

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

June 2011 VOL. 175

Also visit us at: www.city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp/files/kokusaikouryu/english/index.html



Hokkaido News Top 5



June 2011

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

April 25

A 30-year-old candidate, Naomichi Suzuki was elected as the mayor of Yubari City. Mr. Suzuki, the youngest mayor in Japan, is a former Tokyo metropolitan government official who had been sent off to help the bankrupt Yubari City last year. Also, in the nationwide local elections on April 24th, 32-year-old Tsuyoshi Aoyama was elected mayor of Muroran City.

April 29

“Feeeal Asahikawa” commercial complex in the building of the former Marui Imai Department Store, is scheduled to open on June 24th. “Junkudo Book Store,” one of the largest book store chains in Japan, has decided to open a store in the building. The opening of the complex, which will also house the Asahikawa City International Division, is expected to vitalize the city centers including the “Kaimono Koen Shopping Street.”

May 6

A multiple pileup involving 23 cars occurred in “Tokiwā Tunnel” between Asahikawa and Fukagawa on “Doho Express Way.” 12 people were slightly injured in the accident. As a result the express way between Asahikawa and Fukagawa was closed to traffic for up to five hours.

May 6

“Eastar Jet,” a South Korean budget airline, has opened routes for the first time in Hokkaido. The low cost carrier operates two flights a week between New Chitose and Inchon near Seoul. About 150 passengers traveled on the inaugural flight on May 5th. The cost of a round trip ticket is from ¥22,000 to ¥29,000, plus an additional ¥6,000 fuel and service surcharge.

May 20

11 top officials of Otaru City are to stand trial in a summary procedure for the violation of Public Office Election Law. The officials had allegedly sold tickets for an election fund raising party for the new mayor elected in April. Government employees are prohibited by the Political Funds Control Law in engaging in political fund-raising or using their influence to promote candidates.



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.

Address:

Third Office 1F, Asahikawa City Hall, 6-jo-dori 10-chome, Asahikawa 070-8525

Tel: (0166) 25-7491

Fax: (0166) 23-4924

E-mail:

cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

Inside This Issue...

Hokkaido News Top 5 <i>By TAKADA Nobuhiro</i>	1	Book Review “Mucho Uchimura-ish Me By Michelle La Fay”	7
Upcoming Events	2-3	Hello Wildflowers “Ezonoryukinka” <i>By KUDOH Hitoshi</i>	8
Hello Asahikawa “Andrew Seward” <i>By AIC</i>	4-5	Movies	9
English From Nihongo <i>By KAWAI Tatsuo</i>	6	Bulletin Board	10

Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo
Proofreader & Advisor

27TH ANNUAL "KYOKUSUI POPS" CONCERT

第27回旭吹ポップスコンサート

Topped as the "new sound in brass" and conducted by legendary IWAI Naohiro, Pops Brass Orchestra's 2011 two-part concert will include a wide variety of genres. The tunes on the playlist will include "Manhattan," "Summertime," a Benny Goodman medley, an Elvis Presley medley, and many more.

Date: June 11th (Saturday)

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

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

Admission: General ¥800 (¥1,000 at the door), Students ¥500 (¥700 at the door)

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

For further information contact: 62-2785 (TONAMI)



EXPERIENCE NORDIC WALKING

ノルディックウォーキングのつどい

Sunday June 19th is the summer season Asahikawa Citizens Sports Health Day. One of the major citizen activities on the day will be a Nordic walk along the scenic course in Hanasaki Sports Park. Nordic walking is walking with the aid of special poles similar to cross-country skiing. 70 sticks will be available for use on the day, as well as a talk by NATSUMI Madoka, the Japan's Nordic Skiing representative in the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics. Bring along walking gear, something to drink, and a change of clothes.

