



# KCC Newsletter

## October, 2025

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### Announcement

#### Kashiwa de International Exchange Festa 2025: "A World of Mutual Recognition, Expanding Friendships"

**D** Sunday, October 19, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Held in the event of light rain)

**P** Howdy Mall, Kashiwa Station East Exit

Booths: Introduction of activities by sister and friendly cities, language classes, Japanese culture, foreign residents support, etc. Quizzes and games about countries around the world. Sale of international goods.

Performances: Music and dances from Japan and around the world.

Food Stalls & Food Trucks: Philippines, Turkey, Peru, Italy, Mexico, Thailand, Vietnam, and China  
(Click the QR code for the 2024 video)



Mexican Products Sale (2024)



Tsugaru Shovel Shamisen (2024)



#### Online International Exchange Salon

#### Experience Laughter Yoga with Adarsh

**D** Thursday, October 16, 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**L** Adarsh Bala Sharma Participation Method: Online (Zoom) **F** Free **N** First 30 people

**A** Directly at the KCC office, or by email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp> by Wednesday, October 15.  
Participants will receive the event URL on the day.



#### Halloween Party with Foreign Residents

We'll play games and read picture books. At the end, we'll all try our best to break the piñata and get the candy inside.

**D** Saturday, October 25, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa Open Space **F** ¥500 per child

**N** First 50 people **A** Directly at the KCC office or by email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>.



#### Seeking Participants for the 10th Japanese Speech Contest by Foreign Residents in Kashiwa

We are seeking participants for the Japanese Speech Contest. On this day, you are the star!!

Theme: Your experiences living in Japan, your home country, etc.

**D** Sunday, February 15, 2026, noon - 4:30 p.m. (Social gathering included)

**P** Palette Kashiwa Open Space

Eligibility: Foreigners (both parents are non-Japanese nationals) residing, working, or studying in the Tokatsu area (in the cities of Kashiwa, Abiko, Matsudo, Kamagaya, Nagareyama, and Noda). Limited to 15 participants.  
(※ Those who have previously won the Kashiwa Mayor's Award are not eligible to apply.)

**A** Submit the completed application form (available at the KCC office) by Thursday, December 25.

① Mail: Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center (KCC) 〒277-0005 1-7-1-301 Kashiwa, Kashiwa City (postmarked by the deadline) ② Email: boshu-1@kira-kira.jp ③ Bring it to the KCC office.

※ Application forms are downloadable from the KCC website or available at the KCC office. If applications exceed entry capacity, selections will be made. Participants will be notified about results by email by Monday, January 12, 2026. © For details, please check the KCC website.



<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.

*Exchange Programs with  
Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa***Kashiwa City Youth Delegation to Torrance (8/4-22)  
Reflecting on the Torrance Exchange**

Lea Shimura

This summer became an irreplaceable, unforgettable experience thanks to this exchange program. My mother was also an exchange student in the past, and as I listened to her experiences, it became my dream to be an exchange student myself. That dream came true this summer, and I was truly happy.

Through this exchange program, I encountered a culture completely different from that of Japan, and my values have changed significantly. The 19 days I spent in Torrance were filled with a series of inspirations and discoveries. What particularly impressed me was the way people interacted. The people in Torrance are all friendly, and they would not only greet but also engage in a little small talk with people they met in supermarkets or restaurants. This kind of friendliness doesn't exist in Kashiwa, so it left a particularly strong impression on me.

The people of Torrance also expressed their feelings directly through their words and actions, and I found their approach to interacting with others so wonderful that I want to learn from them.

Finally, I experienced the kindness of so many people through this program, and I am confident that I have grown significantly as a person. Saying goodbye to the people I met in Torrance was the hardest time I've ever had, and that was how wonderful those encounters were. I was able to have experiences so precious that they will never happen again in my life.



At Disneyland in California

*Exchange Programs with  
Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa***Kashiwa City Youth Delegation to Chengde (8/21-26)  
Discovering the Charm of Chengde and Beijing**

Yaya Konno

I found two "scenes of life" during my trip to China.

