

# 旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

December 2012 VOL. 193

Also visit us at: <http://asahikawaic.jp/en/>



## Hokkaido News Top 5



December 2012  
Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

### October 26

An elderly couple in a recreational vehicle was killed and 34 passengers in two minibuses were injured in a crash which occurred on a bridge close to the Nakayama Pass near Sapporo around 6:50am. The RV strayed onto the oncoming lane and collided with the two buses. The man driving the RV had chronic heart disease and might have fallen unconscious while driving because there were no marks on the road showing that the brakes were used.

### October 27

The Sapporo branch office of East Nippon Expressway Company Limited announced that the volume of traffic has increased 67% between the Oiwake (near Chitose) Interchange and Yubari Interchange on the East Hokkaido Expressway after the freeway between Yubari and Tomamu (near Obihiro) opened to traffic a year ago. On the other hand, the number of passengers traveling by JR Hokkaido trains between Minami-Chitose and Tomamu decreased 8% from the previous year. Even in winter when people tend to take the train, the number of passengers was 12% less than in the previous year.

### October 29

More than 140,000 tourists have visited the "Aquarium in the Mountains" in Kitami City after it reopened last July following remodeling. The number of visitors in the last three months is about three times that of last year's. The aquarium says that displays such as a waterfall basin and a tank filled with icy water attract a lot of visitors. The aquarium is located in Onneyu Spa Resort 30 kilometers from the city center of Kitami.

### November 3

Asahiyama Zoo had 1,291,859 visitors during the summer season from April 28 to November 3. The number of visitors dropped 6% compared to the same period last year. That is partly because the "Asahiyama Zoo Boom" has passed and some tourists in Japan are traveling abroad due to the strong yen. A remodeled display of wildlife in Hokkaido opening in the winter season and an exhibition featuring giant plant-eating animals opening next fall are expected to attract more visitors.

### November 10

A flute recital by Professor ABE Hiromitsu from Hokkaido College of Education celebrated the opening of the new compact concert hall in the commercial complex Feeeal Asahikawa. The hall, named "Feeeal Salon Hall," is equipped with a grand piano and has a capacity of 50 seats with a total area of 50 square meters. Lessons in flute and piano are also offered at the hall from Monday to Thursday each week.



**ASAHIKAWA  
INTERNATIONAL  
COMMITTEE**

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

Asahikawa International Committee  
(SASAKI Mai, Kenton KNOP, or SAITO Emmy)

**Location:**

International Affairs Division, Civic and Community Services 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

## THE SOUL EXPRESSION GOSPEL CONCERT ザ・ソウル・エクスプレッション・ゴスペル・コンサート

Local gospel-singing group The Soul Expression will showcase their high-energy performance style in their latest concert, titled "Sing! Dance! Smile!" Special guests for the evening are the Soulomatics featuring IKESUE Shin, one of Japan's leading gospel singers and an internationally-renowned gospel choir director and producer.

**Date:** December 2nd (Sunday)

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

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

**Admission:** Adults: ¥2,000 Advance, ¥2,500 on 12/2.

Elementary/Middle School Students: ¥1,000

**Ticket Offices:** Yamaha Music, Fukido (Toyooka, Suehiro), Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall

**For Further Information Contact:** 080-5725-0474 (The Soul Expression)



## FINNISH SHORT FILM FESTIVAL IN ASAHIKAWA 2012

フィンランド短編映画上映会 in 旭川2012

Enjoy a glimpse into the culture of modern Finland at this festival, which features 5 short films with genres ranging from drama to documentary to animation. These films, one of which is the winner of Best Documentary at the 2011 Tampere Film Festival, are all exceptional works that offer a realistic look at the Finnish people and their joys and sorrows. Each of the films will be presented with English and Japanese subtitles.

