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For further information or to register for events, contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (AIC)
(SUGANO Ayumi, SAITO Emmy, or GONZALEZ Gabriel)

Location:

International/City Affairs Division,
Tourism, Sports and International/City
Affairs Dept.

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Asahikawa International Center Feeeal
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Hokkaido News Top 5

June 2023 - July 2023, compiled by the AIC

Spread Seashells Along the White Path at Cape Soya, (6/22)

The Wakkanai Tourism Association has begun to sell bottles as a part of its efforts to get more people to learn about and participate in the management of the famous "White Path" near Cape Soya. The bottles include a see-through label with a picture of the White Path that becomes white when filled up with crushed scallop shells. You can scatter the crushed shells over the path or even take it home as a keepsake! The bottle itself costs ¥500, and is sold at the Wakkanai Tourist Information Center, and the city's major hotels.

Engaru to Bring Its Obsidian Collection to the World, (6/23)

The International Obsidian Conference, the first of its kind in Asia, was held in Engaru, the nation's largest deposit of obsidian. First held in Italy in 2016, it is the world's most prominent academic conference on obsidian research. Engaru was selected as this year's host city for the great number of obsidian implements excavated in the local area, made during the latter half of the Paleolithic Period. The general public was also able to attend a stone crafting workshop as well as a talk by Dr. Robin Torrence, a senior researcher in archeology.

New Mountain Biking Course to be Built in Kamikawa, (7/1)

The town of Kamikawa plans to construct a 2-km cycling course in the forests of the Asahigaoka District in early August. They will also include a tour package for visitors to rent out power-assisted mountain bikes to enjoy the scenery as you travel through the woods guided by a local knowledgeable on the lumber industry. The area has been receiving more attention due to its growing popularity as a tourist destination. The town has poured 19.7 million yen into this project to "further the development of the Asahigaoka District.

Ainu Artwork to Become Permanent Display in UK Museum, (7/5)

Toru Kaizawa, an Nibutani Ainu craftsman lauded the world over for his woodwork, will have one of his sculptures become a permanent display at the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford University. This is the third UK museum that will feature his work as a permanent display, including the Museum of Scotland and the British Museum. The work represents the hands of five women striking the lid of a sintoko, the Ainu word for a vessel for alcohol, as they sing a song in a circle.

Canoes Rides and More at the Kawamachi Festival, (7/9)

For the water-lovers in all of us, the city of Asahikawa hosted the Kawamachi Festival around the Kitasaito Garden area, where visitors could ride in canoes and more in the city's rivers and waterfronts. This was the first year such an event was held in Asahikawa, as an effort to promote the municipality as a "City of Rivers." One visitor who tried riding in a canoe for the first time said the local scenery reflected beautifully in the water, and they were surprised to see you could even do yoga on top of the canoes!

Read the latest issue of Asahikawa Info and get to know the AIC on our website:

<http://asahikawaaic.jp/en/>

Nissho Kanda: Resurrecting Tokachi Fine Arts

NISSHO KANDA よみがえる全十勝美術展

This exhibit explores the work of Nissho Kanda as a member of a Tokachi art group, expressing the beauty and solitude of the local nature and town through their pieces.

Date: Until 8/6 (Sunday)

Time: 10:00-17:00 (Entry ends at 16:30), Closed: Mondays (except holidays),

Place: Kanda Nissho Memorial Museum of Art (Kato-gun, Shikaoi-cho Higashi-cho, 3-chome 2)

Admission: General ¥530(*¥470), High school student ¥320(*¥260), Middle and elementary school student ¥210(*¥150) (*Groups of 10+)

For more information, contact: 0156-66-1555 (Kanda Nissho Memorial Museum of Art)



Join in, everyone! Summer Vacation Family Concert

みんな集まれ！夏休みファミリーコンサート

Enjoy an afternoon concert with the little ones listening to a program consisting of: Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Ravel, Denza, and more!

