

President's Message Werner Willoughby



On behalf of TSCA. I wish all of you a very happy and prosperous New Year.

To our friends in Kashiwa, *Akemashite omedetou gozaimasu. Kotoshi mo yoroshiku onegai shimasu.*

Our first event for 2019 was the Alumni Reunion where we met the new student exchange applicants for 2019, reflected upon the experiences of the 2018 student delegates, and recognized outgoing and incoming officers/board members. Many thanks to **Chair Cindy Kang** and her committee of **Donna Dunlap, Reiko Higa** and **Shirley Tanaka**, for organizing and preparing this annual event that was held at the Ken Miller Recreation Center on Saturday, January 12th.

Thank you to outgoing **President Hazel Taniguchi** for doing double-duty as 2018 President as well as Chair of the 45th Anniversary Committee. Her leadership, experience in anniversary planning, and coordination of many individuals and committees made for a successful year. We thank her for her patience and stamina in addressing many issues and concerns.

To the outgoing board members, who are leaving due to term limits: **Donna Dunlap, Marilyn Rubin, Bryce Yamauchi, Jeremy Gray** and **Sydney Matsubara**, please continue your highly valued and most appreciated support of TSCA.

As 2019 President, I look forward to working with the board, including new members: **Rae Ann Carr, Brian Diederich, Amie Komae** and **Mayoori Shetti**. We always welcome new ideas, talents, and expertise as we

share our passion for the vision of TSCA.

A warm welcome to the new editor of our newsletter, **Rae Ann Carr**. We appreciate her assuming this very important position, as the newsletter is not only the vital communication with our members but our face and first impression locally and abroad.

Please save April 13 and 14 for our major fundraiser, **Bunka-Sai**. There are many ways to contribute to this event—among them: cooking, helping in the many booths, setting up/cleaning up, or assisting performers and vendors. Over the past several years, we have had over 300 volunteers help during the weekend. If interested in volunteering, please contact us at torrancesistercityinfo@gmail.com.

If you are not able to help, save the dates on your calendar and attend this year's 46th Annual **Bunka-Sai** for a unique experience in Japanese culture. We have it all—food, music, dance, martial arts, calligraphy, bonsai, origami, storytelling, ikebana, drawings for great prizes, an arts and crafts boutique, children's games, and much more.

Finally, I'd like to extend a friendly reminder for members to renew your membership. Not a member? Please join this organization whose Mission Statement is to promote friendship, goodwill, and understanding between the sister cities of Torrance and Kashiwa, Japan. Our website, torrancesistercity.org has an application enabling you to pay a nominal membership fee by check or by PayPal. Your support and involvement are greatly appreciated. ☘

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Membership News

Reiko Higa, Membership Chairperson

Our membership drive for 2019 has started. Pay your membership dues electronically with Paypal (<http://www.torrancesistercity.org/join.html>). See the 2019 Membership Application for check writing and mailing instructions.

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

Life Membership (\$2,000+)

Oriental Motor U.S.A.
Cambra, May Ikeda
Chan, Kenneth Family
Dunlap-Ihde Family
Fichtner, Dan and Rand, Ray
Henson, Mikko Haggott
Sekiguchi, Joh

Benefactor (\$125/year)

All Nippon Airways Co., Ltd.
King, Dennis and Patricia
Roulette, Ray and Gail
Smith, Ritas
Taniguchi, Hazel

Supporting (\$75/year)

Cababa, Ed and Kerry
Goodrich, Tim
Miles, Frank and Marilyn
Willoughby, Werner and Aileen
Yamauchi, Bryce and Cheryl

Family (\$40/year)

Aiello, Phyllis
Applegate, William
Arnheim, Bruce and Sumi
Carr, Rae Ann and Eric and Regan Galinato
Clark, Keiko
Diederich, Daniel
Druten, Jason, Yoko and Max
Eurich, Lori and Dane
Fu, Edward
Gerson, Jeremy
Gray, Summer
Griffith, Kay
Heidebrecht, Bill and Kathy
Herbers, Jerry and Susan
Hirashiki, Hiro and Jennifer
Hofer, Gary and Fusae
Kang, Sindy
Keys, Chelsea
Kimmel, Ron and Gudy
Kranz, Dave and Linda
Martel, Lou and Lori
Matsumoto, Mickey and Frances
Medlock, Thomas and Kathleen
Miller, Judy and Ken
Peitzman, Fred and Ann
Penland, Thomas, Martha and Olivia
Roulette, Mark and Peggy
Rubin, Marilyn and Sherwin
Sargent, Dave and Toni
Scotto, Frank and Cindy
Seraydarian, Mark
Sprague, Tracy and Brian
Staal, Matthew
Thompson, Bruce
Toya, George and May
Ujimori, Harvey and Kay
Warner, Stephanie and Steve
Wheeler, Karen and Bob
Wilson, Yuko
Yorizane Family