**Date:** December 2nd (Sunday)

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

**Venue:** San Azalea 3F Hall (6-jo 4-chome)

**Admission:** Advance: ¥1,000, On 12/2: ¥1,200

**For Tickets and Further Information Contact:** 011-563-6500 (TAMATE-Snowbugs)



## LEGEND CHRISTMAS CONCERT '12

レジェンド・クリスマス・コンサート '12

Legend, the operatically-trained group comprised of Tokyo-area singers that has redefined the classical music concert with its thrilling performances, will come to Asahikawa to present a captivating evening of Christmas music.

**Date:** December 4th (Tuesday)

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

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

**Admission:** SS-Seats ¥6,000, S-Seats ¥5,000, A-Seats ¥4,000

**Ticket Offices:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Gyokkodo, Yamaha Music, Ticket Pia

**For Further Information Contact:** 011-533-7711 (Adash)



## RAKUGO PERFORMANCE: SHUMPUTEI KOASA

独演会・春風亭小朝

SHUMPUTEI Koasa is one of Japan's foremost *rakugo* (Japanese traditional comedic storytelling) talents and is also well-known for his feature role of the unsavory merchant/ninja "Tsubakuro Jinnai" on the television period-drama show *Sambiki ga kiru!* Come see for yourself why he is one of the *rakugo* world's most recognized figures.

**Date:** December 4th (Tuesday)

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

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

**Admission:** S-Seats ¥4,000, A-Seats ¥3,500

**Ticket Offices:** Gyokkodo, Ticket Pia, Lawson Ticket, Hokkaido Shimbun Play Guide

**For Further Information Contact:** 011-241-3871 (Hokkaido Shimbun Play Guide)



## A MUSICAL EVENING IN ASAHIKAWA

### あさひかわ音楽の夕べ

This concert in Asahikawa consists of three parts, beginning with performances by the Asahikawa Commercial High School Wind Instrument Band and a choral group composed of Asahikawa residents. The show continues with the Asahikawa Karaoke Grand Prix finals, and the third part features Asahikawa Tourism Ambassador MIZUTA Ryuko in concert performing her *enka* (Japanese popular ballads) hits.

**Date:** December 6th (Thursday)

**Time:** Doors 5:30pm, Show 6:00pm

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

**Admission:** All Seats ¥2,500

**Ticket Sales:** Gyokkodo, Yamaha Music, Asahikawa Tourism and Local Products Information Center (JR Asahikawa Station)

**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-23-0090 (A Musical Evening in Asahikawa Executive Committee)



## TRADITIONAL JAPANESE MUSIC PERFORMANCE

### 正派静調会創立80周年記念演奏会

This performance of traditional Japanese music featuring the *koto* (Japanese zither) and *shakuhachi* (bamboo flute) is presented by several music associations in the area. Those with an interest in traditional music are highly encouraged to attend.

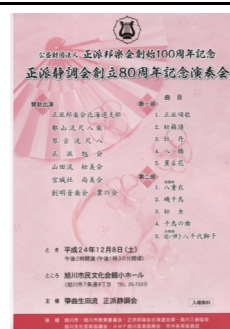
**Date:** December 8th (Saturday)

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

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

**Admission:** Free

**For further information contact:** 25-7331 (Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall)



## 12TH ANNUAL OTONOWA CONCERT

### 音の輪コンサート

The music performance ensemble Otonowa will present a concert in two parts. Part One consists of selections from the popular series *Nodame Cantabile*, featuring works such as *Rhapsody in Blue* by Gershwin and the 2nd movement from Beethoven's *Sonata Pathétique*. Part Two will feature a variety of Christmas favorites, such as "Sleigh Ride" and a Christmas festival medley with songs such as "Jingle Bells" and "Silent Night."

