

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5



September 2021
Compiled by AIC

Monastery and Restaurant Collaborate to Create Unique Curry Product 7/20

Gotoken, a long established shop located in Hakodate, and the Trappist Dai Monastery will begin sales of “Hokkaido Fermented Butter Curry” that uses fermented butter created by the monastery’s very own monks. The monastery planned this special collaboration to commemorate the 125th anniversary of their founding in 1896. It is the first time they have collaborated with a private company to create a product.

Hottest July Temperature in Hokkaido Recorded in Etambetsu 8/1

In the Etambetsu area of Asahikawa, the temperature reached a staggering 38.4 degrees. This was the first instance of 38 degree weather this summer for the whole country, and it has been 97 years since Etambetsu last recorded a temperature this high in July. The temperature reached over 35°C in 23 locations throughout Hokkaido. Out of fear that the intense heat might affect train tracks, JR Hokkaido temporarily suspended service for some of their trains.

Students at Makkari High School Win Confectionery Competition 8/1

Judging for the 4th “High School Patisserie Royale” was held in the city of Mikasa, with ten groups from seven schools competing in an online format. One of the initial requirements was that the recipes had to represent Hokkaido through ingredients, etc. Students from Makkari High School won first place with their “Cookie Crusted Haskap Choux Pastry.”

JR Reports that Deer Collisions have Reached All-time High 8/4

Collisions caused by deer wandering onto train tracks have increased 35% compared to last year, amounting to a total of 2,414 instances. This is the highest recorded number since records began in 1987. This increase is said to be due to an increase in the deer population. Due to the limited effectiveness of current measures, such as fences, JR staff are desperate to find a solution.

Demographic Survey Reveals Decrease in Number of Hokkaido Foreign Residents 8/5

A demographic survey conducted by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and communications has revealed that as of January 1st of this year, the number of foreign residents in Hokkaido has decreased 8.64% compared to the previous year. The percentage decline is the second highest in the nation after Nagasaki prefecture. Restrictions on entering the country and a decline in overseas tourism due to the coronavirus is negatively impacting resort areas and the foreign residents that work there.



For further information or to register for events contact:
Asahikawa International Committee
(KAMIMAE Ayumi, Daniel LIZARRAGA, or SAITO Emmy)
Location:
International/City Affairs Division, Tourism, Sports and International/City Affairs Dept.
Address:
Asahikawa International Center Feeeel
Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8- chome,
Asahikawa 070-0031
Tel: (0166) 25-7491
Fax: (0166) 23-4924
E-mail:
cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

Inside This Issue...

Hokkaido News Top 5 <i>By AIC</i>	1	Movies	8-9
Life in Asahikawa <i>By KITAMURA Tadao</i>	2-3	Bulletin Board	10
Hello Asahikawa! (Karuna Youngs) <i>Interviewed by AIC</i>	4-8	※ Due to the ongoing spread of COVID-19, events will not be listed this month.	

Life in Asahikawa

September the First = Disaster Prevention Day

By KITAMURA Tadao

August has been a month of turmoil, as the opening of the TOKYO 2020 Olympics brought with it much opposition due to the fear of the COVID-19 pandemic worsening, but the games are over at last. Now, the cool boreal winds have begun to blow. However, you ought to be aware that this typhoon season.

September 1st was declared “Disaster Prevention Day” by the nation. It was designated as a holiday in order to pay tribute to the tragic Great Earthquake of 1923 in the Kanto area. This date has been well known since days of old as the 210th day counting from the beginning of spring, alongside the 220th day (September 10th). On this day, many institutions, businesses, schools, and kindergartens begin campaigns to raise awareness about protecting oneself from natural disasters. In addition, they conduct safety drills to practice escaping from a potential calamity.

As you might have noticed, this archipelago is at risk of many kinds of natural disasters. It is positioned exactly on a route in which many typhoons proceed through, and seven volcanic zones are located throughout Japan’s largest islands except for Shikoku. The theory of plate tectonics indicates that the Philippines Sea and Pacific Ocean plates are sinking under the Eurasian and North American plates respectively near the south-east shore of the Japan archipelago at a rate of a few centimeters a year. This plate movement is believed to be the cause of the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923 and the Tohoku Earthquake in 2011.

