

# 旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

June 2012 VOL. 187

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## Hokkaido News Top 5



June 2012

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

### May 2

The City of Sapporo announced "Cool Biz" will last from May 10<sup>th</sup> to October 20<sup>th</sup>. "Cool Biz" in Sapporo will start 10 days earlier and finishes 10 days later than usual. That is because it is difficult for Hokkaido Electric Company to resume operation of the nuclear reactor in Tomari; therefore, electric power shortages are expected. "Cool Biz" means wearing no tie and jacket in order to stay cool and cut down the use of air-conditioning.

### May 3

The Asahikawa Meteorological Observatory announced that cherry blossoms fully bloomed the same day they began to flower, which was on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Staff at the observatory found some of the cherry blossoms of a sample tree started flowering at 9:30 am, and most of them were in bloom by 3:00 pm. This is an unprecedented phenomenon in recorded history.

### May 9

JR Sekisho Line has resumed services between Yubari Station and New Yubari Station for the first time in 12 days. The train service between the two stations had been suspended due to a mudslide that occurred on April 27<sup>th</sup>. JR Sekisho Line stretches from Minamichitose to Shintoku, near Obihiro.

### May 10

Hawaiian Airlines has announced that three direct flights a week between New Chitose and Honolulu will commence from November 1<sup>st</sup>. Japan Airlines used to run flights on the same route until 2003. Thai Airways International also announced three direct flights a week to Bangkok starting from October 28<sup>th</sup> and running until March next year.

### May 12

A beer garden has opened on the rooftop terrace of Asahikawa Terminal Hotel. When it opened for the first time at 5:00pm, the temperature was 4.8 degrees Celsius, and the beer garden was covered with semitransparent plastic sheets and kerosene heaters were in use. Despite the low temperatures, the 300-seater garden was quickly fully booked out.



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

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

**Location:**

International Affairs Division, Civic and  
Community Services Dept.

**Address:**

Asahikawa International Center  
Feeeal Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8-  
chome, Asahikawa 070-0031

**Tel:** (0166) 25-7491

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**E-mail:**

cir\_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

### Inside This Issue...

<b>Hokkaido News Top 5</b> <i>By TAKADA Nobuhiro</i>	1	<b>40th Anniversary of Heiwadori Kaimonokouen Pt.1</b> <i>By Sergej Nesic</i>	7
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	2-3	<b>Restaurant Review "Yam Yam Stage Ginza 114"</b> <i>By Sergej Nesic</i>	8
<b>Hello Asahikawa "Lene Haugsgjerd"</b> <i>Interviewed by AIC</i>	4-5	<b>Movies</b>	9
<b>Life In Japan "Japanese Surnames"</b> <i>By IKEDA Ayumi</i>	6	<b>Bulletin Board</b>	10

Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo  
Proofreader & Advisor

## THE NEWSPAPER

ザ・ニューズペーパー

This crazy nine-member outfit is back in Asahikawa. Japan's best known live stage satire group, The Newspaper's specializes in social and political themes. Their uncanny impersonations of Japanese and foreign political leaders leave audiences in stitches all over the country.

**Date:** June 4th (Sunday)**Time:** Show 6:30pm**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)**Admission:** General ¥4,500**Ticket Office:** Gyokkodo, Lawson Ticket, Ticket Pia**For further information contact:** 011-261-9991 (Trust KIKAKU Create) \*Weekdays 9:30am thru 6:00pm

## "MY ASAHIKAWA THROUGH TIME" MATSUSHITA MINORU PHOTO EXHIBITION

「時の流れに・私の旭川」松下実写真展

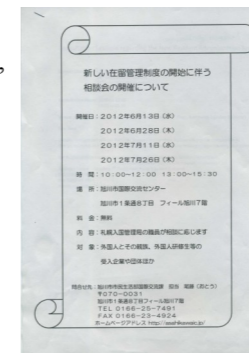
A fascinating collection of photographs chronicling Asahikawa through the post-war Showa Period. Witness the city's development through the ages through endearing images of the city streets and its people. Also, the camera used by MATSUSHITA is on display.