Date: 8/6 (Sunday)

Time: (Opens) 13:30, (Starts) 14:00

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

Admission: Adult ¥1,000, Child (until middle school age) ¥500, Those under 3 years of age FREE (*Ticket prices will increase ¥500 for all the day of the concert)

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall (Office), Asahikawa Civic Cultural Hall (Office)

For more information, contact: 0166-69-2000 (Asahikawa Taisetsu Crystal Hall)



Fun Time to Get to Know Each other: Orange Concert vol.2

～ふれあう楽しいひととき～ オレンジ・コンサート

Get in touch with some of the classics at this concert with a program consisting of: Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik and Bizet's Prelude from Carmen!

Date: 8/12 (Saturday)

Time: [Day] (Opens) at 13:30, (Starts) 14:00; [Night] (Opens) 18:30, (Starts) 19:00

Place: Kagura Community Center, Kirarin (Asahikawa, Kagura 3-jo 6-chome)

Admission: General ¥2,000, Elementary school student and under ¥1,000

Ticket Office: Kawai Asahikawa, Taisetsu Crystal Hall (Store), Asahikawa Civic Cultural Hall (Store), Gyokkodo (Aeon Ekimae), Coach & Four (Music Corner)

For more information, contact: 090-1303-8859 (Saito)



Hasegawa Kiyoshi: Concert in Asahikawa, vol.9

長谷川きよし コンサートin旭川 vol.9

Discover the musical stylings of Hasegawa Kiyoshi, a singer-guitarist performing his ninth concert in Asahikawa!

Date: 8/18 (Friday)

Time: (Opens) 14:00, (Starts) 14:30

Place: Asahikawa Civic Cultural Hall, Small Hall (Asahikawa, 7-jo-dori 9-chome)

Admission: Pre-sale ¥7,000, Day-of ¥7,500

Ticket Office: Executive Committee (0166-46-7220, Suehiro), Bookmark Cafe (Feeeal)

For more information, contact: 0166-46-7220 (Executive Committee)



Autari Opitta: The Modern Age of Ainu Literature

アウタリオピッタ アイヌ文学の近代

Learn about the work and lives of Ainu writers whose work has continued to be read and re-read into the present day, and why their words continue to live on.

Date: Until 8/20 (Sunday)

Time: 9:00-18:00, Closed: Mondays (when Monday is a holiday, the museum will close on the next business day), Open: 8/14 (Monday)

Place: National Ainu Museum Upopoy (Shiraoi-gun, Shiraoi-cho Wakakusa-cho 2-chome 3-1)

Admission: Adult ¥1,200(*¥960), High school student ¥600(*¥480), Middle school student and under FREE (*Groups of 20+)

For more information, contact: <https://nam.go.jp/> (National Ainu Museum Upopoy)



The Masters of Modern European Painting

ヨーロッパ近代絵画の師匠たち

This exhibition will be based around the work of some of the most famous painters of the modern Western tradition: Monet, Renoir, Cezanne, Picasso, Matisse, and more!

Date: Until 9/3 (Sunday)

Time: 9:30-17:00, Closed: Mondays, Open: 8/14 (Monday); Hours extend to ~19:00 on 8/11, 8/17, 8/25

Place: Kushiro Art Museum (Kushiro, Saiwai-cho 4-chome 1-ban 5-go)

Admission: General ¥1,000(*¥800), High school and university student ¥500(*¥400), Elementary and middle school student ¥200(*¥100) (*Groups of 10+)

For more information, contact: 0154-23-2381 (Kushiro Art Museum)



JOMON Prehistoric Culture and National Treasures

北の縄文世界と国宝

Take a step back into the ancient world of the Jomon Era and learn about the prehistoric cultures of that time through the arts and crafts that have survived millenia!

Date: Until 10/1 (Sunday)

Time: 9:30-17:00 (Last entry at 16:30), Closed: Mondays (except 9/18), 9/19 (Tuesday)

Place: Hokkaido Museum (Sapporo, Atsubetsu-ku, Atsubetsu-cho Konopporo 53-2)

Admission: General ¥1,600(*¥1,400), Elementary and middle school student ¥800(*¥700), (*Groups of 10+)

For more information, contact: 011-898-0466 (Hokkaido Museum)



Cameras Reveal the Truth of Animals!

カメラは見た！ 動物たちの素顔

Find out how animals actually act in this photo exhibit! Dive into the secret lives of the creatures that call Hokkaido home and learn something you never knew before!

