

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5



August 2012

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

June 18

Thirty-five people from mainly the Tokyo Metropolitan area attended an hour-long story-reading of "A Wild Sheep Chase" by Haruki Murakami. The reading was held at the "Farm Inn Tonto" in Niupu district of Bihuka, near Nayoro. The place is considered as the setting of the novel. The recital is planned again in late September.

June 20

"Real Madrid Foundation" run by the prestigious professional soccer team in Spain hosted a camp for 200 children at an elementary and junior high school in Nanae, next to Hakodate. The camp was held there because the pitch of the Higashi Onuma Multipurpose Ground in Nanae is highly regarded. The camp aimed at scouting promising soccer players and the participants get the chance of attending a camp in Spain.

June 22

Taisetsu Agricultural Cooperative in Asahikawa sent a shipment of "Hoshinoyume," a high-grade rice, to Hong Kong. The shipment was the first in four years following a shipment to Poland in 2008. The cooperative said that it wanted to expand its share of the global market.

July 7

Asahikawa City announced that "Miura Garden," which is famous for its water lilies, will be open to the public for a month starting from July 20. The entry to the garden is free and it will be open from 10:00am to 4:00pm. The garden is situated next to Asahiyama Zoo and Asahiyama Park, and there is a parking lot nearby.

July 8

Mayor of Asahikawa, Masahito Nishikawa announced at a news conference that Asahiyama Zoo will help build a "Rescue Center for Elephants" in Sandakan district in Sabah, Malaysia. Asahikawa City will contribute 10 million yen in building the facility, and Asahiyama Zoo will offer technical advice in breeding elephants. Mayor Nishikawa emphasized that the city puts a premium on wildlife protection.



For further information or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee
(SASAKI Mai, Sergej NESIC, or
SAITO Emmy)

Location:

International Affairs Division, Civic and
Community Services Dept.

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo
Proofreader & Advisor

EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR AUGUST

THE NORTH JAPAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA 24TH REGULAR CONCERT 北日本フィルハーモニー管弦楽団

This year's concert by this internationally renowned orchestra bills an "Opera gala." Operas performed will include, Verdi's "Nabucco" and "La traviata," Donizetti's "The Elixir of Love," and more. Also included in the program is the final movement of Beethoven's 9th Symphony "Ode to Joy."

Date: August 6th (Monday)

Time: Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm

Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)

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

Ticket Office: Shimada Music Academy

For further information and tickets contact: 22-2078 (Shimada Music Academy)



SUMMER HOLIDAY PUPPET SHOW & PUPPET MAKING WORKSHOP "BRIC-A-BRAC MOUNTAIN ZOO"

夏休み観て・作る人形劇と影絵工作会「がらくたやまどうぶつえん」

Crayon Company's FURIHATA Yukio will perform a puppet and shadow puppet play using puppets made entirely from used paper products, such as milk cartons, newspapers, etc. Following the performance starting from 2:15pm a puppet making workshop will be held. You'll need to bring a used and washed 1liter milk carton, scissors, cellophane tape, and a ball pen or marker. You're also recommended to bring a utility knife, cutting board, double stick-tape, ruler, and a bag to take the puppets home. A great day of educational fun for both parents and kids alike.

Date: August 8th (Wednesday)

Time: Doors 12:30pm, Show 1:00pm

Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)

Admission: General ¥500 (¥600 at the door)

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Kodomo Fukido

For further information contact: 090-2871-6619 (YAMAMOTO)



"THE FLOWERING CHERRY" BY ROBERT BOLT & PERFORMED BY BUNGAUKUZA THEATER COMPANY

「花咲くチェリー」文学座公演

Bungakuza theater company was established in 1937 and has been performing "The Flowering Cherry" since 1965. Flowering Cherry was written by the two-time Oscar winning English playwright, Robert Bolt, in 1958. The story portrays family bonds and pursuing one's dream first opened on Broadway in 1959 and was adapted for television in 1963.