The islands of Japan mainly consist of steep mountains, and the narrow streams that run between them tend to flow rapidly. The geological and meteorological conditions of this archipelago have caused so many disastrous events in the history of this country. However, we must be aware that many of these disasters came from the results of human activity: CO2 pollution, the clearing of forests, improper land use, and so on.

Prolonged heavy rainfall in the beginning of July caused serious disaster in the residential city of Atami in Shizuoka Prefecture. The torrent destroyed several dozens of houses, and many human lives were lost. Investigation later revealed that an estate construction project located upstream had played a role in the severity of the disaster.

I am very worried about the non-native people here who could suddenly experience a natural disaster in this country. You have to watch what other residents are doing, and follow them without hesitation as fast as possible. If you are a resident in a town or village, you should get a hazard map from your local government office. It illustrates the depth of water when a particular river overflows, where areas vulnerable to landslides are, where you would go in case of a disaster, and so on. Be sure to carefully watch the weather forecast on TV. After the typhoon season has passed, the weather of Hokkaido will be exquisite. Let’s enjoy it to the fullest when it arrives.





Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Karuna Youngs
Home Country: England
Interviewed: 8/18/2021

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

AIC: **So Karuna, where are you from?**

Karuna: I'm from England. My mum lives in south-east London. London is a very big city. 9 million people. So, she lives at the edge. I grew up there, but I was born in the west of England. If people know my country, I come from near the Dartford Bridge. It's very famous. You have about 300 bridges in Asahikawa, so now I realized that it's probably not that famous. Only for me (laughs). I lived there from the age of three to eighteen, and then I went to university in Northern Ireland. It's a bit rural and a bit urban. For me, it's just an ordinary south England town. Dartford isn't a big place. I was quite keen to get away from there to be honest (laughs).

AIC: **What brings you to Japan, then?**

Karuna: I came to Japan in 2018. I was in my 50s, and I had just finished one job. I was a qualified English teacher, and I didn't know what to do next. I was curious about Japan, because I've never been to Japan. I've been to South Korea, I've been to Venezuela, a few European countries, and India. I was curious, and my cousin lives in Sendai, and I told him "I'd like to come to Japan." He said, "Come!" And when people tell me to "come," if my heart jumps up, I go. So I came, and eventually I did get offered a job in Sendai in 2018, and I started in 2019.

AIC: **How do you like living in Japan? Is it different from what you expected?**

Karuna: Yeah, it has been a culture shock. I'm used to it now, but it is so different to my own culture and country, and so far away. It's kind of similar, but everything is slightly different. It's disorienting. I think in the first six months you have a honeymoon period, and it's amazing. You notice that everything is so nice, clean, friendly, and safe. That's one of the good things about Japan—you're almost totally safe... apart from the bears (laughs). London is semi-safe. Safer than New York, but not as safe as Asahikawa. Now that I've moved to Hokkaido, I've found that the people here are really nice, gentle, kind, and helpful. I met someone from Sapporo when I was a young man, and she told me that Hokkaido is the place to go for nature, open space, mountains, and wilderness. I'm attracted to places like Canada, Scandinavia, and Hokkaido. I don't like hot, humid places. I'm not interested in Tokyo at all. I like it cool. Last month was very hard for me. 27 straight days of 34-35 degree temperature. I just hid away.

AIC: **Same here. I've never seen this kind of hot weather streak before in Hokkaido!**

Karuna: I imagine it must have been record breaking. When it stopped, it went down 15 degrees! It dropped off a cliff. I came here April 2nd, so the snow was already here. Within one week, I went to Asahidake twice. I saw the sprawling whiteness, and it was vast! It blew my mind. I had barely arrived, and I was faced with this beautiful landscape. We don't have that in my country, so this is where I want to be. This kind of open landscape of intense nature just going on forever—it's a dream for me.

AIC: I'm glad that you're here and able to experience all of this! How do you like living in Asahikawa, and how does it compare to London?

