



# KCC Newsletter

## February, 2024

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## Announcement

### Online International Exchange Salon

### Communication Across Generations

~Learn Communication Tips from a Language School Principal~

**D**Thursday, February 15, 2024, 8:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. **F**Free **N**First 30 people

Instructor: Ms. Lois Mark, Principal, English Language School

**A**Directly to the KCC office or by email at <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>. Include your name and phone number. Applicants will receive a URL to join on the day of the event.

Next session: Thursday, April 18, 8:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. "Casual Fun World Café"

**L**Ms. Yukari Saiki, Professor and Director of Language Education Center, Tokai University



### Scented Papers Handmade Experience <Let's Learn Japanese Incense Culture and Craft-Scented Papers!>

Incense was introduced to Japan via India and China, where it developed a unique incense culture. Why not learn about its history and typical scents, and try making incense? (Please take home scented papers you made)

**D**February 25th (Sun) 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. **P**Palette Kashiwa Meeting Room A&B

**F**1000 yen Instructor: Ms. Akiko Kawada **N**First 15 people

**A**From 9 a.m. on February 1st, directly at the KCC office or by email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>. Include your name and phone number.



Scented Papers

### Multicultural Seminar - May We All Live Happily Together!

What foreigners in Japan are having trouble with. What Japanese people want from foreigners, and what foreigners want from Japanese people.

**D**March 2nd (Sat) 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. **P**Palette Kashiwa, Meeting Room A **N**First 25 people

**L**Ms. Saji Nishijima (Working at the Children's Education Division, Board of Education, Sammu City Hall)

**F**Free **A**Directly at the KCC office or by email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>. Include your name and phone number.



### Early Spring Exchange Walking Tour and Hina Doll Exhibition

Participants will walk from Kashiwanoha-campus Station to the Former Yoshida Family Residence Historical Park and see the Hina Doll Exhibition in the residence designated as a National Important Cultural Property **D**March 3 (Sunday) **N**10 people

**P**Meeting: 12:40 p.m., TX Kashiwanoha-campus Station, East Exit

Dismissal: 4:00 p.m. TX Kashiwanoha-campus Station, East Exit

Course: Kashiwanoha-campus Station - Yoshida Family Residence - Daitoin Temple - Kashiwanoha-campus Station (about 5 km)

**F**100 yen **A**Directly at the KCC office or by email at <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp> by February 25th (Sunday)

Please wear comfortable walking clothes and shoes, and bring a drink and towel.



Tiered Hina Dolls

### Donations for the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake

We know that the Noto Peninsula earthquake of January 1st saddened everyone deeply. We have placed a donation box for the "2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake" in front of the KCC office. We would appreciate your generous cooperation.

### Upcoming events (from April)

Cross-cultural Teatime "Chile" (4/13)

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

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

## Announcement

### The 8th Japanese Speech Contest by Foreigners in Kashiwa

**D**February 11 (Sun), 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **P**Palette Kashiwa Open Space

**N**First 70 people **A**Directly to the KCC office or by email to <boshu-2@kira-kira.jp>

Live-streaming applicants: 100 people

For those who cannot enter the venue, we will be offering a live-streaming service. For information on how to receive the live streaming, please visit KCC's website.



*Exchange Programs with Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa*

**40th Anniversary Fair of Friendship City (Chengde, China) Partnership (12/24, 1/7 and 1/14)**

November 1, 2023, marks the 40th anniversary of the "Friendship City Agreement Signing Ceremony" held in Kashiwa in 1983. At the fair, the participants were able to look back fondly on the various exchanges between the two cities, including youth exchanges, through the display of photos, commemorative magazines, souvenirs, the showing of video clips, and a roundtable discussion introducing participants' memories. As Chengde City is a World Heritage Site for paper cutting, a collaboration project was held with a paper-cutting experience class by Mr. Fumio Kawashita. 13 participants had their first experience in the "D・Ki-ri-e (paper cut-out) class". There are requests to hold the "D・Ki-ri-e Experience Class" in 2024 as well.

(Note: "D・Ki-ri-e" is a coined word of "Digital & Cut a Picture.")



Ki-ri-e (paper cutting) Experience

#### Thoughts on "Insuishigen"

By Kenichi Kasai

It's the new year, marking the 40th anniversary of the friendship agreement between the two cities. It is also a year of anticipation for new exchanges. My first visit to China was in October 1995. I was a delegate of the 36-member Kashiwa City Greening Delegation to China to commemorate the 15th anniversary of our exchange. Our visit had two purposes. One was to plant commemorative trees in a tree-planting project promoted by Kashiwa City to expand the Yugin (Friendship Forest). The second was friendly exchanges with local citizens. We had a friendly talk with them when we visited an ordinary home for the first time, and a packed classroom with 70 students at an experimental elementary school. Although the hotel was not always comfortable due to water outage problems and poor toilet facilities, we were deeply moved by a circle of friendship connected by "shoku: 食", the luxurious meals and delicious drinks served at the round table during the welcome banquet each day, and "shoku: 植", afforestation activities.

(Note: "Insuishigen": Those who drink water should think of its source.)

