

Asahikawa Info

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For further information or to register for events, contact:

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Hokkaido News Top 5

April 2022, compiled by the AIC

Eniwa Library to Introduce No-Contact Check-Out Services, 3/24

After April 1st, the Eniwa Branch Library will implement person-less book circulation services during a part of its opening hours. Using a management system with integrated circuit (IC) tags, they hope to increase user convenience as well as their service hours. This will be the first library in Hokkaido to utilize such technology. They will test the new system every day for 30 min. after 9AM and for two hours after 5PM. The number of staff will also reduce from five to three on hand. While the library will also open 30 min. earlier, they also anticipate extending hours until 10PM in the future.

Akkeshi's "Shosho" Whiskey Wins Award in UK Competition, 3/27

At the 2022 World Whiskies Awards (WWA) it was announced that Akkeshi Shosho, produced in Kenten Jitsugyo's whiskey distillery in Akkeshi, was chosen as the world's best blended whisky. Over 1,300 brands from 268 companies appears in the WWA's 19 competition categories. Shosho was introduced in August 2021 as the fourth installment of their 24 Seasons Series and is said to have a unique balance of *peat* (smokiness) and sweetness. The chief blender at the Akkeshi distillery commented: "It's thanks to our dedicated fans and our staff's hard work that we were able to win."

JR Suspended 12,800 Times Due to Heavy Snowfall, 4/3

The JR Hokkaido Railways were suspended 12,800 times in 2021, the most in the past ten years. Railways concentrated in the Sapporo area continually suffered localized heavy snowfall and delayed snowplowing, both factors leading to several days of suspension for incoming and outgoing trains. The JR compiled an interim report pushing for an increase in winter service vehicles, but it is unclear if such a short-term solution will work. Specialists point out the need for alternative transportation. Concentrated in February, 3,525 trains and over 555,000 people had been affected within eight days of all-day suspensions, recurring another week at the end of the month.

Marching Band Parade to Be Held Once Again After 3 Years, 4/9

On June 4th, marching bands from all over Japan will march through Asahikawa in Japan's largest festival, the "Hokkaido Grand Parade of Marching Bands." While COVID-19 prevented this event from taking place for the past two years, the city will celebrate their 90th parade with a week-long citywide music event called "Asahikawa Music Week," June 4th-12th. In 2019, 88 musical groups and a total of 3,600 people participated, and they anticipate a similar number this year. A wide variety of music genres will be performed at street shows and concerts throughout the city. If you wish to participate, please call the festival's office at 0166-23-0090 (Japanese).

Yosakoi Soran to be Reduced in Size and Charged for Seating, 4/15

The festival announced their overall plans for the June event on April 14th, after three years of cancellations. As countermeasures against COVID-19, the main parade venue in Odori Park will be reduced to half its usual size and require paid seating to limit the number of attendees. Although they expect 200 teams to perform (around 70% of its original amount), no international teams will be participating. To avoid passersby from gathering, the festival will be surrounded by a curtain to prevent outside viewing. Tickets are on sale. For any questions, please call 011-23104351.

Crisp Brass Quintet, Independent Concert vol. 1: "If Spring Comes..."

冴え渡る金管五重奏 単独公演 vol.1 『春、来たりなば』

Come and listen to this brass ensemble play stylings such as Selections from Westside Story (Bernstein), Suite from the Monteregian Hills (Calvert), Canterbury Chorale (Van der Roost), and much more at the first installment of their independent concerts!

Date: 5/5 (Thursday)

Time: Opens 12:30, Starts 13:00

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

Admission: FREE

For further information, contact: brassquintentsaewatal@gmail.com



Free Entry and Mini-Concert on Inoue Yasushi's Birthday

井上靖誕生日記念無料開館&ミニコンサート

Celebrate the life and work of Inoue Yasushi, famed author and Asahikawa-native. Not only will the Yasushi Inoue Memorial Hall be allowing free entry all day on his birthday, but they will also be presenting a small cello and piano concert in the lounge area of the building.!