Date: June 19th (Sunday)

Time: Opening Ceremony 9:30am, warm-up and a short beginners class 9:40am, start 10:00am

Venue: Hanasaki Sports Park (in front of the Hanasaki Integrated Gymnasium)

Admission: ¥500 (limit of 150 participants)

Ticket Office: Apply at "Taiiku Kyokai" in the Asahikawa Hanasaki Integrated Gymnasium (Hanasaki-cho 5-chome) or at the Asahikawa City Sports Division (Asahikawa City 5th Office 5-jo 10-chome)



"SWAN LAKE" PERFORMED BY THE UCHIYAMA BALLETT STUDIO

内山バレエスタジオの白鳥の湖

The complete rendition of Tchaikovsky's masterpiece performed by the dancers from the UCHIYAMA Ballet Studio. The program will open with *Petit Fleur*, followed by *Swan Lake*, a lecture in honor of the late UCHIYAMA Reiko, a performance of *La Sylphide* by KOMURA Hikaru and KURA Kenta of The Royal Ballet of London, and *Ballet Mistress* performed by 3 male and 4 female dancers.

Date: June 26th (Sunday)

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

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

Admission: General ¥2,000, Reserved Tickets ¥3,500

For further information contact: 23-3377 (UCHIYAMA Reiko Ballet Studio)



KEN NISHIKIORI TENOR RECITAL

錦織健 テノールリサイタル

NISHIKIORI's voice has earned him numerous awards as well as TV and radio appearances. He will be joined on piano by TADA Satoko for a program which includes pieces from classical composers such as Handel's "Messiah," Rossini's "La Danza," Bernstein's "Westside Story," plus many more. The program will also include works by Japanese composers.

Date: June 23rd (Thursday)

Time: Doors 6:30pm, Show 7:00pm

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

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

Ticket Office: Potato Asahikawa Cable TV Shop, Kawai Music Showroom, Gyokkado, Yamaha Music Asahikawa Store, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall

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



TAISETSU SPORTS FORUM PUBLIC LECTURE

市民公開講座 大雪スポーツフォーラム

A two part lecture titled “Let’s Build A Winning Body” featuring experts in the field of sport therapy and injury prevention and treatment. In the first part of the lecture MAEDA Kensaburo from Toyooka Central Hospital will talk on the spot injury diagnosis, prevention and treatment. Also, KOHARA Kazuhiro, from Asahikawa Medical College, will talk about sport performance and the science behind achieving top form. In the second part of the lecture SHIBATA Munenori, trainer of the Japanese Junior Women Volleyball Team, will talk about training essential for success in top level competition.

Date: June 4th (Saturday)
Time: 1st Part 4:00pm, 2nd Part 4:30pm
Venue: Hokuyo Building 8F (4-jo 9-chome)
Admission: Free



WAKAHARA RYO AND MIZUTA RYUKO JOINT CONCERT

若原りょう・水田竜子ジョイントコンサート

Both of these popular singers are Asahikawa natives but have gone on to achieve nationwide success. MIZUTA has been recording albums since 1995 and WAKAHARA made his debut with the 2004 hit “Denwa” (Telephone).

Date: June 19th (Sunday)
Time: Doors 1:30pm, Show 2:00pm
Venue: Takasu Melody Hall (Takasu Minami 2-jo 4-chome)
Admission: General ¥2,000 (at the door ¥2,500)
Ticket Office: Gyokkodo, A-Coop Kitano Store, Shinohara Store, Takasu Melody Hall, Asahikawa Crystal Hall, Yamaha Music Asahikawa Store
For further information contact: 87-2500 (Takasu Melody Hall)



MASTERPIECES OF NORDIC MODERN DESIGN FROM ODA NORITSUGU COLLECTION

「北欧の美しいくらし」織田憲嗣コレクション

A design exhibition of furniture and household goods from the golden age of Scandinavian Nordic Design during the 50’s and 60’s. The exhibits are taken from the famous collection of Tokai University professor ODA Noritsugu, and include around 300 artifacts. The exhibition centers on the extensive chair collection of which 80 will be on display.

Date: June 1st to July 3rd (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 ¥900(* for groups of over 10 people ¥700) University & High School Students ¥600(* ¥400,) Junior High & Elementary School Students Free.
Ticket Office: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art
For further information contact: 25-2577 (Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art)



“THE NEWSPAPER” COMEDY TROUPE

社会風刺コント集団「ザ・ニューズペーパー」

The comedians from The Newspaper are back in Asahikawa bringing their unique take on Japanese politics and current affairs. This season’s political line up will include the impersonations of Prime Minister KAN, former Prime Ministers KOIZUMI and HATO-YAMA, and the rest of the Diet heavyweights. Also, president Obama will make a special appearance. A guaranteed night of laughs.

