

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

November 2012 VOL. 192

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Hokkaido News Top 5



November 2012
Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

September 18

The temperature reached 32.9 degrees Celsius in Asahikawa. It was the warmest day and the latest tropical day, a day with a highest temperature of 30 degrees Celsius or more, in September in recorded history since the weather station started keeping records in 1888. The previous highest temperature in September was 32.4 degrees Celsius in 1928, and the previous latest tropical day was September 15th, both in 1918 and 2012.

September 19

The number of visitors to the "Tabu Marche" (Food Market) event from September 15th to the 17th reached a record high of 840,000 this year. The executive committee said that the "Eki Marche" (Station Market) event held in JR Asahikawa Station contributed to the increase in the number of visitors. However, some visitors said that the novelty wore off this time or that there were lots of everyday foods.

September 25

Strong winds overturned three heavy motor trucks on Route 5 in Oshamambe Town located between Hakodate and Sapporo. Nearby, a JR Hokkaido limited express train had its way blocked by trees that were knocked down by the wind and had fallen over the railroad tracks. Following its investigation, the Hakodate Marine Observatory announced on September 26th that the gale was actually a tornado.

October 2

The Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters, a professional baseball team based in Sapporo, won the Pacific League Championship for the first time in three years. This is the fourth time they have won the league title in the nine years since the team moved to Hokkaido in 2004. A think tank in Sapporo estimated that the Fighters' 64 games in Hokkaido this year created a positive economic impact worth about 7.9 billion yen.

October 14

All the electricity for the LEDs (light-emitting diodes) used for "The 23rd Sapporo White Illumination" in Odori Park will be provided by private biodiesel fuel electric generators, announced the event's executive committee. The committee will ask citizens and companies in Sapporo to donate used cooking oils. This year's illumination event in Odori Park will be held from November 22nd to December 25th.



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
Fueal Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8-
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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor
and MIYASHITA Emi, Special Assistant

20TH ANNUAL ASAHIKAWA TOEI HIGH SCHOOL PERIODICAL CONCERT 旭川東栄高等学校第20回定期演奏会

In celebration of the 30th anniversary of Asahikawa Toei High School's founding, the Asahikawa Toei High School Band will perform their 20th Periodical Concert. Pieces to be performed include a piece specifically commissioned for this occasion composed by SUZUKI Eiji, *Kompeki no Doto* (Raging Azure Waves) by NAGAO Jun, and a reunion performance with former band members.

Date: November 3rd (Saturday)
Time: Doors 6pm, Show 6:30pm
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)
Admission: All Seats ¥500.
Ticket Offices: Yamaha Music



MONGOLIAN FOLK MUSIC PERFORMANCE "TO THE FAR-OFF STEPPES" モンゴル旭川友好の夕べ～遙かなる草原へ～モンゴル・エヘシゲレン民族音楽芸術舞踏団

Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the beginning of diplomatic relations between Japan and Mongolia, this joint concert featuring the Egschiglen Mongolian Folk Music Performance Troupe and the Asahikawa Folk Song Association will present an evening of traditional music from both cultures. Come and enjoy an evening of Mongolian throat singing and instrumental music, plus *shamisen* performances and local folk song selections.

Date: November 5th (Monday)
Time: Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm
Venue: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)
Admission: Designated Seats ¥4,500, Open Seating ¥4,000
Ticket Offices: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Gyokkodo, Yamaha Music, FM Rivière
For Further Information Contact: 0166-27-1171 (FM Rivière)



3RD ANNUAL ASAHIKAWA MOMMY'S BAND FAMILY CONCERT 第3回旭川マミーズバンドファミリーコンサート

A wind instrument band comprised of mothers from the Asahikawa area, the Asahikawa Mommy's Band will present its third family concert. The selections to be performed include the overture from *Candide* and the opening theme song "We Are!" from the television anime *One Piece*. Bring the whole family for a perfect afternoon of musical fun.

