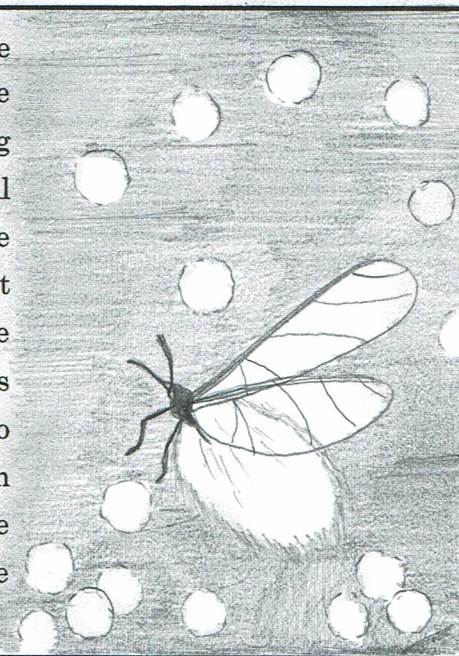
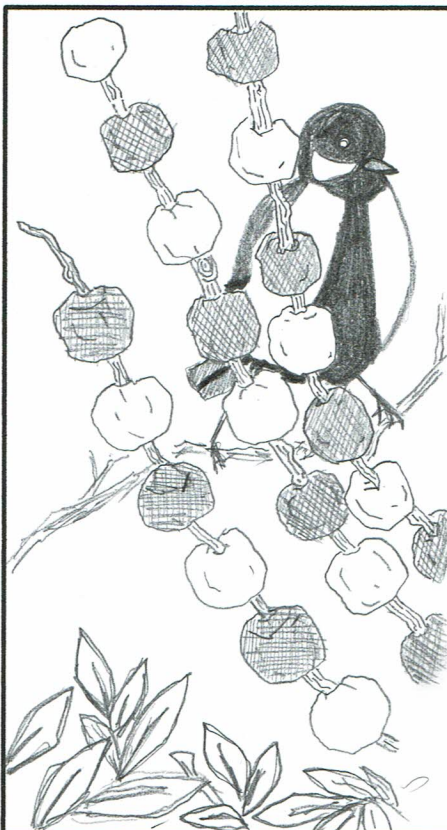


*THE ARRIVAL OF HIDA'S SNOWY SEASON* is foretold by the appearance of the "Yuki-Mushi" (Snow Bug), a kind of Aphididae with a white fluffy appearance. These can only be seen in cold areas like Hida, appearing shortly before the snow starts, only to disappear quickly once snowfall commences. Hence the apposite name of "Snow Bug". Winters in Hida may be long and harsh yet we still feel a sense of anticipation and excitement about the first snow of the season. Once the Japan Alps are fully covered, the time for winter sports has arrived. Tradition has bequeathed us special snow shoes called "Kanjiki", a wooden shoe attachment designed to prevent sinking into the snow while walking. Our snowshoe tour, complete with a modern version of Kanjiki, provides a great adventure on powder snow at 1,300 meters above sea level. Available from December 22nd, this is an opportunity not to be missed! Please ask for details at our tour desk or book online.



*MOCHI*, Japanese sticky rice cake, is a favorite winter food throughout Japan, with each region proudly producing its own special take on it. We are no exception here in Hida and would highly recommend the local "Gohei-mochi": an oval-shaped rice cake topped with a paste of miso, soy sauce and sesame, it is a wonderful sweet snack to give you an energy boost in the cold Hida winter. "Gohei-mochi" can be found at many stalls in town, but why not go one step further and create your own? We have a family-friendly cooking tour to satisfy creative urges as well as stomachs! Japanese cuisine is intended to appeal to the eyes as well as the stomach and "Hana-mochi" certainly fits the bill! Literally meaning "flower rice cake", this magical 'flower' which 'grows' only once a year was created by the locals to add a touch of brightness to a landscape painted white by the daunting winter. White and red mini rice cakes are used to create simple yet comforting New Year decorations whose two colors signify celebration in Japanese tradition. These small explosions of color are wrapped and placed on small branches set on tree stumps, normally oak, to spice up the decor in local homes.

We wish you a happy holiday and a peaceful and prosperous 2019!



*Let's make the most of your Hida trip!*