**Date:** December 9th (Sunday)

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

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

**Admission:** General: ¥2,000, Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons: ¥1,500,

High School Students and Younger: ¥1,000

**Ticket Offices:** Yamaha Music, Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Kawai Showroom

**For Further Information Contact:** 52-6467 (SUZUKI)



## WATANABE KENJI AND YASUDA RISA JOINT RECITAL VOL. II

### 渡辺健二・安田里沙ジョイントリサイタル Vol. II

This joint recital featuring two outstanding concert pianists will thrill music lovers of all ages. WATANABE Kenji, vice president and professor at Tokyo University of the Arts and YASUDA Risa, lecturer at Tokyo University of the Arts will combine their talents to perform selections such as Grieg's *Peer Gynt Suite No.1, Op. 46* and Rachmaninoff's *Suite for 2 Pianos No.2, Op. 17*.

**Date:** December 29th (Saturday)

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

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

**Admission:** General: ¥3,000,

High School Students and Younger: ¥1,500 (¥500 extra on 12/29)

**Ticket Offices:** Gyokkodo, Yamaha Music, Taisetsu Crystal Hall

**For Further Information Contact:** 080-6063-3128



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR DECEMBER



# Hello Asahikawa!

**Name: Khadairis L. Mason**

**Hometown: Bloomington, Illinois, USA**

**Interviewed: November 5th, 2012 by AIC**

**AIC:** *Please tell us about your hometown.*

**Khadairis :** It's pretty small and quiet, but the people are really nice. I like to hang out with friends there and there's plenty of stuff to do. Besides hanging out with friends I can go to see a movie, which is always nice. There are also restaurants that we go to. I like the seafood restaurant Red Lobster personally, especially the crab there. My friends enjoy watching me break the crab legs open.

**AIC:** *What brought you here to Asahikawa?*

**Khadairis :** At first, when I came here as a junior high student, I was only able to stay for a week and a half. I thought that wasn't enough time to see what I wanted to see, and I realized that I had left my heart in Japan, so I felt I needed to come back. I had been studying Japanese on my own since my first year of junior high school. I studied really hard by myself because my family didn't have the money to pay for Japanese lessons and it was hard to find a Japanese teacher near where I live. I ended up asking my dad to buy me a textbook. He didn't think I would use it, but I studied from it until my second year of high school. Then I applied for the Bloomington -Asahikawa Sister Cities Program. I applied twice, because the first time I applied my school wasn't sending anybody to Japan because of the Fukushima nuclear power plant disaster and so I couldn't go. I applied the next year because I really wanted to go while I was in high school. I applied and waited about two weeks until I heard I was selected to go to Japan. I remember crying and getting so emotional because it was my dream to come to Japan while in high school because I wanted to experience high school in Japan.

**AIC:** *What made you want to come to Japan and study Japanese in the first place?*

**Khadairis :** I've had a dream of going to Japan since I was seven years old. I have no idea where that idea came from. I started studying Japanese because my cousin started studying Portuguese on his own in order to go to Brazil. I thought if he could do that, so could I. He never actually ended up going to Brazil, even though he could speak the language well. But I kept studying and am now here in Japan, so in that way I guess I did even better than my cousin.

**AIC:** *What were your first impressions of Asahikawa?*

**Khadairis :** When I first came here as a junior high student, I was excited by everything because I really wanted to come here for a long time. I looked around and thought this place was the best place in the world and I wanted to live here. The people were so nice and I was impressed by how everyone was so courteous and willing to help here. Some things I noticed in Japan were that you don't have to tip in restaurants. The servers here put in so much effort even though they don't receive tips. In America, however, servers don't have to put in any effort and they still get tips because it's a common courtesy. Once I came back, all the memories of my first time here flashed through my head. When I went to the Kondo Dyeing Factory for the AIC "Experience Japanese Culture" event in September, it felt very familiar to me because I went there as a junior high student. It felt like reliving a part of me that I had left here two years ago. I even met someone who goes to my high school whom I met while in junior high. Thanks to that connection, everybody around here knows me and knows how enthusiastic I am.