**Date:** Now to June 10th (Sunday)**Time:** 9:00am~5:00pm (last entry 4:30pm)**Venue:** Asahikawa City Museum (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)**Admission:** General ¥300 (\*¥240 groups of over 20 people,) High School Students ¥200 (\*¥160,) Junior High School Students & Under Free, Museum Passport (unlimited visitation for 1 year) General ¥600, High School Students ¥400**Ticket Office:** Asahikawa City Museum**For further information contact:** 69-2004 (Asahikawa City Museum)

## CONSULTATION SESSIONS FOR THE NEW RESIDENT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

新しい在留管理制度の開始に伴う相談会

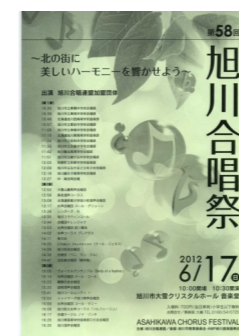
The new resident Registration System for Foreign Residents, which will replace the current Alien Registration System, will begin on 9th July, 2012. Four free consultation sessions for foreign residents and their families, for businesses and organizations hosting foreign trainees, etc., will be held over June and July. Officials from the Sapporo Regional Immigration Bureau will be on hand to take any questions you may have. All foreign residents are welcome to attend, so if you're uncertain about anything with regards to the new resident administration system, feel free to book a session.

**Dates:** June 13th (Wednesday,) June 28th (Thursday,) July 11th (Wednesday,) July 26th (Thursday)**Time:** Morning Sessions 10:00am thru 12:00pm, Afternoon Sessions 1:00pm thru 3:30pm**Venue:** Asahikawa International Center (1-jo dori 8-chome "Feeeal" Asahikawa 7F)**Admission:** Free**For further information & bookings contact:** 25-7491 (Ms. Otou, Asahikawa City International Division)

## 58TH ANNUAL ASAHIKAWA CHORUS FESTIVAL

第58回旭川合唱祭

One of the biggest annual music events in Asahikawa is here. Organized by the Asahikawa Choral Federation, this year's chorus festival will bring together an incredible forty different chorus groups! The three-part extravaganza will include various junior high school and high school groups from Asahikawa, as well as numerous amateur and professional groups from the Asahikawa area and other parts of Hokkaido. Don't miss out on this amazing celebration of beautiful sounds and melodies.

**Date:** June 17th (Sunday)**Time:** Doors 10:00am, Show 10:30pm**Venue:** Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)**Admission:** General ¥700, Elementary School Students & Under Free**For further information & tickets contact :** 54-5725 (HISAJIMA)

## TOKYO NEW BRASS ENSEMBLE “JOYFUL BUGLE” CONCERT

東京ニューブラス にぎやかラッパのコンサート

Tokyo New Brass Ensemble is made up of six members, UMEDA Naoki (Trombone,) ISHI Kenichi (Trumpet,) HAYASHI Ikuhiro (Horn,) TAKEDA Masayoshi (Trombone,) OZAKI Mitsuhiro (Tuba,) and MASUDA Hiroyuki (Drums.) The ensemble was formed in 1994 and perform in schools and halls all around the country. Their Asahikawa show will include, “William Tell Overture,” Bach’s “Fugue,” “La Virgen De La Macarena” and many more.

**Date:** June 23rd (Saturday)

**Time:** Doors 10:00am, Show 10:30am

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

**Admission:** General ¥1,500, Junior High School Students & Under ¥500

**Ticket Office:** Yamaha Music Asahikawa Store, Gyokkodo, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Kawai Music Asahikawa Showroom

**For further information contact:** 69-2000 (Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall)



## 28TH ANNUAL “KYOKUSUI POPS” BRASS ORCHESTRA CONCERT

第28回「旭吹ポップス」コンサート

This year’s two-part concert by the Asahikawa Brass Orchestra, also known as “Kyokusui Pops,” is loaded with all time classic themes, such as “On the Sunny Side of the Street,” “The Man I Love,” “My Way,” “La Bamba,” “New York, New York,” and many, many more.

**Date:** June 23rd (Saturday)

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

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

**Admission:** General ¥800 (¥1,000 at the door,) High School Students & Under ¥500 (¥700 at the door)

**Ticket Office:** Yamaha Music Asahikawa Store, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall,

**For further information contact:** 46-4320 (NAGAHORI)



## “YAMI NI SAKUHANA” PERFORMED BY THE KOMATSUZA THEATER COMPANY

こまつ座公演「闇に咲く花」

“Yami ni Sakuhana” (A Bloomer in Darkness) was written by INOUE Hisahi and depicts life in post-war occupied Japan. The story centers on, Kentaro (played by KURIYAMA Tamiya,) who returns from the front and goes on to fulfill his dream of becoming a professional baseball player. The play is performed for the 97th time by the Komatsuzaka Theater Company.

