

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5

October 2015

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro



August 27

“Hokkaido Confectionary Fair 2016” will be held in Sapporo’s Odori Park for the first time from June 24th to July 3rd next year to help promote confectionary businesses in Hokkaido. Taking into consideration the start of the Hokkaido Shinkansen bullet train service, as well as hosting confectioners popular with those outside of Hokkaido, the fair seeks to attract even more tourists to Sapporo in early summer. The event aims at attracting 600,000 tourists.

August 27

“Asappy,” the “Yurukyara” mascot representing Asahikawa, visited the Asahikawa Chamber of Commerce and Industry to solicit votes for nationwide competition. The organization tells its employees to vote for Asappy every day via the Internet and plans to ask its member companies to vote for “him” in its newsletter. The City of Asahikawa has launched a campaign to make Asappy rank number one among other Hokkaido mascots in the “Yurukyara Grand Prix 2015,” and asks firms and associations in the city to vote for the mascot as well. The website for the voting is http://www.yurugp.jp/vote/result_area.php?prefectures=1.

September 16

According to the Kamikawa Branch Office of Hokkaido Prefectural Government, as of September 1st there are 339 citizens over the age of 100 within the 23 municipalities of Kamikawa.

The number has increased by 23 compared to last year. The oldest are INOUE Kiich in Furano, a man born on July 4th 1906, and KIKU AOYAMA in Asahikawa, a woman born on September 6th 1906. They are both 109 years old!

September 17

JR Hokkaido and JR East Japan announced the start of a Hokkaido Shinkansen operation between Aomori and Hakodate from March 26 in 2016. The two railway companies plan to provide ten round-trip bullet train services between Hakodate and Tokyo in almost four hours, and three round-trip services connecting Hakodate to other cities in Tohoku such as Aomori, Morioka and Sendai. The maximum speed between Hakodate and Morioka is 260 kilometers per hour compared to that between Morioka and Tokyo which is 320 kilometers per hour.

September 19

“Ramen Santouka,” an international ramen shop chain that started its business in Asahikawa, tops the ranking of ramen shops in Canada and is the fifth in the US according to Yelp, a website for crowd-sourced reviews about local businesses. “Santoka” runs 31 ramen shops in 8 countries and regions. It opened a ramen shop in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in 2010 and one in Torrance, California, U.S.A. in 2004.



For further information or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (SASAKI Mai, Jacob WERSCHHEY, or SAITO Emmy)

Location:

International/City Affairs Division, Comprehensive Policy Dept.

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Inside This Issue...

Hokkaido News Top 5 <i>By TAKADA Nobuhiro</i>	1	Life in Asahikawa “Autumn Leaf Viewing” <i>By SAKUBARA Satoshi</i>	6
Upcoming Events	2-3	Movies	6-7
Hello Asahikawa ! (Shannon Smith) <i>Interviewed by AIC</i>	4-5	Bulletin Board	8

Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

YOSHI Ikuzou Concert

吉 幾三 コンサート

YOSHI Ikuzou is a Japanese enka singer, songwriter, rapper and TV personality from Aomori Prefecture. He broke out with his rap hit *Ora Tokyo sa iguda* "I'm going to Tokyo" in 1984. He used the newly acquired fame to transition from comedic songwriter to full blown enka singer with his song *Yukiguni* "Snow Country" in 1986.

Date: October 6th (Tuesday)**Time:** Afternoon 2pm, Evening 6:30pm**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)**Admission:** All Tickets ¥6,500**Ticket Office:** Lawson, Ticket Pia, Coach and Four (Music corner), Gyokkodo (3F Aeon Mall)**For further information contact:** 011-261-9991 (TRUST) <http://www.trust.jpn.com>**Hokkaido Asahikawa Toei High School Wind Ensemble 23rd Annual Concert**

北海道旭川東栄高等学校 吹奏学部 第23回定期演奏会

Toei High school presents the following line up:

-*Danza ritual de fuego*, *Pantomima* from *El amor brujo*-*Semper Fidelis*-*Nijiuro no umi* "Rainbow Colored Sea"

-A Longford legend—and more!

Date: October 8th (Thursday)**Time:** Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm**Venue:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Concert Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)**Admission:** General ¥500**Ticket Office:** (Advanced sale) Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Crystal Hall**Hokkaido Asahikawa Ryon Senior High School Wind Ensemble 6th Annual Autumn Concert**

北海道旭川凌雲高等学校吹奏学部 第6回オータムコンサート

The program includes two collaborations: one with special guest MASAHIRO Sayama as well as a *danpure* ("dance" and "play") with the Kembuchi middle school wind ensemble. Line up includes:

