

Asahikawa Info

December 2021, Vol. 301

Published by AIC

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For further information or to register for events, contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (AIC)

(SUGANO Ayumi, SAITO Emmy, or GONZÁLEZ Gabriel)

Location:

International/City Affaires Division, Tourism Sports and International/City Affaires Dept.

Address:

Asahikawa International Center Feeeel

Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8-chome,

Asahikawa 070-0031

Tel: (0166) 25-7491

Fax: (0166) 23-4924

Email: cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.lg.jp

Hokkaido News Top 5

December 2021, compiled by AIC

Christmas Lights and Fireworks Start off the Holiday Season, 10/24

You can already feel the holiday spirit in Hiroo, where 150,000 lights in colors like pink, blue and gold were lit up in Omaruyama Forest Park on October 23rd. Go to Santaland in Hiroo where you can see lightings take place every year in late October. This year, as a preventative measure against the coronavirus, no one was present for the lighting until thirty minutes after being lit. Afterwards, however, 300 fireworks filled the skies and townspeople decorated the stairs leading up to the park with 1,000 handmade wooden lanterns and greeted tourists. The lights will remain until January 3rd from 16:00-22:00. Viewing is free.

New Look for the Reopening of the Nikka Whiskey Museum, 10/27

Nikka, a well-known whiskey producer, had a pre-opening of one of the sections of its new "Nikka Museum" at their Hokkaido factory in Yoichi on October 27th. The newly renovated museum will have a fresh look where you can see not only Nikka's four main brands of whiskey, but also a recreation of a workbench where the blending work takes place. Their secondary building, "The Nikka House" will also be renovated next year and open as planned in 2024. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, reservations must be made beforehand. For more information, call: 0135-23-3131.

Potential Cost Reduction for Future Winter Olympics, 11/14

Sapporo is in the bidding to be the next host city for the 2030 Winter Olympics and Paralympics and the city has found that by using pre-existing facilities, the costs of construction and maintenance could be reduced by up to 90 billion yen from its preliminary budget. The new proposal would have them use facilities in and around Sapporo as much as possible and avoid any unnecessary construction of buildings that would most likely not be used after the Olympics. Residents will be surveyed on a later date to hear their opinions on the budget plans.

New Seasonal Options at the Asahikawa Design Center, 11/16

The Asahikawa Design Center has begun to present their latest offerings in an exhibition called "WINTER ROOM TOUR: Make You Cozy Winter Dreams Come True, 5 Interior Styles." With items from more than 30 of Asahikawa's own furniture makers on display, the concept for the room tour is to help you find a style that matches the look and feel of your perfect winter home. The exhibition will be until March 13th, 2022 (Sunday). For any questions, call the center at: 0166-48-4135.

Dancers Once Again to Compete in YOSAKOI Soran Festival, 11/18

Although put on hold for two consecutive years due to the coronavirus, the YOSAKOI Soran Festival organizing committee has decided to hold an alternative event to the annual dance competition at the Sapporo Cultural Arts Theater hitaru on January 30th. The aim of this event is to raise the dancers' spirits and allow them to have another change at performing again. Fifteen teams are expected to come from all over Hokkaido to try their hand at winning the grand and semi-grand prizes. Admission will be limited to 50% of the maximum capacity, but 1,151 seats

THE LEGEND BELCANTISM 2021

The opera group THE LEGEND presents a selection of several genres of music in the style of bel canto to celebrate their 15th anniversary. Program includes Dies Irae, Carmina Burana, Shenandoah and Albamare, amongst other song selections.

Date: 12/4 (Saturday)

Time: Opens 13:00, Starts 14:00

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

Admission: All seating ¥5,000 (Infants will not be admitted.)

Ticket Office: EASTWORKS (<https://companyeast.base.shop>), COMPANYEAST (0570-070-162, from 11:00-17:00), FM Riviere (3F Yoshitake Park Building)

For further information, contact: 0570-070-162 (COMPANYEAST, closed weekends)



Kokeshi: The Asahikawa City Museum's 92nd Special Exhibition

旭川市博物館 第92回 企画展 こけし ~Kokeshi~

This latest temporary exhibition of the Asahikawa City Museum presents kokeshi, hand-carved wooden dolls from all over the Tohoku region, separated into 11 main different styles. The museum has selected what it considers the best out of 600 for the general public to see and appreciate the unique individuality of each doll on display.

