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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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Hokkaido News Top 5

April 2023 - May 2023, compiled by the AIC

New Kawamura Kaneto Memorial Pre-Opens, (4/25)

The oldest private Ainu culture museum in Hokkaido finished its remodeling and pre-opened on 4/24. Around 500 Ainu items were moved from the original building, which they hope to fully redisplay to the public by 7/15. The museum first opened in 1916 to introduce people to the Kamikawa Ainu's former way of life and the achievements of Kawamura Kaneto. The former museum building had begun to degrade in 1965, leading to construction of a new building last summer.

Ainu Remains Returned from Australia, (5/7)

The remains of four bodies kept in Australian museums for over 80 years for research purposes were finally returned to Japanese parties on 5/6. They were originally donated by Koganei Yoshikiyo, an anatomical anthropologist known for his work in Ainu studies between 1911-1936, to the Melbourne Museum and the health department of southern Adelaide. The Australian government informed Japan they had the remains in their possession in 2017. A ceremony was held at the Melbourne Museum to return the remains, at which Director Tim Goodwin sincerely apologized for the distress caused by taking the remains.

Japanese Common Toad found in Central Asahikawa, (5/10)

The Japanese common toad, a non-native species to Hokkaido, has now spread its breeding grounds into Asahikawa. Although populations had been confirmed in the surrounding suburbs in the past, in recent years they have been spotted in central parks. The city has opened outings to citizens to capture and eradicate the toads, as well as to teach people about the effect invasive species can have on the ecosystem. Their poison adds greater risk to affecting local flora and fauna.

Hokkaido Electric to Raise Prices Next Month 23.2%, (5/17)

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry announced on 5/16 its plans to raise electric fees, proposed by seven electric companies. This includes the Hokkaido Electric Power Co., who will be raising their prices up by 23.22%. The average household's electric fees will increase by ¥1,896 (22.6%) to become ¥102,87/month. These changes, due to the fuel cost adjustment system and the country's measures to mitigate drastic changes, required governmental approval.

Research Development into Lumber as Cow Feed, (5/17)

The Hokkaido Research Organization's forest test site is working to develop livestock feed that makes use of lumber. Up until now, they have been observing the health and amount of milk produced by beef and milk cattle fed the wood feed. It is made of white birch crushed into easy-to-consume chips that are steamed at 160-200 degrees. They have a pleasant smell and nice texture, and the cows are able to redigest the feed even more times, leading many to believe it can help prevent digestive issues. Research showed the cows were remained healthy for longer after pregnancy and produced 1-5% more milk.

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

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

Asahikawa Info

Asahikawa Events in June

Shoko Yomogizawa: Gathering

艾沢祥子 集積する時間

This exhibition will be based around the work of Shoko Yomogizawa, a Hokkaido-born artist that deals with the theme of life and the ethereal nature of our sensations and impressions through multi-media.

Date: Until 6/11 (Sunday)

Time: 9:45-17:00 (Entry ends at 16:30)

Place: Sapporo Art Museum (Sapporo Art Park, 2-chome 75-banchi)

Admission: General ¥1,100(*¥900), High school and university student ¥800(*¥660), Elementary and middle school student ¥500(*¥420), Kindergartner and under FREE, those 65 and over ¥900(*¥740) (*Groups of 20+)

Ticket Office: Doshin Playguide, Daimaru Fujii Central, Sapporo Community Plaza Ticket Center

For more information, contact: 011-591-0090 (Sapporo Art Museum)

Trick × Illusion!

トリック×イリュージョン!

Don't let your eyes play tricks on you in this exhibit introducing a more humorous side of art: illusion! Artists from a wide array of mediums and historical backgrounds will be on display.

Date: Until 6/11 (Sunday)

Time: 9:30-17:00 (Entry ends at 16:30), Closed: Mondays

Place: Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art (Sapporo, Chuo-ku Kita 1-jo 17-chome)

Admission: General ¥1,700(*¥1,500), High school and university student ¥1,000(*¥800), Middle school student ¥700(*¥500), Elementary school student and under FREE (*Groups of 10+)

Ticket Office: Doshin Playguide Online Store, Lawson Ticket (L-code: 11823), 7-ticket (7-code: 098-948), Ticket Pia (P-code: 686-343), Seico Mart (Secoma-code: D23042202)

For more information, contact: 011-210-5731 (Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art)

Asahikawa Opera Theatre's 10th Anniversary Performance: Madama Butterfly

旭川オペラ劇場10周年記念公演 蝶々夫人

Spend the afternoon listening to the second and third acts of Madama Butterfly, one of the most famous operas in the Western canon of music.