Date: Until 10/22 (Sunday)

Time: 9:30-17:00 (Entry ends at 16:30), Closed: Mondays, day following national holiday (except Saturdays-Sundays)

Place: Bihoro Town Museum (Bihoro-cho, Azamidori 253-4)

Admission: FREE

For more information, contact: 0152-72-2160 (Bihoro Town Museum)



Asahikawa Info

Hello for the last time, Asahikawa! That's right, yours truly is saying goodbye to this beautiful city! As sad as this parting will be, I remain content in the fact that I have been able to do so much through this work and my time here. I remember being very nervous about coming, especially since it was (and I suppose technically still is) my first time ever in Japan!

Not to mention that it all began in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic, something we are still in the middle of! Fortunately, it seems that globally we have been able to quell the virus for the time being, though I've heard it may be around for much longer than any of us would want for it to be.

Regardless, I cannot talk about my time here without at least accepting that much of it was colored by having to figure out life alone in a foreign country...



Name: Gabriel Gonzalez

Home Country: USA

Interviewed: 2023/7/20

If you live in Asahikawa, or are just passing through and would like to be interviewed for "Hello, Asahikawa!", email us at:

cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

Goodbye, Asahikawa!

I remember having to quarantine for two weeks in Chiba Prefecture, staying inside of a hotel room, with little access to the outside while they checked to make sure we were not carrying the virus. During that moment of my life, I not only experienced the harsh realities of severe jet lag (it is a 14-hour time difference between Hokkaido and Illinois), but I also got to experience a level 5 earthquake for the first time! Needless to say, my first impressions of Japan were not optimal...

Still, I pushed through and perhaps what saved me was finally being able to talk with my coworkers through videocall. Though I had been worried about what kind of people I would be working with, I was happily surprised to see that they were all very warm and welcoming. When I finally met them in person, those feelings were only further emphasized!

I will be the first to admit that I was a nervous wreck when I began. I would always apologize profusely and feel bad for any little error I made. Thankfully, everyone was understanding and helped me work through my feelings of inadequacy.

That's when I began to push myself not only at work, but also outside in the community. If I was going to be here for who knows how long, I should start trying to get to know more people, gosh dangit! Luckily for me, I had actually begun to study Japanese Sign Language three months before I came to Japan, as a part of my interest in sign languages in general (there is no such thing

as a universal sign language)! I was very fortunate to have a work friend (if your reading this, hi Miss Kanbayashi!) whose friend was actually attending a sign language circle in the city. She graciously introduced me, and her friend in turn told me about the local center for persons with disabilities, a place called Opitta!

I'm a little foggy as to what happened exactly, but I do remember I went alone the first time. If I had been nervous to meet my coworkers (with whom I had least talked to online a little bit beforehand), I was even more nervous now because it was going to be a bunch of strangers and JSL! Still, I knew if I wanted to get anywhere with my community immersion, I would have to be brave and take the first step... So I went in the building, and found the room!

(Un)fortunately for me, there were already a few people inside. I couldn't say a word, my heart was beating so fast! Of course their initial sight of me was led to faces of confusion (that always seems to be the case with me!), but quickly afterwards they began to say hello and even sign alongside their vocal greeting!

Once everyone had arrived, the leader decided to have us all do some introductions (because of me and a few other newbies)! Once it had gotten down the row to me, I stood up and timidly gave my introduction with the best I could muster from the little signs I knew (which looking back, was not much)!

Still, they applauded me for my efforts and once they had seen how far(?) I had taught myself, they became even more welcoming and excited to have me. I was so relieved, I had accomplished the first step! Little did I know what path that first step would lead me down...

I continued to attend the JSL circle and eventually (rather out of the blue) was asked by the Asahikawa Association for the Deaf to give a commemorative presentation at their Ear Day celebration! It had only been a few months since I even began attending the circle, so of course I was very apprehensive at the thought! In the end, I felt it would be rude to refuse, and accepted the kind invitation.