**Date:** June 26th (Tuesday,) 27th (Wednesday)

**Time:** June 26th 6:30pm, June 27th 1:30pm

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

**Admission:** Open to members of the Asahikawa Citizens’ Theater. Groups of 3 or more can join the society for ¥2,000 plus a monthly membership fee of ¥2,200 for General Members, ¥1,000 for College Students, and ¥500 for High School Students.

**Ticket Office:** Yamaha Music Asahikawa Store

**For further information and tickets contact:** 23-1655 (Asahikawa Citizens’ Theater)



## SATO CHURYO EXHIBITION

佐藤忠良展

SATO Churyo was one of Japan’s foremost post-war master sculptors. This exhibition commemorates the centennial of his birth, as well as being one of the special exhibitions celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art.

Works on display will also include SATO’s picture books.

**Date:** July 4th (Wednesday) thru August 26th (Sunday)

**Time:** 9:30am~5:00pm (last entry 4:30pm) Museum is closed on Mondays.

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

**Admission:** General ¥900(\* for groups of over 10 people ¥700) University & High School Students ¥600 (\* ¥400) & Junior High School Students & Under Free

Pensioners, Disabled, & Persons with special needs Free.

**Ticket Office:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art

**For further information contact:** 25-2577 (Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art)



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR JUNE



# Hello Asahikawa!

**Name:** Lene Haugsgjerd  
**Hometown:** Haugesund, Norway  
**Interviewed:** 23rd May, 2012  
**By** AIC

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

**Lene:** I am an exchange student from Norway as part of the AFS international student exchange program. I attend the Asahikawa Agricultural High School, and I will be here for one year.

**AIC:** *Did you choose to do the exchange at the Asahikawa Agricultural High School?*

**Lene:** No, I just received an e-mail back home in Norway saying that I've been chosen to do the exchange at the high school. I was actually a little nervous at first when I learned which class I'd be attending. It's the Forest Science class and there are only ten girls and 32 boys in the class. I preferred to be put in some other classes which are all girls and sound really fun and interesting, such as flower decoration and working with children. However, since I am an exchange student I wasn't able to choose the class I would be in. Actually, it turned out great because I am allowed to attend all the classes and partake in various activities.

**AIC:** *Do you live with a host family?*

**Lene:** Yes, I'm staying with a three-member host family. Father, mother, and a daughter who is my age. They live in Nagayama, which is around 20 minutes from my school, so it's very convenient. I spend a lot of time with them and I really enjoy it. We often watch TV together, which helps with my studies of Japanese. As to my Norwegian family, I have got both my parents and one older sister, age 20, who is currently waiting to start her studies on marine science. I was pleasantly surprised when I found out that my host family is very similar to my Norwegian one, it made me settle in a lot faster than I had expected. As of today, I feel very much at home with my host family and I don't think I could have gotten a better match for me.

**AIC:** *Tell us a little bit about your hometown.*

**Lene:** Well. Norway in itself is pretty small, population wise, and my town is the 23rd biggest town in the country. The population of Haugesund is just little under 35,000 people. It's located between two bigger cities, Bergen and Stavanger, to which I sometimes go shopping with friends. Haugesund was founded as a herring fishing village, but today the petroleum industry is the main industry in the region. We have a couple of well-known festivals each year that bring people from all over Europe and beyond. Primarily, the Norwegian International Film Festival and an international jazz festival called, Sildajazz. There's also The Herring Festival and The Boat Festival, amongst others. So, our town is known for its herring and jazz. During the film festival an award known as Amanda is awarded, and thus the festival is also known as the Amanda Festival. Amanda was a girl in Norwegian folklore and many things are named after her in and around Haugesund. I can't tell you for sure if she really existed or not.

