

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

January 2012 VOL. 182



Hokkaido News Top 5



January 2012

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

November 24

JR Hokkaido held a commemoration ceremony for the grand opening of the new JR Asahikawa Station building. At the same time, an unveiling ceremony of a sculpture created by YASUDA Kan, a world-famous artist, was held in its west concourse. The gilded sculpture is named "Tempi," meaning "secret of the sky," and was financed by citizen fund-raising activities.

November 29

"Asappy," the mascot character of Asahikawa, was ranked 50th in "Yuru Kyara (Heartwarming Characters) Grand Prix Japan 2011. The design of "Asappy" is also used on cans of coffee produced by Hokkaido Coca-Cola. The mascot character was created last year by Asahikawa City for PR purposes.

December 4

"Consadole Sapporo," the professional soccer team based in Sapporo, was promoted to the next season's J-League Division 1. "Consadole Sapporo" triumphed 2 to 1 in their last game of this season. The victory leads "Consadole" to the top league in Japan for the first time in 4 years.

December 9

Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters announced that the baseball team had decided to allow its ace pitcher, Darvish Yu, to transfer to the US Major League Baseball. Darvish will use the posting system to head to the MLB. Several Major League baseball teams are reportedly showing interest in the Fighters' pitcher.

December 13

Iwamizawa City experienced extraordinarily heavy snowfalls. In and around Iwamizawa, the depth of snow reached up to 100 centimeters. Even though Iwamizawa is known for record snowfalls, this is the first time in 37 years that the city has witnessed such heavy snowfalls in December.



For further information or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee
(SASAKI Mai, Sergej NESIC, or SAITO Emmy)

Location:

International Affairs Division, Civic and Community Services Dept.

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo
Proofreader & Advisor

EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR JANUARY

ASAHIKAWA TAISETSU CRYSTAL HALL'S WINTER CONCERT 旭川市大雪クリスタルホール自主文化事業「ウィンターコンサート」

This year's concert program will include international and Japanese classic tunes "Summer of Buenos Aires," "Divertimento," "Singing in the Rain," "Nagai Yoru," and many more. They will be performed on piano, guitar, ensemble, solo vocals, and chorus choir.

Date: January 8th (Sunday)

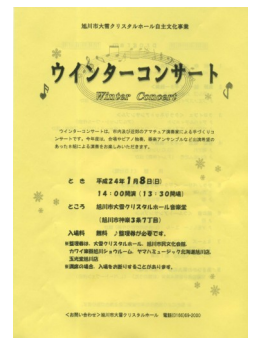
Time: Doors 1:30pm, Show 2:00pm

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

Admission: Free (you must reserve numbered tickets)

Numbered Ticket Bookings: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Yamaha Music Asahikawa Store, Kawai Music Asahikawa Showroom

For further information contact: 69-2000 (Asahikawa Crystal Hall)



"TRADITIONAL KOREAN HAND CRAFTS WORKSHOP"

韓国手工芸教室

One of the representative and less complicated examples of traditional Korean patchwork (Pojagi) is the flower shaped pin cushion. Learn how to make this beautiful little piece of art from scratch. Beginners welcome!

Date: January 21st (Saturday)

Time: 1:00pm to 4:00pm

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

Admission: General ¥1,500 (including craft and print material) *Limit of 30 people

Things To Bring: Patchwork needle, scissors, tweezers, sewing kit

For further information and to register contact : 25-7491 (Asahikawa Japan-Korea Friendship Association Office)



HONMA NOBUHIRO'S SAXOPHONE RECITAL

本間将大 サクソフォン・リサイタル

This talented young saxophonist will be joined on piano by KOIZUMI Kaori for what should be a show not to be missed by fans of the saxophone and good music alike. HONMA's career started in the high school brass band in his native Wakannai, and has evolved through the finest music academies in the country to a place in the prestigious Self Defense Forces Brass Band, and finally to a successful solo career. During a diverse program that stretches from classical to contemporary, HONMA will alternate between soprano, alto, and tenor saxophones.

