



KCC Newsletter

December, 2023

Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center, Palette Kashiwa
1-7-1-301 Kashiwa,
Kashiwa, Chiba, Japan 277-0005
■TEL: 04-7157-0281 ■FAX: 04-7165-7321
■E-MAIL: kcc@kira-kira.jp
■URL: <https://www.kcc.kira-kira.jp>



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Announcement

Exchange Programs with Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa

"Discover Australia": Exchange Commemorative Event with Friendship city, Camden, Australia

The lead editor and travel writer of "Globe-Trotter Australia" will talk about the country's evolution, fun activities, diverse cultural aspects, and attractions. The city of Camden, Australia is a friendship city of Kashiwa.

DSunday, December 10, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. **P**Palette Kashiwa Open Space

LMr. Shinpei Ito **F**¥ 300 **N**70

ADirectly at the office or via email at <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>



Shinpei Ito:
A lecturer

Exchange Programs with Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa

40th Anniversary Fair of Affiliation with Kashiwa and Chengde, International Friendship City

November 1, 2023, marked the 40th anniversary of the international friendship city affiliation between Kashiwa and Chengde. The commemorative fair will be held as follows.

DSunday, December 24, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

PPalette Kashiwa, Multipurpose Space A

CIntroduction of Chengde, exchange activities, sale of local specialties, and roundtable discussion. **F**Free

In addition, as Chengde has been designated as a world cultural heritage site for paper-cutting, we will hold digital paper-cutting workshops (3 sessions). Details are as follows.

D1. Sunday, December 24, 3:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m.

2. Sunday, January 7, 2024, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

3. Sunday, January 14, 2024, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

PMeeting Room A for all sessions **N**20 **F**¥ 1,000 (for all 3 sessions)

ADirectly at the office from 9:00 a.m. on Friday, December 1st, or via email at <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>



Paper-cutting workshop

Christmas Party: Shadow Puppet Show "Three Bears"

KIRAKIC, the international group, will hold a Christmas party. Why not enjoy the English tale of "Three Bears" through a shadow puppet show? Let's share an exciting time with adults and children!

DSunday, December 17, 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. **P**Palette Kashiwa Meeting Room A, B

FFree **N**20 **A**Directly at the office or via email at <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>



Call for Presenters for the 13th English Speech Contest

DSunday, February 4, 2024, 2:00 p.m.-4:30p.m. **P**Amuse Kashiwa Plaza

Eligibility: Residents, employees, junior high school students or above who live in the vicinity of Kashiwa city, whose native language is not English.

Speech outlines:

1. Duration: More than 3 minutes to less than 5 minutes. 2. Theme/Title: Free choice 3. **F**Free

N10 (first come, first served)

AFriday, December 1 to Thursday, December 14 by email to <gaikokugo@kira-kira.jp>.

Please be sure to include your name, address, phone number, email address, and age.

Inquiries: KCC Office



Upcoming Events (January 2024)

Japanese Speech Contest (2/11 in 2024)

<Request> When applying via email, please be sure to include the event name, your name, and phone number.

DDate & Time **P**Place **F**Fee **N**Number of applicants **L**Lecturer **C**Contents **A**Application **R**Reservation

Kashiwa de International Exchange Festival 2023 Held! (11/12)

The festival, which was previously postponed due to rain, took place at Palette Kashiwa Open Space. Performances included "Tsugaru Sukoppu Shamisen," "Balinese Dance," "Toad's Oil Seller," and "Dance by KIRAKIC." In "Tsugaru Sukoppu Shamisen," the audience also participated in hands-on performances. In addition to booths from various committees, "Japan-Southeast Europe Economic Exchange Association" introduced Bulgaria and Serbia and sold their products for the first time. Also, "Lumbini", a Nepalese restaurant, offered curry bread and other items at the food and beverage booth. Despite the winter cold and the concern about attendance for an indoor event, calls were made for participation in performances at the entrance of Day One Tower. Also, a seal rally was held for people visiting each booth. Many citizens, including families, participated. The finale saw a lively dance by KIRAKIC members and many participants.



Balinese dance



A bustling booth



Tsugaru Sukoppu Shamisen

Online International Exchange Salon "Perspective of a German Exchange Student - Earth-friendly Vegan Diet" (10/19)

This event explored the concept of veganism, which may be unfamiliar in Japan. Mr. Joshua E. Schmidt, who came to Japan as an exchange student at Reitaku University, has been a vegan for seven years, and joined the event from Germany. Veganism considers not just dietary habits but also societal structures and the protection of animals and the environment. Veganism is different from vegetarianism as it represents an ethical lifestyle aiming for a better life for humans, animals, and the Earth. It's important to note that a vegan diet may require supplements like vitamin B12. While vegan restaurants are limited in Japan, Mr. Schmidt would like people to try vegan food. You can find recipes for vegan food on the Internet (search for "Easy Vegan Recipes").