Date: November 11th (Sunday)
Time: Doors 1:30pm, Show 2:00pm
Venue: Nagayama Public Hall (Nagayama 3-jo 19-chome)
Admission: Free (Tickets Required for Entry)
Ticket Offices: Nagayama Public Hall, Yamaha Music
For Further Information Contact: 090-9515-4815 (Asahikawa Mommy's Band)



THE WORLD OF SAMMY NESTICO 88TH BIRTHDAY MEMORIAL CONCERT ザ・ワールド・オブ "サミー・ネスティコ" 米寿記念コンサート

Performed in honor of famed American composer Sammy Nestico's 88th birthday as part of the 17th annual Jazz Month in Asahikawa (JMIA), this concert will feature acclaimed jazz musicians from throughout Japan and the JMIA jazz orchestras. The theme of the concert is "Returning the Favor," expressed by the musicians in appreciation of Mr. Nestico's visit to Asahikawa in 2005 to personally conduct at that year's JMIA event. As Mr. Nestico's works include countless television and film scores, expect an evening of both familiar favorites as well as newer pieces, plus a live message from Mr. Nestico himself via telecast.

Date: November 11th (Sunday)
Time: Doors 6:00pm, Show 6:30pm
Venue: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall (Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)
Admission: General: ¥3,500, Students/Disabled Persons: ¥1,500 (Open Seating, Tickets Purchased on 11/11 ¥500 Extra)
Ticket Sales: Junkudo, Gyokkodo, Yamaha Music, Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall
For Further Information Contact: 0166-22-3567 (MURATA-Jazz Month in Asahikawa)



SHIMAZU AYA CONCERT

島津亜矢コンサート

Fresh from the release of her latest single *Ipponzuri* (Fisherman's Woman), the phenomenal *enka* (Japanese popular ballads) songstress SHIMAZU Aya is coming to Asahikawa for a performance of her hits. Hailed as one of the finest *enka* talents of her generation, Ms. Shimazu's continued popularity has established her as one of the genre's major performers. Don't miss the chance to see this star of the *enka* world live in concert.



Date: November 16th (Friday)
Time: Afternoon Show: 2:00pm, Evening Show: 6:30pm
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)
Admission: S-Seats ¥6,500, A-Seats ¥6,000
Ticket Offices: Gyokkodo, Asahikawa Coach & Four Music Corner
For further information contact: 011-261-9991 (TRUST PLANNING CREATE)

8TH ANNUAL TOKYO METROPOLITAN BRASS QUINTET CONCERT

第8回東京メトロポリタンブラス・クインテット旭川公演

This brass ensemble composed of top players from the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra will play a variety of classic and contemporary works in what is sure to be an unforgettable concert. Pieces to be performed include March No.1 from Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance*, "Londonderry Air" from Holst's *Second Suite in F*, and a selection of music from the popular "Dragon Quest" series of video games. "Dragon Quest" composer SUGIYAMA Koichi will also be present.



Date: November 21st (Wednesday)
Time: Doors 6:30pm, Show 7:00pm
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo, 9-chome)
Admission: General: ¥2,000, High School Students and Younger: ¥1,000 (Tickets Purchased on 11/21 ¥500 Extra)
Ticket Offices: Yamaha Music, Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall
For Further Information Contact: 0166-25-8825 (MIZUNO)

IMAI YUZO AND HAIDA SHOKO FANTASY CONCERT 2012

いまいゆうぞう・はいだしょうこ ファンタジーコンサート2012年

Former cast members from the long-running NHK children's program *Okaasan to Issho* (Together with Mother), singing talents IMAI Yuzo and HAIDA Shoko will present a wondrous show filled with singing, dancing and fun the whole family will enjoy. Also formerly of *Okaasan to Issho*, the talented dancer ITO Mayu will appear as a special guest.



