

# Ashiya Newsletter

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## October 1 is National Census Day; A Census Taker Will Visit Each Home at the End of September

On October 1st, a national census will be conducted throughout Japan. The national census is taken every five years and this year marks administration of the 17th major survey. The survey includes everyone — Japanese and foreigners — living in Japan. It is estimated that a total of about 127,000,000 people (47,000,000 households) in the country and about 85,000 people (36,000 households) in the city of Ashiya will be surveyed during the census.



### • Important Survey to Be Used in Day-to-Day Living

The national census is used not only to obtain accurate figures concerning the population and number of households (by such categories as sex and age), but also to understand current trends like aging and low birthrate, the diversification of employment/hiring patterns, population movement, household structure and residents' situations and status. This is an important survey because the final numbers are used as reference for all types of governmental programs at the national, prefectural and municipal level.

### • Survey Description

**Date:** As of 12 midnight October 1 (Sun.)

**Eligibility:** Everyone who lives in Japan (including foreign residents).

**Survey Questions:** There are 22 items. These include: name; sex; year and month of birth; head of household and family rela-

tionships; spousal relationship; nationality; length of time at current address (address of residence five years ago); educational background, such as school of enrollment/graduation; employment, including work hours, name of place of employment, type of business, occupation, business title; location of place of employment or school; transportation used to work/school; type of household; number of household members; household income; type of construction of residence; size of residence.

**Survey Method:** From around September 20th to September 30th, a census taker will visit each household to ask for cooperation in completing the survey. Between October 1st and October 9th, the official will visit a second time to collect completed surveys. Residents who will be away from home during this period should contact the census taker or the telephone number below.

### • Information is Kept Strictly Confidential

It is strictly prohibited by law for any information from the census surveys to be given to unauthorized people or used for any purpose other than calculating statistics. Thus, the privacy of individuals and households is protected. Please carefully read instructions on "How to complete the survey," use a pencil and complete the entire survey form accurately.

### • If You Do Not Want the Census Taker to See Your Form

Please place your completed survey inside the "How to complete the survey" sheet, seal it shut with the attached "envelope sticker" and submit the completed survey in the sealed sheet to the census official. In this case, the official will submit the envelope unopened to the city office.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

**Inquiries:** National Census Office, General Affairs Section, General Affairs Department (Tel: 25-1715), 5-23 Kimmitsu-cho.

## The 3rd International Symposium 2000 "Global Family Conference" To Be Held

The 21st Century is also called the Space Age. Today, space stations are being built through international cooperation and it may not be long before humans can live permanently in space.

The 3rd "Global Family Conference" will be held in October, featuring former Russian astronaut Dr. Alexander Serebrov as the guest speaker.

Dr. Serebrov will give the keynote lecture on the theme, "The Earth as Seen From Outer Space," with slides based on his four space missions. A panel discussion will follow the lecture.

**Date and time:** October 5 (Thu.), 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. (The hall will open at 1:00 p.m.)

**Place:** Luna Hall

### Program:

- Keynote Lecture — "The Earth as Seen From Outer Space," given by Dr. Alexander Serebrov (former Russian astronaut); Japanese-Russian simultaneous interpreter available.
  - Panel Discussion — "Dream Toward Outer Space," Japanese-Russian simultaneous interpreter available.
- Panelists: Mr. Reiji Matsumoto (Cartoonist)

Dr. Alexander Serebrov

Coordinator: Mr. Hiroshi Karoji (National Observatory Professor)

High School Panelist: Mr. Takenobu Hirosaki (Hyogo Prefectural Ashiya - minami High School)

• Chorus — Ashiya Frauen Chor

"Uchusenkan Yamato (Space Battleship Yamato)," "Yume no Uchusen (Dream spaceship)" and more

**Admission:** Free of charge

**Sponsor:** Ashiya City, Ashiya City Board of Education, Ashiya Cosmopolitan Association, Japan Youth Space Group Foundation, Marine Metropolitan Development Research Foundation

**Inquiries:** International Cultural Section (Tel: 38-2008)

**Keynote Lecturer and Panelist:** Dr. Alexander Serebrov, Chairman of the All-Russian Youth Aerospace Society "Soyuz" and Russian President's Office advisor



# Ashiya's Seasons

## Pioneering Plants

What plants are growing in the new landfill area of Minami-hama in Ashiya? Ashiya Environmental Planning and Promotion Council member Mr. Keiichi Furuichi conducted a survey of this area two years ago. "I was curious about what types of life would first take root on this new ground," he said. "And pursuing the changes that will take place there over time will be an important key to understanding the distribution of life."