Date: January 21st (Saturday)

Time: Doors 5:30pm, Show 6:00pm

Venue: Asahikawa City Community Support Center "CoCoDe" (Miyamae-dori Higashi)

Admission: General ¥1,000 (¥1,500 at the door)

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

For further information contact: 090-2237-3390 (HONMA)



JICA "HUMAN SECURITY - WORLD'S JOYS AND SORROWS" ASAHIKAWA EXHIBITION

JICA 人間の安全保障-世界の幸せと悲しみ 旭川展

Come and visit this important exhibition which highlights the various challenges facing the developing world, especially its children. Statistics on global levels of consumption and waste are presented in an easy to understand way where even kids can understand the plight of the world's poor. Learn what you can do to help alleviate the material inequalities in today's world while also learning something new.

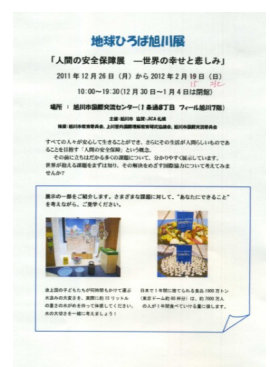
Date: Now to February 19th (Wednesday) *The center is closed from December 30th to January 4th)

Time: Every day from 10:00am to 7:30pm

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

Admission: Free

For further information contact: 25-7491 (Asahikawa International Center)



“A POLYHEDRON WORLD” EXHIBITION OF SUNAZAWA BIKKY’S WORKS 砂澤ビッキ「ポリヘドロンの世界」

SUNAZAWA, a native of Asahikawa, was a one of Hokkaido’s foremost wood sculptors. An Ainu descendant himself, his unique works are characterized by Ainu themes and motifs. This exhibition marks the 80th anniversary of his birth (he passed away in 1989) and includes his most representative works taken from various collections across Hokkaido,

Date: Now to February 12th, 2012 (Sunday)

Time: 9:30am~5:00pm (last entry 4:30pm) Museum is closed on Mondays.

Venue: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Tokiwa Park)

Admission: General ¥600(* for groups of over 10 people ¥500) High School Students & Under, Pensioners, Disabled, & Persons with special needs Free.

Ticket Office: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art

For further information contact: 25-2577 (Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art)



“SCULPTURESQUE LIFE” EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY NAKAHARA 「彫刻の生命」中原悌二郎没後90年・具象彫刻に灯す心 収蔵品展

The exhibition marks the 90th Anniversary of the passing of the great sculptor. Some of NAKAHARA’s most representative works, in addition to works by other artists inspired by him, are on display. The sculpture museum, which carries his name, was established in 1968 in the only building in Asahikawa to be designated as an Important Cultural Property of Japan (completed in 1902.) NAKAHARA died in 1921 at the age of 32 and left behind only twelve completed sculptures. However, these works are valued as some of modern Japan’s greatest works of art and have inspired a legion of followers. Since 1970 every October 3rd (NAKAHARA’s birthday) the nation-wide NAKAHARA Prize is awarded to an outstanding work of art.

Date: Now ~ January 31st (Tuesday)

Times: 9:00am ~ 5:00pm (Last entry 4:30pm)

Closed Mondays (or the Tuesday after a Monday holiday)

Venue: NAKAHARA Tejiro Memorial Sculpture Museum (Shunko 5-jo 7-chome)

Admission: General ¥300, High School Students ¥200, Junior High School Students and Under Free

For further information contact: 52-0033 (NAKAHARA Tejiro Memorial Sculpture Museum)



“MUSICAL SCULPTURES” MUSIC AND SCULPTURE COLLABORATION CONCERT 「奏でる彫刻たち」音楽と彫刻のコラボレーションを楽しむ

The concert beautifully fuses together the unique and subtle music of the prolific composer TAKEMITSU Toru with works by the award-winning sculptor, NAKAGAKI Katsuhisa. The music will be performed by SUGANO Masanori (piano,) and YOSHIKAWA Kuniko (soprano.)