Date: November 23rd (Friday/Holiday)
Time: 1st Performance: Doors: 12:30pm, Show: 1:00pm
 2nd Performance: Doors: 3:00pm, Show: 3:30pm
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)
Admission: All Seats: ¥3,000, Children 2 Yrs. and Under: Free if Seated on Parent's Lap
Ticket Offices: Ticket Pia 0570-02-9999, Lawson 0570-084-001, FM Rivière 0166-27-1171
For Further Information Contact: 011-533-7711 (E Dash)

ASAHIKAWA SYMPHONIC WIND ORCHESTRA 39TH ANNUAL CONCERT

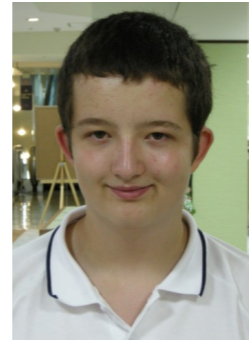
第39回旭川交響吹奏楽団定期演奏会

This year's concert from the Asahikawa Symphonic Wind Orchestra is certain to delight music fans of all ages. Headlining the program is Alfred Reed's *Punchinello*, followed by favorites such as Duke Ellington's "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)" and a selection of pieces from recent hit films and television series.



Date: November 25th (Sunday)
Time: Doors: 6:00pm, Show: 6:30pm
Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (7-jo 9-chome)
Admission: Advance: ¥700, On 11/25: ¥800
Ticket Offices: Asahikawa Coach & Four Ticket Pia, Junkudo, Fukido (Suehiro, Toyooka), Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Taisetsu Crystal Hall, Yamaha Music
For Further Information Contact: 7pm~10pm 090-7650-7551 (CHIYO)

EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR NOVEMBER



Name: Simon Buelhoff

**Hometown: Essen, North Rhine-Westphalia,
Germany**

Interviewed: 11th September, 2012 by AIC

AIC: *Please tell us about your hometown.*

Simon : I am from Essen in North Rhine-Westphalia State in western Germany, near the border with the Netherlands. It was once famous for its coal mining industry, and nowadays there are many different exhibitions in the former coal mining district which still stands today. There are still many businesses there that were involved in coal mining up to 30 years ago. It is a big industrial area, especially the city where I come from. There are many city districts that are close together, so they form one big city. In that way it is similar to Tokyo in terms of size. Actually, I go to school in the next city over because it's very close. The transportation system is amazing. There are buses and trains that come every 10 to 15 minutes and you can go anywhere in the Ruhr area within 45 minutes to an hour at the most, if the trains are on time.

AIC: *Are the trains usually on time?*

Simon : No, they are rarely on time, actually.

AIC: *What kinds of things did you do back home for fun?*

Simon : Mostly I played the drums for fun. I also played tennis and hung out with friends too. I wouldn't say I'm the best drummer or tennis player, but I enjoyed doing those things. School in Germany can last from 8am to 8pm, which is the case at my school. But actually, between classes there can be as many as 3 hours of free time, so I could go home, have lunch and do something else before going back. But aside from that, my free time to go out and do things was pretty limited.

AIC: *When you played the drums, were you part of a band?*

Simon : Actually no, because I couldn't find anyone else who played the other parts for a band, like a bass guitarist or a singer. Because of that I decided to play the drums myself, and maybe when I return to Germany I'll find someone to play with. Maybe I'll even find some people to play with here in Asahikawa.

AIC: *What brought you to Japan?*

Simon : I was interested in the culture, which feels completely different to me. The language interested me as well. Usually in Europe you can learn Spanish, French, English and so on, but those languages are pretty much alike. It's easy for me to learn those languages, but not easy to learn Japanese because it's completely different in every way. So that's actually what interested me the most, the completely different culture.

AIC: *How did you choose to come to Asahikawa?*

Simon : At first I didn't know where I wanted to go. Rotary International offered me a list of some cities and I went with Asahikawa, because it isn't an especially big city. Big cities tend to have the downside that they are to some extent international cities, so big cities around the world all look alike. As a representative of Japanese culture, Kyoto would have been nice, but I didn't have an offer to go there. I figured a smaller town would be best, because then I could experience everyday life in Japan as it really is. From what I've heard, Tokyo does not reflect the everyday life of most Japanese people as much as a smaller city would.

(Interview Continued on Next Page)



Simon Buelhoff Interview Part 2

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

Simon : It was much hotter than I expected it to be. To be honest, the humidity was at first very stressful for me. I heard that winter here can last for up to 6 months, but I came here when it was 30-32 degrees Celsius and the humidity was at 90 percent. That amazed me the most. I think that from the way the city looks, it's completely different from what I know in Germany. The way the city is structured and the way the neighborhoods are set up are different, especially how there are no street names, which confused me at first.

