

旭川 ASAHIKAWA Info

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Hokkaido News Top 5

May 2018
Compiled by AIC



March 26

The Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters have announced that they will build a new stadium in Kitahiroshima by 2023, making the move from their current base, "Sapporo Dome," official. The Fighters' plan to develop their own ballpark aims to draw in a larger number of spectators.

March 29

The "Long-term Care Insurance System," an insurance system for persons of 65 years of age or older, has revised its premiums for the first time in 3 years, resulting in an increase of 482 yen (9.2%) all around Hokkaido. Increases are mainly due to rise in the number of policyholders. In Asahikawa and Hakodate, the cost of premiums reached over 6,000 yen for the first time.

April 2

Public elementary and junior high schools in Asahikawa, Kitami, Kushiro, Otaru and Sapporo will raise their school lunch fees starting April this year due to a sharp increase in the price of rice, seafood and more. Monthly lunch fees in Sapporo for example will increase by 350 yen for elementary schools and by 300 yen for junior high schools.

April 10

A man in Ashoro Town in Tokachi Subprefecture, has been selected by Guinness World Records as the world's oldest living male. Masazo NONAKA is 112 years and 259 days old as of April 10. He replaced a man living in Israel who had passed away last August at the age of 113.

April 17

A trunk full of Ainu cultural goods will be available for free rental starting this June, thanks to the Ainu Culture Promotion Foundation (formally known as The Foundation for Research and Promotion of Ainu Culture). There are various cultural items inside of the trunk such as an *ita* (a hand carved wooden plate), a *mukkuri* (a mouth harp), a *saranipu* (an attush bag), and 20 other items with descriptions. The foundation is preparing 5 of such trunks. For those who are interested in renting, please call the foundation.



For further information

or to register for events contact:

Asahikawa International Committee
(SUGANO Ayumi, Daniel LIZARRAGA,
or SAITO Emmy)

Location:

International/City Affairs Division,
Tourism, Sports and International/City
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The search for beauty that overwhelms the soul Rosanjin's Universe

魂を割る美が欲しい 魯山人の宇宙

KITAOJI Rosanjin (1883-1959) is well known in the art world as a talented epicure, ceramicist, painter, and calligrapher. He experimented with ceramics making at the age of 32 and developed theories on how the aesthetics of food is complimented by the design of ceramic tableware. This exhibit features the Kasama Nichido Museum of Art's collection of Rosanjin's works, the most prominent collection in Japan. Through personally experiencing his pieces up close, you will surely be able to sense what is called "Rosanjin's Universe".

Date: Now-7/1 (Sunday)**Museum Hours:** 9:30-17:00, Closed on Mondays and 5/1 (Tuesday)**Venue:** Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Art (Inside Tokiwa Park)**Admission:** General ¥1,000 (800), High School ¥600 (400), Elementary School ¥300 (200). Prices displayed in () are for groups over 10 that buy in advance**For Further Information Contact:** 0166-25-2577**Notes:** If you are a holder of a physically handicapped identification card, you may enter free of charge.6th Adult Band Charity Concert

第6回大人のエレキバンド チャリティーコンサート

Travel back in time to the 60s and see local bands perform songs by Elvis, The Ventures, Carol, The Rolling Stones, and more! A portion of the proceeds of this event will be donated to the Asahikawa City Orphanage to help children from various circumstances live fun and enriching lives.

Date: 5/13 (Sunday)**Time:** Opens 12:30, Starts 1:00**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Small Hall (7-jo-dori 8-chome)**Admission:** General ¥500, Students are free**Ticket Office:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Shop**For Further Information Contact:** 090-6212-2580

Tsugaru Shamisen performance by MIYOSHI Nobuchika – Live “The Sound of the Spring Breeze”

津軽三味線 三好のおちか ふるさとライブ“春風の音色”

MIYOSHI was 16 when he started playing the electric guitar and soon after formed a rock band. During this time, Miyoshi came upon the tsugaru shamisen and was fascinated by its tone so much that he decided to start playing it. He is known among his fans for his graceful way of playing that mimics human nature as well as his lively performances. Come out and see what is surely to be a lively performance and enjoy the sound of a unique, Japanese instrument!

