



# KCC Newsletter

May, 2023

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## Exchange Programs with Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa

### Host Families Wanted for Torrance Youth

We are looking for host families for a leader of a delegation (a female in her 40s) and eight youths (high school students) from our sister city, Torrance, USA, who will visit Kashiwa this summer. This is a great opportunity for families to experience international exchange. We are looking forward to receiving many applications.

• Period: July 12 (Wed) - August 1 (Tue), Host families will change on July 23 (Sun).

First half: July 12 (Wed) - 23 (Sun), Second half: July 23 (Sun) - August 1 (Tue)

• Application conditions: Be able to pick up and drop off students at designated locations in the city (mainly Kashiwa City Hall). Be able to bear the costs associated with hosting.

• Number of applicants: 18 families (9 families for the first half and 9 families for the second half)

• How to apply: By May 23 (Tue.), send a postcard with "Host Family Application" and your address, name (including furigana), phone number, and preference of "first half, second half, either, first half + second half acceptable," and "leader/student (male, female, or either)" to the Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center by mail or by e-mail to [boshu-2@kira-kira.jp](mailto:boshu-2@kira-kira.jp).

Later, we will mail a survey form to collect information such as family structure and itinerary. Participants will be notified of selection results in early June.

Inquiries: Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center (KCC)



### Spring Exchange Walking Tour

Visit Kashiwanoha Park, where roses are in full bloom, and Kombukuro Pond Nature Museum Park, the first park in Chiba Prefecture selected as a Project Future Heritage site by the UNESCO Association of Japan. Let's enjoy walking in the refreshing season while interacting with foreigners.

• Date & Time: Sunday, May 14, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., to be canceled in case of rain

• Meeting and breaking up location: TX Kashiwanoha Campus Station

• Number of applicants: 15 • Fee: 400 yen (including 2 rice balls)

• Application: By Wednesday, May 10. Sign up directly at the KCC office or by e-mail at [boshu-1@kira-kira.jp](mailto:boshu-1@kira-kira.jp).

\* Please wear comfortable walking clothes and shoes, and bring drinks, towels, etc.



## Cross-cultural Testime

"My country, Sweden, spoken by a fourth-generation Swedish resident in Japan."

• Date & Time: Saturday, June 3, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

• Place: Palette Kashiwa Meeting Room A, B, C

• Lecturer: Ms. Marianne Wilson Kuroda (Katsushika Ward Foreigner's Life Counselor)

• Contents: A woman born and raised in Japan with Swedish, American, and Japanese roots will talk about Sweden and her journey.

• Number of participants: 50 • Fee: 400 yen

• Application: From Tuesday, May 2, sign up directly at the KCC office or by email at [boshu-1@kira-kira.jp](mailto:boshu-1@kira-kira.jp).



Ms. Kuroda

### Turkey/Syria Earthquake Fundraising

Thanks to your warm support, we were able to donate 70,150 yen from the KCC office and 15,125 yen from Kashiwanoha to the Japanese Red Cross Society at the end of March. Thank you for your help.

<NOTE>Please include the event name, your name and phone number when applying by email. The events may be cancelled depending on the Covid-19 situation. Contact the office for more information. Please wear a mask when participating.

**Online Study Session "Effective Vocalization Method #2" ~ Breathing and Facial Muscle Training for Wonderful Voice ~ (3/16)**

It's been two years since the online study session started in April 2021 during the coronavirus pandemic. This was the second study session on "Effective Vocalization Method" to learn how to have smooth conversation while wearing a mask and to be able to communicate effectively online. Naomi Yamazaki, a vocalist and voice trainer, was invited as a lecturer, and 25 people participated in the study session. They did exercises to relax their bodies and facial muscles, and practiced speaking out with the use of abdominal breathing. Under the guidance of the instructor so that their voices would come out clearly if they breathed properly, they were able to sing "Soshunfu" and "Yumejyori" to the best of their ability at their homes. Among the participants were people from Thailand, Hyogo, and Mie prefecture, which made us realize how convenient online communication is.

**Cross-cultural Treatise**

**"Our Journey to Japan from Brazil, a Country on the Other Side of the World" (4/1)**

Ms. Elisa Ferreira and Mr. Wilson Facanha, both from Brazil and currently conducting research at an astrophysics-related research institute at the University of Tokyo's Kashiwa Campus, gave lectures in English.

With various examples, the lecturers introduced that Brazil was not a uniform country but had a wide variety of people, cultures, food, and climate.

They also said that the diversity of people, culture, and food was greatly influenced by the fact that Brazil had been shaped by immigrants from various countries, including Japan. After talking about their experiences in Canada and Germany, where they had stayed before coming to Japan, the session ended with a quiz and Q&A time about Brazil. The talk was full of surprises and discoveries, such as the fact that they went from Brazil, where



Lecturers Elisa (right) and Wilson (left)

the temperature was 35° C in the middle of summer, to Canada, where the temperature was -30° C in the middle of winter, and that the photo the audience thought was a German house was a town of German immigrants in Brazil. It was a fun time with Brazilian sweets made by the lecturer and a lively conversation.

