

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5



May 2014

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

March 29

Takasago Sake Brewery in Asahikawa has launched "Nihonshu Nama Chocolate," a kind of ganache containing premium sake named "Daiginjo." The new product was jointly developed by the brewery and "SILSMARIA," a confectionary in Kanagawa Prefecture which has produced various types of chocolate products with distilled spirit, made from sweet potato or sesame, for instance. The brewery's outlet store, "Meiji Sakagura" in Miyashita-dori, carries the sake-flavored chocolate.

March 30

Kano IMAMIYA, a sixteen-year-old high school student at Asahikawa Fuji Girls' High School, passed the highly competitive entrance examination for Takarazuka Music School. It is said that only 1 out of 27 applicants gets through the admission process, and in Hokkaido she is the only girl that passed the exam this year. The music school trains 40 girls a year who will be "Takarasienne," the performers for Takarazuka Revue in Hyogo Prefecture celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

March 30

An All Nippon Airways' Boeing 747 took off at 6:35 pm on March 30 on its final flight from New Chitose Airport to Haneda Airport in Tokyo. 557 passengers took the Boeing 747 "jumbo jet" flight to Tokyo while around 300 people watched the final flight take off on a viewing deck at the airport. The carrier decided to retire the fleet, which helped promote air trip with lower prices in Japan, due to its low fuel efficiency compared to newer aircrafts.

April 8

"New Chitose Airport International Anime Festival" is scheduled to be held from October 31 to November 3 at New Chitose Airport Terminal Theater for the first time. The festival includes an animated short film competition, which will award one million yen to World Grand Prix. In addition, it plans to hold an exhibition of what is known as a virtual idol "Hatsune Miku," a show of anime song singers and a workshop of animation film production.

April 9

According to the latest flower forecast by Japan Weather Association, cherry blossom is expected to bloom around the usual time in Hokkaido this year- starting on May 2 in Hakodate, May 4 in Sapporo and May 6 in Asahikawa. The first flowering will be on May 1 in Matsumae Town near Hakodate, and the last on May 18 in Nemuro City.



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.

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Asahikawa International Center
Feeeal Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8-
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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

The 71st Special Exhibition: Memories of the Town**第71回企画展「街の記憶」**

Are you interested in knowing more about Asahikawa City's history and changes through photographs? This exhibition will especially focus on the Ginza Shopping Street (from 2-jo 14 and 15-chome to 5-jo-dori,) which has been familiar to a lot of people over generations. As the old saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words.

Date: now to May 25th (Sunday) except on May 12th

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 Students and Under—Free

For Further Information Contact: 0166-69-2004

**Hideki TOGI's Talk & Live 2014: A World of Grace****東儀秀樹 トーク&ライブ2014 ~雅の世界~**

TOGI is a *gagaku* player (*gagaku* is Japanese court music tracing all the way back to the Nara period), who has participated not only in the ceremonies at the Imperial Palace but also in various performances overseas, introducing the traditional Japanese culture both home and abroad. It is said that when three instruments of the wind section, *hichiriki*, *sho* and *ryuteki*, are played together, heaven, earth and everything between becomes one. Curious? Go check it out.

Date: May 10th (Saturday)

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

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

Admission: ¥5,000

Ticket Offices: Lawson Ticket (L-code: 17942), Gyokkodo Feeeal Asahikawa, Sept Web

**The 37th Asahikawa Philharmonic Orchestra Concert****第37回定演旭フィル**

The Asahikawa Philharmonic Orchestra will be performing a series of classical music by Suppé's *Leichte Kavallerie* (Light Cavalry), Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No.1, Op. 23*, and Brahms' *Symphony No.2, Op. 73*. Hiroyuki DOMON will be conducting this annual concert, so please take this chance to enjoy the delights of classical music on a Sunday afternoon.

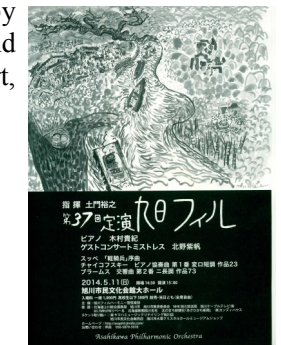
Date: May 11th (Sunday)

Time: Doors 2:30 pm, Show 3:00 pm

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

Admission: General—¥1,000, High School Student and Under—¥500

Ticket Offices: Yamaha Music Retailing Asahikawa, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Sales Office, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall Museum Shop

**YAMAUCHI Keisuke's Enthusiastic Live 2014****山内恵介 熱唱ライブ2014**

Keisuke YAMAUCHI is an enka singer from Fukuoka. He has been called “演歌新時代 (the new generation of enka)” since he debuted in 2001. He has performed as a member of “Ikemen3,” an enka trio group known for their good looks, at the NHK Kayou Concert. In 2009, YAMAUCHI's single “Fuurenko” became a big hit which stayed in the Oricon chart for 50 weeks.