Date: January 28th (Saturday)

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

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

Admission: General ¥3,000, Silver Pass Holders ¥2,500, Students ¥1,500

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

For further information contact: 69-2000 (Asahikawa Crystal Hall)



THE 53rd ASAHIKAWA WINTER FESTIVAL 第53回旭川冬まつり

Say “Asahikawa Winter Festival” and the first thing to come to mind is the awe-inspiring giant snow sculptures. Made entirely with snow and without any framework at all, you can go up to the terraces four stories high and view amazing works of art up close while also enjoying a breathtaking view of the festival grounds. Kids also love the huge snow slides. At four stories high and 80 meters long, you won’t find slides like these in any other park. Every year the world’s best ice sculptors come to the Asahikawa Winter Festival to showcase their talent and compete for the top spot. They work non-stop day and night along Kaimonkoen Shopping Street to create exquisite ice sculptures that look completely different from day to night.

Date: February 8th(Wednesday) ~ 12th (Sunday)

Time: 9:00am to 9:00pm (8:00pm on the closing day)

Venue: Asahibashi Bridge Ishikari River Riverine, Tokiwa Park, and various other locations

For further information visit: <http://www.city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp/files/kanko/awf/>





Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Teodor Cristian Blidaru

Hometown: Ramnicu Valcea, Valcea, Romania

Interviewed: 13th December, 2011

By AIC

AIC: *What do you do here in Asahikawa?*

Teodor: I'm a Rotary international exchange student at the Ryukoku High School in Asahikawa. I am also a member of the school's Rugby and Japanese calligraphy clubs. My main reason for coming to Asahikawa is to study Japanese, see interesting places, learn a new culture, new people and to experience the life as an exchange student.

AIC: *Tell us a little about Rotary and its exchange program.*

Teodor: Rotary is an international charity volunteer club. It is mainly composed of people who are some of the best in what they do. Rotary clubs are made up of volunteers who are involved in community service, emphasize high ethical standards, and work toward peace and understanding in the world. Over 1.2 million Rotarians in more than 32,000 clubs create the extensive network that provides support for the Youth Exchange. The Rotary Youth Exchange program has been running now for over 75 years, with 8,000 participants every year from over 80 countries. The program is administered at the regional level by Rotary districts and at the local level by Rotary clubs. Rotary also offers a short term exchange program; however, I'm on the longest exchange program which runs for 10 months. I came to Asahikawa in September and I'll leave in July. Another aspect of Rotary is that its members are only adults. It has two subdivisions, Rotaract and Interact. Interact is for members under 18, and I'm also a member of this division. I was a member in my hometown and I'm a volunteer here in Asahikawa. I actually got the opportunity to join this exchange program through my involvement in Interact. Rotaract is for adults but consists of former Interact volunteers. Even though Interact and Rotaract do not organize the exchange program, Rotary prefers to pick the exchange candidates from these two subdivisions.

AIC: *Why did you choose to pick Asahikawa?*

Teodor: Many people ask me this and the story behind this is somewhat confusing. All the other exchange students this year from Romania knew beforehand where they'd be heading. However, the exchange to Japan was cancelled due to the March 11 disaster, and all the students that were supposed to come to Japan were left in limbo. Then, an offer from Asahikawa came in late July and it was the only offer from Rotary Japan to Romania. I only had a five hours to make the decision, and two months to prepare. Also, from the twelve exchange students from Romania this year, eight are from my city. I've always been interested in different cultures but I was not expecting to come to Japan until this summer.

AIC: *What were your first impressions of Asahikawa and Hokkaido?*

Teodor: The first thing that comes to mind is the cold. Even though it was quite warm when I first arrived here, the image of Asahikawa as a cold city just stuck in my mind due to all the research I did before I arrived. In all honesty, I really like this city and am so glad that I got the opportunity to come and study here. I love adventure and discovering something new, so Asahikawa is perfect in that respect. I've never heard of Asa-

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experience of being in such a different place to what I'm used to.

AIC: *Have you traveled abroad before?*

Teodor: Traveling is one of my favourite hobbies, so I traveled quite a bit for my age. I've mainly traveled across Europe and Turkey. I've been to England, France, Austria, Greece, and Italy. I also passed through Serbia, Hungary, and Bulgaria. I want to see as many countries as possible.