**Event from Other Organizations**

**Kashiwa City Agricultural Attraction Discovery Tour (3/29)**

Eighteen people participated in the tour, including people from Indonesia, the Philippines, China, Taiwan, and South Korea. A green onion farmer said that Kashiwa City's production of green onions, turnips, and spinach in 2008 was among the top in Japan. Participants enjoyed eating freshly harvested green onions. The farmer talked passionately about the aging of farmers, the lack of successors, and the increasing number of farmers leaving the industry, all of which threaten food security. He said he wanted consumers to buy and support local vegetables and growers. At the Rice Center, the participants toured the facilities for drying and storing the harvested rice, and were briefed on the mechanized rice cultivation process from shoveling, planting, and harvesting, and received rice as a souvenir. The staff also talked about the decline in rice consumption and their concerns about the future of agriculture. Participants had a salad bowl of vegetables from Kashiwa for lunch, and at "Michinoeki Shonan" they experienced making hand cream with sunflower oil. When shopping, we tend to go for cheap vegetables, but we should try "local production for local consumption" to protect Japan's agriculture.



At "Michinoeki Shonan"

**Announcement**

**Rakugo Experience Event in English - Enjoy the Traditional Japanese Storytelling Art "Rakugo" in English!**

Rakugo has been loved since the Edo period (1603-1868), and these days, it is also spoken in English and enjoyed in other countries. On the day of the event, rakugo storytellers from the English Rakugo Association of Japan will perform familiar pieces such as "Jugemu" and "Tenshiki". How will these rakugo performances be expressed in English? Anyone can enjoy them, so please look forward to them. We hope many people will participate in the event.



- Date & Time: Saturday, May 20, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Place: Palette Kashiwa Open Space
- Fee: 500 yen
- Number of applicants: 40
- Application: By Thursday, May 18, Sign up directly at the KCC office or by e-mail at boshu-1@kira-kira.jp

**Online International Exchange Salon "Living Together #1: What Foreigners Around You Are Having Trouble With"**

- Date & Time: Thursday, May 25, 20:00 - 21:00
- Fee: Free
- Number of applicants: 30
- Lecturer: Mr. Hatsuo Sugishita (Specified Administrative Scrivener)
- Participation method: Zoom
- Application: Sign up at the KCC office or by e-mail at boshu-1@kira-kira.jp. Please include your name and phone number. We will send you a URL to join on the day.

Next time: Thursday, June 15, 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

"Living Together #2: Human Rights of Foreign Residents".Lecturer: Mr. Shinya Tsuji (Lawyer)





## Visiting Torrance After 40 Years' Absence

Misako Kikuchi and Yumiko Ueno  
1982 Kashiwa Student Delegates

**About Misako Kikuchi :** An outside director of two private companies as well as an auditor of a university and a hospital, she retired last year from a general trading company after serving for 38 years. She was the first female to become its subsidiary company president.

**About Yumiko Ueno:** Principal of Kashiwa Municipal Otsugaoka Daiichi Elementary School (as of the interview date). She had worked as a classroom teacher and a music teacher at elementary schools in Chiba Prefecture.

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**Please tell us why you applied for the Sister City Exchange program and what was the situation like at that time.**

— Kikuchi : I had always liked English since junior high school and was majoring in English literature at university, so I wanted to go abroad.

— Ueno : One of my high school classmates went to Torrance a year earlier, and the trip looked interesting, so I applied for it, too.

— Kikuchi : Since our year fell on the 10th anniversary of the sister city affiliation, we were the group of 14 student delegates, it's usually 8, with an adult leader. For all of us, that was the first time to go abroad. Right after we got on a foreign airline aircraft, we felt as if we were in "a foreign country." Feeling insecure, we helped each other to get by. I was the eldest student, so everyone in the group called me "mother."

**What was your impression of the homestay?**

— Kikuchi and Ueno : As we did not see tall buildings in Torrance, we felt the sky was very big. The large-scale houses, streets, and all overwhelmed us. On top of that, the portion size of food was surprising. Ice cream was served on a platter, like a surprisingly large cutting board at a restaurant! (laughs) Also, we enjoyed very much the way the host mothers welcomed us with homemade food. We still think they are our second mothers.