Date: 5/19 (Saturday)**Time:** Opens 13:00, Starts 14:00**Venue:** Snow Crystal Museum (Minamigaoka 3-chome 1-1)**Admission:** Sale in Advance ¥2,500, Sale Day of ¥3,000**Ticket Office:** Snow Crystal Museum, Yamaha Music Retailing Store, AMO.BASE**For Further Information Contact:** 090-8370-132919th Asahikawa Citizen Band Festival

第19回 旭川地区 市民バンドフェスティバル

Enjoy performances by the Asahikawa Junior Band, the Asahikawa Civic Wind Orchestra, the Asahikawa Symphonic Wind Orchestra, the Asahikawa Youth Brass Band, the Soka Gakkai Asahikawa Brass Band, the Asahikawa City Wind Orchestra, the Pippu Wind Orchestra, and the Aibetsu Wind Band! So many wonderful bands packed into one night of musical wonder!

Date: 5/20 (Sunday)**Time:** Opens 17:30, Starts 18:00**Venue:** Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Large Hall (7-jo-dori 8-chome)**Admission:** General ¥500**Ticket Office:** Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Ticket Shop, Crystal Hall Ticket Shop**For Further Information Contact:** 090-6694-0050

iora Asahikawa Live アイオラ 旭川ライブ

The iora is a species of bird that will choose one partner and stay with them for life. Shu will be playing invigorating tunes on his rumba guitar, reminiscent of the Gipsy Kings. Momo will give life to groovy beats on the djembe drum, the Arabic goblet drum, and other various instruments. Like a pair of singing iora, their unique twin vocals will blow you away! Come experience a performance unlike any other that will heal your soul and stimulate your senses!

Date: 5/20 (Sunday)

Time: Opens 18:00, Starts 19:00

Venue: harunire café

Admission: Sale in advance ¥2,000 (Food and drink sold separately)

Ticket Office: For ticket reservations call 080-8294-7670

For Further Information Contact: mail@iora.jp



Songs of the Showa Era Concert

昭和のうたコンサート

Hokkaido Utatabiza brings you a Showa era themed performance with many talented artists! Immerse yourself in the soulful and unique singing by Junko, the captivating violin playing by Nariko, and be amazed by the energetic dance trio "The Salmon." For the first time, a dessert buffet will be included with the price of the concert! The sweets will be made available an hour before the concert from 13:00 to 14:00.

Date: 5/22 (Tuesday)

Time: Opens 13:00, Starts 14:00

Venue: BELLCLASSIC Asahikawa (Motomachi 2-chome)

Admission: Sale in advance ¥3,500, Day of ¥4,000. Price includes dessert buffet

Ticket Office: Torichu Yakitori (0166-29-2911), ULU (0166-73-3225)

For Further Information Contact: 0166-73-3225



Fujiko Hemming 2018 Piano Concert

フジコ・ヘミング2018 ピアノ ソロ コンサート

Fujiko Hemming graduated from the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music and shortly after received several esteemed prizes at competitions. She became deaf in her right ear before an important concert in Vienna and has suffered from partial hearing loss ever since. A documentary of her life aired on NHK in 1999 and was a hit with viewers. She then began touring the world, her tickets selling out at even the largest of concert halls. This world-renown pianist will visit Asahikawa so see her perform while you have the chance!

Date: 5/31 (Thursday)

Time: Opens 18:00, Starts 19:00

Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Large Hall (7-jo-dori 8-chome)

Admission: SS Seating: ¥12,000, S Seating ¥10,000, A Seating ¥8,000

Ticket Office: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall Ticket Shop, Yamaha Music Retailing Store, Gyokkodo, Coach and Four, Ticket Pia (P code: 345-469), Lawson (L code: 12193)

For Further Information Contact: 011-232-1373



Shiki Theater Company SONG & DANCE 65

劇団四季 ソング アンド ダンス 65

Famous songs from musicals combined with glamorous dancing, densely packed into one show! It is neither drama nor musical. It is an immensely popular new form of entertainment! For the anniversary of the founding of their group, the Shiki Theater Company will perform songs and dances that embody the theme "Our journey thus far." Some of their performances include "Friend Like Me" from "Aladdin," "They Live in You" from "The Lion King," "Memory" from "Cats," "Defying Gravity" from "Wicked," "Belle" from "The Beauty and the Beast," and more!

