

# 旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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## Hokkaido News Top 5



January 2015

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

### November 21

“Yado Retro House Ginza Asahikawa,” a guesthouse that an Asahikawa Medical College student has opened on Ginza Shopping Street (4-jodori 14-chome) last May, is now crowded with backpackers from all over the world. The owner, Shintaro KAWAKAMI, made up his mind to start an inexpensive accommodation after staying at a guesthouse in New York for a month meeting people from all walks of life. Anyone can stay at the guesthouse, and a special student rate of ¥2,000/night is available.

### November 25

No dogs or cats have been euthanized in an animal protection center in Asahikawa, ever since the center has moved to a place near by the city hall in September 2012. The new center has 4,000 visitors a year with a six-times-wider space to keep abandoned dogs and cats than an old center. This enables the center to keep abandoned animals longer and give them better chances to be kept by animal guardians.

### November 29

Asahikawa Winter Festival Executive Committee decided to feature two latest leading characters of “Ultraman,” a popular TV show among children, as large snow sculptures in the coming winter festival. The Committee also plans to carry out a “projection mapping show” on the large snow sculptures. Mayor NISHIKAWA visited “Tsuburaya Production” that is in charge of Ultraman and asked for its cooperation in the festival.

### November 29

Free Wi-Fi service exclusive for tourists from abroad is available around Kaimono Koen Shopping Street from now on. The service can be used in three foreign languages, such as English, Chinese, and Korean, in addition to Japanese. Based on a report from Japan Tourism Agency in 2011, 37 percent of foreign tourists hoped that free Wi-Fi service was available at more places in Japan.

### December 12

It turns out that an affiliate corporation of Hokkaido Football Club that owns “Consadole Sapporo,” a men’s professional soccer team in J-League Division 2, will build a women’s soccer team next spring. The new women’s soccer team is aiming to join Nadeshiko League Division 1. Quite a few superstars in female soccer have been appearing one after another from Hokkaido.



**ASAHIKAWA  
INTERNATIONAL  
COMMITTEE**

### For further information or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (SASAKI Mai, Kim LACEY, or SAITO Emmy)

### Location:

International/City Affairs Division, Comprehensive Policy 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

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

## 73rd Special Exhibition: Surishi—The World of MITAMURA Tsutomu

## 第73回企画展「摺師 三田村努の世界～」

*Ukiyoe*, which means “pictures of the floating world,” is a genre of woodblock prints that flourished in Japan during the urbanizing Edo Period. In order to fulfil a great demand of its major appreciators, *ukiyoe* were mass-produced by its printer, *surishi* (摺師). At this special exhibition, MITAMURA will introduce the time-honored techniques of surishi printers, manipulating the brush and the rubbing pad in a rhythmical manner, for instance, which requires a high level of skill.

**Date:** now to January 18th (Sunday), except on Mondays

**Time:** 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (admission is until 4:30 pm)

**Venue:** Asahikawa City Museum (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome, inside Taisetsu Crystal Hall)

**Admission:** General—¥300, High School Students—¥200, Middle School and Under—Free. \*Annual Pass is also available: General—¥600, High School Students—¥400

**For Further Information:** 0166-69-2004 or [hakubutsukagaku@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp](mailto:hakubutsukagaku@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp)



## The 3rd Asahikawa Winter Photo Contest: In a Snowy Town

## 雪の降る街を 第3回旭川冬の写真コンクール

Asahikawa City Planning Citizens' Committee is waiting for submissions of photographs that would best capture Asahikawa's winter. The theme is related to a song “*Yuki no furu machi wo* (In a Snowy Town).” Anybody can submit three photographs maximum. For those who are interested, please refer to a detailed description of this contest in page 6 of this month's Asahikawa Info.

**Period:** Now to January 27th (Thursday), if submitting a physical copy. If submitting via email, the deadline is January 22nd (Thursday)

**Submission Procedure:** Use a form on website or print on a 2L (A5) sized photo paper.

**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-56-3476 (between 9 am to 3 pm)

**Or Visit:** <http://asahikawa-photo.info/>



## A Body of Sensation

## 感じるからだ

Many artists find the human body as an abundant source of inspiration. At this special exhibition, viewers will be able to see the final products in which the artists explore the use of their hands, wrists, and even fingertips. One of the purposes of these artworks is to appreciate and be conscious of our bodies. This exhibition is full of unusual and interesting artworks that were inspired by the human body and its movements.

