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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.

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Hokkaido News Top 5

September - October 2022, compiled by the AIC

Elephant Confirmed to Be Pregnant at Sapporo Maruyama Zoo, (9/5)

It has been announced that Pearl Moe, a 19-year old female elephant from the Sapporo Maruyama Zoo is very likely to be pregnant. If she has a successful birth, it will be the first for Hokkaido and the 16th elephant birth in Japan. Although it has been difficult to determine when the baby was conceived during her residency with Shu Thein Nu, a male elephant, the zoo predicts she will give birth between March 2023 and January 2024, due to the fact that elephants have a 22-month long gestation period.

Memorial Building for Famed Director Established in Ashibetsu, (9/21)

A memorial building set up for Nobuhiko Obayashi, famed director of the film *Seven Weeks*, was established in Ashibetsu, the filming location of the movie. Obayashi had worked many years as the head of the Ashibetsu Film School in an effort to revitalize the town. Mutsuko Ishikawa, a close friend of the director, privately funded the memorial's construction to allow others to discover his work in both the film industry and his community. It has been open since 9/24.

Geysers Ceases Eruptions in Oshamanbe, (9/27)

It has recently been confirmed that the geyser in Oshamanbe has stopped erupting. Specialists have argued this may be due to lower gas pressure levels in the earth, weakening the eruptions. Residents who live nearby are otherwise relieved, since the constant noise pollution has ceased but are still demanding that the government prevent any future noise issues. Acoustic panels are planned to be set up around the location, originally a well dug in 1958 for a geological survey on underground resources.

Two Sets of Fossils Deemed Natural Monuments of Hokkaido, (9/30)

The Hokkaido Board of Education has designated the Ashoroa and Behemotops fossils discovered in Ashoro to be natural monuments of the prefecture. The Ashoroa is one of the oldest *desmostylian* (aquatic herbivore) fossils in the world. Both fossils have been completely preserved and are being kept at the Ashoro Animal Fossil Museum. The Ashoroa has been determined to be around 28,000,000 years old and the behemotops around 25,000,000 years old. Not much is yet known about these creatures.

Volunteers Celebrate Completion of Ainu Cise with Ceremony, (10/3)

Construction of the *cise* (Ainu houses) at the Arashiyama Park Kotan (Ainu Village) has been completed, with a *asir-cise-nomi* ceremony held to celebrate two days later. Those who participated were happy to see many young people help build the structures, passing off cultural heritage between generations. The ceremony consisted of a gathering around the hearth inside the completed main house, then outside performances of the *mukkuri* (Ainu mouth harp), *emus rimse* (sword dance), and finally a dancing circle with everyone joining in.

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

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

Hokusai, the World Acclaimed Ukiyoe Artist: A Master and His Pupils

北斎展 世界が絶美した浮世絵師 一師とその弟子たち

This exhibition will have on display the work of Hokusai, one of the most famous artists in Japanese history, shown alongside European works influenced by his unique prints.

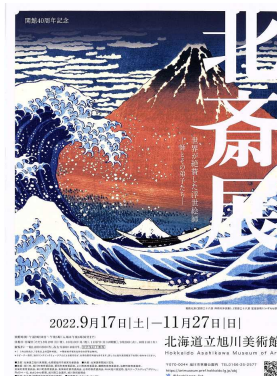
Date: Until 11/27 (Sunday)

Time: 9:30-17:00 (Entry ends at 16:30), Closed Mondays (except 11/7)

Place: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (inside Tokiwa Park, Asahikawa)

Admission: General ¥1,000(*¥800), High school and university student ¥600(*¥400), Middle school student and under FREE (*Groups of 10+ or presale tickets)

For more information, contact: 0166-25-2577 (Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art)



Trombone Ensemble Jyoshikai: Concert in Asahikawa

トロンボーンアンサンブル JYOSHIKAI Concert in 旭川

Jyoshikai, an all-women trombone ensemble, will be performing the following program: "Little" Fugue in G minor (Bach), Suite (Susato), and Londonderry Air (Irish melody).

Date: 11/1 (Tuesday)

Time: (Opens) 18:00, (Starts) 18:30

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

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

Ticket Office: Tikcet Pia (P-code: 226652), or e-mail your name, contact information, type/number of tickets you wish to purchase to: tb.jyoshikai@gmail.com

For more information, contact: 090-2788-3301 (Murakami), or tb.jyoshikai@gmail.com



Kamuimintara Quartet: Lunchtime Jazz Concert

A music ensemble (clarinet, piano, bass, drums) will be performing the following program: On the Sunny Side of the Street, The Shadow of Your Smile, and more.

