

# 旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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## Hokkaido News Top 5



August 2016

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

### June 26

Some 100 members of the Russian Orthodox Church from eastern part of Japan offered prayers to Hakodate Orthodox Church in commemoration of the church's centennial. Hakodate Orthodox Church is the first Russian Orthodox Church in Japan, and is one of the most popular tourist sites because it has a cupola with a cross on the top and walls as white as snow. The church was constructed in 1860 and rebuilt in 1916 after a massive fire in 1907.

### July 1

Compared to the previous year, the price of land in Niseko soared by about 50 percent, which the biggest appreciation rate across the country, according to a survey by the National Tax Agency. The average land price in Hokkaido has raised by 0.8 percent because the price of land in Sapporo went up due to increasing demand for office buildings. The land assessment is used for imposing both inheritance tax and gift tax.

### July 1

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first flight between Asahikawa and Tokyo was celebrated in Asahikawa Airport. The airport opened on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1966, and the first flight from Tokyo landed on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The aircraft used for the flight was a YS11, a propeller plane manufactured in Japan for the first time after the second World War. It was operated by Japan Domestic Airlines, which was later absorbed into Japan Airlines. The passenger plane flew to Asahikawa via Okadama Airport in Sapporo, although it became a direct flight later in August 1968.

### July 12

According to "the finance literacy survey" conducted by The Central Council for Financial Service Information, which is made up of the Bank of Japan and other financial institutions, people in Hokkaido are cautious and steady-going but are poorly informed when it comes to finances. The online survey was carried out asking 25 thousand people questions on fund management last spring. 84.6 percent of people in Hokkaido are risk-averse rather than risk-taking as far as fund operation is concerned. The ratio of correct answers to the questions in Hokkaido is 60.5 percent, ranked 34<sup>th</sup> in 47 prefectures.

### July 14

An online survey conducted by the Japan Automobile Federation in June revealed that drivers in Hokkaido have bad manners behind the wheel compared to those in other prefectures. The percentage of people in Hokkaido who answered "yes" to the question "Do drivers in your prefecture have bad manners?" was 47.3 percent, ranked 15<sup>th</sup> in all prefectures. JAF however says that the result of the survey has nothing to do with the chances of traffic accidents taking place.



### For further information or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (KAMIMAE Ayumi, Jacob WERSCHHEY, 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

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

**Modern French Art: From the Hiroshima Museum of Art Collection**

ひろしま美術館所蔵 フランス近代美術をめぐる旅

The Hokkaido Museum of art wants to take you on a journey to the first half of the 19th century. From the exotic portraits of Delacroix, to seeing the calming scenes of farmers in their fields through the eyes of Millet. See the Paris cityscape overflowing with light captured by the impressionist painters of the time as well as the scenery painted using the innovative techniques of Cézanne.

**Date:** Now to August 17th (Wednesday)**Time:** 9:30am until 5:00pm**Venue:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Inside Tokiwa Park)**Admission:** General ¥1200; High School ¥500; Junior High ¥400; Elementary FREE**Ticket Office:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art, Fukido Asahikawa, Lawson Ticket (L-code 16310), Seven Eleven (7-code 043-094), Sunkus/Ticket Pia (P-code 767-310)**\*Notes:** No entry after 4:30pm. **Closed on Mondays except for holidays, in which case the next day will be closed****End of Edo and Beginning of Meiji through Nishiki-e - Otaru Ukiyo-e Collection Exhibition**

綿絵にみる幕末・明治 - 小樽浮世絵コレクション展

Here we have something that lovers of Japanese art and history buffs can enjoy! Ukiyo-e is an art style that flourished during the Edo period of Japan. With around 300 works from the waning years of the Edo period to the Meiji restoration on display in this exhibit, it's like looking back in time!

**Date:** Now until August 28th (Sunday)**Time:** 9:00am until 5:00pm**Venue:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, City Museum (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)**Admission:** General ¥300; High School ¥200; Junior High and Elementary FREE**For further information contact:** 0166-69-2004**\*Notes:** No entry after 4:30pm.**The Ninth Asahikawa 2016 Concert - Midsummer's Ninth**

あさひかわ第九の会 2016年演奏会 真夏の第九

You may remember The Ninth Asahikawa from their December memorial concert. This months performance will be in remembrance of the Hiroshima bombings in August 1945.

