

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5



November 2015

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

September 23

Akio HOSOKAWA, a 73-year-old money collector in Oketo near Kitami City, opens his "Money Museum" again on September 16 since its remodeling last June. He expanded his museum to 130 square meters. Clan notes that feudal lords in the Edo period issued, as well as military currencies that the Japanese Imperial Army circulated in occupied areas are displayed. The museum also has a reproduction of an exchange counter from the Edo period.

September 26

"Shime Parfait," a parfait that people have when wrapping up a night of bar-hopping, is becoming more and more popular among people in Sapporo. A 26-year-old female office worker said, "I always have parfait at the end of the day when going out for dinner and drinks" at a café. The manager of the café said, "The number of customers ordering parfaits has doubled in the last ten years, and a majority of customers, including men have parfaits after 9:00pm." It has been the custom for people in Hokkaido to have ramen or soba noodles when they wrap up a night of bar-hopping.

October 8

The City of Fukagawa puts a piece of land on sale for just 980 yen as long as the person buying the land builds his or her house and registers their family as citizens in the city within one and half a years. The city intends to attract more people to Fukagawa to prevent depopulation by providing inexpensive land for housing. Fukagawa plans to sell nine pieces of land: two close to an expressway interchange, and seven next to JR Inou Station. Each piece of land is 330 square meters and is worth around one million yen in terms of evaluation in fixed property tax.

October 10

Minoru NAGAHARA, a founder of "CONDE HOUSE," a high-end furniture manufacturer in Asahikawa, has passed away. Mr. Nagahara made a contribution to a brand of "Asahikawa Furniture," known for its design as well as being made of quality wood from Hokkaido. He studied how to design and make furniture in his late 20's in Germany, set up the furniture manufacturer, and helped develop the furniture making industry in and around Asahikawa.

October 11

A brown bear weighing about 400 kilograms was shot by two hunters in a corn field in Mombetsu City. One of the hunters said that bears in Hokkaido usually weigh less than 300 kilograms, so he had never seen such a surprisingly heavy bear. Professor Tsubota, specializing in wildlife study at Hokkaido University, explained that the bear gained such weight by eating a lot of nutritious corn in preparation for hibernation.



**ASAHIKAWA
INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE**

For further information or to register for events contact:

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

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

13th Annual Trinity Concert

第13回トリニティーコンサート

A concert featuring the junior high and high school musical talent of Asahikawa! 6 Schools are participating in the event. The junior high and high schools will play separately before their collaborative piece.

Date: November 7th (Saturday)

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

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

Admission: Middle school and up ¥500

Ticket Office: Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Civic Hall, Coach and Four (Music corner), Gyokkodo (3F Aeon Mall)

For further information contact: 090-2695-3646



ITSUKI Hiroshi Concert

五木ひろし コンサート

Kyoto born enka singer, song writer, and actor ITSUKI Hiroshi is taking the stage! Come see a truly experienced enka singer at 67 years old!

Date: November 10th (Tuesday)

Time: Afternoon 2:00pm, Evening 6:00pm

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

Admission: All Tickets ¥6,500

Ticket Office: Lawson, Ticket Pia, Coach and Four (Music corner), Gyokkodo (3F Aeon Mall)

For further information contact: 011-261-9991 (TRUST) <http://www.trust.jpn.com>



Asahikawa "Call Mutti" 25th Anniversary Concert

旭川 コールムッティ 創立25周年記念演奏会

A musical performance spanning works from *Ave Maria* - "Hail Mary" to Disney Frozen's "Let it go" and Cinderella's "Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Boo" in Japanese.

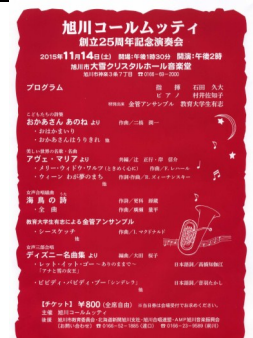
Date: November 14th (Saturday)

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

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

Admission: ¥800 (Tickets are sold the day of)

For further information contact: 0166-52-1885 (Tachiguchi)
0166-23-9589 (Maegawa)



Gekidan Suisei Musical

劇団スイセイ・ミュージカル

A Christmas Carol

クリスマス・キャロル

A play that needs no introduction! Come see a Christmas classic live right here in Asahikawa. Perfect for those trying to get into the Christmas spirit earlier in the year, or those who want to experience the play in Japanese.