Date: 6/1 (Friday)

Time: Opens 18:00, Starts 18:30 (Approximate length is two hours and twenty minutes)

Venue: Asahikawa Civic Culture Hall, Large Hall (7-jo-dori 8-chome)

Admission: SS Seating ¥8,640, S Seating ¥7,020, A Seating ¥5,400, B Seating ¥3,240

Ticket Office: Gyokkodo, FM Riviere Ticket Box. To purchase tickets online, please check Shiki On-line Ticket or Ticket Pia

For Further Information Contact: 0166-55-1443



Life in Hokkaido

KOINOBORI, Carp Streamer

By Tadao KITAMURA

In the beautiful cobalt-colored sky, you might see several huge fish swimming cheerfully and vividly. People say that the large black one is Father, the smaller red one is Mother, and the little ones are the children. They swim energetically, gulping down the fresh spring air. These carp symbolize vitality, and the people absolutely love them.

Seeing KOINOBORI (Carp streamer) swim through the sky raises the spirits of the people more so than even our national flag. They are hoisted to celebrate a holiday, Children's Day, the Fifth of May; a day to celebrate and pray for the health and happiness of children.

Children's Day used to be called *tango no sekku*, a day of celebration for boys. Even nowadays, parents hope that their boys will become strong, lively and disciplined like the *samurai* of the past. Inside of their houses they display elaborate miniature replicas including a suit of armor (*yoroi*), helmet (*kabuto*), and sword (*tachi*); all of which are symbols of the *samurai* spirit.

It is also common to put Iris flowers beside the display for decoration. The word for iris in Japanese, *shobu*, has the same pronunciation as another word that means 'to compete in a contest'. In addition, the sharpness of its sword-like leaves resemble the weapon of a *samurai*. These are some of the reasons why iris flowers are added to the display along with the *samurai* armor. *Tango no sekku* is also called "Iris Festival", as the month of May overlaps with the flowering season of the iris. Iris has a soothing kind of fragrance, similar to that of camphor. Some people will also put iris leaves into the bath to enjoy the fragrance on *tango no sekku*.



Special sweets, *kashiwamochi* and *chimaki*, are also enjoyed on *Tango no sekku*. They are both different varieties of rice cakes; the former contains a bean jam filling and is wrapped in an oak leaf while the latter is a sweetened rice-dumpling wrapped in bamboo leaves and bound with a cord made from plant fiber. Both are put into the display along with the armor set. This could be thought of as an offering to the god of victory. Afterwards, the rice cakes are served for the family to enjoy.

The variety of iris referred to in this essay is not the European iris, but the Japanese species, *Hanashobu*. It is not as grand as the former but it maintains exceptional grace with its large, deep-violet flower. With its soothing fragrance, and possibly because of its sword-like leaves, people used to think that the iris had special powers to protect against epidemics and other misfortunes. People during this time (about 1000 years in the past) would, on a particular auspicious day before the beginning of the rainy season, put several bunches of iris leaves on the eaves of their straw thatched house to ward away evil. This is the origin of *tango no sekku*, or what is now known as Children's Day.

Explore Asahikawa!



In this edition we interviewed Mr. Koshikizawa, the founder of the international exchange group "English Study Hokkaido." Inspired by his experiences as a part of an international exchange community abroad, Mr. Koshikizawa aims to create a similar community in Asahikawa where Japanese locals, foreign residents and tourists come together and have a good time! Interested in learning more? Read more about English Study Hokkaido and Mr. Koshikizawa's thoughts below!