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

**Khadairis :** I have the most fun playing badminton. It's not a very popular sport in America, but when I came to Japan I was excited to see there was a badminton club. I joined the badminton club at school and practice every day and every morning because I want to get better at it. Everyone in the club plays at such a high level and I have to play matches against them. It's good for me, because then I can go back to America ready to try out for a college-level badminton club. I also like hanging out with friends and going to karaoke. We also go shopping together too. I especially like shops that specialize in rock-type clothing, because I really like Japanese rock music.

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

**Khadairis :** I know for sure that I want to be in some kind of film-industry business or be a photographer, because I like capturing people's emotions on film through taking pictures and making movies. People say that a picture is worth a thousand words, but I want my pictures to say even more, even in other languages. I've had many moments here in Japan where I just couldn't describe the feeling I was having in words, so I wanted to take a picture that would show everyone exactly how I was feeling. I also really want to be a voice actor. It's not a common job and doesn't make a lot of money, but because I speak German in addition to English and Japanese, I think that would give me more work.

**AIC:** *Thank you very much for your time, Khadairis! Best of luck to you in the future!*

**Khadairis :** You're welcome!

# Life In Japan

## *Kairo*

By: *IKEDA Ayumi*

December 1st is officially known as *Kairo no hi*, or “*Kairo Day*.” *Kairo* (かいろ・懐炉), which in this case means “hand warmer” in English and not the capital of Egypt, is a Japanese-developed piece of equipment used for staying warm.

When Japanese people speak of *kairo*, they usually refer to the disposable kind commonly sold today. However, the origin of *kairo* was the heated stones called *onjaku* (温石) in the Edo Period. In the Meiji era, “ash *kairo*” that used burning hemp or charcoal powder stuffed in a bag inside a container came into use. Afterward, “benzine *kairo*” utilizing gasoline appeared and were widely used by people in the Taisho era. In 1950-1953, American soldiers fighting in the bitter cold of the Korean Peninsula used hand warming tools made by putting salt and iron powder in a container. Japanese companies improved upon the idea and created the modern disposable *kairo*.

When the disposable type of *kairo* that is activated by just being shaken was commercialized in 1978, it spread quickly and superseded the popularity of benzine *kairo*. In 1988 paste-on *kairo* appeared and have proved very popular with consumers. Since *kairo* products designed for shoes, cushions, slippers, shoe insoles, socks and pockets have been sold since the late 1980s, they have firmly established themselves in our lives and are an essential part of winter in Japan.

By the way, although disposable *kairo* can literally be thrown away once used, they deserve to be valued more than that. They can be reused as a deodorant in shoes or in the refrigerator because they contain activated charcoal, which absorbs odor. If a disposable *kairo* still has warmth when you get out of the cold, put it into a resealable bag and remove the air as much as possible to stop the oxidation process temporarily. It will turn warm again when you take it out of the bag. To make the most of *kairo* to warm your body, just attaching a paste-on *kairo* to the back part of the neck of a turtleneck sweater will be surprisingly effective.

In this way *kairo* are very useful for travel in cold regions, but some countries have no *kairo* culture. If safety inspectors at an airport find some suspicious items containing iron powder in your suitcase and clothes, you might be taken to a separate room for questioning. You will be all right if you can explain what your *kairo* is for, but better go to the airport early in consideration of the extra time it might take.

## Hello Wild Flowers

## Wandering Among The Wildflowers Around Asahikawa

By Hitoshi KUDOH

Showering golden larch leaves in the forest  
 Shady thicket of weeds on the hillside west  
 Behold! Stunning sparkle of split scarlet I found  
 Believe me, it's a solitary coral that held tightly bound  
 Treating me in the gloom with its glorious cock crest  
 Treading I go on the dead leaves in the remote forest.