Individual (\$20/year)

Ando, Jennifer
Arai, Masahiko
Coury, Amy
Gibson, Judy
Goodrich, Marjorie
Griffith, Kay
Hattori, Diane
Kawai, M K
Kilburn, Vic
Kragh, Evalyn
Kramer, Lynda
Matarrese, John
O'Donnell, Maureen
Plank, Janice
Radomski, James
Sakamoto, May
Tabata, Lynn
Takikawa, Hisataka
Wand, Suzie

Donations

Hattori, Diane	\$80
Kilburn, Victor	\$50
Tabata, Lynn	\$30
Willoughby, Werner and Aileen	\$25
Miles, Frank & Marilyn	\$25
Griffith, Kay	\$20
Arnheim, Bruce & Sumi	\$10
Miller, Judy and Ken	\$10
Plank, Janice	\$10
Toya, May and George	\$10

Torrance Sister City Association

PRESIDENT

Werner Willoughby

VICE PRESIDENT

Jen Hirashiki

SECRETARY

Gail Roulette

TREASURER

Ron Reeve

Newsletter Editor

Rae Ann Carr

Newsletter Distribution

Donna Dunlap

Comments or submissions?

Please send an email to

tscanewsletter@gmail.com

Memories of Japan

Feudal Japan

Chelsea Keys, 2018 Adult Leader



During the medieval time period in Japan, society was structured in a feudal system to provide protection and order. Feudalism was introduced so people and leaders could protect themselves from warlords. Japan was broken up into eight different social classes to run society. The different

classes were the emperor, shogun, daimyo, samurai, ronin, peasants, artisans, and merchants. The emperor was at the top of society but he was a figurehead with little power. The *shogun* were ruling generals that had the most power in Japan. *Daimyo* were land owning nobles and the *samurai* were the warriors that protected their lands. *Ronin* were paid soldiers. Peasants and artisans worked the lands of the daimyo. The lowest social class were merchants because they benefited off the work of others. The feudal society provided structure to medieval Japan but it also impacted daily life.

I experienced feudal Japan through visiting the Edo Museum in Tokyo and the Nijo-jo Castle in Kyoto. At the Edo Museum we looked at the different social classes during the Edo Period. The museum was interactive and it allowed us to walk through the reconstructed buildings. We visited the Nijo-jo Castle in Kyoto. Ironically this is the location that ended the Edo Period in 1868 and



transitioned to Imperial Japan, reestablishing the emperor's power. Walking through the castle really showed the power of the Shogun. He literally and symbolically sat above the daimyos in the Grand Hall. However, the feature that was most interesting was the squeaking floors. The floors made a "chirping" sound with each step that was taken. This sound alarmed the Shogun if an unexpected visitor entered the castle. Only ninjas trained at espionage could walk the floors without a sound.

Visiting both the Edo Museum and Nijo -jo Castle was very exciting. It brought Feudal Japan to life. I teach about Medieval Japan, and after seeing Japan's history of feudalism in person I am really looking forward to bringing those experiences into the classroom. I can't wait to reinvent my lessons and bring Japanese history to life to my Casimir students! ☘



2019 TSCA Calendar of Events

JANUARY

- 12 Alumni Reunion Potluck (11 am-2 pm)
Ken Miller Recreation Center
- 14 TSCA Association Meeting (7 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room
- 19 Student Selection Interviews
- 26 Torrance Art Museum Conference Room
- 30 Bunka-Sai Planning Meeting #1 (7-9 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room