Karuna: Well, I left London when I was 18. I wanted to get away and see the world. The place I lived for most of my life was Brighton, on the south coast of England, and I lived there for about 23 years. It has about the same population as Asahikawa. Brighton's population goes up to about 350,000 during the summer months when the tourists come, because we're on the sea. I have this dream of linking Asahikawa with Brighton. They're about the same size, and the people would be so curious about each other. If you search "Brighton" on YouTube, you will see that it's a very historic and beautiful place. I've lived here since April, so I'm only a beginner, but it seems very rural, peaceful, and quiet here. I'm in my 50's, so I love that. I don't want the hustle and bustle anymore. I want peace, where I have time to reflect and think. I can walk and cycle very easily on the flat river paths, so I feel very lucky to be here. It's also very safe, so I don't have to be anxious. And I'm just scratching the surface. I've only been here for four months. I won't get to see all of it in my time here, but I'll get to see some. I want to go east and go to those coastal towns. I want to see those eagles that come down from Russia.

AIC: There's some incredible wildlife over there! So, what do you do for work?

Karuna: I've been working as an English teacher in a small international school. I'm on my trial period, and there is a steep learning curve. I've been an English teacher for five years now, and I've been teaching adults in Germany and children in Sendai. There is a lot to learn in my trial period, and I can't learn it all in such a short amount of time. There are so many little things, unspoken rules, and more. I've got about 50 kids in total, and up to 30 kids on any particular day. I've gotten to know all of them. It's an intimate teaching situation, which is a first time for me. I'm teaching children from two to six years of age, and they have quite a high level of English. Compared to what I've done in Sendai, this is serious English because it's an international school. Everything is in English, so it pushes the children into this immersive environment, where they say to each other, "No Japanese!" (laughs).

AIC: (laughs). That's so funny.

Karuna: When they're little, they don't know what's going on. They're just picking it up like a native. I've never taught like that before. It's like being a parent. They're learning Japanese and learning English at the same time. They're lucky.

AIC: That's really interesting. If their whole environment is in English, it must be a lot easier to pick up.

Karuna: It should be. Not as easy as living in America, of course. We can't emulate that, but it's the next best thing. Even though we surround them in English, they are much more surrounded by Japanese, as they are only there for a few hours a day. Their life is all in Japanese, so it is secondary, but it makes a difference. It's a kindergarten, so it prepares them for when they enter the Japanese school system. They'll have a basis in English, so if they want that, it might be useful to them. It's an international language after all.



Continued on Page 6

AIC: What are some cultural differences that you noticed when you came to Japan?

Karuna: I try to make sense of what I see, and my mind tells me a story. How I make sense of it, is that the culture is radically different. It comes from a different historical, cultural, and religious, and linguistic background. Japan developed in isolation from the rest of the world for a long time. It's very homogenous. 97% of the population is Japanese, so the culture is very singular. When you go to London, you'll hear five, six, or seven languages in a day. Here, everything is in Japanese, and it seems from the outside, that Japanese people tend to do the same things at the same time in the same sort of way, whereas I come from a more individualistic culture where people tend to operate differently. There are also similarities, of course, but some things have shocked me, like Japanese people's behavior in car parks. Do you know what I'm talking about?



AIC: Not exactly...

Karuna: If I tell you, you'll notice it everywhere. Wanting to mitigate climate change is very important to me. It's the number one problem in the world. I would not dream of sitting in a *combin*i car park with my engine on, for one hour, eating my lunch. In all weather, in all car parks, you will see between one and ten cars with their engines on, polluting and putting carbon into the atmosphere. You would not see this in England. They keep their engine running to keep the air conditioning running. This really shocked me. I would go up to people and ask them, "Excuse me, do you know about climate change? Why has your engine been running for the last 30-40 minutes? They always shrug their shoulders. I asked my Japanese friend, and she said, "They know it's wrong, but they do it because everybody does it." That shocked me because I think that climate change is the number one issue in the world, and our children and grandchildren will suffer. It's so irresponsible, and you see it in every car park.

AIC: Now that you mention it, I do see it all the time. What also concerns me is that people can easily get their car stolen.