### BENIBANA-YAMASHAKUYAKU

(紅花山芍薬) *Paeonia obovata*

**Family:** Paeoniaceae

**Common name:** Japanese Forest-peony,  
 Red Woodland-peony

**Description:** A herbaceous, perennial of dicotyledon. In late April, a red shoot with a crystalline dusting emerges. When young leaves sprout, a stalk begins to grow upright.

Leaves are alternate, pinnate compound that mature to dark reddish green.

They consist of 8 cm oval to elliptical opposite leaflets.

The stem reaches about 40-60 cm. It bears a 4-5 cm wide chalice-like single semi-opened flower. The 5 petals are incurved and slightly fringed on margins.

Petal colours range from pink to rose-purple. 3-6 light green banana-shaped pistils sit among yellow stamina. A pistil has a coiled cardinal stigma on the top. A stamen has a yellow anther and a purple filament. Its pollens attract insects well. But the flower does not secrete any nectar. 3 sepals are irregular oval. Flowers bloom in May-June.

After pollination, the pistils turn into fat follicles and turn back on themselves.

Mature follicles pop open to reveal metallic indigo pea size fertile seeds and holly-berry red sterile seeds on the receptacles. The sterile seeds remain attached on the receptacle bed, while the fertile seed balls roll down to the ground.

In December, the dead leaves and stalk fade out. It goes dormant in winter.

Height: 40-60 cm tall. Endangered species.

Toxic. Medicinal: root (painkiller, antispasmodic, reduce blood-pressure), petal (cough remedy, hemorrhoids)

**Habitat:** Shade or semi-shade deciduous woodland, mountain.

**Distribution:** Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu. Korea, China, Russia.



Water Color Painting of a Benibana-Yamashakuyaku  
 By Hitoshi KUDOH



## Movies ~ December



\*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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

- Odoru Daisosasen The Final (Japanese)
- Tsunagu (Japanese)
- Tsui no Shintaku (Japanese)
- Nobou no Shiro (Japanese)
- Kita no Canaria-tachi (Japanese)
- Aku no Kyoten (Japanese)
- Evangelion:3.0 You Can (Not) Redo. (Japanese/Animation)
- By Rule of CROW's Thumb (Japanese)
- Lockout (English)
- Trouble with the Curve (English)
- Play at tug-of-war (Japanese)
- 007 Skyfall (English)
- The Land of Hope (Japanese)

### Coming Soon

- Kyo, Koi wo Hajimemasu (Japanese) 12/8
- Kamen Rider Wizard & Fourze Movie Taisen Ultimatum (Japanese) 12/8
- The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (English/Japanese Dub 3D) 12/14
- ONE PIECE FILM Z (Japanese/Animation) 12/15
- Good Morning Everyone! (Japanese) 12/15
- Frankenweenie (Japanese Dub/Animation) 12/15
- Yokai Ningen Bem (Japanese) 12/15
- Les Miserables (English) 12/21
- Ohoku~Eien~Emonnosuke • Tsunayoshi-hen (Japanese) 12/22
- The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn: Part 2 (English) 12/28
- Ao no Exorcist (Japanese/Animation) 12/28

★ **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

- Odoru Daisosasen The Final (Japanese)
- The Expendables 2 (English)
- Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (English)
- Paranormal Activity 4 (English)
- Nobou no Shiro (Japanese)
- Kita no Canaria-tachi (Japanese)
- Fly With The Gold (Japanese)
- Cirque du Soleil Worlds Away 3D (English)
- Ninkyo Helper (Japanese)
- Evangelion:3.0 You Can (Not) Redo. (Japanese/Animation)
- By Rule of CROW's Thumb (Japanese)
- Trouble with the Curve (English)
- Inazuma Eleven GO vs. Danboru Senki W (Japanese/Animation)
- 007 Skyfall (English)
- The Woman in Black (English)