AIC: *Tell us a little about your home-town?*

Teodor: Well, Romania is located in South-Eastern Europe, on the lower Danube on the west and the Black Sea on the east. The Carpathian arch runs through Romania and is our main mountain range. Romania is quite unique, in its natural environment and culture. We have mountains, hilly regions, plains, and a seacoast, all distributed in equal portions. You can enjoy Romania for your winter holidays, as well as summer holidays. At almost 240,000 square km, Romania is the ninth largest country in the E.U., with the seventh largest population of about 21 million. A lot of people know Romania for its sports legends such as Nadia Comaneci or as the land of Dracula. Dracula was a king of the Transylvanian region of Romania during the Middle Ages. Also, we have a very delicious cuisine. The capital and the biggest city is Bucharest. The whole metropolitan area of Bucharest is home to more than two million people. It's a concrete jungle but it's also the hometown of lots of great monuments and buildings, such as the Palace of Parliament, the largest building in the world. I'm not from Bucharest. My hometown is Ramnicu Valcea, which is the capital of the Valcea County. It's about 200 km from Bucharest and its population is around 100,000. Valcea County is situated in the hilly region of the sub-Carpathian mountains. My city is best known around Europe for its women's handball team called, Oltchim Ramnicu Valcea. The Romanian women's handball team is number two in the world and 90% of the national team is comprised of Oltchim players. There is also a large chemical industry which is the main industry of Ramnicu. There are also some plants which were built and are run by Japanese engineers. It's a nice and clean small city. We have a mall and a few parks, and there's also traditional village museum. Probably the most important tourist attraction is the house of Anton Pann. Pann composed the Romanian national anthem, "Deșteaptă-te, române," or "Awaken thee, Romanian." Also, the anthem was sung for the first time in Ramnicu Valcea.

AIC: *What did you like to do in your free time back in Romania?*

Teodor: My favourite hobby is downhill mountain-biking, which is quite dangerous. Hanging out with my friends and socializing or reading a good book. I don't really like to stay home and play computer games, I'd much rather be outdoors. Sometimes I go shopping. In Romania the summer holiday is for three months, so I do most of these things during this time. Also, the daily school schedule is different to Japan. The school day is only six hours but there are no lunch breaks. There are two shifts, one from 7:30am to 1:30pm, and the other in the afternoon.

AIC: *What are your plans for the future?*

Teodor: In my time in Japan I want to learn as much Japanese as I can and make many new friends. When I return home I want to get involved in more volunteer activities; I want to be the president of my Interact club. I am also interested in leadership programs or short-term cultural exchanges. I have two more years of high school, so graduating with good grades will be a priority. I wish to get involved in more volunteer activities and eventually I would like to study medicine. My main career choice for the future, even though I'm not 100% sure, is to become a doctor.

AIC: *Well, thank you very much for your time, Teodor*

Teodor: You're welcome.

New Year In Japan

Hatsumoude And Omikuji By SAKURABA Satoshi

Have you ever visited a shrine for *Hatsumoude*? *Hatsumoude* (初詣) is when people pay the first visit of the year to a shrine to pray for happiness and good health. As for me, I make it a practice to visit *Gokokujinja Shrine* (護国神社) for *Hatsumoude* and pray for my family and relatives' good health.

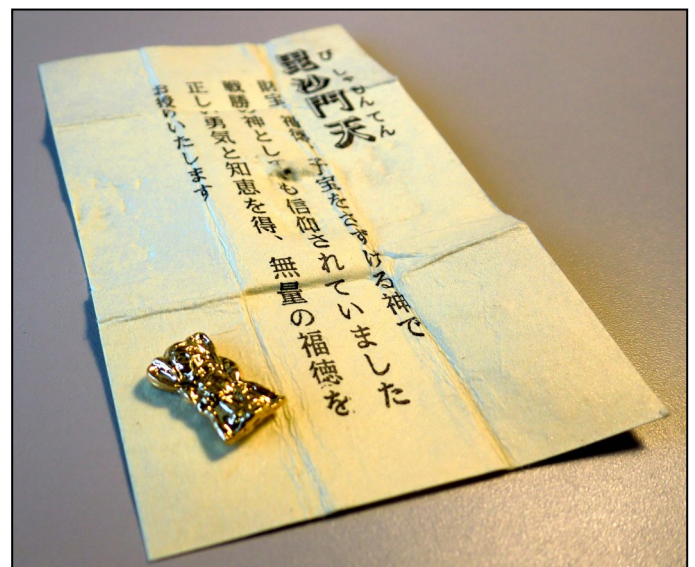
As a matter of fact, there is a certain way of praying in shrines. First, make a slight bow in front of *Saisen-bako* (賽銭箱; an offertory box in the shrine or temple), and throw some coins into the box. Next, bow lower than the first bow. After bowing twice, you clap your hands twice. Then, pray for a wish in your heart. I think you should choose only one wish, even if you have many wishes in your mind. As the saying goes, 'If you chase two rabbits, you will lose them both.' Finally, make a deep bow just once.