**Date:** August 6th (Saturday)**Time:** Doors 2:00pm, Show 2:30pm**Venue:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Concert Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)**Admission:** ¥1000 + ¥500 Day of**Ticket Office:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Yamaha Music Store, Gyokkodo (Aeon 3F)**For further information contact:** 090-1523-9034**2 Pianos and Soprano Concert**

2台ピアノ&amp;ソプラノコンサート

Three talented ladies are coming together to bring you a fantastic show! All of the performers went to High School in Asahikawa. Although they have been all over Japan and other countries, whether it be through schooling or concerts, they never forgot their roots!

**Date:** August 9th (Tuesday)**Time:** Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Small Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)**Admission:** General ¥2,000; High School and under ¥1,000**Ticket Office:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, City Culture Koya, Fukido Kids (7-jo-dori 8-chome)**For further information contact:** 0166-62-3454 (Kitakawa)

## 28th Regular Concert The North Japan Philharmonic Orchestra 第28回定期演奏会 北日本フィルハーモニー管弦楽団

The North Japan Philharmonic Orchestra is conducted by SHIMA Kazuo and features pianist and Hokkaido University of Education Iwamizawa graduate TASAKA Kana alongside 2nd year Asahikawa Higashi High School student, KONUMA Yuki.

**Date:** August 17th (Saturday)  
**Time:** Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm  
**Venue:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Concert Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)  
**Admission:** ¥1,500; +¥500 Day of  
**Ticket Office:** Kawai Asahikawa Shop, Yamaha Music Store, Coach and Four, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Asahikawa Crystal Hall, Gyokkodo (Aeon 3F), Shimada Music Academy (3-jo-dori 2-chome)  
**For further information or to make reservations contact:** 0166-22-2078 (Shimada Music Academy)



## Jun and Sachi Oshaberi Concert じゅんさんとさちさんのおしゃべりコンサート

Jun is pianist and Sachi is a soprano and this month they are putting on a show that will be fun for the whole family. Children 3 years and under get in free!

**Date:** August 20th (Saturday)  
**Time:** Doors 2:30pm, Show 3:00pm  
**Venue:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)  
**Admission:** Parent and Child ¥1,800; Adult ¥1,500; Child ¥500; +¥500 Day of  
**Ticket Office:** Kawai Asahikawa Shop, Yamaha Music Store, Potato Service Center, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Asahikawa Crystal Hall, Gyokkodo (Aeon 3F)  
**For further information or to make reservations contact:** 0166-69-2000



## Shiki Theatre Company Family Musical: The Price and the Pauper 劇団四季のファミリーミュージカル 王子と乞食

The Prince and the Pauper by Mark Twain follows the story of William (the prince) and Tom (the pauper) as they find themselves mistaken for each other. Fans of Mark Twain or those looking to test their language skills can look forward to this event.

**Date:** August 20th (Saturday)  
**Time:** Doors 5:00pm, Show 5:30pm (Estimated 2 hours to complete)  
**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Big Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)  
**Admission:** S-Seat ¥5,000; A-Seat ¥3,500; Child ¥500; +¥500 Day of  
**Ticket Office:** Ticket Pia (P-Code 450-625), Lawson Ticket (L-Code 13976), Gyokkodo (Aeon 3F)  
**For further information or to make reservations contact:** 0166-69-2000



## Utamaro and His Contemporary Ukiyo-e Artists 歌麿とその時代 黄金期の浮世絵 美人と役者絵

Utamaro KITAGAWA is one of the most highly regarded Ukiyo-e practitioners. His works later went on to influence European impressionists at the time. If End of Edo and Beginning of Meiji through Nishiki-e isn't enough for you, double down with the Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Arts Ukiyo-e exhibition to get all the Japanese artwork you can handle!

**Date:** August 26th (Friday) to October 16th (Sunday)  
**Time:** 9:30am until 5:00pm  
**Venue:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Inside Tokiwa Park)  
**Admission:** General ¥920; High School ¥610; Junior High and Elementary ¥300  
**\*Notes:** No entry after 4:30pm. Closed on Mondays except for holidays, in which case the next day will be closed.



