

KCC Newsletter

JUNE, 2022

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Announcement

Citizens' Tour of Torrance to Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Sister-City Affiliation Looking for Participants for the Briefing Session About the Tour

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Kashiwa city and Torrance city (California, USA), a citizens' tour to Torrance city will be held. We are planning to offer programs that cannot be experienced on ordinary sightseeing tours, such as exchanges among citizens and participation in official events. In addition to the exchange events, participants will be able to enjoy sightseeing in Las Vegas and Los Angeles. We hope you will join us on this tour.

Tour duration: Thursday, February 16, 2023 - Thursday, February 23, 2023, 8 days/6 nights

Participation fee: Approx. 300,000 yen including travel arrangements, ESTA application fee not included

★ Please note that the cost may change due to an increase in fuel tax, etc.

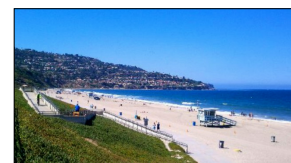
* Those who want to participate in the tour must attend the briefing session. Tour application forms will be distributed at the briefing.

Pre-briefing before application: at Palette Kashiwa from 6:30 p.m. Saturday, June 25.

Please make a reservation by June 10 to attend the pre-briefing directly at the KCC office, or by email to :boshu-2@kira-kira.jp.

Please make sure to specify your name with furigana, address, and phone number.

Inquiries: KCC office



Torrance Beach

Kashiwa International Exchange Week 2022

Date: Monday, July 4 - Sunday, July 10 Place: Palette Kashiwa

Content: Introducing the activities of international exchange organizations in the city, Presentation by students from Reitaku University and Kaichi International University, interaction with foreigners living in the city in easy Japanese and seminar on refugees; the meaning of accepting refugees — current situation of accepting refugees in Japan

①	7/4(Mon)	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Multipurpose A	Talk about Ukraine
②	7/5(Tues)	1:00 p.m. - 2:30p.m.	Multipurpose A	Talk about the Philippines
③	7/6(Wed)	1:00 p.m. - 2:30p.m.	Multipurpose A	Talk about Brazil
④	7/7(Thurs)	1:00 p.m. - 2:30p.m.	Multipurpose A	Talk about America and Thailand
⑤	7/8(Fri)	1:00 p.m. - 2:30p.m.	Multipurpose A	Talk about Taiwan
⑥	7/9(Sat)	6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Multipurpose A	Refugee seminar online and at the venue
⑦	7/10(Sun)	1:00 p.m. - 2:30p.m.	Multipurpose A	Fun events for Girl Scouts
⑧	7/10(Sun)	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	OpenSpace	Presentation by University students in the city

Registration: Sign up directly at the KCC office or send an email to: boshu-1@kira-kira.jp

Please write the number of the activity you want to join, your name and phone number

Number of participants: First 20 for each activity

Number of participants for Refugee seminar online (Zoom): 20



Ukrainians have evacuated to Kashiwa City

Four Ukrainians have come to Kashiwa city to stay with relatives living in the city, and one Ukrainian is staying with a Japanese friend (as of May 6). Two of them have started learning Japanese while doing work experience at KCC.

Fire Station Tour (5/12)

Five foreigners and three Japanese went on a field trip to the Kashiwa City East Fire Station. In this tour we learned the following information about disaster prevention. First, they showed a video about fires and earthquakes. At workplaces and public facilities, make sure to check fire extinguishing equipment, fire alarms, and evacuation routes, etc. At home, if a fire breaks out, calmly put out the fire with a fire extinguisher or wet cloth. If the flame gets higher than your height, call 119 and escape. If a big earthquake occurs, first protect your head. After the shaking has stopped, check that is safe and evacuate. Be sure to confirm the location of the nearest evacuation center.



Fire extinguishing experience

After that, we practiced putting out fires with a fire extinguisher that emits water instead of fire extinguishing agent for training. We just saw firefighters being dispatched, and we have a renewed gratitude for their dedication to disaster prevention for the citizens of Kashiwa.

Announcement

Origami Class

- Let's make an origami crane with 10 wings!

Origami cranes are the basis of Japanese origami. This time Ms.



an origami crane with 10 wings

Oshida from the Hakunan Koyukai will teach us how to fold a crane with 10 wings. This is the first face-to-face event in a while. We are looking forward to your participation.

Date and time: Tuesday, June 21, 10:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Place: Palette Kashiwa, Room A

Participation fee: 500 yen

Number of participants: 15.

Please wear a mask when participating.

Registration: Sign up directly at the KCC office by Saturday, June 18, or send an email to: boshu-2@kira-kira.jp



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

Date and Time: 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



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 specialists' advice on issues such as family or partner violence, divorce, visa procedures, and problems at work.

Date and Time: Wednesday, June 22, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Place: Palette Kashiwa, Room A Reservation necessary.

Reservation: the KCC office



Announcement of Video Posting

You can see a video introducing some activities at the "Kashiwa de International Exchange Festa" held on October 24, 2021 on our website.



<International Exchange Trivia> 24 solar terms in China

The 24 solar terms were invented during the Warring States period in China as a kind of calendar that divided the seasons into 24 divisions, that was made regardless of the deviations from the lunar calendar's seasons. In agricultural societies, the 24 seasonal divisions played an important role for a long time, and it has rich cultural connotations. Agricultural irrigation in ancient China depended on precipitation and rivers. Farmers in these regions engaged in agricultural production according to the temperature and precipitation conditions contained in each of the 24 solar terms. Each of the 24 solar terms has its own unique meaning, accurately reflecting the changing rhythms of nature and plays a very important role in people's daily lives.

