

# 旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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## Hokkaido News Top 5



June 2014

Compiled by TAKADA Nobuhiro

### April 23

Eijun TSUCHIDA, a former principal cellist of Sapporo Symphony Orchestra, had the 200<sup>th</sup> charity concert at Hokkaido Newspaper Plaza in Sapporo for the children affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. He always plays the cello whose owner was killed by the tsunami in Iwate Prefecture at charity concerts where he usually begins with “El Cant dels Ocells,” Pablo Casals’ favorite piece. The money TSUCHIDA raised for the children in Tohoku has reached 17 million yen.

### May 3

Kamishihoro Town, near Obihiro, announced that donors to the town are invited to a hot-air balloon ride, if donations from Hokkaido reach more than 500 thousand yen and from outside of Hokkaido, more than a million yen. Kamishihoro is known as a host for “Hokkaido Balloon Festival” in August and “Kamishihoro Winter Balloon Meeting” in February every year. The town was funded by donations of 243.5 million yen last year.

### May 8

Japan Policy Council made a public announcement of projected population for women, aged 20 to 39 in Japan. According to the report, female demographic will be down by more than half in 2040 compared to 2010 in 147 municipalities across Hokkaido and 33 in northern Hokkaido. 116 municipalities in Hokkaido and 28 in northern Hokkaido whose population is estimated less than 10,000 in 2040 are likely to disappear due to challenges in properly maintaining infrastructures.

### May 11

Cycling lovers can enjoy a 400 km ride along the coastline of the Okhotsk Sea in June. Japan Cycling Association is holding “Okhotsk Line 400 Ride” from Wakkanai City to Ohmu Town on July 10 and 11 for the first time. In addition, cyclists can have another long-distance bike ride on July 12 and 13, if they take part in “the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Okhotsk Cycling 2014” from Ohmu Town to Shari Town.

### May 15

China Eastern Airlines decided to start regular flights between Asahikawa and Shanghai from July 10 on. The airline plans to operate the international flights on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays for the time being until October 24. This is the third international flight to connect to/from Asahikawa, after Taipei, Taiwan and Seoul, South Korea.



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

Asahikawa International Committee  
(SASAKI Mai, Kim LACEY, or SAITO Emmy)

### Location:

International/City Affairs Division,  
Comprehensive Policy Dept.

### Address:

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

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Special Thanks to KAWAI Tatsuo, Proofreader & Advisor

## The World of Tatsuaki KURODA: In Commemoration of the 110th Anniversary of His Birth 生誕110年 黒田辰秋の世界 一目利き匠の邂逅

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

**Date:** now to June 22nd (Sunday) except on Mondays  
**Time:** 9:30 am to 5:00 pm (admission is until 4:30 pm)  
**Venue:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (inside Tokiwa Park)  
**Admission:** General—¥920, University and High School Students—¥610, Elementary and Middle School Students—¥300  
**Website:** <http://www.dokyo.jp.hokkaido.jp/hk-asamu/>



## The First Tasting of Freezing Point's Holy Ground, Mihonrin, through Vicarious Experience 第一回追体験で味わう「氷点」の聖地 見本林

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of MIURA Ayako's best-selling and debut novel, "Freezing Point (氷点)," MIURA Ayako Literature Museum is offering a chance for readers to vicariously experience a setting of Freezing Point, Mihonrin. For your information, MIURA was not only a native of Asahikawa, but also spent almost her entire life here in the City until her death in 1999.

**Date:** now to June 29th (Sunday)  
**Time:** 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (admission is until 4:30 pm)  
**Venue:** MIURA Ayako Literature Museum (Kagura 7-jo 8-chome)  
**Admission:** General—¥500, University/High School Students—¥300, Middle School and Under—¥150



## Reducing Kitchen Waste: Healthy Cooking Grand Prix 生ゴミをグッと減量! 減るし〜料理グランプリ

Environmental Affairs Department of Asahikawa City is looking for ways to reduce kitchen waste by inviting people to share their delicious and healthy recipes that include skins and cores of vegetable and fruit. Any recipe is welcome as long as it is original.