Date: 5/5 (Thursday)

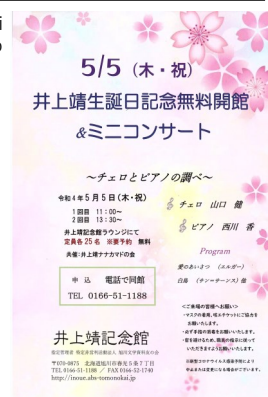
Museum Hours: 9:00-17:00

Concert times: 1) 11:00-, 2) 13:30-

Place: Yasushi Inoue Memorial Hall (Asahikawa, Shunko 5-jo 7-chome)

Admission: FREE (*Reservations required for concert, up to 25 people)

For further information, contact: 0166-51-1188 (for reservations)



Inoue Yasushi—People and Literature XII: On "Chronicle of My Mother"

井上靖 人と文学XII 『わが母の記』を巡って

A compilation of three short stories depicting ten years of his mother's life, Yasushi Inoue's book "Chronicle of My Mother" has gone on to be translated in various languages and adapted into film. This exhibition will dive deeper into the work in question, tracing back the author's footsteps alongside his personal writings and photos from his time with his mother.

Date: Until 5/22 (Sunday)

Time: 9:00-17:00 (Entry ends at 4:30), Closed Mondays (the following day if Monday is a holiday)

Place: Yasushi Inoue Memorial Hall (Asahikawa, Shunko 5-jo 7-chome)

Admission: General ¥300, High School students ¥150, Middle School and under FREE

For further information, contact: 0166-51-1188 (Yasushi Inoue Memorial Hall)



Super Live Comedy Show in Asahikawa

スパーライブ笑SHOW in 旭川

Why not tickle your funny bone at this laugh-out-loud event? Over ten comedy duos and groups will take to the stage at the Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall to get you in stitches by the end of the show! Take a chance to get more acquainted with the Japanese side of humor with this menagerie of jokesters!

Date: 5/22 (Sunday)

Time: 1) Opens 11:00, Starts 11:30; 2) Opens 14:30, Starts 15:00

Place: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall (Large Hall), (Asahikawa, 7-jo-dori 9-chome)

Admission: S-seats ¥4,000, A-seats ¥3,500

Ticket Office: Ticket Pia (P-code: 511-337), Lawson Ticket (L-code: 11655)

For further information, contact: 0166-76-9490



Tatekawa Koshira: Solo Performance

立川こしら 独演会

Discover the power of rakugo with Tatekawa Koshira, dedicated to introducing as many people to the craft as possible, through live events, radio, television, and even Youtube. Take a break and allow yourself a good laugh at this night of traditional Japanese storytelling.

Date: 5/26 (Thursday)

Time: Opens 18:00, Starts 18:30

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

Admission: (*Reservation required) General ¥2,000, Ages 25 and under ¥1,000

Ticket Office: TEL/FAX 0166-23-2801 (10:00-18:00), or e-mail bunkagoya@sky.plala.or.jp to give your name, phone number, and the number of tickets you want!

For further information, contact: TEL/FAX 0166-23-2801 (10:00-18:00), or e-mail bunkagoya@sky.plala.or.jp (Machinaka Bunkagoya)



Jomon Artifacts from Asahikawa: Results from an Archaeological Dig in Nagayama

あさひかわの縄文遺跡—永山4遺跡の発掘調査成果

Come and take a trip back into prehistory with the latest discovery of Jomon artifacts found in local Nagayama! Dated to the late Jomon period around 2,500 years ago, they come from a location believed to be used mainly as a burial site. If you come on 5/5 (Thursday), you'll be able to learn more at a talk with an archaeologist that works on-site at 10:30-11:30 (museums fees apply for talk)!

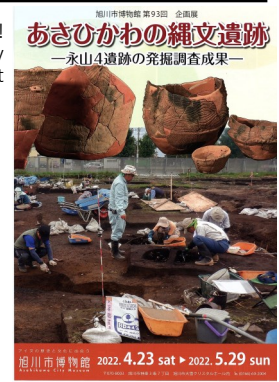
Date: Until 5/29 (Sunday)

Time: 9:00-17:00

Place: Asahikawa City Museum (Asahikawa, Kagura 3-jo 7-chome)

Admission: Adult ¥350, High School ¥230, Middle and Elementary School FREE

For further information, contact: 0166-69-2004 (Asahikawa Crystal Hall)



TONE: Concert in Asahikawa

遠TONE音 Concert in Asahikawa

Using a combination of guitar, koto and shakuhachi, this trio will take you on musical journey through their native Hokkaido. Their music is inspired by its scenery, breaking off from traditional Japanese music and purposely avoiding becoming a pale imitation of Western music.