Date: Until 12/12 (Sunday)

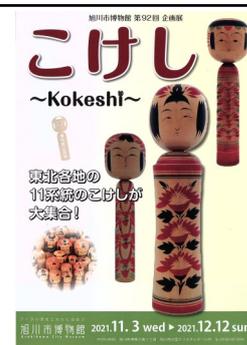
Time: 9:00-17:00

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

Admission: Adult ¥350, High School Student ¥230, Middle School and under FREE

Ticket Office: Asahikawa City Museum Welcome Desk

For further information, contact: 0166-69-2004 (Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall)



Children's Opera: The Town Musicians of Bremen

こどもオペラ ブレーメンの音楽隊

People of all ages young and old can enjoy an operatic performance of The Town Musicians of Bremen, a spin on the original tale of the Brothers Grimm. Accompanied by illustrations of animals selected from 30 individuals, children and their parents can learn to appreciate opera and classical music not just with their ears, but with their eyes and body, too!

Date: 12/12 (Sunday)

Time: Opens 13:00, Starts 14:00

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

Admission: Parent+Child ¥1,800, Adult ¥1,500, Child ¥500

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Cultural Hall, Asahikawa Crystal Hall (Museum Shop)

For further information, contact: 0166-69-2000 (Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall)



Mom: The Musical, Haiyuza Theatre Company Production No. 113

音楽劇 母さん 俳優座劇場プロデュースNo.113

Brought to life with lyrics based on the poetry of Hachiro Sato and original music by Katsushi Arakaki, the Haiyuza Theatre Company presents a play set in the summer of 1944, in which the poet Hachiro finds himself being pushed away by his son Tadashi who dreams of enlisting in the army. It reminds him of the struggles he had with his own father and mother, the latter about whom the musical is dedicated to.

Date: 12/14 (Tuesday), 12/15 (Wednesday)

Time: 18:30 (12/14), 13:00 (12/15)

Place: Asahikawa Public Hall (inside Tokiwa Park)

Admission: General ¥2,000

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Theater (3-jo 8-chome)

For further information, contact: 0166-23-1655 (Asahikawa Civic Theater)



Sapporo Brass Quintet Solisten, Asahikawa Performance

札幌管楽ソリステン 金管5重奏 旭川公演

A program included selections such as Monteverdi's "Fanfare from Orpheus," Morricone's "Cinema Paradiso," the folk piece "Just a Closer Walk," Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro: Overture," and a ballet medley entitled "Tribute to the Ballet" all to be performed by the Solisten Brass Quintet.

Date: 12/15 (Wednesday)
 Time: Opens 18:00, Starts 18:30
 Place: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)
 Admission: General ¥2,000, Student ¥1,000
 Ticket Office: Ticket Pia (P-code 206930)
 For further information, contact: 090-5076-0676 (Hagiwara), SapporoSoli@gmail.com



The Allure of Book Illustrations: A Reflection on Literary Works

小説挿絵の魅力—文芸作品に伴走して

This latest exhibition of the Hokkaido Museum of Literature in Sapporo presents a look into the focal points of book illustrations from the post-war era up to today. It delves into the important role such illustrations have played in expanding the reader's comprehension and imagination, as well as how they have come to be regarded as works of art in their own right.

Date: Until 12/19 (Sunday)
 Time: 9:30-17:00 (Entry ends at 16:30)
 Place: Hokkaido Museum of Literature (Nakajima Park, Sapporo)
 Admission: General ¥500, College and High School students ¥250, Middle School and under FREE, 65 and older FREE
 For further information, contact: 011-511-7655, <http://www.h-bungaku.or.jp> (Japanese)



Voice Actor Dramatic Reading Vorlesen: Händel's Life Story

声優朗読劇VORLESEN〜ヘンデルー代記〜

No where else will you be able to hear a dramatic reading with famed voice actors Reiou Tsuchida, Gakuto Kajiwara and Yoshitaka Yamaya along with live musical accompaniment from a harpsichord! After the play based on the real life of Georg Friedrich Händel, the "Mother of Music," there will also be a panel session with said voice actors!

