

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5



December 2015

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

October 17

Wooden buildings of former "Abashiri Prison," including a panopticon (circular prison) and the surrounding farmhouses are going to be designated as important cultural assets. Abashiri Prison is the only prison building in Japan made out of wood. "Abashiri Prison Preservation Foundation" has been running the buildings as museum, which has attracted 209 thousands tourists, since 1983.

October 29

The spa hotels and inns in Hokkaido are worried about whether or not to let tourists with tattoos into their baths. Most hotels and inns turn away customers with tattoos in order not to intimidate other customers. This is because almost all tattooed Japanese people are considered to be mafia members. But some of hotels and inns allow tattooed tourists from abroad to take the bath if they put a sticker or something over their tattoo.

October 29

Organizers of the "Sapporo White Illumination," a popular tourist attraction in winter along with the "Snow Festival," have decided to hold the event from November 20 to March 14 (White day), in "Minami 1-jo-dori" this winter. In "Ohdori Square" site, they will expand the event site, adding "Ohdori Nishi 4-chome" and "Ohdori Nishi 5-chome" squares to "Ohdori Nishi 1-chome, 2-chome and 3-chome" squares. The organizers plan to change the illuminations completely as well.

November 6

JR Hokkaido disclosed ten lines whose operating costs to have left them more in the red than any other lines in 2014. For example, in northern Hokkaido, the Rumoi Line between Rumoi and Mashike needed 4,161 yen to have 100 yen revenue. The cost of the Nemuro Line between Furano and Shintoku was 1,430 yen. The railway company revealed the ranking with intentions to reduce or stop train operation in those lines in the future.

November 18

"Drugstore Tsuruha" announced to build its first commercial complex close to JR Asahikawa Station on November 17. According to its plan, "Tsuruha" will set up the store with "Dohoku Bus" ticket office on the first floor, some clothing and sundries goods on the second and third floors, and a hotel on the other floors in the 11-story building.



For further information or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (SASAKI Mai, Jacob WERSCHHEY, or SAITO Emmy)

Location:

International/City Affairs Division, Comprehensive Policy Dept.

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Asahikawa International Center
Feeeal Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8 - chome, Asahikawa 070-0031

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

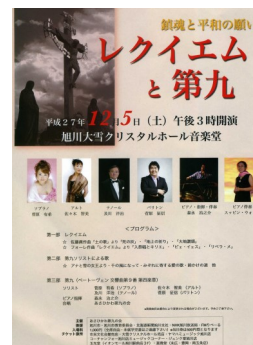
The Ninth Asahikawa 70 Year Post War Memorial Concert

あさひかわ第九の会 戦後70年メモリアル・コンサート

Program includes:

Introitus et Kyrie, Pie Jesu, and Libera Me from Gabriel Fauré's Requiem as well as the works of Japanese composer SATO Shin.

Songs from frozen, "Do not stand at my grave and weep," "Mizore ni yosuru aino uta," Beethoven's Ninth symphony.

Date: December 5th (Saturday)**Time:** Show 3:00pm**Venue:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Concert Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)**Admission:** ¥1000. ¥500 surcharge the day of.**Ticket Office:** Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Civic Hall, Coach and Four (Music corner), Gyokkodo (3F Aeon Mall). Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Junkudo Book Store, Fukido

2015 YOSAKOI Soran Kamikawa Cental Division - Kamidon festival

2015 YOSAKOI ソーラン上川中央支部大会 - かみどん祭

A truly epic event. 34 Teams from all over Hokkaido –including the Asahikawa based “Hanayoi”- will be performing back to back in two 4 hour shows. Teams will be performing Yakoi - a lively dance style originating in Kochi Prefecture that uses “Naruko” -small clappers.

