

# 旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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## Hokkaido News Top 5



October 2016

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

### August 30

- *Sciurus vulgaris orientis* squirrels in Hokkaido, living in the urban area of Obihiro leave their nests longer than those in suburban areas, according to a research team of graduate students at Hokkaido University and undergraduate students at Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine. According to their research, urban squirrels are active for 8 hours and 20 minutes a day on average, while suburban ones are active for 6 hours and 37 minutes. The students think that it might be hard for urban squirrels to get more hours of sleep than suburban ones because the noise and streetlights in the city disturb their sleep.

### August 31

- Hokkaido was affected by six typhoons in August, the first time since the Meteorological Office began taking records in 1951. Three typhoons hit Hokkaido and the other three approached the island compared with the average 1.8 typhoons that affect Hokkaido in August. That's because there were high-pressure systems above the Pacific Ocean and a cold vortex above the Sea of Japan, which made the typhoons hit Hokkaido.

### September 3

- Newly married couples in Hokkaido have liberal views toward weddings. According to a survey by Recruit Marketing Partners, which issues an informational magazine on marriage, 99.1 percent of couples had their wedding without a 'nakodo' (matchmaker), and 86.0 percent without 'yuino' (exchange of betrothal gifts). June weddings are not popular anymore among the couples. 14 percent of them had a wedding in November, 12 percent in both May and October, and 11 percent in September. As for the wedding ceremony, 60 percent were Christian-style weddings, 23 percent civil weddings, 15 percent Shinto-style and 0 percent were Buddhist-style.

### September 9

- Hokkaido International Women's Association published their 500<sup>th</sup> monthly English newsletter 'What's on in Sapporo?' for tourists and students from abroad in September. The first issue was published in June 1975. The newsletter covers the events at Sapporo International Communication Plaza, festivals, concerts, art exhibitions, and flea markets in Sapporo. It also includes information on Japanese lessons, etc.

### September 14

- The president of JR Hokkaido presented the estimated amount of damage caused by the series of typhoons in August to the public at a regular press conference. The president announced that the fall in railroad revenue will reach four billion yen if the suspension of train service on the Nemuro and Sekihoku Line continues until the coming December. In addition, the cost to restore six destroyed bridges on the Nemuro Line and roadbeds may cost billions of yen or more, he said.



**ASAHIKAWA  
INTERNATIONAL  
COMMITTEE**

#### 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

## 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:** Now to October 16th (Sunday)**Time:** 9:30am until 5:00pm (No entry after 4:30pm)**Venue:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Inside Tokiwa Park)**Admission:** General ¥920; High School ¥610; Junior High and Elementary ¥300**For further information contact:** 0166-25-2577**\*Notes:** Closed on Mondays except for holidays, in which case the next day will be closed.

## Asahikawa Tamada 12th Friendship Concert: Hugo Wolf Trio Wien

旭川玉田学園 第12フレンドシップコンサート ～ウィーン・フーゴ・ヴォルフ三重奏団～

Violin player and Prof. Daniel Gaede, 1990 International Tchaikovsky performance contest Gustave Rivinius, and Pianist Oliver Triendl together make Hugo Wolf Trio and are coming to Asahikawa as a part of their 2016 Japan tour.

**Date:** October 7th (Friday)**Time:** Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm**Venue:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Concert Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)**Admission:** ¥3,000; Students/65 and older ¥2,500; Pair Discount ¥2,500 each**Ticket Office:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Yamaha Music Store, Coach and Four, Gyokkodo (Aeon 3F), Tasuka Melody Hall**For further information contact:** 0166-52-2750**Notes:** Free parking!

## FIRST Asahikawa Eiryo High School Wind Orchestra Autumn Concert

第1回旭川永嶺高等学校吹奏楽部 オータムコンサート

Eiryo High School's first Autumn Concert since its formation after Ryouin High School was integrated with Toei High School. Includes special guest Shoichiro HOKAZONO an associate professor at Tokyo College of Music.

