

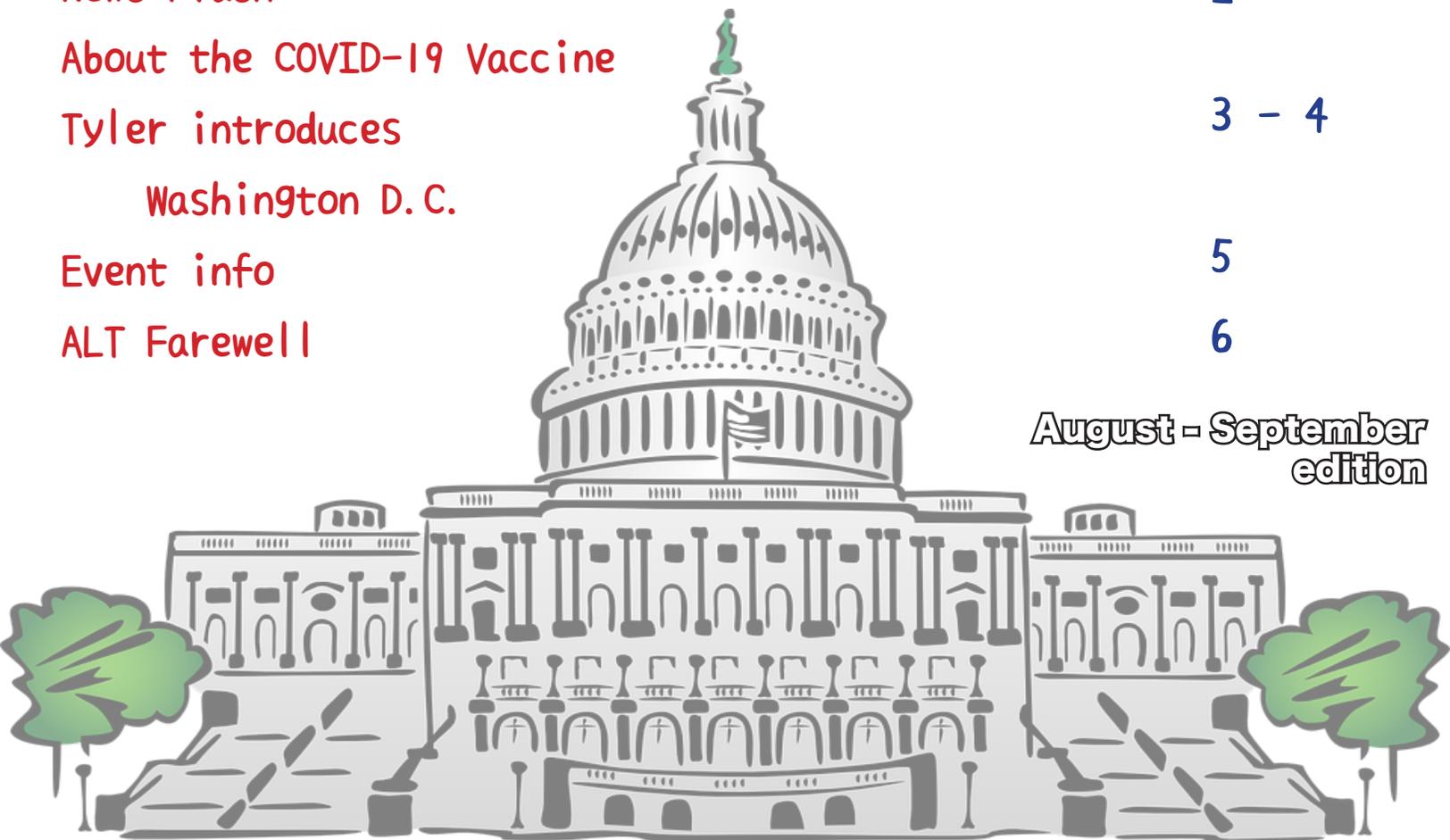
# S I F A



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August - September  
edition



# NEWS FLASH

## Speech Contest

On Saturday, May 29th, I (Daniel) joined the '62nd annual Japanese-language Speech Contest for non-Japanese'.

Two of my friends and I trekked to northeast Kyushu by car and ferry. The eleven other participants hailed from Bolivia, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Rwanda, South Africa (and two others were Americans). It was a privilege to get together with this remarkable group to hear about their experiences and perspectives. I'm confident and satisfied that I also gave a good speech.

You can see my speech online SIFA website blog; it's also on Youtube. Practice your Japanese and give the other speeches a listen, too!



## Online Foreign-Language Chat

On Friday, June 18th, we held the first SIFA members-only Zoom chat. We had a great one-on-one discussion in English. This is available in Japanese as well with our Japanese staff.

Signups are ongoing, so feel free to email us and give it a try out a chat in your language of choice on a weekday (9am ~ 5pm).

## Talk at the Hydrangea Club

On Tuesday, July 13th, I (Daniel) gave a presentation at Nakazone community center to the Ajisai (Hydrangea) club. I tried to improve on my talk here two years ago, and talked about my hometown, world food cultures, and American World Heritage sites, as well as reprising my speech from May. I also brought in a few American rolling pins, which are much larger than Japanese ones. Thanks for the invitation, Ajisai club!



