

A community information paper created and edited by people who live in Azabu.



Fascinated by Artistic Azabu 24

## An artistic time spent at ROPPONGI TSUTAYA BOOKS

Photographer : Marika Oba 2020

This is a seasonal winter tradition for Roppongi Hills. Beautifully illuminated ROPPONGI TSUTAYA BOOKS on Keyakizaka street. There is a popular coffee shop on the first floor. A semi-private gallery opened on the second floor of this bustling bookstore building.

“When TSUTAYA TOKYO ROPPONGI was renewed in March 2020, the store name was changed to ROPPONGI TSUTAYA BOOKS. The shop specialized in books. What is needed as a new approach. What best suits the environment of Roppongi Hills. We have spent time pondering and considering, said Mr. Hiroyuki Iizumi, the manager of the ROPPONGI TSUTAYA BOOKS gallery operation.”

“Close to Roppongi has many foreigners there are residential areas such as Akasaka, Kamiyacho, Mita, Shirokane, Hiroo and Aoyama. I thought it the bookstore is a cross-culture world, create an accessible art space for the many people who gather their.”

In the art scene, many of the galleries fall into two basic types: Galleries that rent space to artists for a every certain period in one type. The others are commercial galleries that contract with artists to exhibit and also sell their works. This gallery is one of the latter. In this gallery, we are sending out exhibition works planned mainly on contemporary art as a primary market,<sup>(\*)1</sup> so the artists latest works can be seen before purchase.

“The latest works of the artist Mr. Enrico Isamu Oyama were presented for the opening of the gallery. He does wall paintings and painting works using a special technique called Quickturn Structure.<sup>(\*)2</sup> Because it's a gallery inside

the bookstore, exhibitions a new series of works related to books. We were pleased that it has been so well received.”

At first, the works were displayed above the bookshelves. However, a much higher space was required to display the No. 100F canvas (1,620 x 1,303 mm). Therefore, we put a wall in front of a bookshelf to expand the display space.” (Photo 2 and 3)

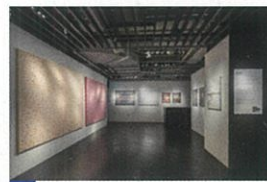
With this change, we were able to present larger works. This creates the impression that the size of the space has changed, even though we did not actually expand it. A more flexible layout became available even though the area remains only 33 m<sup>2</sup>

Recently, the solo exhibition “baanai” was held from Saturday, October 17, 2020 until Sunday, January 17, 2021. (Photo 1 and 4)

His talent was discovered by Mrs. Rei Kawakubo of COMME des GARÇONS, and he is based in Kugenuma, Fujisawa City, Kanagawa Prefecture. For this exhibition, Mr. Iizumi visited baanai's atelier in Kugenuma many times. He searches for new artists who could play an important role in the future art scene. With a broad smile he said, “I want to discover young talented people who will become the next generation of world class artists.”



1 There is an information display about the exhibition when you go up the escalator.



2 An open plan free art space



3 The concierge desk

It was 2020 when the tense days passed. Let's release the stress of a new lifestyle in this place, feelings will calm down. You will surely enjoy the peaceful, calming atmosphere.

\*:1 It's the primary market in art: The place where the work is sold for the very first time.

\*:2 Refer to the article interviewing Mr. Enrico Isamu Oyama titled Wadai no Hito, Street Has-sho no Chi de Sotaku Katudo wo Saikai: (Topic person, who develops creative works from the birthplace of street art) (Mita Hyoron, No.1249) published by Keio Gijuku in November 2020 issue. He explains about Quickturn Structure in his own words.

● Interview Support:

ROPPOINGI TSUTAYA BOOKS <https://store.tsite.jp/roppongi/>

● Reference:

Nihon Bijutsu no Shakaishi (Social history of Japanese art) written by Shinichi Segi, published by Ribun Shuppan in 2003



4 A solo exhibition titled "DOUBLE BED GALLERY" is held.





# The novel “Kasumi Hoikuen de Matte Imasu” (I am waiting for you at Kasumi Nursery School) is a story that takes place in Azabu.