**Date:** October 8th (Saturday)**Time:** Doors 5:30pm, Show 6:00pm**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Big Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)**Admission:** General ¥1,000; High School and under ¥500**Ticket Office:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Coach and Four, Gyokkodo (Aeon 3F), Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Lawson Ticket (L-code 11871)**For further information contact:** 080-5837-4708

## Eleventh Tokyo Metropolitan Brass Quintet in Asahikawa

第11回東京メトロポリタン ブラス・クインテット 旭川公演

Special guest appearance by composer of the music in the Dragon Quest video games series, Kochi SUGIYAMA. Mr. SUGIYAMA will be giving a lecture and several songs from the Dragon Quest series will be played to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the games launch.

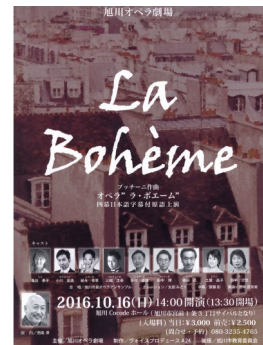
**Date:** October 9th (Sunday)**Time:** Doors 6:30pm, and 7:00pm**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Small Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)**Admission:** General ¥2,000; High School and under ¥500; +¥500 day of**Ticket Office:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Kawai Shop, Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall**For further information:** 0166-25-8825 (Fax Only)

## Asahikawa Opera House *La Bohème*

旭川オペラ劇場 オペラ ラ・ボエーム

Composer Giacomo Puccini's opera was first performed in Italy's Royal Theatre in 1896. 120 years later and its playing in the northern island of Japan. *La Bohème* begins its story in Paris 1830 and is comprised of four acts, the fourth of which includes Japanese subtitles. Opera buffs and language learners rejoice!

**Date:** October 16th (Sunday)  
**Time:** Doors 1:30pm, Show 2:00pm  
**Venue:** Asahikawa Cocode Hall (Miyamae 1-jo 3-chome)  
**Admission:** ¥2,500; +¥500 Day of  
**For further information or to make reservations contact:** 080-3235-4765



## 15th Annual Swing Messengers Orchestra Charity Concert 15周年記念チャリティーコンサート スイング・メッセンジャーズ・オーケストラ

Swing Messengers Orchestra started in 2001 as way for friends who loved jazz to share the joy of music through their performances. It is a group that is trying to give back to the city through welfare efforts through their music. Come out and see them!

**Date:** October 23rd (Sunday)  
**Time:** Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm  
**Venue:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)  
**Admission:** General ¥1,500 (¥1,800 the day of); Elementary and under free  
**Ticket Office:** Yamaha Music Store, Kawai Shop, Coach and Four, Swan Café, Rebel FM, Olive (Toyooka Restaurant), Gyokkodo (Aeon 3F), Fukido, Gallery Café  
**For further information:** 090-2053-5582  
 hfa213@gmail.com

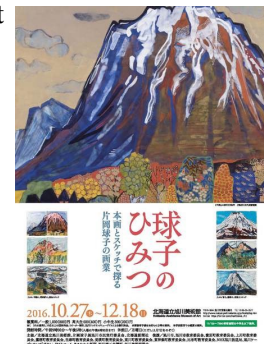


## Tamako KATAOKA: An Unknown World of Creation

球子のひみつ - 本画とスケッチで探る片岡珠子の画業

Tamako KATAOKA was a native of Hokkaido and *Nihonga* (Japanese style painting) artist particularly known for her series of more colorful paintings of Mount Fuji. This exhibit features a variety of her sketches.

**Date:** October 27th (Thursday) to December 18th (Sunday)  
**Time:** 9:30am until 5:00pm (No entry after 4:30pm)  
**Venue:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Inside Tokiwa Park)  
**Admission:** General ¥1000; High School ¥600; Junior High and Elementary ¥300  
 FREE during November 1st through the 7th  
**For further information contact:** 0166-25-2577  
 \*Notes: Closed on Mondays except for holidays, in which case the next day will be closed.