Date: 6/11 (Sunday)

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

Place: Asahikawa Public Hall (Asahikawa, inside Tokiwa Park)

Admission: [Pre-sale only] ¥4,000 (*Make reservation using the phone number below)

For more information, contact: 070-8903-3415 (Asahikawa Board of Education)

36th Soave Concert

36thソアーヴェコンサート

This concert includes a musical program consisting of: selections from the Magic Flute (Mozart), a selection from La Traviata (Verdi), a selection from the Marriage of Figaro (Mozart), and more!

Date: 6/24 (Saturday)

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

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

Admission: ¥1,000 (*Elementary school student and under FREE, but must be accompanied)

For more information, contact: 0166-33-8480 (Toda, Asahikawa Board of Education)



Fascinating Modern Western Paintings: From Monet to Renoir to Picasso and Matisse

魅惑の西洋近代絵画 ～モネ、ルノワールからピカソ、マティスまで～

Take the plunge into the world of the Impressionists, Post-Impressionists, Fauvists and more in this exhibit that explores the world's neverending fascination with modern Western painting.

Date: Until 6/25 (Sunday)

Time: 9:30-17:00 (Entry ends at 16:30), Closed: Mondays

Place: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Asahikawa, inside Tokiwa Park)

Admission: General ¥1,200(*¥1,000), High school and university student ¥700(*¥500), Middle school student ¥400(*¥300), Elementary school student and under FREE [*Groups of 10+ or pre-sale (ends 4/14)]

Ticket Office: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art, Asahikawa Fukido, Lawson Ticket (L-code: 12372), 7-ticket (7-code: 098-953), Ticket Pia (P-code: 686-342), Seico Mart (Secoma-code: D23041502), Sapporo Doshin Playguide, Doshin Playguide Online Store

Admission: Contact theater for membership fee

For more information, contact: 0166-25-2577 (Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art)



Ekuperi Duo LIVE

エクペリ・デュオLIVE

Enjoy the musical stylings of this 30-year-strong rock duo as they both perform vocals and guitar to create an evening of fun and community for locals.

Date: 6/28 (Wednesday)

Time: (Opens) 18:00, (Starts) 18:30

Place: Machinaka Bunkagoya (Asahikawa, 7-jo-dori 7-chome Migi 10)

Admission: FREE (*Donations appreciated)

For more information, contact: 0166-23-2801 (Machinaka Bunkagoya)



Off the Dosanko Goes.

道産子が行く。

This exhibit explores the romanticism found in the work of Migishi Kotaro, a true blue dosanko (someone from Hokkaido) who depicted his love for Hokkaido in every paint stroke.

Date: Until 7/5 (Wednesday)

Time: 9:30-17:00 (Entry ends at 16:30), Closed: Mondays

Place: Migishi Kotaro Museum of Art (Sapporo, Chuo-ku, Kita 2-jo Nishi 15-chome)

Admission: General ¥510(*¥420), High school and university student ¥250(*¥170), Middle school student and under FREE, 65 and older FREE (*Groups of 10+)

For more information, contact: 011-644-8901 (Migishi Kotaro Museum of Art)



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 Events in June

Asahikawa Info

AIC: Please tell us about yourself and where you are from.

Jenny: My name is Jenny Vernon and I am from Chicago in the United States. I graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a Bachelors in Art and Design. My biggest goal right now is to travel the world and create video content, as film is a passion of mine.

AIC: How did you first get interested in Japan?

Jenny: Japanese food has always been one of my favorite cuisines so it has been nice to try so many of my favorite foods in the country they originated from. More recently, I have made friends who live in Tokyo and then a friend from college moved to Asahikawa so I thought that it would be a great time to go and visit everyone. They were all awesome tour guides and I was able to learn so much from them and get to see more things from the local perspective.

AIC: Is this your first time in Japan? How long



Name: Jennifer Vernon

Home Country: USA

Interviewed: 2023/5/23

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

Hello, Asahikawa!

have you been in Japan?