### Let's Enjoy Shadow Puppets! "The Three Bears" (12/17)

A group of foreigners from Mexico, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, China, Taiwan, and Brazil entertained children with shadow puppets of the British story "The Three Bears." The characters and scenes of the shadow puppets were made over many months in detail. The people in charge of the lines for the girland three bears practiced many times to say their lines well. There was even a person in charge of snoring! The person who moved the pictures to match the story also worked hard, worrying about

whether the shadow pictures were shown well. On the day of the event, all the members worked together and created a wonderful stage for the show.

Although the shadow play was about 10 minutes long, the children seemed to enjoy the British story of "The Three Bears" by concentrating on the movement of the shadows in the small frame. After the shadow puppet show, they played Mexican games, cracked open piñatas, and received candies. It was a fun day for both adults and children.



The Three Bears



Merry Christmas

### Online International Exchange Salon

### ♪ Let's Have Fun Singing Christmas Songs♪ (12/21)

Despite the cold weather, 25 participants sang Christmas songs to their heart's content (Joy to the World, Angels We Have Heard on High, White Christmas, and Silent Night) in their rooms. After some light preparatory exercises and abdominal breathing, the participants started with vocal training, then shared their Christmas memories during a short break. Finally, they enjoyed a solo performance by Ms. Yamazaki.



## Searching for the Roots in the Parents' Countries: Sweden and the United States

Ms. Marianne Wilson Kuroda

In 1949, a baby girl was born in Yokohama. She later took the name Marianne. Her father was an American, a military officer under General MacArthur at GHQ, and her mother was a Swedish national of mixed Swedish, German, and Japanese ancestry. The U.S. at that time did not approve of marriages with Japanese. Her father returned to the U.S., and on August 5, 1950, a bill was passed allowing him to apply for approval of his marriage with the Japanese woman and to acknowledge their child. However, on that very day, the young mother died of illness, leaving behind 16-month-old Mary Ann (the baby's American name).

Mary Ann was raised by a Japanese woman whom her late mother had chosen as a foster mother. A school called Buso Gakuen accepted the stateless Mary Ann and she attended kindergarten and elementary school just like Japanese children. Life with the foster parents was not affluent, but they taught her the good discipline and manners of the Japanese. Her foster father was a man who had served at the battlefield under the student mobilization order and read "The Records of Three Kingdoms" to little Mary Ann. Her foster mother had worked at the Japanese embassy in Turkey, so she was a woman with an international awareness for her time.

In 1953, the U.S. and Japanese governments investigated how many mixed-race children were left behind in Japan, and an organization called International Social Service Japan (The U.S.-Japan Joint Committee for Orphan Relief at the time of 1952,) concluded that Mary Ann was born to an unmarried Swedish woman, so they reported it to the Swedish Embassy. The Swedish government demanded the return of its own citizen and held a trial with the Japanese foster parents. At that time, it was widely covered by the Japanese media. The case was settled. It was decided that the child would attend an international school to become a respectable Westerner under the care of a cooperating party, which is her Japanese foster parents. The Swedish government provided the foster parents with educational and living expenses, and Mary Ann attended school as an "international student."

She took her mother's last name and was given the name Marianne Wilson. Marianne, who had been raised like a Japanese child until then, suddenly had to study in English. After graduating from high school, she was told that she would become stateless if she did not return to Sweden by the age of 21. As a result, she went to Sweden alone and desperately looked for a job. She found one with Scandinavian Airlines (SAS). She studied at SAS's university and worked in ground service for four years. After that, she was recruited by a Japanese trading company and worked to sell Swedish system kitchens and 2x4 houses.

She found out that her father was likely an American, and she had him investigated through the Japanese Red Cross. Though her father had died in 2003, she learned that her half-brother was a doctor in New Mexico. He did a DNA test of his father's remains and a sample from Marianne. The result showed a 99% parent-child relationship. Having proven that her roots are in the United States, Marianne approached the U.S. government to gain U.S. citizenship, and she finally gained U.S. citizenship in June 2016. It is said that at that time, the U.S. government hoisted the Stars and Stripes at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., in honor of her mother.

When Marianne was 11 years old, there was a court case over who would raise her. She was worried that her presence would make the people around her unhappy and she even thought about killing herself. Despite this, at the age of 75, she has been able to live her life. She has survived with the support of many people. She cherishes herself. Hatred begets hatred. Marianne hopes that knowing her story, you will be empowered to live your own life.

Ms. Marianne Wilson Kuroda is currently involved in a wide variety of activities, including working as a consultant for foreign residents in Katsushika Ward, a lecturer on women's issues and sex education, and an instructor for cross-cultural exchange courses in English. Always active to make things happen, she called on Kashiwa City Office to have her and her husband both become the head of the household.

(Interviewed by Junko Sobajima and Noriko Fujita)



Ms. Marianne Wilson Kuroda

# February 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/Kashiwanoha Classes		
Online Classes		
Tue	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 16 - )
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 40 - )
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 40 - )
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.	Beginners, <i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary 1 (Unit 8~)
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 21 - )
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 15 - )
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 36- )
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Hiragana, Katakana, <i>Minna no Nihongo</i> (Unit1~) 1/20~
In-person Classes (Kashiwanoha Service Center)		
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Introductory1
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary 2
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Intermediate Dekiru Nihongo</i> (Unit 1~)

## 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** February 28 (Wed), 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa Room F **R** the KCC office

## 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: 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