The actual day of the presentation I was (once again) a nervous wreck. I had somehow fallen into my old habits of profusely apologizing! By the end of it all, everyone said they enjoyed my talk but I felt down and out... But only for a little while! I decided (once again) that I wouldn't let my emotions get the best of me! After that day, I started to participate more in and volunteer in activities and all opportunities that were given to me. Eventually (just like at work), I began to feel more comfortable being a part of the community.

My constant presence also made my signing improve tenfold! I practiced at home whenever I had the chance (thanks to the wonders of the modern age and a little thing called YouTube), admittedly perhaps to an unhealthy point. Literally. My wrists hurt so bad at one point I had to wear braces for a while! Lesson learned, don't overdo it, kids. I feel all better now, don't worry! I just know now to limit my studies to only once in a while (especially now since I've reached a good enough level)!

All that studying eventually led me to take the National Japanese Sign Language Proficiency Exam and to me passing the top level, something I will always be very proud of. I surely could not have done it without everyone who helped me along the way, so to them I have the utmost gratitude.

All this to say, I have left my mark on Asahikawa and Asahikawa has most certainly left its mark on me! These last few weeks, I have received so many wonderful gifts and farewells, wishing me well in the future. Now that I am on the path to (hopefully) conduct research on Japanese sign language, I cannot think of this as anything less than the result of all the help I have received from everyone I have met and talked to here in Asahikawa. My coworkers, who pushed me to always improve, my JSL community, who gave me the gift of sign, and all the friends I have made here, who always made me feel loved and welcome.

Though it really hurts to say goodbye, I thank you once last time for everything. I hope you treat the next guy the same way, too! He seems like he'll do great. -Gabriel Gonzalez

Movies - August

**The 1st day of every month is Movie Day in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is ¥1,100 for Adults, ¥800 for High School Students and Under at all theaters.*

Aeon Cinema Only: Every Monday is Happy Monday! Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for all.

Cineplex 7 Asahikawa and Dinos Cinemas Only: Every Wednesday is Ladies' Day! Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for women at all theaters.

Aeon Cinema: Miyashita-dori 7-chome / 0166-74-6411

URL: cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa (Japanese)

Now Showing

- Summer Wars (Japanese/Anime) 7/28~8/10
- Kamen Rider Geats & Ohsama Sentai King-Ohger (Japanese)
- Kingdom 3 (Japanese)
- Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning – Part One (English)
- Osomatsu-san: Tamashii no Takoyaki Party to Densetsu no Otomari-kai (Japanese/Anime)
- Re: STARS ~ Mirai he Tsunagu Futatsu no Kiraboshi (Japanese/Anime)
- Gotobun no Hanayome ∞ (Japanese/Anime)
- How Do You Live? (Japanese/Anime)
- One Second Ahead of Him (Japanese) ~8/3
- Kokan Uso Nikki (Japanese)
- Sailor Moon Cosmos: Part 2 (Japanese/Anime)
- Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (English)
- Tokyo Revengers 2: Bloody Halloween-Decisive Battle (Japanese/PG12)
- Sore Ike! Anpanman: Roboly to Pokapoka Present (Japanese/Anime)
- Kikaijima (Japanese/PG-12) ~8/3
- The Little Mermaid (English)
- Monster (Japanese)
- The Super Mario Bros. Movie (Japanese, English/Anime)
- Detective Conan: Black Iron Submarine (Japanese/Anime)
- The First Slam Dunk (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Transformers: Rise of the Beasts (English) 8/4
- Elemental (English, Japanese/Anime) 8/4
- Crayon Shin-chan: Chonoryoku Daikessen - Tobe Tobe Temakizushi (Japanese/Anime) 8/4
- Revolver Lily (Japanese) 8/11
- Minna no Uta (Japanese) 8/11
- Sand Land (Japanese/Anime) 8/18
- The Boogeyman (English) 8/18
- PAW Patrol: the Movie (Japanese/Anime) 8/18
- G-Men (Japanese) 8/25
- One Last Bloom (Japanese) 8/25
- The Meg 2: The Trench (English) 8/25
- Mom, Is That You? (Japanese) 9/1
- City Hunter: Angel Dust (Japanese/Anime) 9/8
- Pretty Cure All Stars F (Japanese/Anime) 9/15
- John Wick: Chapter 4 (English/R15+) 9/22

