

KCC Newsletter

APRIL, 2022

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Message from Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center

Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center (KCC), an organization that supports world peace, opposes Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine from a humanitarian standpoint. We mourn the lives lost in this war, both Ukrainian and Russian. We would like to express our deepest sympathies to the victims of the war and to those who have had to evacuate their homes. We sincerely support those who are brave enough to be advocates for the anti-war movements in Russia.

To raise funds to support Ukrainians refugees, a donation box has been set up in front of the KCC office. If you would like to help, please contribute.

Announcement

Cross-cultural Teatime "Sports and the Great Outdoors in Canada"

Date and Time: Saturday, April 9, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Place: Palette Kashiwa, Multi-purpose Space A

Content: Along with sports in Canada, the wonders of the great outdoors and the various activities in nature will be introduced. In addition, there will be a quiz time about Canada.

Lecturer: Dr. Connor Bottrell (Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe, the University of Tokyo)

Number of participants: 27

Participation fee: ¥ 400

Application: Sign up directly at the KCC office, or send an email to boshu-1@kira-kira.jp by Thursday, April 7.



Dr. Connor Bottrell



Saltspring Island

Free Legal Advice and Administrative Procedure Support for Foreign Residents

To foreign residents. Are you in need of help? Lawyers and administrative procedure specialists are available for consultation. You can ask for specialist's advice on issues such as family or partner violence, divorce, visa procedures, and problems at work.

Reservation necessary.

Date and Time: Wednesday, April 27,
1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Place: Palette Kashiwa, Room A

Reservation: the KCC office

Online Interactions with People Around the World by KEYS (Kashiwa Exchange Youth Society)

Date and Time: Sundays, April 10, May 8, and June 12,
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Place: Palette Kashiwa or online (ZOOM, etc.)

Participants: Elementary, middle and high school, and university students living in Kashiwa or attending schools in the city. The first 20 applicants for each day.

Content: Real-time communication with people across the world using online tools such as ZOOM.

Application: Sign up directly at the KCC office, or send an email to boshu-1@kira-kira.jp from 9:00 a.m. on Friday, April 1.



Information from Other Organizations

Online study meeting for KIRA members "Skills Development: Hosting a ZOOM Meeting (first half)"

Date and Time: Thursday, April 21, 8:00 p.m. - 9:10 p.m.

Participation fee: Free

Number of participants: 25

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

Application: Sign up at the KCC office, or send an email to boshu-1@kira-kira.jp with your name and phone number. We will send you the invitation link on the day.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 26, 8:00 p.m. - 9:10 p.m. "Skills Development: Hosting a ZOOM Meeting (second half)"

Plans for this year: "Easy Japanese," "Vocalization for Successful Presentations," "SDGs," etc.

2nd Cross-cultural Teatime

"Indonesia -What We Saw and Felt in the Lives of About 30 Years There -" (March 5)

Mr. Yoshihiro Nakagawara and his wife Yoko talked about their life in Indonesia for 30 years since 1986. The following summarizes their talk. Indonesia is five times as large as Japan, consisting of 16,000 islands. Indonesia is a country where diversified traditional and rich cultural practices are in harmony with modernity. The unified language called Indonesian (essential for the unification of the nation), which is based on the Malay language, was established and developed as a national language after independence in 1945 after a long history. Indonesian people are so friendly to Japan that 700,000 people are learning Japanese. This is the largest population of Japanese language learners in the world. I lived away from my family in Indonesia due to work. My other family members lived in another part of Indonesia due to our children's education. In the years following the Asian currency crisis in 1998, there was political and economic turmoil, new democratic movements, attacks on Chinese and foreign companies, including political and ideological suicide bombings. Sometimes, I felt that our lives were in danger. Each family member promised to be careful and survive by themselves no matter what. During this period, connections with people dispatched to Indonesia from other parts of the world became stronger. It is a pleasant memory for us.



Mr. and Mrs. Nakagawara

Camden Day (March 13)

Camden Day was held to commemorate the exchange between Friendship City Camden in Australia and Kashiwa City. In the first part, the town of Camden was introduced, and the history of the Youth Exchange Programs was explained. In the second part, Mr. Warren Dunk, President of Camden International Friendship Association (CIFA) along with other CIFA members who have been involved in the exchange programs for a long time, presented a video letter to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the exchange. In the final part, Ms. Monique Dunk, who has been to Kashiwa several times, was invited as a guest speaker for a Q&A session in which she answered questions from the audience via ZOOM. There were concerns about whether we would be able to continue to interact with Camden as before, as Youth Exchange Programs have been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these concerns, Camden Day, held via the new means of online communication, was a great success.



ZOOM Meeting with Ms. Monique Dunk

International Assistance

With your cooperation, we collect flawed postcards, used postage stamps, foreign coins, etc. to donate to international support activities. This time, we sent used postage stamps to "Green Earth Defense Fund" and flawed postcards to "Vaccines for the World's Children". The thank-you postcard from the "Green Earth Defense Fund," stated that from April 2020 to March 2021, they bought 153 saplings with 25,400 yen from the sales of telephone cards, and 6,645 saplings with 1,096,517 yen from the sales of used postage stamps. In addition, they purchased 911 saplings with 150,320 yen from the sales of flawed postcards, and 38 saplings with 6,400 yen from the sales of foreign coins.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Thinking About SDGs by KEYS (Kashiwa Exchange Youth Society)

You have probably heard of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They are specific goals adopted by the United Nations that must be achieved by 2030 in order for the world to be sustainable.

Last year, KEYS began learning more about SDGs. We are trying to improve our understanding of the 17 SDGs in English and Japanese through games and other activities. We focus on what we have observed around us and what we have learned from the news, such as the problems of microplastics found in the sea, poverty, food crisis, equal education, and creating comfortable cities to live in. We would like to continue learning about SDGs to maintain a green and nature-filled earth.





