

# 旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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## Hokkaido News Top 5



June 2016

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

### April 25

The sixth season of “porocle” has begun in Sapporo. “Porocle” is a bicycle rental system where anyone can rent a bicycle and return it at any of about 40 cycle parking spaces called a “port” downtown from 7:30 am to 9:00 pm. An incorporated nonprofit organization running the system gives out a map in English showing sightseeing spots and sends English-speaking guides to one of the “ports” in Chuoku Minami 1-jo Nishi 4-chome in an attempt to promote tourists from abroad to use the systems. The name “porocle” is a coined word taking the “poro” from Sapporo and “cle” from bicycle.

### May 1

Hokkaido Museum in Sapporo now provides a museum guidance application for smartphones which displays the explanations of its exhibitions in five languages: Japanese, English, Chinese (both in simplified and traditional characters), Korean, and Russian. Explanations are displayed on screen when visitors enter the exhibitions. The app is named “Pocket Gakugeiin (Pocket Curator)” and can be downloaded free from the App Store or Google play.

### May 13

Softbank Group Corp., a major telecommunications company, carried out a test of their “Balloon Radio Relay System” in the Town of Taiki near Obihiro. The system enables people to make phone calls when a disaster would normally take down the communication network. An experiment group flew a balloon with the radio relay system, whose service area is up to maximum of 10 kilometers, to 100 meters in the air. A member of the group said, “If you can see the balloon, you can use your cellphone during a disaster.”

### May 14

The City of Muroran has brought in a set of Toyota “MIRAI,” automobiles driven by a fuel battery and hydrogen filling station. The city tries to encourage local businesses to go into hydrogen energy related industries because of Muroran Institute of Technology as well as the concentration of manufacturing and large steel works. Muroran City also thinks that fuel-powered vehicles will help build a more eco-friendly community.

### May 17

Sapporo City Board of Education decided not to send all ALTs to its 201 elementary schools and 73 junior high schools for some time to come. The board of education outsourced a part of its ALT program to a Tokyo based major English conversation school, but many ALTs at the school declined to be transferred to Sapporo because they claimed to find more challenging jobs. The board plans to send ALTs to schools by outsourcing to other companies from July on.



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

Asahikawa International Committee (KAMIMAE Ayumi, Jacob WERSCHEY, 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

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

### Seeing Nature: Wind, Water and Forest つかまえる 風水森をめぐるイメージ

This exhibition features works that try to capture the elusive natural motifs like wind, water and forest. Each artist uses their own unique methods, understanding the motifs from their own viewpoints whether it is the rough winds of an oil painting or using stones to express the fluidity of water.

**Date:** Now to June 5th (Sunday)

**Time:** 9:30am until 5:00pm

**Venue:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Inside Tokiwa Park)

**Admission:** General ¥510; High School ¥300; Junior High and under FREE

**\*Notes:** No entry after 4:30pm. Closed on Mondays.



### Background of Yasushi INOUE's *Ryūsa* ~Illustrations by Yasutake FUNAKOSHI~ 井上靖「流沙」の背景 一船越保武の挿絵原画一

*Ryūsa* was long novel serialized from 1977 to 1979 in *Mainichi Shimbun* (the daily news) over 515 iterations. The illustrations were done by sculptor Yasutake FUNAKOSHI as he tried to express the love of the two characters of the novel: an archeologist living in Bonn, Germany and a pianist living in Paris, France.

**Date:** Now to July 10th (Sunday)

**Time:** 9:00am to 5:00pm\*

**Venue:** Yasushi Inoue Memorial Hall, (Shunko 5-jo 7-chome)

**Admission:** General ¥200; High School ¥100; Junior High and under FREE

**For further information contact:** 0166-52-1740



### Dozan Fujiwara & SINSKE 5th Anniversary Concert - Worlds Smallest *Shakuhachi* and Marimba Orchestra 藤原道山XSINSKE 5th Anniversary コンサート ~尺八とマリンパによる世界最小オーケストラ~

“You can deliver the diverse sound of a concert with just a *shakuhachi* and marimba.”

This is what this duo set out to do 5 years ago and now their music is flying off the shelves.

These two keep cranking out classic concerts, famous tracks from movies, and original works.

**Date:** June 4th (Saturday)

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

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

**Admission:** General ¥3500; 65 and older ¥3000; Student ¥1500; +¥500 day of

**Ticket Office:** Kawai Shop Asahikawa, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Yamaha Music Store, Gyokkodo (3F Aeon Mall), Ticket Pia (P-code 294-300), Lawson (L-code 14109)

**For further information contact:** 0166-69-2000 Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall



### My Favorite Classics

マイ フェイバリット クラシックス

Asaka YAMAMOTO (Guitar) and Sakurako HOMMA (Soprano) are two very talented individuals from the Asahikawa and Sapporo areas of which many of their performances are focused and their awards have been won. The performance will be accompanied by Shiori FUJIZAWA, a pianist with a large share of experience and won competitions under her belt.

