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For further information or to register for events, contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (AIC)
(SUGANO Ayumi, SAITO Emmy, or GONZALEZ Gabriel)

Location:

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

Address:

Asahikawa International Center Feeeal
Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8-chome,
Asahikawa 070-0031

Tel: (0166) 25-7491

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Hokkaido News Top 5

October - November 2022, compiled by the AIC

Hokkaido Radio Dives Deep Into Gender Issues, (10/22)

In an effort to boost gender equality and implement a quota system to allocate a fixed portion of legislative seats to women, members of a Hokkaido interest group have begun to broadcast a radio show devoted to gender issues at the FM Sankakuyama Radio Station in Sapporo. Called "Under the Spreading Q Tree" (76.2 FM), the program is done in a talk show style with guests from all kinds of backgrounds to discuss the current gender gap and improvement in legislation.

Voluntary Return of Licenses by Mail Now Possible, (10/28)

The Hokkaido Police have begun to allow the voluntary return of driver's licenses by mail in order to encourage more elderly people to do so. Those who wish to take advantage of this can call the nearest driver's license center to receive application documents upon identity verification by the police. Once the filled out documents and your license have been received by the center, you will receive a phone call from the police notifying you that your license has been voided.

Asahikawa Meisei High School Band Wins Grand Prize in Contest, (11/2)

On 10/30, the brass band club of Asahikawa Meisei High School made their debut at the Japan Wind Orchestra and Ensemble Competition in Chiba Prefecture and won the grand prize and MEXT Minister's Award. The competition features elementary, middle and high school bands from all over the country in 7 divisions. After preliminary judging took place at the end of September, Asahikawa Meisei was placed in Division B (36+ members), performing Antiphonale by Nelhybel.

Concrete Seen as Potential for Paving Hokkaido Roads, (11/8)

Develop agencies, municipalities and research facilities have all been looking into new construction methods adapted to the cold, snowy environment of Hokkaido. Concrete, with its long-lasting durability and less frequent need for repairs, is currently drawing attention as a substitute for the current popular asphalt. Although initial costs may be high in comparison, concrete could curb road maintenance fees in the long term. It can last 40-50 years without repair, in contrast to 10-13 years for asphalt.

Appearance of Saury Pike in Harbors Attracts Fishermen, (11/16)

Schools of saury pike have been seen gathering in the Abashiri Fishing Harbor since November, causing many to try for a catch. Along the shore of the Okhotsk Sea, other harbors have confirmed the appearance of the fish, making this a rare event for early winter. Though initially easy to catch, rough waves made the harbor's waters murky and difficult to sport the saury pike. Nemuro fishing boats operating in the Okhotsk Sea have hauled in around 1,000 tons outside of fishing grounds. Researchers speculate the temperature of the waters drew in the fish.

Read the latest issue of Asahikawa Info and get to know the AIC on our website:

<http://asahikawaaic.jp/en/>

Yasushi Inoue: People and Literature XIII, Judo

井上靖 人と文学 十三 柔道

This exhibition will focus on the influence of judo in the life and work of Yasushi Inoue, famed Asahikawa author, particularly within his novel 'Kita no Umi.'

Date: Until 1/29 (Sunday)

Time: 9:00-17:00 (Entry ends at 16:30), Closed: Mondays (The following day if Monday is a holiday) & New Year's

Place: Yasushi Inoue Memorial Hall (Asahikawa, Shunko 5-jo 7-chome)

Admission: General ¥300(*¥240), High school and university student ¥150(*¥120), Middle school student and under FREE (*Groups of 10+)

For more information, contact: 0166-51-1188 (Yasushi Inoue Memorial Hall)

Ainu Treasures ~The Ainu, A People of Trade~

アイヌの宝 ~交易の民アイヌ~

The museum has selected items such as lacquerware and iron goods that display the expanse of Ainu trade and its impact on Ainu life and culture.

Date: Until 12/11 (Sunday)

Time: 9:00-17:00 (Entry ends at 16:30)

Place: Asahikawa City Museum (Asahikawa, Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)

Admission: Adult ¥350(*¥280), High school student ¥230(*¥180), Middle and elementary school students FREE (*Groups of 20+)

For more information, contact: 0166-69-2004 (Asahikawa City Museum)

MINAMI Music Academy's 10th Anniversary Concert

MINAMI音楽アカデミー10周年記念コンサート

This concert includes a program consisting of pieces by Doppler, Hayden, Ibert, Mendelssohn, Morlacchi, Yagisawa, and Thuille.