AIC: *What are your impressions of a Japanese school?*

Simon : I've found it to be very comfortable. One thing that I did not know about was that my Japanese classmates do not speak a lot of English, which is unfortunate but besides that I think it is the best school I could have gone to. They are used to having exchange students and even have a room designated for them to use. There is also a counselor who works with the students and guides them through the year, because it can obviously be difficult when there are no teachers who can speak English with you. I get a lot of privileges at this school that might not be the case at other schools. For example, to attend the Japanese language course at AIC, I would have to skip the last two lessons to make it on time. They give me special permission to leave school early to attend this course. Those kinds of things make my life easier and that's what I like about this school so far.

AIC: *What would you like to do in Japan?*

Simon : For now I want to concentrate on learning Japanese. Learning the language and making friends go hand-in-hand I think. I haven't made a lot of plans yet, so I figured that I'll just be open to anything that comes along. I would like to go skiing and go to an *onsen*, something like that which is famous in this area.

AIC: *Is there anything else you have noticed while living in Japan?*

Simon : I guess what stood out to me was seeing the map of the world which was centered on Japan. It was different from the maps I was used to, so I was pretty confused at first. I like living here so far and I hope it gets even better in the winter, when I can go skiing and so on. Hopefully I can learn enough Japanese to start to be able to talk to the people around me so I can enjoy this year even more. Things for exchange students here are far better than what exchange students in Germany are able to enjoy, so this is really great for me.

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

Simon : When I return home I want to finish up at my school. After that, I would like to maybe look for a school that offers Japanese classes. That way, I can continue to learn Japanese, especially *kanji*, which I doubt I can learn completely while I'm here. Then I might consider coming back to Japan to study and go to university. I'm not sure if I can pass the entrance exams though. I would like to study robotic engineering, which is something that really interests me now. I don't know if that will change two years from now, but I'd like to do something scientific. That doesn't make it easy to study in Japan, because there are probably lots of scientific terms written in *kanji* that I might not be able to understand. But I'll do my best and if anything, maybe I'll be able to work in Japan someday after studying in Germany or the U.S.

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

Simon : You're welcome.

Life In Asahikawa

7-5-3

By: KITAMURA Tadao

Shichi-go-san, or *hichi-go-san* as some people from the Osaka area might pronounce, means ‘seven-five-three.’ Here in Japan, these prime numbers have been considered to be lucky numbers ever since ancient times. You might recall the big straw rope displayed under the eaves of a Shinto shrine, marking the border between the sacred and the everyday worlds. It too is called *Shichi-go-san*, or by its other name of *shimenawa*.



This theme continues on to another *Shichi-go-san*, which is a children’s celebration. November 15th is the day of *Shichi-go-san*, an event in which parents celebrate their children’s growth. 3- and 5-year-old boys and 3- and 7-year-old girls are accompanied by their parents to visit *Shinto* shrines, where their parents, who might not normally be so pious, pray for their children’s good future.

Today, the opportunities to find very Japan-like manners and customs are rapidly decreasing. However, visiting a shrine precinct in this season on one fine holiday will give you a good chance to see a lovely local custom of Japan.

Boys often wear *haori* and *hakama*, the formal *kimono* style for men, and girls wear *furisode*, long-sleeved *kimono*. They look so happy, carrying colorfully decorated paper bags containing a few pieces of good-luck-bringing candies called *chitose-ame*, which means ‘long-life candy.’ Parents eagerly try to catch nice shots of their beloved children with their cameras.

Photo studios in town are also very busy during the *Shichi-go-san* season. This is because most parents take their children to a photo studio after having celebrated *Shichi-go-san* at a shrine to get their pictures taken on this special occasion.

To tell the truth, November 15th is too late for the celebration here in Asahikawa. Because it is too cold, cloudy and rainy here in November, it is not a good time for children to wear *kimono* outdoors. As a result, many parents here are apt to observe the celebration one month in advance.