**Date:** June 5th (Sunday);

**Show Times:** Doors 3:40pm Show 4:00pm

**Venue:** Kagura Public Hall “Kirarin” (Kagura 3-jo 6-chome)

**Admission:** General ¥2000; High school and below ¥500; +¥300 day of

**Ticket Office:** Yamaha Music Store

**For further information contact:** 0166-27-2670



## Keisuke YAMAUCHI Fervent Performance 2016: Hokkaido Tour 山内恵介熱唱ライブ 2016 北海道ツアー

At a Fukuoka Karaoke competition, Mr. Yamauchi caught the eye of Singer/songwriter Hideo MIZUMORI and was scouted while he was only a first year high school student. He made his debut a year in a half later with Victor Entertainment. Now 32 years old, this is Mr. YAMAUCHI's 16th year performing!

**Date:** June 8th (Wednesday); June 9th (Thursday)  
**Show Times:** Wednesday: 2:30pm 6:30pm      Thursday: 12:00pm 4:00pm

*Doors open 30 minutes prior to show*

**Venue:** Asahikawa Public Hall (inside Tokiwa Park)

**Admission:** ¥ 5800

**Ticket Office:** Coach and Four, Gyokkodo (3F Aeon Mall), Ticket Pia (P-code 282-091),



## 2016 John Walthausen Recital: Pipe Organ Concert 2016 ジョン・ウォルトハウゼン リサイタル パイプオルガンコンサート

It isn't very often that there is a pipe organ concert. It isn't often that an event takes place in a church. It definitely isn't very often that we get a performance by such an international performer. After attending Oberlin College, he went on to attend the Conservatoire de Paris. After a number of performances in the US and Europe, he works as an organist at the Sapporo Concert Hall (also known as Kitara).

**Date:** June 11th (Saturday)  
**Time:** Doors 1:30pm, Show 2:00pm  
**Venue:** Asahikawa Toyoka Church (3-jo 25-chome)  
**Admission:** ¥ 1200  
**For further information contact:** 090-5076-5387 (Takada)



## 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 scences 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:** June 18th (Saturday) 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)



## Katsushige SATO Second Album Commemorative Concert: "Two Prodigies" - Mozart and Chopin 佐藤 勝重 セカンドアルバム 販売記念コンサート "2人の天才" モーツァルトとショパンを讃える

While the focus is on the pianist, you may recognize the flute player on the left from February's performance of "Swan lake." Both players have their respective qualities that may warrant the title themselves, such as Mr. SATO graduating top of his class in a music school at the high school level and in the Conservatoire de Paris.

**Date:** June 26th (Sunday)  
**Time:** Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm  
**Venue:** Kagura Public Hall "Kirarin" (Kagura 3-jo 6-chome)  
**Admission:** General ¥ 3000; Student ¥ 1500  
**Ticket Office:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Yamaha Music Store, Gyokkodo (3F Aeon Mall), Coach and Four (Music corner)  
**For further information contact:** 1066-48-9454



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR JUNE



**Name: John Welsh**

**Hometown: Vallejo, California, US**

**Interviewed: May 21st, By AIC**

**AIC: So what brings you to Japan? And is this your first time?**

**John:** After graduating college, I visited a friend in Niigata over my winter holiday in 2007. Even though I had a decent job in the States, I was hooked. Rice balls in convenience stores? I mean c'mon! That can't be beat. Well, if I had to give a more serious answer, I'd have to say what lured me here was Japanese culture. It's a very "work hard, play hard" kind of culture which fit with me very nicely. Of course at the time I had no idea of the nuances of Japanese culture, to which my numerous gaffes can be attributed. Now, however, I'm quite comfortable with the culture and all of its ups and downs.

**AIC: What about outside of Japan?**

**John:** I've been to Mexico, but that doesn't really count since I didn't even need a passport then. Japan is my first real adventure.

**AIC: I see. So you said that you are pretty used to the culture now but how are you finding things on the language end?**

**John:** I can get by in everyday life with my current Japanese level. Though, I'd like to become fluent in the future. I'd hate for my kids-to-be to think their dad had come to Japan and didn't bother to go all the way in learning the lingo.

**AIC: Kids-to-be? Sounds like you plan to be here for a while.**

**John:** 'Till death do us part. Seriously. I've recently gotten married and I'm here for the long haul. My parents have my brother to keep them company, so I'm sure they won't miss me that much!

**AIC: Where is your hometown by the way?**

**John:** I'm from a city called Vallejo, California in the United States. It's famous for three things: Being the fourth most dangerous city in California, being one of the largest cities to go bankrupt in America, and for having a Six Flags amusement park.