Jenny: This is my first time Japan, but I hope it will not be my last. My total trip in Japan is for around three weeks. I went to Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, Nara, Sapporo, Otaru, and now Asahikawa.

AIC: Why brings you to Asahikawa in particular?

Jenny: My friend Gabriel resides here. My friend from college moved to and is now translating and interpreting in Asahikawa. Otherwise, I probably would not have known about this town. I wanted to see what his life is like in this quieter town in the mountains. I wanted to see what northern Japan was like compared to other prefectures.

AIC: What kind of work do you do?

Jenny: At the moment, I work as a server at a French Creperie back in the suburbs of Chicago. This helps to fund my travels and then I also do film projects on the side. I have been a Production Assistant, a Video editor, and a Production Designer on some recent short films. I very much enjoyed being a part of the crew and making connections with more people interested in film.

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

Jenny: I love organic gardening and being outside in nature. I have an organic garden with many native plants at home but I also volunteer with an organization called Sustain DuPage that has a community garden where people who care about the environment can come together to plant, harvest, and have conversations. I also am a member of the DuPage Organic Garden Club which holds meetings each month and we hold garden tours at our house.

Asahikawa Info

Walking my dog, swimming, and riding my bike are all fun outdoor activities. I also love cooking and I make many vegetarian and vegan dishes.

AIC: Do you have any favorite Japanese foods?

Jenny: I usually am a vegetarian but I ate seafood while in Japan so I could try more dishes. The unagi was one of my favorites, eel is so delicious! I had a lot of vegan ramen while in Japan which was very exciting and tasty. I also had lots of mochi- the chocolate daifuku was very good and I also tried warabi-mochi for the first time and it was excellent. My favorite mochi, though, was red bean paste with strawberry. It was also my first time trying inari-zushi which was one of my favorites this trip. I was also impressed by the creamy soft-serve ice cream!

AIC: Any places you would recommend to others (restaurants, sight-seeing, etc.)?

Jenny: For restaurants in Asahikawa, I recommend Vegan Ramen, Namaste Nepal Curry which as the best naan I have ever had. I recommend visiting the Asahikawa City Museum and the Kawamura Kaneto Ainu Memorial Museum to learn more about the history of Asahikawa and the Ainu people. My favorite part was seeing a traditional Ainu home, coated with the plant sasa. I was able to spot large areas of sasa by looking out the window during my train ride to Asahikawa. Other sight-seeing recommendations are to walk across the Asahibashi Bridge and through Tokiwa Park and visit Kamikawa Shrine. For travelers, I recommend staying at Asahikawa Ride- I really enjoyed my stay. This was the cleanest hostel that I have stayed at, it was in a great location, provided yummy cereals for breakfast, and the owner even had an adorable cat that hung out there sometimes.

AIC: What have been your impressions of Asahikawa so far and how does it compare to your hometown?

Jenny: I have really liked Asahikawa and people have been so welcoming. This city has the least amount of tourists than everywhere else I have been to in Japan. Asahikawa has provided me with so many great learning opportunities at its museums and I am so glad I got to know more about Ainu culture. Asahikawa looks very different from my hometown as there are mountains all around which I find so beautiful. In the suburbs of Chicago, we also do get cold weather and a lot of snow. There are a lot more roads in my hometown

and people rely much more on cars where I'm from. In Asahikawa, on the other hand, it seemed like places were very accessible by bike, walking, or public transportation. The public transportation is much better in Asahikawa- there is more offered and cleaner.

AIC: Do you mind sharing any frustrations you have encountered thus far?

Jenny: A challenge has been that I barely speak any Japanese but most signs are also in English and I have still been able to communicate with people even if we don't speak the same language. Gesturing or having screenshots on my phone of where I want to go or what I want to order has helped a lot. The transportation system was definitely a challenge for me at first because it is not self-explanatory and sometimes you have to know the price of the ticket you are trying to buy in order to search it. But I slowly figured it out and I had some very kind locals come up to me and help me get to where I needed to go.

AIC: Do you have any goals or things you are looking forward to doing here in Japan?

Jenny: My last stop will be visiting family friends in the outskirts of Tokyo so I am excited to see a smaller town feel, have a home-cooked meal, visit their favorite places, and see more what it's like day-to-day for them. They have lived in Tokyo all their lives so I'm excited to hear their perspectives while visiting with them.