An Interview with the Author of this Book, Mr. Akira Asami

From the word “Kasumi,” at first, I imagined this story would probably take place in Kasumicho in Nishi-Azabu (presently around Nishi-Azabu 1-Chome). However, as I read further, I began to realize that it's Azabu-Juban. Mr. Asami is not a nursery school teacher, so I wondered why he chose a nursery school as the central location for his story. I interviewed him to get the answer to this question.

## This Novel Takes Place in Azabu-Juban.

“Kasumi Nursery School is just like any nursery school anywhere in Azabu-Juban. Of course, the shops along the Azabu-Juban Shopping Street and the people who live there, figure prominently in this novel.”

The story is fiction, but. Are there any characters modeled after real people?

“Yes, the nursery school teachers and staff members that appear in the story are modeled after real people. Also, some of the incidents and events are based on things that actually happened.”

By the way, Mr. Asami, you are not a nursery school teacher, but the daily life of a municipal nursery school is chronicled in detail in this story. Can you talk about why you set the story in a nursery school?

“My wife was a nursery school teacher. She has worked in Minato City for about 40 years, working for 8 to 9 nursery schools in total, including a period when she was the Principal.

I worked for the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Social Welfare and Public Health. During this time, I often became involved with the operations of the Tokyo Child Guidance Office, the Group Home for Children, the Foster-parent System and the Adoption System. So, I had a great deal of knowledge and experience to draw on when writing this book.

How did writing a story around a nursery school come to you in the first place?

“The reason why I came to choose this theme, this setting, was from listening to the many interesting things my wife has had to say about it. I have always listened to her stories with great interest. She told me about how the nursery school teachers and staff members overcame a variety of difficulties, how local people cooperated with each other and supported them, and the relationships between the children and their parents. It occurred to me some time ago that I would want to create a kind of archive of this some day.”

Whenever Mr. Asami had time, he participated in events at his wife's nursery school, including sports meetings and presentations, and often had time to interact with the children directly. He also participated in local festivals held by neighborhood associations and highly valued the bonds he developed with local people. Once he decided to sit down and write about it, he managed to condense 20 years of experiences and knowledge in only a month!

## “Children are the Treasure of the Town!” — A Central Theme of the Story

There are many characters in the story, nearly 30 more or less! In the book, on two opposing pages there is a detailed list of all the staff members, the children, their guardians in the Kasumi Nursery School, the characters of the Kasumi Shopping Street and other local people. It's almost overwhelming, but necessary to really create a clear picture of how incredibly broad and deep the human relationships around the nursery school are.

This is a kind of “work novel that takes place in a nursery school” explained Mr. Asami. The story unfolds through the eyes of the main character Maiko Saeki, who is in charge of the 5-year-old children in Kasumi Nursery School. Her daily life during a year in the nursery school is described in detail, as she accumulates experiences and develops relationships with the other staff, the children, local residents and people all along the shopping street.

As these developing relationships are revealed in the novel, the characters come to understand that “Children are the Treasure of the Town.” The reader, along with the characters in the story, come to the realization that childcare is



Hinata-zaka Slope is also part of Mr. Asami's regular walking routine. This slope starts at Ninohashi bridge, and from the other side the path goes towards the Australian Embassy.



Also in the story, a portable shrine is brought to the Australian Embassy for the autumn festival. This scene is specific to the Azabu area where there are many embassies. It is often the case that children of foreign nationals attend the local nursery schools.



Kimi-chan loves children. In 2020, unfortunately, smiling at them was difficult, as we needed to wear a facemask everyday because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

being done not only by the staff members and schoolteachers in the nursery school, but also by their families and the local people. All of them together watch the children grow and thrive, along with their support. I believe that what the author Mr. Asami really wants readers to understand is this sense of passion and kindness. There are also episodes regarding local conundrums or perplexing issues that are solved in the book, like a “Neighborhood Mystery” story. I found these quite exciting as well.

On the other hand, serious problems are also ad-



※ “Kasumi Hoikuen de Matte Imasu” published by Hachigatsu Syokan (¥1,400 + tax)  
Hachigatsu Syoka website  
<http://www.hachigatsusyokan.co.jp>  
The popular illustrator, “Gemi,” drew the illustration on the front cover page. The book has been finished beautifully, exactly as Mr. Asami expected.