**Date:** now to March 8th (Sunday), except on Mondays, 12/29-01/03 and 01/13

**Time:** 9:30 am to 5:00 pm (admission is until 4:30 pm)

**Venue:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (inside Tokiwa Park)

**Admission:** General—¥510, High School Students—¥300, Senior Citizens (65+) and Children—Free

**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-25-2577 (Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art)



## Kyokushonagaya The 14th Jugemu New Year's Vaudeville

## 旭笑長屋 第14回寿芸無新春寄席

Kyokushonagaya was formed in 1986 by a group of Asahikawa citizens who share love for rakugo. This New Year's Vaudeville is one of the group's annual traditions that has continued for 14 years already. This time, the main theme is Jugemu, which is one of the most famous stories in rakugo with a humorous repetition of a ridiculously long name.

**Date:** January 2nd (Friday)

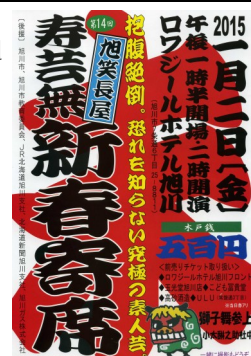
**Time:** Doors 1:30 pm, Show 2:00 pm

**Venue:** Loisir Hotel Asahikawa (7-jo-dori 6-chome 25-8811)

**Admission:** ¥500

**Ticket Offices:** Loisir Hotel Asahikawa front desk, Children's Fukido, Gyokkodo, Takasago Brewery, ULU \*Tickets are also sold on the day

**For Further Information Visit:** [https://1st.geocities.jp/kyokusyou\\_fan/](https://1st.geocities.jp/kyokusyou_fan/)



## The 22nd Kyokugei Vaudeville Show: KATSURA Shiko's Rakugo Performance 第22回旭芸寄席 桂枝光独演会

KATSURA Shiko, an Osaka-born rakugo performer who resides in Sapporo, is back again in Asahikawa to bring you the first laugh for the year 2015. He will be performing "Sumiyoshi Kago," "Futariguse" and more. Each story is sure to captivate you. We say "fortune comes in by a merry gate," here is your chance.

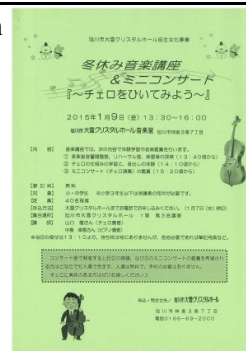
**Date:** January 3rd (Saturday)  
**Time:** Doors 1:30 pm, Show 2:00 pm  
**Venue:** Kageitsu Kaikan (3-jo 7-chome)  
**Admission:** ¥1,000 in advance, ¥1,500 at the door  
**Ticket Offices:** Machinaka Bunka Goya, Gyokkodo, Takasago Brewery, Jyun Kobo, Children's Fukido, ULU(Tokiwadori 3-chome)  
**For Further Information Contact:** 080-7000-6403 (Heisei Kaishin Tei)



## Winter Break Music Course & Mini Concert ♪: Let's Play the Cello 冬休みの音楽講座&ミニコンサート♪〜チェロをひいてみよう〜

This course is designed to get elementary and middle school students to become interested in cello. Those under the 3rd grade need to be accompanied by parents.

**Date:** January 9th (Friday)  
**Time:** 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm  
**Venue:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crytal Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome), 3rd conference room (1F)  
**Fee:** Free  
**For Further Information or to Sign-Up Contact:** 0166-69-2000



## Needed: Volunteers for Building Ice Domes アイスドーム制作ボランティア大募集！！

Would you like to experience the wonders of a winter night? Kibana no Mori is looking for volunteers who would like to help build ice domes. The domes will be 10m in diameter and 3m in height with no framework. Creating these wonderful structures with just ice, snow, and water will be a great opportunity for you to experience what Asahikawa's winter can bring.