FEBRUARY

- 1 2019 Student Delegate Applicant Pizza Party at Adult Leader's House
- 8 2020 Adult Leader Application Due
- 11 TSCA Association Meeting (7 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room
- 15 2019 Student Applicant Meeting #1 (TBD)
Mitsuwa Marketplace
- 17 2019 Student Applicant Home Visits (TBD)
2020 Adult Leader Interviews (6-8:30 pm)
- 19 Katy Geissert Library Community Reading Room
- 20 Bunka-Sai Planning Meeting #2 (7-8:45 pm)
Katy Geissert Library Polly Watts Room
- 22 2019 Student Applicant Meeting #2 (TBD)
Mitsuwa Marketplace
- 24 2019 Student Applicant Home Visits (TBD)
- 25 2020 Adult Leader Interviews (6-8:30 pm)
- 26 Katy Geissert Library Community Reading Room

MARCH

- 5 August Activities Meeting #1 (7-9 pm)
Torrance Art Museum Conference Room
- 9 Student Selection Committee Picnic and Selection (10 am—2 pm)
Place TBD
- 11 TSCA Association Meeting (7 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room
- 13 Bunka-Sai Planning Meeting #3 (7-8:45 pm)
Katy Geissert Library Polly Watts Room
- 26 August Activities Meeting #2 (7-9 pm)
Torrance Art Museum Conference Room
- 31 Torrance Cherry Blossom Festival (11 am—4 pm)
Columbia Park

APRIL

- 3 Bunka-Sai Planning Meeting #4 (7-9 pm)
Torrance Art Museum Conference Room
- 8 TSCA Association Meeting (7 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room
- 12 Bunka-Sai Setup (TBD)
Cultural Arts Center
- 13 **Bunka-Sai** (11 am—5 pm)
- 14 Cultural Arts Center
- 23 Student Orientation #1 with Parents (7-9 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room
- 24 Bunka-Sai Evaluation Meeting (7-8:45 pm)
Katy Geissert Library Polly Watts Room
- 30 Student Orientation #2 (4:30—6:30 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room

MAY

- 7 Student Orientation #3 (4:30—6:30 pm)
Torrance Art Museum Conference Room
- 7 August Activities Meeting #3 (7-9 pm)
Torrance Art Museum Conference Room
- 13 TSCA Association Meeting (7 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room
- 14 Student Orientation #4, 5, 6
- 21 (4:30—6:30 pm)
- 28 City Hall West Annex Commission Room

JUNE

- 4 Student Orientation #7 (4:30—6:30 pm)
Torrance Art Museum Conference Room
- 4 August Activities Meeting #4 (7-9 pm)
Torrance Art Museum Conference Room
- 10 TSCA Association Meeting (7 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room
- 11 Student Orientation #8 with Parents (7—9 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room
- 25 Host Family Meeting (7-9 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room

JULY

- 2 August Activities Meeting #5 (7-9 pm)
Torrance Art Museum Conference Room
- 8 TSCA Association Meeting (7 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room
- 9 Torrance Students Leave for Kashiwa
- 30 Torrance Students Return from Kashiwa

AUGUST

- No Association Meeting
- 5 Kashiwa Students Arrive
- Welcome Reception for Kashiwa Students and Adult Leader (5:30—8:30 pm)
George Nakano Theater
- Square Dance and Chili Cook-off (5:30—8:30 pm)
Ken Miller Recreation Center
- 21 Breakfast for Students (7:30 -10 am)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room
- 21 Sayonara Banquet for Kashiwa Students (4:30—9 pm)
Toyota Meeting Hall
- 22 Kashiwa Students Leave Torrance

SEPTEMBER

- 9 TSCA Association Meeting (7 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room
- Ballots mailed for Board of Directors election

OCTOBER

- 14 TSCA Association Meeting (7 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room
- Ballots tallied for Board of Directors election

NOVEMBER

- 12 TSCA Association Meeting (7 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room

DECEMBER

- No Association Meeting
- 9 2020 Budget Planning Meeting (7 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room

ADDRESSES

City Hall West Annex
3031 Torrance Blvd | Torrance, CA

Cultural Arts Center | George Nakano Theater | Toyota Meeting Hall
3330 Civic Center Dr | Torrance, CA

Katy Geissert Civic Center Library
3301 Torrance Blvd | Torrance, CA

Ken Miller Recreation Center
3341 Torrance Blvd | Torrance, CA

Torrance Art Museum
3320 Civic Center Dr | Torrance, CA

The Hottest Festival in Japan

Brandon Matsumoto



The other day, I was invited to a festival by a coworker. I was given a few details and told to bring a camera. We arrived early enough to find a good spot near the front. Excited to take some cool videos, I waited eagerly with my Canon T3i Rebel in hand.