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

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CinePlex 7 Asahikawa: Nagayama 12-jo 3-chome Western Powers Nagayama
0166-49-1000 / URL: <http://www.unitedcinemas.jp/asahikawa/index.html> (Japanese)

Now Showing

- Kamen Rider Geats & Ohsama Sentai King-Ohger (Japanese)
- Kingdom 3 (Japanese)
- Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning – Part One (English 4DX)
- How Do You Live? (Japanese/Anime)
- Kokan Uso Nikki (Japanese)
- Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (English)
- Tokyo Revengers 2: Bloody Halloween-Decisive Battle (Japanese/PG12)
- Sore Ike! Anpanman: Roboly to Pokapoka Present (Japanese/Anime)
- Rascal Does Not Dream of a Sister Venturing Out (Japanese/Anime)
- The Little Mermaid (English, Japanese)
- Monster (Japanese)
- The Super Mario Bros. Movie (English, Japanese/Anime)
- Detective Conan: Black Iron Submarine (Japanese 4DX/Anime)
- The First Slam Dunk (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Crayon Shin-chan: Chonoryoku Daikessen - Tobe Tobe Temakizushi (Japanese/Anime) 8/4
- Elemental (English, Japanese/Anime) 8/4
- Transformers: Rise of the Beasts (English, Japanese 4DX) 8/4
- Barbie (English, Japanese) 8/11
- Revolver Lily (Japanese) 8/11
- Sand Land (Japanese 4DX/Anime) 8/18
- G-Men (Japanese) 8/25
- The Meg 2: The Trench (English 4DX) 8/25
- Mom, Is That You? (Japanese) 9/1
- Yoru ga Oketara, Ichiban ni Kimi ni Ai ni Iku (Japanese) 9/1
- City Hunter: Angel Dust (Japanese/Anime) 9/8
- Don't Call It Mystery (Japanese) 9/15
- Pretty Cure All Stars F (Japanese/Anime) 9/15
- Gran Turismo (English) 9/15
- Alice to Therese Maboroshi Kojyo (Japanese/Anime) 9/15
- John Wick: Chapter 4 (English/R15+) 9/22
- Bad Lands (Japanese/PG12) 9/29
- Gurren Lagann the Movie: Childhood's End (Japanese/Anime) 10/3~19
- Gurren Lagann the Movie: The Lights in the Sky are Stars (Japanese/Anime) 10/20~11/2

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

AIC Bulletin Board

Need Help?

If you ever find yourself in need of assistance, know that the Hokkaido Foreign Resident Support Center is there for you! They are able to provide you with consultation services in various languages (Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Russian, Indonesian, Thai, Nepalese, Burmese) on residence procedures, employment, medical care, welfare, childbirth, childcare, education, and more for FREE! Call them at 011-200-9595 or go to: www.hiecc.or.jp/soudan

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

Dates: August 10th & 15th, September 8th and 22nd, October 13th and 27th

Times: 1:00pm-2:00pm ~Afternoon~ 2nd and 4th Friday of the month
6:30-8:30pm ~Night~ 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)

北海道 外国人 相談 センター
Hokkaido Foreign Resident Support Center
北海道外国人咨询中心 홋카이도 외국인 상담 센터
Trung tâm hỗ trợ người nước ngoài Hokkaido

ASK US ANYTHING!
HAY HOI CHONG TOI NHE!

OPEN MON~FRI 9:00-17:00
CLOSED WEEKDAYS 12:00 - 13:00
AND SAT, SUN, & PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

CONTACT US!
011-200-9595
support@hiecc.or.jp
www.hiecc.or.jp@soudan
Doshu Annex Bldg. 10F
West 7, North 8, Chome, Asahikawa 070-0003

Fun Fridays!

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 an afternoon visit.



The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has free Wi-Fi available for public use. If you reside in Asahikawa, registration for a user card is required. Please feel free to come by anytime, as well as check out some of the other services and activities available at the Asahikawa International Center!

Spread the Word...

Contribute to the AIC newsletter and share any interesting information you may have with other readers. You may write on any topic including: items to buy/shell, offers for culture/language exchange, 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 AIC or the City of Asahikawa.