

# 旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

May 2019 VOL. 270

Published by AIC

Read issues of Asahikawa Info and get to know AIC at our website! <http://asahikawaic.jp/en/>



## Hokkaido News Top 5



May 2019  
Compiled by AIC

### March 25

Ticket sales from Banei Horse Racing in Obihiro City has exceeded the previous year's by 11.1%, sitting at approximately 24.4 million yen. Up until 2006, the race had been organized by four other cities, but due to low ticket sales, Obihiro City became the solo organizer from 2007. This year marks the best year for ticket sales ever recorded for the city. Sales through the Internet are believed to be the reason for this increase.

### March 26

Starting in April, the Higashikawa Japan Agricultural Cooperatives will start exporting Higashikawa Mai (東川米), rice grown in Higashikawa Town, to Vladivostok, the far eastern federal district of Russia. This venture is part of its plan to expand its market into Russia. According to Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, it is rare for Japanese rice to be exported to the far eastern area.

### March 27

Following an increase in child pornography cases, the Hokkaido government has decided to set new regulations in place by 2020. The act of coercing or tricking children under 18 to send indecent pictures or videos of themselves is not penalized under current law. Tokyo, Hyogo, and four other local governments have regulations in place at the present.

### March 31

Sounkyo Onsen was voted for having the "Best View" for the Onsen General Elections 2018. People nationwide cast their votes through the Internet from last May through this January. This election started three years ago aiming to revive interest in onsen areas. Sounkyo Onsen was chosen among 16 onsen areas for the "Best View" category. Sounkyo has four distinct seasons for people to enjoy.

### April 5

Asahikawa University, a private university, has announced that it will become a municipal university by 2021 at the earliest. A new department, "Creative-Community Design", will be established by 2023. According to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, this is only the second case of a private university in Hokkaido turning into a public university.



#### For further information

#### or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee  
(SUGANO Ayumi, Daniel LIZARRAGA, or  
SAITO Emmy)

#### 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

Fax: (0166) 23-4924

#### E-mail:

cir\_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

### Inside This Issue...

<b>Hokkaido News Top 5</b> <i>By AIC</i>	<b>1</b>	<b>Hello Asahikawa!</b> <b>(Kenton Knop)</b> <i>Interviewed by AIC</i>	<b>6-8</b>
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	<b>2-3</b>	<b>Movies</b>	<b>8-9</b>
<b>Life in Asahikawa</b> <i>KITAMURA Tadao</i>	<b>4-5</b>	<b>Bulletin Board</b>	<b>10</b>

**“Iru” Jyan Exhibition of Original Artwork**

「いる」じゃん 原画展

This exhibition will display original artwork and poetry made by KUDO Naoko in collaboration with her son, MATSUMOTO Taiyo, as well as works made by KUDO Naoko in collaboration with ABE Hiroshi, local author and illustrator. KUDO Naoko boast an impressive resume as a poet, author, and translator. She won the Japanese Children’s Literature Association’s Newcomer’s Award in 1983 with her book, “Lion the Philosopher”. Her son, MATSUMOTO Taiyo, is a manga artist known for his unconventional art style. His most notable manga are “Tekkonkinkreet” and “Ping Pong”, which have received anime adaptations.

**Date:** Now - 5/26 (Sunday)**Time:** 10:00-18:00**Venue:** Gallery Puru Puru (7-jo-dori 8-chome)**Admission:** Free**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-73-8289**Notes:** Closed on Mondays and Tuesdays「いる」じゃん 原画展  
2024年5月13日(土) - 5月26日(日)**Alfons Mucha’s Women**

ミュシャ展 運命の女たち

Alfons Mucha was a Czech-born artist active in the late 19th century through the beginning of the 20th century, famous as a representative of the Art Nouveau period. He gained notoriety in Paris after designing a poster for the Theatre de la Renaissance’s play “Gismonda”, depicting French actress Sarah Bernhardt. His illustrations of women became some of the best-known images in the period, and continue to fascinate the senses of people today.

**Date:** Now - 6/23 (Sunday)**Time:** 9:30-17:00 (Last entry is at 16:30)**Venue:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art

**Admission:** General ¥1,200 (¥1,000), High school and university students ¥700 (¥500), Junior high school students ¥400 (¥300), Elementary school students and under are free with accompanying adult. Prices in parenthesis are for groups over ten or for tickets purchased in advance

**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-25-2577**Notes:** Please contact the museum for questions concerning repeat visitor discounts, “Museum’s Linking System” discounts, and other special offers**10th Annual Asahiya Park Night-time Cherry Blossom Viewing Festival**

第十回記念 旭山公園夜桜まつり

Now on it’s tenth year in a row, the Asahiya park is holding a night-time viewing of its cherry blossoms. The cherry blossoms will be illuminated for three hours during the selected days, and on 5/5 (Sunday), a special event will be held featuring a variety of musical artists starting at 16:00 with a fireworks display beginning at 20:00. On every day except for 5/5 (Sunday), event organizers will be handing out free mushroom soup!

