

Okayama Insider

No. 236
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The third month of the 21st
year of the Heisei period.

2009

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(Yayoi)

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http://www.geocities.com/inside_okayama/

The name of this month is written with the
characters meaning "more and more life."
It was once a popular girls' name.

So long and thanks.

This is the final edition of the *Okayama Insider*.

For almost 25 years the *Okayama Insider* has been published monthly and the editors wish to thank the sponsors and volunteers who made that possible. The fundamental information that we set out to circulate is now provided by the international divisions of local and prefectural governments, while the need for hard-copy paper publications has been greatly reduced by the advent of the Internet.

We believe that the *Okayama Insider* has been a valuable resource and that many of the previous articles will continue to be useful in the future. Accordingly, we have allocated the center two pages of this edition to a reference resource that points to back issues about traveling in Okayama. Use it in conjunction with the online database that we have established and take the time to check out the list of useful links as well. http://www.geocities.com/inside_okayama/

For the final edition, we have tried to include events at as many different venues as possible, but the information in the center lift-out will still date very quickly. Normally we would print the church guide as a special lift-out but contact details for churches are unlikely to change, so we have put them on the back page. If you require the services of a mosque or a synagogue, the closest ones are in Kobe's Chuo district. (Kobe Mosque: Ph.078-231-6060, <http://www.kobemosque.org/> and Ohel Shlomo Synagogue: Ph. 078-221-7236.)

The editors and writers thank you for your readership and support. We wish you all the best for the future.



A Brief History of the Okayama Insider

When the *Okayama Insider* first began in 1984, there was very little English language information available to visitors. One of the first editions was an English language map of central Okayama. Sponsors paid for advertising space and readers paid ¥100 per copy. In 1989, the predecessor to the Okayama Prefectural International Exchange Foundation (OPIEF) took over funding, removing the need for sponsors and the ¥100 charge. Progressive funding cuts in recent years, followed by a complete withdrawal of OPIEF assistance in 2006 greatly increased the burden on the core group of volunteers. Funding from the Fukutake Education and Culture Foundation, along with printing services at the Okayama Prefectural Volunteer and NPO Activity Support Center did provide a temporary lifeline, but we have been forced to concede that publication will not be possible in the new financial year. We take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped the *Okayama Insider* make it this far.

Maruzen Bookstore Top 5 Novels, Feb 2009

Audacity of Hope	Barack Obama
Angels and Demons	Dan Brown
Yes We Can	Garen Thomas
Tales of Beedle the Bard	J.K. Rowling
Obama: From Promise to Power	David Mendell

Thank you to the staff of Maruzen for always providing this list.

Oricon's Import CD Ranking (Feb 2009)

Mamma Mia! The Movie Soundtrack	Various
Tonight	Franz Ferdinand
High School Musical (Soundtrack)	Various
For(n)ever	Hoobastank
Grammy Nominees 2009	Various