Just part of the huge amount of documents prepared by Mrs. Asami

ressed such as domestic abuse and escaping from domestic violence, imposters picking up children from nursery school, and absent parents for one reason or another (maybe neglect?). These are important contemporary issues, and we are encouraged to consider them deeply. The main character Maiko also has a few secrets to reveal. This book is most definitely a good read on many levels.

## Fantastically, this story takes place in Azabu-Juban, and is based on events and people in the world directly around us.

There are many shops along the Kasumi Shopping Street introduced in the story. For people who are familiar with Azabu-Juban, the actual shop names can be guessed easily! It's also easy to realize that Kasumi Shopping Street is really Azabu-Juban Shopping Street. Azabu-Juban Shopping Street is well within walking distance from Mr. and Mrs. Asami's residence, and a regular part of their favorite walks around the neighborhood. Along the Azabu-Juban Shopping Street they occasionally stop to have a drink in their favorite cozy bar, go to local restaurants or stop by local shops. This area is integral to everything in their everyday life.



The steep Torii-zaka Slope the nursery school teachers, staff members and the main character Maiko use regularly in the story. Actually, there used to be a nursery school on the left-hand side toward the top of the slope.

“My two daughters went to Minato City nursery school and elementary school, so my family and I really feel a part of Azabu-Juban.”

We can easily understand why Mr. Asami wants readers to share his empathy and the warm relationships between the local townspeople from the book.



The site of the nursery school that used to be there is now under redevelopment. Mr. Asami said that he feels nostalgic when he walks by.

In addition to everyday life in a nursery school and all the characters that swirl around it, of course the main character Maiko has a romantic life.

Mr. Asami was really moved by a comment from a reader, “This is written like a nursery school version of Bay-side Shakedown (a popular TV drama series).”

“The environment and circumstances around nursery schools have changed with the times. However, I hope readers can perceive the things that do not change, that should not change, through this book,” Mr. Asami said.

This book describes the present circumstances of nursery schools. However, the “Obi” (wrap around banner of the book) says, “When you read this book, we are sure that you will want to return to your nursery school again.” After reading this book, I realized this is exactly right. Overall you will be truly inspired by this book.

Recently, we frequently hear that we don't have enough nursery school teachers. I hope that the number of young people who want to be nursery school teachers increases as more and more people read this book.

Now that Mr. Asami's next book has been completed, we can expect a lot from the 2nd “Work Novel Series in Public Service Spot.”



In the story Mrs. Asami, the Principal of the nursery school, and her husband (nicknamed Papa-san) regularly visits a standing bar. This is located close to the Patio, an Azabu-Juban landmark. The author, Mr. Asami seems to visit this bar frequently as well.

※ “Kasumi Hoikuen de Matte Imasu” can be borrowed at Azabu Library. (Researched and written by Yukiko Takayanagi)

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Azabu – A Human Story  
Preserving Voices of Azabu  
for the Future

Writer  
Mr. Akira Asami  
(64 years old)



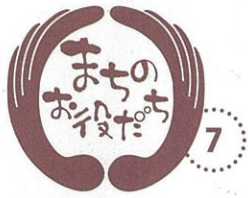
Mr. Asami was born in 1956 in Tokyo and lives in Minato City now.

He is presently continuing his writing activities at a research institute of Public Interest Incorporated Association, after working for the Tokyo Metropolitan Government etc.

Based on his experience with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Social Welfare and Public Health, he wrote about things related to the Tokyo Child Guidance Office, the Group Home for Children, the Foster-parent System and the Adoption System, in this book.

For the first issue of “Work Novel Series in Public Service Spot,” he released “Kasumi Hoikuen de Matte Imasu” in June 2020. His penname “Akira Asami” is derived from “Shining on the sea of Azabu.”





# A Walking Map prepared by the Azabu Experts

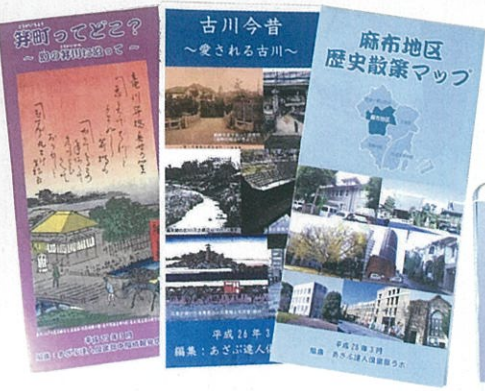
The members of the "Azabu Tatsujin Club" (Azabu Experts Club) have diligently studied the history and culture of the Azabu Area and are intimately familiar with all of its charms. Their mission is to raise awareness of all the wonderful things about Azabu. The Azabu Experts Club have been creating and updating the Azabu Walking Map for about 10 years. We would like to introduce you to them, along with comments from members who were involved in preparing it.