As the 25 participants viewed the prepared PowerPoint presentation in both English and Japanese, many were shocked to learn facts about subjects like animal cruelty that they were unaware of. The Q&A session created a friendly atmosphere, making it easy and enjoyable for participants. Vegan food reminded us of Japanese vegetarian cuisine.

2023 International Exchange Bus Tour (10/28)

This year's International Exchange Bus Tour included visits to the JAXA Tsukuba Space Center and the Tsukuba Expo Center. Of the 23 participants, three were foreigners. The tour quickly reached full capacity after the registration opened, indicating the high level of interest in these facilities. The guided tour by JAXA staff included a visit to the astronaut training facility and the Kibo operation control room, which are not open to general visitors. We were deeply moved to think that astronauts are training here, and that part of the International Space Station is operated from this control room. In the afternoon, we moved to the Expo Center. While having lunch in a reserved room, we had a pleasant chat with each other. Following a free exploration of the exhibition hall, we enjoyed watching "Today's Starry Sky" at the world's largest planetarium, making it a fun and meaningful day for all.



The Kibo Operation Control Room

Halloween Party (10/29)

The children, dressed in cute costumes, went around Palette Kashiwa saying "Trick or Treat" while receiving candies from the staff. As the party started, the children cheerfully responded to the staff's English calls, and both adults and children danced merrily like a skeleton to a Mexican Halloween video on the screen. Next, they divided into two groups, blindfolded themselves, and played a game where they placed bones on a board to create a skeleton. In the fashion show, even the children who didn't win awards happily received handmade medals from the staff. Finally, they broke a piñata (similar to a Japanese kusudama, filled with candies, hung from above, and broken by children with a stick), sharing the candies. It was a day where everyone spent a joyful time together, with smiles all around.



Colorful costumes



On the 50th Anniversary of Sister City Friendship between Kashiwa & Torrance

President of Torrance Sister City Association Donna Dunlop

I have been looking forward to the TSCA/KIRA 50th celebration for nearly 40 years. TSCA formed our 50th committee in 2021 and after two years of planning we were able to showcase a stage production at the James Armstrong Theater in February 2023. Mikko organized past delegates from Torrance and Kashiwa representing delegate years from 1977 to 2019. The Mayor of Torrance hosted a restaurant dinner while the other Kashiwa delegates visited TSCA homes for dinner. We enjoyed a huge picnic in Wilson Park with nearly 200 people attending, all wearing the new yellow commemorative T-shirts that were designed by a 1986 Torrance delegate. To commemorate the 50th, pins and tote bags were made as gifts using her tree design. The weekend ended with a formal Sayonara Banquet. The evening included the exchange of gifts and the Kashiwa Odori sung by two past delegates: Tami Ooka, Kashiwa 1981 and David Contreras, Torrance 2019 and Alex Ito, Torrance 2015 on Taiko. What a special treat!



Ms. Donna Dunlop

In October, 43 delegates from Torrance visited Kashiwa for the 50th Celebration. Another exciting weekend of activities had been planned by KIRA. The unveiling of a sign post next to the commemorative 50th cherry tree in Furusato Park. Walking down the newly named Torrance Street was a dream come true for me. We enjoyed a festive party in the park. Great meals, especially at the formal Welcome Banquet and ending at the entertaining Sayonara Party, once again with Tami and David singing the Kashiwa Odori.

These two weekends were a huge success, especially seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

Our family has been involved with TSCA since 1983 when I was chosen as the 1984 adult leader. My husband, Butch, went in 1990 as the adult leader and tradition continued with Steven and Cara being adult leaders in 2013 and 2022, respectively. Cara was also a student delegate in 2006. Our family has grown thanks to TSCA. When Steven was responsible for finding presenters for the 2015 student orientation, he called a 2007 Kashiwa student delegate who had just recently moved to Torrance. This began a friendship that resulted in their marriage in 2017.

In July, we were blessed with their daughter, Emma. The first baby born to two past delegates, one from Kashiwa and one from Torrance. The bonds are growing stronger between the members of TSCA and KIRA and the two cities as well.

I am sure that with our tradition of volunteering, Emma will be a part of the next generation to carry on the family's legacy, and she will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary between TSCA and KIRA. All our annual student delegates will also be the generation to continue to make the bonds stronger between the two cities. I see no end to this relationship: the student exchanges, the exchange teachers, or the five-year anniversary celebrations. Once friends are made, not even an ocean, can keep us apart.

Announcement

Online International Exchange Salon

♪ Let's Enjoy Singing Christmas Songs together!♪

We will do vocalexercises with Christmas songs.

D December 21 (Sun), 8:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.

L Ms. Naomi Yamazaki (Voice Trainer)

F Free

N First 30 people

A Directly at the KCC office or email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>. Please include your name and phone number, and we will send you a URL to join on the day.



December 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

Notice of KCC office closure during the year-end and New Year holidays: 12/29 (Fri) to 1/3 (Wed)

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

P Palette Kashiwa Room A

R 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