Date: 5/29 (Sunday)

Time: Opens 14:00, Starts 14:30

Place: Kagura Community Center, Kirarin (Asahikawa, Kagura 3-jo 6-chome 1-12)

Admission: General ¥3,300

Ticket Office: Lawson Ticket (L-code: 11617), Doshin Playguide

For further information, contact: (Reservations/Enquiries) 03-3480-6710 (遠TONE音Project)



Let's Go to the Art Museum! Learn How to Enjoy Modern Art with Dick Bruna

美術館に行こう！ディック・ブルーナに学ぶモダン・アートの楽しみ方

Come and have fun learning about how to appreciate art and design in this collaborative exhibition with Miffy and Dick Bruna's book "Miffy Goes to the Art Museum."

Date: Until 6/26 (Sunday)

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

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

Admission: ¥1,100 (¥900*), University and High School students ¥600 (¥400*), Middle School students ¥300 (¥200*), Elementary and under FREE (must be accompanied by adult) *groups of 10+

Ticket Office: (Pre-sale tickets until 4/22, regular tickets after 4/22) Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art, any Fukudo in Asahikawa, Lawson Ticket (L-code: 11938), Seven Ticket (Seven-code: 092-741), Ticket Pia (P-code: 685-915), Doshin Playguide (in Sapporo), Doshin Playguide online store, etc.

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



May Events in Asahikawa

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

Angelo: Hi! I am Angelo and I am from Brazil. I've always been interested in different cultures and wanted to travel around the world somehow. I started learning English by myself as a hobby when I was a teenager, which naturally grew into my profession, and in the last few years I felt the same spark towards the Japanese language and history.

AIC: How did you first get interested in Japan?

Angelo: Although I have fond memories of watching anime in the 90's (Saint Seiya, Sailor Moon, Evangelion, etc.), my real interest in Japan began about four years ago. I was casually listening to Japanese music at that time, so I eventually became fascinated by the sounds of the language, the writing system, its origins and –ultimately– by Japan's history and culture. One thing led to another: the more I would read about Japan, the more I loved it. So... here I am.

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



Name: Angelo Romao
Home Country: Brazil
Interviewed: 2022/04/17

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?

Angelo: Yes, this is my first time. I've been in Japan since the end of November 2021. I lived in Sapporo for four months, where I took a life-saving intensive Japanese course at Hokkaido University as part of the program that I came here to complete. I've met some wonderful people there, including professors, fellow foreigner classmates and, of course, very friendly locals during my exploration of the city. I am happy to say that I'm having a similar experience here in Asahikawa.

AIC: What brings you to Asahikawa in particular?

Angelo: It was a combination of everything I was looking for. If I had the chance to come to Japan, I really wanted to make the most of it: knowing the country, the people, learning the language and also growing professionally by observing the Japanese educational system up close. So, I applied for the scholarship offered by the Japanese Ministry of Education (MEXT), as a teacher trainee, and I am currently enrolled at Hokkaido University of Education here in Asahikawa.

AIC: What kind of work do you do?

Angelo: I've been teaching English to high school students in Brazil for the last ten years. Although it can be challenging sometimes, I enjoy working with teenagers. That phase is such an important part of every person's life and as someone who has traveled to different parts of the world, I like to think that I might be able to inspire my students in that regard. Knowing foreign languages can bring so many opportunities and, in some cases, completely change our lives. I want them to think about how beautiful and diverse this planet is and how to explore it.

AIC: What are your hobbies?

Angelo: Without a doubt, listening to music and collecting CD's and vinyl. I am a huge fan of Yumi Matsutoya and even had the pleasure of going to one of her concerts this month in Sapporo. She is so creative and prolific. My musical taste revolves around iconic singers from the Showa period, who are still active today, including Shinji Tanimura, Anzenchitai and Koji Tamaki (legends from Asahikawa!), and my beloved divas Akina Nakamori and Miki Imai. Younger artists such as Motohiro Hata and Hikaru Utada are part of my collection, too. I also love beer.