### Coming Soon

- Kyo, Koi wo Hajimemasu (Japanese) 12/8
- Kamen Rider Wizard & Fourze Movie Taisen Ultimatum (Japanese) 12/8
- The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (English) 12/14
- ONE PIECE FILM Z (Japanese/Animation) 12/15
- Frankenweenie (Japanese Dub/Animation) 12/15
- Les Miserables (English) 12/21
- Ohoku~Eien~Emonnosuke • Tsunayoshi-hen (Japanese) 12/22
- Iron Sky (English) December
- Taken 2 (English) 1/11
- HUNTERxHUNTER Phantom Rouge (Japanese/Animation) 1/12
- Tokyo Kazoku (Japanese) 1/19
- Life of Pi (English) 1/25
- Tsuya no Yoru (Japanese) 1/26 (15+)

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

# ASAHIKAWA-AREA CHURCHES AND SHRINES

## Catholic Churches

5-jo Church  
6-jo Church  
Omachi Church  
Kamui Church

## Address:

5-jo-dori 11-chome  
6-jo-dori 22-chome  
Omachi 1-jo 10-chome  
Kamui 4-jo 9-chome

Assemblies of God Kamui Church  
Brotherhood of Christ Eiko Church  
Chuwa Bible Baptist Church  
Nagayama Evangelical Christ Church  
Midorigaoka Evangelical Christ Church  
Seventh-Day Adventist Church  
Shori Baptist Church  
St. Mark's Church  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Toko Baptist Church

Kamui 4-jo 13-chome  
Kagura 4-jo 11-chome  
Chuwa 4-jo 1-chome  
Nagayama 6-jo 11-chome  
Midorigaoka Minami 1-jo 1-chome  
8-jo-dori 22-chome  
Kyokushin 1-jo 5-chome  
2-jo Nishi 3-chome  
7-jo-dori 8-chome  
Toko 11-jo 3-chome

## Protestant Churches

Asahikawa 6-jo Church  
Asahikawa Baptist Church  
Asahikawa Bible Baptist Church  
Asahikawa Christian Church  
Asahikawa Church of Christ  
Asahikawa Church of Nazarene  
Asahikawa Gospel Church  
Asahikawa Megumi Evangelical Christ Church  
Asahikawa Toyooka Church  
Asahikawa Seiko Church

6-jo-dori 10-chome  
8-jo Nishi 1-chome  
Kaguraoka 3-jo 5-chome  
Suehiro 4-jo 2-chome  
Kawabata 4-jo 10-chome  
Asahimachi 2-jo 3-chome  
Toyooka 12-jo 6-chome  
Toyooka 2-jo 4-chome  
6-jo-dori 25-chome  
Shunko 5-jo 2-chome

## Shrines

Asahikawajinja Shrine  
Kamikawajinja Shrine  
Takasujinja Shrine  
Nagayamajinja Shrine  
Hokkaido Gokokuujinja Shrine  
Higashiasahikawa Minami 1-jo 6-chome  
Kaguraokakoen  
Suehiro 8-jo 3-chome  
Nagayama 4-jo 18-chome  
Hanasakiho 1-chome

## International Communi-tea

Looking for an opportunity to get to know other Asahikawa residents, including foreign nationals currently living in Asahikawa? Then come join us at the Asahikawa International Center for an hour of relaxed conversation and exchange over tea! With topics like holiday traditions celebrated overseas and current events, this is a fun way to meet new people and learn more about the rest of the world.

**Everyone is welcome!**

**Date:** December 21st (Friday)

**Time:** Afternoon Session: 1:00pm~2:00pm,

Evening Session: 6:30pm~7:30pm

**Place:** Asahikawa International Center Lounge (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8-chome)

**Seats Limited to 30 Participants**

## 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:** *Autumn Sessions:* 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

**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 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.



Asahikawa International Committee, International Affairs Division  
Asahikawa International Center Feeeal Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8-chome, Asahikawa 070-0031  
Tel: (0166) 25-7491 Fax: (0166) 23-4924  
E-mail: cir\_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

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