

KCC NEWSLETTER JANUARY, 2022

Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center
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Happy New Year to you all.



We are celebrating the New Year with new feelings for moving forward, although the daily life all over the world has changed drastically due to coronavirus.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude not only to those who planned and prepared activities with various attempts, but also to those who cooperated, supported and participated in the programs last year.

Online system made our new experience possible beyond the regional boundaries such as student exchange programs, KEYS meetings and "Kashiwa de International Exchange Festa 2021" and "Kashiwa International Exchange Week 2021".

We were also able to offer Foreign language classes in person, and Japanese language classes, Seminars on refugees and international understanding online. In addition to free legal advice for foreigners we were able to hold a food bank.

The Japanese speech contest by foreigners is scheduled for next month.

This year, through international exchange, let's keep learning about the actual situation of the pandemic across countries and aim for cooperation and symbiosis for the survival of humankind.

Thank you for your cooperation as always.

May this year be an even better one for all of you!

- Akemi Kosuge, the chair person of KIRA

Kashiwa Citizen's Activity Festa 2021 & Kashiwa Citizen's Activity Flea Market Poka Poka Market (Nov.23)

We were in charge of the food drive, "Mottainai wo Arigatou ni" at the entrance of Palette Kashiwa with the people from the Citizen's Activity Support Corner. People who saw Koho Kashiwa or SNS brought a lot of foodstuffs such as rice, retort foods, instant foods, seasonings, and sweets. We are grateful for your kindness. We also introduced International Exchange activities in Kashiwa city and the Food Bank KCC with photos of our activities on panels, and distributed flyers about our activities including the KCC newsletters "Kawaraban". When the mayor of Kashiwa city came to the venue in the afternoon, we explained the pictures of our activities and food drive. We think it is very meaningful to deepen mutual understanding by interacting with various organizations.



explaining to Ms. Ota, Mayor of Kashiwa city

<Announcement>

The 6th Japanese Speech Contest in Kashiwa

People from abroad living in the Tokatsu area are sharing about their life in Japan in Japanese. See their presentations in person at the venue or online.

For more information, visit the KCC homepage at

<https://www.kcc.kira-kira.jp/events>

Date& Time: Sunday, February 13, 2022, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Place: Palette Kashiwa "Open Space" (or online)

Application: <https://forms.office.com/r/yWGPWQsuf7>

Fee: Free



Speeches by American Teachers at Kashiwa Municipal High School ~ Experiences in a Different Country ~

Date& Time: Saturday, January 29, 2022, 1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Place: Palette Kashiwa Multipurpose Space A

Lecturers: Mr. Brandon Matsumoto and Ms. Deanna Sun
 (English teachers at Kashiwa Municipal High School)

Contents: Hear them share their thoughts and feelings about their experiences teaching and living in Japan.

Capacity: 25 on a first-come, first-served basis

Fee: Free

Application: Please come to the KCC Office directly or
 send an e-mail to boshu-1@kira-kira.jp.



<Request>

Please be sure to include the name of the event, your name, and your phone number in your e-mail application.

Cross-cultural Tea Time: “The Habsburg Empire and the Fate of Ethnic Minorities” (Nov. 27)

Mr. Toshimitsu Ishigure, former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Slovenia, gave a talk. He explained the Hapsburg Empire, which reigned as a major power in Europe until World War 1 since it was elected as the Holy Roman Emperor in the Middle Ages, and the different ways of life of two ethnic minorities (the Czech Republic and Hungary) under its control. He also introduced the food and culture related to the Empire. It was particularly interesting to see that the Czech Republic developed into an advanced industrial country despite its subordinate position, while Hungary became an agricultural country due to its political autonomy and the feudal internal politics of the aristocracy that hindered its development. The cultural aspects were particularly interesting. In Austria, there were Mozart, Mahler, Klimt, Schiele, and Freud. In the Czech Republic, there were Smetana, Dvorak, Mucha, and Capek. Hungary also produced famous artists and cultural figures such as Liszt and Bartok. The most popular topic among the participants was food. Sacher Torte and Wiener coffee in Vienna. Pilsen beer from the Czech Republic, and Tokaji wine from Hungary. Also, Mr. Ishigure introduced seasonal foods on the street corner and hot wine available in Kashiwa and Tokyo.

We received many applications from citizens as soon as we began accepting applications in “Koho Kashiwa News” and “KCC NewsLetter”. It seems to show the high level of people’s interest in the in-person lecture held for the first time after a long absence and its topic.



Lecture by Mr. Ishigure



Sacher Torte and Wiener coffee



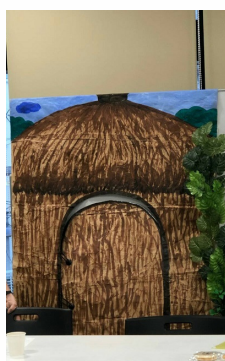
Franz Joseph 1



Queen Elisabeth

Play “The Three Little Pigs” in Japanese by Foreigners (Dec.18)

A play about three piglets was performed by foreigners for children who love picture books and stories. The “straw house”, “wooden house”, and “brick house” in the story were handmade by all the staff. On the day, they asked the children to put on “piggy noses” over their masks so that children could enjoy the play as piggies. Foreigners who wore the handmade ears and noses also enjoyed the play as the little pigs and wolves. The children who wore the noses of the little pigs were also excited to enjoy the play of “The Little Pigs”. Before they knew it, audience including children from different countries were getting into the play.