- Rhapsody in blue

- *Fuuhaku no rannbu* "Wild dance of the wind god"- *Kimi no hitomi ni koi shiteiru* "In love with your eyes"**Date:** October 10th (Saturday) and October 11th (Sunday)**Time:** Doors 5:30pm, Show 6:00pm (Saturday); Doors 12:30pm, Show 1:00pm (Sunday)**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Big Hall (7-jo-dori 9-chome)**Ticket Office:** Lawson Ticket (L-code 15747), Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Crystal Hall (Museum Shop), Coach and Four (Music corner), Gyokkodo (3F Aeon Mall)**Admission:** Adult ¥1,000 High School and under ¥500**For further information contact:** 080-5837-4708 (Yoshikawa) (9am - 6pm)**This is Halloween: 14th Annual YUKISADA Etsuko Modern Ballet Recital**

第14回 行貞悦子 モダンバレエ教室 発表会

YUKISADA Etsuko Modern ballet class presents ballet to a selection of screen music, works of Johann Sebastian Bach, and of course, original production "This is Halloween." Featuring special guest Akihito MUKAI from "Dance Studio Mind" based in Sapporo.

Date: October 11th (Sunday)**Time:** Doors 3:30pm, Show 4:00pm**Venue:** Asahikawa Public Hall (inside Tokiwa Park)**Admission:** FREE**For further information contact:** 0166-61-0597 <http://sadakoballet.web.fc2.com>

The new GERSHWIN musical comedy CRAZY FOR YOU

劇団四季 クレイジー・フォー・ユー

The best kind of musical is both brilliant and enjoyable. What could be better than Tony Award winning and world-wide beloved Broadway play *Crazy For You*? Watch love blossom between the earnest Bobby and strong willed Poly through song and dance. Crazy for you is based on *Girl Crazy* by American composer and pianist George Gershwin. It's sure to have your heart go pitter patter as well as keep you laughing all the while.

Date: October 19th (Monday)

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

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

Admission: SS Seat ¥8,000 S Seat ¥6,500 A Seat ¥5,000 B Seat ¥3,000

Ticket Office: JR Hokkaido (Ticket Window or Twinkle Plaza), Gyokkodo (3F Aeon Mall), FM Riviere Ticket box (3-jo-dori 7-chome), Ticket Pia (P-code 444-348), Lawson Ticket (L-code 14586)

Tickets & further information contact: 0166-55-1443 (Asahikawa Dream no kai) Shiki On-line Ticket <http://489444.com>



30th Annual Musashino Academia Musicae Northern Branch Reunion Concert

第30回 武蔵野音楽大学同窓会北海道北支部 演奏会

Come see a mix of artists from different musical disciplines! Piano, concert harp, trumpet, soprano, as well as a special clarinet performance by MIKURA Mami are all things you can look forward to at this concert! While the concert showcases specialists in their field for a mix of different performances, the musicians themselves also cross over by playing multiple instruments. Don't miss a chance to see these all-stars!

Date: October 23rd (Friday)

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

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

Admission: General ¥1,500 Student (High School and under) ¥1,000

Ticket Office: Yamaha Music Store, Asahikawa Crystal Hall (Museum Shop), Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall

Tickets & further information contact: 22-3197 (Miyoshi) / 34-1220 (Niki)



Seasons and Natural Features of Hokkaido *Rashisa no Arika*

北海道の四季と風土 らしさのありか

Based on childhood memories of the artist, IWAHASHI Eien's epic work "A Native of Hokkaido's reminiscence" not only spans 27 meters in total length but also encompasses a year of Hokkaido weather and reflects its impact on not only animals but man's culture and customs. The exhibition also includes many other works of art from the Museum of Art's very own collection!

Date: Now ~ November 8th (Sunday)*

Time: 9:30am ~ 5pm (Entry into the exhibit ends at 4:30pm)

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

Admission: General ¥820, High School ¥510, Elementary and Middle School ¥300

Advanced Booking, Group Booking (10+), Repeater discount:

General ¥600, High School ¥400, Elementary and Middle School ¥200

Other: *Exhibit is closed on Mondays *with exception to* October 12th and November 2nd.

The exhibit is also closed on October 13th. Handicapped and Disabled visitors are allowed free entry by showing certification.



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR OCTOBER



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Shannon Smith

Hometown: Indiana, United States

Interviewed: September 11th, By AIC

AIC: *Is this your first time in Japan?*

Shannon: Actually, this is my third time in Japan. During my junior year at Purdue University I was in the Study Abroad program at Nanzan College. After graduation I was accepted into the Jet Program to teach in Toyota City in Aichi Prefecture.

AIC: *Oh cool. How was that?*

Shannon: I was pretty lucky to be placed in Toyota City as an ALT my first time on the Program. My apartment was 15 minutes from my original Nanzan homestay family. I was also only a few minutes from the train station, the grocery store, as well as the T-Face & Sogo shopping center towers. It was a pretty smooth transition from my American life to my life teaching English in Japan.