**Date:** January 21st (Wednesday) to 28th (Wednesday)  
**Time:** 7:00 pm to 2:00 am  
**Venue:** Kibana no Mori (Minami 6-jo-dori 19-chome)  
**Things to Bring:** Ski wear, down jacket, and gloves. (Heavy outfit that can keep out the cold is recommended.)  
**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-61-1234



## INOUE Yasushi and Postwar Literature 戦後文学と井上靖

Inviting KATAYAMA Haruo from Hokkaido University of Education as a lecture, here is a chance to discuss about characteristics and appeals of INOUE's masterpieces, mainly from 1945 to 1964. This is one of literature courses regularly held at the hall. Here is the opportunity to familiarize yourself with INOUE's works.

**Date:** January 24th (Saturday)  
**Time:** 1:30pm to 3:00pm  
**Venue:** INOUE Yasushi Memorial Hall (Shunko 5-jo 7-chome)  
**Admission:** Free  
**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-51-1188 (INOUE Yasushi Memorial Hall)



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR JANUARY

# Life in Asahikawa

## How to Enjoy Rice Cakes By SAKURABA Satoshi

What do you usually eat on New Year's Day? In Japan, we often eat rice cakes for New Year's Holidays. Japanese people bake rice cakes and eat with various toppings. Rice cakes are also used for *ozoni* (お雑煮 : a rice cake soup). Rice cakes can be served in various ways, and are essential winter food in Japan.

When we toast rice cakes over a fire or stove, we often put some sauce or toppings. For example, the most popular way is dipping the toasted rice cakes into water and coating them with soy flour and sugar. Additionally, sugar and soy sauce (砂糖しょうゆ) is good with toasted rice cakes. I often eat toasted



rice cakes with soy sauce, butter, and wrap them in sheets of dried seaweed. This way of eating is called *isobe-mochi* (いそべ餅.) I think that each household and region has many different ways of eating rice cakes, because rice cakes themselves do not have a strong flavor.

In fact, there is a famous spot for rice cakes in the neighborhood of Asahikawa: Furen (風連) in Nayoro City (名寄市.) Furen is located about 60km north of Asahikawa, and is famous for sticky rice and rice cakes. Many flavors are available at the roadside station in Furen. Surprisingly, there is a kimchi flavored rice cake among many other unique flavors of rice cakes. You can easily taste these fantastic rice cakes, and of course, the ordinary types, too, at this roadside station.

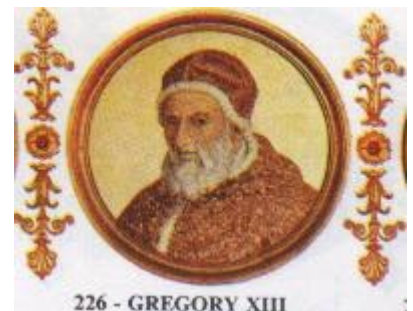
One last thing, though. As you may already know, rice cakes may become lodged in your throat due to their sticky texture. I recommend that you chew rice cakes thoroughly before attempting to swallow, and prepare some drinks when you eat rice cakes. Please enjoy some delicious Japanese rice cakes this winter.

# The History of the Holidays

## New Year's Day By Kim LACEY

For many people around the world, January 1st offers an opportunity to make a fresh start with a new year. But did you know that over the last 4,000 years, a new year's arrival wasn't always celebrated on the 1st of January?

The earliest recorded New Year's celebrations date back some 4,000 years to ancient Babylon. The massive Babylonian religious festival of Akitu, was held every year around the spring equinox, which heralded the start of a new year. Throughout antiquity, though, civilizations around the world developed various calendars, typically pinning the first day of the year to an agricultural or astronomical event. In 46 B.C. Julius Caesar introduced a new calendar that was synced to the sun, instead of the moon, officially moving New Year's celebrations from March 1st to January 1st. In the Middle Ages, the Christian Church did away with many of the ancient Roman festivals because of their pagan roots. As a result, the coming of the new year was celebrated on various dates throughout Medieval Europe. Finally, in 1582 Pope Gregory XIII overhauled the calendar system again. The Gregorian calendar, which we still use today, restored January 1st as New Year's Day.



Even today, some countries and cultures follow a lunar, not solar calendar, and hold their New Year's celebrations at different times of the year. Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, and the first day of Muharram, the start of the Islamic calendar year, are both celebrated in the fall. And the Chinese New Year, which lasts for a whole month, begins in late January or early February.