Date: 12/26 (Sunday)
 Time: Opens 14:30, Starts 15:00
 Place: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (Large Hall)
 Admission: General ¥5,000 (Infants will not be admitted.)
 Ticket Office: Gyokkodo (3F Aeon Mall), Coach and Four (Music Corner), Asahikawa Crystal Hall (Museum Shop), Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Vorlesen Ticket, animate-onlineshop.jp, Lawson Ticket (L-code 12035)
 For further information, contact: 0166-25-7331 (Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall)



Yasushi Inoue's Travels II: Overseas

没後30年 井上靖の旅II 海外編

After establishing himself in the literary world, there wasn't a single month where Yasushi Inoue didn't find himself traveling for lectures and interviews. Based around the works he produced around that period, this year's exhibition will focus on his travels in the West.

Date: Until 01/30 (Sunday)
 Time: 9:00-17:00
 Place: Yasushi Inoue Memorial Hall (Shunko 5-jo 7-chome)
 Admission: General ¥300, High School student ¥150, Middle School and under FREE
 Ticket Office: Yasushi Memorial Hall
 For further information, contact: 0166-41-1188 (Yasushi Inoue Memorial Hall)



December Events in Asahikawa

AIC: Hello! Please tell us a little about yourself and where you are from!

Mileydis: Hello, my name is Mileydis Gonzalez and I was born in Cuba.

AIC: How did you first get interested in Japan?

Mileydis: Well, the first time I found out I could come to Japan, I was invited by my friend, who's now my husband. A lot of stuff interested me, because it's Japan! The culture, the gastronomy and the history, too. It's a country that is so different from mine, so there was a lot to be interested by.

AIC: How long have you been in Japan?

Mileydis: I'll have lived here for 24 years next year. I have been here for many, many years and I just love this country; I love the culture, the people, and the way they live.



Name: Mileydis Gonzalez
Home Country: Cuba
Interviewed: 2021/11/25

If you live in Asahikawa or are just passing through and would like to be interviewed for "Hello Asahikawa," email us at: cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

Hello, Asahikawa!

AIC: Why Asahikawa in particular, then?

Mileydis: Well, the thing is that my husband is originally from here! He was born and raised in Asahikawa and his family lives here, so we decided we would, too! It gets pretty cold, but I've adapted myself to the weather because we wanted to be with his family.

AIC: What kind of work do you do here?

Mileydis: Well, I've done all kinds of work! Before working at the Asahikawa International Center, I would work at events like Tabemarché, or at events with my Latino friends who speak Spanish like me, so they would call me up for work. I've also sold food, worked in restaurants and I even worked in a rice factory. So yeah, in all sorts of things!

AIC: What are your hobbies? What do you like to do with your free time?

Mileydis: In my free time, I like to visit friends and especially go outside. I practice sports, learn more about cooking, study languages, and listen to music.

AIC: Do you have any favorite Japanese foods?

Mileydis: Yes, I like *sukiyaki* and *shabu-shabu*! *Sukiyaki* is delicious and special. It's mainly meat with some vegetables like *shiitake* mushrooms in a bowl. It's perfect for when it's chilly



AIC: Are there any places you would recommend to others?

Mileydis: Well, there's this place in Hokkaido that's just sensational called Shiretoko. It's filled with a lot of nature and I liked it a lot for vacation! If you want something more nearby, there's the Asahiyama Zoo that's also really famous. Sapporo is nice too, but it's just that there are so many beautiful natural sites and parks throughout Hokkaido!

AIC: What have been your impressions of Asahikawa so far and how does it compare to your hometown?

Mileydis: They just can't be compared! They're two completely different worlds! Although I think every foreigner says it, their way of life here has really left an impression on me. People are so passive, so well-behaved, so empathetic and so friendly. The customer service and how they treat you here to also reflects the Japanese way of life. They're so quiet, too; in the Caribbean, it's very noisy so it's really different in comparison!



And if you bump into someone here, right afterwards they'll say "Sorry! *Gomen'na-sai! Sumimasen!*" So that left a mark on me, as well.