Karuna: Not here. In my country, if you left your car running while you did your *combin*i shopping, you would have no car when you come out. Opportunist thieves would steal them. That's another huge difference. In Japan, I could leave my wallet in the road, and when I come back from work, it would still be there with all the money and cards. I love the sense of trust here. I don't want to focus on the negative things. In the west where I come from, trust, whether it be trust in government, trust in each other, or trust in community, has diminished a lot since the 1950s. It was a wonderful thing, and we lost it in the cities in the west. There's a lot of loneliness, depression, and anxiety in my country. I'm told that incidents of mental illness are high here as well, but for different reasons. Isolation, people living alone, etc. It's very tragic. I would love to do something. That's why I think I would like to twin Asahikawa with Brighton. I just feel like the West has got so much to learn from Asia, and that Asia has so much to learn from the West.

One thing that I'm fascinated about in Hokkaido, is the indigenous people that were repressed. Their population has hugely diminished. It was only historically yesterday that this happened. I'm so fascinated by the Ainu. By their songs, rituals, and their love of nature. I'm curious so I want to learn more. Their connection with nature is so important. That's something we can learn from. The animism and connection with nature.



AIC: **A lot of people nowadays are losing their connection to nature, myself included.**

Karuna: Something that's unique about me, is that I've been a practicing Buddhist for 25 years, which partly explains my love of nature. Back in London, I encountered Buddhism when I was about 29, and became a fully committed Buddhist. I've now been living as a Buddhist for 20 years, so I've come to Japan with that type of Buddhist training. Karuna is a Buddhist name. I am part of something called the Tiratna Buddhist Order, and I was ordained in 2001 while 9/11 happened. I was in the mountains for four months with ten other guys, and 9/11 happened in the States, and I didn't know about it for two more months. I was spared from the trauma of that terrible event. Another reason why I came to Japan was Zen culture. 200 years ago, Japan was a Buddhist country. They were vegetarians. I'm a vegetarian myself. I don't eat meat or fish. I'm drawn to that type of Zen, minimalist beauty.

AIC: **Speaking of vegetarianism, it must be difficult finding food to eat here, no?**

Karuna: This has been a real problem in Japan. So far, I've encountered no real understanding of vegetarianism. Even though being a vegetarian is very simple: don't eat meat, don't eat fish. I haven't done so since I was 19 years old. There's no way I'm going to eat it—even in a small amount. But then I get asked, "Do you eat sesame?" What does that got to do with it? It is very stressful and challenging for my diet here, because I can't get the foods that I want and need. Japanese food is wonderful, but it's all mixed up with fish. I don't want to eat my friends. It's not because I'm a Buddhist. I was like that before I was a Buddhist. In my country, there are millions of vegetarians, and vegans. I'm not even a vegan! But here, in my three years, I've only met one other vegetarian.

AIC: **Wow. Vegetarians really are rare here, aren't they?**

Karuna: It's a recent phenomenon. Before 1945, Japanese people ate meat twice a year, I believe. Now, it's twice a day. It's a huge change in eating habits, and yet, they don't have an understanding of a plant-based diet. So, I'm really restricted with where I can go and what I can eat. I can't speak wonderfully about the *sushi* and all this stuff, because it hasn't been my experience. But, I'm choosing to be vegetarian, and I chose to come to Japan, so I'm kind of getting used to it. I'm finding things I can eat—certain pizzas and pastas. Luckily, I love *nori*. When I lived in Korea I fell in love with seaweed, because in England we don't eat seaweed. The food here in Asahikawa is really tasty, like the corn and tomatoes. They're straight from the field.

Continued on Page 8

- AIC:** The produce here is really amazing. What are some things you're looking forward to doing here?
- Karuna:** I'm looking forward to skiing. I'm looking forward to going to classical music concerts when the pandemic calms down. I want to meet some more people, I want to connect with other foreign residents here, if possible. I want to make some friendships here with people who are interested in discussion, spiritual matters, or Buddhist meditation. I'm looking forward to exploring the deep nature of Hokkaido, which is what I'm already doing. This is my plan.



- AIC:** I hope you're able to do everything you want to do while you're in Hokkaido!
- Karuna:** It's a wonderful place. I'm very lucky to be here.
- AIC:** That's all I have. Thank you so much for participating, Karuna!
- Karuna:** It's nice to meet you. You're welcome.

★ Movies ~ September ★

*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.