Full of detailed information on Azabu, written by the Azabu Experts

## The handmade map creates an inviting impression

The first map was created in 2010, and since then a map with different areas highlighted with different themes from the previous ones have been made every year. The map is distributed by places that include the Azabu Regional City Office and is accessible through their website. The map is printed on a single sheet that folds down to pocket size and is easy to carry while walking around town. It appears quite simple at first glance, and then you notice it's been carefully prepared by hand. This delightful map is full of comments for the readers. They say, "Good job!" "That's something only Azabu experts can do!" The owner of the map is left in no doubt that The Azabu Experts Club has definitely done some detailed research. The quality and quantity of information is almost overwhelming. Looking at this map, you will surely feel you are guided around by your own local wise man. For the level of information on the maps, someone might say, "this information is known to but a few" or, "They'll let you in on a little secret."



Convenient size for walking around town!

## Our aim is to draw attention to the attractions of Azabu.

There are many fascinating spots around Azabu, for example the varied terrain with its intricate tablelands and valleys, the gardens of the former Daimyo Mansions, the greenery of historical shrines and temples, the abundant spring water, and the remarkable contrast between quiet residential hills with crowded shopping streets down below. There are the old houses of celebrities, historical spots of great interest and so much more. With this incredibly useful walking map, they wanted to present both a thorough overview as well as exact directions. They not only did all the research necessary to learn everything about the attractions, but spent a lot of time out in the field as well. The walking routes are carefully chosen, and explanations for each spot are succinct and clear.

## A Town History and Archive together in a Map

The town of Azabu has changed drastically over time. Shops or offices move frequently to another buildings, and an untold number of buildings have been replaced with something new and different. Comprehensive redevelopments have transformed large areas into entirely new towns. Don't you think that this map might be rediscovered in the future as a historical artifact?

There is the notion these days that because of the Internet the latest maps for anywhere are instantly available, so there is no need for paper maps. On the other hand, more and more people are discovering the joy of tracing an area's history by comparing old maps with new ones. Many books relating to this have been published. Even



the most recent walking maps prepared by the Azabu Tatsujin Club are valuable documents that not only show us the way, but also remind us of our local history. Just because information may seem to be a bit out of date is no reason to discard it. Rather, it should properly be preserved.

## Future Plans

The "Azabu Tatsujin Club" changed its name to the "Azabu Tatsujin Labo" in April 2018, but they continue on as they have done. We can expect more wonderful walking maps well into the future.

## Table of Maps they Prepared

Maps No. 1 through No. 7 are available to the public through the website. Map No. 7 is also accessible through Google Maps.

No.	Name	Issue Year
1	Historical Sites Walking Map (Azabu-Juban, Moto-Azabu and Minami-Azabu)	March 2011
2	Historical Sites Walking Map (Roppongi and Nishi-Azabu)	March 2012
3	Historical Sites Walking Map (Azabu-Dai, Azabu Mamianacho, Azabu Nagasakacho and Higashi-Azabu)	March 2013
4	Furukawa Past and Present - Popular Furukawa	March 2014
5	Where is Kogaicho? Along the legendary Kogai river	March 2015
6	Let's Enjoy Azabu	March 2016
7	Azabu Area Historical Sites Walking Map	March 2016
8	Azabu Attractions Discovery Map: Welcome to Azabu	March 2018

Map production scene (in 2017)



(Researched and written by Ayako Yamaki)

**麻布台・麻布狸穴町・麻布永坂町・東麻布**  
**歴史散策マップ**  
Azabu-dai, Azabu Mamianacho, Azabu Nagasakacho, Higashi-Azabu Historical Sites Walking Map  
平成25年3月 編集:あざぶ達人倶楽部中核部力能部チーム