New Year's traditions also vary from county to country. In Spain and several other Spanish-speaking countries, people bolt down a dozen of grapes in the seconds leading up to midnight, symbolizing their hopes for the months ahead. Also, in many parts of the world, traditional New Year's dishes feature legumes, which are thought to resemble coins and herald future financial success. Ring-shaped cakes and pastries, a sign that the year has come full circle, round out the feast in the Netherlands, Mexico, Greece, and elsewhere. Greeks often eat their New Year's cakes (Vasilopita) with silver or gold coins baked inside. In China, a dumpling represents hope for an auspicious New Year. And of course, in Japan, long buckwheat noodles symbolize long life.

Other customs that are common worldwide include making resolutions for the new year. It is thought to have first caught on among the ancient Babylonians, who made promises in order to earn the favor of the gods and start the new year off on the right foot.



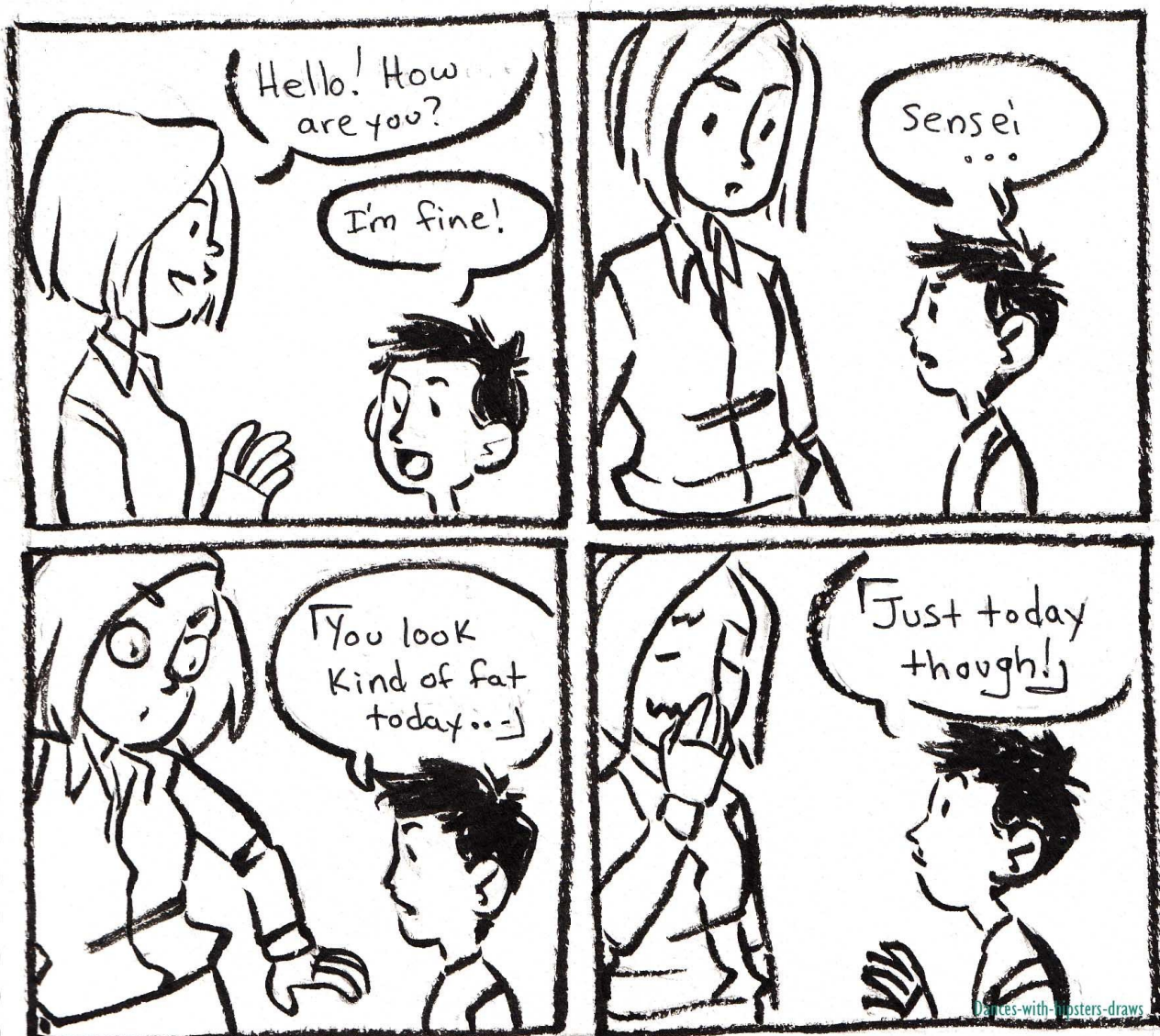
In the United States, crowds have packed New York's Time Square since 1904, for one of the famous and iconic New Year's traditions of all, the Dropping of the Ball (a giant ball is dropped in New York City's Time Square at the stroke of midnight.) Hundreds of thousands of people enjoy the mesmerizing kaleidoscopic effect, with nearly 16 million vivid colors and billions of patterns at midnight.