The Jinshanling section of the Great Wall was actually over a hundred times more beautiful in terms of natural scenery and over a hundred times more magnificent in its construction than it appeared in photos. I was so deeply moved that I almost shed tears. It was my first experience of such profound emotion, and in that moment, I felt this might be my "scenery of life." Also, it was interesting to see Chinese people relaxing on stairs and fences at tourist spots as if they were at home—a sight I had never seen before.

During my homestay in Chengde, I felt the language barrier was huge at first, leaving me frustrated and apologetic. However, I saw my friends from Kashiwa actively using their Chinese, I changed my mindset and started speaking more. Then, my conversations with my host family broadened on such topics as friends and school, and that made our time together much more enjoyable. Additionally, when I visited a local high school, I participated in a club activity. By working together, I truly felt a connection that goes beyond language and culture. Through these experiences, I came to appreciate China's charm. And by the next time I go there, I will learn more Chinese and grow even just a little bit more than I have now. This is the other "scene of life" I will pursue from now on, and it is my destination.

The trip to China was a valuable learning experience and one of my most cherished memories. The trip is so valuable that it will overturn any preconceptions about China they might have had, so I really hope many people will go and experience it.

World Heritage Site  
"Jinshanling Great Wall"**Visit to the Ukrainian Embassy (8/21)**

Rumiko Sato, KIRA President; Kanae Omori, Vice President; and Noriko Fujita, Public Relations Committee member, visited the Embassy of Ukraine in Japan to present the donations collected at the KCC office counter. Additionally, we shared information about support we are providing to evacuated Ukrainians living in Kashiwa and their interactions with local residents. The people at the embassy were very pleased and said, "The donations will be used to distribute relief supplies to Ukraine and for humanitarian aid."

President Sato  
presenting the donation*Online International Exchange Salon***Useful Tips for Zoom (8/21)**

We held a training session on breakout rooms as part of our 'Zoom Tips' series. After learning about the benefits of breakout rooms and how to create them, all participants became co-hosts and practiced setting up breakout rooms while actually operating their computers. Then, we practiced entering breakout rooms and moving between them.

Since materials were distributed and read beforehand, the participants smoothly followed the instructor's guidance during the hands-on session. We also learned about various ways to join breakout rooms. We are looking forward to future Zoom training sessions.





## 19 Inspiring Days Filled with New Encounters in Torrance

2025 Kashiwa Youth Delegation Leader to Torrance Ms. Kayoko Yamazawa

### An Opportunity to Join KIRA and the Torrance Committee

I had heard from my parents that Ms. Mikko Haggott-Henson a Japanese resident of Torrance, devoted herself to the cause when my grandfather, Ryotaro Yamazawa (former Mayor of Kashiwa), and others established the sister-city relationship with Torrance. I very much wanted to meet her, so I joined the 50th- anniversary citizens' delegation in 2023. (Sadly, Mikko passed away in June 2022.)

On my first visit to Torrance, members of the Torrance Sister City Association (TSCA) and residents warmly welcomed our group. Messages from former exchange students were on display at the park picnic, creating a sense of reunion with past delegates and giving me a strong sense of the 50-year history of our exchange. Motivated to support future students from both cities, I decided to join KIRA and the Torrance Committee.



Ms. Kayoko Yamazawa

### Student Activities and Interaction in Torrance

Since it was summer vacation, we didn't visit schools, but instead spent time with Torrance students who had previously visited Kashiwa and with our host families, deepening our friendships. Everyone was thrilled when we saw Shohei Ohtani hit a home run at a Dodgers game. Although the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo was under renovation, we learned about the hardships faced by Japanese Americans during our trip to San Diego. We also toured the police and fire departments that help keep Torrance safe.