Date: August 7th (Tuesday), August 8th (Wednesday)

Time: Tuesday Show 6:30pm, Wednesday Show 1:30pm

Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)

Admission: Flowering Cherry is organized by the Asahikawa Citizens Theater and is open to its members. Groups of 3 or more can join the society for ¥2,000 plus a monthly membership fee of ¥2,200 for General Members, ¥1,000 for College Students, and ¥500 for High School Students.

For further information contact: 23-1655 (Asahikawa Citizens Theater)



WASEDA UNIVERSITY GLEE CLUB CONCERT

早稲田グリークラブコンサート

Asahikawa Number Nine Society's (Daikyukai) is marking its 10th annual concert with a special guest performance by the renowned Waseda University's Glee Club male choir. The three part concert will see the Glee Club performing the first and third parts, and Asahikawa Daikyukai performing the second, with its signature Beethoven's Symphony Number 9.

Date: August 17th (Friday)

Time: Show 7:00pm

Venue: Loisir Hotel Asahikawa 3rd Floor Great Hall (7-jo 6-chome)

Admission: General ¥2,000 (¥2,500 at the door)

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Yamaha Music Asahikawa Store, Asahikawa Number Nine Society (Daikyukai,) Coach & Four, Junkudo

For further information contact: 090-1523-9034 (ISHIGURO)



JAPAN SHAKUHACHI FEDERATION HOKKAIDO CHAPTER 'S 13TH ANNUAL TOZANRYU SHAKUHACHI ALL-HOKKAIDO CONCERT

日本尺八連盟北海道支部 第13回都山流尺八楽全道講演会

Eleven performers of this traditional Japanese flute from various groups around Hokkaido will come together for a joint concert. Come and experience a taste of real Japan.

Date: August 19th (Sunday)
Time: Doors 12:00pm, Show 12:30pm
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)
Admission: Free
For further information contact: 22-7518 (IGARASHI)

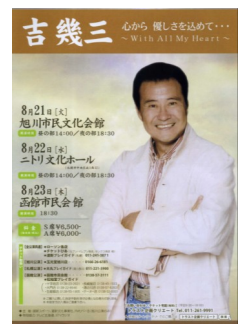


YOSHI IKUZO'S "WITH ALL MY HEART" CONCERT

吉幾三「心から優しさを込めて」コンサート

YOSHI Ikuzo (real name, KAMATA Yoshihito) is one of Japan's most popular Enka singers. Some of his most famous hits are, *Suika*, *Sake-yo*, and *Yuki Guni*. He's also acclaimed as Japan's first hip-hop artists with his 1984 hit, *Ora Tokyo Sa Ikuda* (I'm Going to Tokyo).

Date: August 21st (Tuesday)
Time: Afternoon Show 2:00pm, Evening Show 6:30pm
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)
Admission: S-Seats ¥6,500, A-Seats ¥6,000
Ticket Office: Lawson Ticket, Ticket Pia, Gyokkodo
For further information contact: 011-261-9991 (Trust Kikaku Create)



PINOCCHIO

ピノキオ

A puppet theater performance of this timeless classic by the world renowned Osaka based *Kappa-za* children's puppet theater company. The staging of Pinocchio will be *Kappa-za*'s 39th annual performance in Asahikawa.

Date: August 26th (Sunday)
Time: Doors 1:00pm, Show 1:30pm
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)
Admission: General ¥1,500 (¥2,000 at the door,) Children ¥1,000 (¥1,500 at the door)
Ticket Office: Asahikawa Kappatomo no Kai
For further information contact: 47-0195 (Asahikawa Kappatomo no Kai)



SATO CHURYO EXHIBITION

佐藤忠良展

SATO Churyo was one of Japan's foremost post-war master sculptors. This exhibition commemorates the centennial of his birth, as well as being one of the special exhibitions celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art. Works on display will also include SATO's picture books.