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

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

Now Showing

- Butchers (English/R15+)
- Ashfall (Korean)
- Earwig and the Witch (Japanese/Anime)
- Space Jam: A New Legacy (English)
- The Method of Repulsing the Dove (Japanese)
- PAW Patrol: the Movie (English/Anime)
- Last of the Wolves (Japanese/R15+)
- Kaguya-sama: Love is War the Final (Japanese)
- Free Guy (English)
- Yokai Daisenso: Guardians (Japanese)
- The Suicide Squad (English/R15+)
- The God of Cinema (Japanese)
- Fast and Furious 9 (English)
- Gift of Fire (Japanese)
- My Hero Academia: World Heroes' Mission (Japanese/Anime)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Shrouded in Mystery! The Flower of Tenkazu Academy (Japanese/Anime)
- Kamen Rider Saber + Zenkaiger Superhero Senki (Japanese) ~9/2
- Belle (Japanese/Anime)
- Tokyo Revengers (Japanese/PG12)

Coming Soon

- Ganbare! TEAM NACS (Japanese) 9/3
- Ryoma! The Prince of Tennis (Japanese/Anime) 9/3
- The Woman of S.R.I (Japanese) 9/3
- Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (English) 9/3
- The Deer King: The Promised Journey with Yuna (Japanese/Anime) 9/10
- Okaasan to Issho: Escape from the Strange World (Japanese) 9/10
- Free! the Final Stroke Pt1 (Japanese/Anime) 9/17
- One Summer Story (Japanese) 9/17
- Masquerade Night (Japanese) 9/17
- In The Wake (Japanese) 10/1
- Wrath of Man (English) 10/8
- Pity (Greek) 10/8
- Child of Kamiari Month (Japanese/Anime) 10/8
- Baragaki: Unbroken Samurai (Japanese) 10/15
- Otoppe: Papa Don't Cry (Japanese/Anime) 10/15
- Cube (Japanese) 10/22
- Sing a Bit of Harmony (Japanese/Anime) 10/29

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

★ Movies ~ September ★

*<Cineplex 7 Asahikawa and Dinos Cinemas Only> 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.

★ **Cineplex 7 Asahikawa:** Nagayama 12-jo 3-chome Western Powers Nagayama / 0166 – 49 – 1000

URL: <http://www.unitedcinemas.jp/asahikawa/index.html> (Japanese)

Directions: Take Dohoku Bus No. 66, 72 or 665 at Bus stop No. 18 in front of Feeeal Asahikawa Department Store (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nagayama 10 (ju)-jo 3 (san)-chome.”

Now Showing

- Earwig and the Witch (Japanese/Anime)
- The Method of Repulsing the Dove (Japanese)
- Last of the Wolves (Japanese/R15+)
- The Suicide Squad (English/R15+)
- Free Guy (English)
- Butt Detective: Secret of Sufure Island and Survive! In the Deep Sea (Japanese/Anime)
- Fast and Furious 9 (English)
- The God of Cinema (Japanese)
- My Hero Academia: World Heroes' Mission (Japanese 4DX/Anime)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Shrouded in Mystery! The Flower of Tenkazu Academy (Japanese/Anime)
- Jungle Cruise (English 4DX, Japanese 2D)
- Kamen Rider Saber + Zenkaiser Superhero Senki (Japanese)
- Belle (Japanese/Anime)
- Tokyo Revengers (Japanese/PG12)
- Honey Lemon Soda (Japanese)
- Mobile Suit Gundam: Hathaway's Flash (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (English) 9/3
- Those Who Wish Me Dead (English) 9/3
- Ganbare! TEAM NACS (Japanese) 9/3
- Mijyoubutsu Hyaku Monogatari ~AKB48 Ikai e no Tomoshihi Tera (Japanese) 9/10
- Masquerade Night (Japanese) 9/17
- Free! the Final Stroke Pt1 (Japanese/Anime) 9/17
- Reminiscence (English/PG12) 9/17
- First Gentleman (Japanese) 9/23
- Kuhaku (Japanese/PG12) 9/23
- Minamata (English) 9/23
- The Courier (English) 9/23
- No Time To Die (English) 10/1
- In The Wake (Japanese) 10/1
- Baragaki: Unbroken Samurai (Japanese) 10/15
- Dune (English) 10/15
- The Last Duel (English) 10/15

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / 0166 – 21 – 1218

URL: <http://cinema.sugai-dinos.jp/pc/> (Japanese)

Directions: Take Dohoku Bus No. 61, 62, 67 or 667 at Bus stop No. 18 in front of Feeeal Asahikawa Department Store (1-jo-dori 8-chome). Get off at “Nippon Seishi mae.”