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR AUGUST





# Hello

**Name: Charles Harries**  
**Hometown: Montreal, Canada**  
**Interviewed: June 20th, By AIC**

**AIC:** **Ok Charles, where are you from?**

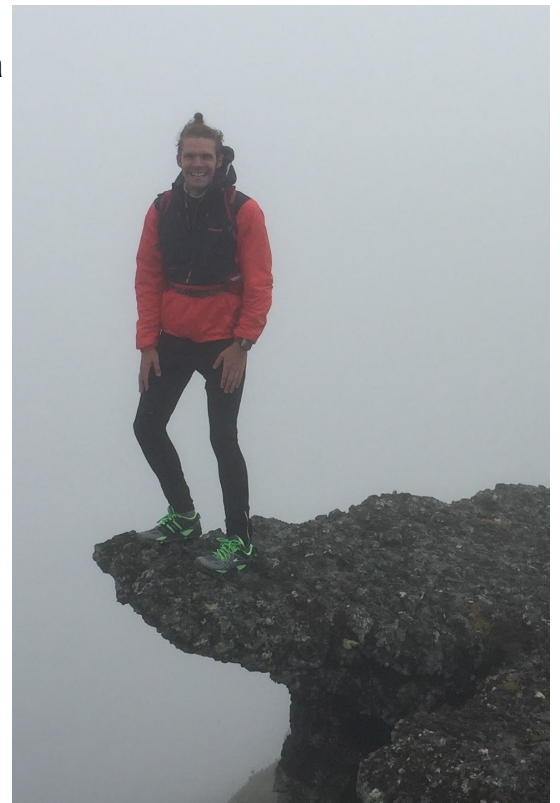
**Charles:** I'm from Montreal, Canada. Montreal is in the French part of Canada, so I can also speak French. As a child, my school was French. We had foreign language classes where we learned English. But I spoke English at home, and I consider English my first language.

**AIC:** **How does Montreal compare to being in Asahikawa?**

**Charles:** Compared with Asahikawa, Montreal is... bigger. A lot bigger. Maybe 4 million people or so? It's also further north, so it's a little bit colder. The cold air means that it's very dry in Montreal; it snows a little bit in December, and it snows a little bit in March, but in January and February it is so cold that everything turns to ice and it doesn't snow. It's miserable. Also, Montreal roads are quite bad, so no one wants to drive--everyone walks. Montreal has an underground city, with many tunnels and stores, so walkers don't have to cross streets or worry about traffic--and also to avoid the cold in the winter time.

On the other hand, Asahikawa has pretty terrific nature. There is only one small mountain in Montreal, 233 meters tall. In Asahikawa, though, you can find the 2291-meter Asahi-dake nearby, as well as a good number of other beautiful mountains in the Daisetsuzan. I would say that Asahikawa wins the nature battle.

Nature is pretty important to me. My big hobbies are outdoor activities. In particular I'm a fan of hiking. I think that life gets pretty clogged-up by daily activities, by worry, by stress. I think that when life is clogged-up, I can't live my best life, for lack of a better way to say it. I feel inefficient. I have a short temper. I'm always tired. I'm irritable. But when I go out in nature, and when I do outdoors activities that make me tired, I feel like this activity unclogs me. I feel cleaner. I feel like I can think again. I feel fresh. I think that if I didn't have the outdoors to help clean me out, I'd probably be really messed-up, somehow. I don't know.



# Asahikawa!

**AIC:** No, I totally understand. There is this word, 森林浴 (*Shin-rin-yoku*) - "Forest Therapy," that I think sums up that feeling pretty well. Have you gotten into any winter sports?

**Charles:** I love backcountry skiing, although I'm still new at it. I also do some cross-country skiing, but I'm not very good at it. Sometimes I do snowshoeing as well. Asahikawa is a great place for all of this, because you have mountains and cross-country ski tracks nearby. Asahikawa is a great place to be in the winter time.