**Date:** 5/3 (Friday, Holiday) to 5/8 (Wednesday)**Time:** 19:00-22:00 (The duration the cherry blossoms will be illuminated)**Venue:** Asahiya Park**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-37-2243**Notes:** Festival dates may change depending on the cherry blossom blooming period**Mini Concert Tre Ninfe**

ミニコンサート Tre Ninfe

The musical trio “Tre Ninfe” (Three Nymphs) formed last year in the fall, and played their first concert on the big stage at Taisetsu Crystal Hall in February. This will be the group’s second performance! If you are a fan of classical music, this is the concert for you! The Yasushi Inoue Memorial Hall honors the esteemed author and his love for his birthplace. The exhibit features notebooks of his writings on Asahikawa, original manuscripts, and more.

**Date:** 5/6 (Monday, Holiday)**Time:** Performance #1 Starts 11:00, Performance #2 Starts 13:30**Venue:** Yasushi Inoue Memorial Hall (Shunko 5-jo 7-chome)**Admission:** Free**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-51-1188

## Beyond the Waves Taro / A Japanese Rebel ビヨンド・ザ・ウェーブズ 山本太郎ドキュメンタリー

This documentary features the story of a Japanese actor turned politician. Entering politics after the Fukushima nuclear meltdown in 2011, he takes a firm stance against nuclear energy, xenophobia, nationalism, and the call for the rearmament of Japan.

**Date:** 5/19 (Sunday)  
**Time:** Showing #1 Opens 10:00, Starts 10:30. Showing #2 Opens 13:30, Starts 14:00  
**Venue:** Workers Welfare Assembly Hall - Sun Azalea (Asahikawa 6-jo-dori 4-chome)  
**Admission:** ¥1,000, Purchase day of ¥1,200, High school students and under are free  
**For Further Information and to Purchase Tickets Contact:** Kumagai at 090-6692-1243.  
 You can also reserve tickets by visiting the event's facebook page (search "Asahikawa Beyond The Waves")



## 20th Asahikawa Citizen Band Festival 第20回旭川地区 市民バンドフェスティバル

This band festival will feature performances from many groups, including the Asahikawa Junior Brass Band, the Asahikawa Civic Wind Orchestra, the Asahikawa Symphony, the Asahikawa Youth Brass Band, the Soka Gakkai Asahikawa Brass Band, The Asahikawa Brass Band, the Bippu Wind Orchestra, and the Aibetsu Brass Band. There are so many bands packed into one performance!

**Date:** 5/26 (Sunday)  
**Time:** Opens 17:30, Starts 18:00  
**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Large Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)  
**Admission:** ¥500  
**Ticket Office:** Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop, Taisetsu Crystal Hall Museum Shop  
**For Further Information Contact:** 090-6694-0050



## "Brass Band Disney!" Concert "ブラバン・ディズニー!" コンサート

The Brass Band Disney Concert series has finally made its way to Hokkaido! Disney movies are truly special in the sense that they are popular and beloved throughout generations. Professional musicians from the Siena Wind Orchestra will be playing music from your Disney favorites, and you will even hear a piece from the LINE Disney Tsum Tsum game!

**Date:** 6/1 (Saturday)  
**Time:** Opens 14:00, Starts 15:00  
**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Large Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)  
**Admission:** "S" Seating ¥7,500, "A" Seating ¥6,500, Student Seating ¥4,500. Reserved seating, Pre-school age children and under will not be admitted. No official characters will make an appearance.  
**Ticket Office:** Gyokkodo, Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop, Taisetsu Crystal Hall Museum Shop, Coach And Four, Lawson Ticket (L code: 12402), Ticket Pia (P code: 144-436), Eplus (<http://eplus.jp>)  
**For Further Information Contact:** Office One at 011-612-8696, Mon-Fri from 10:30-18:00



## Asahikawa Philharmonic Famous Music Concert 2019 Bach to Brahms 旭川フィル名曲コンサート2019 バッハからブラームスへ

This concert will feature prominent compositions of two of history's finest classical composers: Johann Sebastian Bach and Johannes Brahms. Some of the compositions to be performed include: "Air on the G String" (August Wilhelmj's arrangement of the second movement of Bach's "Orchestral Suite No.3 in D Major), "Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor", "Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80", and "Brahms Symphony No.4".