Date: 12/2 (Friday)

Time: (Opens) 18:00, (Starts) 18:20

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

Admission: General ¥2,000, Student ¥1,000

Ticket Office: Gyokkodo (3F Aeon Mall, 0166-73-8801), Coach & Four (Music Corner, 0166-74-4002), MINAMI Music Academy (0166-48-9454)

For more information, contact: 0166-48-9454 (MINAMI Music Academy)

Persons with Disabilities Awareness Week Commemorative Project ~Working Towards Local Coexistence~

「障害者週間」記念事業 ~地域共生社会の実現に向けて~

Dr. Akio Nagahama will be giving a commemorative talk on local coexistence in celebration of Persons with Disabilities Awareness Week, followed by special activities and sales!

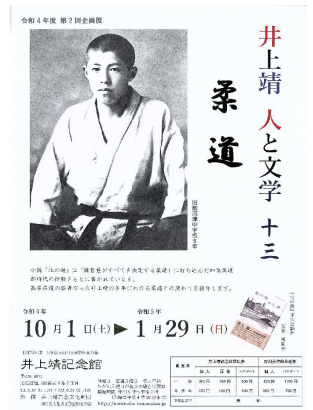
Date: 12/4 (Sunday)

Time: (Opens) 12:00, (Starts) 12:30-15:30

Place: Asahikawa Welfare Center for the Disabled "Opitta", Gymnasium, (Asahikawa, Miyamae 1-jo 3-chome 3-ban 7-go)

Admission: FREE

For more information, contact: 0166-31-2226 (Opitta)



PIAZZOLLA: Dozan Fujiwara × SINSKE ~Shakuhachi & Marimba, the World's Smallest Orchestra~

PIAZZOLLA 藤原道山×SINSKE ~尺八とマリンバによる世界最小オーケストラ~

This concert will feature pieces by Piazzolla, but also includes works by Ravel, Mussorgsky, and original music by Fujiwara and SINSKE.

Date: 12/4 (Monday)

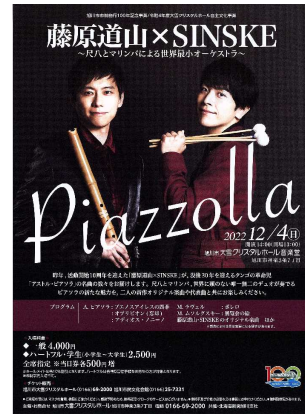
Time: (Opens) 13:00, (Starts) 14:00

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

Admission: General *¥4,000, Students and those with disability certificate *¥2,500 (*¥500 increase on day-of ticket purchases)

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall (0166-69-2000), Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (0166-25-7331)

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



Tropical Jazz Big Band SPECIAL LIVE SHOW 2022 in Hokkaido

熱帯JAZZ楽団 SPECIAL LIVE 2022 in 旭川

Experience a night of Latin jazz and big band music with Tropical Jazz Big Band, led by Carlos Kanno, the forerunner of the Latin music scene in Japan!

Date: 12/9 (Friday)

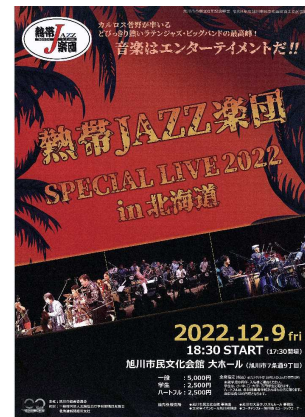
Time: (Opens) 17:30, (Starts) 18:30

Place: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Large Hall (Asahikawa, 7-jo-dori 9-chome)

Admission: General *¥5,000, Students and those with disability certificate *¥2,500 (*¥500 increase on day-of ticket purchases)

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (Office), Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall (Office), Gyokkodo (3F Aeon Mall), Coach & Four (Music Corner)

For more information, contact: 0166-25-7331 (Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall)



Prayers for Freedom and Peace

自由と平和への祈り

Enjoy an afternoon of choral and piano music with a program consisting of: Sonata Pathethique, Minna no Uta, Selections from Tsuchi no Uta, 4th Mov. from Symphony no. 9 (Beethoven), Japanese songs and world music.

