

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

September 2014 VOL. 214

Published by AIC

Also visit us at: <http://asahikawaic.jp/en/>



Hokkaido News Top 5



September 2014

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

July 14

Cycling lovers enjoyed a 400 km ride along the coastline of the Okhotsk Sea. Japan Cycling Association held the "Okhotsk Line 400 Ride" from Wakkanai City to Ohmu Town on July 10 and 11 for the first time. In addition, some cyclists participated in another long-distance bike ride on July 12 and 13, in "the 33rd International Okhotsk Cycling 2014" from Ohmu Town to Shari Town.

July 23

TSUCHIDA Eijun, a former principal cellist of Sapporo Symphony Orchestra, had the 200th charity concert at Hokkaido Newspaper Plaza in Sapporo for the children affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. He always plays the cello whose owner was killed by the tsunami in Iwate Prefecture at charity concerts where he usually begins with "El Cant dels Ocells," Pablo Casals' favorite piece. The money TSUCHIDA raised for the children in Tohoku has reached 17 million yen.

August 3

Kamishihoro Town, near Obihiro, announced that donors to the town are invited to a hot-air balloon ride, if donations within Hokkaido reached more than 500 thousand yen and more than a million yen from outside of Hokkaido. Kamishihoro is known for hosting "Hokkaido Balloon Festival" in August and "Kamishihoro Winter Balloon Meeting" in February every year. The town received 243.5 million yen in donation last year.

August 8

Japan Policy Council made a public announcement of projected population for women, aged 20 to 39 in Japan. According to the report, female demographic will be down by more than half in 2040 compared to 2010 in 147 municipalities across Hokkaido and 33 in northern Hokkaido. 116 municipalities in Hokkaido and 28 in northern Hokkaido whose population is estimated less than 10,000 in 2040 are likely to disappear due to challenges in properly maintaining infrastructures.

August 15

China Eastern Airlines has started regular flights between Asahikawa and Shanghai from July 10 on. The airline plans to operate the international flights on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays for the time being until October 24. This is the third international flight to connect to/from Asahikawa, after Taipei, Taiwan and Seoul, South Korea.



**ASAHIKAWA
INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE**

For further information or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee
(SASAKI Mai, Kim LACEY, or SAITO Emmy)

Location:

International/City Affairs Division,
Comprehensive Policy Dept.

Address:

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

Tel: (0166) 25-7491

Fax: (0166) 23-4924

E-mail:

cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

Inside This Issue...

Hokkaido News Top 5
By TAKADA Nobuhiro

1

Hello Asahikawa
(Stacey Fujikawa)
Interviewed by AIC

5-6

Upcoming Events

2-3

Movies

7

Life in Asahikawa
"Autumn Is Here"
By KITAMURA Tadao

4

Bulletin Board

8

Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

Summer Vacation Special Exhibition: Element Science—Explore the World of Chemical Elements! 夏休み特別展 「エレメント・サイエンス～元素の世界をさぐれ！」

What are objects around us composed of? This science exhibition will help children find out the answers themselves by offering various set-up stages. There will be five stages: Cosmos, Life, Technology, Energy, and Ecology, where you can play various games and participate in interactive displays.

Date: now to September 15th (Monday)

Time: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm (admission is until 4:30 pm)

Venue: Asahikawa Science Museum Sci-Pal (Miyamae-dori Higashi)

Admission: High School Students and Up—¥600, Middle School and Elementary School Students—¥300, Children—Free

For Further Information Contact: 0166-31-3186



Masterpieces of Japanese Paintings from the collection of Mizuno Museum of Art 水野美術館所蔵 日本画の巨匠たち — 横山大観から平山郁夫まで—

Paintings of major figures in the Japanese painting technique of “Nihonga,” a method of drawing that departed from the traditional line drawing, will be in display for this exhibition. You will see that these paintings concentrate on soft, blurred polychromes. The featured works are by the most influential painters of the modern Japan, including HASHIMOTO Gaho, YOKOYAMA Taikan, KAYAMA Matazo, and HIRAYAMA Ikuo.