Date: May 15th (Thursday)

Time: Daytime—Doors 2:00 pm, Show 2:30 pm

Nighttime—Doors 6:00 pm, Show 6:30 pm

Venue: Asahikawa City Public Hall (Inside Tokiwa Park)

Admission: General—¥5,000

Ticket Offices: Ticket Pia (P-code: 218-162), Lawson Ticket (L-code: 17371), Doshin Play Guide, Gyokkodo Feeeal Asahikawa



Yuji OHNO & Lupintic Five's Lupin Jazz Live in Asahikawa 大野雄二&ルパンティックファイブ ジャズライブ 旭川公演

Yuji OHNO and his band the Lupintic Five fascinate jazz lovers with mellow grooves and funky arrangements, mostly containing music from the anime "Lupin The Third." The band has toured live music clubs and concert halls all over Japan and their cool performance is drawing more and more people to the joy and intricacies of jazz music. If you are a fan of jazz and/or of the Lupin series, check this one out.

Date: May 24th (Saturday)

Time: Doors 2:30 pm Show 3:00 pm

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

Admission: ¥4,800

Ticket Offices: Ticket Pia (P-code: 223-566), Lawson Ticket (L-code: 17980), 7-Eleven (7 code: 028-046), Gyokkodo Feeal Asahikawa, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall

For Further Information Contact: 011-272-9302 (STV, from 10 am to 5 pm)



Koji TAMAKI Gold Tour 2014

玉置浩二 Gold Tour 2014

TAMAKI is a Japanese singer-song writer, apparently from Asahikawa. He has been well known as the main of the band Anzen Chitai that had successful career during the 1980s. In 1987, TAMAKI released the first solo single and continued his solo career after the band went into hiatus. Currently he is touring all over Japan.

Date: May 27th (Tuesday)

Time: Doors 6:30 pm Show 7:00 pm

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

Admission: ¥7,800

Ticket Offices: Ticket Pia (P-code: 220-561), Lawson Ticket (L-code: 17627)

For Further Information Contact: 011-614-9999 (WESS, from 11 am to 6 pm)



Let's Go to the Temple Photo Contest

お寺に行こう フォトコンテスト

Asahikawa branch temple is one of the largest wooden architectures within Hokkaido Prefecture, surrounded by trees that are several hundred years old. The temple went through major repairs, including renewal of its main road. In order to show the renewed temple to many people, Otani sect of Shinshu Asahikawa branch temple is hosting a photo contest. The theme can be on anything that is relevant to the temple. You can submit as many pieces as you want on a 2L size photo paper, addressed to:

〒070-0030 Asahikawa City Miyashita-dori 2-chome 1463

Date: now to May 31st (Saturday)

Prize: Grand Prize(1): ¥50,000 Second Place(2): ¥20,000 Honorable Mention (10): ¥5,000 in gift certificates. A small present will be given for all participants.



The World of Tatsuaki KURODA: In Commemoration of the 110th Anniversary of His Birth

生誕110年 黒田辰秋の世界 一目利き匠の邂逅

Tatsuaki KURODA was a nationally recognized woodworker and lacquer artist who was selected as an Important Intangible Cultural Asset of Living Japanese National Treasures in 1970. Many of his works are known for a fusion of art and craft. The exhibition will also examine relations between artists, designers, and other close creative contemporaries who worked with KURODA or were greatly influenced by his works.

Date: now to June 22nd (Sunday) except on Mondays and holidays

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—¥920, University and High School Students—¥610, Elementary and Middle School Students—¥300

Website: <http://www.dokyoj.pref.hokkaido.jp/hk-asamu/>



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR MAY

Life in Asahikawa

The Eighty-eighth Night By KITAMURA Tadao

*Summer is nearing.
On the Eighty-eighth night.
Fields, and heights too,
Fresh green is getting luxuriant.
Aren't they tea-nip-maidens over there,
With madder-red cords and sedge-hats?*



This is a very popular children's song celebrating the coming of early summer. You can refer to the original Japanese song that every Japanese person seems to know.

“Eighty-eighth Night” in the title comes from the number of nights since the beginning of spring (February 4th this year) in the traditional Japanese calendar, and the day usually falls on May 1st or 2nd. People appreciate the taste of a fresh cup of tea brewed from tea leaves nipped off around the Eighty-eighth night.

A famous Japanese haiku that reads “Fresh green leaves to the eye, mountain cuckoo, the first bonito of the season” describes Japanese people's appreciation for the start of summer.

“Golden Week” refers to about a week from the end of April to the beginning of May when many people in Japan get time off from their jobs and

schools. It will be from April 29th to May 6th this year with two weekends and five national holidays. Five national holidays are as follows: Showa Day (April 29th), Constitution Memorial Day (May 3rd), Greenery Day (May 4th), Children's Day, and a nameless national holiday.