Date: December 6th (Sunday)**Time:** First showing: Doors 10:00am, Show 10:30am~2:30pm

Second showing: Doors 3:00pm, Show 3:30pm~7:30pm

Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Big Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)**Admission:** All Tickets ¥1,000**Ticket Office:** Liner Kikaku (12-jo 7-chome), Downtown Exchange Center (2F of Asahikawa Food Terrace, 5-jo 7-chome)**For further information contact:** 090-2817-3742 <http://www.suzyaku.com/kamidon/>

Downtown Culture Club Shigeyama “Kyogen” Performance

まちなかぶんか小屋 大蔵流 茂山家狂言会

What is *Kyogen*? Written 狂言- “crazy speech,” was performed in between *Noh* theatre. Although it may share some characteristics with *Noh*, *Kyogen* has more exaggerated movements and speech, making it a more comical form of entertainment.**Date:** November 7th (Monday)**Time:** Doors 6:30pm, Show 6:30pm**Venue:** Asahikawa Public Hall, (inside Tokiwa Park)**Admission:** Reserved Seats ¥3000 (¥2700 for Members)

Unreserved Seats ¥2000 (¥1800 for Members)

Unreserved Seats ¥500 for high school students and below.

Ticket Office: Downtown Culture Club, Asahikawa Theatre, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Junkudo Book Store, Fukido Kids**For further information contact and reservations:** 0166-23-2801E-mail: Bunkagoya@sky.plala.or.jp Homepage: <http://www.bunkagoya.jp>

Vol. 13 OTONOWA CONCERT

Vol. 13 音の輪コンサート

Asahikawa classical music players - OTONOWA (circle of sound) is a Hokkaido wide musical group based in Asahikawa. They have played a concert every year since 1994 and it is that time of year again. This time they appear to have collected an arrangement of famous figure skating songs.

Date: December 13th (Sunday)

Time: Doors 2:30pm, Show 3:00pm

Venue: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Concert Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)

Admission: General ¥2,000 High school and under ¥1000

¥500 surcharge for purchasing the day of

Ticket Office: Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Gyokkodo (3F Aeon Mall), Kawai Music Shop (3-jo 7-chome Okuno 7F)



The Christmas GOSPEL Crystal of Joy LIVE 2015

2015 Crystal of Joy ライブ ザ・クリスマス・ゴスペル

Crystal of Joy is a gospel choir that performs at many of the churches based in Asahikawa. In December they are taking a larger venue for the Christmas season.

Date: December 23rd (Wednesday - Holiday)

Time: Doors 1:00pm, Show 1:30pm

Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Big Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)

Admission: High school and up ¥1,000 Junior high school and under ¥500

¥500 surcharge for purchasing the day of

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Yamaha Music Store, Lawson Ticket (L- Code:15669)

For further information contact: 080-4159-5341 E-mail: crystalofjoy@gmail.com

Home page www.gospel-coj.com



Handle's Oratorio - Messiah Christmas Concert

バンデル作曲オラトリオ メサイア クリスマス公演

Brought to you by Asahikawa's very own Oratorio Chorus, Orchestra, and opera singers with English conductor Neil Andrew Sharpe at the head.

Date: December 23rd (Wednesday - Holiday)

Time: Doors 1:30pm, Show 2:00pm to 4:30pm

Venue: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Concert Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)

Admission: All tickets ¥1,000

Ticket Office: Coach and Four (Music corner), Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Yamaha Music Store

Tickets & further information contact: 0166-69-2000 (Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall)



Etsuko SUGAI Clarinet Recital

須貝悦子クラリネットリサイタル

Come see two very talented musicians. The line up includes 6 songs starting with Camille Saint-Saëns' "Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso" and ends with Carl M. Weber's "Grand Duo Concertant."

Date: December 25th (Friday - Christmas)

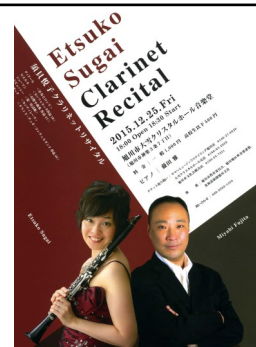
Time: Doors: 6:00pm Show: 6:30pm

Venue: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Concert Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)

Admission: General ¥1000, High School and under ¥500

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Yamaha Music Store

For further information contact: 090-9369-1289



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR DECEMBER

ASAHIKAWA Info



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Joel Kozera

Hometown: Portland Oregon, United States

Interviewed: November 17th, By AIC

AIC: *Alright Joel, Where are you from?*

Joel: My home town is Portland, Oregon in the United States. Portland is actually Sapporo's sister city!

AIC: *How does living in Portland compare to living in Asahikawa?*

Joel: The fall weather and the people of Asahikawa are just like the people of Portland. Everyone here is very kind and friendly. The biggest difference from Portland and Asahikawa is I am still getting used to not having so many different kinds of beer and coffee as Portland is famous for both.