Date: Now thru August 26th (Sunday)
Time: 9:30am~5:00pm (last entry 4:30pm) Museum is closed on Mondays.
Venue: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Tokiwa Park)
Admission: General ¥900(* for groups of over 10 people ¥700) University & High School Students ¥600 (* ¥400) & Junior High School Students & Under Free Pensioners, Disabled, & Persons with special needs Free.
Ticket Office: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art
For further information contact: 25-2577 (Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art)



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR AUGUST



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Kim Mimi
Hometown: Suwon, Korea
Interviewed: 19th July, 2012
By AIC

AIC: *What do you do here in Asahikawa?*

Mimi : I currently work at the Asahikawa International Center. I started working here after graduating from Asahikawa University.

AIC: *What did you study at Asahikawa University?*

Mimi : I studied economics.

AIC: *How long have you lived in Asahikawa?*

Mimi : This year is my fourth year living in Asahikawa.

AIC: *Why did you move to Asahikawa?*

Mimi : My hometown in Korea, Suwon, is a sister-city with Asahikawa. It's through that relationship between the two cities that I learnt about Asahikawa. As I discovered more about Asahikawa I decided that I'd really like to live and study there. Asahikawa University has a program where they invite high school students from Suwon to study Japanese here. It's mainly through returning students that I got to know more about life in Asahikawa. I knew that that's something I wanted to do.

AIC: *Were you interested in Japan from an early age?*

Mimi : No I wasn't. I developed an interest in Japan when I was in second year of high school. Prior to that I had very little knowledge of Japan. I initially developed an interest in Japan through TV dramas. I then started watching all kinds of Japanese TV shows and really enjoyed it. I didn't really develop an interest in traditional Japanese culture, as it's similar to Korean; I was more interested in modern Japanese culture, especially music, movies, and of course dramas.

AIC: *Can you describe your hometown?*

Mimi : Suwon is a major city in Korea with a population of over a million people. It's comparable to Seoul and Busan. The city has a famous castle, Hwaseong, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is probably the most popular tourist attraction in the city. Temperature is similar to Asahikawa's, with cold winters and hot summers. Samsung is the biggest employer in the city. Samsung Electronics was founded in Suwon in 1969. There is a big sports stadium, Suwon Big Bird Stadium, which hosted the 2002 FIFA World Cup and is the home of our K-league soccer team, Suwon Samsung Bluewings.

AIC: *What do you like to do in your free time here in Asahikawa?*

Mimi : I first tried snowboarding after I arrived here. It is now one of my favourite pastimes. Snowfall in Suwon isn't as great as here, and the only ski field is far from where I lived and is very expensive. I also enjoy going to karaoke, and sing both Korean and Japanese songs. Karaoke is much cheaper here than in Suwon.

AIC: *What are your plans for the future?*

Mimi : I'd like to work for a large international trading company. I've started studying English and I hope to be able to use my Japanese and English skills, as well as my native Korean, to promote international trade and cooperation.

AIC: *Well, thank you very much for your time, Mimi.*

Mimi : You're welcome.

Life In Japan

Kimodameshi (肝試し)

By: IKEDA Ayumi

Kimodameshi (肝試し) is a traditional Japanese game that is exclusively held on summer nights. Although 'Kimo (肝)' means the liver, it also refers to internal organs overall and even mental strength. 'Dameshi/Tameshi (試し)' means a trial. Literally, *Kimodameshi* means to dare others to go to scary places to test their courage in enduring the terror of ghosts and darkness.

Places to play *Kimodameshi*, are usually spooky places, such as deserted graveyards, shrines, and ruins. In some cases, some of the participants place devices in order to frighten a coming party, otherwise, they just walk around or go through a designated course. In order to make sure that the participants have passed a checkpoint properly, some sort of prop (coins, cards, candy, etc.) has to be collected from there.