Date: 12/10 (Saturday)

Time: (Opens) 13:30, (Starts) 14:00

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

Admission: ¥1,000

Ticket Office: 090-1523-9034 (Ishiguro), 090-3890-5451 (Ueda), 090-9518-9052 (Suzuki)

For more information, contact: Any of the phone numbers listed above.



Oliver Twist the Musical

Musical オリバー・ツイスト

Discover the story of Oliver Twist, an orphan child from London in search of love that gets wrapped up in a messy set of affairs, all told through music and dance!

Date: 12/25 (Sunday)

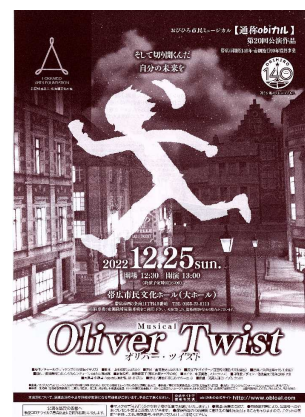
Time: (Opens) 12:30, (Starts) 13:00

Place: Obihiro Civic Culture Hall, Large Hall (Obihiro, Nishi 5-jo Minami 11-chome 48-banchi)

Admission: ¥1,000

Ticket Office: Ticket Live (Inside Obihiro Civic Culture Hall, 0155-23-8111)

For more information, contact: 090-3774-3917 (Kuroda, Obihiro Civic Musical Production Committee)



Asahikawa Events in December

Asahikawa Info

AIC: Please tell us about yourself and where you are from.

Amy: I am from Freeville, New York, USA. It is a very small town in upstate New York. Before coming to Japan, I was an infant teacher at a Montessori school. I have a dual bachelor's degree in Psychology and English literature from Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania.

AIC: How did you first get interested in Japan?

Amy: My best friend in middle school and high school was obsessed with anime and manga growing up. She encouraged me to watch some anime with her and that kickstarted my interest in Japan and Japanese culture.

AIC: Is this your first time in Japan? How long have you been in Japan?

Amy: The first time I came to Japan was in 2019. I studied abroad with Temple University for three months in Tokyo. I attended the Temple University Japan campus and I had an internship at Yamato

Hello, Asahikawa!

Nishi High School in Kanagawa as an assistant English teacher. I enjoyed my internship so much that I decided to come back to Japan through the JET program as an ALT. I arrived with the JET program towards the end of July 2022, and I have been living in Aibetsu for the past four months (and I will continue to until I end my contract in a year or two).

AIC: What brings you to Asahikawa in particular?

Amy: Asahikawa is the closest urban area to Aibetsu. All of the Aibetsu locals I have spoken to do a lot of their shopping in Asahikawa. I was greatly encouraged by them to visit Asahikawa to do my own shopping. Asahikawa also has many interesting restaurants, karaoke places, etc. that are a lot of fun to visit. Asahikawa Station is also a very convenient place for me to go in order to travel to different places in Hokkaido.

AIC: What kind of work do you do?

Amy: I am an assistant language teacher at an elementary school. I help students with pronunciation practice and I provide an English environment for students to be immersed in the English language.

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

Amy: I have many hobbies. I am an avid reader and I usually am reading many books in my free time. I also love art and crafts, and I often paint or make crafts such as bracelets and clay figures. When I am stressed, I usually teach myself new arts and crafts-related hobbies, such as knitting, sewing small stuffed animals, felting, crocheting, etc.

AIC: Do you have any favorite Japanese foods?

Amy: I absolutely love sushi, especially salmon sushi. I



Name: Amy Chechi

Home Country: USA

Interviewed: 2022/11/22

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

also love yakiniku. I first tried yakiniku on a whim when I was in Tokyo, and I am so thankful I did because it was the best thing I had eaten at the time during my entire 3-month stay in 2019.

AIC: Any places you would recommend to others (restaurants, sight-seeing, etc.)?

Amy: One of the main places I have visited and have honestly enjoyed the most is Asahikawa Station. Not only is it very convenient to get to, but it also is attached to an Aeon mall as well as a tourism office. It is very close to many different stores and there is a wide variety of merchandise that can be purchased. There is direct transportation to all of the different tourist spots/places of interest. There is also a direct bus to Sapporo which is very convenient and a lot cheaper than I had expected it to be. In America, a trip similar to going to Sapporo would be at least 100 dollars, but it was less than 20 dollars for one way.