**AIC:** How long have you lived in Japan? What about other countries?

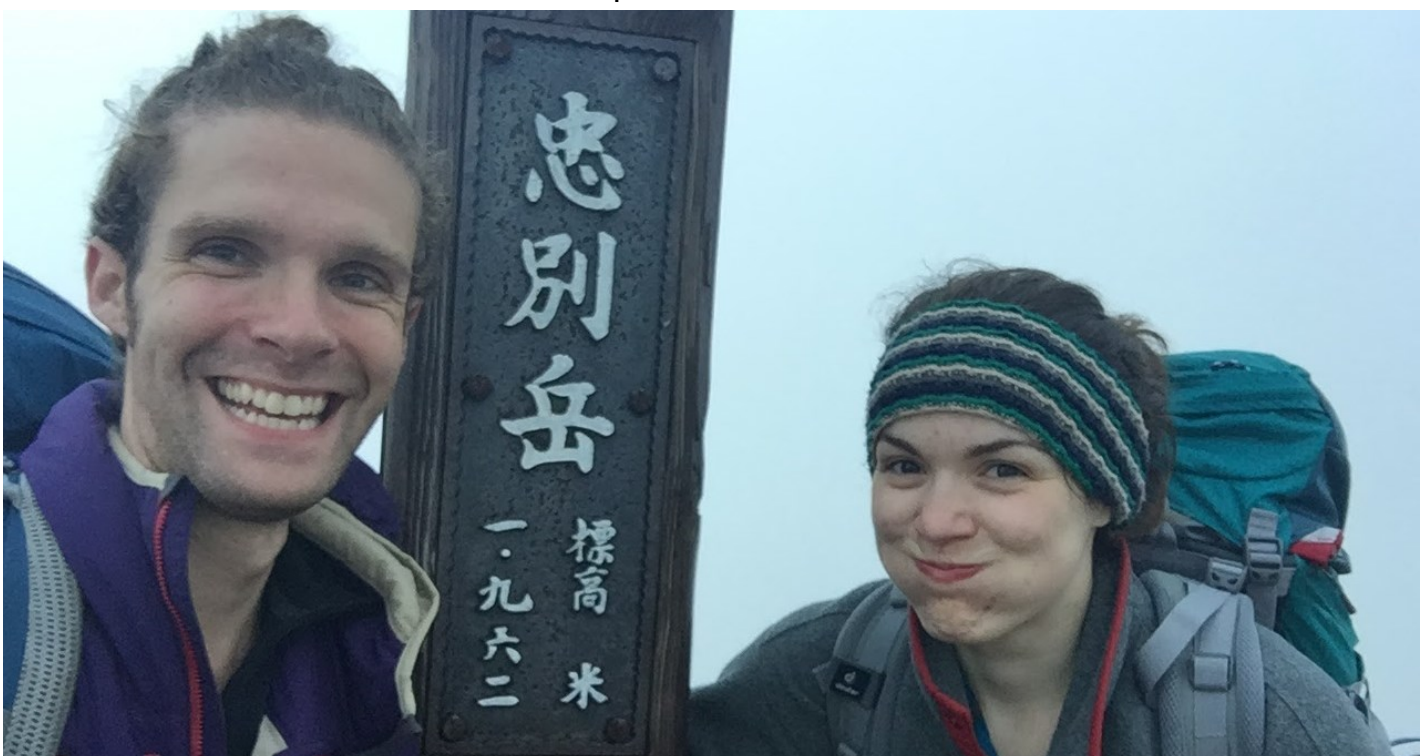
**Charles:** I have lived in Japan for four years. Four years ago was my first time in Japan. Before that, I went to university in Canada; and before that, I went to high school in the United States. It was a pretty big high school: some 4000 students or so. I've never encountered a school that big in Japan.

**AIC:** So you went to the US, then back to Canada, then to Japan. What did you study at University?

**Charles:** In university I studied English literature. I spent a lot of time taking apart language and studying meaning, particularly in poetry. Because modern English is actually a hodgepodge of four or five different languages, there's a lot of nuance to it. I think that makes for very beautiful poetry; but it also makes for a lot of confusion.

**AIC:** For sure. Any parting words?

**Charles:** I'll be hiking in the Daisetsuzan a lot this summer. If you see me, say hello! It's awesome to meet friends up in the mountains!