The "*shinagawahagi*" (sweet clover), rare before in Ashiya, was found in large groups. It is a small tree that grows to approximately 1.5 meters. It is of Eastern Asian origin and the ends of the branches bloom in numerous tiny yellow flowers. The "*shirobana shinagawahagi*" (white sweet clover), of Central Asian origin, was also discovered, but in small numbers.

"*Shirozakearitaso*" (*Chenopodium ambrosoides* L. var. *pubescens* Mak.) of the goosefoot family was found scattered about while the "*houkigiku*" (*Aster subulatus* mickx.) was found in larger numbers.



"Okijimushiro" (*Potentilla spina* L.)

A more rare flower of the rose family, the "*okijimushiro*" (*Potentilla spina* L.) of Eurasian origin, was found blooming in a shade of yellow. Mr. Furuichi also saw the unusual flower of the "*hosoba tsurunogeiou*" (*Alternanthera nodiflora* R. Br.), a plant usually found in tropical areas of Asia.

Discovered alongside the roads used by the dump trucks were reddish-purple flowers of the "*chichibu fujiutsugi*" (*Buddleja davidii* Franch.), a foreign-introduced plant.

Mr. Furuichi's impression was that "the plant life found in this man-made land was overwhelmingly dominated by non-native plants. These could easily be called the pioneering plants. Then there were also some areas where ponds were found growing with domestic "*himegama*" (*Typha angustata* Presl.) and "*tamakayatsuri*" (*Cyperus difformis* L.)."

In his survey, Mr. Furuichi found 41 varieties of plants belonging to 15 families. The composite family was most

numerous with 13 varieties followed by the leguminous with six varieties.

(This article is from Sai-hakken Ashiya no Shizen (Rediscovering Ashiya's Nature) by Furuichi Keiichi, Japanese city newsletter *Ashiya Shiho*.)

"Chichibu fujiutsugi" (*Buddleja davidii* Franch.)



Landfill area of Minami-hama

## FY2000 Large-Sized Garbage Collection Schedule

| Town Name   | Sep.  | Oct.  | Nov.  |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| Yama-ashiya-cho, Nishiyama-cho, Nishi-ashiya-cho                      | 18    | 16    | 13    |
| Asahigaoka-cho  | 19    | 17    | 14    |
| Ise-cho, Takezono-cho, Hama-ashiya-cho, Matsuhama-cho                 | 20    | 18    | 15    |
| Sanjo-cho, Tsukiwaka-cho, Hirata-cho, Okuike-cho, Okuike-minami-cho   | 21    | 19    | 16    |
| Chayano-cho, Omasu-cho, Kimmitsu-cho, Narihira-cho, Kami-miyagawa-cho | 22    | 20    | 17    |
| Miyazuka-cho, Hirata-kita-machi                                       | 23    | 21    | 18    |
| Kusunoki-cho, Kasuga-cho  | 25    | 23    | 20    |
| Rokurokuso-cho, Iwazono-cho   | 26    | 24    | 21    |
| Funado-cho, Matsunouchi-cho, Shimizu-cho, Maeda-cho                   | 27    | 25    | 22    |
| Yamate-cho, Okuyama, Sanjo-minami-cho                                 | 28    | 26    | 23    |
| Higashiyama-cho, Higashi-ashiya-cho                                   | 1, 29 | 27    | 24    |
| Uchide-kozuchi-cho, Wakamiya-cho, Uchide-cho                          | 2, 30 | 28    | 25    |
| Daito-cho, Kurekawa-cho   | 4     | 2, 30 | 27    |
| Midorigaoka-cho   | 5     | 3, 31 | 28    |
| Nangu-cho, Nishikura-cho  | 6     | 4     | 1, 29 |
| Ohara-cho, Shinnozuka-cho   | 7     | 5     | 2, 30 |
| Tsuji-cho, Kawanishi-cho, Seido-cho, Miyagawa-cho                     | 8     | 6     | 3     |
| Hama-cho  | 9     | 7     | 4     |
| Takahama-cho 1 to 4   | 11    | 9     | 6     |
| Takahama-cho 5 to 10  | 12    | 10    | 7     |
| Wakaba-cho 1 to 3, Midori-cho   | 13    | 11    | 8     |
| Wakaba-cho 4 to 7   | 14    | 12    | 9     |
| Hamakaze-cho, Niihama-cho, Yoko-cho                                   | 15    | 13    | 10    |
| Shiomi-cho  | 16    | 14    | 11    |