Date: November 20th (Friday)

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

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

Admission: S Seat ¥3,000 A Seat ¥2,500 J Seat ¥1,000

Ticket Office: Gyokkodo (3F Aeon Mall), Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Civic Hall, Coach and Four (Music corner), Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Asahikawa Civic Theater

Notes: ¥500 discount for elementary, middle, high school, college, vocational students as well as seniors 65 years and older as well as the disabled on A and S seats.

J seats are only sold at Asahikawa Civic Hall



JMIA 2015 Two Night Consecutive Concert JMIA2015ファイナル2夜連続コンサート

Jazz Month in Asahikawa (JIMA) is holding an event so big it takes two days. 16 performers spanning 4 different sections make for a jazz experience not to be missed!

Part One: WIND OF ASIA Creative Concert

Date: November 22nd (Sunday)

Admission: General ¥3,000 Student ¥2,000 Disabled ¥2,000

Part Two: An Homage to Dizzy Gillespie

Date: November 23rd (Monday - Holiday)

Admission: General ¥5,000 Pair ¥9000 Student 3,000 Disabled ¥3,000

Time: Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm for both nights

Notes: 2 Day Pass ¥7,000. ¥500 Surcharge for buying tickets the day of.

Student discounts are for high schoolers and younger.

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

Ticket Office: Gyokkodo (3F Aeon Mall), Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Junkudo (Fecceal), Yamaha Music Store, Coach and Four (Music corner), Fukido

For further information contact: 0166-22-3567 (Murata)

<http://jazzmonth3567.blog.fc2.com>



OKAMOTO Tomotaka Concerto del Soprano 2015-2016

岡本 知高 Concerto del Soprano 2015-2016

While most sopranists use falsetto, OKAMOTO Tomotaka is blessed with amazing lung capacity and muscular strength allowing him to sing at a soprano's range. His performance will be accompanied by Pianist Jun ENOMOTO

Date: November 27th (Friday)

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

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

Admission: General ¥3,500 Seniors* and Disabled ¥3,000 Student ¥1,500

*65 years and older ¥500 Surcharge for buying the day of.

Ticket Office: Gyokkodo (3F Aeon Mall), Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Asahikawa Civic Hall, Yamaha Music Store, Kawai Shop Asahikawa

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



Seasons and Natural Features of Hokkaido *Rashisa no Arika*

北海道の四季と風土 らしさのありか

Based on childhood memories of the artist, IWAHASHI Eien's epic work "A Native of Hokkaido's reminiscence" not only spans 27 meters in total length but also encompasses a year of Hokkaido weather and reflects its impact on not only animals but man's culture and customs. The exhibition also includes many other works of art from the Museum of Art's very own collection!

Date: Now ~ November 8th (Sunday)*

Time: 9:30am ~ 5pm (Entry into the exhibit ends at 4:30pm)

Venue: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (inside Tokiwa Park)

Admission: General ¥820, High School ¥510, Elementary and Middle School ¥300

Advanced Booking, Group Booking (10+), Repeater discount:

General ¥600, High School ¥400, Elementary and Middle School ¥200

Other: *Exhibit is closed on Mondays **with exception to** November 2nd. Handicapped and Disabled visitors are allowed free entry by showing certification.



Life in Asahikawa

November

By KITAMURA Tadao

You might have been terrified by repeated news of natural disasters: floods, land-slides, tornados, ship-wrecks, and so on caused by typhoons or low air pressure. There are not nearly as many typhoons in November.

However, it is still an unfortunate month for most of people here in Asahikawa. Daytime becomes shorter and shorter by the day. Sunset comes as early as four o'clock in the beginning of November and three o'clock on the last day of the month.