Date: 11/2 (Wednesday)

Time: 12:00-13:00

Place: Hokkaido Kamikawa Joint Office 1F, Taisetsu Kamuimintara Hall (Asahikawa, Nagayama 6-jo 19-chome)

Admission: FREE

For more information, contact: 0166-46-5919 (Hokkaido Kamikawa General Subprefectural Bureau)



Asahikawa Philharmonic Orchestra, 43rd Annual Concert

旭川フィルハーモニー管弦楽団 第43回定期演奏会

Why not enjoy an afternoon of music with a program of: Symphony No. 8 (Dvorak), Suite from L'Arlesienne (Bizet), and 3rd Movement from Symphony No. 2 (Rachmaninoff).

Date: 11/6 (Sunday)

Time: (Opens) 14:30, (Starts) 15:00

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

Admission: General ¥1,000, High school student and under ¥500

Ticket Office: Coach & Four (Music Corner), Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (Store), Taisetsu Crystal Hall (Museum Shop)

For more information, contact: 050-5879-5078 (Tsubota)



Sokyoku Kayokai, 30th Anniversary: Autumn "Dream" Concert

箏曲華瑤会 30周年記念 秋“夢”コンサート

Take the opportunity to attend this concert, dedicated to the koto with eight selections including: Hana no Uta, Midare, and many more!

Date: 11/6 (Sunday)

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

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

Admission: General ¥1,000, High school student and under FREE

For more information, contact: 0166-64-6108 (Schroth 1-jo), or 090-5220-1506 (Clio Nibankan)



50th Anniversary of Sino-Japanese Normalization of Diplomatic Relations: A Night of Chinese-Japanese Friendship

日中国交正常化50周年記念 日中友好交流の夕べ

This event offers a talk and musical performances of both Japanese and Chinese music, in celebration of the ties between Asahikawa and her Chinese sister city Harbin.

Date: 11/8 (Tuesday)

Time: (Opens) 18:00, (Starts) 18:30

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

Admission: ¥1,000

For more information, contact: 0166-25-6927 (Suzuki, Clover System K.K.)



GOSPEL: LIVE 2022 Crystal of Joy

GOSPEL クリスタル・オブ・ジョイ 2022

Discover the power of gospel music, and American genre of music known for its emotionality and its origins in Black spiritual music.

Date: 11/19 (Saturday)

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

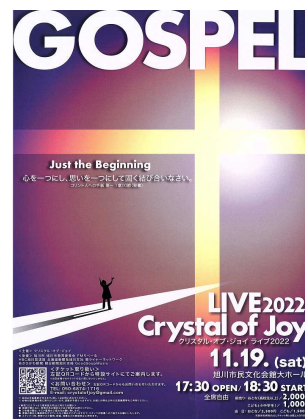
Place: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Large Hall (Asahikawa, 7-jo-dori 9-chome)

Admission: General ¥2,500(*¥2,000), Middle school student and under ¥1,500(*¥1,000),

Infants FREE (if they do not have a ticket they must sit in guardian's lap), (*Presale price)

Ticket Office: Lawson Ticket (L-code: 12077), LivePocket, On-day sales

For more information, contact: 050-6874-1716 or crystalofjoy@gmail.com



Asahikawa Wakuwaku Music Festival 2022

旭川わくわく音楽祭2022

Celebrate the gift of music together at the Asahikawa Wakuwaku Music Festival, with artists such as: Happy Dance Studio, ONE STEP AHEAD, Kanako Minami and more!

Date: 11/27 (Sunday)

Time: (Opens) 10:00, (Starts) 10:30

Place: Asahikawa Public Hall (inside Tokiwa Park, Asahikawa)

Admission: (Presale) ¥2,000, (Day of) ¥2,500

Ticket Office: T-shirt and parka factory (Feeeal Asahikawa 1F), Sakura Coffee

(0166-76-4566), Kaimono Koen Gojo Shokudo (0166-73-5793)

For more information, contact: 090-8370-1329 (Kasahara), or kasahara230@gmail.com



Life in Asahikawa

BUNKA-NO-HI

by KITAMURA Tadao

November 3rd is BUNKA-NO-HI, one of sixteen national holidays, normally translated as Culture Day.

The word 'BUNKA' is very hard to explain. One Japanese dictionary says: "BUNKA is the generic term for the ways of life which a human obtains from the world by learning about things and matters on which he builds up his life, mentally and also physically, concerning food, clothing, shelter and also technology, study, art, morality, religion., and so forth."