## Hyogo Prefectural Ashiya Health Center (Tel: 32-0707)

| Program  | Hours                          | Sep.                          | Oct.  | Nov.   | Eligibility, Cost and Others  |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|--------|---|
| Healthy infants clinic   | 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.              | 14                            | 12    | 9      | Those eligible will be notified by mail.  |
| Psychological checkups for 3-year-olds                                     | from 9:00 a.m. from 10:15 a.m. | 12 19                         | 10 17 | 14 21  | Advice on training and rearing children who are 3 years old.  |
| Psychological consultations for 3-year-olds                                | 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.              | 12                            | 10    | 14     | Appointment required: Analysis of delayed language skills and social skills. Counseling by medical specialists.                       |
| Child-rearing consultations  | 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.              | 11                            | 23    | 13     | Those eligible will be notified by mail. Counseling for child development by medical specialists.                                     |
| Mental health counseling   | 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.              | 19                            | 17    | 21     | Appointment required: Counseling for social rehabilitation, depression, neuroses and other conditions by medical specialists.         |
| Consultations for senior citizens' health                                  | 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.              | 6                             | 4     | 1      | Appointment required: Counseling for senile dementia, insomnia and other conditions by medical specialists.                           |
| General health consultations (fee charged), Company checkups (fee charged) | 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.              | 1, 22                         | 6, 20 | 10, 17 | Appointment required: Examination, urinalysis, blood test, x-ray, electrocardiogram, hearing acuity, body measurements, STD test etc. |
| HIV tests  | 2:00 to 2:30 p.m.              | 1, 22                         | 6, 20 | 10, 17 | Confidential test possible, fee charged for test results certificate.   |
| Stool test (fee charged) Water quality analysis (fee charged)              | 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon           | Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays |       |        | Water quality analysis on special items; 1st and 3rd Mondays only.  |