AIC: *How long have you been in Asahikawa?*

Joel: I have been in Asahikawa for about four months so far. I am enjoying my time here so I hope that I can stay for many years. I enjoy teaching so I plan to teach for a long time.

AIC: *Is this your first time outside the States?*

Joel: This is my 6th time outside of America. I have been to Japan twice before, Mexico once and to Canada several times. If I can, I want to travel more. I am always excited to learn about new cultures, make new friends and meet people from around the world.

AIC: *So when you say that you've been to Japan twice, did you work, travel, or study abroad?*

Joel: I studied Japanese in Jr. College and did a study abroad in Kyoto about 4 years ago for 6 weeks. I really enjoyed my time in Kyoto so I decided to get a degree in teaching and language and come back to Japan.



Hello Asahikawa!

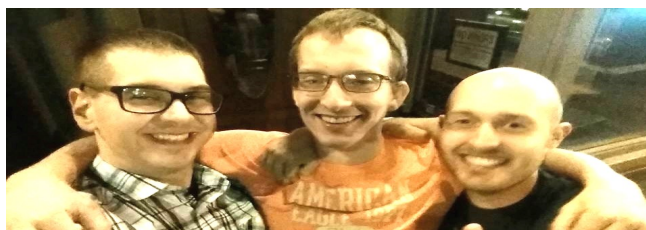
Nate Interview (Part 2)
Continued from Page 4

AIC: *Oh wow. So being abroad kind of changed your life in a way. You must have had a great time abroad to do something like that.*

Joel: Japanese culture interested me. I want to learn and understand more about the Japanese way of life. I have been to many cities throughout Kyushu during my short study abroad, but this is my first time in Hokkaido.

AIC: *I've been dying to go to Kyushu. What do you do for fun?*

Joel: I enjoy going hiking, riding my bicycle, video games, shopping, traveling, studying Japanese, cooking and drinking coffee and beer. Though the winter is coming, during the spring and summer months I enjoy riding my bicycle every day that the sun is shining. During the winter months I will often be studying, cooking, watching movies and other fun stuff while keeping warm.



AIC: *Any goals while you're in Japan?*

Joel: My goals are to build a good career for myself, learn a lot of Japanese and make many great friends. Each week is a new chance to talk to new people and I hope to keep having a ton of fun experiences!

AIC: *Will you be taking the JLPT?*

Joel: I am not sure when I will take the JLPT yet, I may wait a while since I do need to study Japanese a lot more before I am ready for a formal test.

AIC: *Sounds like a plan. You think you'll get into any of the winter sports while you're up here? That's something I'm looking forward to.*

Joel: I may try some winter sports such as cross country skiing but I tend to injure myself when I attempt anything extreme, so I may stick to simple stuff.

AIC: *That about wraps it up. Thanks for letting me interview you!*

Joel: No problem! I am happy to answer any questions.

Life in Asahikawa

Homecoming By Satoshi SAKURABA

In December, many people plan to return home at the end of the year. I live in Obihiro (帯広市), and I also plan to return to the home where I grew up which is in Asahikawa. There are two methods to go to Asahikawa from Obihiro. One of the ways is taking a train. However, there are only a few services between Asahikawa and Obihiro. It is quite inconvenient and so I have decided to go back to Asahikawa by car.

There are two routes between Asahikawa and Obihiro. The first route is going through the Mikuni mountain pass (三国峠) and Sounkyo (層雲峡). The another one is going through the Karikachi mountain pass (狩勝峠) and Furano (富良野). These two routes are close to the same distance, so we can choose the route based on the destination. For example, where I grew up is in the vicinity of Takasu Town (鷹栖町), so the former route is suitable when I only think about the distance. But it will be hard to drive the Mikuni mountain pass in winter.

When I return home, I also think about souvenirs. As you may know, there are many famous confectioneries in Obihiro. I always buy something sweet as a souvenir. However, many of these sweets are available in Asahikawa these days, so choosing souvenirs has left me distressed.

Making the time to visit my hometown gives me the mental space to think about anything in a relaxed way. I'm looking forward to returning to Asahikawa at the end of this year.

★ Movies ~ December ★

*The 1st day of every month is "Movie Day" in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is ¥1,100 for Adults, ¥800 for High School Students and Under at all theaters.

