International Association

Miyakonojo International Association
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MIA Information

MIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2019-20 MIA Annual General Meeting was recently held on the 16th of May. Discussed in this meeting were a number of major events planned for the coming year. The main events are listed below:

August 3rd (Sat): Bonchi Matsuri Street Dance
September 7th (Sat): World Beer & Trivia Night
September 29th (Sun): Community Safety Workshop
November 24th (Sun): Miyakonojo's 20 Year Anniversary for Sister City Relations (Mongolia & China)
January 19th (Sun): World Festa in Miyakonojo 2020

In addition to these events, there will also be Chinese & Australian Cooking Classes, Talk & Talk Sessions, Chinese Language Classes, Japanese Language Classes and much more. We look forward to seeing you there!

MONGOLIAN LANGUAGE CLASS

MIA will be running a free Mongolian Language Class for 5 weeks from June to July, as detailed below:

When: Each Wednesday, 18:30 to 20:00, from June 12th to July 10th, for a total of 5 weeks.

Where: Miyakonojo Community Centre 2F Training Room
Run by Miyakonojo's Mongolian CIR, Soyolmaa Luimed.

Limited to the first 20 applicants.

Registration: If you wish to attend, please RSVP by telephone or email.

TEL: 0986-23-2295

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Food and Wine - Jesus Antonio Perez (America)

Hello everyone. My name is Jesus Perez and I am an ALT from America, specifically from the state of California. When people think of California they tend to think about Hollywood or Disneyland but instead of those places I will focus on something a bit more... sating. Food Festivals! Spring has just started so I shall focus our attention on events that take place during this time.



Within the United States, the state of California is known to produce the most of the country's agricultural products. Not only that, but California is also well known for their burgeoning wine culture. This means that it is also home to an assortment of wineries. Naturally, all of these factors have led to the creation of a multitude of food related festivals! These festivals can cover anything from fruits and vegetables to cheese and wine, if these sound like they interest you then allow me to entertain you.

March has just passed us by and along with it the Lodi Wine and Food Festival. Although wine season doesn't reach a fever pitch until April (and once again later in the year) Lodi hosts one of the state's newer food and wine festivals. The festival includes wine tasting involving over 40 wineries, great food, and music for its 21+ festival goers. For those that have families with underage members, Knott's Boysenberry Festival in Buena Park kicks off around the end of March and lasts all the

way through April. The farm is well known for its amusement park attractions and provides entertainment for children and adults alike.

Now, April is when we begin to see the amount of festivals take off.

Aside from the plentiful wine festivals taking place, one festival that stands out is the Asparagus festival. The Asparagus festival takes place over three days from April 12th to the 14th (this year, but on a weekend regardless) in the town of Stockton located in the Central Valley of California. This festival features some of the typical festival events such as activities for children, carnival rides, and food along with some not-so-usual ones like a car show and a petting zoo. The variety of asparagus-based foods range from bacon wrapped asparagus to deep fried asparagus to even asparagus-flavored ice cream! Due to the rising popularity of craft beers you can also find a good variety of them during the event. The weather can get pretty hot, so don't forget your hat!

South of Los Angeles you'll find Fallbrook and their Avocado festival. On the 14th of April, over 100,000 people got together to enjoy the green fruit. The festival has free pony rides, various contests and music for everyone to enjoy. Among the available events, people will be able to participate in a couple of races, and for those more interested in something light-hearted, an avocado dress-up contest.

Up to the North, San Francisco hosts the International Beer Festival on April 20th. The festival has been going

strong for 36 years and doesn't seem to be stopping. You will have to purchase tickets to enter this particular festival, but don't worry! A lot of the funds raised during this festival go to various organizations and even cover 90% of a local preschool's operating expenses. Due to the nature of this festival, participants must be over 21 years of age to enter. The beers available during this event are brought from all over the world, not only will you find a ton of selections from the states, you'll find drinks from across the rest of America, Europe, and Asia.



Fallbrook Avocado Festival

Slightly North of San Francisco in Petaluma you'll find April 27th and 28th to be designated Butter & Egg Days. Petaluma is a town that benefitted from the titular products boom, and led the town to become one of the state's most prosperous communities. You can walk around town and see the 100-unit parade which can feature upwards of 3000 participants! Among the rides, food, and hands-on activities, you'll be able to see four blocks of arts and crafts exhibits. And to cap it all off, the final day of the festival features a treasure hunt involving over 200 vendors! Make sure to bring comfortable shoes for that one.

The Paso Robles Wine Festival (May 16-19) is one of the largest outdoor wine festivals that take place near California's central coast. Once again, you must be 21 years of age to participate and unfortunately, children are not allowed to accompany. Participants will be able to experience something different over the course of its four days. Some days involve a selection of dinners at local restaurants while others offer a variety of wines to be released in the future. You can even partake in a winemaking seminar on the Saturday morning of the event. This festival spans a large area so it is advisable to bring a hat, sunscreen, and maybe even a lawn chair for an impromptu picnic!

Nearing the end of May, you can find quite a few festivals that celebrate the classic strawberry. Places like Garden Grove and Vista are host to the more notable of events. Vista's festival has been one of the more recent festivals to be created as it is only 15 or so years old. That being said, it is no slouch when it comes to things to do. Aside from the typical festival activities like food and games, Vista's festival also features multiple races for people to participate in. Each year people can choose to race in the 10k, 5k, 1 mile, and even a ¼ mile for tots. They even have a zip-line available for those that want a thrill. Whereas Vista is the newer festival, Garden Grove hosts the older and larger of the two events. The Garden Grove festival is now reaching its 61st year and boasts an attendance of over 300,000 people. Garden Grove has a parade and various contests that are open to the general public. Due to its proximity to Anaheim and other LA suburbs, this Strawberry Festival is also routinely visited by various celebrities and even Mickey Mouse!



Garden Grove Parade

As we reach the end of our foray into these culinary delights, please bear in mind the following. Even if none of the festivals I covered here were to your liking, these are only the festivals for one season in *one state* in America. There are plenty more to be found across the country and I'm certain that you are bound to find something that appeals to your tastes. As a California native I haven't gone to even half of these festivals, much less those in the rest country. I hope my article piqued your interest or, at the very least, led you to smile.

 Movies info 	
C-Plaza Cine-port (Tel: 0986-24-2571) 17-9 Nakamachi, Miyakonojo, Miyazaki Map-Code (GPS): 117 488 540*55	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Sadako (Japanese) ●Avengers: End Game (Japanese Dub) ●Green Book (Japanese Sub & Dub Available) ●Shazam! (Japanese Dub) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *The 1st of every month is ¥1,100 for everyone. *Every Wednesday is 'Ladies' Day', all ladies ¥1,100. *The cinema is closed every Tuesday. *For session times visit: http://movie.walkerplus.com/th286/schedule.html (Japanese)