**Date:** 6/2 (Sunday)  
**Time:** Opens 14:30, Starts 15:00  
**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Large Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)  
**Admission:** General ¥1,000, High school and under ¥500. Free seating  
**Ticket Office:** Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Taisetsu Crystal Hall Museum Shop, Coach and Four Asahikawa Music Corner  
**For Further Information Contact:** 050-5879-5078



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR MAY

# Life in Asahikawa

## Summer Seems To Have Arrived By KITAMURA Tadao

Spring has passed.  
And summer seems to have arrived,  
Garment of white cloth  
Hung to dry  
On heavenly Kagu Hill.

(Translated by Dr. Ian Hideo Levy※)

This is one of the many masterpieces of *Waka* (Japanese short poem) collected in the *Manyoushu*, the oldest collection of poems in Japan, which contains about 4,500 poems written throughout 450 years (310~759 A.D.). People from all social classes were featured in this anthology, from Emperors and nobles to lowly commoners.

The *Waka* above is attributed to Empress Jitoh (687~696 A.D.), who was seated on the 41<sup>st</sup> throne in the genealogy of the emperorship. It expresses her joy for the coming of the soothing air characteristic of early summer, her gratitude for the gods, and in addition, she is able to express favor for her own people in a mere thirty-one syllables.

If you look into the historical facts, however, you will also share another sentiment with her. Empress Jitoh lived in an extremely difficult age when the *Yamato* Dynasty was characterized by instability. She fought for the legitimate lineage of emperorship together with her husband, Emperor Tenmu (672 A.D.). Twenty-two years later, she constructed what was the imperial capital of Japan, Fujiwara-kyo, on land in the Nara Basin. This was considered a peaceful and holy place, and according to legend, the three surrounding hills had descended from heaven.

Empress Jitoh must have been full of gratitude seeing this peaceful land after remembering the stormy life she had lived. The Empress was not only a prominent poetess, but also an excellent administrator with advanced views. Helping her husband, she was devoted to compiling the first legitimate historical text of the nation (*Kojiki*).

All successive emperors since then studied to be excellent men and women of culture, and talented poets or poetesses. Even nowadays, every year in January, the New-Year Poetry Party takes place in the Royal Court where the Emperor or Empress will present his or her original poem. The new Emperor Naruhito, who will succeed the throne to become the 126<sup>th</sup> emperor, will present his poem at the New Year's Poetry Party on New Year's Day of 2020.

※※ Lrvy, Hideo: “英語で読む万葉集 (Read Manyooshu in English) ” IWANAMI SHINNSHO 920 (2006)





# Hello Asahikawa!

**Name: Kenton Knop**  
**Home Country: United States**  
**Interviewed: March 14th, 2019**

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](mailto:cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp)

**AIC:** So Kenton, what brings you to Japan?

**Kenton:** I am here in Japan, I am traveling to visit Japan for the first time in five and a half years. It has been five and a half years since I was last in Japan and wanted to take a personal vacation to come back and visit the people and places I used to live in Japan.

**AIC:** Wow that's awesome! So where are you from originally?

**Kenton:** Well I'm from Hartland Wisconsin, and that is in the Milwaukee suburbs.

**AIC:** Is that where you currently live as well?

**Kenton:** Currently I live in Chicago.

**AIC:** How does it feel to be back in Japan after so long?

**Kenton:** Well, it feels fantastic. I've really missed being in Japan. I'm enjoying the food, the sights, the sounds, and most importantly the friends who I've made here over the years. Coming back here was really to see them. It was my main motivation for coming back this time. I really did miss them over the five plus years I was away. We stayed in touch with letters, emails, and things, so I always planned to come back sometime. It just ended up being later than I expected.

**AIC:** I'm glad you're able to meet everybody again. What are you up to now that you're back in the U.S.?

**Kenton:** I'm an attorney and I work for the law firm Masuda Funai in Chicago. After my time in Asahikawa, I went to law school and took the Illinois Bar Exam, and I've been working in Chicago since last year.

**AIC:** I forgot to ask—how do you like over there so far?

**Kenton:** I think living and working in Chicago is great. It's a very exciting city, lots of professional opportunities, lots of interesting places to visit around the city. That's been my big source of enjoyment—exploring the neighborhoods and getting to know the city a lot better as a resident instead of as a tourist.