The English translation for this word is 'culture'. The Concise Oxford Dictionary says: "Culture is improvement by mental or physical training; intellectual development; particular form, stage or type of intellectual development or civilization," The word BUNKA looks somehow more significant than 'culture'. Anyway, it is a very difficult word.

BUNKA-NO-HI is a day to promote the cultural prosperity of Japan, in commemoration of the day when the Constitution of Japan was promulgated in 1946 when the devastating WWII ended. The new Constitution set forth the aim of the nation on the Pacific and cultured society.

On BUNKA-NO-HI, according to established custom, the Emperor invites several prominent people to the Imperial Palace and awards them the BUNKA KUNSHO, an Order of Cultural Merit, to praise their dedication in the fields of philosophy, science and technology, literature, arts and crafts, and the like, this country having made resolution to be the nation of BUNKA. Dr. Donald Keene, Ex-Professor to Columbia University, was a BUNKA KUNSHO recipient in 2008 because he produced remarkable results in the area of introducing Japanese classics to the West. He was also the first recipient of foreign nationality.

The flowers bestowed upon the prize winners are various species of chrysanthemum in colors of white, yellow, violet with delicately changing tones. Reportedly, the palace is enveloped with soothing fragrance of chrysanthemums.

The chrysanthemum was adopted as the Imperial insignia and also as the icon of the peace-loving spirit of the Japanese people.

Since some hundred years ago, plant experts have made efforts to introduce new and even more beautiful variations of chrysanthemum.

In the days before and after BUNKA-NO-HI, exhibitions of chrysanthemum take place in big parks, gardens, and precincts of shrines or temples, where you'll see varieties of gorgeous and beautiful flowers or fanciful floral arrangements.

Unfortunately in Asahikawa, we cannot appreciate the beauty of the chrysanthemum anymore because winter is just at our front door. We have to put our garden plants into makeshift shelters before snowfall begins!



Asahikawa Info

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

Grace: Hiya! My name's Grace McKnight and I'm a new ALT living in Asahikawa this year. I hail from the wild and wonderful Midwest. You may shudder in fear, I know. I was born and raised in southwestern Ohio surrounded by cows and cornfields and... not much else. So very similar to Hokkaido! I went to school in a small town so my teachers wanted to expose us to the world outside the fields and farmland. I know, the blasphemy.

AIC: How did you first get interested in Japan?

Grace: In sixth grade, all our teachers got together and concocted a plan. They had us choose a country at the beginning of the school year and then we'd work on projects in each class that was about and surrounding the country we chose. I originally wanted Italy, but it was already chosen by the time my name was called, curse alphabetical name calling, so I chose Japan. I knew very little

Hello, Asahikawa!

about the country or its culture so I assumed I'd be bored out of my mind. Boy, was I wrong. By the end of the year I was obsessed with Japanese culture and language. I wanted to learn more.

In high school, my guidance counselor asked us what we wanted to do after graduation. A lot of my classmates had already decided to go to trade school or an agricultural school to take over the family farm. My family didn't have a farm but I knew I wanted to go to college, but I had no idea what to study. My guidance counselor told me to think about what I could see myself doing for the rest of my life and to choose something that I wouldn't grow tired of. A pretty tricky question for a seventeen year old whose most difficult decision in life up until that point had been whether I liked guys or girls. I thought long and hard about the things I enjoyed doing and I kept coming back to Japan, but what could I go to school for that would involve Japan? Then it hit me. I'd go to school to learn Japanese and become a Japanese translator. Ten years and a bachelors degree later, I've made my way to Japan to cement my language skills to do just that. What better job can there be than translating anime and manga, that I love so very much, for the rest of my life? None, I say!

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

Grace: Living in the second largest city in Hokkaido has been fantastic. Having so much nearby and being so close to Sapporo has been very convenient. I don't think I could've asked for a better placement. I highly recommend checking out Santouka, the best ramen



Name: Grace McKnight

Home Country: USA

Interviewed: 2022/10/21

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

shop in town, and trying their *shio ramen*. It's my most favorite food in Japan so far. Also, you gotta check out Pandora! It's a gaming bar that is all-you-can-drink. Their drinks are dangerously good, so make sure to bring some friends and have a blast together for a couple hours.

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

Grace: I love hiking and running so Asahikawa and Asahidake, just a two hour bus ride from Asahikawa station, offer great places to do both. The bike path along Ishikarikawa River has some amazing views of the city and Asahidake is a great place to go in the summer. Make sure if you're planning to climb the mountain that you book a room at one of the many hotels or hostels at the base. My friends and I stayed at K's House, a very nice and affordable hostel with the nicest staff. The last bus runs at three so unless you're a hiking speed demon, you'll never make it up and back down in time to make the last bus.