In Japan, the vernal and autumnal equinoxes are still national holidays, and the seven days before and after them are higan. In China it is common to worship ancestors on Seimei and the Winter Solstice.

The 24 solar terms were registered as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage on October 31, 2016, and were also used in the countdown for the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics on February 4, 2022 that was the first day of spring called risshun.



Aloha, Kashiwa!

By Karl Takauye

"Time flies." It's a cliché, but for my wife Sharleen and I it's one that has certainly proven to be true. We can't believe it was 20 years ago this May that we came to Japan from the United States. Out of our past two decades in Japan, 18 years have been spent living in Kashiwa. Thanks to the warm, welcoming people of Kashiwa, we consider this place our home as much as anywhere we have ever lived. In fact, we've met some of our closest friends (and adopted family) here.

Although we both visited Japan dozens of times over the years for work and pleasure, living here was a life-long dream for us. I am proud to be a descendant of Japanese immigrants who traveled to Hawaii by ship in the early 1900s. Like many Japanese immigrants in the United States, my family began their life abroad working hard to make a better life for themselves. My mother's family settled on the island of Maui, while my father's family ended up on the Big Island of Hawaii. Following World War 2, both families moved to Oahu to take advantage of the greater economic opportunities there. This is where my mom and dad met and where my younger brother and I were born.

Growing up in Hawaii really is as wonderful as you would imagine. It's difficult to describe what it's like to always have the sea and beaches just minutes away from your home, and to rarely worry about the weather. The sun is out most of the year, so outdoor activities and sports can always be enjoyed anytime. It's no coincidence that Honolulu is considered one of the healthiest cities in the U.S.A. Hawaii's friendly, laid-back culture is also unique, which contributes to a more relaxed lifestyle. It's a fact I didn't fully appreciate until we left the islands to move to Seattle, Washington.

In Seattle, I worked for the Starbucks Coffee Company in their public affairs department. Seattle is a vibrant city and home to some of the world's most successful companies. In addition to Starbucks, global brands like Amazon and Microsoft are also based in the area. While we enjoyed living in Seattle, it never really felt like home to us. At first, the Pacific Northwest's often cloudy and rainy weather was a nice change of pace for two Hawaii people like us. But in time you start to miss the sun. So, when the opportunity to live and work in Japan presented itself, we both thought the same thing. If we don't do it now, we never will.

Originally, I was offered a job teaching business English in Tokyo. But having lived the city life in downtown Honolulu and Seattle, I wanted something a little less crowded. I sometimes describe Kashiwa to my friends and family back home as a "Goldilocks" city. Not too big, not too small, it's just the right size to be comfortable for us. As an English teacher for the Kashiwa Board of Education, I have been fortunate to have taught in elementary and junior high schools throughout the city, as well as at Kashiwa Municipal High School. This would not have been possible in a place like Tokyo or Osaka. I'm happy to say that every school I've ever worked in has been welcoming and supportive, and I've been able to keep in touch with many of my former students, some of whom we call our "kids."

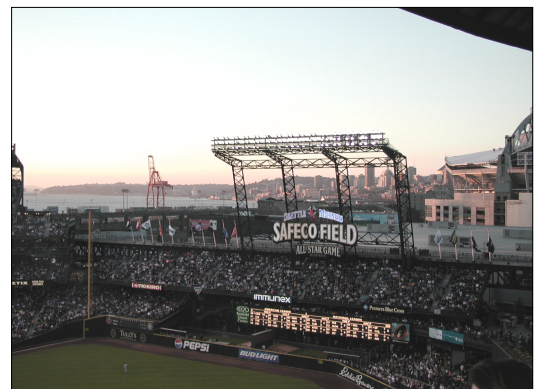
For the past five years, I have been teaching in Noda city at Seibudai-Chiba Junior and Senior High School. Teaching at a private school is a different experience, but I enjoy my current job very much. I admit that do sometimes miss the experience of visiting different schools, but thanks to KIRA, I'm still able to work with Kashiwa students as a supporter for KEYS and the Student Committee. I'm happy to contribute whenever I can because, no matter where I'm working, I'll always consider myself a "Kashiwa Guy."



Karl (center) Sharleen(left)
at Waimea Canyon, the island of Kauai



Kailua Beach in Oahu



Safeco Field in Seattle

June Events

Japanese Shonan Classes		
Online Classes		
Sun	10:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (2 classes), Intermediate II
In-person Classes (Shonan Community Center)		
Thu	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I , Intermediate II
Sun	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I
Japanese Kashiwa Classes		
Online Classes		
Tue	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 23 -)
Wed	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation elementary level 2 B
Wed	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 19 -)
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation elementary level 1 (For Beginners, Primary 1)
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Conversation elementary level 2 A
Fri	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> ,Primary II (Unit 44 -)
Sat	9:30 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.	Conversation intermediate level
In-person Classes (Palette Kashiwa)		
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 4 -)

Information from Other Organizations

Online study meeting for KIRA members "Easy Japanese (first half)"

Date & Time: Thursday, June 16,
8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Lecturer: Ms. Tomoe Uchida
(Easy Japanese instructor)

Participation fee: Free

Number of participants: 25

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.

Information about COVID-19 for Foreign Residents



Available in multiple languages



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 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Closed on Sundays and national holidays