**AIC:** *What did you like to do in your free time back home.*

**Lene:** I spent a lot of time studying Japanese. I also spent a lot of time with friends and my boyfriend. My hometown is quite small, so there really isn't a lot to do but I've managed

*Continued from Page 4*

**Lene:** to do various things. I joined a brass band, different kinds of sports, dance, and other activities. Eventually however, studying Japanese became my main interest, and I'm very pleased that it turned out that way. The high school I attended is one of the most popular in Norway, Skeisvang Secondary School. It's unique in that it's split into a normal high school and a school of music, dance and drama. I attended the normal school, the reason being that if I attended the arts school I wouldn't be able to come to Japan as an exchange student. Otherwise, I would've chosen to go to the arts school. Also, my family traveled quite a lot. I've been to 13 countries in and outside of Europe. We once traveled down the east coast of the US from New York to Miami. The favorite place I've visited was Rome; there's just so much history there and so much to see.

**AIC:** *Is the Norwegian education system similar to the Japanese?*

**Lene:** It's pretty much the same. We have almost the same schedule, only we have eight classes a day as opposed to six in Japan. We study three languages at school, Norwegian, English, and a language of our choice. Unfortunately, Japanese is not one of them but I've heard that Chinese will be offered from next year.

**AIC:** *What drew you to Japan?*

**Lene:** I watched a Japanese movie around five years ago and I felt that the language is so pretty. The movie made me want to hear more Japanese, so I started listening to Japanese music. It just progressed from there. I made a lot of presentations about Japan at school, and a few of them were about the Ainu. Since Japanese wasn't offered at my high school, I had to find a private tutor. I put an ad in the local paper, and a friend of the Japanese teacher saw it and contacted her. She was quite busy, as there are not many native Japanese teachers in the region, so I could only take lessons once a week. Despite this, I was still able to improve my Japanese skills. You can say that I knew quite a bit about Japan and Hokkaido before I came here. By the way, I'm planning to visit my Japanese teacher from Norway in Kumamoto during my stay here.

**AIC:** *What was your first reaction when you learned that you're going to Asahikawa?*

**Lene:** I did a search on Google, and what really stood out for me was the fact that it's the coldest city in Japan. I initially wanted to go somewhere south, but after doing more research I actually became more interested. Now that I've been here for two months I couldn't be happier. I don't think I could handle any more heat. My hometown has also quite drastic temperature changes during the year but not as sharp as here. The coldest we get is around  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  in winter to around  $25^{\circ}\text{C}$  in summer. Also, Haugesund is on the coast, so we get a lot of rain.

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

**Lene:** Well, my primary goal as an exchange student here is to perfect my Japanese. I want to be able to read Haruki Murakami's novels in Japanese, and understand it. I don't think this will be possible in one year, but I hope to develop the basic skills from which I can build on after I leave Japan. My long-term goal is to work in the foreign service, such as in a Norwegian embassy. I really want to work with other cultures and contribute to cross-cultural understanding. Just during my two months here in Asahikawa I have learned how important and exciting it is to experience a foreign culture and society.

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

**Lene:** You're welcome.



*Haugesund*

# Life In Japan

## Japanese Family-names

By: IKEDA Ayumi

Sato, Suzuki, Takahashi....You probably have heard of these names more than once. These are the top three most common last names in Japan.

The number of Japanese surnames is estimated to be from 150,000 to 300,000, depending on the way the Kanji is read (for example, '山崎' can be read both as 'Yamasaki' and 'Yamazaki',) while Koreans have around 300, and Chinese around 3, 000.

Although there are a lot of names in Japan today, it doesn't necessarily mean that they all have ancient roots. Actually, most of them are 'family names,' whose number has greatly increased during the Heian era. Prior to that, the number and types of 'family names' were quite limited, as they are today in Korea and China.

Some of the less common 'family names' are 源(Minamoto) or 平(Taira), and 橘(Tachibana,) which are surnames given by the Emperor. In addition, 蘇我(Soga) and 物部(Mononobe) are from ancient local ruling families, while 宇佐(Usa) and 阿蘇(Aso) are from Shinto priests.

On the other hand, the most major Japanese surnames derive from geographical names, such as a prefectures, 福岡(Fukuoka) or 香川(Kagawa.) While the second most common types are names whose roots derive from topography or natural landscape, such as 山田(Yamada) and 森(Mori.) This is the reason why so many Japanese last names have 山(mountain,) 川(river,) 田(rice field,) and so on. Also, names such as 西村(Nishimura,) which means 'west village,' there are many surnames which represent north, south, east and west. In addition, some of the most common surnames, such as 佐藤(Sato,) 近藤(Kondo,) 斉藤(Saito,) 加藤(Kato,) or 伊藤(Ito,) have 藤(Fuji - wisteria,) at the end of the name. This usually derives from the Fujiwara (藤原) family which dominated old Japan.