# Asahikawa!

**AIC:** That's seems like a 180 from where you live now! *(laughs)*

**John:** I don't even think you can put it on the same scale. Asahikawa is a much more desirable place to live. People are nicer and rent is cheaper. Sure, it doesn't snow in my hometown, but I like cold weather so I'm in my element.



**AIC:** So I assume you are into winter sports then?

**John:** In winter I do go snowboarding. I only got into it when I moved here eight years ago, but it's the best hobby to have if you live in Asahikawa.

**AIC:** Yea I only went a handful of times but it was fun. Any other hobbies outside of winter sports?

**John:** Although I'm not supposed to admit it, I'm a very big fan of games. I enjoy playing story-centric games like Final Fantasy. My favorite game is Final Fantasy 6 for Super Famicom. It's an oldie but a goodie. When I'm not playing, I do enjoy driving on nice days.

**AIC:** Snowboarding and video games. Do you think there is something that draws you to these hobbies?

**John:** I think what draws me to all my hobbies is escape; it's a way to unwind and relax. While some people like to go out and booze themselves up for the weekend, I'm perfectly happy on the slopes or settling down with a nice game.

**AIC:** *(laughs)* I know exactly how you feel. I haven't had much of a nightlife since the weather improved. Ok John. You knew this was coming. Is Karaoke something you like?

**John:** Oh yeah. I love Karaoke. I may not be the best singer around, but I am not afraid to sing in front of people. The Boom - Shima Uta is my go-to song.

**AIC:** Thanks for letting me interview you!

**John:** Thanks Jacob. It was a pleasure.

# Life In Hokkaido

## Yosokai-Soran Festival By Satoshi SAKURABA

In June, a famous dance festival is held in Sapporo's Odori Park (大通り公園). It is called the "YOSAKOI-Soran Festival (YOSAKOIソーラン祭り)" and is scheduled to be held from June 8th to June 12th. People dance in groups with local folk music and compete with each other group in beauty and vigor.

According to the official homepage (<http://www.yosakoi-soran.jp>), there are only two rules to attend this dance festival. One is that all dancers must hold "Naruko (鳴子)" in their hands. Naruko are handles with wooden boards attached to the sides. People shake them to make loud sounds. The other rule is that the music used in dancing must contain some signature phrases. There are many groups attending at this festival, and, surprisingly, some of groups come from abroad.

Originally, this traditional dance comes from movements that fishermen employ. For example, many groups employ the movement of drawing a net as part of their dances. When trying to dance, the rhythm and step is difficult at first, but one becomes increasingly familiar with them and it becomes very fun. Of course, just watching the powerful dances in Odori Park is fun too.

During the festival period, the hotels in Sapporo will be full to capacity, making it impossible get any rooms to stay in Sapporo. However, Asahikawa is located within commuting distance of Sapporo. If you are interested in the YOSAKOI-soran festival, I recommend that you go to Sapporo from June 8 to June 12.

## ★ Movies ~ June ★

\*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

- Himeanole (Japanese/R15+)
- Wolf Girl and Black Prince (Japanese)
- The Huntsman: Winter's War (English)
- After the Storm (Japanese)
- Meet Miss Anxiety (Chinese)
- If Cats Disappear from the World (Japanese)
- The Interest Please, My Lord (Japanese)
- Sinbad (Japanese/Animation)
- 64 (Six-Four) Pt1 (Japanese)
- Terra Formars (Japanese)
- Chihayafuru 【Shimonoku】 (Japanese)
- Captain America: Civil War (English)
- I am a Hero (Japanese/R15+)
- Zootopia (English/Animation)
- The Revenant (English/R15+)
- Crayon Shin-chan:Fast Asleep! Dreaming World Big Assault! (Japanese/Animation)
- Detective Conan: The Darkest Nightmare (Japanese/Animation)
- Assassination Classroom: Graduation (Japanese)
- Chihayafuru 【Kaminoku】 (Japanese)

### Coming Soon

- Deadpool (English/R15+) 6/1
- Detective Mitarai's Casebook: The Clockwork Current (Japanese) 6/4
- Evergreen Love (Japanese) 6/4
- The Kodai Family (Japanese) 6/4
- 64 (Six-Four) Pt2 (Japanese) 6/11
- Natsumi's Firefly (Japanese) 6/11
- Thomas and Friends - Sodor's Legend of the Lost Treasure (Japanese/Animation) 6/18~7/1
- Sadako vs. Kayako (Japanese) 6/18
- Too Young to Die (Japanese) 6/25
- Twisted Justice (Japanese/R+15) 6/25