**Date:** now to July 11th (Friday)  
**How to Participate:** Fill out the assigned form and mail with a picture of the food to:  
 旭川市 環境部 環境政策課 ごみ減量政策係 (旭川市6条通9丁目46番地)  
 Or email necessary files, with a subject line "環境政策課 ごみ減量政策係" to  
[gomigenryo@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp](mailto:gomigenryo@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp)  
**Who Should Apply:** Anybody who is residing in or commutes to Asahikawa City  
**Prize:** ¥10,000 (1), ¥5,000 (2), ¥3,000 (2), Asappi character goods for all  
**For More Information Contact:** 0166-25-6324



## The Exhibition of 23rd Kembuchi Picture Book Village Grand Prize Winner 第23回けんぶち絵本の里大賞受賞記念展

This exhibition will be featuring nineteen original pictures of Hiroshi ABE's picture book, "A Crocodile and a Dolphin (クロコダイルとイルカ)," which won the 23rd Kembuchi Picture Book Village Grand Prize. In addition, there will be fifteen pieces of original photographs from a renowned Japanese photographer Seiichi MOTOHASHI, which were used in a photo picture book called, "My Family Owns a Butcher Shop (うちは精肉店)," which won a Bibakarasu Award



**Date:** now to June 22nd (Sunday) except on Mondays and Tuesdays  
**Time:** 10:00 am to 6:00 pm  
**Venue:** Gallery PuruPuru of Kawauso Club Office (7-jo 8-chome)  
**Admission:** Free



## Special Exhibition “Yasushi INOUE: Man and Literature”

### 企画展 「井上靖 人と文学」

The focused timeframe for the exhibition is around Showa 25 (1950), when two of INOUE's works, 闘牛 (Bullfight) and 猟銃 (The Hunting Gun), were nominated for the prestigious Akutagawa Prize. The former work won the 22nd Akutagawa Prize, but this period was a considerably challenging phase for INOUE Yasushi's life, as he was still working for a newspaper company at the age of 43 while trying to concentrate on writing. This exhibition will try to look into the origins of INOUE's literature inspiration during this time through his short stories and poems.

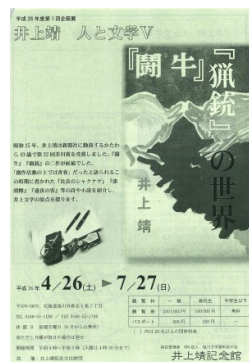
**Date:** now to July 27th (Sunday)

**Time:** 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (admission is until 4:30 pm)

**Venue:** INOUE Yasushi Memorial Hall (Shunko 5-jo 7-chome)

**Admission:** General—¥200, High School Students—¥100, Children—Free

**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-51-1188



## SHIMAZU Aya's 2014 Concert: White Rainbow

### 2014 島津亜矢コンサート ～白虹～

SHIMAZU Aya is an enka singer known for her biggest hit song “Aizome Katsura wo Mou Ichido,” which was released in 1991 and sold over 3 million copies. She also has appeared on the prestigious Kouhaku Uta Gassen a few times.

**Date:** June 3rd (Tuesday)

**Time:** Daytime—2:00 pm, Nighttime—6:30 pm

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

**Admission:** ¥6,500

**Ticket Offices:** Lawson, Ticket Pia (7-Eleven), Gyokkodo Feeal Asahikawa, Coach&Four Asahikawa Music Corner



## Kawai Concert: Keisuke TOYAMA's Piano Recital

### カワイコンサート外山啓介 ピアノ・リサイタル

Keisuke TOYAMA was born in Sapporo and began playing the piano at the age of five. He has been awarded with prestigious prizes in the major piano competitions in Japan, including the 73rd Japan Music Competition (2004). He has also performed with the Tokyo Philharmonic, the Japan Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Warsaw National Philharmonic Orchestra. You will be able to hear this promising young pianist's delicate yet colorful tones for Mozart, Beethoven, and Liszt at this concert.

