



Calligraphy Kyoto Newsletter, June 2018

Hello everyone, I hope this newsletter finds you well,

Here in Kyoto, the Spring rains are starting. This time is called “tsuyu”, 梅 (plum) 雨 (rain) because it arrives as the plum fruit ripens. The hydrangea flowers along Oike Street near the studio are flowering beautifully.

Shodo to the World News



Along with the warm weather, we are welcoming more and more overseas guests to our Calligraphy Experience. Adults and children can share Calligraphy, and we are joined by many families.

Kyoto this Month

In Japanese June is called “rokugatsu”, the 6th month. A poetic name is “minadzuki”(みなづ), the month of water. In Kanji, it is written as 水無月. If you read the Kanji, they say “month without water”. Why is the meaning opposite?! The 無 character normally means “not”. But it is used for its sound in this saying. The sound means “of”! This is a month of water because we flood the rice paddies after planting the new seedlings.



June is half way through the year. Long ago, there was an event called "Breath Out Summer Pain". We exhale half a year of pain and pray for good health for the next six months. In Kyoto we eat a Japanese sweet called Minakizuki on June 30. Red beans have the power to pay the devil.



Many beautiful flowers are blooming now, especially Irises. In the Heian Jingu garden you can enjoy thousands of flowers. In the language of flowers Irises mean Happy News. From their draped shape they suggest Elegance.

Eat minakizuki and be healed!

Aimi Chigami
新見 愛子



This Month's Tehon (copy sheet, てほん、手本)

雨

あめ

ame

rain

The rainy season here runs from June to July. It is called 梅雨 (つゆ, tsuyu, plum rain). From the old Chinese, it means the Spring rains fall as the plum fruit ripens. Strokes 5, 6, 7 and 8 are like drops of rain.



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