Date: June 6th (Monday)
Time: Show 6:30pm
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)
Admission: General ¥4, 500
Ticket Office: Gyokkodo, Ticket PIA, Lawson Ticket
For further information contact: 011-261-9991 (Trust Kikaku Create)



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR JUNE



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Andy Seward

Hometown: Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia

Interviewed: 20th May, 2011

By AIC

AIC: *Tell us a little about your hometown.*

Andy: My hometown is the Gold Coast which is a major tourist destination in Australia. It's famous for its beautiful beaches, clean water, clean air, and its many theme parks. We have five theme parks; Dream World, Sea World, Movie World, Wet & Wild, and White Water World. The Gold Coast is a popular tourist destination for Australian and overseas visitors alike.

AIC: *Do many Japanese tourists visit the Gold Coast?*

Andy: 10 to 15 years ago the Gold Coast received many Japanese tourists. However, the Asian economic crisis of 1997 resulted in a big drop in Japanese visitors, and also in Japanese investment. There are still a good number of Japanese tourists to the Gold Coast but the growing popularity of other tourist destinations within Australia, such as Cairns and the Whitsundays, means that more and more Japanese are visiting these destinations instead of the Gold Coast.

AIC: *What did you do before you came to Japan?*

Andy: After graduating from high school I entered university to study International Business. After graduating university, I decided that it was time to embark on an international adventure, so I packed my bags and traveled to Gunma Prefecture in Japan.

AIC: *Why Japan?*

Andy: I chose Japan because I studied Japanese in high school for 5 years, as well as conversational Japanese study at university. I still wasn't fluent in Japanese at that point and I decided that I would like to improve my language skills. Also, I had a friend in Gunma who was willing to help me out when I first arrived. He let me stay with him for a few weeks until I organized a job and an apartment. That's the reason I chose to come to Gunma.

AIC: *How did you first meet your friend?*

Andy: During my university days I was involved in a motor sport which is popular in Japan. He was taking part in the Japanese national series of that sport, and was invited to come to a racetrack near the Gold Coast to participate in a demonstration day. I met him on the demonstration day and tried to speak a little Japanese with him. We kept in contact via e-mail and when I expressed my interest in coming to Japan, he said "come to Gunma."

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

Andy: Actually, I'm based in a town just north of Asahikawa called Takasu. Although it's a separate town it's still part of the Kamikawa region to which Asahikawa also belongs. Takasu has a sister-city relationship with the Gold Coast. This relationship was formed over 20 years ago and ever since, a citizen of the Gold Coast is selected to be the city's representative in Takasu. My position is Assistant to International Relations (AIR) and the duties include teaching English at the local elementary and junior high school and performing public relations duties which help solidify sister-city relations.

Continued on Page 5

Continued from Page 4

Andy: I've been working as the AIR for just under two months, so it's still all relatively new to me. I've also found that there is a significant amount of official document translation work involved mainly dealing with correspondence between Takasu and the Gold Coast. There's PR work involved as well. For example I was asked to be the Fire chief of the Takasu Fire Station for a day. That involved a *Jireisho* (letter of appointment) ceremony where I was given a Fire chief's uniform to put on. We went through a number of training drills outside the Fire station in which I was able to operate a fire hose while sitting on top of the fire truck. I was shown how to use tools firemen use on a daily basis, such as chainsaws, metal cutting tools, the jaws of life, and I had to wear a breathing apparatus which was quite interesting. We then went to a local kindergarten called *Maruyama Youchien*, where I gave a speech to the kids and practiced an emergency evacuation drill. The kids were so cute practicing the drill. On another day I was given the opportunity to visit the Honda proving ground in northern Takasu, where I was driven by the manager for a lap around the various circuits. That was really great fun as I do enjoy cars. At the end I made a short speech to the employees, outlining the importance of having fire alarms installed in the house. Fire alarms are actually going to become mandatory in June.