From champagne and fireworks to resolutions and fresh starts, New Year's has always been many things to people around the world, with its long and colorful history.

*(Source: The History Channel)*

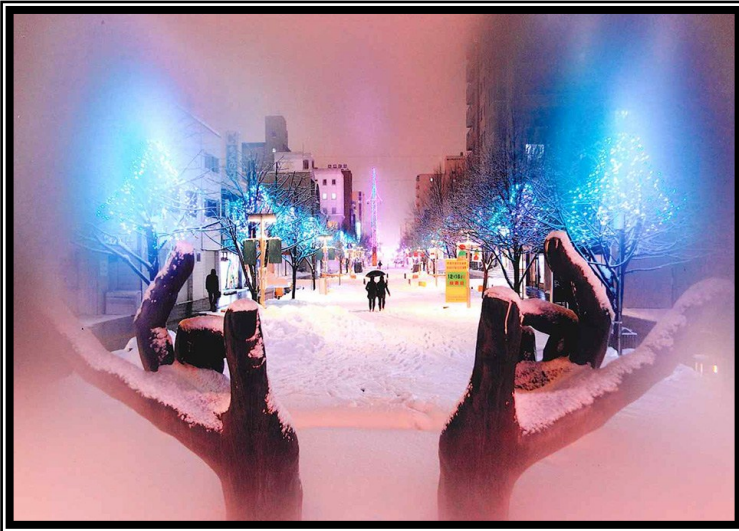
# Life in Japan

## Comic Strips (Part 2) By Meagan LEMAY



# Hello December

## The Third Asahikawa Winter Photo Contest: In a Snowy Town 雪の降る街を 第3回旭川冬の写真コンクール



Last year's first place "Gleam of Snow" by Masato IKEDA

Asahikawa City Planning Citizens' Committee invites all ambitious photographers to enter The Second Asahikawa Winter Photo Contest, from December 25th (Wed) to January 27th (Thurs). The theme of the contest will be a song "Yuki no furu machi wo (In a Snowy Town)," which is said to have been inspired by the beautiful sceneries of Asahikawa during winter.

Anyone can submit up to three original images that best represent winter of Asahikawa. A competing photograph can include anything, as long as the filming was done within the city. Please do not submit a photograph that has been published before.

The submission can be made via online or mail. Please use the designated form on <http://asahikawa-photo.info/form/> or print on a 2L (A5) size photo paper. If submitting by mail, be sure to include a title, your name and address on the back. You can drop it in person or mail it to:

### City Planning Citizens' Committee Secretariat

Asahikawa City, 3-jo-dori 9-chome, migi 8 go (Inside IAI Dentistry) 〒 070-0022

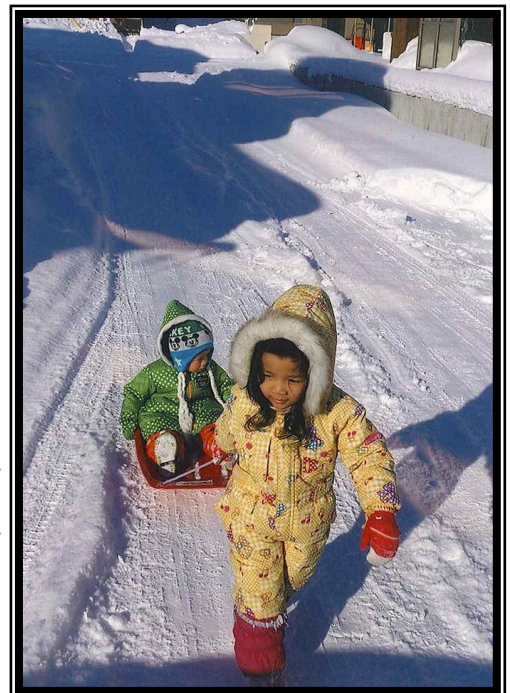
〒 070-0022 旭川市3条9丁目右8 いあい歯科内 まちづくり市民の会事務局

Contest entries will be judged not just on technical quality, but also on originality, and most of all, citizens' response. Gold, Silver, Bronze and Special Award will be awarded to one participant each, and ten Honorable Mention will be announced as well. The winning entries will be displayed in *Kaimono Kouen*, Taisetsu Crystal Hall, and other public institutions, so good luck!