I have played *Kimodameshi* at the site of a derelict hospital in Otaru about 10 years ago. I hate such places and I am not fond of neither scary stories nor haunted houses. Friends of mine took me there in the middle of the night without telling me where we were heading. It was a famous haunted place associated with lots of ghost stories. Unfortunately, it started raining when we arrived, with the added bonus of thunder.

We got into one room through a cracked window, and walked around the inside of the hospital relying on the light of my cellphone (I couldn't believe that nobody had brought a torch). We walked around the reception, hospital rooms, bathrooms, and the operating room.... And when we returned to the first room we entered, one of my friends said that he had left a coin in the operating room and proposed that someone goes back to the room to fetch it. A friend, who lost in the first rock-paper-scissors game, headed for the surgery room alone and came back safe. I lost in the second game, but rejected furiously.

By the time we left the hospital, the rain had stopped and I felt relieved in the car on the way home. At that time, the friend who went to get the coin alone revealed in an undertone voice that he had seen a white figure behind us when he got back to the place we were waiting (he avoided running in panic).

Since then, I have never been to such a place, and will never go to in the future.

※ The hospital we went to has subsequently been demolished.



Hello Wild Flowers

Wandering Among The Wildflowers Around Asahikawa

By Hitoshi KUDOH

Three men are strolling in the shady, breezing forest. "This is really a soothing place!" A exclaims to B and C, "Don't you think so?"

"You took the word of my mouth! I gather the reason of this comes from this fragrance around here." B says.

C says, "Ah, I feel what you feel for sure. But what does this emit, I wonder."

A: Look over there! A vast colony of little white flowers covering the ground!

B: Gee. They are Sweet woodruffs, I guess. They smell so good.

C: But I am going to feel a little bit dizzy. Are you two all right in this scent?

A: This is a very agreeably pleasant aroma for me. How about you, B?

B: I love this coumarin smell very much; however, a few people are sensitive to some kind of odour. That's true. C must have keen sense of coumarin.

C: I daze a bit, but I'm OK as long as you are OK.

B: No, let's leave here. In case of Lily-of-the-valley, even A and me may be in danger of life. Too much is worse than too little.

KURUMABASÔ (車葉草) *Asperula odorata*

Family: Rubiaceae

common name: Sweet woodruff, Bedstraw, Master of the Woods

Description: A perennial of dicotyledon. In spring, the stolons of this mat-forming herb produce shoots. Erect stems are square, and hairy at the nodes. The elliptical leaves are edged with tiny, forward-pointing prickles. They form whorls of 6 to 9 unstalked leaves, up to 1~2 cm. Margins entire. It looks like a ruff of medieval costume and Japanese name 'Kurumabasô' derives from this whorl shape. The flowers, 4-7mm across, have a short 4-lobed corolla-tube in 3-branched cymes. A flower has 4 jaune-brillant anthers and 2 white stigmas. At the base of a corolla, there is a round ovary. Blooming from May - June.

A small ball of 2-lobed brownish achene has hooked, black-tipped bristles and these catch on to the animals that push through them.

Height: Up to 10-40cm.

Usage: Medicinal (anti-inflammatory, anti-arthritis, diuretic, tonic, laxative, apply for cuts and wounds, digestives, liver disorder, varicose veins, phlebitis.)

Habitat: Shaded deciduous woodland, mainly on calcareous, damp soils.

Distribution: Asia, Europe, North Africa.



Water color painting of a Sweet Woodruff
By Hitoshi KUDOH



Movies ~ August



*Every Wednesday is "Ladies' Day." Admission is ¥1,000 (tax included) for women at all theaters.

*The 1st day of every month is "Movie Day" in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is ¥1,000 for Adults, ¥800 for Senior High School Students and Under at all theaters.

**Please be aware that scheduled screenings might be cancelled due to planned power blackouts. Make sure to contact the cinema before going to see a movie.*

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

URL: <http://www.kadokawa-cineplex.co.jp/asahikawa/> (Japanese)

Directions: Take Dohoku Bus No. 66, 72 or 665 at Bus stop No. 18 in front of Feeeal Asahikawa (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at "Nagayama 10 (ju)-jo 3 (san)-chome."