AIC: *What are some goals that you would like to achieve as an AIR?*

Andy: As an AIR I wish to contribute the best I can to the solidification of the sister-city relationship between Takasu and the Gold Coast. Primarily, I would like to explore possible business trade opportunities between Takasu and the Gold Coast, and Australia in general. I would like to participate in as many town activities as I can, such as festivals and other public events. My current hobby is snowboarding, so I'm looking forward to winter and visiting lots of local ski-resorts. On a slightly different note, I was greatly surprised to see deep snow on Asahidake even though it's springtime, when I went hiking there a couple of weeks ago. I went with a colleague whose hobby is hiking who introduced me to the 84-year-old mountain guide who led us up to the ropeway and supplied everyone with snowshoes.

AIC: *And what are your goals for the future?*

Andy: My mid-term goals would include improving my Japanese and passing the Japanese Language Proficiency Test N1 level. If I do achieve that there are two routes that I can take; I could find employment here in Japan with a Japanese company or I can go back to Australia and work in the tourism industry. I'd love to be able to run my own business, since my major at university was in international business. However, I don't have any experience in running my own business, so if I was to go down that path I'd definitely have to start small. More than anywhere else in the world I would like to run a business here in Japan. Due to its high population density Japan's market is much more attractive than Australia's. I believe that it's pretty tough running a business in Australia. You have 21 million people living in a land the size of USA, whereas in Japan the population is around 5 times bigger in a land the size of the state of Victoria in Australia. Those statistics speak for themselves. If one was to start up a business in the service or retail industry, the chances of being successful are much higher in a densely populated area such as Tokyo, Saitama, Kanagawa, or in urban areas of Kansai.

AIC: *How do you see future Australia-Japan business relations?*

Andy: Australia's Prime Minister, Julia Gillard was in Japan last week promoting a free-trade agreement (FTA) between the two countries. I think that this is very important to our future business relations. It would boost Japan's business competitiveness in the international marketplace in which China is rapidly overtaking Japan. A FTA between Australia and Japan would make Japanese products much more affordable to the Australian consumer, and therefore increase Japan's share of that market.

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

English From Nihongo

By KAWAI Tatsuo

The following English words are derived from the Japanese language. English meaning is put in for caution's sake

Arigato (Thank you)	Ronin (masterless samurai)
Cha (tea)	Sake; Saque (rice wine)
Banzai ! (Hurrah!)	Samurai (warrior)
Basho (Sumo tournament)	Sashimi (raw fish)
Bonsai (dwarf tree)	Sayonara (So-long, goodbye)
Bonzu; Bozu; Bosan (Buddhist priest)	Shamisen (three-stringed lute)
Bunko (library)	Shiatsu; Shiazu (finger-pressure therapy)
Bushido (chivalry)	Shibui (quietly elegant)
Daikon (radish)	Shinto (Shintoism)
Dashi (Bonito stock)	Shogi (Japanese chess)
Dojo (martial arts gym)	Shogun (Shogunate; Generalissimo in the feudal era)
Fune (boat, ship)	Shoji (paper door/screen)
Futon (mattress)	Skosh (a little bit)
Geisha; Geisha-girl (singing-dancing entertainer)	Soba (buck-wheat noodles)
Geta (wooden clogs)	Sokkagakkai (SGI)
Go (Go game)	Sukiyaki (Japanese short-pot)
Godzilla (professional baseball player' MATSUI's nickname)	Sumo (traditional Japanese wrestling)
Hanko (seal impression)	Tanka (31-syllable Japanese poetry)
Harakiri (disembowelment)	Tempura (Fried food; originally derived from Portuguese "Tempuro")
Hibachi (charcoal brazier)	Tenno (Japanese emperor)
Jojimbo (henchman, bouncer)	Tsunami (king tide)
Judo (Judo martial arts)	Umami (flavor)
Juku (cram school)	Wacadash (samurai's short sword)
Kamikaze (divine wind-storm)	Yakuza (Japanese gangster)
Kamban (signboard)	Zen (Zen sect)
Karate (Karate martial arts)	
Keiretsu (affiliated companies)	
Kimono (kimono dress)	
Korai (Korea)	
Kuge (court noble)	
Kuromaku (wire-puller; Mr. Big)	
Magatama (comma-shape bead)	
Makiwara (sheaved straw of Karate)	
Moxa (moxa-cautery)	
Nemawashi (negotiations)	
Ninja (samurai invisibly engaged in espionage activities)	
Nisei (second-generation Japanese-American)	
Noh (Noh play)	
Pachinko (pin-ball game)	
Jinricksha (rickshaw)	

Note: It is probable that soon **Hoshano** (radioactivity) and **Gempatsu** (nuclear power generator) might become English words.