Weather is never stable during this month. Many days are cloudy, rainy or snowy. You will first see snowfall around the middle of the month; before which you'll experience unpleasant sleet storms and nipping winds. You'll not find any more of those brilliant colors that you enjoyed during the past autumn. Those remaining are chrysanthemums, "The Last Rose of Summer;" you might recall an old Irish folk song by this name.

People are busy preparing for the coming of winter. They have to change the tires on their cars to those for winter use, which effectively prevent slipping on snowy or icy roads. They set up makeshift devices in their gardens using thin bamboo poles, straw mats, and straw ropes for protecting their plants from the pressure of snow and cold wind. Actually these days, these devices are mostly made of chemical products instead of natural ones.

One day or night, a very strong wind will blow and take all the leaves out of all the trees. This is called *kogarashi*, or "nipping winter wind." After a windy night, husbands are found busy in their gardens or on roads nearby their houses sweeping and gathering scattered leaves.

However, there will be a few beautiful sunny days between gray-colored ones. This weather is called *koharu-biyori*, meaning "a little spring weather," you might call it an "Indian summer." In the midst of such a fine day, it is nice to stroll through a park or the precinct of a shrine or temple. This will allow you to discover another quality of Japan.

I also recommend that you to take a stroll around *Hoppo-Yaso-en* (北方野草園), the Boreal Plant Garden in Arashiyama. The woods have become very light because all of the trees have forsaken their leaves, and make for a view where the mountains of Daisetsuzan and Tokachidake are so beautifully covered with fresh snow.

For winter-sport lovers, this month is when they are trembling with joy, wishing for fine powder snow. Every year, top class athletes in Nordic-skiing are setting up their training camps in the Asahidake spa area. You'll see them running so fast that they seem to be flying, Of course, in Asahidake, you also can enjoy skiing earlier than any other place in Japan for the winter-sports season.



Sugar beet harvesting on the outskirts of Tokachidake Volcano.

Life in Asahikawa

NanoWriMo in Asahikawa
By Stephanie KOMASHIN

I'm a half Japanese, half white Japanese American from Los Angeles who adjuncts teaching English at Hokkaido University of Education in Asahikawa, is a PhD candidate, and loves flying squirrels. I have a lot of hobbies, one of which is writing. I've enjoyed writing since I was about six years old, but I have to admit that I used to think writing was something you just do alone. Even in a school classroom, writing assignments were usually individual, each student working at it solitarily at individual desks or typing up papers at home.

NaNoWriMo, an NPO based in San Francisco, showed me that writing is a lot more fun as a social experience. Whether we're writing fiction, fanfiction, non-fiction, blog posts, academic papers, or whatnot, the local meet-up of aspiring and published writers in Asahikawa have a blast with NaNoWriMo activities.

So what do we do exactly? Our favorite thing is write-ins: gathering at the same place, at the same time, to write in good company. It might not initially sound more productive than writing on your own, but the sense of camaraderie and mutual encouragement has propelled many of us to write more and better than we used to. We enjoy doing word wars, which means writing quickly for a "sprint" of ten or fifteen minutes and then comparing who wrote the most words in that amount of time. Through the website, social media, and video chat, we've done word wars with NaNoWriMo people in other countries during our gatherings, which has expanded the intercultural aspect beyond our local community. Exchanging a swap package with a newfound friend in Canada was a highlight this year. We sent Japanese goodies (notes, illustrations, origami, tea, stickers, stationary, pens, map, knick-knacks) and she mailed us Canada-themed items that could be divvied up (stickers, candies, pencils) or shared (Mad Libs, puzzle).



NaNoWriMo is short for National Novel Writing Month. To be honest, the name is somewhat misleading at this point: 1) it's gone international, 2) you can write anything – not just novels, and 3) our group has a lot of fun so we aim for monthly Asahikawa gatherings year-round. The reason it's called that is that most people around the world who do NaNoWriMo challenge themselves to write 50,000 words – or 80,000 characters (*moji*) – of a novel in one month (November, April, and/or July).