English Study Hokkaido

AIC: Can you give us an introduction to English Study Hokkaido?

Koshikizawa: English Study Hokkaido is a community centered on international exchange in Asahikawa. Our goal is to provide an environment where foreign travelers, foreign residents, and local Japanese people can experience what Asahikawa has to offer and make good memories together. We offer foreign participants a place to communicate with locals, the chance to make new friends, and the opportunity to experience Japanese culture as well as different events and activities in Asahikawa. We offer our Japanese participants a place to communicate with and meet new people, the opportunity to speak and improve English skills, and the chance to make new friends.

AIC: What got you interested in English and international exchange?

Koshikizawa: 2 years ago I participated in an Australian "Meetup" community in Sydney, Australia. People of many different nationalities gathered together and we would have fun talking and eating with each other. During this time I realized that I wanted to organize an international exchange community when I returned to Japan.

AIC: So I'm guessing you were working in Australia, correct?

Koshikizawa: Yes, I've worked in Australia and a few other countries. I've traveled about 50,800km on overseas trips, so that would be almost 1.5 laps around the earth! I manage a company that deals in camping and barbeque products. We promote barbeque, advertising Japanese green tea, and buy ingredients for ramen in various countries including Australia.

AIC: How did you enjoy life abroad?

Koshikizawa: Living abroad had a big impact on my values and on my lifestyle, and all of it started with English. By being able to speak English, I was able to interact with people from many countries and I was able to travel around the world. What I'm trying to say is, if I could only speak Japanese I wouldn't be living such an active life.



AIC: Was there anything that surprised you about Australian Culture?

Koshikizawa: I was surprised that Australia was such an international country with people of all races and ethnicities. I was also shocked at the difference between Japan and Australia's work culture and the price of goods.

AIC: Do you have a favorite Australian food?

Koshikizawa: Yes, my favorite is Aussie BBQ. You can't go wrong with BBQ!



AIC: What are your goals for English Study Hokkaido?

Koshikizawa: That's a very good question. First, I would like to state that what we are trying to make here is a community, not a business. People all over the world are using English to communicate, and it is our duty to help and prepare people here for that. In line with this, we have a few goals in mind. One is to share the wonders of Hokkaido with the world through the members of our community. Another goal we have is to maintain a diverse pool of community members from all over the world.



AIC: Lastly, please give a message for our readers!

Koshikizawa: We hold various international exchange events weekly and you can see what content we are planning on our Facebook page. Please take a look! We are also looking for people to help work with us on planning community activities. If you are interested, please contact me. Thank you!

We would like to thank Mr. Koshikizawa for granting us the opportunity for an interview. Be sure to check out their Facebook page "English Study Hokkaido"!

Community Voice

Message from the Editor:

Hello, and thank you as always for reading Asahikawa Info!

We would like to incorporate a new section into Asahikawa Info called "Community Voice". The purpose of this section (you may have already figured it out) is to provide an outlet for English-speaking residents of the community to share thoughts, experiences, entertaining mishaps, and more!

We will provide a new theme upon reaching our submission goal and will post the results accordingly. You can submit using your name or doing so anonymously so don't hesitate to share!

For our first theme...

"An embarrassing experience you've had in Japan"

Direct submissions to: cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp

Please aim for 1-4 sentences so we can fit in as many submissions as possible. The shorter the better! I'll be submitting one too so I look forward to seeing yours!



Hello Asahikawa!

Name: Kendall Bharath

Home Country: Canada

Interviewed: April 16th, 2018

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: **What brings you to Japan?**

Kendall: This time, I came to Japan to work for an Eikaiwa called METS. The first time I came was for a homestay program in high school.

AIC: **Where are you from originally?**

Kendall: I am originally from Cornwall, Ontario, Canada. It's about 100 km away from Ottawa.