AIC: *So how does then compare to now?*

Shannon: I have this shiny, brand new, just out of the package feeling since coming to Asahikawa. It's been 13 years since I was last in Japan, and of course I am finding Hokkaido to be an exceptionally different place. When I applied for the JET Programme this time Hokkaido was my first choice. I just knew from speaking with the folks at the Chicago Consulate, my Japanese friends, and a couple current HAJETs that Hokkaido would be an adventure not to be missed. Asahikawa is also sister cities with the Normal/Bloomington area of Illinois where my husband and I lived while he attended graduate school at Illinois State University. I am very grateful to continue that relationship.

I can't yet put into words the differences between Asahikawa & Toyota since I have only been here for 6 weeks. However, I feel that Hokkaido matches the challenges I set for myself as an adult, whereas Toyota was a great haven of learning for a new college graduate. In the time I've been here in Asahikawa I feel very at home. I have even made peace with the noisy crows living in the tree next to my house.

AIC: *That being said, how long do you see yourself staying?*

Shannon: I would like to be an ALT in Asahikawa for at least five years.

AIC: *That's quite a commitment. Do you have any goals for while you are in Japan?*

Shannon: I have very ambitious goals when it comes to my Japanese language learning, but I also know from experience to let things happen naturally. So while I want to spend the next five years working my way towards the N1 Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), I know that the best interactions can be the simplest kind where not a single word is spoken.

Hello Asahikawa!

Shannon Interview (Part 2) Continued from Page 4

AIC: *What about outside of language acquisition?*

Shannon: Of course, I want the chance to explore Hokkaido's history, and the culture of the Ainu. My students have already introduced me to the author Hiroshi ABE. I have learned of his work at the Asahiyama Zoo, and read his picture book "The Story of the Ezo Wolf." I worked with wild, socialized wolves at Wolf Park in Battle Ground Indiana, and I have also had the opportunity to work at the Butterfly Garden at the Indianapolis Zoo. So, I feel a kinship with ABE-san, and my affinity for Asahikawa has grown as I learn more about the city. I may be here teaching about my culture and English, but I am learning just as much, if not more, from my students and fellow teachers.



AIC: *Any hobbies we should know about?*

Shannon: Wow, I have a lot of hobbies. I am a fine artist so I have spent many hours, painting, sewing, drawing, & writing. I also studied ceramics under Hiroshige KATO Sensei at Kasen Toen in Seto City while I lived in Toyota.

I have also played sports all my life and most recently played Women's Flat Track Roller Derby (WFTDA) with the Naptown Roller Girls in Indianapolis, Indiana. A horse is not the same as being on roller skates, but I wouldn't hesitate to try Yabusame archery.



I also played fiddle for a time and was a singer in a band. I would love to rekindle those skills, and also learn how to play *taiko* & *shamisen*.

AIC: *You said earlier you worked with wolves and everything. I would imagine that you like more outdoor activities.*

Shannon: I love the outdoors, and love to camp and hike. I most recently hiked to the top of Mount Yotei in Niseko with 20 of my fellow ALTs. It was a challenging experience, and I was quite emotional when I saw the sun rise from the top of the mountain. I am so lucky to be living in Hokkaido, and am looking forward to the snow and to learning how to ski and snowboard.

AIC: *Alright well thanks for letting me interview you.*

Shannon: Not at all. It was a pleasure.

Life in Asahikawa

Autumn Leaf Viewing By SAKUBARA Satoshi

In October, it will get colder and colder, and it will be harder to go outside. However, there is beautiful scenery that we can only see in autumn. For example, 紅葉 (こうよう autumn color of leaves) can be found in many places. In Japan, there is a unique culture called 紅葉狩り (autumn leaf viewing).

Leaf viewing is different from 花見 (spring cherry blossom viewing) in that people do not eat or drink outside. Instead, some people would enjoy leaf viewing by taking a bath in a hot spring.

There are some “leaf viewing spots” located in around Asahikawa. And, 美瑛町 (Biei-cho) is a town famous for its colorful hills in autumn. For example, カムイコタン (Kamui-kotan) is located to the south of Asahikawa, and we can enjoy autumn leaves at the beginning of October. 層雲峡 (Sounkyo) is located in the East, and we can see beautiful sights in late September and the early part of October. As for Biei, we can enjoy beautiful autumn landscapes for relatively long days.

In autumn, it is said that many typhoons will come to Japan. However, there are many sunny days in Hokkaido. In the morning and early-evening, you will be able to see beautiful sights. I recommend that you wear warm clothes when you enjoy leaf viewing.