## ★ *Movies ~ June* ★

\*<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) ★LINK UPDATED★

**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

- Wolf Girl and Black Prince (Japanese)
- Spotlight (English)
- The Huntsman: Winter's War (English)
- If Cats Disappear from the World (Japanese)
- The Interest Please, My Lord (Japanese)
- 64 (Six-Four) Pt1 (Japanese)
- Captain America: Civil War (English)
- Terra Formars (Japanese)
- Chihayafuru 【Shimonoku】 (Japanese)
- Zootopia (Japanese/Animation)
- I am a Hero (Japanese/R15+)
- The Revenant (English/R15+)
- Detective Conan: The Darkest Nightmare (Japanese/Animation)
- Crayon Shin-chan:Fast Asleep! Dreaming World Big Assault! (Japanese/Animation)
- Assassination Classroom: Graduation (Japanese)

### Coming Soon

- Deadpool (English/R15+) 6/1
- Evergreen Love (Japanese) 6/4
- Tetsuya Kumakawa K-BALLET COMPANY Don Quixote in cinema (Japanese) 6/4~6/17
- The Kodai Family (Japanese) 6/4
- Burnt (English) 6/11
- Sabuibo Mask (Japanese) 6/11
- 64 (Six-Four) Pt2 (Japanese) 6/11
- Sadako vs. Kayako (Japanese) 6/18
- Creepy (Japanese) 6/18
- Naze Ikiru Rennyō Shonin to Yosizaki Enjo (Japanese/Animation) 6/25
- Twisted Justice (Japanese/R+15) 6/25

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

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

**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

- Room (English) ~6/17
- The Danish Girl (English) ~6/10
- The Bride of Rip Van Winkle (Japanese) ~6/2
- Inside Man (Korean) ~6/3
- The Huntsman: Winter's War (English)
- If Cats Disappear from the World (Japanese)
- The Interest Please, My Lord (Japanese)
- 64 (Six-Four) Pt1 (Japanese)
- Maniac Hero (Japanese)
- Captain America: Civil War (English)
- Chihayafuru 【Shimonoku】 (Japanese)
- Terra Formars (Japanese)
- I am a Hero (Japanese/R15+)
- Zootopia (English/Animation)
- Yu-Gi-Oh!:Dark Side of Dimentions (Japanese/Animation)
- Detective Conan: The Darkest Nightmare (Japanese/Animation)
- Crayon Shin-chan:Fast Asleep! Dreaming World Big Assault! (Japanese/Animation)
- Assassination Classroom: Graduation (Japanese)
- Chihayafuru 【Kaminoku】 (Japanese)

### Coming Soon

- Deadpool (English/R15+) 6/1
- Southpaw (English/R15+) 6/3
- Evergreen Love (Japanese) 6/4
- The Kodai Family (Japanese) 6/4
- Money Monster (English) 6/10
- 64 (Six-Four) Pt2 (Japanese) 6/11
- 10 Cloverfield Lane (English) 6/17
- Creepy (Japanese) 6/18
- Mars (Japanese) 6/18
- Twisted Justice (Japanese/R+15) 6/25
- Too Young to Die (Japanese) 6/25

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

# LUNCH PASSPORT 2016 Selected Wood Works

For ¥1,058, the Lunch Passport knocks one item from a variety of restaurants in Asahikawa down to an easy to pay ¥500. With discounts ranging from ¥200 to ¥878, it pays for itself. Get out and see what Asahikawa has to offer!

**NEW:** This time around, the Lunch Passport includes a dessert section. It has also expanded into Takasu, Toma and Higashikagura!

**Date:** Now until August 10th

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



第2展示室  
木の造形セレクションI  
Selected Wood Works from Our Collection I  
旭川美術館のコレクションの柱のひとつ“木の造形”。200点を越える作品のなかから、2015年に中原偉二郎賞を受賞した戸谷成雄をはじめ舟越桂、神山明、桂舟き等の優れた木の彫刻や工芸を紹介いたします。  
4月27日(水)～10月16日(日)  
開催時間：午前9時30分～午後5時(入場は午後4時30分まで)  
休館日：月曜日(ただし祝日は開館)  
6月7日(火)～17日(金)、7月19日(火)、  
8月18日(木)～25日(木)、9月20日(火)、10月11日(火)



Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art will be bringing out award winning wood carvings and crafts out from its collection of over 200 works along side “Seeing Nature: Wind, Water and Forestry.”

**Date:** Now to October 16th (Sunday)

**Time:** 9:30am until 5:00pm

**Venue:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Inside Tokiwa Park)

**Admission:** ¥170; High school/University ¥100

**Notes:** Free admission for high school students on Saturday. Free admission for seniors 65 or older as well as middle school and lower.

## 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:** June 10th&24th, July 8th&22nd, August 12nd&26th

\*Fun Fridays are held only on the 2nd Friday of every month for the evening session (2 hours)

**Time:** 1:00-2:00pm & 6:30-8:30pm

**Location:** Asahikawa International Center, Common Meeting Room (1)  
(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.\*\***