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

Grace: Speaking of last buses, there is only one thing in Asahikawa that I'm dissatisfied with. Why do the buses and trains stop running so early?! Going out with friends always involves a discussion of whether we want to call it quits before the last bus, or stay later and walk home. If the buses would run until midnight I could have fun without worrying about the forty minute walk back home. Still, with Japan being such a safe country I haven't worried too much about walking home after dark, something I would never attempt in the States.

AIC: It sounds like you prefer Japan in the end, though!

Grace: Being in Japan has made me fall even deeper in love with this country, its culture, and its language and I've already signed up for another year. I could one hundred percent see myself living here for the rest of my life. Now I just have to get my wife to see things my way... That will probably be the highest hurdle in my life, or at least one of the biggest. So wish me luck and I hope to catch you at Pandora or Santouka some time!

AIC: Thank you for your time!



Movies - November

**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

- Detective Conan: The Bride of Halloween (Japanese/Anime)~11/7
- Sadako DX (Japanese)
- Three Sisters of Tenmasou (Japanese)
- Kame no Kora wa Abarabone (Japanese)
- Break of Dawn (Japanese/Anime)
- The Lines that Define Me (Japanese/Anime)
- Spencer (English)~11/2
- Karada Sagashi (Japanese/PG12)
- Whisper of the Heart (Japanese)
- The Bad Guys (Japanese/Anime)
- Seven Secretaries (Japanese)
- Boku ga Aishita Subete no Kimi e (Japanese/Anime)
- Kimi wo Aishita Hitori no Boku e (Japanese/Anime)
- I AM Makimoto (Japanese)
- Sore ga Iru Mori (Japanese)
- Silent Parade (Japanese)
- HiGH & LOW The Worst X (Japanese/PG12)
- PAW Patrol Jet to the Rescue (Japanese/Anime)~11/3
- One Piece Film Red (Japanese/Anime)
- Top Gun: Maverick (English)

Coming Soon

- The Roundup (Korean/PG12) 11/3
- Madobe nite (Japanese) 11/4
- Unchiku: Unko ga Chikyuu wo Sukuu (Japanese) 11/4
- Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara (Hindi) 11/4
- Nian Tabi Tetsudo (Japanese) 11/4~11/10
- Suzume no Tojimari (Japanese/Anime) 11/11
- Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (English) 11/11
- A Man (Japanese) 11/18
- Where the Crawdads Sing (English) 11/18
- Maternal Instinct (Japanese) 11/23
- Strange World (English/Anime) 11/23
- That Time I Got Reincarnated as a Slime (Japanese/Anime) 11/25
- Phases of the Moon (Japanese) 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
- Dr. Koto Shinrojyo (Japanese) 12/16
- Lonely Castle in the Mirror (Japanese/Anime) 12/23

***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

- Sadako DX (Japanese 4DX)
- Three Sisters of Tenmasou (Japanese)
- Amsterdam (English)
- Sword Art Online Progressive: Scherzo of a Dark Dusk (Japanese/Anime)
- RRR (English)
- Sword Art Online: Ordinal Scale (Japanese 4DX/Anime)
- Sword Art Online Progressive: Aria of a Starless Night (Japanese 4DX/Anime)
- Whisper of the Heart (Japanese)
- Karada Sagashi (Japanese/PG12)
- Don't Sleep Through Life! on Stage (Japanese)
- The Divine Projector – Mater Salt Begins (Japanese)
- The Bad Guys (Japanese/Anime)
- Seven Secretaries (Japanese)
- Sore ga Iru Mori (Japanese)
- I AM Makimoto (Japanese)~11/2
- Delicious Party Pretty Cure: Yumemiru Okosama Lunch! (Japanese/Anime)
- Silent Parade (Japanese)
- One Piece Film Red (Japanese 4DX/Anime)
- Top Gun: Maverick (English 4DX)

Coming Soon

- Suzume no Tojimari (Japanese/Anime) 11/11
- The Zen Diary (Japanese) 11/11
- Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (English) 11/11
- The Demon Over There (Japanese/R15+) 11/11
- A Man (Japanese) 11/18
- Maternal Instinct (Japanese) 11/23
- Strange World (English/Anime) 11/23
- That Time I Got Reincarnated as a Slime (Japanese/Anime) 11/25
- 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
- Lonely Castle in the Mirror (Japanese/Anime) 12/23

***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: November 11th & 25th, December 9th & 23th, January 13th & 27th

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)



Fun Fridays!

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.