Life in Asahikawa

NaNoWriMo in Asahikawa Continued from Page 5

Some of us do that, while others among us set personal word count goals, punch out first drafts of writing projects we need a motivation boost for, interact with people around the world through the online opportunities, enjoy company while editing, and receive encouragement from one another. Of course, this usually involves snacking and chatting. And prizes.

We do write-ins wherever group members are interested in meeting up around town (such as a community center, family restaurant, café, college campus, or members' homes). NaNoWriMo is for everybody of all ages, people can write in any language and any genre, and there's no need to show your work to anyone, though some members invite feedback from others. Since Asahikawa is centrally located, even people in other parts of Hokkaido can come in on a weekend to join us. We enjoy it so much that we do all manner of hanging out together besides writing (everything from karaoke to all-you-can-eat restaurants to board gaming to sleepovers to holiday parties where we share our cultures).



In 2013 and 2014, I got a chance to give workshops on how to use NaNoWriMo in the classroom at METS (Meeting of English Teachers in Sapporo) Jozankei All-English Seminar, which gathered instructors from all over Hokkaido including Asahikawa, and at MATE (Meeting Asahikawa Teachers of English). It's rewarding to see students enjoy writing for the first time, and to hear teachers say how they've made use of the free writers' resources and curriculum worksheets. But most of all, I enjoy sharing my hobby with people who find out that they enjoy it too.

If you're interested in joining us or finding out more, this year's Kick-Off Party will have an intro to NaNoWriMo, games, writing, and your free official sticker on Tuesday, November 3rd (Culture Day) 13:00~17:00 on the 7th floor of Feeeal department store.

For details of the month, check out: nanowrimo.org/regions/asia-japan



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Nate Olson

Hometown: Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

Interviewed: October 15th, By AIC

AIC: ***So what brings you to Japan?***

Nate: I wanted to experience a culture completely opposite to the United States.

AIC: ***Is this your first time in Japan?***

Nate: No, my first time in Japan was 2008 when I studied abroad for a year at Hiroshima University. I also lived in Iwate prefecture from 2010 to 2015.

AIC: ***Oh wow. So do you have a favorite place in Japan then?***

Nate: Miyajima. It's a magical island. Take a trip there during fall when the leaves begin to change colors and you'll understand why.

AIC: ***What are some of your hobbies?***

Nate: I like to ride my motorcycle in the summer and snowboard in the winter. I also like to read, play the guitar, and practice Brazilian Jiu Jitsu.

AIC: ***Nice. What is your hometown like?***

Nate: I'm from Minneapolis, Minnesota in America. My state is famous for lakes (we have more than 10,000), but most famous in Japan for Snoopy (Charles Schultz, the animator, is from Saint Paul). Other than that, it's a cold, desolate place no one should ever visit.

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

Nate: In Minnesota it can go down to as low as -30 Celsius in the winter, which from what I hear is similar to Asahikawa. The difference is that Asahikawa has mountains nearby so there's reason to go outside in the winter. I plan on making the trek out to go snowboarding every chance I get this season.



Hello Asahikawa!

Nate Interview (Part 2)
Continued from Page 4

AIC: *Do you have any favorite Japanese foods?*

Nate: I really like *yakisoba* when the mood strikes me. I never make it myself at home but if I'm at a festival I'll be like "oh yeah, that's right! *yakisoba* exists, I could go for some *yakisoba* right now." I'm the same way with *omuraisu*. I would never dream to make *omuraisu* myself but if someone suggests it, I'm always down for some *omuraisu*.

AIC: *Do you have any goals or things you are looking forward to here?*

Nate: I really want to improve myself as a teacher at the elementary level. This is my first time teaching elementary and the kids are a blast but I still have a lot to learn. For personal goals, I'm always looking to get better at my hobbies. This winter I'd like to go



from "decent" to "pretty good" on the snowboard. (The previous year I was able to go from "has trouble staying on the board" to "decent" so I'm feeling hopeful.)