# Ashiya Health Center

**Tel: 31-1586, Fax: 31-1018**

| Program  | Hours                          | Place                                  | Sep.                                     | Oct.   | Nov.       |       |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--|--------|------------|-------|
| Tuberculin skin tests, BCG vaccinations                                  | 1:30 ~ 2:30 p.m.               | Ashiya Health Center                   | T. skin test                             | 4      | 16         | -     |
|  |                                |  | BCG                                      | 6      | 18         | -     |
| Expectant mothers' classes (appointment required)                        | 1:30 p.m. ~                    | Ashiya Health Center                   | First period                             | 6, 19  | -          | 7, 22 |
|  |                                |  | Second period                            | -      | 3, 17, 31  | -     |
| Health consultations for pregnant women                                  | 1:30 p.m. ~                    | Ashiya Health Center                   | 18                                       | 16     | 20         |       |
| Home visits to newborn babies  | Anytime                        | Ashiya Health Center                   | Anytime                                  |        |            |       |
| Child-rearing consultations  | 9:30 ~ 11:00 a.m.              | Ashiya Health Center                   | 18                                       | 16     | 20         |       |
| Child-rearing classes  | 9:45 ~ 11:30 a.m.              | Ashiya Health Center                   | 11                                       | 2      | 13         |       |
| Health checkups for 4-month-olds   | 1:00 ~ 2:00 p.m.               | Hyogo Prefectural Ashiya Health Center | 13, 27                                   | 11, 25 | 8, 22      |       |
| Health checkups for 1-year-olds  | Anytime                        | Designated medical facilities          | Anytime at designated medical facilities |        |            |       |
| Health checkups for 18-month-olds  | 1:00 ~ 2:00 p.m.               | Ashiya Health Center                   | 21                                       | 19     | 16         |       |
| Health checkups for 3-year-olds  | 1:00 ~ 2:00 p.m.               | Hyogo Prefectural Ashiya Health Center | 7  | 5      | 2          |       |
| Allergy consultations (appointment required)                             | 9:30 ~ 10:30 a.m.              | Ashiya Health Center                   | 25                                       | 23     | 27         |       |
| Free dental consultations and checkups                                   | 1:00 ~ 2:30 p.m.               | Dentists Association Hall              | 20                                       | 18     | 15         |       |
| Home visit to those who are bedridden                                    |                                | Apply with Ashiya Health Center        | Anytime                                  |        |            |       |
| Home visit for dental care to those who are bedridden                    |                                |  |  |        |            |       |
| Citizens' health checkups (lung cancer tests for those aged 40 or above) | 9:30 ~ 10:30 a.m.              | Ashiya Health Center                   | 1  | -      | 10, 14     |       |
| Anemia tests   |                                |  |  |        |            |       |
| Health checkups (appointment required)                                   | 9:15 a.m. ~                    | Ashiya Health Center                   | 4, 5                                     | 3, 10  | 7, 13      |       |
| Osteoporosis checkups (appointment required)                             | 9:30 ~ 10:30 a.m.              | Ashiya Health Center                   | 26                                       | 24     | 28         |       |
| Nutritional consultations (appointment required)                         | 9:30 ~ 11:00 a.m.              | Ashiya Health Center                   | 26                                       | 24     | 28         |       |
| Health consultations   | 1:00 ~ 3:00 p.m.               | Ashiya Health Center                   | 5, 19                                    | 3, 17  | 7, 21      |       |
| Stomach cancer tests (appointment required)                              | 9:15 ~ 10:30 a.m.              | Ashiya Health Center                   | Mondays and Thursdays                    |        |            |       |
| Tests for uterine, cervical and breast cancer                            | Anytime                        | Designated medical facilities          | Anytime at designated medical facilities |        |            |       |
| Cancer of the large intestine tests                                      | To be submitted in the morning | Ashiya Health Center                   | Tuesday mornings                         |        |            |       |
| Nutritional instructions classes (reservation required)                  | 1:30 p.m. ~                    | Ashiya Health Center                   | -  | -      | 29 to 12/1 |       |

## Clinic Open during the Holidays

**Name:** Ashiya Municipal Holiday and Emergency Clinic

**Address:** 5-13 Kimmitsu-cho,

Ashiya-shi

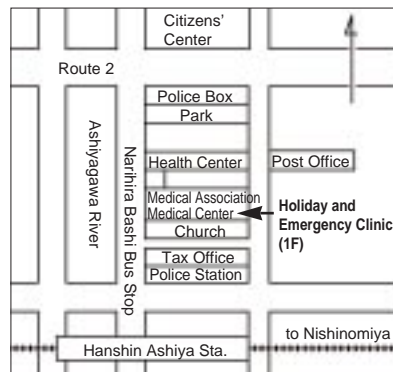
**Tel:** 21-2782

**Medical Departments:** Internal Medicine, Pediatrics

**Days:** Sundays and national holidays

**Hours:** 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

\* Evening/night services are available on a rotating basis. Please call the Fire Department (Tel: 32-2345) for the clinic on duty.