"Translators translating the Kawaraban into English and the Tagengo Oshirase into multiple languages"

We introduce the translators and a native checker of English translation of Kawaraban (posted on our website), and translators of Chinese, Korean and Spanish translation of Tagengo Oshirase (multilingual notices).

English Translation of Kawaraban

○Yuko Saito

I am a member of the KIRA Kashiwanoha subcommittee. I became a licensed guide-interpreter in 2015 and was guiding foreigners visiting Japan. However, I lost my job due to the corona pandemic. At that time, I was asked to translate the Kawaraban into English. The most difficult thing about translating into English is that it is difficult to faithfully translate the original author's intentions because Japanese is an ambiguous language. When translating into English, a Japanese dictionary is a must. The English version of Kawaraban is made possible by the cooperation of many people, including contributors, English translators, an English teacher for the final check, a designer, and proofreaders. I hope as many people as possible will read it.

○Hiroko Sugiyama

I grew up in Kashiwa in the Showa Era, attending elementary, middle and high schools, all in the city. I became involved in KIRA-Torrance activities when I was sent to Torrance in 1977. In those days, I was inspired, so I studied and passed Eiken Grade 1 and the Guide Interpreter exams. Last year, I returned to Kashiwa from Iwate after 30 years and became a KIRA member. Actually, I was away from English for a long time due to the care of my mother and I was worried about the Kawaraban translation. However, I was thrilled with Mr. Karl Takauye's corrections! They made me aware of the flaws in my writing, not to mention my grammatical mistakes. I discovered new things about what I thought I knew. I feel like I am back in school.

○Karl Takauye : English Native Checker

Aloha! I am a KIRA member and supporter for KEYS (Kashiwa Exchange Youth Society). My hometown is Honolulu, Hawaii, but I have been living in Japan with my wife Sharleen since 2002. Currently, I am a full-time English teacher at Seibudai-Chiba Junior and Senior High School in Noda city. However, most of my time in Japan was spent teaching in various Kashiwa city elementary schools and junior high schools, as well as Kashiwa Municipal High School. In my free time, I enjoy photography, reading, watching movies, listening to music and traveling with my wife.



Tagengo-Oshirase (multilingual notices)

○Chinese: Dong Bingyu, Yoshiki Tanigawa

My wife and I work together to translate Tagengo-Oshirase. My wife does the translation and I check it against the Japanese to see if there are any unnatural parts. Translating foreign words to Japanese seems to be a bit difficult even for my wife, who is a native Chinese speaker. It has been eight years since we started translating Tagengo-Oshirase. While translating, I try to look up proper nouns and place names on the Internet to see how they are translated. Often, if I still don't understand a word, I use the alphabet to convey the Japanese pronunciation. For example, "パレット 枳" is spelled as "Palette Kashiwa". I find this is useful when you ask where to go when you are lost, or ask Japanese people other things.

○Spanish: Kenji Yahagi

I have been working in Spanish translation for about six months now. I learned Spanish in Mexico when I was in my forties. However, as I will soon be latter-stage elderly, I feel sorry for myself that my Spanish ability has declined like a rusty, leaking kettle. While being encouraged by a good friend, I am working on the translation of the notices in Japanese using many katakana characters in the hope that I can help others. I usually enjoy farming. Every day, I just wish for health and peace for people all over the world, including me.

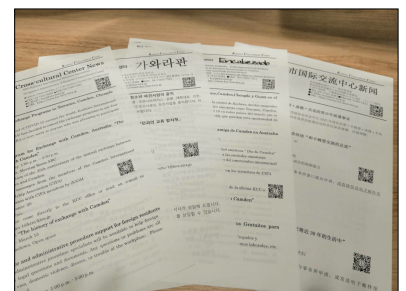
○Isabel Murayama: Spanish Native Checker

I am a second-generation Japanese born in Peru, South America, and came to Japan 31 years ago. I have worked as an advisor for foreigners at the International Relations Office (currently the Collaboration Promotion Division) of Kashiwa City Hall for 28 years. I have been a freelance translator and Spanish teacher. Since September 2009, I have worked as a translator for Kashiwa International Relations Association, and as a native Spanish checker since last June. When I check Spanish translations, I realize that Spanish is a really difficult language. I am glad it is my mother tongue.

○Korean: Mie Enokizono

It has been 25 years since I came to Japan. I have been a Korean language instructor at the Kashiwa International Relations Association since coming to Kashiwa almost 20 years ago. I find it difficult to translate Tagengo-Oshirase into Korean, even if I have been doing it for years.

I feel that I will continue to do my best. The past three years have been filled with depressing news due to the corona pandemic including event cancellations. I hope to be able to tell you happy and cheerful news from now on.



April Events

Japanese Shonan Classes (New Term 4/7 -)

Online Classes

Thu	10:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.	Japanese Intermediate and up
Sun	10:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.	Beginner I, Intermediate I (2 classes)
In Person Classes (Shonan Community Center)		
Thu	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Intermediate I
Sun	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Beginner I

Japanese Kashiwa Classes (New Term 4/5 -)

Online Classes

Tue	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Elementary Japanese I (Unit 23 -)
Wed	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Japanese Conversation for Beginners 2 B
Wed	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Elementary Japanese I (Unit 19 -)
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Beginning Conversation I (Beginner, Beginning 1)
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Beginner Conversation 2 A
Fri	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Elementary Japanese II (Unit 44 -)
Sat	9:30 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.	Intermediate Conversation

In-person Classes (Palette Kashiwa 4/9 -)

Sun	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Elementary Japanese I (Unit 4 -)
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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.

Information about COVID-19 for Foreign Residents

Available in multiple languages



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