AIC: *Thanks for letting me interview you.*

Nate: No worries!

★ Movies ~ November ★

*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

- Sakanakun Kenkyujo (Japanese)
- Galaxy Kaido (Japanese)
- Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials (English)
- Bakuman (Japanese)
- Fantastic Four (English)
- The Intern (English)
- Attack on Titan End of the World (Japanese/PG12)
- Fathers and Daughters (English)
- Ant-Man (English)
- Heroine Shikkaku (Japanese)
- Toshokan Senso: The Last Mission (Japanese)
- Oremonogatari (Japanese)
- Pan (English)

Coming Soon

- The Monuments Men (English) 11/6
- Terminal (Japanese) 11/7
- MOZU the Movie (Japanese/PG12) 11/7
- The Little Prince (English/Animation) 11/21
- Gekijorei (Japanese) 11/21
- Peanuts (English/Animation) 12/4

★ *Movies ~ November* ★

*<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

- Galaxy Kaido (Japanese)
- The Transporter Refueled (English)
- Boku ha Bosan (Japanese)
- UFO Gakuen no Himitsu (Japanese/Animation)
- The Intern (English)
- Toshokan Senso: The Last Mission (Japanese)
- Bakuman (Japanese)
- Fantastic Four (English)
- Ant-Man (English)
- Heroine Shikkaku (Japanese)
- Attack on Titan End of the World (Japanese/PG12)
- Princess Precure The Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Pan (English)
- Unfair the end (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Everest (English) 11/6
- Grasshopper (Japanese/PG12) 11/7
- Terminal (Japanese) 11/7
- MOZU the Movie (Japanese/PG12) 11/7
- Penguins of Madagascar (English/Animation) 11/14
- The Man from U.N.C.L.E. (English) 11/14
- The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2 (English) 11/20
- The Little Prince (English/Animation) 11/21
- Gekijorei (Japanese) 11/21
- Peanuts (English/Animation) 12/4

★ **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

- Galaxy Kaido (Japanese)
- Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials (English)
- The Transporter Refueled (English)
- John Wick (English/R15+)
- Toshokan Senso The Last Mission (Japanese)
- The Intern (English)
- Fantastic Four (English)
- UFO Gakuen no Himitsu (Japanese/Animation)
- Bakuman (Japanese)
- Attack on Titan End of the World (Japanese/PG12)
- Oremonogatari (Japanese)
- Pan (English)
- Heroine Shikkaku (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- The Monuments Men (English) 11/6
- Grasshopper (Japanese/PG12) 11/7
- Terminal (Japanese) 11/7
- MOZU the Movie (Japanese/PG12) 11/7
- The Man from U.N.C.L.E. (English) 11/14
- Romance (Japanese) 11/14
- GIRLS und PANZER (Japanese/Animation) 11/21
- The Little Prince (English/Animation) 11/21
- Gekijorei (Japanese) 11/21
- Peanuts (English/Animation) 12/4

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

Bird & Bird House Lunch Passport

In addition to "Seasons and Natural Features of Hokkaido," the Museum of Art is also featuring bird themed artwork by honorary professor at Tokai university: ODA Noritsugu!

Date/Time/Venue:

See "Seasons and Natural features of Hokkaido" (events page)

Admission:

☆November 1st through the 7th is "Art Week" so entry is **FREE**☆



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横行庵(シジュウカラハコ)1987(昭和62)年 当館蔵

For ¥1,058, the Lunch Passport gets you a discount on one item from a variety of restaurants in Asahikawa. With discounts ranging from ¥200 to ¥850, it pays for itself. Get out and see what Asahikawa has to offer!

Date: Now until January 29th

Notes: Limit one per person. Limit 3 times per restaurant. Not usually usable alongside coupons. Some restaurants limit the number of orders per day. Other stipulations may apply depending on the restaurant.



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!

FUN FRIDAYS

Dates: November 13th&27th, December 11th&25th, January 8th&22nd

*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)
(Feeal 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 (Feeal 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.



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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.****