## A-Flats Swing Jazz Orchestra 3rd Bigband Party Night

アーフラッツ スウイングジャズオーケストラ・アーフラッツ 3回目 ビッグバンド・パーティー・ナイト

A-flats Swing Jazz Orchestra group that has been performing under their current name since 1991, but the group really started in 1975. In 1999 they hosted 26 Jazz majors from Illinois Wesleyan University in Asahikawa's sister city of Bloomington.

**Date:** October 30th (Sunday)  
**Time:** Doors 4:00pm, Show 5:00pm  
**Venue:** Asahikawa Toyo Hotel 2F, Tanchou Room (7-jo 7-chome)  
**Admission:** ¥1,500; Elementary School and under FREE  
**Ticket Office:** Yamaha Music Store, Gyokkodo (Aeon 3F), Fukido, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Asahikawa Toyo Hotel  
**Note:** Ticket includes one free drink.





# Hello

**Name: Michael Bugajski**  
**Hometown: Chicago, Illinois, United States**  
**Interviewed: September 20th, By AIC**

**AIC: What brings you to Japan? Is it your first time?**

**Michael:** This is actually my second time living in Japan! I lived in Japan for a year from 2011 to 2012, in Niigata Prefecture. I was an English teacher there, too! Except that time, I taught at two junior high schools and four elementary schools. It was definitely a very different experience from now! I'm enjoying teaching high school this time around, and my students have been really great!

**AIC: Good to hear. Anywhere else that you have been or want to go?**

**Michael:** I've also traveled to England, France, and Mexico, but I am definitely looking forward to seeing more places and visiting new countries. Travel is definitely one of my passions!

**AIC: Did you ever travel to Hokkaido when you lived in Niigata?**

**Michael:** This is actually my first time to be in Hokkaido, and I am really excited. When I lived in Japan the first time, I never really traveled to the north! I was always headed for Kyoto, Nara, or Tokyo! I love to explore and travel, so I'm looking forward to seeing all that Hokkaido has to offer. I've always wanted to travel here, so this is kind of a dream come true to get to work here!

**AIC: Sweet! How is living in Dreamland?**

**Michael:** I have to admit, I have kind of fallen in love with Asahikawa. It's very different from where I have lived in the past! In Niigata, I lived in a very small town called Ojiya, and while it is a place near and dear to my heart, it was a little on the... *inaka* side.

**AIC: Where are you from originally?**

**Michael:** I'm originally from Chicago, IL in the United States, so I grew up living in the third biggest city in America. Because of that, I'm not too impressed with big cities, but I really feel like Asahikawa is in the sweet spot for me.



# Asahikawa!

It's big, has a lot of amenities, always has some sort of event happening, and there are places to go and see, but also has easy access to the outdoors and nature. In my case, adventure is just a short bus ride away! I'm not sure how long I am going to stay here, but at this point, I am definitely digging the city. But we'll see how the winter goes...

**AIC:** Yeah... Winter can be pretty rough.

**Michael:** I'm actually really excited to see the winter here. Everyone I talk to keeps mentioning how hard or horrible the winter will be, but I say, «Bring it on!» Having grown up in Chicago, I am used to living with very cold temperatures and snowfall, and after living in the *yukiguni* (snow country) of Niigata (3M of snow on the ground at a time!), I am ready for whatever the winter can throw at me. As long as I have my trusty heater and a pile of blankets, I'll be okay! Check up on me in a few months to see if I made it through...

**AIC:** Have you ever done skiing or snowboarding?

**Michael:** Despite living in the cold of Chicago, and the deep snow of Niigata, I was never very much in to winter sports! Chicago suffers from a lack of any kind of slope, and cross country skiing never took off there, and in Niigata, I actually spent a good deal of my winter doing volunteer work, and never made it out to the slopes! So, I am a total newbie when it comes to skiing or snowboarding. I'm pretty awesome on a sled or tubing, though! My main hobbies are photography, fishing, and baking.

**AIC:** Yea I'm from central Illinois so I know what you mean. Other hobbies?

**Michael:** Photography is great because I can do it at any time, and fishing.. well, I'm willing to give ice fishing a go, but I'm not going to make any promises. But baking? That's a winter hobby if I ever had one, haha. My spring project is definitely to learn how to fly fish, which up until now, I have not done.