Showa Day is the birthday of the late Emperor Showa; Constitution Memorial Day - a day to commemorate the enactment of the Constitution of Japan in 1947; Greenery Day - a day for preserving Japan's nature; and Children's Day - originating from traditional *Tango-no-Sekku* or Boys' Day. You might wonder what the nameless national holiday means. It was put into this period to boost socio-economic benefits of this period of leisure.

In most part of Japan the weather gets warmer, plants start to bloom, and sceneries recover their attractiveness.

During the Golden Week, cheers and laughters fill the air of the entire country. Resorts, amusement parks, and sports facilities become full of happy people.

Regardless of how the rest of Japan is, as for people here in Hokkaido the Golden Week is a bit too early to enjoy a pleasant climate. You will see much snow still remaining in shady spots, and sometimes the wind can make you feel extremely chilly. You might even come across an untimely snowfall during the Golden Week.

Rest assured though. You will be entering the loveliest season here in Asahikawa by the end of May. Cherry blossoms are expected to be in bloom in Hakodate at the beginning of this month and will be coming up to Asahikawa by May 10th.



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Kevin Furlanetto

Hometown: Los Angeles, California, United States

Interviewed: April 11th, 2014 by AIC

AIC: *First of all, where are you from? Could you tell us a little about yourself?*

Kevin: I was born and raised in Los Angeles, California, in the United States. My parents are both Brazilian, and my two older siblings and I speak with them in Portuguese and English. Since my youth, my primary interest in life has been animals and ecology. I attended high school at a special Biological Sciences Magnet located next to and partnered with the Los Angeles Zoo. Through my time there I was able to participate in a volunteer research trip to the cloud forests of Ecuador, and subsequently participated in two independent research projects in Costa Rica. All the while, I maintained a strong and continued interest in Japan and the Japanese language.

AIC: *Wow, you have quite an interesting background, which lead to the next question. How did you become interested in Japan?*

Kevin: My first brush with Japanese culture came through a large research project on Japanese history that I wrote in my junior high school years. Although I wasn't immediately driven to learn anything else about Japan, I had become more aware of the country that produced the Miyazaki movies that I found so beautiful. During the summer before my senior year of high school, I decided to supplement my last lazy summer with a study of my choice, and with language as one of my prides and hobbies, I began to study Japanese on my own. From those beginnings, I proceeded to study abroad in Saitama and graduate with a double major in Biology and Japanese Studies.

AIC: *Biology and Japanese are quite the combination! So what are you doing in Hokkaido?*

Kevin: I would never have thought to come to Hokkaido of my own volition, but as a newly-accepted participant in the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program, this was my place. I serve as the Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) for the small town of Kembuchi, and I teach students at every school, preschool to high school, in my town.

AIC: *I've been to Kembuchi once, pretty cool town. Now I am curious, what is your impression of Asahikawa so far?*

Kevin: While Asahikawa is not normally thought of as a central hub much like Sapporo is, it serves as somewhat of a lifeline for all of us northern Hokkaido inhabitants.



Kevin in Costa Rica for his independent research projects

Hello Asahikawa!

Kevin Furlanetto Interview (Part 2) Continued from Page 5

It is a large city, yes, but maneuverable enough that one can get used to it rather quickly. It has mostly everything one could hope to find in a city of its size with the slight caveat being that it can take some ferreting out to find it. Other than that, Asahikawa functions as a sort of reprieve from the day-to-day rural life that would otherwise wear me down.

AIC: *That is an amazing description of Asahikawa, well put! What are some of your hobbies here? How did you survive your first winter in Hokkaido?*



Kevin: Besides studying Japanese and watching a ton television, I decided to take up snowboarding to pass the time. It took some getting used to, but I feel as though I have taken to it. I joined my town's taiko circle as soon as I got here, and I have thoroughly enjoyed attending practice sessions with my students alongside every week. I even joined some of my JET friends to try (and do surprisingly well at) curling for the first time! Besides that, I have gained a new-found appreciation for cozy winter days in watching movie by the heater, and I had a massive obsession with rearranging the furniture in my home to maximize space. This winter was quite the experiment in home comfort. In the months of spring and summer to come (fingers crossed) I hope to try my hand at archery.

AIC: *Looks like you did a good job keeping yourself busy even during the cold winter. But what do you do when you start having homesickness?*

Kevin: I miss my friends and family most when I see someone with a pet. My household has always been a pet-centric one, and I have many fond memories of relaxing at home with my family and pets by my side. And while I may consider finding myself a pet from time to time, I know that what I really want is just to go home for a bit. To fix that, all I do is pop in a DVD and get my fill of American culture. It has been well over eight months since I have been back home, but I will hang in there for another week and a half until I do.