For further information, please call 0166-56-3476 or 090-7657-2694 between 9 am to 3 pm. Official contest website is also available at <http://asahikawa-photo.info/> (in Japanese only)

\* Photographs and relevant contest information used above were taken directly from the official website, <http://asahikawa-photo.info>. Asahikawa International Committee does not own, nor claims to own, information and photographs on this page.

(right) The special award went to Yasuhiro TSUCHIDA's "The Winter Explorers" in 2013



# Life in Japan

## A Happy New Year! By KITAMURA Tadao

Are you finding it a bit overwhelming as you are welcoming the new year of 2015 in Hokkaido, Japan, as a foreigner? What are some differences that you've noticed between your country and Japan in welcoming a new year? If you would like to see or experience something different in this country, this is your chance. Because we live in the twenty-first century with an extremely advanced network of transportations and mass communications, you can easily plan your trips. The New Year holidays may provide you a precious chance to look around some wonderful places of Japan and experience the traditional Japanese way of spending the New Year.

Even Japanese people are not very conscious of traditional Japanese customs most of the time of the year. However, New Year's season seems to remind us of special delight and happiness passed down from our forefathers. Most Japanese households would have a set of rice-cakes with an orange put atop, which is called *kagami mochi* or *osonae*, placed in the most sacred place in the house. *Tokonoma* (alcove) or *kamidana* (family altar) would be some examples. It is put on a small table made of plain softwood, called *sambo*, sometimes adorned with leaves, a sheet of sea tangle, and a lobster. It sounds like an odd combination, but presumably it symbolically expresses our forefathers' thanksgiving for the riches of Nature.

You don't see it often these days, but preparing rice cake, or *omochi*, is a sort of a ceremonial event while waiting for New Year's. One day prior to New Year's Day, entire family members gather around to prepare rice cakes for New Year. Women would steam raw rice, which men would put into a big wood mortar and pound with a wooden pounder. The prepared rice dough would then be made into rice cakes by children.

On the morning of New Year's Day, Japanese families would wish each other to eat *ozoni* for breakfast. *Ozoni* is a bowl of soup with a rice cake, greeting Happy New-Year each other. So, a rice-cake is an especially precious food to be taken only special days like these.

You'll see a special adorning on a gate or entrance of a house or a building, arrangements elaborately composed of pine and bamboo trees, this is *Kadomatsu*, a gate-pine. These evergreen plants are said to welcome gods of *Oshogatsu*, New-Year; most places use black pine for it, but in Hokkaido spruce or fir are used instead.

When you ask your Japanese friends what their religion is, the reply you are most likely to get is "a Buddhist." So you might find it strange, when a big multitude of men and women gather to Shinto shrines on New Year's Day. What you need to understand is that *Shinto* is not necessarily a religion for the Japanese people. I would consider it more like a systemized sentiment of worshiping the Nature inherited from forefathers from long ago.

During this season, illustrations or cuts of tops, kites, battledores and shuttlecocks will come into your sight but none of them are real. These were tools of children's games in this special season, when there was no smartphone in this world.







## Hello Asahikawa!

**Name:** Judy Saldo

**Hometown:** Pittsfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

**Interviewed:** December 14th, 2014 by AIC

**AIC:** *First of all, could you please tell us what you do in Asahikawa? How long have you been here?*

**Judy:** I moved to Japan to get more experience in teaching EFL (English as a Foreign Language.) I work at an eikawa (英会話) school teaching adults and children. I came to Asahikawa mid-November, so I haven't been here very long.

**AIC:** *Oh, I see. Why did you choose to come to Japan?*

**Judy:** I wanted to experience life in a foreign country and Japan seemed like a great choice. I was interested in the food, culture, and language. Also, because Japan is regarded as a very safe country, I felt secure coming alone.