# Life In Japan

## お盆 Bon Festival By Satoshi SAKURABA

In Japan, there is a unique cultural aspect called “O-bon” (お盆). During O-bon, we hold memorial services for our ancestors by going to their gravesite or temple to pray for our ancestors’ soul. O-bon is usually from August 13th to the 16th. Many people will take time off during this time and visit their parents’ home. As for myself, I go back to Asahikawa and go to my ancestors’ grave with my family almost every year.

In main island of Honshu, heavy traffic jams on the express highway are frequent during O-bon. There are no traffic jams in Hokkaido, but the amount of traffic heading towards Asahikawa increases in and around this time. For this reason, some people take time off to avoid the traffic jams that come along with O-bon.

People go to graves and temples to pray for their ancestors’ soul during O-bon, but there is another important event. You may see people doing the “Bon Dance” (盆踊り) in the parks around your house. People dance in a circle to traditional melodies. The melodies of the Bon Dance vary by region and there is a Bon Dance unique to Hokkaido. In my younger years I would participate in the kids-only Bon Dance (子ども盆踊り). The dances are easy to learn, so you will be able to dance right away. If you see people doing the Bon Dance around your house, use it as an opportunity to have fun yourself.

## ★ *Movies ~ August* ★

\*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](http://cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa) (Japanese)

### Now Showing

- The Legend of Tarzan (English)
- Godzilla Resurgence (Japanese)
- One Piece Film: Gold (Japanese 2D, 3D/Animation)
- HiGH & LOW the Movie (Japanese)
- Pokémon the Movie XY & Z: Volcanion And The Tricky Magearna (Japanese/Animation)
- Finding Dory (Japanese, English/Animation)
- Moriyamanaka Kyoushujo (Japanese)
- Too Young to Die (Japanese)
- 64 (Six-Four) Pt2 (Japanese)
- Evergreen Love (Japanese)

### Coming Soon

- The Top Secret: Murder in Mind (Japanese/PG12) 8/6
- Rudolph to Ippaiattena (Japanese/Animation) 8/6
- Kamen Rider Ghost the Movie: 100 Eyecons and Ghost's Fateful Moment and Doubutsu Sentai Zyuohger the Movie: the Exciting Circus Panic! (Japanese) 8/6
- The Secret Life of Pets (Japanese/Animation) 8/11
- X-Men: Apocalypse (Japanese 3D/English 2D) 8/11
- The Jungle Book (English) 8/11
- Ghostbusters (English) 8/19
- Yell for the Blue Sky (Japanese) 8/20
- Your Name (Japanese) 8/26
- Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows (English) 8/26
- Gosaigyou no Onna (Japanese/PG12) 8/27
- Gods of Egypt (4DX) 9/9
- Suicide Squad (English) 9/10
- Your Lie in April (Japanese) 9/10
- Samurai Hustle Returns (Japanese) 9/10
- Bittersweet (Japanese) 9/10



## ★ *Movies ~ August* ★

\*<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.unitedcinemas.jp/asahikawa/index.html> (Japanese)

**Directions:** Take Dohoku Bus No. 66, 72 or 665 at Bus stop No. 18 in front of Feeal Asahikawa Department Store (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nagayama 10 (ju)-jo 3 (san)-chome.”

### Now Showing

- The Legend of Tarzan (English)
- Godzilla Resurgence (Japanese)
- One Piece Film: Gold (Japanese/Animation)
- HiGH & LOW the Movie (Japanese)
- Finding Dory (Japanese/Animation)
- Pokémon the Movie XY & Z: Volcanion And The Tricky Magearna (Japanese/Animation)
- Let's Go Anpanman: Nanda and Runda of the Toy Star (Japanese/Animation)
- 64 (Six-Four) Pt2 (Japanese)