AIC: **How does living here compare to living in Canada?**

Kendall: Canada and Japan are very easy countries to live in, because living standards are high, the crime rate is low and the people are friendly. There are a few differences that I have noticed, for example, garbage sorting is much more complicated in Japan than it is in Canada. In Canada, we throw out a lot of garbage without separating it and then expect it to be picked up for free. In Japan, people use cash to buy things all the time, you almost never see someone pay without cash. When you want to have a party or hang-out, people in Japan usually go to a restaurant or bar. Canadians are more likely to just invite their friends over to their house. I never go to other people's houses in Asahikawa. Lastly, living in Japan, you get used to seeing only Japanese people, but Canada is completely different. When I visit home, I always have the same initial shock from seeing the multicultural society.

AIC: **Is there something that you particularly like about Asahikawa or Japan in General?**

Kendall: My favourite thing about Asahikawa is probably the nature. I like being close to the mountains, I like all the snow, I like the cold (and hate the heat), I especially like the river bank because it's great for running. Food is great, I love all the Hokkaido specialties like Genghis Khan, Ramen and dairy products. Generally in Japan, I feel that there is a strong sense of community and social cohesion. It doesn't take long for people to accept you and once you earn their trust, they are generous, hospitable and accommodating.



AIC: **What are your hobbies? Do you do any winter sports?**

Kendall: My main hobby is running marathons, but I enjoy anything that involves moving around or exercise. I also like driving and travelling, going to new places is always exciting for me. I do winter sports as well, I can snowboard, ski and ice skate. Also, I continue to run outside throughout the winter. Snowboarding is my favourite, though. I'm always ready to try something new, so I never turn down invitations.

AIC: Is there anything you miss about Canada?

Kendall: My family, of course. Apart from that, every now and then I get a craving for some food that is hard to find here, last week I wanted to eat a bagel and a shawarma. However, the craving usually only lasts a day.

AIC: Do you speak any foreign languages?

Kendall: The only languages that I speak well are English and Japanese. I can also speak French poorly. I've also done introductory lessons in German and Chinese, but nothing stuck.

AIC: And lastly, how do you feel about karaoke?

Kendall: The first time I did karaoke, I didn't like it, but it got better over time. Now I can sing many songs in both Japanese and English. It's really fun to find a song you like and then try to learn the lyrics to it.

AIC: Thank you for letting us interview you!

Kendall: Yeah, no problem, it was my pleasure!



★ Movies ~ May ★

*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

- My Little Monster (Japanese)
- Avengers: Infinity War (English)
- Marmalade Boy (Japanese)
- Ready Player One (English)
- Inuyashiki (Japanese)
- Pacific Rim Uprising (English)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Burst Serving! Kung Fu Boys ~Ramen Rebellion~ (Japanese/Anime)
- Detective Conan the Movie: Zero's Executioner (Japanese/Anime)
- Thomas the Tank Engine the Movie: Big World! Big Adventure! (English/Anime)
- Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle (English)
- honey (Japanese)
- The Commuter (English)
- The Boss Baby (Japanese/Anime)
- Chihayafuru Part3 (Japanese)
- Coco double feature w/ Olaf's Frozen Adventure (Japanese/Anime)
- Last Winter, We Parted (Japanese)
- Doraemon the Movie: Nobita's Treasure Island (Japanese/Anime)
- Ku Kai (Japanese)

Coming Soon

- Laplace's Witch (Japanese) 5/4
- 12 Strong (English) 5/4
- Maquia: When the Promised Flower Blooms (Japanese/Anime) 5/11~5/24
- Love x Doc (Japanese) 5/11
- Blood of Wolves (Japanese/R15+) 5/12
- Pan to Basu no Nidome no Hatsukoi (Japanese) 5/12~31
- Nomitori Samurai (Japanese/R15+) 5/18
- Peter Rabbit (English) 5/18
- Rampage (English) 5/18
- After the Rain (Japanese) 5/25
- My Friend A (Japanese) 5/25
- What a Wonderful Family! 3: My Wife, My Life (Japanese) 5/25
- Over Drive (Japanese) 6/1
- Deadpool 2 (English) 6/1
- 50 First Kisses (Japanese) 6/1
- A Forest of Wool and Steel (Japanese) 6/8