Book Review

“MUCHO UCHIMURA-ISH ME” In The Gap Between Two Cultures - By Michelle La Fay Reviewed by AIC

A fascinating and thought provoking series of essays by Michelle La Fay on UCHIMURA Kanzo, a writer, Christian evangelist, and founder of the Non-church Movement (*Mukyokai-shugi* 無教会主義) of Christianity in the *Meiji* and *Taisho* period Japan.

UCHIMURA Kanzo was born in 1861 in Edo (present-day Tokyo), the oldest son of a samurai belonging to the TAKASAKI *Han* (feudal domain). He exhibited an exceptional talent for languages from an early age and started studying the English language at the age of 11. At 13 he entered the Department of English at Arima Private School.

At the age of 17, he gained admission to the Sapporo Agricultural College (today's Hokkaido University) where English was the main language of instruction. It was at his time at the college that he became a Christian. He majored in fisheries and after graduation went to work for the Kaitakushi - 開拓使 (Hokkaido Developmental Agency).

UCHIMURA was greatly influenced by William C. Clarke, an American professor who was invited by the government of Japan to establish the Sapporo Agricultural College and subsequently became its president. Clarke was also a committed Christian missionary who introduced students of the college to the Christian faith through Bible classes.

UCHIMURA left for Pennsylvania, USA in 1884.

where he was introduced to the Quaker faith. Its pacifist teachings was to have a lasting effect on the young philosopher. It was his sojourn in Pennsylvania that led to the formation of Friends School (普連土学園) in Tokyo with his Sap-



UCHIMURA Kanzo (1861~1930)

poro friend NITABO Inoze in 1887. (NITABE wrote the masterpiece “Bushido - The Soul of Japan” and his portrait is on the ¥5000 note).

Upon his return to Japan UCHIMURA became a teacher but was forced to quit for refusing to bow to the portrait of the Meiji Emperor. He went on to become a popular newspaper columnist but was again forced to quit due to his pacifist views. He started publishing his own monthly magazines and gave lectures on the Bible in downtown Tokyo. He went on to write numerous works, that include “Japan and the Japanese (1894)” and “How I Became a Christian (1895).”

A native of Boise, Idaho, Michelle La Fay came to study at the Hokusei Gakuen University as an exchange student in her fourth year of college. From 1993 to 2003 she studied at Hokkaido University and became the first doctorate of religious studies at the university. She has researched UCHIMURA Kanzo for about half of her life and is presently associate professor at Hokkaido University of Education, Sapporo and Asahikawa campuses. A copy of “Mucho Uchimura-ish Me” can be borrowed at the Asahikawa International Division's book corner.

Hello Wild Flowers

Wandering Among the Wild Flowers Around Asahikawa

By Hitoshi KUDOH

In early April, two nature wanderers, A and B, are treading around through deciduous woods, looking for something **spring**, on the still snow-covered valley floor. Suddenly, they come across a vast marsh-marigold-matted area. The whole area is lit up with splendid golden yellow. Moved with admiration at the glory of the sight, naturalist A cites a verse (from Wordsworth) aloud,

“I wandered lonely with my friend
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden marsh-marigolds;
Beside the brook, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and glowing in the breeze.”

Sooner, naturalist B points at the upper corner and cries out, “Look at the widely devastated clump of those marsh-marigolds! Good grief! Someone had brush cut them by a machine. It's no time to cite peacefully. Next time you visit here, you could find a mass destruction of this colony.”

EZONORYUKINKA (蝦夷立金花) *Caltha palustris v. barthei*
family: Ranunculaceae
common name: Ezo Marsh marigold/Kingcup, Marsh Butterbur (谷地露)

Description: In early spring, a shoot pokes out of the inundated still snow-covered marsh mud, from its rhizome or a seed. Soon a corymb of beady flower buds appear.