Date: now to October 19th (Sunday)

Time: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm (admission is until 4:30 pm)

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

Admission: General—¥1,100, High School Students—¥600, Middle School Students—¥300, Elementary School Students and Under—Free

For Further Information Contact: 0166-25-2577 (Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art)



ISHIWAKI Mieko Modern ballet Announcement society “Kitchen” 石脇美恵子モダンバレエスタジオ 第22回モダンバレエ発表会「Kitchen」

ISHIWAKI has been in a ballet scene for over four decades. This recital is composed, produced and also choreographed by ISHIWAKI, and has three parts; Part1-Rond, Part2-Fairy Tears, Part3-Kitchen. With over 30 cast members, age ranging from three to adults, the show is sure to be interesting.

Date: September 7th (Sunday)

Time: Doors 5:00 pm, Show 5:30 pm

Venue: Asahikawa Public Hall (inside Tokiwa Park)

Admission: Free

For Further Information Contact:

Ishiwaki Mieko Modern Ballet Studio 0166-66-0677



Pink Dragon, the puppet show

旭川市民文化会館自主文化事業 人形劇「ピンクのドラゴン」

Celebrating its 100th performance, Puppet Theatre PUK will be performing the tale of small, wimpy and shy Pink Dragon. Kids don't have to just sit and watch the show, they can participate in a crayon drawing project at the same time. You can also mail a letter to the Pink Dragon there, and expect a replay from the Pink Dragon itself! Make sure to check the show that has been running for 17 years.

Date: September 14th (Sunday)

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

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

Admission: General ¥1,000 (¥1,200 at the door), Under 15 ¥700 (¥900 at the door)

For Further Information Contact: 0166-46-6100, To reserve by Email, ticket@kodomo.daa.jp, by FAX 0166-46-6102



Kei SHIRAI × Toshiyuki KUMAGAI Violin and Guitar 白井圭 × 熊谷俊之 ヴァイオリンとギターの世界

SHIRAI is an up and coming violinist who has been showcasing all over the world and with KUMAGAI, the guitarist, you can enjoy the unique sound that these two musicians create. Some of the pieces they will be performing are Tartini's violin sonata in G minor "Devil's Trill," Paganini's sonata concertata in A major Op.61, Falla's "7 Canciones Populares Espanolas" and more.

Date: September 16th (Tuesday)
Time: Doors 6:00 pm, Show 6:30 pm
Venue: Taisetsu Crystal Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)
Admission: General ¥2,500 (¥3,000 at the door), Students ¥1,500 (¥2,000 at the door)
For Further Information Contact: 0166-63-2929 (Taisetsu Crystal Hall Sales Office), 0166-27-0620 (Yamaha), 090-1305-2360 (Studio M)



KISUGI Takao Solo Live: Stand Alone 2014 来生たかおソロライブ～Stand Alone 2014～

KISUGI is a Japanese singer and composer. After debuting with "Asai Yume" in 1976, he became well known in Japan. Some of his hits include "My Luxury Night" and "Yume no Tochu."

Date: September 26th (Friday)
Time: Doors 6:00 pm, Show 6:30 pm
Venue: Taisetsu Crystal Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)
Admission: All seats—¥6,000
Ticket Offices: Ticket Pia (P-code: 229-377), Lawson Ticket (L-code: 18699), Doshin Play Guide, Taisetsu Crystal Hall Sales Office, Gyokkodo Feeeal Asahikawa



GOSPEL Crystal of Joy Live 2014 ゴスペル～クリスタル・オブ・ジョイ～ライブ2014

Crystal of Joy is a gospel group consisting of 70 members made up of students, office workers, CEOs, housewives, etc. A sign language interpreter will be at the show, and the translation itself is an art form to see. Be sure to check this soulful event.

Date: September 27th (Saturday)
Time: Doors 6:00 pm, Show 6:30 pm
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)
Admission: General ¥1,000 (¥1,500 at the door), Under 15 ¥500 (¥1,000 at the door)
Ticket Offices: 0166-27-0620 (Yamaha Music Retailing Asahikawa), 0166-26-1059 (Civic Hall Ticket Office), Lawson Ticket (L Code: 18985)



MIZUMORI Kaori Concert ~Kayokiko songs of travel~ 水森かおりコンサート～歌謡紀行～

MIZUMORI sings enka songs titled after Japanese landmarks and nature, hence known as "the queen of the song of your place." Unfortunately, she hasn't come up with the song for Asahikawa, but she has two of Hokkaido place songs, "Teshiogawa (Teshiogawa River)" and "Kushiro Shitsugen (Kushiro marsh.)" If you were fun of enka songs, check her out!