And in the beginning, when we all didn't have to use masks like we do now, almost everyone here would always wear a mask! Even though there was

no virus. In Cuba, for example, when you have a cold, a cough or something like that, you'd use just a handkerchief to clean yourself up, but no mask. Even before the virus got here, everyone was already using them! Girls would use them, and that would always baffle me because I would wonder how can they breath in those things? There's actually a lot of reasons; for example, if there's dust in the air, if you don't have any make-up on, or even just to protect against the cold.

AIC: Do you mind sharing any frustrations or challenges you have encountered thus far?

Mileydis: Well, actually I haven't had almost

any problems! What problems would I have? In the beginning, of course the cold was difficult and I couldn't get used to it, but other than that nothing. I don't have problems with anybody because I'm a very open-minded person and I accept that others will think differently. To me, that's normal.

AIC: Do you have any goals or things you are looking forward to doing here?

Mileydis: Yes, I have a goal (or I guess you could say a dream) that in the future I could open up a place where I could make some Caribbean food and also be able to here Caribbean music. I love cooking with beans and in Japan there are very



little dishes with them! Something I love to eat is bean salad, but there's just not any here. I even put beans in my spaghetti, like *edamame*, since there's not much else! So I've been thinking about opening a restaurant recently, but for now it's only a dream of mine. Later on, I'd also like to get my driver's license, since I don't have one yet! Lastly, I also want to make myself Japanese and get my Japanese citizenship, too! It's a goal I have, but it's not easy because you need a lot of papers, like a ton! Those are my goals, I'd say.

AIC: Is there anything else you would like to say to our readers?

Mileydis: I love Japan, and it's so nice to be here but it's vital to understand Japanese culture! It's better to get in touch with the culture more deeply and learn a little about the history because once you do, you'll see that everything will go great!

AIC: you for and in-



Thank so much your time the wonderful

Movies - December

**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.

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.

★ Aeon Cinema: Miyashita-dori 7-chome / 0166 – 74 – 6411 URL: cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa (Japanese)

Now Showing

- Dear Evan Hansen (English)
- Encanto (English/Anime)
- The Cursed Sanctuary X (Japanese)
- The Mole Song the Final (Japanese)
- The Lone Ume Tree (Japanese)
- The Ice Road (English)
- Yo-Kai Watch Keita to Orecchi no Deai-hen da Nyan (Japanese Anime) ~12/2
- Parasite in Love (Japanese)
- Sumikko Gurashi:A Magical Child of the Blue Moonlit Nigh (Japanese/Anime)
- Eternals (English)
- What Did You Eat Yesterday? (Japanese)
- No Funds For Retirement! (Japanese)
- Sing a Bit of Harmony (Japanese/Anime)
- And, the Baton was Passed (Japanese)
- Cube (Japanese) ~12/2
- Baragaki: Unbroken Samurai (Japanese)
- Masquerade Night (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- 189 (Japanese) 12/3
- See You When the Curtain Goes Down (Japanese) 12/3
- Venom: Let There be Carnage (English) 12/3
- Your Turn to Kill (Japanese) 12/10
- Boss Baby Family Business (English) 12/17
- The Matrix Resurrections (English) 12/17
- Kamen Rider: Beyond Generations (Japanese) 12/17
- The King's Man (English) 12/24
- Jujutsu Kaisen 0 (Japanese/Anime) 12/24
- 99.9: Criminal Lawyer (Japanese) 12/30
- Spider-Man: No Way Home (English) 1/7
- The Confidence Man JP: Episode of the Hero (Japanese) 1/14
- House of Gucci (English) 1/14
- Waiting for Rain (Korean) 1/21

★ Cineplex 7 Asahikawa: Nagayama 12-jo 3-chome Western Powers Nagayama / 0166 – 49 – 1000

URL: <http://www.unitedcinemas.jp/asahikawa/index.html> (Japanese)