The town of Abiko, one station away from where I live, holds an annual festival called the Goma Fire Festival. It was held at a small temple with no more than a hundred people in attendance.

The monks neatly stacked the wood, covered it with leaves, and threw little woodblocks with wishes written on them on top. They lit the pile and soon a roaring flame grew. Traditional rituals followed which involved shooting arrows, swinging katana swords, and repeating chants.

As the fire died down, the monks dumped a pile of salt in front and behind the fire. I watched in disbelief when they quickly sank their feet into the salt and ran onto the path of fire, wincing in pain from the hot burning embers. Little did I know that I too, would be slowly walking along a path of flames.

“Your turn,” nudged my coworker. I hesitated. I really



enjoy using my feet. Why put them at risk? She explained that the ritual is performed to bring good blessings, luck, and fortune. I thought for a moment. I don't mind some good fortune!

While waiting for my turn, I watched in amazement as the elderly, veterans in this game, walked across with ease. I saw mothers carrying their babies and squirming toddlers who were clinging and crying in fear. I saw many of their eyes burning with determination to get ahold of some of that luck.

Then, my turn came. After a deep breath, I stepped forward into the cloud of smoke. What a thrill it was! Although I came out with my eyes watering and feet black, I already felt the luck surging throughout my body.

This fire festival has lit my eyes on fire, to explore more small festivals I've never heard of. One by one, I want to visit as many as I can to fully soak in this cultural experience. Although my feet endured some charring and some stings, 2019 looks promising with all this luck on my side.

To feel the heat, please check out this video I compiled of the festival! <https://bit.ly/2CaTDCX> ☸



Goma Fire Festival in Abiko



Torrance Sister City Association
3031 Torrance Blvd | Torrance, CA 90503



Advertising Form

TSCA's Bunka-Sai 2019 Program Booklet

Supporting the Student Cultural Exchange Program

The TSCA Student Cultural Exchange program takes place every year in July and August. Since 1974, Torrance sends at most eight student delegates and an adult leader to Kashiwa, Japan for three weeks. In August, Kashiwa sends a delegation to Torrance to learn about American culture.

Please help us by placing an ad in our Bunka-Sai Festival program booklet. It will reach more than 2,000 visitors over the festival weekend. Your ad will promote your company/business and support the Student Cultural Exchange Program. Personal ads celebrating special occasions are also welcome.

Dates

Saturday April 13 and Sunday April 14

Where

Ken Miller Recreation Center, Toyota Meeting Hall, and Torino Plaza
3330 Civic Center Drive, Torrance

Objectives of Bunka-Sai

- Help the community learn about the Japanese culture
- Raise funds for the Student Cultural Exchange Program

Ad Specifics

- No larger than 8.5 x 11 inches
- **Camera ready**
- Submit ad, form, and check by **March 8, 2019**

Thank you for your support!

Complete and return the section below by March 8, 2019

<input type="checkbox"/> Full Page	\$200
<input type="checkbox"/> Half Page	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/4 Page	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Card	\$25
Total Enclosed \$ _____	
Make your check payable to TSCA	

Company Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Contact Name _____

Telephone _____ Email Address _____

Mail your check, ad, and this form to:
Torrance Sister City Association
c/o Cultural Services Department
3031 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90503

Ad Information:

- New Use last year's ad Camera-ready copy enclosed

Specific Instructions:

Questions?
Please email
TSCAads@gmail.com

www.torrancesistercity.org

Kristi Martel (1999 student delegate) came from Pueblo, Colorado, to visit friends and family over the winter holiday season. She and her parents, **Lorraine** (2001 adult leader) and **Lou** (of Bunka-Sai cotton candy fame), met up with **Ray and Gail Roulette** at the Souplantation for an update.

Kristi, an attorney, has been a Deputy Public Defender in Pueblo for five years. She bought her first house, which led her to get her Colorado real estate license. As you might expect, Kristi has become a real “handyman,” fixing up things around her new abode. She has been married to Alex Steiner for about a year. Alex is also an attorney and is in the process of transitioning from government practice to establishing his own private practice.

Kristi, the adventurer, enjoys the local sport of pack-mule racing – doing half marathons with her own cute beast. She has yet to win one, but it’s only a matter of time till she does that, as well as full marathons.