*<Aeon Cinema Only> Every Monday is "Happy Monday." Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for all.

★ **Aeon Cinema:** Miyashita-dori 7-chome / ☎ 74 - 6411
URL: cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa (Japanese)

Now Showing

- Spectres (English)
- Woman in Gold (English)
- The Little Prince (English/Animation)
- Gekijorei (Japanese)
- The Man from U.N.C.L.E. (English)
- Last Knights (English)
- Gekijorei (Japanese)
- Terminal (Japanese)
- MOZU the Movie (Japanese/PG12)
- Grasshopper (Japanese/PG12)
- Everest(English)
- Senpai to Kanojo (Japanese)
- Oremonogatari (Japanese)
- Pan (English)
- Galaxy Kaido (Japanese)
- Bakuman (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Peanuts (English/Animation) 12/4
- Spectre (English) 12/4
- Kainan1890 (Japanese) 12/5
- Orange (Japanese) 12/12
- Star Wars: The Force Awakens (English) 12/18
- Yokai-Watch the Movie (Japanese/Animation) 12/19
- Chibimarukochan (Japanese/Animation) 12/23

★ *Movies ~ December* ★

*<Cineplex 7 Asahikawa and Dinos Cinemas Only> Every Wednesday is “Ladies’ Day.” Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for women at all theaters.

*<Dinos Cinemas Only> Every Thursday is “Men’s Day.” Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for men.

★ **Cineplex 7 Asahikawa:** Nagayama 12-jo 3-chome Western Powers Nagayama / ☎ 49 – 1000
 URL: <http://www.kadokawa-cineplex.co.jp/asahikawa/> (Japanese)
Directions: Take Dohoku Bus No. 66, 72 or 665 at Bus stop No. 18 in front of Feeeal Asahikawa Department Store (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nagayama 10 (ju)-jo 3 (san)-chome.”

Now Showing

- The Man from U.N.C.L.E. (English)
- The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2 (English)
- The Little Prince (English/Animation)
- Everest (English)
- Grasshopper (Japanese/PG12)
- Terminal (Japanese)
- Penguins of Madagascar (English/Animation)
- Pan (English)
- Oremonogatari (Japanese)
- Galaxy Kaido (Japanese)
- Princess Precure the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Bakuman (Japanese)
- Toshokan Senso: The Last Mission (Japanese)
- MOZU the Movie (Japanese/PG12)

Coming Soon

- Peanuts (English/Animation) 12/4
- Spectre (English) 12/4
- Kainan1890 (Japanese) 12/5
- Sugihara Chiune (Japanese) 12/5
- Haha to Kuraseba (Japanese) 12/12
- Orange (Japanese) 12/12
- Kamen Rider the Movie Ghost&Drive (Japanese) 12/12
- Star Wars: The Force Awakens (English) 12/18
- Yokai-Watch the Movie (Japanese/Animation) 12/19
- Bridge of Spies (English) 1/8
- Jinsei no Yakusoku (Japanese) 1/9

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / ☎ 21 – 1218

URL: http://www.geodinos.jp/cinema/asa_schedule.php?StoreID=5 (Japanese)

Directions: Take Dohoku Bus No. 61, 62, 67 or 667 at Bus stop No. 18 in front of Feeeal Asahikawa Department Store (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nippon Seishi mae.”

Now Showing

- The Little Prince (English/Animation)
- GIRLS and PANZER (Japanese/Animation)
- The Man from U.N.C.L.E. (English)
- MOZU the Movie (Japanese/PG12)
- Gekijorei (Japanese)
- Grasshopper (Japanese/PG12)
- Terminal (Japanese)
- Pan (English)
- Oremonogatari (Japanese)
- Galaxy Kaido (Japanese)
- Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials (English)
- Bakuman (Japanese)
- Pitch Perfect 2 (English) ~until 12/3
- Kishibe no Tabi (Japanese) ~until 12/11
- Survivor (English) ~until 12/11

Coming Soon

- Peanuts (English/Animation) 12/4
- Spectre (English) 12/4
- Kainan1890 (Japanese) 12/5
- Sugihara Chiune (Japanese) 12/5
- Haha to Kuraseba (Japanese) 12/12
- Orange (Japanese) 12/12
- Kamen Rider the Movie Ghost&Drive (Japanese) 12/12
- Star Wars: The Force Awakens (English) 12/18
- Yokai-Watch the Movie (Japanese/Animation) 12/19
- Creed (English) 12/23
- Bridge of Spies (English) 1/8
- Les Saisons (English) 1/23

Movie schedules change often. Please call the theater for confirmation and details.