Whenever I visit *Gokokujinja Shrine* for *Hatsumoude*, I make sure to buy *Omikuji* (おみくじ). *Omikuji* are a list of good fortunes for the year written on a sheet of paper. If, for example, the *Omikuji* says '大吉 (*Daikichi*,) you'll be in for a sensational year. One of the worst is '凶 (*Kyou*; means bad luck,) or '大凶 (*Daikyou*; which means very bad luck,)' but in recent years one rarely gets them. I guess there mightn't be any in the *Omikuji* box. In the *Gokoku Jinja Shrine* you can also try your luck with *Shichifukujin-Omikuji* (七福神おみくじ; the *Omikuji* of the seven gods of fortune). This special *Omikuji* contains a very small charm with seven gods of fortune. I get this every year and my little dream is to collect all seven of them, but it is quite challenging (as the chance comes around only once every year!).

If you've never visited a shrine for *Hatsumoude*, I recommend that you do on the next new year's day. There's quite nothing like making a wish in a shrine and trying your luck with *Omikuji*.

An example of a Shichifukujin-Omikuji.

The small object on the below left is the seven gods of fortune charm.



Life In Asahikawa

Gambarou Nippon!

By KITAMURA Tadao

This New Year of 2012 will be a very special one for the people of Japan.

Last year, the *Tohoku* region suffered a great disaster; a gigantic earthquake followed by a huge *Tsunami*. The whole Japanese population is sharing the Tohoku people's resolution for post-disaster recovery.

Many people consider that the usual wording on the New Year's cards that has been used for along time is not adequate for this special New Year.

'*Akemashite Omedeto Gozaimasu*' is the most common expression used as a New Year greeting, meaning that 'it is wonderful that New Year has come about.'

"*Omedeto*" comes from a transitive verb '*Mederu*' meaning to love, admire, or appreciate something. So, it is natural to think that this is not an appropriate way to congratulate the New Year, while the people of *Tohoku* are struggling with reconstruction.

Recently, you may have seen '*Gambaro Nippon!*,' which roughly translates to 'Don't give up, Japan!' It's written on the uniforms of various sport uniforms; such as baseball, soccer, volleyball, and many others. This is a password that has the power to unite people's hearts and minds in support of the people of *Tohoku* and their enormous challenges in the post disaster period.

This New Year you may find on a New Year greeting card the words '*Gambarou Nippon!*' or something similar, instead of the usual '*Akemashite Omedeto Gozaimasu.*'

The year 2012 is the year of the Dragon in the Chinese calendar. In many Western stories a dragon appears as a figure of evil. However, in Asia it is considered to be very sacred and powerful, almost divine. Especially, the powerful ascend up to

heaven is admired and worshiped very much. People are hoping that the year 2012 is as powerful economically and socially as a Dragon ascending up to heaven.

Even so, after such an unprecedented ordeal, people are still celebrating New Year as usual, sincerely and calmly. Gates of houses are decorated with 'Pine and Bamboo.' Inside a house, in an alcove in the living room, a set of round rice-cakes one on top of another is displayed. Children are joyful after being presented with special gift money called *Otoshidama*, by their parents. Many people visit a *Shinto* shrine or enter a Buddhist temple, and pray for peace and security of the nation, as well as of their own family. This special year, their prayers will be even deeper and more sincere than usual.

Famous shrines and temples all over Japan, which at other times are calm and tranquil, will come alive with large crowds of devoted people on the New Year's day.