### Coming Soon

- Rudolph to Ippaiattena (Japanese/Animation) 8/6
- The Top Secret: Murder in Mind (Japanese/PG12) 8/6
- Kamen Rider Ghost the Movie: 100 Eyecons and Ghost's Fateful Moment and Doubutsu Sentai Zyuohger the Movie: the Exciting Circus Panic! (Japanese) 8/6
- The Secret Life of Pets (Japanese/Animation) 8/11
- X-Men: Apocalypse (English) 8/11
- The Jungle Book (4DX) 8/11
- Ghostbusters (English) 8/19
- Yell for the Blue Sky (Japanese) 8/20
- Your Name (Japanese) 8/26
- Gosaigyou no Onna (Japanese/PG12) 8/27
- Setoutsumi (Japanese) 9/3
- Gods of Egypt (4DX) 9/9
- Suicide Squad (English) 9/10
- Samurai Hustle Returns (Japanese) 9/10
- Your Lie in April (Japanese) 9/10

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

URL: <http://cinema.sugai-dinos.jp/pc/> (Japanese)

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

### Now Showing

- The Legend of Tarzan (English)
- Godzilla Resurgence (Japanese)
- One Piece Film: Gold (Japanese/Animation)
- Finding Dory (Japanese, English/Animation)
- Pokémon the Movie XY & Z: Volcanion And The Tricky Magearna (Japanese/Animation)
- HiGH & LOW the Movie (Japanese)
- Independence Day: Resurgence (English)
- Sonzai no Riyu Documentary of AKB48 (Japanese)
- Alice Through the Looking Glass (English)
- Too Young to Die (Japanese)
- Creepy (Japanese)
- 64 (Six-Four) Pt2 (Japanese)
- Evergreen Love (Japanese)

### Coming Soon

- The Top Secret: Murder in Mind (Japanese/PG12) 8/6
- Kamen Rider Ghost the Movie: 100 Eyecons and Ghost's Fateful Moment and Doubutsu Sentai Zyuohger the Movie: the Exciting Circus Panic! (Japanese) 8/6
- Rudolph to Ippaiattena (Japanese/Animation) 8/6
- X-Men: Apocalypse (English) 8/11
- The Jungle Book (4DX) 8/11
- The Secret Life of Pets (Japanese/Animation) 8/11
- Aikatsu Stars! the Movie (Japanese/Animation) 8/13
- Ghostbusters (English) 8/19
- Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows (English) 8/26
- Your Name (Japanese) 8/26
- Gosaigyou no Onna (Japanese/PG12) 8/27
- Dias Police: Dirty Yellow Boys (Japanese/PG12) 9/3
- Gods of Egypt (4DX) 9/9
- Samurai Hustle Returns (Japanese) 9/10
- Your Lie in April (Japanese) 9/10
- Suicide Squad (English) 9/10

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

# Asahikawa Summer Festival!

Things are heating up in Asahikawa! Watch out for the Citizen Dance Parade, Yosakoi Soran Night, Disco Night, *mikoshi* (portable shrine procession) and more from **the 4th (Thursday) to the 6th (Saturday)**!

Date	Time	Event	Location
8/4	6:00pm to 7:30pm 7:45pm to 8:45pm	Opening Ceremony Fireworks	Riverline Park Ishikari Riverside near Asahibashi
8/5	5:00pm to 7:30pm 7:15pm to 9:00pm	Citizen Dance Parade YOSAKOI Soran Night	Kaimono Koen Shopping Street 3-jo-dori 6-chome Special Stage
8/6	4:40pm to 8:00pm 6:45pm to 10:00pm 8:20pm to 10:00pm 5:00pm to 10:00pm	Portable Shrine Procession Andon Festival Disco Night Tanabata Festival	Kaimono Koen Shopping Street / Showa-dori Showa-dori and Tokiwa Park 3-jo-dori 6-chome Special Stage Showa-dori (2-jo-dori ~ 7-jo-dori)
8/4 8/5 8/6	4:00pm to 10:00pm 2:00pm to 10:00pm 11:00am to 10:00pm	Sanroku Festival	Around 3-jo-dori 6-chome

## 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:** August 12nd&26th, September 9th&23rd, October 14th&28th

**Times:** 1:00-2:00pm ~Afternoon~ 2nd and 4th Friday of the month  
6:30-8:30pm ~Night~ 2nd Friday of the month

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

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

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

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

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

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

**For further information or to register, please contact AIC.**



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

## Spread the Word...

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



Asahikawa International Committee

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