## Dentists (Hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon)

|        | Clinic Name                            | Address               | Tel.    |
|--------|--|-----------------------|---------|
| Sep. 3 | Seiai Dental Clinic                    | 1-11 Kasuga-cho       | 32-0356 |
| 10     | Yoshikawa Dental Clinic                | 5-12-202 Kurekawa-cho | 32-6178 |
| 15     | Yoshizaki Dental Clinic                | 4-10 Nishi-ashiya-cho | 31-8020 |
| 17     | Yorifuji Dental Clinic                 | 1-13 Miyazuka-cho     | 22-5941 |
| 23     | Wakabayashi Dental Clinic              | 4-1-407 Funado-cho    | 22-4882 |
| 24     | Wada Dental Clinic                     | 3-14 Tsuji-cho        | 31-0384 |
| Oct. 1 | Watanabe Orthodontics/Children's D. C. | 3-5 Funado-cho        | 31-5939 |
| 8      | Akashi Dental Clinic                   | 9-6 Kimmitsu-cho      | 31-1560 |
| 9      | Aramaki Dental Clinic                  | 15-20 Kawanishi-cho   | 34-6483 |
| 15     | Uga Dental Clinic                      | 5-13 Miyazuka-cho     | 22-4074 |
| 22     | Ikezawa Dental Clinic                  | 3-9 Matsunouchi-cho   | 32-1780 |
| 29     | Ikeda Dental Clinic                    | 10-1 Matsunouchi-cho  | 35-4182 |
| Nov. 3 | Ishihara Dental Clinic                 | 1-4 Shinnozuka-cho    | 31-1388 |
| 5      | Inagaki Dental Clinic                  | 5-19 Ohara-cho        | 22-2870 |
| 12     | Arimoto Dental Clinic                  | 6-15 Kasuga-cho       | 31-1087 |
| 19     | Uwazumi Dental Clinic                  | 11-24 Miyazuka-cho    | 34-1560 |
| 23     | Oka Dental Clinic                      | 11-24-206 Ohara-cho   | 22-0139 |
| 26     | Ono Dental Clinic                      | 2-4 Ise-cho           | 22-3989 |

## We Want Your Opinion!!

Ashiya Newsletter is designed to provide information that will enrich the lives of both foreign residents living in Japan for extended periods and those here on short stays. To improve the newsletter and pack it full of the information most desired by the foreign community, we solicit your requests, questions and comments via e-mail, fax or post.

**E-mail:** info@city.ashiya.hyogo.jp

**Fax:** 0797-38-2175

**Post:** Ashiya Newsletter Editing Staff, Ashiya City International and Cultural Section, La Mall Ashiya, 2-9 Ohara-cho, Ashiya-shi, 659-0092

# Events

## ACA

### ACA Twilight Concert

**“An Evening of Irish Folk Songs — Dance, Music and Songs”**  
**Performers:** Mr. Hitoshi Imaizumi, Mr. Fumio Yoshida, Ms. Mami Yabuta and Ms. Harumi Nishino  
**Date and time:** September 22 (Fri.), 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

**“Autumn Evening Hokkori (warm and relaxed) Folk Concert”**

**Performers:** The Love Parachute Band  
**Date and time:** October 20 (Fri.), 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

**M.C.:** Mr. Tomizo Kitauchi (9/22)  
 Ms. Takako Tanaka (10/20)

**For Both Performances**  
**Place:** La Mall Ashiya 1F Plaza (Atrium)  
**Admission:** Free of charge  
**Capacity:** 100 people



### ACA Seminars

**“German Beer Travelogue”**



A talk on German beer and a tasting party of German beer and sausages.

**Speaker:** Mr. Paul Haering  
**Date and time:** September 26 (Tue.), 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.  
**Place:** ACA  
**Admission:** ¥1,000

**Application and inquiries:** Ashiya Cosmopolitan Association (ACA)  
**Address:** La Mall Ashiya 2F, 2-6-209 Ohara-cho, Ashiya-shi 659-0092  
**Tel.:** 34-6340 **Fax:** 34-6341  
**E-mail:** aca@sannet.ne.jp **URL:** <http://www02.so-net.ne.jp/~aca/>

**Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Group — Caring for Young Refugees (CYR)**

**“Cambodia Fair in Ashiya”**

- Photo exhibit, “Thai and Cambodian Children”
- Exhibit and sale of traditional Cambodian woven textiles.