凡例  
● 散策ポイント  
○ 散策ルート  
■ 道徳線  
□ 境界線

**日本の近代化のいきがちな麻布台界隈**

■麻布台界隈は、築城された江戸時代中期や寛政、享和時代の遺構から、明治の近代化の中で建ち上った大規模な洋館や洋館、戦後には洋館が壊滅した後の再開発跡地、戦後の再開発(再建)跡地(再建)跡地)が並び、歴史的な景観の連続性が保たれている。"麻布台"という言葉が、この一帯を指すことになった。

■麻布台の歴史、文化、教育、観光、生活の面から、各団体の関係者、ファン、関係者、文化、デザイン、建築、音楽、芸術、人々の自主活動と公共の協力を促している世界の人々の歩みもまた見られる可能性がある土地です。

■江戸時代、麻布台は大名屋敷や豪商・商人の屋敷などが大半を占め、麻布の古名刺で知られる高層の町並みで知られていた。麻布台には、現在では歴史公園に指定されている「麻布台陣所跡(麻布台陣所跡跡地)」が残り、麻布台の歴史を伝える役割を果たしている。第二次世界大戦終結後は、麻布台は、現在では麻布台の公共施設や大規模な再開発が行われている。第二次世界大戦終結後は、麻布台は、現在では麻布台の公共施設や大規模な再開発が行われている。第二次世界大戦終結後は、麻布台は、現在では麻布台の公共施設や大規模な再開発が行われている。

● 稲荷神社 麻布台 3-3-22  
1797年(天明7年)に、この地に稲荷神社が建てられた。この地は、1872年(明治5年)に、麻布台に稲荷神社が建てられた。この地は、1872年(明治5年)に、麻布台に稲荷神社が建てられた。この地は、1872年(明治5年)に、麻布台に稲荷神社が建てられた。

● 永伝堂 麻布台 3-3-22  
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(Some buildings might not exist now.)

● Introducing the Azabu Tatsujin Club and their Products <https://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp/azabuchikusei/tarujin.html>





# Information from Azabu Regional City Office



Toward a Roppongi with ZERO Violations! Our Slogan is "ZERO ROPPONGI" — Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind —

Rules are important, and if everybody follows the rules, we will all have greater freedom. Our aim is for everybody to enjoy their freedom and their time as comfortably as possible in Roppongi, where many people from a variety of cultures gather.

We conduct a number of campaigns and activities with neighborhood associations, residents' associations, businesses and concerned administrative organizations, centered on the main themes of "Cleaning and Enlightenment Activities" and "Patrol for Prevention of Street Solicitation."

If you are interested in our activities, don't hesitate to contact us.

## Roppongi Safety and Peace of Mind Project Eat at home (Stay Home Project)

Take-out and food delivery information of businesses or shops that are recommending or supporting the Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind is provided.



Access here for the List of Businesses and Shops

## We are recruiting shops and businesses which want to support the Charter.

Minato City is developing the "Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind" Certification System for Recommended Businesses as part of its efforts to raise awareness about the Charter. Shops and businesses that support the Charter are constantly being recruited.

**Eligibility** Businesses, etc., that are located in, or are active mainly in, the Roppongi District (Roppongi 3-chome to 7-chome and Akasaka 9-chome, 7)

**How to apply** Fill out the required information in the Letter of Agreement and send it by post or bring it directly to the Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office. Or apply via the Minato City website below.

※ The names of the certified businesses, etc., will be posted on the Minato City website and published in community newsletters as "Recommended Businesses, etc."

Access here for Letter of Agreement Form

Minato City Website: <http://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp/>

Roppongi Charter for Safety and Peace of Mind  Search



ルール違反 ゼロの六本木へ。  
合い言葉は、ZERO ROPPONGI

Inquiries: Collaboration Project Subsection, Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office Tel: 03-5114-8802

## Introduction to the Framework of Community Development based on the Minato City Community Development Ordinance

Minato City supports area-based community development activities and promotes community developments that are based on suggestions from residents, agreed upon by the community, and solving problems in the local area.

Presently there are four community development organizations registered within the Azabu Area, as shown on the following map (as of April 1, 2020). If you are interested in their activities, contact the Community Development Subsection of the Community Development Section at the Azabu Regional City Office.