**AIC:** Speaking of that, what did you like the most about Asahikawa when you were living here?

**Kenton:** I fell in love with Asahikawa because it's the perfect sized city, where it's large enough you have so many conveniences, so many great shops, and restaurants, but it's still small enough to be personal, and the people here really want to take the time to get to know you. They are very friendly and I was always treated warmly wherever I went. I ended up meeting so many great people during my time here that I always knew I wanted to come back. I tell everybody Asahikawa is a great place to visit if they go to Hokkaido. People know Sapporo, but they should really visit Asahikawa, too.

**AIC:** What are your hobbies?

**Kenton:** I love reading. Japanese literature has been an interest of mine for many years. I love movies and music. Some of my favorite music is Japanese music from the 70s and 80s—the Showa era of pop music. One of my favorite artists is Osaka Kiyohiko. He was famous in the 70s and passed away a few years ago, but his songs are some of my favorite to do at karaoke. Also, I like playing guitar, and recently I started playing Mah-jong with some friends.



**AIC:** Did you happen to do any winter sports while you were living here?

**Kenton:** I did some cross country skiing. I did not enter it, but around the Vasaloppet event, there was a track available where you could do some cross country skiing. I think it was behind the Asahikawa Station. I did some cross country skiing in Wisconsin before, so it was a lot of fun to do it here again in Japan.

**AIC:** I suppose Wisconsin and Asahikawa have similar weather, then?

**Kenton:** Definitely, the climates are very similar. There was a famous advertising campaign for Sapporo Beer that said that Sapporo, Milwaukee, and Munich, the famous beer capitals of the world, were all at the same latitude. After coming to Hokkaido and learning that they were famous for dairy products and agriculture, I felt at home. Where I went to school, in Madison, Wisconsin, they have a sister city relationship with Obihiro, Hokkaido. It felt like an even closer relationship between Wisconsin and Hokkaido.

**AIC:** I didn't realize there were so many similarities! What did you miss about the U.S. when you were living here. Do you still remember?

**Kenton:** I think the thing I really missed was pizza. I know you can get pizza in Japan, but you usually have to do delivery like Pizza La or Pizza Hut, and a medium pizza costs about \$40 to get delivered. Having cheap and tasty pizza at hand was something I missed.

**AIC:** Now that you're living in Chicago, what do you miss the most about Japan?

**Kenton:** I think it comes down to being able to live and use Japanese every day. I feel like that's a different side of myself that I leave behind in Japan when I'm in the states, but when I come back I'm able to step into that and it feels very familiar all of the sudden. And so, that's what I felt I missed the most. Being able to come here and sort of access that other side of myself. It feels like I never left in some ways.

*Continued on Page 8*

**AIC:** Do you speak any other languages?  
**Kenton:** I've studied Korean in the past, and I've studied a little bit of Chinese as well. I dabble in other languages quite a bit. I love languages for sure.

**AIC:** On this trip, how long do you plan to be in Asahikawa?

**Kenton:** Well, my trip is about seven days total in Japan. Asahikawa is about two and a half days. I've been really working hard to schedule everything in such a short time.

**AIC:** Last but not least, do you like Karaoke?

**Kenton:** Yes, a very emphatic yes. Definitely one of my favorite things to do in Japan. When I lived here, I would go to karaoke almost once a week. Sometimes almost more. I found learning Japanese through songs was a great way to learn a lot of new vocabulary and make a lot more friends.

**AIC:** That about wraps up this interview. Thank you so much for participating!

**Kenton:** Thank you very much.



## ★ *Movies ~ May* ★

\*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 / 0166 - 74 - 6411

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

### Now Showing

- Avengers: Endgame (English)
- Birthday Wonderland (Japanese/Anime)
- Just Only Love (Japanese)
- Kingdom (Japanese)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Honeymoon Hurricane~The Lost Hiroshi (Japanese/Anime)
- Shazam! (English)
- Detective Conan: The Fist of Blue Sapphire (Japanese/Anime)
- Lover's Twisting Path (Japanese)
- Thomas & Friends: Big World! Big Adventures! The Movie (Japanese/Anime)
- Dumbo (English/Anime)
- Prince of Legend (Japanese)
- L-DK: Two Lovers, Under One Roof (Japanese)
- You Shine in the Moonlit Night (Japanese)
- Doraemon: Nobita's Chronicle of the Moon (Japanese/Anime)
- Bohemian Rhapsody (English)

### Coming Soon

- Pokemon Detective Pikachu (English) 5/3
- Neko to Jiichan (Japanese) 5/10~23
- Siblings of the Cape (Japanese/R15+) 5/10
- Hikinige: Saikou no Saiaku no Hi (Japanese) 5/10
- Inemuri Iwane (Japanese) 5/17
- The Confidence Man JP (Japanese) 5/17
- According to Our Butler (Japanese) 5/17
- American Animals (English) 5/17
- Promare (Japanese/Anime) 5/24
- Kubo Ibuki (Japanese) 5/24
- Sadako (Japanese) 5/24
- Parallel World Love Story (Japanese) 5/31
- Godzilla: King of the Monsters (English) 5/31
- Kaiju no Kodomo (Japanese/Anime) 6/7
- Aladdin (English) 6/7
- Almost a Miracle (Japanese) 6/7

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

## ★ *Movies ~ May* ★

\*<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 / 0166 – 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 Feeeal Asahikawa Department Store (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nagayama 10 (ju)-jo 3 (san)-chome.”