**Date and time:** September 14 (Thu.) to 16 (Sat.), 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
**Place:** La Mall Ashiya 1F Plaza (Atrium)  
**Admission:** Free of charge  
**Sponsor:** Kobe Zonta Club, ACA and CYR

**Cooking in English — Italian Food**

**Instructor:** Mr. Julian Garth Rippin  
**Date and time:** September 20 (Wed.), Session 1 from 11:00 a.m.; Session 2 from 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** Ashiya Citizens’ Center, cooking room  
**Participation Fee:** ¥2,500 for members, ¥2,700 for non-members (A fee of ¥2,500 for ingredients will be charged to those who cancel on the day of the class.)  
**Capacity:** Session 1: 24 people; Session 2: 24 people (Reservations required for both sessions)  
**What to bring:** Apron and dishcloth  
**Sponsor:** “Cooking in English Association” and ACA

**The 5th “Let’s Widen Our International Exchange Circle!” — Petanque and Barbecue Party**

We will enjoy petanque and barbecue with the overseas trainees from Kaigi University.  
**Date and time:** October 28 (Sat.), 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Reception from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m.)  
**Place:** Ashiya Municipal Shiomi Elementary School grounds (Hankyu Bus headed for Niihama-cho or Ashiya-hama Eigyosho and get off at “Wakabacho” bus stop). Please refrain from coming to the event by car.  
**In case of rain:** The event will be held even if there is a little rain. If it is not possible to play games outside, the program of recreational sports will be held inside the gymnasium.  
**Participation fee:** ¥1,000; ¥500 for elementary school children  
**Eligibility:** Fourth grade of elementary school or older (Elementary school children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian)  
**Capacity:** 100 people (Reservations required)  
**Sponsor:** Ashiya Petanque Association  
 • We need volunteers willing to help with preparations on the day of the event! (Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Shiomi Elementary School)

**Japanese Language Class**

**Program:** Everyday Japanese conversation, reading and writing.  
**Participants:** People who live or work in Ashiya with only a little Japanese conversation, reading and writing ability.  
**Date and time:** Thursdays, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Ashiya Citizens’ Center  
**Fee:** Each course includes 12 lessons, ¥2,000 each (materials included)  
**To apply:** By phone at the Ashiya Community Center  
**Tel:** 35-0700

## Tax Q & A

**Q:** I have just received my city and prefectural tax payment invoice, but I am currently unemployed and have no income. I cannot make my tax payments. What should I do?

**A:** As city and prefectural taxes are calculated based on your income for the previous year, you are expected to pay it even if you have no income. However, if you have absolutely no means for paying the tax, if your total income for last year was ¥8,000,000 or less and you have been unemployed for more than one month prior to the payment deadline, you may be eligible for a tax payment reduction. Please attach documents verifying your unemployment to the application for tax payment reduction. Reductions in tax payments are available for not only unemployment and retirement, but also in the event of the taxed

person’s death or a disaster. Please call the Resident Tax Subsection of the Taxation Section for more information.

**Inquiries:** Taxation Section, Resident Tax Subsection (Tel: 38-2016)

## City Tax Payment Deadlines

Please pay your city taxes on time.

| Type                         | Fixed Assets Tax, City Planning Tax                        | Resident Tax (Personal liability method)               |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| Deadline                     | Third Period: December 25 (Mon.), 2000                     | Third Period: October 31 (Tue.), 2000                  |
| Tax payment notices sent out | Early May 2000   | Early June 2000  |
| Inquiries                    | Fixed Assets Tax Subsection, Taxation Section Tel: 38-2017 | Resident Tax Subsection, Taxation Section Tel: 38-2016 |