The Martels still live in Torrance. They spend considerable amount of time visiting their family who are spread out around the country. Daughter Nicole (who often worked in the hourly booth at Bunka-Sai) lives in Maryland and travels the world, working as a highly valued techie for UPS.



(L-R) Gail Roulette, Kristi Martel, and Lorraine Martel

Adam Jordan, a 2014 student delegate, graduated from UCLA in December with a B.S. in Economics. He spent a year studying in Japan and hopes to teach English there on the JET program.

Jay Matsumoto just graduated last month from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo with a B.S. in Industrial Engineering. He also was a delegate in 2013. His brother, Brandon, is one of our English teachers in Kashiwa

Ken Shrivastava just graduated last month with his Master's Degree in Engineering Management from USC. He will start a new position at Honeywell in Torrance. Ken was also a 2013 student delegate. Ken is traveling to India with his parents before starting his new position.

Blaine Yamauchi, a 2008 TSCA Student Delegate, recently passed the California State Bar Exam. He is a graduate of UC Davis Law School. Blaine is an attorney at Horton, West & Bowman in Oakland practicing trust and estate planning law. ☘



FOLLOW

US ON INSTAGRAM

[@torrancesistercity](https://www.instagram.com/torrancesistercity)

Bunka-Sai Planning Meetings

All TSCA members are invited to help us plan for the TSCA's largest fundraiser of the year.

Please join us! We need your help!



Bunka-Sai planning meetings will be held on the dates below:

Wednesday, January 30	7-9 pm	West Annex Commission Room
Wednesday, February 20	7-8:45 pm	Katy Geissert Library, Polly Watts Room – Second floor
Wednesday, March 13	7-8:45 pm	Katy Geissert Library, Polly Watts Room – Second floor
Wednesday, April 3	7-9 pm	Torrance Arts Museum Conference Room
Wednesday, April 24	7-8:45 pm	Katy Geissert Library, Polly Watts Room – Second floor (Post-event meeting)

*Bunka-Sai
will be held on
April 13 and 14, 2019*

www.torrancesistercity.org



**Torrance Sister City
Association**

3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503



Torrance Sister City Association

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Have You Paid Your 2019 Membership Dues Yet?

There are several membership levels available — for every situation!



Paying your membership dues is faster and easier than ever with PayPal!

www.torrancesistercity.org



Or complete the form below and mail it in with your check.
Deadline to be included in the printed TSCA Membership Directory is 2/28/19.

Torrance Sister City Association

2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Except for the Lifetime Membership*
all dues are in effect from
January 1 to
December 31

Member Information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Email Address _____

My membership is: New Renewal

TSCA Directory Update:

New Address New Telephone Number New Email Address

I do not want to be listed in the TSCA Directory

TSCA Activities:

I am interested in participating in TSCA activities

Mail your check and this form to:

Torrance Sister City Association
c/o Community Services Department
3031 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90503

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$75+
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$125+
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$200+
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership*	\$2,000+
Enclosed is a donation to TSCA (in addition to \$_____ annual dues)	
Total Enclosed \$_____	
Make your check payable to TSCA	

TSCA meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at the Civic Center West Annex Commission Room 7-9 pm (No meetings in August or December)

If you have any questions about your membership, please email Reiko Higa at tscamembership@gmail.com

www.torrancesistercity.org

Torrance Sister City Association's
**ANIME DRAWING
CONTEST 2019!**

*****Win Cool Prizes!*****

Open to middle school & high school students

Bunka-Sai
Japanese Cultural Festival!
April 13-14, 2019



Rui Maruyama, Anime Contest Overall Winner 2018

CATEGORIES

- Overall
- Cutest
- Best represents Japanese culture

Prizes awarded for each Category

RULES

- Entries must be drawn on 8½" x 11" paper; can be either Portrait (vertical) or Landscape (horizontal) format.
- Entries may be in Color OR Black & White.
- One entry per person per category.
- On the BACK of the drawing, include the following: Artist Name, Age, School, and Cell Phone Number.
- Entries must include a Release Form and Waiver signed by the artist and parent/guardian.

Entries must be submitted **IN PERSON** on Friday, **APRIL 12, 2019**, 4pm – 6:30pm
Ken Miller Recreation Center (3341 Torrance Blvd)
Winners will be announced on Saturday, April 13, 2019, at 12:20 pm

Forms and more info at www.torrancesistercity.org