



KCC NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY, 2022

Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center

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Holding Food Bank KCC

Amid the spread of COVID-19, we have heard that an increasing number of foreigners and international students are in need due to being fired from their part-time jobs or dismissed from their workplaces. After considering various ways to help, Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center (KCC) decided to hold Food Bank KCC for foreigners.

The first Food Bank KCC was held on June 27th with donations of items such as rice, dried noodles (such as spaghetti and instant noodles), and other kinds of food found in kitchens at home. Donations came from members of Kashiwa International Relations Association (KIRA), citizens, businesses, and farmers. The day before, the donated food was divided into small bags and prepared for the day. More than 30 foreigners visited Food Bank KCC to receive the food, expressing their thanks. Since then, Food Bank KCC has been held at the end of every month, with the 7th time completed in December. We received a lot of food donations, such as a large amount of food from Tokatsu Kusanone Food Bank, vegetables from a company that sells vegetables wholesale, and lunch boxes from a restaurant in the city. We appreciate the support from various organizations and would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all of them.



Food bank

New Year's Cuisine in the world

The popular "New Year's Party," where foreigners prepare dishes from various countries every year, could not be held again this year due to the pandemic. Instead, here is a look at New Year's dishes in countries and regions around the world.

China and Taiwan (Lunar New Year)

- Gyoza (dumpling): Gyoza represents "wealth" because it is made in the shape of money. Those who get a dumpling with a coin inside can be happy. Gyoza dumplings are eaten on the night of New Year's Eve.
- Sakana (fish): Sakana represents "leeway." Do not turn the fish over. Be sure to leave a little leftover, which represents abundance.
- Mochi (rice cake): Mochi means that you can reach a higher level as you get older.
- Daikon Mochi: It is a rice cake made by mixing grated radish and rice cake powder, which is then grilled.
- Mikan (tangerine): Mikan represents "good luck" and "success."
- Ringo (apple): Apples represent peace and safety.
- Harumaki (Spring roll): Spring rolls represent "wealth" because they look like gold bars.



Philippines

- Tikoy: Rice cake eaten in the Quezon region on New Year's Day.
- Spaghetti and Rice noodles: They are as long as Japanese soba (buckwheat noodles), so they represent "longevity."
- Whole roasted pig and 12 kinds of fruits (the fruits' round shapes represent money).
- People enjoy eating glutinous rice wrapped in banana peels or drinking hot chocolate drinks.



Indonesia

- Nasi Kuning: Yellow rice in a small basket woven with palm leaves. It is said that eating Nasi Kuning gives you energy. And people eat Nasi Kuning not only on New Year's Day, but also on happy occasions such as birthdays.



Brazil

- Beijinho: A cake that is often eaten during the New Year



Peru

People celebrate the New Year by eating roasted turkey or chicken, potato salad, panettone (sweet bread), and chocolate milk.



Korea

- Tteokguk: Soup with rice cakes that are not as sticky as Japanese rice cakes and taste a little like tteokbokki rice cake.
- Jeon: It is often called chijimi (Korean pancake) in Japan. It is a dish of bite-sized vegetables, meat, and white fish grilled with batter. (It is easier to understand if you call it Korean-style tempura.)
- Japchae: A stir-fried dish of harusame, which are thick, chewy noodles made from sweet potatoes, colorful vegetables, and meat.
- Kalbichim: A dish made by steaming born-in ribs with a sweet and spicy sauce for a long time.
- Namul: A dish made with five to ten kinds of vegetables and edible wild plants, including spinach, bracken, and taro stalks.
- Sujeongga: Korean traditional tea made with ginger and cinnamon.
- Sikke: A non-alcoholic drink made from fermented rice, similar to Japanese amazake (sweet fermented rice drink).



Mexico

- On New Year's Eve, people have tomato-flavored soup, cheese, cake-like meat dishes made with meat, eggs, breadcrumbs, apples, nuts, bacon, and ham baked in an oven. They also enjoy sweet pasta, raisins, pineapple, etc.
- January 6th is the day when the Three Wise Men of the East brought gifts to celebrate the birth of Christ. On January 6th, people have bread called Rosca de Reyes which has a small doll inside, and a chocolate drink. It is said that a person who wins the doll will be lucky for a year. On February 2nd, the person who gets the bread with the doll is supposed to give a present to everyone.
- On February 2nd, people have Tamales, a steamed dish of meat, vegetables, cheese, etc. wrapped in corn flour dough. They also have Atole, a hot drink made with milk, fruit, almonds, and nuts with sugar.

The dishes listed here vary from region to region within each country and region.



The 6th Japanese Speech Contest in Kashiwa

People from abroad living in the Tokatsu area are sharing about their life in Japan in Japanese.
For more information, visit the KCC homepage at <https://www.kcc.kira-kira.jp/events>
Viewing at the venue has been cancelled due to the increase in COVID-19 infections.
Date: February 13, Sunday, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Online viewers: Please register on the homepage.
Participation fee: Free



Cross-cultural Tea Time "Indonesia

– What we saw and felt in the lives of about 30 years there –"

Indonesia is about five times the size of Japan, with more than 18,000 islands and about 490 different ethnic groups with diverse cultures. We will talk about the Indonesia we experienced and what we felt in the three major periods of time that occurred in our 30 years there.