### Now Showing

- Avengers: Endgame (English 4DX)
- Kingdom (Japanese)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Honeymoon Hurricane~The Lost Hiroshi (Japanese/Anime)
- Shazam! (English)
- Detective Conan: The Fist of Blue Sapphire (Japanese/Anime)
- Dumbo (Japanese)
- Prince of Legend (Japanese)
- Pretty Cure Miracle Universe (Japanese/Anime)
- You Shine in the Moonlit Night (Japanese)
- Eiga no Osomatsusan (Japanese/Anime)
- King of Prism - Shiny Seven Stars I (Japanese/Anime)
- Doraemon: Nobita's Chronicle of the Moon (Japanese/Anime)

### Coming Soon

- King of Prism - Shiny Seven Stars II (Japanese/Anime) 5/3
- Pokemon Detective Pikachu (English 4DX) 5/3
- Boku ni, Aitakatta (Japanese) 5/10
- The Confidence Man JP (Japanese) 5/17
- Inemuri Iwane (Japanese) 5/17
- King of Prism - Shiny Seven Stars III (Japanese/Anime) 5/24
- Sadako (Japanese) 5/24
- Kubo Ibuki (Japanese) 5/24
- Godzilla: King of the Monsters (English) 5/31
- Parallel World Love Story (Japanese) 5/31
- Cold Pursuit (English/PG12) 6/7

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / 0166 – 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 Feeeal Asahikawa Department Store (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nippon Seishi mae.”

### Now Showing

- Avengers: Endgame (English)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Honeymoon Hurricane~The Lost Hiroshi (Japanese/Anime)
- Kingdom (Japanese)
- Shazam! (English)
- Halloween (English/R15+)
- Detective Conan: The Fist of Blue Sapphire (Japanese/Anime)
- Dumbo (English/Anime)
- BlacKkKlansman(English)
- Doraemon: Nobita's Chronicle of the Moon (Japanese/Anime)
- Tonde Saitama (Japanese)
- Bohemian Rhapsody (English)

### Coming Soon

- Pokemon Detective Pikachu (English) 5/3
- Overlord (English) 5/10
- Inemuri Iwane (Japanese) 5/17
- Sadako (Japanese) 5/24
- Chiisana Koi no Uta (Japanese) 5/24
- Parallel World Love Story (Japanese) 5/31
- Godzilla: King of the Monsters (English) 5/31
- A Long Goodbye (Japanese) 5/31
- Aladdin (English) 6/7

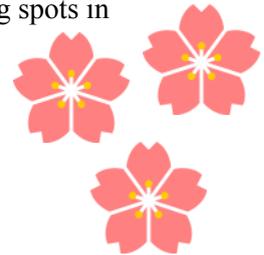
**Movie schedules change often. Please call the theater for confirmation and details.**

# Cherry Blossom Viewing in Asahikawa



May is here, which means it's the season for *hanami* (cherry blossom viewing)! In mainland Japan the flowers start blooming as early as late March, but in Hokkaido, they start blooming around the beginning of May and last about halfway through the month. During this time, you will be able to see families and groups of friends enjoying *sake* and *jingisukan* barbecue underneath the cherry blossoms.

There are many locations to view cherry blossoms within the city and they will definitely be bustling with people! According to sakura.weathermap.jp, **cherry blossoms are expected to start blooming on 5/3 (Friday) and be in full bloom on 5/6 (Monday)**, but be sure to check online for the latest information just to make sure! Below we listed some of the most prominent viewing spots in the city, so get out there and enjoy *hanami*!



## Cherry Blossom Viewing Locations in Asahikawa:

- Asahiyama Park
- Hanasaki Sports Park (From Hanasakicho 1-chome to Hanasakicho 5-chome)
- Kaguraoka Park
- Shunkodai Park (Aza Chikabumi 6-sen 3-go)

## 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:** May 10th & 24th, June 14th & 28th, July 12th & 26th

**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 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

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

**\*\*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.\*\***