**You two went to Torrance in the same year. Have you been spending time together since you came back?**

— Kikuchi and Ueno : In those days, KIRA had not yet been established. The Kashiwa City Secretarial Division staff was in charge of hosting the Torrance delegations with the assistance of the past Kashiwa exchange students. Having spent three weeks apart from the parents at an extremely sensitive age, we had the courage to open up our own future. In addition, we were inspired by the past students helping the program. We saw the young people, close to our age, working hard to promote grassroots international exchange. They had their own opinions and were able to explain them in their own words. They seemed so mature to us.

From time to time, we have a reunion of "Manyo no Kai," a group of the very early past exchange students, and a get-together of the 1982 students even after our student days were over.

**How has your experience with the Sister City Exchange affected your life? You are both women in management positions in your organizations. Has your experience with the exchange helped you?**

— Ueno: Leaning about views that are different from those in Japan broadened my horizons. I became more active and wanted to challenge many things. I wanted to become a teacher to share my experience with children and other teachers. Actually, when Torrance students visited Daiichi Elementary School, where I was working, some children were very shy because they could not speak English. I taught them the joy of interaction by giving them a little push. As for a managerial position, as long as people around me think it is my role, I'll do my best. I feel fulfilled now.

— Kikuchi: I first wanted to become an English teacher, but after I went to Torrance, I wanted to work internationally and changed my career direction to the work in a general trading company. That was a time when there were few opportunities to go or study abroad, so I took advantage of my student exchange experience when I applied for the job. Honestly speaking, there were times when I was worried about unprecedented challenges, such as balancing childcare and work, and being the first female line manager. However, I think I was able to work with a positive attitude of "I'll go as far as I can," because of my experience in Torrance.

**What do you expect of the younger delegates and prospective student delegates?**

— Kikuchi and Ueno: For both of us, this is the visit to Torrance for the first time in 40 years. We have renewed our old friendship with a 1982 Torrance student, and we also have made new friends in this occasion. These are very precious experiences. The Sister City Exchange is a great opportunity to foster the young students' self-initiative as well as to learn the importance of international exchange. We hope for many young people to join the program and challenge themselves.



Ms.Ueno (left)  
Ms.Kikuchi (Right)



Our 1982 memory

(Interviewed by Noriko Fujita at a hotel in Torrance)

# May Events

| Japanese Shonan Classes                                                |                         |                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Online Classes                                                         |                         |                                                         |
| Sat                                                                    | 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.   | <i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary II                    |
| Sun                                                                    | 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.   | <i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I and Intermediate II |
| In-person Classes (Shonan Community Center)                            |                         |                                                         |
| Thu                                                                    | 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.  | <i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I(2 classes)          |
| Sun                                                                    | 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.  | <i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I                     |
| Japanese Kashiwa Classes (no classes during the Golden Week, 4/29-5/8) |                         |                                                         |
| Online Classes                                                         |                         |                                                         |
| Tue                                                                    | 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.   | <i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 20 - )        |
| Wed                                                                    | 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | Conversation Elementary 2B (Level 2)                    |
| Wed                                                                    | 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.   | <i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary II (Unit 34 - )       |
| Thu                                                                    | 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.   | Conversation Elementary 2A (Level 2)                    |
| Fri                                                                    | 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.   | <i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary II (Unit 31 - )       |
| Sat                                                                    | 9:30 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.  | Conversation Intermediate                               |
| In-person Classes (Palette Kashiwa )                                   |                         |                                                         |
| Thu                                                                    | 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | hiragana/katakana                                       |
| Thu                                                                    | 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | <i>Beginners</i>                                        |
| Thu                                                                    | 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | <i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 8 - )         |
| Sat                                                                    | 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | <i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 7 - )         |
| Sat                                                                    | 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | <i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 22- )         |
| In-person Classes (Kashiwanoha Service Corner)                         |                         |                                                         |
| Thu                                                                    | 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | Conversation Elementary, Introductory and 1             |
| Thu                                                                    | 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | Conversation Elementary 2                               |

## 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. Reservation necessary.

Date & Time: Wednesday, May 24, 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Place: Palette Kashiwa Room A,

Reservation: the KCC office

## Information for Foreign Residents from Kashiwa City

### Consultation for Foreign Residents

Available in English (Thu), Chinese (Wed and Fri), Spanish (Mon), and Korean (2nd and 4th Tue) from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Consultation Counter for Foreign Residents (City Hall Main Office Building, 3rd floor).

Tel: 04 - 7168 - 1033

No reservation required.

### Email distribution service from Kashiwa City

Sign up to receive email announcement from the city, such as information on natural disasters, crimes, and fires of your area in the language of your choice. Scan the QR code and register!



### Multilingual "Koho Kashiwa," monthly official city bulletin

Scan the QR code and select your language under "Foreign Language" to read the official city bulletin, "Koho Kashiwa," selected and translated for foreign residents.



### Links for Multilingual News & BOSAI INFO (Disaster prevention and Coronavirus)

NHK WORLD-JAPAN



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