**AIC:** *Is this your first visit to Japan? What other countries, if any, have you been to so far?*

**Judy:** Well, this is my first visit to Japan. I haven't done a lot of traveling; only Canada and the Caribbean.

**AIC:** *Where are you from, Judy? Would you mind describing us your hometown?*

**Judy:** My hometown is Pittsfield, a small town in western Massachusetts. Pittsfield is an artsy town with art galleries, live music performances, theaters and dance. During the summer, everyone goes swimming, kayaking, or biking because there are a lot of lakes and forests.

**AIC:** *Sounds like a lovely town. What is your family like, by the way? Do you have a big family?*

**Judy:** My father's family has lived in Pittsfield for generations, but my mother is an immigrant from Haiti. My parents are divorced, so I grew up with my mother and my sister. My mother is a very hard worker. When she is not working, she will start a new project, like gardening or repainting the house. My sister now works for the Coca-Cola Company, and also teaches dance workouts. She has a daughter who also loves dancing.

**AIC:** *How do they feel about you living and working in Japan, far away from home? Were they supportive of your decision?*



# Hello Asahikawa!

## Judy Saldo Interview (Part 2) Continued from Page 9

**Judy:** Actually, my family is very supportive. They are saving up so that they can come to Japan and visit me in the summer.

**AIC:** *Yep, summer in Hokkaido is beautiful with pleasant weather. I'm sure your family will love it. Why did you choose Hokkaido of all places in Japan? Was it a bit of a surprise for you to experience Asahikawa's winter?*

**Judy:** One of the reasons I picked Hokkaido was that the climate is similar to my hometown. But I have to admit, I didn't expect that Asahikawa would snow every single day. One of the most interesting differences is snow maintenance. In Massachusetts, we put lots of dirt and salt down so that the streets aren't slippery. Asahikawa doesn't seem to do that. It seems dangerous, but the city looks more beautiful because the snow stays pure white.

**AIC:** *That is true. But it will start snowing even more from now, so just wait. (laugh) Is there anything you would like to achieve during your time here? What would you want to take back home with you after you complete your stay in Japan?*

**Judy:** I am excited to learn Japanese and pick up some culinary skills while I'm here. I like drawing and painting, so I also want to evolve my art style with inspiration from Japanese arts. Even more importantly, I hope that I can grow as a person and become more independent and self-aware.



**AIC:** *How are you doing with Japanese food? Is there any food that you initially had problems with?*

**Judy:** In America, Japanese food is popular, so I thought I would love the food here. But it turns out that real Japanese food is very different from American-Japanese food. I lost weight during my first two weeks here because I hated everything. But now I'm being more adventurous and trying new foods. I've fallen in love with ramen, katsudon, yakiniku, and nabe. The fish in Japan is really tasty, too!

**AIC:** *That's good. Do you like to travel? Where would you like to go?*

**Judy:** I haven't done much exploring yet. I'm excited to check out Sapporo. I also want to visit the zoo, go to some hot springs, try skiing, and go ice skating. Outside of Hokkaido, I'd love to go to Kyoto and see the shrines.

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

**Judy:** During my free time, I've been exploring town, trying to find tasty Japanese food that I haven't tried before. I also like sitting at cafes while sketching or studying.

**AIC:** *Before we close, what are your plans for the future?*

**Judy:** I hope I can stay in Japan for a few years. After that, I may continue traveling. I don't think I'm ready to end my adventures, yet.

**AIC:** *Thank you for your time, Judy.*

**Judy:** No problem.

## ★ *Movies ~ January* ★

\*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.

\*The 1st day of every month is “Movie Day” in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is ¥1,100 for Adults, ¥800 for Senior High School Students and Under at all theaters.

★ **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 Feeal Asahikawa (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nagayama 10 (ju)-jo 3 (san)-chome.”