Straw house



Wooden house



Brick house

We are doing our best even in the Corona disaster – KEYS(Kashiwa Exchange Youth Society)

KEYS has been working hard with a good combination of online and offline activities even though it has become more difficult for many people to gather like before. At the KEYS MEETING held on the second Sunday of every month, we invite people from overseas as guests and continue to have international exchange while discussing the differences in lifestyle and customs. In the class named “Let’s learn about the SDGs”, which started this year, we learn about each theme of SDGs in the style of a popular American quiz show “Jeopardy” and learn about international issues by discussing them. At the “Kashiwa de International Exchange Festa 2021” held on October 24, we were able to communicate in English with people from our sister and friendship cities online. KEYS is always looking for new members. If you would like to speak English or are interested in international exchange, KEYS offers the best place for you. Please pay a visit to KEYS MEETING !



Hello! Friends Exchanging Program, Studying Abroad and The Future

Hirofumi Takikawa from Germany

I have been involved in Kashiwa's international exchange activity since I became a delegate to Torrance in 2011.

Until then, I didn't even have a passport. My first visit abroad was in Torrance for 3 weeks. Ever since then to now, I have spent about more than half of this 10 years abroad. Going to Torrance was an important turning point for me. Also, I went to Guam as a student leader and I still participate in the Guam committee as much as possible.

I am currently doing a PhD in Economics in Frankfurt, Germany. When I applied for the delegate to Torrance, I didn't imagine myself being in a foreign graduate university since the application was just from a vague desire. However, I came to think I want to work in a place where people with different nationalities work together such as international organizations as my values, thoughts and communities changed after going to Torrance. That's why I am here to get a PhD. Also, one of the reasons I decided to get it abroad is that I become financially independent since we don't have to pay for the tuition fee and get financial support for living while the course.

However, since the Corona virus hit the world, many classes were held online, and the cafeteria in the campus was closed for a while. As the vaccination rate went up, it gradually opened again. Also, almost all the classes went back to normal by strictly checking our vaccination certificate since this autumn. Although, the situation changed again this November, and the classes I have been assisting turned out to be online. Christmas markets are canceled in some cities. Nobody knows what the situation will be from now on. On the other hand, there were some positive sides of this for my study, such as gaining better access to the latest study. Furthermore, I can participate in the regular meeting of the Guam committee online.

Travel restrictions make me feel the difficulty of visiting foreign countries even more strongly. Therefore, I came to think that it was a surprising thing that I could go to Torrance only half a year after the Great East Japan Earthquake. It is a shame that the delegation has been suspended because of the pandemic, since I know how much students can grow up by the program by experiencing the leader twice. It won't be easy but I strongly hope that the program will start like before.



←At a soccer stadium in Frankfurt



Old city area in Frankfurt →

JANUARY Events

Japanese Classes

Online Classes

Thurs 10:00am - 11:30am

Japanese Intermediate and up

Sun 10:00am - 11:30am

Beginning I, Intermediate I (2 classes)

In Person Classes

Thurs 10:00am - 12:00pm

Intermediate I at Shonan Community Center

Online Japanese Kashiwa Classes

Tue 10:00am - 11:30am

Japanese for all Beginning II (1st of the 28 lessons)

Tue 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Japanese for all Beginning I (1st of the 14 lessons)

Wed 10:00am - 11:30am

Japanese intermediate and up

Wed 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Japanese for all Beginning I (1st of the 8 lessons)

Thurs 10:00am - 11:30am

Beginning Conversation I (Beginner, Beginning 1)

Thurs 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Beginning Conversation 2 (Beginning 2)

Fri 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Japanese for all Beginning II (1st of the 36 lessons)

Sat 9:30am - 11:20am

Intermediate Conversation

Information about COVID-19 for foreign residents

Available in multiple languages



Free legal advice and administrative procedure support for foreign residents

Lawyers and administrative procedure specialists will be available to help foreign residents with legal questions and documents. Any questions or problems are all right, such as visa, domestic violence, divorce, or trouble at the workplace. Please register beforehand. Date and Time: Jan 26 (WED) 1:00pm - 5:00pm Place: Palette Kashiwa Reservation: KCC (Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center) Office

Announcement from other organization

Online Study Session for KIRA Members

Date and Time: January 20th, Thursday, 8:00pm-9:10pm.

Study Title: Problems of online and solution
Lecturer: Ms.Kumiko Yamaguchi
(Interactive Training in Communication Japan)

Fee: Free

Capacity: 25

Application: Directly at the KCC reception or email. "boshu-1@kira-kira.jp". Write your name and phone numbers in the email

Kashiwa information delivery service

Sign up to receive email announcements from the city, such as information about earthquakes, fires, crime, and infectious disease outbreaks in the language of your choice. Send a blank email to this address to register.



Also, please read Kashiwa City Magazine. It contains information about COVID-19 vaccination.



Questions? Please contact the office of Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center (KCC)

Tel: 04-7157-0281 Fax: 04-7165-7321

Hours: 8:30 - 17:15 Closed on Sundays and national holidays