If a person can talk about these singers while drinking beer with me, we'll be best friends immediately.

AIC: Do you have any favorite foods?

Angelo: Japan is the land of delicious food and I love basically everything here. Special mention goes to ramen (another Asahikawa specialty), okonomiyaki, yakiniku and jingisukan. And Sapporo beer is simply the best.

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

Angelo: I love nature, so I would recommend the many beautiful parks here in Asahikawa. I often walk by the Ishikari River, one of my favorite moments of relaxation. And I'm looking forward to go to the Asahiyama Zoo this spring.

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

Angelo: To me, Asahikawa offers the best of both worlds: it has many features and entertainment options of a big city while maintaining the pleasant and



cozy atmosphere of the countryside. The city is beautiful, the people are kind and the food is delicious. I live in the northeastern region of Brazil, which is very hot and sunny all year long. I really wanted to experience the complete opposite of that here in Hokkaido. Actually, I saw snow for the first time in my life here in Japan!

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

Angelo: Definitely the language barrier. Before coming to Japan, I had been studying the language by myself for a couple of years, which gave me a solid comprehension of its structure and basic knowledge in order to survive upon arriving here. But up to that point my studies were mainly focused on reading and writing, with minimal conversation practice. Now I get the chance to develop my listening and speaking skills by talking with natives, and I'm happy to say that I have been improving a lot lately. Recently I went to the movies and I cried: not because of the movie I was watching, but because I was able to understand everything the characters were saying (laughs)! Learning Japanese is hard work and I keep studying every single day.

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

Angelo: I will do my best to improve my proficiency in the language, learn from the wonderful professors at my university, make new friends and enjoy the whole experience as much as I can. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity.

Movies - April

*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.

Dinos Cinemas Only: Every Thursday is "Men's Day." Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for men.

★ **Aeon Cinema:** Miyashita-dori 7-chome / 0166 – 74 – 6411 URL: cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa (Japanese)

Now Showing

- xxxHolic (Japanese)
- Radiation House (Japanese)
- I'm Just a Little Out of Luck Right Now (Japanese)
- Tsuyukusa (Japanese)
- Re:cycle of the Penguindrum: Pt1 (Japanese/Anime)
- Free! the Final Stroke Pt2 (Japanese/Anime)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Mononoke Ninja Chinpuden (Japanese/Anime)
- Kamen Rider OOO 10th: Core Medal of Resurrection (Japanese)
- Death Ranch (English/R15+)
- Drive My Car (Japanese/PG12)
- Detective Conan-the Bride of Halloween (Japanese/Anime)
- Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore (English)
- Cherry Magic! Thirty Years of Virginity Can Make You a Wizard?! (Japanese)
- Tonbi (Japanese)
- Morbius (English)
- Osomatsu-san (Japanese)
- Sing2 (English/Anime)
- The Last 10 Years (Japanese)
- Doraemon: Nobita's Little Star Wars (Japanese/Anime)
- Jujutsu Kaisen 0 (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Doctor Strange in Multiverse of Madness (English) 5/4
- Lesson in Murder (Japanese/PG12) 5/6
- Bubble (Japanese/Anime) 5/13
- Wandering (Japanese) 5/13
- Shin Ultraman (Japanese) 5/13
- 5-tobun no Hanayome (Japanese/Anime) 5/20
- Taiga e no Michi (Japanese) 5/20
- Haken Anime! (Japanese) 5/20
- Fullmetal Alchemist the Final Chapter: The Avenger Scar (Japanese) 5/20
- Odd Taxi: In the Woods (Japanese/Anime) 5/27
- Top Gun: Maverick (English) 5/27
- 20-Year-Old Soul (Japanese) 5/27
- Kisaragi Station (Japanese) 6/3
- The Way of the Househusband (Japanese) 6/3
- Tokyo 2020 Olympics Side: A (Japanese) 6/3
- Alivehoon (Japanese) 6/10
- Yes, I Can't Swim (Japanese) 6/10
- Karakai Jouzu no Takagi-san (Japanese) 6/10
- Dragon Ball Super: Super Hero (Japanese/Anime) 6/11