It arranges 4~7 basal leaves around the stem of flower buds. The basal leaves are long-stalked and divergent, rounded to kidney-shaped, bluntly serrated and glossy dark green, with conspicuous veins. While stem-leaves are rather few and similar to the basal leaves, but short-stalked to no stalks. Both basal and stem-leaves size 3~25cm across. Stems are hollow. Height, about 80 cm.

Inflorescence, corymb, born in loose, branched clusters. A yellow flower is bisexual, 2~5cm in diameter, consists of 4~10 petal like sepals, a lot of stamens surround 2~13 pistils on the disk. Pollinated by many insects each pistil turns into a green fruit.

The fruit is pods of a follicle, contains several dark seeds. When it has matured, the case splits and the seeds spill. The leaves and stems die down in autumn. Edible.

Habitat: Damp places, marshes, fens, bogs, moist woodlands, ditches, pond and stream margins, seepage zones, lowland to high alpine valleys.



A Watercolor Painting of EZONORYUKINKA
By Hitoshi KUDOH



Movies ~ June



*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

- My Back Page (Japanese)
- Moshi Dora (Japanese)
- Keibetsu (Japanese)
- Gantz Perfect Answer (Japanese)
- Detective Conan - Quarter Of Silence (Japanese/Animation)
- Pirates Of The Caribbean - On Stranger Tides (English)
- Pirates Of The Caribbean - On Stranger Tides (Japanese)
- Gaku (Japanese)
- Black Swan (English)
- Adjustment Bureau (English)

Coming Soon

- Red Riding Hood (English)
- Hoshi Mamoru Inu (Japanese)
- Sentai 199 (Japanese)
- Hankyu Densha (Japanese)
- X-Men - First Class (English)
- Paradise Kiss (Japanese)

★ **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

- The Fighter (English)
- Moshi Dora (Japanese)
- Princess Toyotomi (Japanese)
- Tofu Kozo (Japanese/Animation 3D)
- Gantz Pefect Answer (Japanese)
- Yoka Me No Semi (Japanese)
- Detective Conan - Quarter Of Silence (Japanese/Animation)
- Black Swan (English)
- Tezuka Osamu's "Buddha" (Japanese/Animation 3D)
- Adjustment Bureau (English)
- Pirates Of The Caribbean - On Stranger Tides (English)

Coming Soon

- True Grit (English)
- Paradise Kiss (Japanese)
- Andalucia - Goddess's Revenge (Japanese)
- Adjustment Bureau (English)
- I Am Number Four (English)
- Skyline (English)
- Thor (English)
- Oshika (Japanese)
- Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows Pt.2 (English)

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

Fun Fridays

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

Dates: Summer Session: July 8th, August 12th, September 9th

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

Location: AIC Study Room (6-jo-dori 10-chome)

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

To register contact AIC.

Tel: 25-7491

Calling All Writers

If you would like to contribute to the dissemination of local information, or simply share a story with the English speaking community in Asahikawa, we would love to hear your voice. We are open to suggestions for new articles and will accept periodical submissions, so there is no need to commit to a monthly article. Why not join the Asahikawa Info team and let your voice be heard? If you are interested in writing for the newsletter, please contact the AIC at the e-mail address listed below.

Also, if you have any suggestions as to what kind of information should be included in the only English language periodical in Asahikawa, please let us know.

Nihongo-No-Kai

One of the most effective ways of learning the Japanese language! The "Nihongo-No-Kai," a group of dedicated volunteer Japanese teachers, provide Free Private Language Lessons (there is a ¥300 fee per lesson to cover the cost of photocopies and other learning materials.) For further information or to register please contact Ms. Sasaki or Ms. Saito of the AIC.

Tel: 25-7491 Fax: 23-4924



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 Computer:

The AIC has a computer available for public use free of charge in the International Corner (6-jo-dori 10-chome). There is a time limit for 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.



Asahikawa International Committee, International Affairs Division
Third Office 1F, Asahikawa City Hall, 6-jo-dori 10-chome, Asahikawa 070-8525
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.****