I actually have one other hobby, but I am just not sure if I am going to be able to practice at all, here! I'm a pilot! I learned how to fly airplanes in 2004, and got licensed in the United States in 2005. It's definitely a fun hobby, and one I greatly enjoy, but it is a little on the expensive side, so I don't get to do it much. I jump at any opportunity to get up in the air, whether as a pilot, or as a passenger though! I heard there was a place to do paragliding and Glider flights in Hokkaido, but I haven't been able to get definitive details on that, yet. I'm still digging!

# Hello Asahikawa!

Michael Interview  
Continued

- AIC:** That sounds awesome!! Sort of a downer after such a cool conversation but how is your Japanese coming along?
- Michael:** I try very hard to speak Japanese, but I am really quite bad at it. I'm studying to try to get better, but I am sure my teachers would cringe if they heard me speak, now! So, that makes life a bit of an adventure! I speak a smattering of French and Spanish, but even less now than I used to know. These days it's enough to know when someone is swearing at me, and how to ask the all-important phrase "Where is the bathroom?"
- AIC:** Incredibly important phrase. Tell me how you feel about karaoke
- Michael:** I love Karaoke! I don't get many chances to get a large group together to go, but it is always a blast! I want to learn Enka so I can blow away my coworkers.
- AIC:** Thank you for letting me interview you!
- Michael:** Of course! Thank you so much for asking me! I've been reading this newsletter since I arrived, and its been great to see the profiles of people that are in here. It'll be a thrill to see me there as well!

## ★ Movies ~ October ★

\*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 BFG (English)
- Anger (Japanese)
- Sanada Ten Braves (Japanese)
- Sully (English)
- Samurai Hustle Returns (Japanese)
- Your Lie in April (Japanese)
- Gods of Egypt (Japanese 2D)
- Yell for the Blue Sky (Japanese)
- Suicide Squad (Japanese/English)
- Gosaigyou no Onna (Japanese/PG12)
- Your Name (Japanese)
- Godzilla Resurgence (Japanese)
- Rudolph to Ippaiattena (Japanese/Animation)
- The Secret Life of Pets (Japanese/Animation)

### Coming Soon

- Angry Birds Movie (English 2D, Japanese 3D) 10/1
- Scoop! (Japanese/PG12) 10/1
- Cutie Honey: Tears (Japanese) 10/1
- Jason Bourne (English) 10/7
- Good Morning Show (Japanese) 10/8
- My Dad and Mr. Ito (Japanese) 10/8
- HiGH & LOW the Red Rain (Japanese) 10/8
- The Projects (Japanese) 10/15~10/28
- Somebody (Japanese) 10/15
- BIGBANG MADE (Japanese) 10/15~10/28
- Man of the Gold Medal (Japanese) 10/22
- Inferno (English) 10/28
- Death Note: Light Up the New World (Japanese) 10/29
- Will You Marry My Wife? (Japanese) 11/5
- Drowning Love (Japanese) 11/5

## ★ Movies ~ October ★

\*<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

- Yu-Gi-Oh! The Dark Side of Dimensions (Japanese 4DX)
- Sully (English)
- Sanada Ten Braves (Japanese)
- The BFG (Japanese/English)
- Anger (Japanese/PG12)
- Your Lie in April (Japanese)
- Samurai Hustle Returns (Japanese)
- Suicide Squad (English 2D/Japanese 4DX3D)
- Gods of Egypt (English 2D/Japanese 4DX3D)
- Gosaigyouno Onna (Japanese/PG12)
- Your Name (Japanese)
- Yell for the Blue Sky (Japanese)
- The Secret Life of Pets (Japanese/Animation)
- The Jungle Book (Japanese 2D)
- Rudolph to Ippaiattena (Japanese 2D, 3D/Animation)
- Godzilla Resurgence (Japanese 2D)

