

PUBLIC RELATIONS MAGAZINE

DATE

伊達

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DIGEST

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The following are translations of news articles found in the Japanese edition.

The Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games have Begun! Let's Cheer for the Republic of Guyana!!



As an *Arigatō* Host Town, it was planned to invite the Republic of Guyana's teams to Date City and engage in exchanges, but these plans were canceled in order to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus infections.

Instead, we are showing our support by giving encouraging messages written by children, as well as local specialties. Let's use television to send a "yell" from Date City to the athletes of the Republic of Guyana!



[Contact] General Policy Department, Policy Implementation Section ☎ 575-1142

▼ Athletes participating in the Olympics

Event	Class	Name	Appearance Date
Table Tennis	Women's Singles	Chelsea Edghill	Saturday, July 24th ~
Swimming	Men's 100 m Freestyle	Andrew Fowler	Tuesday, July 27th ~
Track and Field	Women's 400 m	Aliyah Abrams	Tuesday, August 3rd ~
Boxing	Men's Featherweight	Keevin Allicock	Saturday, July 24th ~

▼ Athletes participating in the Paralympics

Event	Class	Name	Appearance Date
Bicycle Road Race	Men's	Walter Stuart-Grant	Wednesday, September 1st ~ Friday, September 3rd

※ Please be aware that some events may not be televised.

Reservation Acceptance Has Begun for City Resident Health Exams; Gynecological Exams Begin on Monday, August 2nd



Health exams forms were mailed out in early June. For details, please see the "Reiwa 3 Fiscal Year Date City Resident Health Exam Pamphlet" enclosed in the same envelope as the health exam forms.

▼ Mass Health Exams

This fiscal year's mass health exams will be carried out on an appointment-only basis. Reservation acceptance periods vary according to the health exam schedule, so check the pamphlet before making an appointment.

[Phone Number for Making Appointments] ☎ 024-575-7356

Please be careful as to not dial the wrong number.

[Reception Times] Weekdays from 9 AM to 4:45 PM

Even after the reservation acceptance period has ended,

appointments can be made if there are openings; please call and ask.

▼ Institutional Health Exams

[Health Exam Schedule]

Exam Type	Exam Period	
Cervical Cancer Exams	Monday, August 2nd ~ Monday, February 28th, 2022	
Breast Cancer Exams	Within Date City	Monday, August 2nd ~ Monday, February 28th, 2022
	Within Fukushima City	Monday, August 2nd ~ Tuesday, December 28th

※ Every year, the latter half of the exam period becomes crowded, so those eligible to undergo exams are asked to do so early on.

▼ Members of the Japan Health Insurance Association or other Health Insurance Associations, etc.

Dependents in a social insurance system, who have vouchers to receive a designated health exam, can undertake exams through the municipal mass health exams. When undergoing an exam, please bring your health insurance card, as well as your designated health exam voucher.

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Giving the One and Only Picture Book in the World

This fiscal year, a "personal intellect training picture book" will be given to children embarking upon ages 1~3, featuring the child's name and a message. Tickets for ordering the picture book will be mailed to families with eligible children. Please order using the internet once your ticket has arrived.



[Eligibility] Children born between April 2nd, 2018, and April 1st, 2021

[Order Deadline] 5 PM on Monday, March 7th, 2022

[Ticket Issuance] Tickets for ordering the picture book will be mailed out from August, to January of 2022, according to the month of birth. Those for whom ordering through a smartphone or personal computer is difficult, are asked to please make an inquiry.

[Ordering Procedures]

- ① The ticket for ordering the picture book is mailed.
- ② Access the order site through the code or URL provided on the ticket.
- ③ Enter the login ID and password found on the ticket.
- ④ The order is completed after entering the information necessary for the picture book.
- ⑤ It will arrive at your home in approximately 2 ~ 3 weeks.



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Home Altars

August is the month of *Obon*, a time when many Japanese people visit their ancestral graves. I have been to the graves of my paternal and maternal grandparents only once apiece; and even then, only on the day of a funeral. In Western culture, not visiting a gravesite since the funeral is neither uncommon nor particularly disrespectful. Rather, it seems to me that in Japan, family members continue to be held near and dear even after death; and so *butsudan* Buddhist altars play an important role in the home.

As a foreigner, looking at the *butsudan* inside a Japanese home is a moving experience, for it makes apparent how deeply the roots of the family have run through this land for countless generations. Yet the *butsudan* that has moved me most was, in fact, not even a true *butsudan*; it was the home altar of a Japanese Catholic family. The outer appearance was unremarkable, and identical to that of most Buddhist *butsudan*; but when the doors were opened, it revealed a crucifix, a stature of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and black-and-white photographs of the family's *kimono*-clad Catholic ancestors. As the ubiquitous Buddhist *butsudan* of Japanese homes make a family's deep roots visible, so did the sight of the Catholic home altar

make the oft-hidden Christian history of Japan come alive. A near-seamless incorporation of Christian beliefs into Japanese culture has resulted in these cabinet-like home altars, an implement particular to Japanese Christianity that I doubt can be found anywhere else in the world.

"If I were to raise a family in Japan, we would eventually need a home altar," I found myself thinking; and not long after moving to Date City, an unneeded one showed up at the back of my church. I offered to give it a home, and by a strange coincidence took possession of it on the birthday of my late paternal grandfather. I immediately placed his photograph inside, thinking about how he had initially objected to my plans to come to Japan. After having lived in Japan for four years, I visited him in his nursing home while on a trip back to the States. From his wheelchair, he gripped my hand. "Keep it going," he said. Those were his last words to me. When I see his photograph in my home altar, I remember how he and my other deceased relatives are still supporting me; and with their encouragement I can "keep it going" here in Japan, despite the daily plethora of challenges. On this occasion of *Obon*, let's give thanks to our family who support us and cheer us on, no matter where they are now.