AIC: *You will be home soon. That is exciting. Before we close, is there anything that you are looking forward to doing this year?*

Kevin: I am looking forward to doing many things this year. I am eager to forge on teaching basically every child in town and seeing how they grow and change. I want to take every opportunity I can as the new Northern Representative of the Hokkaido Association of JETs (HAJET) to travel around our northern island home and gain a feel for what this place stands for. As this may be the only full calendar year that I have in Hokkaido, I want to spend it making the best memories I can with the friends and mentors who have shaped my time here thus far.

AIC: *Thank you so much for your time, Kevin. Hope you enjoy the time with your family.*

Kevin: You are welcome.

★ Movies ~ May ★

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

*<Dinos Cinemas Only> Every Thursday is “Men’s Day.” Admission is ¥1,000 (tax included) for men.

*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.

★ **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

- Aibo the movie 3 (Japanese)
- Thermae Romae 2 (Japanese)
- The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (English)
- Detective Conan the movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Captain America:The Winter Soldier (English)
- Crows~Explode~ (Japanese/PG12)
- Crayon Shin-chan the movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Sanbun no ichi (Japanese/PG12)
- Shirayukihime Satsujin Jiken (Japanese)
- Kamisama no Karute 2 (Japanese)
- Frozen (English)
- Doraemon the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Silver Spoon (Japanese)
- Kamen Rider the Movie ~Heisei Rider vs Showa Rider~ (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Enchanted Kingdom (English) 5/2
- Akumu-chan the Movie (Japanese) 5/3
- Nononanananoka (Japanese) 5/10
- WOOD JOB! (Japanese) 5/10
- Hakuoki part2 (Japanese/Animation) 5/17
- Yamikin Ushijima-kun the Movie 2(Japanese) 5/17
- Bokutachi no Kazoku (Japanese) 5/24
- Seiten no Hekireki (Japanese) 5/24
- Monsterz (Japanese) 5/30
- X-Men: Days of Future Past (English) 5/30
- Bannou Kanteishi Q (Japanese) 5/31

★ **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 Feeal Asahikawa (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nippon Seishi Mae.”

Now Showing

- Thermae Romae 2 (Japanese)
- Aibo the movie 3 (Japanese)
- The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (English)
- Frozen (English)
- Crows~Explode~ (Japanese/PG12)
- Captain America: The Winter Soldier (English)
- Crayon Shin-chan the movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Detective Conan the movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones (English)
- Shirayukihime Satsujin Jiken (Japanese)
- Kamisama no Karute 2 (Japanese)
- Doraemon the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Silver Spoon (Japanese)
- Kamen Rider the Movie ~Heisei Rider vs Showa Rider~ (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Enchanted Kingdom (English) 5/2
- Nononanananoka (Japanese) 5/10
- WOOD JOB! (Japanese) 5/10
- Soredemo Yoru ha Akeru (Japanese)5/17
- One Chance (English) 5/17
- Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom(English) 5/17
- Kikaider Reboot (Japanese) 5/24
- Oh!Father (Japanese) 5/24
- Seiten no Hekireki (Japanese) 5/24
- X-Men: Days of Future Past (English) 5/30
- Monsterz (Japanese) 5/30

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

Takasu Jogging Festival

Are you ready to get some exercise done after the long winter season in Hokkaido? Takasu, a small town located near Asahikawa, is holding its annual jogging festival which marks the 30th anniversary this year. Variety of courses will be offered for all levels, including half-marathon, 10km, 5km, 3km, 1.5km and a Parent-Child Pairs Race. The fresh northern air and a cozy setting will make the race enjoyable for all ages! Sign-up period ends when all spots are filled, so hurry up if you are interested in participating.

Date: June 29th (Sunday)

Time: Varies for each event

Location: Takasu Town Sports Park, Townspeople Baseball Stadium

Charge: General ¥2,500, High School Students ¥2,000, Junior High & Elementary School Students ¥1,000, Parent-Child ¥3,000

Deadline for Registration: May 23rd

You can register online through SPORTS ENTRY or RUNNET.

For more information please visit: <http://town.takasu.hokkaido.jp/event/jogingf/>

Feeeal de Nihongo

Starting this month, Asahikawa International Center will be hosting Japanese language sessions for foreigners or non-native Japanese speakers. Volunteers can answer your questions or help you work on the weak areas in Japanese. The lessons will be quite flexible without a strict curriculum or lesson plans. Please come out if you would like to improve your Japanese.

For more information on exact date and time of *Feeeal de Nihongo*, please call the Asahikawa International Committee (Ms. SASAKI or SAITO) to the number below or send an email to: aic1_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp



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 9th&23rd, June 13th&27th

*starting last month, 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. 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 them 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.****