### Hopes for the Students' Growth Through This Exchange

This year's Kashiwa students were serious about their studies and future paths, and they showed mutual respect from the orientation stage. At Oriental Motor, which we toured in Torrance, they were inspired by the advice from professionals: "gain a variety of experiences while you are still students." I hope they treasure the many encounters made through this exchange and go on to succeed in their respective fields.

(Interview by Noriko Fujita)



## Shozenkeigo : 承 前 啓 後

2025 Kashiwa Youth Delegation Leader to Chengde, China Ms. Miu Azuma

### An Opportunity to Join KIRA and the Chengde Committee

I saw an article in the city newsletter Koho Kashiwa inviting participants to the "40th Anniversary Friendship Tour to Chengde." Already interested in China, I joined the tour in October 2024. Discovering the many volunteers who had supported the exchange for four decades, I wanted to contribute as well, so I became a member of KIRA and later of the Chengde Committee.

### Reason for Applying as Delegation Leader

I realized that a strong relationship of trust had been built between the two cities by predecessors. Motivated to try new ideas, attract more young members, and make the students' visit even more rewarding, I volunteered to serve as the delegation leader.

### Impressions of Chengde as a Leader

We received a warm welcome and I strongly felt the deep ties between the two cities over the years. Before our visit, we shared each student's strengths and interests with Chengde, so during the school visits, students from both cities interacted through experiences such as calligraphy and playing the guqin (a traditional Chinese stringed instrument).

The Kashiwa students had prepared not only by studying Chinese culture during orientations, but also by practicing the Soran Bushi dance. At the farewell party in Chengde, their perfectly synchronized performance earned great applause. As a leader, I felt the weight of responsibility and kept detailed records each day to pass on to the next generations.

### Hopes for the Students' Growth Through This Exchange

Both cities' coordinators worked hard for the benefit of these promising young people. All of the Kashiwa students were talented and deeply interested in Chinese culture. I hope they will carry the exchange forward and grow into globally minded adults.

(Interview by Noriko Fujita)

**Note: Shozenkeigo(承前啓後) means "inherit past achievements and traditions while passing them on and open the way to the future."**



Ms. Miu Azuma

### Upcoming Events (November~)

Sumo Watching (Kashiwa City) (11/22)

# October Events

Japanese Shonan Classes		
Online Classes		
Sun	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary II; Chukyu kara Manabu Nihongo</i>
Sun	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary II</i>
In-person Classes (Shonan Kinrin Center (former Shonan Fukushi Center))		
Thu	10:00 a.m. - noon	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary I (2 classes) Primary II</i>
Sun	10:00 a.m. - noon	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary I (3 classes)</i>
Japanese Kashiwa/Kashiwanoha Classes		
Online Classes		
Tue	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo Primary II (Unit 34-)</i>
Wed	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo Primary 1 (Unit 4-)</i>
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Conversation Elementary
Fri	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo Primary II (Unit 31-)</i>
In-person Classes (Palette Kashiwa)		
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Hiragana, Katakana; <i>Minna no Nihongo Primary 1 (Unit 10-/Unit 20-), Minna no Nihongo Primary II (Unit 30-)</i>
Wed	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary & Intermediate
Fri	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo Primary 1 (Unit 4-)</i>
Sat	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Hiragana, Katakana; <i>Minna no Nihongo Primary 1 (Unit 9-/Unit 21-)</i>
In-person Classes (Thu: Kashiwanoha Service Corner, Sat: Kenmin Plaza)		
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary (first half/second half)
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Hiragana, Katakana
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Intermediate

## 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** Wednesday, October 22, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa MTR A **R** the KCC Office

## <Announcements from Other Organizations>

● Members Wanted! Kashiwa International Relations Association (KIRA)

Would you like to join us and take part in international exchange activities? Let's plan and organize various events while interacting with people from different countries! For more details, please visit our website.



## 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.



## NHK World-JAPAN's website has been renewed. Available in multiple languages.

[https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/multilingual\\_links/](https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/multilingual_links/)



### 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