Date: March 5, Saturday, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Place: Palette Kashiwa, Multi-purpose Space A
Lecturer: Mr. & Mrs. Yoshihiro and Yoko NAKAGAWARA
Number of applicants: 27
Participation fee: ¥400
Application: Please come directly to the KIRA office or send an e-mail to boshu-1@kira-kira.jp



Mr. & Mrs. Nakagawara



<Please be sure to include the event name, your name, and phone number when applying by email. In addition, please note that the events may be canceled or changed depending on the COVID-19 infection status. Please contact the office for details.>

Spread Information of Fukushima's Reconstruction

KEYS member, Shota Nagai

How did you start being involved in international exchange activities?

When I was a university student in Ibaraki, I had chances to talk with tutors who are native English speakers. I was looking for more of those opportunities, which is when I discovered KEYS, Kashiwa Exchange Youth Society. Given that Kashiwa was close to my university, I started going to their regular meetings. At the time, Brandon and a student from Vietnam were participating and I enjoyed speaking English a lot.

We heard you were volunteering during this pandemic.

It was when I was working part-time to save money to go on a working holiday that the COVID-19 hit the world. I lived in the same apartment with Brandon then, and he told me that in his hometown in Torrance, young people go shopping for those elderly who were in quarantine. That made us think we should do the same in Kashiwa. In KEYS, we made flyers and used SNS to gather information about who needed help with shopping. As a consequence, we didn't get many applications because the information didn't circulate well. However, the idea was good.

What did you feel by joining KEYS?

Before the pandemic, we were able to do events such as cherry blossom viewing, flowing somen, and BBQ. During the pandemic, we talked with people in foreign countries, and discussed SDGs in English. However, the main members have already started working or they need to prepare for their entrance exams. We need to look for new members.

Please tell me about your current job?

I am a writer for a web magazine in my hometown, Koriyama, Fukushima. (I join KEYS meetings online) My main task is to interview people in the 12 towns and cities in the coastal area, and write articles about them. This area was damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake. The residents had no choice but to leave this area for a long time. Currently, the number of people who have returned and new residents have been increasing. I am writing to inform people about the reconstruction. Quite a few of the new residents are young, and they start new businesses such as flower shops, restaurants and community spaces. For example, there was a person who started selling stylish canned mackerel after moving to Namie city. Development of drones and natural energy resources are one of the factors that make this area promising in the future.

How would you like to be involved in international exchange?

Although my current job isn't directly connected to it, I still enjoy talking with friends who are ALTs in Koriyamacity and Fukushima prefectures. Once this pandemic ends, I want to go abroad as soon as possible. Of course, doing a working holiday is still one of my longest-held dreams.

(Interviewed by Noriko Fujita)



Shota Nagai

KEYS activity in December

KEYS activity in January

Participants from Indonesia and Taiwan. Delegates to Camden in 2019 also participated.
SDGs Goal 4: Equal Education

A former delegate to Torrance participated online.
SDGs Goal 4: Equal Education

February Events

Japanese Shonan Classes

Online Classes

Thurs 10:00am - 11:30am

Japanese Intermediate and up

Sun 10:00am - 11:30am

Beginner I, Intermediate I (2 classes)

In Person Classes (Shonan Community Center).

※It maybe cancelled according to the pandemic situation.

Thurs 10:00am - 12:00pm Intermediate I

Sun 10:00am-12:00pm Beginner I

Online Japanese Kashiwa Classes

Tue 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Japanese for all Beginning II (1st of the 19 lessons)

Wed 10:00pm - 11:30pm

Japanese Conversation for Beginners 2

Wed 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Japanese for all Beginning I (1st of the 16 lessons)

Thurs 10:00am - 11:30am

Beginning Conversation I (Beginner, Beginning 1)

Thurs 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Beginner Conversation 2 A

Fri 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Japanese for all Beginning II (1st of the 41 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 acceptable, such as visa, domestic violence, divorce, or trouble at the workplace. Please register beforehand.

Date: February 16, Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Place: Palette Kashiwa Room A

Reservation: KCC office

<Information from other organizations>:

Online Workshop for KIRA members

Date: February 17, Thursday, 8:00 p.m. - 9:10 p.m.

February Session: Summary of Zoom Lesson and information about what will be studied next term

Lecturer: Ms. Kumiko Yamaguchi (Interactive Training in Communication - Japan)

Participation fee: Free

Number of applicants: 25

Application: Please come directly to the KCC Office or send an e-mail to boshu-1@kira-kira.jp. We will send you URL to join the workshop.

Consultation for Foreign Residents

Monday: Spanish

Tuesday: Korean (only the 2nd and 4th Tuesday)

Wednesday: Chinese

Thursday: English

Friday: Chinese

※ 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. everyday

Consultation Counter for Foreign Residents (Main city hall 3F)

TEL: 04 - 7168 - 1033

No reservation required.

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