### Community Development System Procedure

#### STEP 1

Thinking about the community by all the participants

Stage of initiating voluntary community development activities

#### STEP 2

Expanding the circle of people involved in the activities

Stage of forming a "Community Development Organization" to address issues within the community

#### STEP 3

Sharing a vision of the future

Stage of sharing ideas for change with the people of the Minato City area

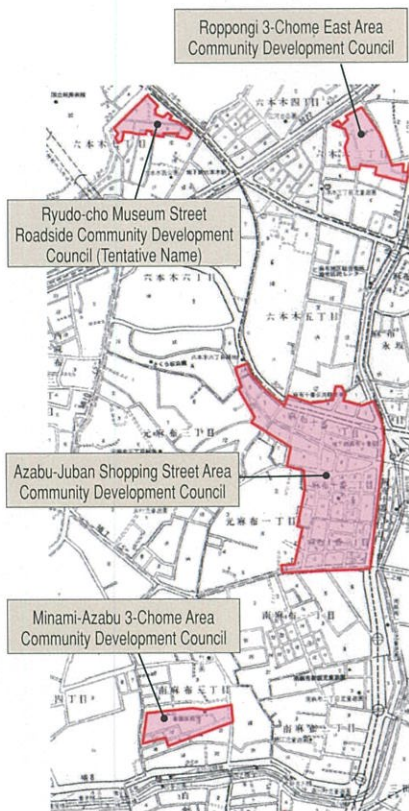
#### STEP 4

Setting rules for the community

Stage of deciding on specific community development rules

#### STEP 5

Practicing Community Development



Inquiries: Community Development Subsection, Community Development Section, Azabu Regional City Office  
Tel 03-5114-8815

## We are recruiting volunteers for the Minato City Barrier-Free Map!

The Minato City Barrier-free Map is an online map providing barrier-free facility information, etc., including public facilities, traffic facilities, parks and public restrooms, etc., for senior citizens, handicapped people and for people with toddlers, to get around safely in Minato City.

We are recruiting volunteers to investigate and research the information we need to post on the Minato City website. Participants can walk together around the area. We can find many things doing research in this way, so if you are interested, please contact us.

Main activities are as follows.

### Barrier-free Research on Roads

- Road inclines, sidewalk widths, and studded paving blocks used by the visually challenged are checked about 10 times a year.

### Information Sharing Meetings

- Recommended walking courses for everybody to enjoy are posted in detail on the website.

### Information Sharing Meetings

- Discussions about research operations and recommended courses, etc., are held about five times a year.



Inquiries: Volunteer and Community Support Dept., Minato Council of Social Welfare Tel: 03-6230-0284

Going shopping?  
Visit our local shopping streets.

Please send us your comments or requests regarding  
**The Azabu**



Please send your application with your address, name, occupation (school name), telephone number, and the reason why you are interested (in Japanese or English, format and number of letters have not limit), and deliver directly, mail, or fax to the following:  
Community Policy Subsection Collaboration Project Section, Azabu Regional City Office, 5-16-45, Roppongi, Minato City, Tokyo (106-8515).  
● Tel: 03-5114-8812 ● Fax: 03-3583-3782

We are looking for  
**Editorial Staff**

You can also access this newsletter from the Minato City website.



## AZABU

● Locations of the Newsletter: Roppongi 1-chome, Roppongi, Hiroo, Azabujuban and Akabane-bashi subway stations, The Chii Bus, Minato Library, Azabu Library, Minami-azabu Iki-Iki Plaza, Nishi-azabu Iki-Iki Plaza, Iigura Iki-Iki Plaza, Azabu Civic Center, Azabu Regional City Office, etc.  
● Usage of articles, illustrations, and photographs from this newsletter is prohibited.

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- |                   |                  |
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### Editor's Note

The illumination on Keyakizaka-dori has been left on display up to Valentine's Day for every years. In 2020 the lighting period is until Christmas with the changes of the New Normal era. It's not as real, you can enjoy the glow of the numerous decorative lamps on the cover of No. 53.  
(Date of coverage: November 15, 2020)

(Marika Oba)

The original article is written in Japanese.

### "Minato Call" information service.

Minato call is a city information service about services provided by City Hall, facility guide, event information, etc., available from 8:00am to 8:00pm everyday.  
※ English speakers are also available.

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