People are very busy during this season with preparing for the coming winter. They have to change the tires on their cars to those designed for winter, which effectively prevent slipping on snowy or icy roads. They set up makeshift shelters over the plants in their gardens using thin bamboo sticks and straw rope to protect them from the snow and cold winds. However, most of the shelters are now actually made with plastic and other artificial materials.

One day or night this month, a very strong wind will blow and remove all the leaves from the trees. This is called *kogarashi*, the cold wintry wind. After the windy night has passed, gardeners instantly find themselves busy in their gardens or on the roads by their houses sweeping and gathering the scattered leaves.

Life In Japan

Enjoying the *Kotatsu* Life in Autumn and Winter

By: SAKURABA Satoshi

It has been getting colder recently and now it is time to bring out the *kotatsu* (こたつ). The *kotatsu* provides a unique way of staying warm at home in Japan. It is a small table with an electric heater underneath that is covered by a quilt. Many Japanese people love it.

Once we sit under the *kotatsu*, it is hard to get out from under it because it makes us feel cozy by keeping our legs warm. It could be said that sitting under the *kotatsu* and watching TV is a happy part of late autumn and winter. Moreover, as mentioned above, the *kotatsu* has a table top with which you can do anything. For example, you can read books, do puzzles, surf the Internet, play video games, use portable electronics and so on. Additionally, you can also do work or study under the *kotatsu*. However, you might make slow progress because you may become so relaxed that you doze off. Incidentally, I cannot recommend sleeping under the *kotatsu* overnight since you might feel the symptoms of dehydration.

We can also eat sitting at the *kotatsu*. For Japanese people it's easy to imagine the scene of tangerines on the *kotatsu* table. Strangely, there are many people who like eating something cold (ice cream, etc.) under the warm *kotatsu*. Although this inconsistent behavior might be hard to understand at first, you will find that it is not a bad idea after all.

When we use the *kotatsu*, we often sit with our legs crossed, but this sitting style might be hard for non-Japanese to do for a long time. So, you can instead sit on a legless chair under the *kotatsu*. Imagine you are sitting on a legless chair with your legs under the warm *kotatsu*, a TV in front of you and your favorite snack on the table. This combination will no doubt make anyone happy in the cold autumn and winter.

Please enjoy your *kotatsu* life!



Hello Wild Flowers

Wandering Among The Wildflowers Around Asahikawa
By Hitoshi KUDOH

One day there flew over the city a little swallow. His friends had gone away to the tropics six weeks before, but he had stayed behind, for he was a procrastinator. Then he heard someone sobbing. So he alighted on the pebbly ground underneath the eaves of a house. He found a yellow flower heaving with sobs stuck among the pebbles.

“What is the matter with you, Flower?” asked he.

“Across the street there lives a seamstress and her little boy in a garret,” said the flower. “She is thin and worn while her son is lying ill in bed. He has a fever, and is asking for oranges but his mother has nothing to give him. Incidentally, however, I am a cat’s ear and a good food for people. So I could help them if my root were not fastened to the ground. I cannot move. That is why I am weeping. Swallow, will you take my leaves to them for me?”

“But you are going to sacrifice yourself,” said he. “I cannot bear it.”

“Mais si le grain de blé ne meurt, il reste seul.” insisted the flower. “Allez, s’il vous plaît!”

So the swallow picked out the leaves from the taproot, and flew away with them in his beak.

BUTANA (豚菜) *Hypochoeris radicata*

Family: Compositae

Common name: False dandelion, Cat’s ear, Flat weed, Hairy wild lettuce.

Porcelle enracinée (<deeply rooted> salade du porc)

Description: It is a perennial herb. In late spring, club-shaped cotyledons appear from a seed and grow to a rosette. The rosette leaves are hairy, dark green, serrated or pinnately lobed. In due course, a solid scape or more erect up to 20~50cm, unbranched or slightly branched. Leaves and scapes exude white latex when cut.

The bright yellow scapose flower head is 3~4 cm across; consists of ray-florets, surrounded with scaly bracts. The airborne pappi of achenes form a clock.

