

January 1st 人日

January 1st, people in Japan eat porridge with seven herbs. The porridge is called "Nanakusa-gayu".

However, the Nanakusa-gayu day is held according to the lunar calendar, so it is still winter. The seven herbs grow in spring, so there is gap between the 人日(eating Nanakusa gayu day) and solar calendar.



若菜きんとん

March 3rd Hinamatsuri(Doll festival)

Hinamatsuri is a day to pray for the health and happiness of young girls. Hinamatsuri is also called "Momo no Sekku" which means peach blossom festival. However, there is gap between the solar calendar and the luna calendar, so we cannot see peach blossoms around March 3rd.



ひっちぎり

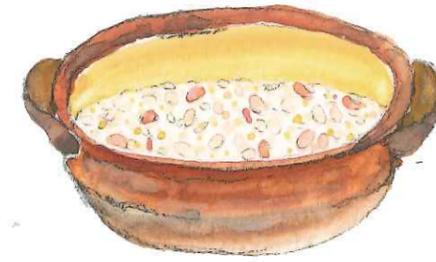
May 5th Boy's festival

Boy's festival is a day to pray for health and happiness for young boys. While the Girl's Festival is known as Momo no seku the Boy's Festival is called "Tango no seku".



ちまき

人日 七種粥



七種とかいて「ななくさ」
古くは七種類の穀物の粥だった

上巳 蛤しんじよ



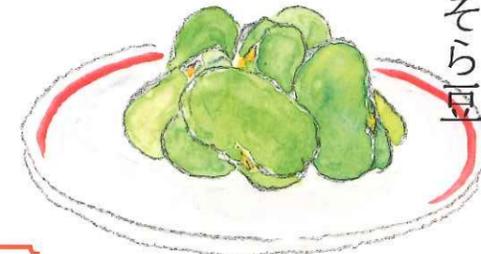
旧暦 弥生の蛤は
身がぷっくりして美味しい

七夕 炊合せ



切ればオクラは
七夕の星

端午 そら豆



こいのぼり
晴れても降、こも
豆はそら

重陽 菊和え



もってのほか美味なる
菊花ゆえの名
別名 延命菜

Japan has some events every season. However, the events are held by using the lunar calendar, so it cause gap between old calendar and solar calendar. This topic will show you that why Japan still use the lunar calendar when events are held.

文・絵 瞳堂酒人 (こよみ屋)

The gap between Old calendar and Solar calendar

腑におちること

We live with a gap because of the solar calendar

Because of the calendar revision in Meiji era, Japan has been using the solar calendar since Meiji era.

Before the calendar revision, people lived along with the balance of the sun and the moon. This balance has been lost since we adopted the solar calendar system. In addition to that, we made a gap between the solar calendar and the lunar calendar, so the events that are held according to the lunar calendar do not fit with the solar calendar.



月見団子

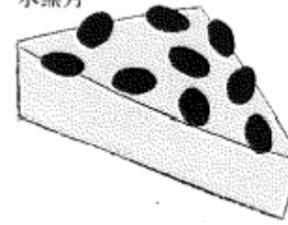
The relationship between moon and mankind

The phases of the moon cause the tides. Therefore, the people who have a relationship with the sea can guess the shape of the moon by seeing the sea.

Mankind is made up 70% of water, in addition, the component of the water is almost the same as the sea. Therefore, we are also influenced by the phases of the moon.

We have to reconsider the merit of the lunar calendar.

水無月



July 7th Tanabata(The Star Festival)

Tanabata is an event that originated from the legend of two stars called Ori-hime and Hiko-boshi. It is held on July 7th every year. On this day, many people pray for good weather on July 7th, because if it rains, Orihime and Hikoboshi will not be able to meet up due to the rising water levels of Ama-no-gawa.

However, on the solar calendar, it is the rainy season at this time of year, so it is difficult for Orihime and Hikoboshi to meet together. On the lunar calendar, the season is not a rainy season, so we can celebrate the reunion of Orihime and Hikoboshi.

Tanabata has also a gap between the solar calendar and lunar calendar.

September 9th Choyo(The Chrysanthemum Festival)

September 9th is known as the Choyo Festival or the Chrysanthemum Festival.

The Imperial Court used to hold a banquet for chrysanthemum viewing on the day of the Chrysanthemum (Choyo) Festival. Today, chrysanthemum doll exhibitions and chrysanthemum flower shows take place in many places throughout Japan around September 9th.

However, on the solar calendar, the climate is so hot and it is difficult to see chrysanthemum at this time of every year.

The problem that we cannot see chrysanthemum even on September 9th is that the chrysanthemum festival is also caused by the gap between the solar calendar and lunar calendar.



着綿

瞳堂酒人ひとみどうしゅじん
こよみ屋。イラストレーター。同志社大学法学部卒。裏千家茶道を学ぶ。東京・青山にて、旧暦のこよみを製作、販売。月のめぐりを伝える「月のはなし」を各地で催す。
※文中では、新暦は算用数字、旧暦は漢数字と区別しています。