Is there anything else you would like to say to our readers?

Jenny: I am so glad that I traveled to Japan- people were so kind, the architecture was stunning, the food was so fresh and delicious, and I learned a lot. I hope to be back soon!



Movies - June

*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

- I Am What I Am (Chinese)
- Creed III (English)
- Rohan at the Louvre (Japanese)
- Saigo Made Iku (Japanese)
- Fast X (English)
- Tár (English)
- Otonanajimi (Japanese)
- Memory (English/R15+)
- Father of the Milky Way Railroad (Japanese)
- Guardians of the Galaxy: Volume 3 (English 4DX)
- Tokyo MER (Japanese)
- The Super Mario Bros. Movie (Japanese, English/Anime)
- Tokyo Revengers 2: Bloody Halloween (Japanese/PG12)
- Detective Conan: Black Iron Submarine (Japanese/Anime)
- The First Slam Dunk (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Monster (Japanese) 6/2
- Spring in Between (Japanese) 6/2
- Akogare wo Koeta Samurai-tachi: Road to the WBC Championship (Japanese) 6/2
- Sailor Moon Cosmos: Part 1 (Japanese/Anime) 6/9
- The Little Mermaid (English) 6/9
- Water Flowing to the Sea (Japanese) 6/9
- Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse (English/Anime) 6/16
- Kikaijima (Japanese/PG12) 6/16
- Emergency Interrogation Room: The Final (Japanese) 6/16
- Daimyo Tousan (Japanese) 6/23
- Sailor Moon Cosmos: Part 2 (Japanese/Anime) 6/30
- Tokyo Revengers 2: Bloody Halloween-Decisive Battle (Japanese/PG12) 6/30
- Sore Ike! Anpanman: Roboly to Pokapoka Present (Japanese/Anime) 6/30
- One Second Ahead of Him (Japanese) 7/7
- Kokan Uso Nikki (Japanese) 7/7
- Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning – Part One (English) 7/21
- Re: STARS ~ Mirai he Tsunagu Futatsu no Kiraboshi (Japanese/Anime) 7/21
- Osomatsu-san: Tamashii no Takoyaki Party to Densetsu no Otomari-kai (Japanese/Anime) 7/21

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

Movies - June

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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

- Creed III (English)
- Lonely Castle in the Mirror (Japanese/Anime)
- Fast X (English 4DX)
- Saigo Made Iku (Japanese)
- Shina Pushu the Movie (Japanese/Anime)
- Psycho-Pass Providence (Japanese 4DX/Anime/R15+)
- Let It Be 2 (Japanese)
- Father of the Milky Way Railroad (Japanese)
- Guardians of the Galaxy: Volume 3 (English)
- Tokyo MER (Japanese)
- The Super Mario Bros. Movie (English 4DX)
- Tokyo Revengers 2: Bloody Halloween (Japanese/PG12)
- Detective Conan: Black Iron Submarine (Japanese 4DX/Anime)
- The First Slam Dunk (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Princess Principal: Crown Handler Chapter 3 (Japanese/Anime) 6/2
- Monster (Japanese) 6/2
- Spice Yori Ai wo Komete (Japanese) 6/2
- The Little Mermaid (English 4DX) 6/9
- Water Flowing to the Sea (Japanese) 6/9
- Black Clover: Sword of the Wizard King (Japanese/Anime) 6/16
- Emergency Interrogation Room: The Final (Japanese) 6/16
- Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse (English/Anime) 6/16
- The Flash (English) 6/16
- Daimyo Tousan (Japanese) 6/23
- Rascal Does Not Dream of a Sister Venturing Out (Japanese/Anime) 6/23
- Tokyo Revengers 2: Bloody Halloween-Decisive Battle (Japanese/PG12) 6/30
- Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (English)
- Sore Ike! Anpanman: Roboly to Pokapoka Present (Japanese/Anime) 6/30
- Kokan Uso Nikki (Japanese) 7/7
- Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning – Part One (English) 7/21
- Kingdom 3 (Japanese) 7/28
- Kamen Rider Geats & Ohsama Sentai King-Ohger (Japanese) 7/28
- Elemental (English) 8/4

***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: June 9th & 23rd, July 14th & 28th, August 10th & 15th
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)

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.