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

Amy: I really like Asahikawa. It is a nice and walkable city with many things to do. I was surprised at how many shrines are present around the town (or is it a city?). Asahikawa seems to be a peaceful and interesting place to live. It is very different from my hometown. I come from a very small town (its actually considered a village) of only 500 people. I went to high school in a neighboring town, which is also a lot smaller than Asahikawa. Asahikawa has a very convenient public transportation system, unlike my home town.

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

Amy: It is definitely very challenging to live in a country where I do not speak the language. I am very glad that the people I have interacted with are very kind and helpful as I struggle to understand what they say to me.

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

Amy: My main goal while I live in Japan is to learn Japanese and to become able to have full conversations in Japanese. I also want to visit as much of Japan as I can before I leave. I also really want to visit a cat cafe at some point, since I have cats back in the US, but I have not had a chance to interact with any animals since I arrived.



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.

Aeon Cinema: Miyashita-dori 7-chome / 0166-74-6411

URL: cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa (Japanese)

Now Showing

- That Time I Got Reincarnated as a Slime (Japanese/Anime/PG12)
- Maternal Instinct (Japanese)
- Strange World (English/Anime)
- A Man (Japanese)
- Where the Crawdads Sing (English)
- Suzume no Tojimari (Japanese/Anime)
- Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (English)
- Karada Sagashi (Japanese/PG12)
- Silent Parade (Japanese) ~12/1
- One Piece Film Red (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Phases of the Moon (Japanese) 12/2
- Black Adam (English) 12/2
- The First Slam Dunk (Japanese/Anime) 12/3
- From Siberia with Love (Japanese) 12/9
- Kaiketsu Zorori: Lalala Star Tanjo (Japanese/Anime) 12/9
- Avatar: The Way of Water (English) 12/16
- Dr. Koto's Clinic (Japanese) 12/16
- Lonely Castle in the Mirror (Japanese/Anime) 12/23
- Kamen Rider Geats x Revice: Battle Royale (Japanese) 12/23
- Black Night Parade (Japanese) 12/23
- Uso Happyaku Naniwa Yume no Jin (Japanese) 1/6
- Emergency Declaration (Korean) 1/6
- And So I'm at a Loss (Japanese) 1/13
- Ichikei's Crow (Japanese) 1/13
- Youkai Watch: Jibanyan vs. Komasan - Monge Daikessen da Nyan

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

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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

- That Time I Got Reincarnated as a Slime (Japanese PG12/Anime)
- Strange World (Japanese, English 4DX/Anime)
- Maternal Instinct (Japanese)
- A Man (Japanese)
- Suzume no Tojimari (Japanese/Anime)
- Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (English) ~12/1
- The Zen Diary (Japanese) ~12/1
- The Demon Over There (Japanese/R15+) ~12/1
- Sword Art Online Progressive: Scherzo of a Dark Dusk (Japanese/Anime) ~12/1
- One Piece Film Red (Japanese 4DX/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Phases of the Moon (Japanese) 12/2
- Black Adam (English) 12/2
- The First Slam Dunk (Japanese/Anime) 12/3
- From Siberia with Love (Japanese) 12/9
- Avatar: The Way of Water (English) 12/16
- Dr. Koto's Clinic (Japanese) 12/16
- Lonely Castle in the Mirror (Japanese/Anime) 12/23
- Black Night Parade (Japanese) 12/23
- Kamen Rider Geats x Revice: Battle Royale (Japanese) 12/23
- Familia (Japanese/PG12) 1/6
- Ichikei's Crow (Japanese) 1/13
- And So I'm at a Loss (Japanese) 1/13

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

AIC Bulletin Board

Need Help?

If you ever find yourself in need of assistance, know that the Hokkaido Foreign Resident Support Center is there for you! They are able to provide you with consultation services in various languages (Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Russian, Indonesian, Thai, Nepalese, Burmese) on residence procedures, employment, medical care, welfare, childbirth, childcare, education, and more for FREE! Call them at 011-200-9595 or go to: www.hiecc.or.jp/soudan

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!



Dates: December 9th & 23th, January 13th & 27th, February 10th & 24th

Times: 1:00pm-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 an afternoon visit.



The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has free Wi-Fi available for public use. 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/shell, offers for culture/language exchange, 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 AIC or the City of Asahikawa.