Date: September 30th (Tuesday)
Time: First performance – 2:00 pm, Second performance – 6:30 pm
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)
Admission: All seats – ¥6,500
Ticket Offices: 0166-26-6181 (Gyokkodo Feeeal Asahiakwa), Lawson, Ticket Pia at 7-Eleven, 011-241-3871 (Doshin Play Guide)



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR SEPTEMBER

Life in Asahikawa

Autumn Is Here By KITAMURA Tadao



A short poem was written on the first day of autumn, by Fujiwara no Toshiyuki, and it goes...

“Though not seen clearly in my eyes,
autumn has come,
the whisper of the breeze surprised me.”
(*Kokinshu*: a collection of poems)

Fujiwara no Toshiyuki (? ~ 907) was a poet and calligrapher during the Heian era. This short poem is frequently recited to refer to a faint touch of early autumn.

Still there are lots of remnants of joyful summer holidays remaining.

Flowers of rose, dahlia, cosmos, salvia, sunflower, lily, licorice, etc., are still brilliant and overflowing. Then, by and by, color of flowers changes to somehow cool tinge of bellflower, gentian, and chrysanthemum. And you will notice a little of somehow chilly boreal air.

September in Asahikawa is beautiful and nice. Tinted vista of autumn is just what people of Hokkaido are proud of; they are equally convinced that it is the best in the whole world.

It is said that rich solar energy coupled with sharp change in air temperature in Hokkaido causes biochemical reactions in plants to activate the color substances in their leaves to become very prominent. First day of the winter season with fresh snow-topped the mountain is defined as the first snow crowning (初冠雪 hatsukansetsu). The first snow crowning is normally seen on 2,000m heights of the Daisetsuzan mountain range on around first or second week of September.

Around that day on brilliant autumn tinting is set out from the top of the Daisetsuzan mountain range. Later on, autumnal tinting comes down, to village, towns and at last to our Asahikawa around mid-October. Here, you will be pleased with beautifully colored leaves of Nanakamado (*Sorbus commixta* / Mountain ash) ornamenting streets, that's why citizens here had nominated this tree as “the tree of Asahikawa.” This beautiful scenery has many helps from maples, cherries, birches, poplars and icho (known as *gingko biloba* or maidenhair tree; what a wonderful English name it is for this charming tree!.)



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Haewon Yi-Gim
Birthplace: Düsseldorf, Germany
Nationality: South Korean
Interviewed: August 25th, 2014 by AIC

AIC: You were born in Germany. How did that happen?

Haewon: My father is working for a multi-national company in South Korea and had a chance to work in Düsseldorf, Germany and I was born there.

AIC: Do you say your first language is German?

Haewon: No, at that time, I lived in Germany for seven years but I used German only in school, and used Korean at home.

AIC: I heard you speak German, how did you manage to keep it, you were only seven when you left the country?

Haewon: I lived in South Korea for 12 years after leaving Germany, but went back for college.

AIC: So you had a chance to polish your German. What did you study in Germany?

Haewon: I studied arts. After graduation, I worked for a Germany company in Seoul for three years, arranging events inviting German artists to South Korea. And I went back to Germany to work at a documentary film company.

AIC: What brought you to Asahikawa?

Haewon: My mother lived in Asahikawa for about eight years when she was young, and told me about this place. But when I came here about three months ago, it was very different from what I heard.



(Continues to page6)

Düsseldorf, Germany

Hello Asahikawa!

Haewon Yi-Gim Interview (Part 2)
Continued from Page 5

Haewon: What I heard from my mother was somewhat similar to what Higashikawa Town is like now, not too developed, surrounded by nature and calm. If I were to return to Hokkaido, I would like to stay in Higashikawa, because it brings me calmness.

AIC: **What is your plan now?**

Haewon: I will go back to Seoul for about a month and then come back to Japan. I am planning to go to a Japanese language school in Tokyo to study Japanese intensively. I hope my Japanese will get better and be able to work at a Japanese company. I am actually hoping to work for a furniture company in Asahikawa, but my Japanese need to get better in order to secure that job.

AIC: **I sure hope to see you back in Asahikawa. I know you are a vegan, how do you manage to live in Asahikawa?**

Haewon: I often cook for myself, and eat out little. I love tofu.

AIC: **Since you cook often, how was your grocery shopping experience in Japan?**

Haewon: Japanese stores package everything. In Germany and South Korea, stores pile up produce and you can buy as many as you need.