By the way, my surname has recently changed from 瀬尾(Seo) to 池田(Ikeda,) as a result of getting married. When I was a child I really didn't like my last name, as it was uncommon. I hoped that someday I'd be able to change it to a more common one. However, now that I am IKEDA (池田,) I kind of miss my old name. Before I knew it, I actually came to prefer being somewhat uncommon.

### The ranking of Japanese last names:

1. 佐藤 (Sato)
2. 鈴木 (Suzuki)
3. 高橋 (Takahashi)
4. 田中 (Tanaka)
5. 渡辺／渡邊 (Watanabe)



# 40th Anniversary of Heiwadori Kaimonokoen

## Part 1

By Sergej Nesic

This historic Asahikawa landmark, and Japan's first pedestrian shopping street, celebrates its 40th anniversary this year with numerous public events taking place starting from June 2. Even though there are various ways it can be called in English (Kaimono-koen Shopping Street, Heiwadori Kaimono-koun, Kaimono-koen Pedestrian Plaza, and so on,) what everyone agrees on is that it's the cultural and social heart of this beautiful city.

Kaimono-koen was first opened to the public as a pedestrian zone on June 1, 1972, but its origins go back over a 100 years. The street itself was built around 1900 and served as a transit route for the military. Soldiers would alight at Asahikawa Station and travel down the street to the garrison of the Imperial Army of Japan's 7th Division; hence the first naming of the street as Shidandoro - 師団道路 (Division road.) From 1917 to 1921 an omnibus service was in operation from the station to the garrison. The service ran into debt and was terminated in 1922. However, in 1924 it was reestablished as a permanent bus route. To facilitate the use of the road for public transport, in 1929 Suzuran streetlamps were installed, and Shidandoro lit up the night sky for the first time.

Following the end of WWII, the 7th Division garrison was closed down and replaced with the Ground Self Defense Force 2nd Division. With this, Shidandoro became Heiwadori - 平和通 (Peace Street.)

During the 1960's, with the rapid rise of the use of private motorcars Japan witnessed a sharp increase in road accidents. The number of accidents reached its peak in 1970, so much so that a nationwide Kotsu Senso - 交通戦争 (War on Traffic) was declared. This situation prompted town planning policies promoting the introduction of pedestrian zones where people could safely go about their business, especially shopping.



*Shidandoro (circa 1926) from 4-jo facing the station*



*The 7th Division of the Imperial Army of Japan marching down Shidandoro toward the station*



*Suzuran streetlamps at Heiwadori (circa 1965) at 3-jo facing the station*



# Restaurant Review

## Yam Yam Stage Ginza 114

By Sergej Nesic

Although Hokkaido is known for its *Ezo* venison (deer meat,) finding a restaurant that specializes in the delicacy in Asahikawa is surprisingly difficult. So when I discovered by chance this little gem of a place I was over the moon.

Yam Yam Stage opened last year and is conveniently located just off Ginza shopping street. The interior is warm and comfortable, with an open dining area and two Japanese style rooms. However, what's more tantalizing than the splendid wooden interior is the menu, and it's quite extensive and diverse.

The signature dish is the Asahikawa original, *Sumakara*, which is kara-age-style fried Ezo venison wrapped in a tortilla. Then there is its cousin, the Beauty, which is venison kara-age in pita bread. Both are very reasonably priced at ¥290 and come with three choices of sauce: Teriyaki mayonnaise, Salsa, and Avocado. Great take-away option.

For more of a dining-in option there are set menu, rice bowl, pasta, and sandwich offerings. The set menu includes a venison - katsu (schnitzel) with rice and salad (¥850,) as well as venison curry (¥650.) Pastas include carbonara, pepperoncini, venison meat sauce (all ¥780,) and a pasta lunch set (¥950.)

There are various side-dishes on offer and an excellent dessert menu. But as they say, you don't have to take my word for it, try it yourself. For all those seeking a healthier meat option, which also happens to be a local delicacy, you won't regret acquainting yourself with Yam Yam Stage Ginza 114.