Hello Wild Flowers

Wandering Among The Wildflowers Around Asahikawa By Hitoshi KUDOH

It is rather cold December forest by the river. It is covered with calm and glimmering snow. There stand erect several grayish brown Roman standard staves here and there. They are stems of solitary Giant Lilies.

Then there comes a sudden flurry of wind and shakes the standard staves to vibrate out of their apathy. The bells of the seedpods on top of the staves clink silently. They scatter hundreds of flakes of seeds at large. They float and drift in the crispy air.

Ô-Ubayuri (大姥百合)

Cardiocrinum cordatum var. *glehnii*

Family: Liliaceae

Common name: Giant Lily

Description: In early spring, a ball like shoot pokes out of dead-leaves-covered soil under woods from its bulb. It arranges 4 ~ 7 basal leaves. It looks like a skunk-cabbage, glossy light green, with conspicuous red veins.

Both basal and cauline leaves are dark green, alternate, 10-40 cm across, but upper cauline leaves become smaller and fade away.

Stems are treelike and hollow inside.

Inflorescence; raceme. A greenish white flower is 10 ~ 15 cm long, consists of petal-like hexamerous perianth, bisexual, actinomorphic. Tepals' segments are free. 6 stamens inserted opposite to perianth segments and they surround its pistil. Filament adnates to perianth; anthers 2-loculed, dorsifixed. Stigma of elongated style is slightly 3-lobed.

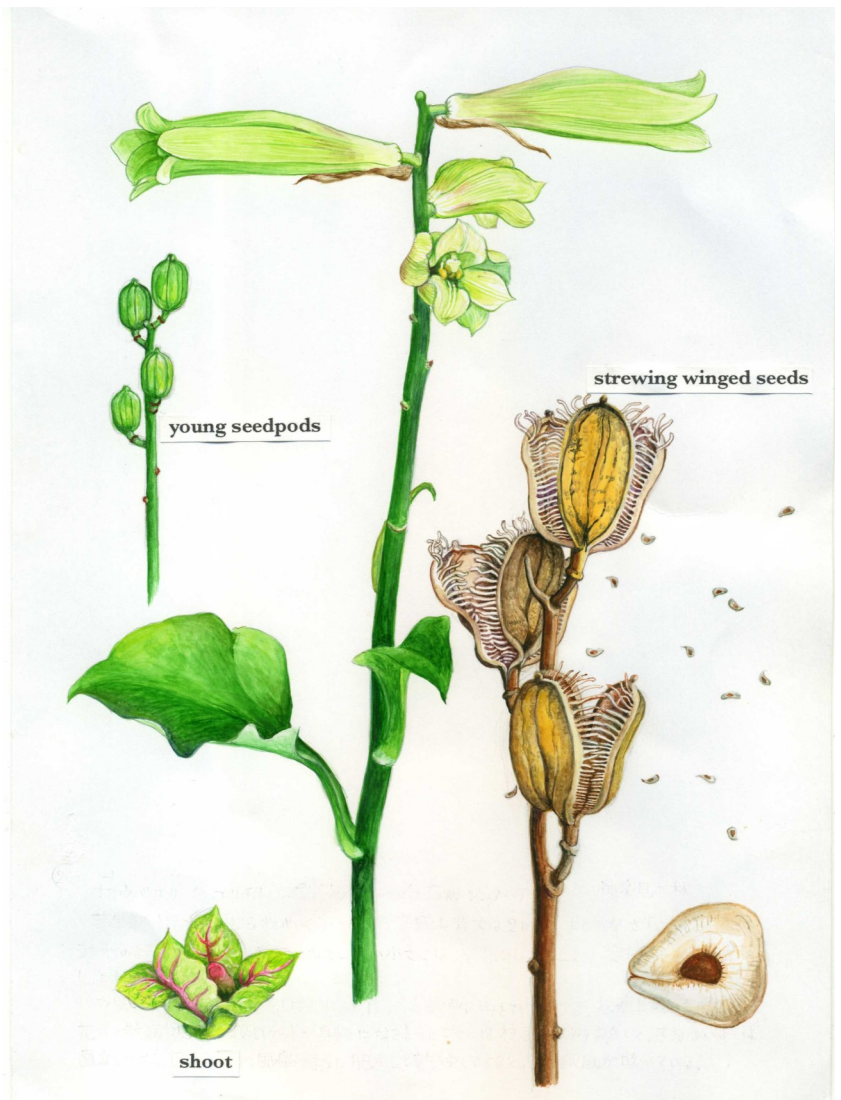
Pollinated by insects a pistil turns into a green fruit. It is a loculicidal capsule containing many pieces of winged seeds.