### Now Showing

- Vancouver no Asahi (Japanese)
- Big Hero 6 (English)
- Yokai Watch the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (English)
- Gone Girl (English/R15+)
- Aoharaido (Japanese)
- Kiseiju (Japanese/PG12)
- Miracle Debikurokun no Koi to Maho (Japanese)
- Fury (English)
- Interstellar (English)
- Kamisama no Iutori (Japanese/R15+)
- Kuragehime (Japanese)

### Coming Soon

- Taken 3 (English) 1/9
- ST the Movie (Japanese) 1/10
- The November Man (English/R15+) 1/16
- Again 28 nenme no Koshien (Japanese) 1/17
- Kamisama wa Bali ni iru (Japanese) 1/17
- Five Minutes to Tomorrow (Japanese) 1/18
- Annie (English) 1/24
- Exodus: Gods and Kings (English) 1/30

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

URL: [http://www.geodinos.jp/cinema/asa\\_schedule.php?StoreID=5](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 Feeal Asahikawa (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nippon Seishi Mae.”

### Now Showing

- Yokai Watch the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Big Hero 6 (English)
- Aoharaido (Japanese)
- Aikatsu the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (English)
- Vancouver no Asahi (Japanese)
- Kiseiju (Japanese/PG12)
- The Last -NARUTO the Movie- (Japanese/Animation)
- Kamisama no Iutori (Japanese)
- Interstellar (English)
- Fury (English)
- Kuragehime (Japanese)

### Coming Soon

- Taken 3 (English) 1/9
- ST the Movie (Japanese) 1/10
- Sin City: A Dame to Kill For (English/R15+) 1/10
- Annie (English) 1/24
- Shinya Shokudo (Japanese) 1/30
- Exodus: Gods and Kings (English) 1/30
- Maestro! (Japanese) 1/30
- Joker Game (Japanese) 1/31

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

**Protestant Churches**

6-jo Church (6-jo-dori 10-chome)  
 Seventh-Day Adventist Church (27-15-22 8-jo-dori)  
 Toyooka Church (6-jo-dori 25-chome)  
 Seiko Church (Shunko 6-jo 1-chome)  
 St. Mark's Church (2-jo Nishi 3-chome)  
 St. Paul's Lutheran Church (7-jo-dori 8-chome)  
 Asahikawa Church Kawabata (1-jo 10-chome)  
 Asahikawa Baptist Church (8-jo Nishi 1-chome)  
 Toko Baptist Church (Toko 11-jo 3-chome)  
 Nazarene Church (Kawabata 1-jo 4-chome)  
 Holiness Church (Toyooka 12-jo 6-chome)  
 Eiko Church (Kagura 4-jo 11-chome)  
 Kamui Assembly Church (Kamui 4-jo 13-chome)  
 Zion Church (Toko 3-jo 7-chome)  
 Mennonite Church (Suehiro 4-jo 2-chome)  
 Megumi Christ Church (Toyooka 12-jo 10-chome)  
 Nagayama Evangelical (Nagayama 6-jo 21-chome)  
 Midorigaoka Evangelical (Nishi Kagura 2-sen 4-go)  
 Christ Evangelical Church (Toyooka 12-jo 10-chome)  
 Yo no Hikari (Nagayama 4-jo 21-chome)  
 Shin'ai Christ Church (Akitsuki 1-jo 1-chome)  
 Tojo Christ Church (Omachi 1-jo 10-chome)  
 Chuwa Bible Baptist Church (Chuwa 4-jo 1-chome)

# Holiday Church and Temple Listing

**Catholic Churches**

5-jo Church (5-jo-dori 11-chome)  
 Suehiro Church (Suehiro 2-jo 3-chome)  
 6-jo Church (6-jo-dori 22-chome)  
 Omachi Church (Omachi 1-jo 10-chome)  
 Kamui Church (Kamui 4-jo 9-chome)

**Temples**

*Keijoji* 慶誠寺 (Toyooka 5-jo 4-chome)  
*Kinkokuji* 錦谷寺 (Omachi 1-jo 5-chome)  
*Daikyujji* 大休寺 (5-jo-dori 5-chome)  
*Myohoji* 妙法寺 (6-jo-dori 19-chome)  
*Daihoji* 大宝寺 (Higashi Asahikawa, Kita 1-jo 7-chome)  
*Kyokuzanji* 旭山寺 (Higashi Asahikawa, Kuranuma 44)



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:** January 9th&23rd, February 13th&27th, March 13th&27th

\*Fun Fridays are held on every 2nd and 4th Friday

**Time:** 1:00-2:00pm & 7:00-8:00pm

**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.

**Homestay:** Families are registered to welcome you into their homes for an overnight stay or just for an afternoon visit.



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

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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.\*\***