**Location:** 1-jo 14-chome (Ginza shopping street)

**Opening Hours:** 11:00am thru 7:00pm  
(closed Sundays and public holidays)

**Tel:** 73-8250

**Homepage:** <http://yamyam-stage.com/>



*Sumakara*







## Movies ~ June



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

\*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 Feeeal Asahikawa (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at "Nagayama 10 (ju)-jo 3 (san)-chome."

Now Showing	Coming Soon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Gaiji Keisatsu (Japanese)</li> <li>● Girl (Japanese)</li> <li>● Bokura ga Ita Pt2 (Japanese)</li> <li>● Thermae Romae (Japanese)</li> <li>● The Vow (English)</li> <li>● Sadako 3D (Japanese)</li> <li>● Dark Shadows (English)</li> <li>● Space Brothers (Japanese)</li> <li>● Men in Black 3(English/3D)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We Bought a Zoo (English)</li> <li>● Hotaru no Hikari (Japanese)</li> <li>● Ai to Makoto(Japanese)</li> <li>● The Amazing Spiderman (English)</li> <li>● Snow White and the Huntsman (English)</li> </ul>

★ **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 Feeeal Asahikawa (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at "Nippon Seishi mae."

Now Showing	Coming Soon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Conan - The 11th Striker (Japanese/Animation) *until June 8</li> <li>● Thermae Romae (Japanese)</li> <li>● Kamen Raider - Superhero Taisen (Japanese)</li> <li>● Spec (Japanese) *until June 8</li> <li>● Waga Haha no Ki (Japanese)</li> <li>● Nijiuro Hotaru (Japanese/Animation) *until June 8</li> <li>● Beginners (English )</li> <li>● Men in Black 3(English)</li> <li>● Dark Shadows (English)</li> <li>● Larry Crowne (English)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Berserk - Dorudorei Koryaku (Japanese/Animation)</li> <li>● Killer Elite (English )</li> <li>● Love Masao Kimi ga Iku (Japanese)</li> <li>● We Bought a Zoo (English)</li> <li>● Snow White and the Huntsman (English)</li> </ul>

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

# The 80th Annual Hokkaido Parade of Marching Bands

It's June and time for the biggest marching band parade in Japan! Marching bands ranging from pre-school and elementary school students to pro old-timers will be strutting their stuff along downtown streets. Last year 96 bands took part, and this anniversary milestone year promises even more!

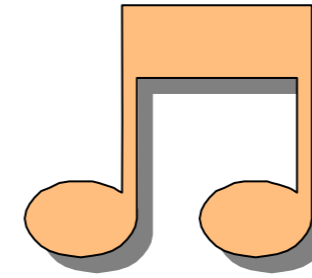
**Date:** June 9th (Saturday)

**Opening Ceremony:** General Bands 12:00pm (Riverine Asahibashi,) Pre-school Bands 12:05pm (in the front square of the Asahikawa Civic Cultural Center 7-jo 9-chome,) parade starts at 1:00pm

**Route:** *General Bands* (Riverine - Rotary - 8-jo dori - Eiryubashi-dori - 1-jo 10-chome - Nisshin Forest Park (Nisshin no Morikouen)

*Pre-school Bands* (Asahikawa Civic Cultural Center - Asahikawa City Hall - Eiryubashi-dori - 1-jo 10-chome - Nisshin Forest Park (Nisshin no Morikouen)

**After-parade Concert:** Kaimono Koen Shopping Street  
For more information contact: 23-0090 (Asahikawa Tourist Association)



## 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:** *Spring Session:* June 8th

*Summer Session:* July 13th, August 10th, September 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)

## International Center Announcement

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

**The AIC offers many services to make your life in Asahikawa more enjoyable. Here are just a few:**

**Volunteer Guide:** Volunteers are registered to help translate and interpret.

**Event Volunteer:** The AIC has many exciting events planned for this year, including Friendship Parties and a Halloween Party. Why not become a volunteer and help plan these events?

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

**For further information or to register, please contact AIC.**

**Center Computers:** The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has two computers available for public use free of charge. There is a time limit for use and prior registration is necessary. Please feel free to come by and use it anytime as well as check out some of the other services and activities available at the Asahikawa International Center.

## Spread the Word...

Contribute to the AIC newsletter and share any interesting information you may have with other readers. You may write on any topic including, items to buy or sell, offers for culture/language exchanges, or write an essay about your life in Asahikawa or your hometown. The article should not be profit related! Please send your submissions to us at the AIC.



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