Now Showing

- Misaki no Mayoiga (Japanese/Anime)
- Old (English)
- Yume Handan, Soshite Kyofu Taiken e (Japanese)~9/3
- Space Jam: A New Legacy (English)
- The Method of Repulsing the Dove (Japanese)
- Earwig and the Witch (Japanese/Anime)
- Last of the Wolves (Japanese)
- Kaguya-sama: Love is War the Final (Japanese)
- Yokai Daisenso: Guardians (Japanese) 8/6
- Free Guy (English)
- The Suicide Squad (English/R15+)
- The God of Cinema (Japanese)
- Fast and Furious 9 (English)
- Fate/Grand Order Final Singularity-Grand Temple of Time: Solomon (Japanese/Anime)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Shrouded in Mystery! The Flower of Tenkazu Academy (Japanese/Anime)
- Jungle Cruise (English)
- Belle (Japanese/Anime)
- Tokyo Revengers (Japanese/PG12)
- Godzilla vs. Kong (English)

Coming Soon

- Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (English) 9/3
- Drive My Car (Japanese) 9/10
- Masquerade Night (Japanese) 9/17
- White Snake (Japanese) 9/23
- First Gentleman (Japanese) 9/23
- In The Wake (Japanese) 10/1
- No Time To Die (English) 10/1
- Lupin's Daughter (Japanese) 10/15
- Baragaki: Unbroken Samurai (Japanese) 10/15
- Cube (Japanese) 10/22
- No Funds For Retirement! (Japanese) 10/30
- Sword Art Online Progressive: Aria of a Starless Night (Japanese/Anime) 10/30

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

YAMASHITA KIYOSHI Retrospective

Born in Tokyo in 1922, YAMASHITA Kiyoshi lived a life of ups and downs during one of the most tumultuous eras of Japan's history, and was known by many as the "wandering, painting prodigy." He has been the subject of various movies and dramas, and his work is loved by a wide range of people. About 130 works and documents will be displayed at this exhibition, including paintings from YAMASHITA's youth, works he created during and after the war, his travel journal, *chigiri-e* art from his later years, oil and water paintings, ceramics, and more.

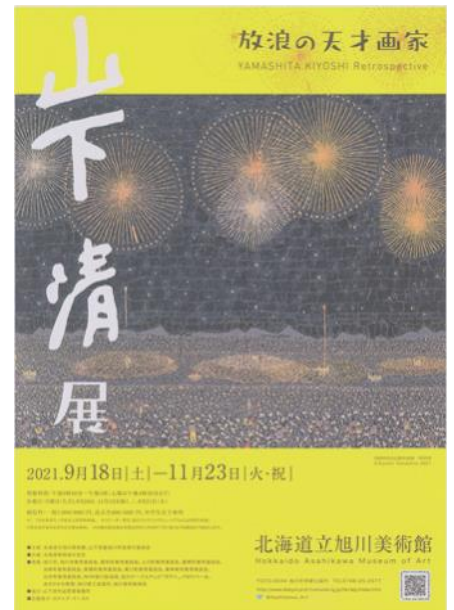
Exhibition Length: 9/18 (Saturday) ~ 11/23 (Tuesday, Holiday), closed Mondays (Except 9/20 and 11/1) and on 9/21 (Tuesday)

Time: 9:30-17:00 (Last entry is at 16:30)

Location: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Inside Tokiwa Park)

Admission: General ¥1,000 (¥800), High School and University High School and University students ¥800 (¥600), Junior High School Students and below are free.

Notes: Prices in parenthesis are for tickets sold in advance or for groups of 10 or more. Tickets will be sold in advance at the Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art until 9/17 (Friday).



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!

FUN FRIDAYS

Dates: September 17th & 24th, October 1st, 8th & 22nd, November 12th & 26th

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

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.

FREE Wi-Fi

The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has free wifi available for public use free of charge. Registration for a user card is needed, if you are residing in Asahikawa. 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 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

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

Tel: (0166) 25-7491 Fax: (0166) 23-4924

E-mail: cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

****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.****