Protestant Churches

6-jo Church (6-jo-dori 10-chome)
 Seventh-Day Adventist Church (27-15-22 8-jo-dori)
 Toyooka Church (6-jo-dori 25-chome)
 Seiko Church (Shunko 6-jo 1-chome)
 St. Mark's Church (2-jo Nishi 3-chome)
 St. Paul's Lutheran Church (7-jo-dori 8-chome)
 Asahikawa Church Kawabata (1-jo 10-chome)
 Asahikawa Baptist Church (8-jo Nishi 1-chome)
 Toko Baptist Church (Toko 11-jo 3-chome)
 Nazarene Church (Kawabata 1-jo 4-chome)
 Holiness Church (Toyooka 12-jo 6-chome)
 Eiko Church (Kagura 4-jo 11-chome)
 Kamui Assembly Church (Kamui 4-jo 13-chome)
 Zion Church (Toko 3-jo 7-chome)
 Mennonite Church (Suehiro 4-jo 2-chome)
 Megumi Christ Church (Toyooka 12-jo 10-chome)
 Nagayama Evangelical (Nagayama 6-jo 21-chome)
 Midorigaoka Evangelical (Nishi Kagura 2-sen 4-go)
 Christ Evangelical Church (Toyooka 12-jo 10-chome)
 Yo no Hikari (Nagayama 4-jo 21-chome)
 Shin'ai Christ Church (Akitsuki 1-jo 1-chome)
 Tojo Christ Church (Omachi 1-jo 10-chome)
 Chuwa Bible Baptist Church (Chuwa 4-jo 1-chome)

Holiday Church and Temple Listing**Catholic Churches**

5-jo Church (5-jo-dori 11-chome)
 Suehiro Church (Suehiro 2-jo 3-chome)
 6-jo Church (6-jo-dori 22-chome)
 Omachi Church (Omachi 1-jo 10-chome)
 Kamui Church (Kamui 4-jo 9-chome)

Temples

Keijoji 慶誠寺 (Toyooka 5-jo 4-chome)
Kinkokuji 錦谷寺 (Omachi 1-jo 5-chome)
Daikyujji 大休寺 (5-jo-dori 5-chome)
Myohoji 妙法寺 (6-jo-dori 19-chome)
Daihoji 大宝寺 (Higashi Asahikawa, Kita 1-jo 7-chome)
Kyokuzanji 旭山寺 (Higashi Asahikawa, Kuranuma 44)



Interesting activities, such as quizzes, discussions, songs, games, handcrafts and many more, all in English! Come meet new people, relax, and relate on Fun Fridays!

Dates: December 11th&25th, January 8th&22nd, February 12th&26th

*Fun Fridays are held only on the 2nd Friday of every month for the evening session (2 hours)

Time: 1:00-2:00pm & 6:30-8:30pm

Location: Asahikawa International Center, Common Meeting Room (1)
 (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome)

Charge: ¥1,500 for 3 months (Free for volunteer leaders)

The AIC offers many services to make your life in Asahikawa more enjoyable. Here are just a few:

Volunteer Guide: Volunteers are registered to help translate and interpret.

Event Volunteer: The AIC plans many exciting events throughout the year, such as Friendship Parties.
 Why not become a volunteer and help plan these events?

Homestay: Families are registered to welcome you into their homes for an overnight stay or just for an afternoon visit.

For further information or to register, please contact AIC.



The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has free wifi available for public use free of charge. Registration for a user card is needed, if you are residing in Asahikawa. Please feel free to come by anytime, as well as check out some of the other services and activities available at the Asahikawa International Center .

Spread the Word...

Contribute to the AIC newsletter and share any interesting information you may have with other readers. You may write on any topic including, items to buy or sell, offers for culture/language exchanges, or write an essay about your life in Asahikawa or your hometown. The article should not be profit related! Please send your submissions to us at the AIC.



Asahikawa International Committee

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****The opinions expressed in the essays are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Asahikawa International Committee or the City of Asahikawa.****