Height: 1.5 ~ 1.8 meters tall.

Edible: young shoot, bulb

Habitat: light shade in woodlands

Distribution: Hokkaido, northern Honshu



*Watercolor painting of a Giant Lily
By Hitoshi KUDOH*



Movies ~ January



*Every Wednesday is "Ladies' Day." Admission is ¥1,000 (tax included) for women at all theaters.

*The 1st day of every month is "Movie Day" in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is ¥1,000 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 Marui Imai Department Store (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at "Nagayama 10 (ju)-jo 3 (san)-chome."

Now Showing

- Kaibutsukun (Japanese 3D)
- New Year's Eve (English)
- Adventures of Tin Tin (English/Animation)
- Wild 7(Japanese)
- Real Steel (English)
- Kamen rider Fourze & 000 (Japanese)
- Mission Impossible 4 - Ghost Protocol (English)
- Isoroku (Japanese)
- Friends (Japanese/Animation)
- Genji Monogatari (Japanese)
- Once in a Blue Moon (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Fright Night (English)
- Magic Tree House (Japanese)
- Robo-G (Japanese)
- Tower Heist (English)

★ **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 Marui Imai Department Store (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at "Nippon Seishi mae."

Now Showing

- Adventures of Tin Tin (Japanese)
- Kaibutsukun (Japanese 3D)
- Once in a Blue Moon (Japanese)
- Railways (Japanese)
- Happy Feet 2 (English/Animation)
- Kamen rider Fourze & 000 (Japanese)
- Isoroku (Japanese)
- Friends (Japanese/Animation)
- Mission Impossible 4 - Ghost Protocol (English)
- Wild 7(Japanese)
- Real Steel (English)
- New Year's Eve (English)
- Fright Night (English)

Coming Soon

- Always (Japanese)
- My Way (Japanese)
- Tower Heist (English)
- The Girl With A Dragon Tattoo (English)
- Robo-G (Japanese)

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

Asahikawa International Center

Fun Fridays

Located in the Feeeal Asahikawa complex this new center will serve as the base of international activity in the city and the region. Offering various facilities and services to locals and foreign visitors alike the Asahikawa International Center promotes multicultural awareness and regional internationalization. The center offers free internet service, spacious study areas, sister-city displays, free book and DVD rental, and much more. Come and visit the Asahikawa International Center, your global connection.

Operating Hours: Everyday 10:00am ~ 7:30pm (except for days when "Feeeal" Asahikawa is closed) * *The center will be closed from December 30th thru January 4th.*

Address: "Feeeal" Asahikawa 7th Floor (1-jo 8-chome)

For further information contact AIC: 25-7491

**To borrow books and DVD's or use the computers, you first need to register for a User Card. To register, please bring with you proof of identification (alien registration card, driver license, or student card). Also, to be eligible to register you must reside in Asahikawa or the neighboring municipalities.*

Leaders coordinate a variety of interesting activities such as games, discussions, introductions, and quizzes. Meet new people, relax, relate, and communicate through English.

Dates: *Winter Session:* January 13th, February 10th, March 9th

Time: 1:00 ~ 3:00pm & 6:30 ~ 8:30pm, 2nd Friday of the month

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

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

AIC Book Collection

If you have unwanted new or second-hand books in languages other than Japanese, the AIC would love to place them in our AIC book section.

To donate contact AIC.

Tel: 25-7491

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 has many exciting events planned for this year, including Friendship Parties and a Halloween Party. 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.

AIC Computers: The AIC has two computer available for public use free of charge at the Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome). There is a time limit for use and you must register prior to use. Please feel free to come by and use it anytime as well as check out some of the other services and activities available at the 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.



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