AIC: **I guess Japanese packaging can be inconvenient if you just want to buy one or two apples. Is there anything you would like to do before you go back to Seoul?**

Haewon: I want to check out the tofu store in Higashikawa.

AIC: **I hope it is to your liking and also hope you enjoy the rest of your time in Asahikawa. Thanks for your time.**

Haewon: Thank you.



Seoul, South Korea



Movies ~ September



*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.

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

★ **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 (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at "Nagayama 10 (ju)-jo 3 (san)-chome."

Now Showing

- Into the Storm (English)
- Kuime (Japanese/PG12)
- Transformers: Age of Extinction (English)
- Stand by me Doraemon (Japanese/Animation)
- Hotroad (Japanese)
- Lupin the Third (Japanese)
- Rurouni Kenshin ~Kyoto Taika Hen~ (Japanese)
- Eightranger 2 (Japanese)
- GODZILLA (English)
- Pokemon the Movie XY (Japanese/Animarion)
- Planes: Fire & Rescue(English/Animation)
- When Marnie Was There (Japanese/Animation)
- Maleficent (English)
- Tokyo Tribe(Japanese/R18)

Coming Soon

- Soreike! Ampanman (Japanese/Animation) 9/6
- In the Hero (Japanese) 9/6
- Rurouni Kenshin -Densetsu no Saigo Hen - (Japanese) 9/13
- Guardians of the Galaxy (English) 9/13
- Maiko ha Lady (Japanese) 9/13
- Dawn of the Planet of the Apes (English) 9/19
- Out of the Furnace (English) 9/27
- Higurashi no Ki (Japanese) 10/4
- Budo no Namida (Japanese) 10/4

★ **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 (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at "Nippon Seishi Mae."

Now Showing

- Kuime (Japanese/PG12)
- Into the Storm (English)
- Hotroad (Japanese)
- Transformers: Age of Extinction (English)
- Stand by me Doraemon (Japanese/Animation)
- Uchukyodai #0 (Japanese/Animation)
- LUCY (English)
- Lupin the Third (Japanese)
- GODZILLA (English)
- Pokemon the Movie XY (Japanese/Animarion)
- When Marnie Was There (Japanese/Animation)
- Kamen Rider the Movie (Japanese)
- Maleficent (English)

Coming Soon

- Non-Stop(English) 9/6
- Hummingbird(English/PG12) 9/13
- Rurouni Kenshin -Densetsu no Saigo Hen - (Japanese) 9/13
- Guardians of the Galaxy (English) 9/13
- Dawn of the Planet of the Apes (English) 9/19
- Zakurozaka no Adauchi (Japanese) 9/20
- Higurashi no Ki (Japanese) 10/4
- Budo no Namida (Japanese) 10/4

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

International Communi-tea

The Asahikawa International Center invites all local and foreign residents of Asahikawa to join us for tea and friendly conversation. This is a perfect chance to get to know other members of the community and enjoy sharing your interests, thoughts and culture with people from around the world.

Dates: September 19, 2014.

Time: 1:00pm ~ 2:00pm / 6:30pm ~ 7:30pm

Charge: FREE

Location: Asahikawa International Center (1-jo-dori 8-chome Feeeal Asahikawa)

Call Asahikawa International Center 25-7491

Feeeal de Nihongo

Good news for people interested in learning Japanese. "Feeeal de NIHONGO" is for all people who want to study Japanese or simply want to talk in Japanese. On Mondays, an experienced Japanese teacher will guide your study and if you prefer other days, please let us know so we can find volunteers to assist you.

Dates: regular sessions on every Monday, if not convenient, let us know. **Time:** 4:00pm ~ 5:30pm

Charge: FREE

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

For More Information Call: 0166-25-7491

Tel: 0166-25-7491 Fax: 0166-23-4924

FUN FRIDAYS

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: September 12th & 26th *Fun Fridays are held on every 2nd and 4th Friday

Time: 1:00-2:00pm & 7:00-8:00pm

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)

Japanese Lesson

"Asahikawa Nihongo no Kai" is available to help people from abroad living in Asahikawa area with their Japanese studies. The lessons are provided weekly for anyone who wants to learn Japanese for an hour to an hour and a half.

Textbook: You will need to provide your own.

Location: Varies

Charge: ¥300/lesson

For more information or registration: Call Asahikawa International Committee at 0166-25-7491 or stop by Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F)

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.

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

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

Tel: (0166) 25-7491 Fax: (0166) 23-4924

E-mail: cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

****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.****