## English Café ②

On Sunday, July 18th, we held English Café ② on the second floor of the Citizens' Exchange Building ("lunchbox"). It was our first student-only café in two years, and we had seven JHS students, two high-schoolers and three non-Japanese discussion leaders. Everyone did their best talking for ninety minutes.

Thanks very much to Andrew and Jason. Students, we hope to see you again!

## About the COVID-19 vaccine

Vouchers for the COVID-19 vaccine are being mailed to city residents in August.

You must present your Vaccine Voucher to get vaccinated. Take care not to lose it.

Vaccination appointments are not available yet. If you've been told that you will be vaccinated at your workplace, please ask for details there.

The pre-Vaccination form and printed description are available in many languages at this website (English, Vietnamese, Chinese, Tagalog, Indonesian etc):

[https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/vaccine\\_tagengo.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/vaccine_tagengo.html)

The Shikokuchuo City Hall website and vaccination reservation page are available in multiple languages. A button on the top right will allow you to change the language displayed. If you need help with this or generally with making your vaccination appointment, please get in touch with us at the Community Promotion Office (3rd floor of Shikokuchuo city hall. Our contact information is at the end of this newsletter.)



# EVENT INFO

✂ In the interest of preventing the further spread of COVID-19, there may be changes to our event schedule.

✂ Please wear a mask to our events. We thank you for your cooperation in disinfecting your hands and fingers, as well.

## English Café ③

Come chat in a relaxed atmosphere. English speakers can meet locals, learn about the area, and discuss various topics.

Date: Sunday, September 12th

Time: 3pm ~ 4:30pm

Place: Citizens' Exchange Building  
( "lunchbox" )

Size: Up to twelve Japanese  
(no limit for non-Japanese)

Discussion leaders: Daniel Cruse (city CIR),  
city ALTs, other local non-Japanese

Target English level: Beginner ~ native

Fee: ¥300 (Japanese SIFA member),

¥600 (other Japanese),  
non-Japanese free

Please RSVP by September 8th



## SIFA English salon

We're bringing our English café to different parts of town. Stop by if you have the chance!

Dates: Thursday, August 26th (Kawanoe  
Fureai Center)

Wednesday, September 8th (Doi Cultural  
Center)

Time: 2:15pm ~ 2:50pm

Sign-up limit: four

Discussion leader: Daniel Cruse, city CIR

Target English level: Beginner ~ advanced (HS  
and up, SIFA members only)

Free

Sign up by Monday, August 23rd (Kawanoe,)

Friday, September 3rd (Doi)

## SIFA Book Club

For the first time in eight years, we're holding an English-language book club! This time our instructor will be Jason Lockwood. Jason majored in English literature as well as Japanese at Victoria University in New Zealand. We'll read short stories together and discuss them in a friendly atmosphere.

Dates: 9/16, 9/30, 10/14, 10/21, 11/11  
(Thursdays, five meetings)

Time: 7:30pm ~ 8:30pm

Place: Shikochu Hall, First-floor exhibition  
room (and tatami room)

Instructor: Jason Lockwood

Class size: ten

Target English level: Intermediate ~

Cost: ¥2,000 (SIFA member)

¥4,000 (general)

Sign-up deadline: Friday, September 10th



## Library storytime

Listen to English at the library. We'll sing songs, move our bodies and listen to English picture books.

Date: Sunday, August 29th

Time: 2pm ~ 3pm

Target age: 3 ~ 9

Place: Mishima library

Please sign up by Thursday, August 26th

Reader: Daniel Cruse, city CIR

Limit five families

Free

Event info



# Goodbye, Sydney



It truly has been a fantastic two years here in Shikokuchuo. Moving to this city has been one of the most exciting, challenging, and moving experiences of my life. Although the impact of COVID19 made it difficult to travel, I had the pleasure of exploring the four prefectures of Shikoku. I feel lucky to have visited so many beautiful places and tried delicious local foods. I was also able to improve my Japanese ability and enjoy new hobbies like camping and cooking. Attending Ikebana classes is also a big highlight of my time here. I am so thankful for the kind, generous people here that have supported me and made me feel like a member of the community. Shikokuchuo has become my second home. As I move on to the next part of my life, I will really miss the students and teachers at my three elementary schools, as well as the wonderful friends I've made here.

Upon returning to the US, I will be starting law school in California in order to become a lawyer. One day, I hope I can return to Japan for the long term. I will never forget the memories I have made here, and I'm looking forward to visiting again!

四国中央市で素晴らしい2年間を過ごしました。この町に引っ越してきて、刺激をうけて、色々経験と挑戦ができました。コロナのお陰で旅行はあまりできませんでしたが、四国の4県を観光できました。色々な美味しい食べ物、美しい場所をまわることができました。日本語能力も伸びて、料理やキャンプの趣味を楽しむこともできました。親切な方々が私を迎えて支えてくれて、コミュニティの一員になったと思います。私の第2のおうちはここだと思います。前に進みますが、ここでできた友達、訪問した小学校3校の教員と生徒を懐かしく思います。

アメリカに帰ったら大学院で弁護士の資格を取ります。また日本で住みたいです。この町でできた思い出を忘れることはなく、また遊びに来ることが楽しみに思います。

シドニー



Questions? Suggestions? Get in touch!

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Submissions welcome!

Send us your thoughts, life updates, artwork, or anything else. What have you been up to? What inspires you? Have an event idea or request? Let's broaden each others' horizons.