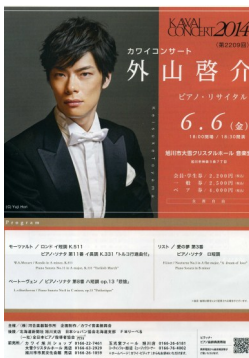
**Date:** June 6th (Friday)

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

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

**Admission:** Members and Students—¥2,200, General—¥2,500, Pairs—¥4,000

**Ticket Offices:** Kawai Asahikawa Shop, Taisetsu Crystal Hall Sales Office, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Sales Office, Gyokkodo Feeal Asahikawa, Coach&Four Asahikawa Music Corner



## Dixieland Jazz Festival

### デキシーランド・ジャズの祭典

If you like the live Dixieland-style jazz of old New Orleans, this would be a fabulous concert for you. They will get you clapping, tapping on your feet, and singing along with the tunes. The concert will also be featuring Mr. & Ms. TOYAMA, who are representative figures and performers for Dixieland-style jazz in Japan, as commentators to talk to you about history and styles of Dixieland and its influence.

**Date:** June 26th (Thursday)

**Time:** 6:30 pm

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

**Admission:** Members—¥4,300, General—¥5,000

**Ticket Offices:** Ticket Pia at 7-Eleven (P-code: 227-140), Gyokkodo Feeal Asahikawa



EVENTS IN ASAHIKAWA FOR JUNE

# Life in Asahikawa

## Recommended Spots Around Asahikawa By SAKURABA Satoshi

As the weather gets warmer, we spend more time engaged in outdoor activities. June is in the middle of the rainy season (梅雨) in most parts of Japan. However, the rainy season does not come to Hokkaido, with the exception of the southern area, namely Hakodate (函館). Therefore June is an excellent time to enjoy various outdoor activities, as mild temperature and equable climate continue throughout the month.

I love driving around Hokkaido, so today I would like to introduce some of my favorite spots located near Asahikawa City.



When it gets hot, you can cool down your body in Limestone Cave in Town of Toma (当麻鍾乳洞). This cave is not so large, but once you step inside you will feel the sense of coolness and relaxation, as the temperature within the cave remains relatively constant despite the changing seasons. This cave is located not far from Asahikawa for you to escape from hot summer weather ahead. Moreover, because the cave is usually not considered a famous sightseeing spot in Hokkaido, you can go there anytime you want. I personally think that this cave is the best-kept secret spot.

Alternatively, you can go to Fukagawa (深川), Takikawa (滝川), and Sunagawa (砂川), all located along Route 12. There is a roadside station named “Rice Land Fukagawa (ライスランドふかがわ)” in Fukagawa where you can eat delicious Kamameshi rice (釜飯: a rice, meat, sea-food, and vegetable dish served in a small pot). Takikawa has numerous restaurants famous for mutton barbecue (Jinghiskan), and Sunagawa is known for many confectionery stores, along with a large park located by a rest area of highway.



Furthermore, as you may already know, Biei (美瑛) and Furano (富良野) are one of the most famous sightseeing spots in Hokkaido. They are located along Route 237. You will see beautiful flower fields and green hills during this season. Moreover, delicious fruits, vegetables, and sweets can also be found.

As you see, there are many enjoyable sightseeing spots and delicious food around Asahikawa.



## Hello Asahikawa!

**Name:** Stacey Fujikawa  
**Hometown:** Alberta, Canada  
**Interviewed:** May 15th, 2014 by AIC

**AIC:** *Please tell us a bit about yourself.*

**Stacey:** Hello. My name is Stacey Fujikawa. I am from a small town in Alberta, Canada near the Rocky Mountains surrounded by wheat fields, cows, and cowboys. From my last name, you might guess that I am either Japanese or married to a Japanese person. It's the prior, I am half Japanese. My paternal grandparents are from Japan. My grandfather was from Kumamoto-ken and my grandmother was from Yamaguchi-ken. I am third generation Japanese-Canadian (sansei). Currently, I am teaching English in Higashikawa. I teach at kindergarten, elementary, and junior high school. It has been a wonderful three years, but I will be returning to Canada in August. I'll miss Higashikawa and Hokkaido very much.