★ **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

- xxxHolic (Japanese)
- Radiation House (Japanese)
- Seventeen Power of Love: The Movie (Korean)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Mononoke Ninja Chinpuden (Japanese/Anime)
- Free! the Final Stroke Pt2 (Japanese/Anime)
- C'mon C'mon (English)
- Detective Conan-the Bride of Halloween (Japanese 4DX/Anime)
- Tonbi (Japanese)
- Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore (English 4DX)
- Morbius (English) ~5/3
- Sing2 (English/Anime)
- Doraemon: Nobita's Little Star Wars (Japanese/Anime)
- The Last 10 Years (Japanese) ~5/3
- Drive My Car (Japanese/PG12)
- Jujutsu Kaisen 0 (Japanese/Anime) ~5/3

Coming Soon

- Doctor Strange in Multiverse of Madness (English 4DX) 5/4
- Bubble (Japanese/Anime) 5/13
- Shin Ultraman (Japanese) 5/13
- Wandering (Japanese) 5/13
- Taiga e no Michi (Japanese) 5/20
- Haken Anime! (Japanese) 5/20
- Fullmetal Alchemist the Final Chapter: Scar the Avenger (Japanese) 5/20
- Top Gun: Maverick (English) 5/27
- Blue Birthday (Korean) 5/27
- Mobile Suit Gundam: Cucuruz Doan's Island (Japanese/Anime) 6/3
- The Way of the Househusband (Japanese) 6/3
- Yes, I Can't Swim (Japanese) 6/3
- Dragon Ball Super: Super Hero (Japanese/Anime) 6/11

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

Movies - April

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Dinos Cinemas Only: Every Thursday is "Men's Day." Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for men.

★ **Dinos Cinemas:** Taisetsu-dori 5-chome / 0166 - 21 - 1218 URL: <http://cinema.sugai-dinos.jp/pc/> (Japanese)

Now Showing

- Shaolin Temple 4K (Chinese)
- xxxHolic (Japanese)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Mononoke Ninja Chinpuden (Japanese/Anime)
- JO1 the Movie: Unfinished - Go to the Top ((Japanese) ~5/20
- Belfast (English)
- Detective Conan-the Bride of Halloween (Japanese/Anime)
- Coda (English)
- Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore (English)
- Tonbi (Japanese)
- Morbius (English)
- Sing2 (English/Anime)
- Doraemon: Nobita's Little Star Wars (Japanese/Anime)
- The Last 10 Years (Japanese)
- Drive My Car (Japanese/PG12)
- Jujutsu Kaisen 0 (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Doctor Strange in Multiverse of Madness (English) 5/4
- Lesson in Murder (Japanese/PG12) 5/6
- Shin Ultraman (Japanese) 5/13
- Bubble (Japanese/Anime) 5/13
- Wandering (Japanese) 5/13
- Taiga e no Michi (Japanese) 5/20
- Haken Anime! (Japanese) 5/20
- Fullmetal Alchemist the Final Chapter: Scar the Avenger (Japanese) 5/20
- Top Gun: Maverick (English) 5/27
- Inu-Oh (Japanese/Anime) 5/28
- The Way of the Househusband (Japanese) 6/3
- Yes, I Can't Swim (Japanese) 6/10
- Dragon Ball Super: Super Hero (Japanese/Anime) 6/11

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



AIC Bulletin Board

Color Your Japanese!

Need Help?



Improve your Japanese communication skills by using this FREE online resource! Irodori offers Japanese language textbooks and audio files for the A1 and A2 levels of the CEFR language scale. Made to help foreign migrants improve their everyday Japanese, this resource focuses on communication over grammar, words or kanji. It also includes mini-cultural lessons for you to better understand Japanese society! To access, go to: www.irodori.jpf.go.jp

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, child care, 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: May 13th & 27th, June 10th & 24th, July 8th & 22nd
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.



The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome) has free Wi-Fi available for public use and is free of charge. 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 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
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