Now Showing

- Glay Stadium Live 2012 (Japanese)
- Eightranger (Japanese)
- Tokyo Sky Tree Sekai no Himitsu (Japanese)
- Madagascar 3 (English/Animation)
- Batman 3 - The Dark Night Rises (English)
- The Amazing Spiderman (English/3D)
- Okamikodomo no Ame to Yuki (Japanese/Animation)
- Anpanman - Yomigaere Banana Jima (Japanese/Animation)
- Pokemon - Kyuren Versus Seikenshi (Japanese/Animation)
- Umizaru - Brave Hearts (Japanese)
- Brave (English/Animation 3D)

Coming Soon

- The Avengers (English)
- Kamen Rider - Fourze (Japanese)
- Tokumei Sentai - Go Busters (Japanese)
- Another (Japanese)
- Prometheus (English)
- Total Recall (English)

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / ☎ 21 – 1218

URL: http://www.geodinos.jp/cinema/asa_schedule.php?StoreID=5 (Japanese)

Directions: Take Dohoku Bus No. 61, 62, 67 or 667 at Bus stop No. 18 in front of Feeeal Asahikawa (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at "Nippon Seishi mae."

Now Showing

- Naruto - Road to Ninja (Japanese/Animation)
- Rinjo (Japanese)
- The Amazing Spiderman (English/3D)
- Love Masao Kimi ga Iku (Japanese)
- Gusko Budori no Denki (Japanese/Animation)
- Brave (English/Animation 3D)
- Helter Skelter (Japanese)
- Batman 3 - The Dark Night Rises (English)
- Umizaru - Brave Hearts (Japanese)
- Man on a Ledge (English)
- Okamikodomo no Ame to Yuki (Japanese/Animation)
- Madagascar 3 (English/Animation)

Coming Soon

- Ruroni Kenshin (Japanese)
- The Avengers (English)
- Kamen Rider - Fourze (Japanese)
- Tokumei Sentai - Go Busters (Japanese)
- Another (Japanese)
- Prometheus (English)
- Total Recall (English)

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

The 51st Annual Asahikawa Summer Festival

It's almost time for the biggest summer event in Asahikawa. This year's Asahikawa Summer Festival will include all the favourite events and attractions, such as the firework display, portable shrine processions, Yosakoi dance performances, and much more. Get ready, because the fun is just around the corner!

Date: August 2nd (Thursday) ~ 4th (Saturday)

Time: Thursday 4:00pm ~ 10:00pm, Friday 2:00pm ~ 10:00pm, Saturday 2:00pm ~ 10:00pm

Venue: Asahikawa 3-jo 6-chome, Asahikawa Riverine Park, Asahibashi Bridge riverside, Kaimono Koen Shopping Street, Showa Dori street from 7-jo to 2-jo



Fun Fridays

Leaders coordinate a variety of interesting activities such as games, discussions, introductions, and quizzes. Meet new people, relax, relate, and communicate through English.

Dates: *Summer Session:* August 10th, September 14th

Autumn Sessions: October 12th, November 9th, December 14th

Time: 1:00 ~ 3:00pm & 6:30 ~ 8:30pm, 2nd Friday of the month

Location: Asahikawa International Center, Common Meeting Room (1) Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo -dori 8-chome

International Center Announcement

Internet Wi-Fi network is now operational at the Asahikawa International Center! To use the network you must register at the information counter. Also, certain rules apply, so please make sure to ask the staff for all the information regarding the use of the Wi-Fi network.

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 has many exciting events planned for this year, including Friendship Parties and a Halloween Party. 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.

Center Computers: The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has two computers available for public use free of charge. There is a time limit for use and prior registration is necessary. Please feel free to come by and use it 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.



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****The opinions expressed in the essays are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Asahikawa International Committee or the City of Asahikawa.****