**AIC:** *When/how did you become interested in Japan?*

**Stacey:** I've always been interested in Japan since it is part of my heritage. In high school I was selected to go on a Lions Club international youth exchange. I participated in a five week home stay with a family in Wakayama, followed by a Japanese culture camp with about 30 high school and university students from all over the world. It was an amazing experience. I knew I would come back to Japan again. At the end of university, I decided to apply to the JET Programme.

**AIC:** *What do you do in your free time here?*

**Stacey:** In my free time I like to go cycling... weather permitting. We have some wonderful cycling paths in our area. I cycled around Okinawa this past winter and rode the Shimanami Kaido from Onomichi to Imabari during Golden Week. I also love to travel and take photos. I have traveled throughout Japan and to nearby countries to make the most of my time in Asia.

**AIC:** *Is there anything you wish you'd known sooner that might have made your life easier in Japan? What were some things that were most challenging?*

**Stacey:** The only thing I wish I had known sooner was more Japanese! Haha. There isn't really anything that presented itself as a huge struggle or challenge living in Japan. My coworkers and town have been very helpful and supportive from the beginning. I think my understanding of situations and Japanese culture would be more in depth if my Japanese was more advanced.



Landscape of Stacey's hometown, Alberta

# Hello Asahikawa!

## Stacey Fujikawa Interview (Part 2) Continued from Page 5

**AIC:** *Great to hear that your life in Japan has been good. How was your first impression of Hokkaido when you first got here? Has it changed much?*

**Stacey:** Hokkaido is sister provinces/prefectures with my home province, Alberta, Canada. Higashikawa also has a sister city in Alberta. Before coming to Hokkaido, I figured with these connections that Hokkaido must be similar to Alberta. There are some differences, of course, but there are many similarities. Both Hokkaido and Alberta boast some of the most beautiful nature and mountains, wide open spaces, and fresh air. I find the people in both places to generally be genuine and relaxed. It was easy to settle into life here in Hokkaido and for it to feel like a second home.

**AIC:** *Alberta sounds like a wonderful place that I would like to visit sometime. Let's talk about food a bit now, haha. What is your favorite Japanese dish and do you know how to cook it?*

**Stacey:** I have loved sushi and sashimi for most of my life. Hokkaido seafood is especially fresh and delicious! My maki-sushi aren't very pretty, but I know how to make them. My first soup curry experience was here in Hokkaido, and it is now one of my favorite foods, especially during winter. I learned how to make soup curry my first year here.

**AIC:** *Is there anything that you would like to do before you go home?*

**Stacey:** I want to cycle as much as possible and take lots of photos to help me remember this beautiful island and all the wonderful people I've met the past three years. I am going to miss Hokkaido a lot. There are still a few spots on our wonderful island that I haven't visited yet. I hope to visit them before I leave.

**AIC:** *What is your future plan, if you don't mind sharing?*

**Stacey:** Right now, my only plan is to reconnect with family and friends back home. I haven't been home in two years. I miss them all very much. After that, I am not quite sure. I might go back to university. I might travel. I might work. The next chapter of my life is still a mystery to me.

**AIC:** *Hope you enjoy rest of your time in Hokkaido. Thanks for the interview today, Stacey.*

**Stacey:** You are welcome.



Stacey's photograph from cycling around Okinawa

## ★ *Movies ~ June* ★

\*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.