The scapes die down in winter but the robust rosette remains.

Edible (leaves; steamed, boiled, raw in salad. taproot; roasted)

Habitat: Roadside, cultivated and waste land, lawn, meadow, field.

Distribution: Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu. Native to Europe.



Water Color Painting of a Butana
By Hitoshi KUDOH

 **Movies ~ November** 

*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.

**Please be aware that scheduled screenings might be cancelled due to planned power blackouts. Make sure to contact the cinema before going to see a movie.*

★ 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"> ● The Bourne Legacy (English) ● Hotel Transylvania (Japanese Dub/Animation) ● Odoru Daisosasen The Final (Japanese) ● Tenchi Meisatsu (Japanese) ● Tsunagu (Japanese) ● The Lorax (Japanese Dub/Animation 3D) ● The Raven (English) ● The Expendables 2 (English & Japanese Dub) ● Resident Evil: Damnation (English/Animation 3D) ● Tsui no Shintaku (Japanese) ● Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (English & Japanese Dub 3D) 11/1 ● Nobou no Shiro (Japanese) 11/2 ● Kita no Canaria-tachi (Japanese) 11/3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aku no Kyoten (Japanese) 11/10 ● Evangelion:3.0 You Can (Not) Redo. (Japanese/Animation) 11/17 ● By Rule of CROW’s Thumb (Japanese) 11/23 ● Lockout (English) 11/23 ● Trouble with the Curve (English) 11/23 ● Play at tug-of-war (Japanese) 11/23

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

Now Showing	Coming Soon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Odoru Daisosasen The Final (Japanese) ● The Intouchables (French) ● Outrage 2 (Japanese) ● The Lorax (Japanese Dub/Animation) ● The Raven (English) ● The Expendables 2 (English) ● Uchu Keiji Gavan THE MOVIE (Japanese) ● Argo (English) ● Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (English) 11/1 ● Paranormal Activity 4 (English) 11/1 ● Nobou no Shiro (Japanese) 11/2 ● Kita no Canaria-tachi (Japanese) 11/3 ● Fly With The Gold (Japanese) 11/3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Magical Girl Lyrical NANOHA the MOVIE 2nd A’s (Japanese/Animation) 11/3~11/16 ● Cirque du Soleil Worlds Away 3D (English) 11/9 ● Ninkyo Helper (Japanese) 11/17 ● Evangelion:3.0 You Can (Not) Redo. (Japanese/Animation) 11/17 ● By Rule of CROW’s Thumb (Japanese) 11/23 ● Trouble with the Curve (English) 11/23 ● Inazuma Eleven GO vs. Danboru Senki W (Japanese/Animation) 12/1 ● Skyfall (English) 12/1 ● The Woman in Black (English) 12/1 ● Kyou, Koi wo Hajimemasu (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

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

Eastern European Cooking Seminar

Researcher of Eastern European home cooking and Higashikawa resident Ms. YOKOYAMA Adina will introduce some popular recipes used in homes throughout Romania and Eastern Europe. Participants are requested to bring an apron, a bandanna, and a notebook.

Seminar will be conducted in Japanese.

Date: November 18th (Sunday), 10:00am~1:30pm.

Deadline for Registration: November 12th (Monday)

Venue: Kagura Public Hall 2F (Kagura 3-jo 6-chome)

Fee: ¥500 (Max. 20 Participants)

For More Information Call: 0166-25-7491 (Asahikawa International Committee)



Fun Fridays

International Center Announcement

The **American Corner** in the Asahikawa International Center has a wide selection of **classic films and music albums on DVD and CD** available for viewing and listening in the center completely **free of charge**. This carefully-chosen selection of films and albums has many favorites familiar to movie and music fans, and is an excellent resource for those who want to have fun while gaining a better understanding of American popular culture.

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:* November 9th, December 14th

Time: 1:00 ~ 3:00pm & 6:30 ~ 8:30pm, 2nd Friday of the month

Location: Asahikawa International Center, Common Meeting Room (1) Feeeeal 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 (Feeeeal 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.****