

## THE 2ND-YEAR ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

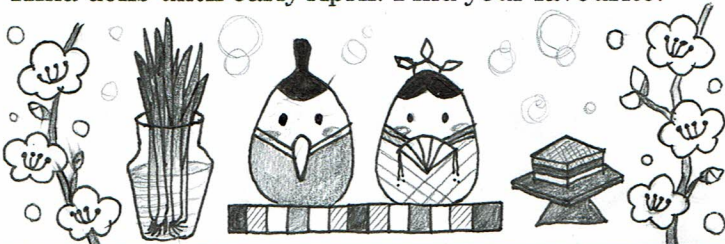
Dear readers:

This March marks our 2-year anniversary issue of The Hida Times!

This newsletter was created for you from all over the world as a way to inform you about unique local information not found in the usual travel guide books. We genuinely appreciate your kind support and will continuously strive to add meaning and value to your trip.

Best wishes, Ayaka Kawashiri & Yayoi Tanaka

**HINA-MATSURI**, the Japanese Dolls' Festival, heralds the arrival of spring! Celebrated nationally on March 3rd, the longer winter here in Hida means that the festival is delayed until April 3rd. Families blessed with daughters hope for their healthy growth and happy marriage through decorating gorgeous Hina dolls at home, accompanied by diamond-shaped mochi and peach flowers. One decoration unique to the area is "asatsuki", a thin Japanese chive, notionally used as chopsticks when the Hina dolls enjoy their ceremonial wedding meal. With the later festival date in Hida, local shops and restaurants in town display a wide variety of cute Hina dolls until early April. Find your favourite!



**PINK KINTSUBA** is a fine seasonal invention offered by the Tohoen Japanese confectionery shop. Made of sweetened beans wrapped in wheat flour dough, a local twist is added to the Kintsuba by using white azuki beans instead of the usual black, and cherry blossom leaves to suffuse the sweet with its pinkish tinge!



**SATOYAMA CYCLING TOURS** are back from March 20th! The cold winter, albeit with less snow than usual, is nearing its end and we are thrilled to welcome you to our most popular cycling tour in the beautiful local town of Hida Furukawa this bright spring! Pedaling under the gorgeous cherry blossom will be a highlight of your Japan trip for sure. Ask us for details at SATOYAMA EXPERIENCE Tour Desk.

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