



# KCC Newsletter

## June, 2023

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### Exchange Programs with Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa

#### The 50th Kashiwa Student Delegates to Torrance were Selected

Sending Sister City Exchange Youth to Torrance, U. S. A. has been suspended since 2020 due to the spread of Covid-19, but the program will resume this year for the first time in four years. This marks the 50th anniversary of the exchange between the two cities. The eight students were chosen by the selection committee in April. The 50th Torrance exchange delegation members from Kashiwa are Hitoshi Watanabe (adult leader), Yurino Hirata, Shion Horie, Miwa Hashimoto, Haruna Kido, Ayumi Itagaki, Kota Moteki, Mahiro Sawai, and Koto Shiota. Before leaving for Torrance, they will prepare for the program by attaining necessary information regarding attitude, English conversation, Kashiwa Odori, etc. through the six orientation sessions. They will develop an awareness of what it means to be representatives of Kashiwa, as well as a strong mutual trust. They will leave for Torrance on August 7, experience American family life with host families, and interact with Torrance people through various programs. We look forward to seeing how much they have changed and matured when they come back on August 25.



#### The Student Delegates from Guam will be Visiting Kashiwa!

The delegation of six students and an adult leader from Guam, our Friendship City, will be visiting Kashiwa from Thursday, June 22 to Monday, June 26. This is their first visit in six years, so we are getting ready to host them.

## Announcement

### Let's Join "Kashiwa International Exchange Week 2023"

Let's talk with people from various countries over snacks from around the world. Enjoy the presentations by international students and university students living in Kashiwa and interact with them.

Date & Time: Monday, July 3 through Saturday July 8, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.; Sunday, July 9, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Place: Palette Kashiwa Multi-purpose Room A, Open Space, and Online  
Participants: Kashiwa UNESCO Association, Kashiwa City Tourism Association, Yosakoi Team Senjin, Girl Scouts Troop 17, Kaichi International University, Reitaku University, etc.

Contents: ① Introduction of each organization (photos and documents exhibits, and videos) ② Interaction with foreign residents in Kashiwa over snacks from around the world (July 3 - 7) ③ Interaction with international students (July 8) ④ Presentations by university students (July 9) ⑤ Online meeting (Refugee Workshop) (July 9, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.) ⑥ Tanabata Festival

Participation fee: Free

Number of participants: First 20 people (July 3 through 7), and the first 30 people (July 8 and 9)

Application: Sign up directly at the KCC office or by email at <[boshu-1@kira-kira.jp](mailto:boshu-1@kira-kira.jp)>. Please include your name and contact information. Email address is necessary for those who wish to participate in the online meeting. For more information, please visit the KCC website.



International Exchange Week in 2022



### Project Staff Wanted for "Kashiwa International Exchange Week"

Dates: Monday, July 3 through Sunday, July 9 Contact: the KCC office  
Contents: Introduction of international exchange activities in Kashiwa, and interaction with foreign residents in the city

## Online International Exchange Salon "Let's Enjoy SNS" (4/20)

"Online Study Session for KIRA Members" began in April 2021 as face-to-face interaction was restricted due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The online meetings had been held monthly on such topics as "Easy Japanese," "Tips for Zoom meeting," etc.

In April this year, the study session for KIRA members was renamed to "Online International Exchange Salon" to make it open to all Kashiwa citizens. The first online salon was held by Takahiro Kageyama, an urban development coordinator, and he lectured on the basics of Social Networking Services. Since many of the participants were elderly, the characteristics of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LINE were taught first. On Talkroom in groups, many participants said that they used Facebook and LINE, but Facebook was used only for viewing content, and not for sending out messages. It seemed that many were hesitant to send out messages on SNS.

These days, young people get a lot of information from SNS and by actively sending out information. KCC also needs to use SNS actively.

## First-aid and Lifesaving Training (5/11)

Seven participants, including three foreign residents, attended the first-aid training class at Kashiwa City East Fire Station and learned chest compressions (cardiac massage) and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). When a person is unresponsive to your voice or not breathing, call out loudly for help after checking the safety of the surroundings. Ask someone to call an ambulance and to bring an AED and start chest compressions at the same time. The main point is to act "strongly, quickly, and incessantly." Electric shocks with an AED are also administered. Continue to do these things until the ambulance arrives. Chest compressions require greater strength than one might imagine. It is thought that many people should experience the training in order to "save the lives that can be saved."



We are serious about saving lives.

## Spring Interactive Walking Tour (5/14)

On a slightly cloudy day, nine of us, including a Turkish researcher from the University of Tokyo and a Filipino woman, set out from Kashiwanoha Campus Station for the rose garden at Kashiwanoha Park. The roses were in full bloom, and the vibrant colors and fragrances made our hearts cheerful. During the tour, we had a sudden heavy rain, so on the spot, we had matcha (powdered green tea) at a Japanese garden and enjoyed Japanese culture. While we waited, the staff gave small handmade hanging cranes to the participants, which made them happy.



At the rose garden in Kashiwanoha Park

Next, we headed to Kombukuro Pond Natural History Park, which was designated as a "Chiba Cultural Heritage" in March. The park was conserved through the effort of a non-profit organization and was the first park in Chiba to be registered as a "Project Future Heritage" of the UNESCO-Japan in 2022. The guide from the NPO led us walking in the park and explained rare and unusual plants, as well as ways to protect Quercus trees from insect pest damage. As we listened to the explanation, we became more interested in the "precious forest remaining in the urban area." It was a day filled with negative ions. We had rice balls in the open air like a picnic and enjoyed friendly exchanges.

A cameraman from Asahi Resuka accompanied the tour to cover the event, taking photos and interviewing participants.

## Announcement

### Online International Exchange Salon

### "Living Together #2: Human Rights of Foreign Residents"

Date & Time: Thursday, June 25, 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Lecturer: Shinya Tsuji (Lawyer)

Fee: Free

Number of participants: First 30

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 the URL to join on the day.

Next event: "Happiness from the Sea #1 - The Charm of the Sea" Thursday, July 20, 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Lecturer: Mr. Shogo Saeki (Divemaster)



### <Upcoming Events> (July→)

- 7/3 - 7/9 Kashiwa International Exchange Week 2023
- 7/24 Yukata and Tanabata Experience
- 9/24 Barbecue

- 7/12 ~ 8/1 Visit of Torrance Youth Delegation to Kashiwa
- 9/2 Disaster Prevention Talk
- 9/30 Cross-cultural Teatime: "Going Around the World"



## Let's Have a Perspective to "Look at Japan from the Outside"

Shinji Tsuchiya, Torrance 1978 student, Living in Brazil

It was 45 years ago when I was sent to Torrance as an exchange student at a time when the Japanese economy was enjoying a period of high growth. I entered university and had a strong desire to work abroad, as I had intended to become a diplomat for a while. When I heard that Kashiwa City had a sister city relationship with Torrance, California, and was offering an exchange program, I applied and was fortunate enough to be accepted. Torrance, USA. was the first overseas trip in my life, and the flight took about eight hours on a so-called "Jumbo" Boeing 747, which had been in service for eight years at that time. I first arrived in Los Angeles. Sunny California was just like the world of Hollywood movies, and I still clearly remember how fresh everything looked. I had two homestay families. Every family had waffles for breakfast. It was in Torrance that I ate waffles for the first time in my life. I still remember the taste of the fresh orange juice that my homestay family served me every morning instead of milk which I didn't like, and it made me feel the richness of America.

Although my desire to go abroad did not change after graduating from university, I became a trading company employee instead of a diplomat, and I visited dozens of countries around the world for work. I never imagined that I would spend 27 years living abroad, including in the U.S., Singapore, and Brazil.

My experience in Torrance during the summer of '78 was short, but it was the first step in learning to live and communicate in a different culture. Since then, I have lived in various countries, and I have always felt the differences in customs and culture between Japan and other countries, as well as the differences in national characteristics. But what I am most aware of is that I have come to strongly understand the feeling of "Japan and the Japanese seen from the outside."

Almost 50 years after World War II, Japan's bubble economy burst, and a long tunnel era, which is said to be the lost 30 years, continued. Looking at the past 40 years from abroad, I feel a strong sense of crisis that the Japanese have been turning inward before our eyes we know it. In Japan, which falls into the category of developed countries, the importance of English education has been stressed in Japan for more than 50 years. But honestly speaking, I believe that there is no other developed country where communication in English is the only issue.

I became interested in foreign countries because I strongly felt that Japan must interact with other countries in order to survive. Unlike 45 years ago, many people can now freely travel to other countries. The appeal of the exchange program is that it is not just a sightseeing trip, but a valuable opportunity to experience firsthand the differences in culture, customs, and ways of thinking in other countries, and to learn to communicate with other cultures through homestays. It is not just a trip, but a great opportunity to see our home country from the outside and to experience firsthand the lifestyle of the people of other countries, even if only for a short period of time. I sincerely hope those of you who will take on the challenge of becoming exchange students will have this perspective of seeing your home country from the outside, and that you will make use of it in your working life after returning to your home country.



Mr. Shinji Tsuchiya  
(In a Cotton Field in Brazil)



Brazil Farm Inspection (2nd from right)

### Announcements from other organizations

#### Membership Wanted! Kashiwa International Relations Association (KIRA)

Why don't you become a member and join us in our international exchange activities? Let's interact with foreigners by planning and organizing various events. You don't have to speak English. You can also make friends. For more information, please visit our website.

QR Code (Inquiries: Office)



# June Events

Japanese Shonan Classes		
Online Classes		
Sat	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary II
Sun	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.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		
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 )		
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	hiragana/katakana
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Beginners</i>
Tue	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, June 28, 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