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

★ Movies ~ May ★

*<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

- Marmalade Boy (Japanese)
- Avengers: Infinity War (English 2D, Japanese 4DX3D)
- Ready Player One (English 2D, Japanese 4DX3D)
- Inuyashiki (Japanese)
- Pacific Rim Uprising (English 2D, Japanese 4DX3D)
- Detective Conan the Movie: Zero's Executioner (Japanese/Anime)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Burst Serving! Kung Fu Boys ~ Ramen Rebellion~ (Japanese/Anime)
- Red Sparrow (English/R15+)
- Tomb Raider (English 2D)
- Coco double feature w/ Olaf's Frozen Adventure (Japanese/Anime)
- Sakura Guardian in the North (Japanese)
- Doraemon the Movie: Nobita's Treasure Island (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Laplace's Witch (Japanese) 5/4
- Suburbicon (English) 5/4
- Blood of Wolves (Japanese/R15+) 5/12
- Saraba Seishun, Sardo Seishun (Japanese) 5/12
- Peter Rabbit (English) 5/18
- Rampage (English) 5/18
- Nomitori Samurai (Japanese/R15+) 5/18
- Kamen Rider Amazons: The Last Judgment (Japanese 4DX) 5/19
- What a Wonderful Family! 3: My Wife, My Life (Japanese) 5/25
- Isle of Dogs (English/Anime) 5/25
- 50 First Kisses (Japanese) 6/1
- A Forest of Wool and Steel (Japanese) 6/8

★ **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.”

- My Little Monster (Japanese)
- Avengers: Infinity War (English)
- Marmalade Boy (Japanese)
- Ready Player One (English)
- Pacific Rim Uprising (English)
- Detective Conan the Movie: Zero's Executioner (Japanese/Anime)
- Crayon Shin-chan: Burst Serving! Kung Fu Boys ~ Ramen Rebellion~ (Japanese/Anime)
- Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle (English)
- The Post (English)
- Tomb Raider (English)
- The Boss Baby (Japanese/Anime)
- Chihayafuru Part3 (Japanese)
- Coco double feature w/ Olaf's Frozen Adventure (Japanese/Anime)
- Sakura Guardian in the North (Japanese)
- Doraemon the Movie: Nobita's Treasure Island (Japanese/Anime)

Coming Soon

- Bungo Stray Dogs: Dead Apple (Japanese) 5/5~17
- Churchill (English) 5/5
- Saraba Seishun, Sardo Seishun (Japanese) 5/12
- Blood of Wolves (Japanese/R15+) 5/12
- Rampage (English) 5/18
- Peter Rabbit (English) 5/18
- What a Wonderful Family! 3: My Wife, My Life (Japanese) 5/25
- After the Rain (Japanese) 5/25
- 50 First Kisses (Japanese) 6/1
- Over Drive (Japanese) 6/1
- A Forest of Wool and Steel (Japanese) 6/8

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

Cherry Blossom Viewing in Asahikawa



May is here, and we in Hokkaido are finally able to enjoy *hanami* (cherry blossom viewing)! In mainland Japan the flowers start blooming as early as late March, but in Hokkaido, they start around the beginning of May and last about halfway through the month. During this time, you will be able to see families and groups of friends enjoying *jingisukan* barbeque underneath the cherry blossoms.

There are many locations to view cherry blossoms within the city and they will definitely be bustling with people! In recent years the cherry blossoms have been flowering earlier and earlier so be sure to check online for the latest information. Below we listed some of the most prominent viewing spots in the city so go be sure to go see the trees in bloom before it's too late!

Cherry Blossom Viewing Locations in Asahikawa:

- Asahiyama Park
- Hanasaki Sports Park (From Hanasakicho 1-chome to Hanasakicho 5-chome)
- Kaguraoka Park
- Shunkodai Park (Aza Chikabumi 6-sen 3-go)
- Tokiwa Park



FUN FRIDAYS

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

Dates: May 11th & 25th, June 8th & 22nd, July 13th & 27th

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.



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

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