Now Showing

- Cinema Fighters Project: Redder than Yesterday, Bluer than Tomorrow (Japanese)
- Encanto (English/Anime)
- Sword Art Online Progressive: Aria of a Starless Night (Japanese 4DX/Anime)
- Musicophilia (Japanese)
- Eternals (English 4DX)
- Respect (English)
- What Did You Eat Yesterday? (Japanese)
- No Funds For Retirement! (Japanese)
- And, the Baton was Passed (Japanese)
- Baragaki: Unbroken Samurai (Japanese)
- No Time To Die (English)
- Masquerade Night (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Venom: Let There be Carnage (English 4DX) 12/3
- Your Turn to Kill (Japanese) 12/10
- Boss Baby Family Business (English) 12/17
- The Matrix Resurrections (English) 12/17
- Kamen Rider: Beyond Generations (Japanese) 12/17
- The King's Man (English) 12/24
- Jujutsu Kaisen 0 (Japanese/Anime) 12/24
- 99.9: Criminal Lawyer (Japanese) 12/30
- Spider-Man: No Way Home (English 4DX) 1/7
- House of Gucci (English) 1/14
- The Confidence Man JP: Episode of the Hero (Japanese) 1/14
- The Midnight Maiden War (Japanese) 1/21
- Tiger & Bunny –The Beginning- (Japanese 4DX/Anime) 1/21
- The French Dispatch of the Liberty, Kansas Evening Sun (English) 1/28

***Movie schedules change often. Please call the theater for confirmation de-**

Movies - December

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Dinos Cinemas Only: Every Thursday is "Men's Day." Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for men.

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / 0166 – 21 – 1218 URL: <http://cinema.sugai-dinos.jp/pc/> (Japanese)

Now Showing

- Encanto (English/Anime)
- Eureka Seven:High-Evolution (Japanese/Anime)
- Druk (Danish) ~12/9
- A Balance (Japanese) ~12/9
- Dakaretai Otoko 1-i ni Odosarete Imasu: Spain-hen (Japanese/Anime)
- The Mole Song the Final (Japanese)
- Chaos Walking (English) ~12/2
- Eternals (English)
- No Funds For Retirement! (Japanese)
- Sword Art Online Progressive: Aria of a Starless Night (Japanese/Anime)
- And, the Baton was Passed (Japanese)
- Baragaki: Unbroken Samurai (Japanese) ~12/9
- In The Wake (Japanese) ~12/2
- No Time To Die (English)
- Masquerade Night (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Mankai Movie "A3!" Spring & Summer (Japanese) 12/3
- Hula Fulla Dance (Japanese/Anime) 12/3
- Venom: Let There be Carnage (English) 12/3
- Last Night in Soho (English) 12/10
- Your Turn to Kill (Japanese) 12/10
- Boss Baby Family Business (English) 12/17
- Kamen Rider: Beyond Generations (Japanese) 12/17
- The Matrix Resurrections (English) 12/17
- The King's Man (English) 12/24
- Jujutsu Kaisen 0 (Japanese/Anime) 12/24
- 99.9: Criminal Lawyer (Japanese) 12/30
- The Marksman (English) 1/7
- Spider-Man: No Way Home (English) 1/7
- The Confidence Man JP: Episode of the Hero (Japanese) 1/14
- Cry Macho (English) 1/14
- Deliver Us from Evil (Korean/PG12) 1/21

***Movie schedules change often. Please call the theater for confirmation de-**





AIC Bulletin Board

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!

Japanese for Daily Life

If you've been looking for a way to improve your day-to-day Japanese skills, then look no further! The Agency for Cultural Affairs of the Japanese government has created a free Japanese-learning website for foreigners living in Japan! It covers 3 levels of Japanese used everyday life with topics such as "Using the Bank," "Using Public Transportation," "Using a Pharmacy" and many more! The website has also been translated into 9 different languages to help facilitate learning! You can access it through here: tsunagarujp.bunka.go.jp/?lang_id=JA



Interesting activities such as quizzes, discussions, songs, games, handicrafts and much more, all in English! Come meet new people, relax and relate on Fun Fridays!

FUN FRIDAYS!

Dates: November 12th & 26th, December 10th & 24th, January 14 & 28th
Times: 1:00pm-2:00pm ~Afternoon~ 2nd and 4th Friday of the month
6:30pm-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



The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has free Wi-Fi available for public use and is free of charge. If you reside in Asahikawa, registration for a user card is required. 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
Asahikawa International Center Feeeal Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8-chome, Asahikawa 070-0031
Tel: (0166) 25-7491 **Fax:** (0166) 23-4924
E-mail: cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp