



KCC Newsletter

September, 2023

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Announcement

Kashiwa de International Exchange Festa 2023 will be held !

- D** October 15 (Sun) 11 : 00 a.m. - 4 : 00 p.m. (canceled only in case of heavy rain)
P Howdy Mall at Kashiwa Station east exit (pedestrian street in front of Ito-Yokado.)
C The introduction of activities to support and coexist with foreign residents, as well as international exchange activities with Kashiwa's sister and friendship cities. Visitors can enjoy international dances and performances on the event stage. In addition, there will be sales of foreign products, food, and beverages. Come and experience the "world" from the streets of Kashiwa! (You can see the scenes from last year's Festa here.)



Online International Exchange Salon "Introduction of Exchange Activities between Kashiwa and its Sister and Friendship Cities" Presentations on Torrance (50th Anniversary) and Kashiwa's three friendship cities

- D** September 21 (Thu) 8:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. **F** Free
L Sister and Friendship Cities Committees **N** 30
A At the KCC office or by email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>. Include your name and phone number. We will send you a URL to join on the day.



Cross-Cultural Seminar

Cross-cultural experiences felt by Americans. "Japan is good. No, America is better!" Let's get together and talk about it!

- D** September 23 (Sat) 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa Multipurpose Space A
F Free **L** Mr. Kevin Butt (English language instructor) **N** 20
A At the KCC office from September 1 (Fri), or by email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>

Barbecue around the World

- D** September 24 (Sun) 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **P** Mizushiro Kajuen Orchard
 (Nagareyama City, Mukaikogane 3-179 Telephone: 04-7174-4451 <http://www.orchard-garden.com/>)
F 1000 yen for junior high school students and older, 500 yen for elementary school students, and free for preschoolers
A At the KCC office from September 1 (Fri), or by email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>

Cross-cultural Theatre Journey Around the World - Fascinating and Spectacular Scenery Unknown to the Japanese

- D** September 30 (Sat) 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
P Palette Kashiwa Multipurpose Space A
 Contents: Travel locations in South America, Africa, and the Middle East which are not easily accessible by tours.
L Yoichi Fukuda (freelance planner)
F 400 yen Number of applicants: 27
A At the KCC office from September 1 (Fri), or by email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>



Mr. Yoichi Fukuda The Perito Moreno glacier, Argentina

Upcoming events (October -)

Delegation from Torrance to Kashiwa: 10/5 - 9 (There will be opportunities to interact with citizens on the 10/6- 7)
 International Exchange Bus Tour: 10/28 Halloween Party: 10/29

Torrance Youth Visit to Kashiwa (7/12-8/1)

Due to the Corona pandemic, Kashiwa did not send a delegation to Torrance last summer, while the adult leader and five students from Torrance visited Kashiwa without a homestay. After a three-year absence, the youth exchange with Torrance was back this summer in full scale. The delegation leader Maureen Ortega and eight high school students (two boys and six girls) stayed with two host families each during their stay. The host families received the students as if they were their own family members, providing them with genuinely international exchange experiences. They also had the opportunity to interact with students of their own age, paid courtesy calls to the mayor of Kashiwa and the city assembly, took excursions to Kyoto and Hiroshima, and experienced day trips to Nikko and Tokyo. In a questionnaire given to them, they said that they were very impressed by the opportunities to experience Japanese culture (taiko, kendo, origami, calligraphy, tea ceremony, Japanese archery, school lunch, making bento lunches, etc.) with the students at Kashiwa Municipal High School, Nittaidai Kashiwa High School, Kashiwa Chuo Prefectural High School, Kashiwa Daiichi Elementary School, and Kaichi International University. They had two bus tours of Kashiwa City, which were good opportunities to get to know the new and old Kashiwa. The student delegation from Kashiwa will depart on August 1 and return on August 25. Both experiences are wonderful, once-in-a-lifetime events. And we have met many past student delegates who have said that these experiences changed their lives. The volunteer activities of TSCA and KIRA members have contributed greatly to the 50-year history of this youth international exchange program. We hope to continue these long-lasting international exchanges for many years to come.



With the Atomic Bomb Dome in the back



Participating in Kashiwa Matsuri

Online International Exchange Salon

Happiness from the Sea #1 - Charm of the Sea (7/20)

We enjoyed the charms of the sea discovered through diving with the underwater images taken by the lecturer. The images of the sea were a pleasant refresher during the intense heat of the summer days. The images showed fish and coral reefs that can only be seen by diving, and we were again impressed by the beauty of the seas around Japan. The lecturer, Shogo Saeki, said that he had uploaded more than 500 videos to YouTube. He hopes that people would appreciate the beauty of the sea and that those videos would be shown in hospital waiting rooms, etc. to help comfort the people who watch them. You can watch these YouTube videos by searching for "Shogo saeki" or "DivingSaeki". He said, "The oceans are connected and united, and if we think about how wonderful they are, there should be no more wars." These words left a strong impression on us.

Yukata Wearing and Tanabata Bamboo Decorating Experience (7/24)

Six of the 12 participants were foreign nationals at this event held at Palette Kashiwa. As the participants put on their yukata with the help of the instructor and staff, they interacted with each other through Japanese culture, which was the very purpose of the event. Gradually, the participants began to mingle with each other, enjoying conversation and taking photos together.

After everyone finished dressing beautifully, they wrote their wishes on tanzaku strips and decorated bamboo branches with them. They took photos of themselves as keepsakes with the decorated bamboo branches in the background.

The participants enjoyed the event very much and commented that they were happy to be able to put on the yukata by themselves.



Everyone dressed beautifully!

Congratulations to Hoshoryu!

Hoshoryu from Mongolia (real name SUGARRAGCHAA BYAMBASUREN), a graduate of Nittaidai Kashiwa High School, won the Nagoya tournament in July and was promoted to Ozeki. He had participated in the "1st Japanese Speech Contest for Foreign Residents" hosted by KCC. Yumiko Okada taught him Japanese at high school and said, "He was a student who wanted to win at everything. He was very disappointed when he did not win the contest after working so hard to study Japanese. I think it was his competitive spirit that enabled him to win the Ozeki title." We look forward to his future success.



Japan, the Country I Have Long Wanted to Visit

Ms. Maureen Ortega, 2023 Torrance Youth Delegation Adult Leader

Please introduce yourself. — I was born in the Philippines and moved to Torrance with my parents and two brothers when I was two. I started dancing at the age of 12 or 13 and was a jazz, ballet, and hip-hop dance teacher during my college days. I have been working in accounting for a company that makes batteries for electric recliners. My favorite food is sushi, especially salmon sushi, and spaghetti. The price of sushi in restaurants in Torrance (Kura-zushi) are three times higher than those in Japan. I also like curry and often go to Coco-Ichibanya in Torrance with my family. I do not drink alcohol at all, though it is not for religious reasons. My favorite pastime is reading, and I often read romance stories. My family consists of my husband and my 13-year-old son.



Ms. Maureen Ortega

What made you to apply for the youth delegation adult leader position? — I go to the same church as Donna Dunlop, the president of Torrance Sister City Association (TSCA). As a Torrance resident, I had known about TSCA for a long time and had heard a lot about it from Donna, and I thought the exchange program was a great idea. She encouraged me to apply, and since I myself was interested in Kashiwa and Japan, I applied to be the leader of the delegation. I needed two letters of recommendation. Since I volunteer at my son's school, I received letters of recommendation from the school principal and my boss at work. I have been a member of TSCA since 2022, and both my husband and son have helped me by participating in the TSCA cultural festival.

Is this your first visit to Kashiwa or Japan? — I have been to Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and the Maldives, but this is my first visit to Japan. It has been on my list of countries to visit for a long time, so I am very happy to be here. I would love to come back to Japan in a different season.

What are your impressions of Japan and Kashiwa? — Kashiwa is very peaceful and clean, with no litter on the streets. And the people of Kashiwa are really kind. When I used the restroom at the Kashiwa City Hall, I left my bag there. I realized that and went back to the restroom, feeling worried. To my surprise, I found my bag was right where I left it. If you were in the U.S., it would have been taken immediately.

Are the delegates enjoying their stay? — The students are enjoying their stay very much, with no health problems. They seem to get along very well with their host families and talk to each other a lot. They are having so much fun every day, so they are sorry to see time goes by so quickly. I feel that I have been welcomed as a member of my host family. I enjoy chatting with them over meals. We also cook together. Yesterday, they taught me how to make Kabuto (Japanese warrior's helmet) out of spring roll wrappers. I hope that the students will learn a lot during their stay in Japan by experiencing the differences in environments, cultures, and traditions compared to their own country.

(Interviewed by Yoko Nakano and Sachiko Nakano)



Kabuto made of spring roll wrappers

Hawaiian Bon Dance Group Visited Kashiwa (7/29)

Fourteen members of the Ko'olau Sakura Odori Kai came to Kashiwa to participate in the Kashiwa Matsuri festival and met with 14 members of KIRA at Palette Kashiwa.

The group members, mainly Japanese Americans living in Hawaii, saw the Kashiwa Odori dance on YouTube while practicing Bon Dance. They wanted to dance it and contacted the KCC office four years ago. Since then, they had been practicing the dance, hoping to dance in Kashiwa someday. This year, they finally came to Kashiwa.

At the meeting with KIRA members, after introducing each other and enjoying conversation, all participants danced the Kashiwa Odori under the guidance of Mr. Fusen Kyokuren of the Kashiwa Folk Dance Federation. When Mr. Fusen introduced the "Keihoku Ondo odori," they immediately looked it up on YouTube and enthusiastically said they would add it to their repertoire.



Kashiwa Odori

Maui (Hawaii) Wildfire Relief Donations!

There has been a massive wildfire on the island of Maui. We have set up a donation box at KCC and would appreciate your cooperation.

September Events

Japanese Shonan Classes (2nd term: Saturday 9/2 -)		
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/Kashiwanoha Classes (2nd term: Friday 9/1 -)		
Online Classes		
Tue	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 8 -)
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 37 -)
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 35 -)
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 14 -)
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 10 -)
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 28-)
In-person Classes (Kashiwanoha Service Center)		
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.

D September 27 (Wed), 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

P Palette Kashiwa Room A

R the KCC office

Announcements from Other Organizations Members Wanted! Kashiwa International Relations Association (KIRA)

Why don't you become a member and join us in 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. (Inquiries: 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