### Coming Soon

- Angry Birds Movie (Japanese 2D) 10/1
- Kingsglaive: Final Fantasy XV (Japanese 4DX) 10/1
- Jason Bourne (English 4DX) 10/7
- Good Morning Show (Japanese) 10/8
- Shojo (Japanese) 10/8
- HiGH & LOW Red Rain (Japanese) 10/8
- GANTZ:O (Japanese 4DX) 10/14
- Ame Onna (Japanese 4DX) 10/15
- Somebody (Japanese) 10/15
- Star Trek Beyond (English 4DX) 10/21
- Man of the Gold Medal (Japanese) 10/22
- Inferno (English) 10/28
- Death Note: Light Up the New World (Japanese) 10/29
- Mahou Tsukai Pretty Cure!: Kiseki no Henshin! Cure Mofurun (Japanese) 10/29
- Storks (Japanese) 11/3
- Over the Fence (Japanese) 11/5
- Will You Marry My Wife? (Japanese) 11/5

★ **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

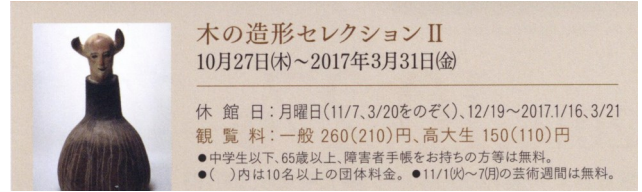
- Sully (English)
- Ushijima the Loan Shark Pt 3 (Japanese)
- Sanada Ten Braves (Japanese)
- Anger (Japanese)
- The BFG (English)
- Your Lie in April (Japanese)
- Suicide Squad (English)
- Samurai Hustle Returns (Japanese)
- Gods of Egypt (Japanese 3D)
- Your Name (Japanese)
- Gosaigyouno Onna (Japanese/PG12)
- The Secret Life of Pets (Japanese/Animation)
- Godzilla Resurgence (Japanese)
- One Piece Film: Gold (Japanese/Animation)

### Coming Soon

- Garden of Words (Japanese/Animation) 10/1~10/14
- Mechanic: Resurrection (English) 10/1
- Angry Birds Movie (English) 10/1
- Jason Bourne (English) 10/7
- HiGH & LOW Red Rain (Japanese) 10/8
- The Long Excuse (Japanese) 10/14
- Somebody (Japanese) 10/15
- Star Trek Beyond (English) 10/21
- Norin Ten: A story of Gonziro Inazuka (Japanese) 10/22~10/28
- Birthday Card (Japanese) 10/22
- Ushijima the Loan Shark the Final (Japanese) 10/22
- Inferno (English) 10/28
- Bridget Jones's Baby (English) 10/29
- Death Note: Light Up the New World (Japanese) 10/29
- Zoku Shinya Shokudo (Japanese) 11/5
- Will You Marry My Wife? (Japanese) 11/5

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

# Halloween at the Selected Wood Works II International Center



木の造形セレクション II  
10月27日(木)~2017年3月31日(金)

休館日：月曜日(11/7、3/20をのぞく)、12/19~2017.1/16、3/21  
観覧料：一般 260(210)円、高大生 150(110)円  
●中学生以下、65歳以上、障害者手帳をお持ちの方等は無料。  
●( )内は10名以上の団体料金。●11/1(火)~7月の芸術週間は無料。

Asahikawa International Center will be celebrating Halloween again this year!

From **October 17th** to the **31st**, there will be trick or treating for all visiting children.

Get your Halloween spirit on and stop by the Center!



Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art will be bringing out the second part of their award winning wood carvings and crafts out from its collection in the latter part of this month. You can still see the first set until the 16th!

**Date:** October 27th (Thursday) to March 31st (Friday)  
**Time:** 9:30am until 5:00pm (No entry after 4:30pm)  
**Venue:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Tokiwa Park)  
**Admission:** General ¥260; High school/University ¥150  
FREE for junior high and under, seniors, and disabled  
FREE for everyone November 1st through the 7th  
**Notes:** Closed on Mondays except for holidays, in which case the next day will be closed.

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!

## FUN FRIDAYS

**Dates:** October 14th & 28th, November 11th & 25th, December 9th & 22nd  
**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.**

## FREE WiFi

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.\*\***