\*The 1st day of every month is “Movie Day” in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is ¥1,100 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

- X-Men: Days of Future Past (English)
- Yamikin Ushijima-kun the Movie 2(Japanese)
- Seiten no Hekireki (Japanese)
- Monsterz (Japanese)
- Bokutachi no Kazoku (Japanese)
- Hakuoki Part2 (Japanese/Animation)
- WOOD JOB! (Japanese)
- Akumu-chan the Movie (Japanese)
- Aibo the Movie 3 (Japanese)
- Thermae Romae 2 (Japanese)
- The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (English)
- Crows~Explode~ (Japanese/PG12)
- Detective Conan the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Crayon Shin-chan the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Frozen (English)

### Coming Soon

- Sokonominite Hikarikagayaku (Japanese/R-15) 6/7
- Need for Speed (English) 6/7
- Noah (English) 6/13
- Haru wo Seotte (Japanese) 6/14
- Watashi no Hawaii no Arukikata (Japanese) 6/14
- Watashi no Otoko (Japanese/R-15) 6/14
- 300: Rise of an Empire (English/R-15) 6/20
- Chokosoku! Sankinkotai (Japanese) 6/21
- Kawaki (Japanese/R-15) 6/21
- Transcendence (English) 6/28

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

### Now Showing

- Seiten no Hekireki (Japanese)
- Oh! Father (Japanese)
- WOOD JOB! (Japanese)
- X-Men: Days of Future Past (English)
- Monsterz (Japanese)
- Ieji (Japanese) until 6/6
- The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (English)
- Aibo the Movie 3 (Japanese)
- Thermae Romae 2 (Japanese)
- Crows~Explode~ (Japanese/PG12)
- Detective Conan the Movie (Japanese/Animation)
- Soredemo Yoru ha Akeru (Japanese)
- Kikaider Reboot (Japanese)
- Frozen (English)

### Coming Soon

- Need for Speed (English) 6/7
- Marriage Blue (Korean) 6/7
- Noah (English) 6/13
- Haru wo Seotte (Japanese) 6/14
- 300: Rise of an Empire (English/R-15) 6/20
- 3 Days to Kill (English) 6/21
- Saint Seiya Legend of Sanctuary (Japanese/Animation) 6/21
- Chokosoku! Sankinkotai (Japanese) 6/21
- Kawaki (Japanese/R-15) 6/21
- Transcendence (English) 6/28

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

## Japanese Lessons

“Asahikawa Nihongo no Kai” is available to help foreigners near Asahikawa area with their Japanese studies. The lessons are provided weekly for anyone who wants to learn Japanese for an hour to an hour and a half.

**Textbook:** You will need to provide your own.

**Location:** Varies

**Charge:** ¥300/lesson

**For more information or registration:**

Call **Asahikawa International Committee** at 0166-25-7491 or stop by **Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F)**

## Two-Day Walk 2014

The 23rd Asahikawa Taisetsu Two-Day Walk 2014 will be taking place in July this year. There are 4-5 different courses (30km, 20km, 10km, 5km and 2.5km) to suit anyone, and the courses are designed to accommodate participants with physical disabilities as well.

Please bring your own towel, drinks, rain gear (if necessary), cap, etc... The event is to be held rain or shine.

**Dates:** July 12 (Sat) and 13 (Sun)

**Venue:** Rear exit of Sci-Pal (Science museum)

**Entry Fee:** General—¥1,500, College and High School Students—¥1,000, Nordic Walking—¥500, Participants with Disabilities—¥500

**Sign-up Period:** Until June 25

**For More Information Call:** 080-6073-6311



Interesting activities, such as quizzes, discussions, songs, games, handcrafts and many more, all in English! Come meet new people, relax, and relate on Fun Fridays!

**Dates:** June 13th&27th

\*Fun Fridays are held on every 2nd and 4th Friday

**Time:** 1:00-2:00pm & 7:00-8:00pm

**Location:** Asahikawa International Center, Common Meeting Room (1) (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome)

**Charge:** ¥1,500 for 3 months (Free for volunteer leaders)

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

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

**Event Volunteer:** The AIC plans many exciting events throughout the year, such as Friendship Parties. Why not become a volunteer and help plan these events?

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

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

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

## Spread the Word...

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



Asahikawa International Committee

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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.\*\***