★ *Movies ~ October* ★

*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 / ☎ 74 – 6411
URL: cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa (Japanese)

Now Showing

- Attack on Titan End of the World (Japanese/PG12)
- Heroine Shikkaku (Japanese)
- Ant-Man (English)
- Kaiketsu Zorori Uchuno Yusha (Japanese/Animation)
- Tenku no Hachi (Japanese)
- Attack on Titan (Japanese/PG12)
- Pixels (English)
- Unfair the end (Japanese)
- S-Saigo no Keikan -Recovery of Our future (Japanese)
- Mission: Impossible -Rogue Nation- (English)
- Ted 2 (English/R15+)
- Jurassic World (English)
- HERO (Japanese)
- Bakemono no ko (Japanese/Animation)
- Minions (English/Animation)

Coming Soon

- Bakuman (Japanese) 10/3
- Fantastic Four (English) 10/9
- Sakanakun Kenkyujo (Japanese) 10/10
- Toshokan Senso: The Last Mission (Japanese) 10/10
- Oremonogatari (Japanese) 10/31
- Pan (English) 10/31

★ *Movies ~ October* ★

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

Now Showing

- Ant-Man (English)
- Attack on Titan End of the World (Japanese/PG12)
- Heroine Shikkaku (Japanese)
- San Andreas (English)
- Girls Step (Japanese)
- Unfair the end (Japanese)
- Kingsman: The Secret Service (English/R15+)
- Tenku no Hachi (Japanese)
- Ted 2 (English/R15+)
- S-Saigo no Keikan -Recovery of Our future (Japanese)
- Mission: Impossible -Rogue Nation- (English)
- Jurassic World (English)
- Attack on Titan (Japanese/PG12)
- Bakemono no ko (Japanese/Animation)

Coming Soon

- Bakuman (Japanese) 10/3
- Fantastic Four (English) 10/9
- Sensei to Mayoineko (Japanese) 10/10
- Toshokan Senso: The Last Mission (Japanese) 10/10
- GAMBA (Japanese/Animation/2D/3D) 10/10
- UFO Gakuen no Himitsu (Japanese/Animation) 10/10
- Boku ha Bosan (Japanese) 10/24
- The Transporter Refueled (English) 10/24
- Galaxy Kaido (Japanese) 10/24
- La famille Belier(French) 10/31
- Princess Precure the Movie (Japanese/Animation) 10/31
- Pan (English) 10/31

★ **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 Department Store (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nippon Seishi mae.”

Now Showing

- Attack on Titan End of the World (Japanese/PG12)
- Attack on Titan (Japanese/PG12)
- Ant-Man (English)
- Kokoro ga sakebitagatteirunda (Japanese/Animation)
- Hokori to Genso (Japanese)
- Pixels (English)
- Tenku no Hachi (Japanese)
- San Andreas (English)
- Piece of Cake (Japanese/PG12)
- Unfair the end (Japanese)
- S-Saigo no Keikan -Recovery of Our future (Japanese)
- Ted 2 (English/R15+)
- BORUTO -NARUTO The Movie-(Japanese/Animation)
- Mission: Impossible -Rogue Nation- (English)
- Jurassic World (English)
- HERO (Japanese)
- Bakemono no ko (Japanese/Animation)

Coming Soon

- Bakuman (Japanese) 10/3
- CODE GEASS Akito the Exiled (Japanese/Animation) 10/3
- Fantastic Four (English) 10/9
- The Intern (English) 10/10
- UFO Gakuen no Himitsu (Japanese/Animation) 10/10
- GAMBA (Japanese/Animation/2D/3D) 10/10
- Toshokan Senso: The Last Mission (Japanese) 10/10
- John Wick (English/R15+) 10/16
- Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials (English) 10/23
- The Transporter Refueled (English) 10/24
- Galaxy Kaido (Japanese) 10/24
- Oremonogatari (Japanese) 10/31
- Pan (English) 10/31

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

Bird & Bird House

In addition to "Seasons and Natural Features of Hokkaido," the Museum of Art is also featuring bird themed artwork by honorary professor at Tokai university: ODA Noritsugu!

Date/Time/Venue: See "Seasons and Natural features of Hokkaido" (events page)

Admission: General

¥170, High School ¥100,

Elementary/Middle School FREE. Handicapped and Disabled visitors are allowed free entry by showing certification. ¥30 discount for group or advanced booking.

November 1st through the 7th is "Art Week" so entry is FREE



オリジナルイックカ(バード)シリーズ デザイン:1972年-
福田コレクショナル展



「旅行屋(シジュウカラハコ)1987(昭和62)年
福田展

Halloween at the International Center

Asahikawa International Center will be celebrating Halloween again this year!

From **October 19th** to the **31th**, there will be trick or treating for all visiting children.

Get your Halloween spirit on and stop by the Center!



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!

FUN FRIDAYS

Dates: October 9th&23rd, November 13th&27th, December 11th&25th

*Fun Fridays are held only on the 2nd Friday of every month for the evening session (2 hours)

Time: 1:00-2:00pm & 6:30-8:30pm

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.



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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.****