

President's Message Werner Willoughby



On behalf of the Torrance Sister City Association (TSCA), I'd like to invite all members, their friends, neighbors, and residents of Torrance and surrounding communities to our 46th annual Bunka-Sai festival.

At Bunka-Sai, you will probably see eight individuals dressed in purple *happi* coats. These are the seven 2019 student delegates and their adult leader who were selected to visit Kashiwa, Japan, for three weeks this summer. The delegates will help raise funds for their trip by selling raffle tickets for the hourly drawing. Their parents will also be committed onsite for the entire weekend, setting up, working in various booths, and cleaning up — from Friday afternoon through Sunday evening. The delegates are excited about their upcoming total immersion into Japanese culture and will be fine representatives of the City of Torrance. When you see them, ask them about their reasons for applying to the program and why they hope to make this their “trip of a lifetime.”

In addition to the cultural performances, Asian-themed craft vendors, and delicious food, there are several additional treats at Bunka-Sai. In the Assembly Room of the Ken Miller Recreation Center, we will feature: demonstrations of *bonsai* by **Dai Ichi-Bonsai Kai**; Ikebana by **Ikenobo Kai** flower arranging; *kamishibai* story telling in Japanese and English; hands-on calligraphy presented by **Beikoku Shodo Kenkyu Kai**; hands-

on origami paper folding; and children's author **Susan Lendroth**, who will be there for a book signing and story reading. Two of her Japanese-themed books are Natsumi! and Maneki Neko: The Tale of the Beckoning Cat. Susan's participation was made possible by **Heritage Source**, a long-time Bunka-Sai book vendor whose booth will be in the Toyota Meeting Hall with the other craft vendors.

On Sunday in the Torino Plaza, we are very fortunate to feature *amezaiku*, candy sculpture by the “Candyman,” **Shan Ichiyanagi**, who has performed all over the world. See him skillfully transform a round piece of hot candy into animals and figurines with his artistry. This is becoming a lost art, seldom seen even in Japan, so come and enjoy a truly unique experience. Shan will be performing on Sunday, April 14th from 12:00-5:00 pm., and his art will be available for purchase. This is a must-see for young and old, alike! Watch him on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/2OCfLfx>.

A big thank you to the many people who are working behind the scenes to make Bunka-Sai a successful fund-raising event to benefit the cultural exchange program. And to the many people who are donating their time and effort to showcase Japanese culture, a very grateful *ARIGATOU GOZAIMASU* from TSCA.

Looking forward to seeing you on April 13th & 14th! ☘

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APRIL 8

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room

APRIL 12

Bunka-Sai Setup (4-9 pm)
Cultural Arts Center

APRIL 13 and 14

Bunka-Sai (11 am—5 pm)
Cultural Arts Center

APRIL 23

Student Orientation #1 with Parents (7-9 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room

APRIL 24

Bunka-Sai Evaluation Meeting (7-8:45 pm)
Katy Geissert Library Polly Watts Room

APRIL 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

MAY 7

August Activities Meeting #3 (7-9 pm)
Torrance Art Museum Conference Room

MAY 13

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room

MAY 14, 21, 28

Student Orientation (4:30-6:30 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room

Torrance Sister City Association

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TREASURER

Ron Reeve

Newsletter Editor

Rae Ann Carr

Newsletter Distribution

Donna Dunlap

Comments or submissions?

Please send an email to

tscanewsletter@gmail.com

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

Lifetime (\$2,000/one time)

Doyle, Marlene Cambra

Family (\$40/year)

Nishi, Kikuko and Katsuhiro

Donaldson, Janet, Daniel, Sarah, Matthew, and Skye

Donations

Cambra, May Ikeda \$40

BUNKA-SAI GIFT BOOTH



Hinamatsuri Display Available at Bunka-Sai

Hinamatsuri (雛祭り), also called Doll's Day or Girls' Day, is a special day in Japan. Celebrated each year on March 3rd, platforms covered with a red carpet - material are used to display a set of ornamental dolls (雛人形, hina-ningyō) representing the Emperor, Empress, attendants, and musicians in traditional court dress of the Heian period.

This is a custom-made Hinamatsuri display, with 16 Dolls. The display case has lighting and plays traditional music. This complete set originally sold for well over \$500. We are pleased to be able to offer it for \$400. Come see it at Bunka Sai and get ready to welcome this lovely set into your life! Visa, M/C ok. For questions, contact Karen Wheeler at bobandkaren@earthlink.net.

Meet the 2019 TSCA Delegates



Jessica Haugen
Adult Leader

"I look forward to leading a group of young people on a trip abroad—a learning experience with lifelong benefits."



Chiara Aiello
Torrance High School
11th Grade

"I see my future in Japan."



David Contreras
LA County High School for the Arts
10th Grade

"I'm looking forward to experiencing the art of Kabuki."



Edward Fu
West High School
10th Grade

"I'm looking forward to seeing how Japanese people live their life and then compare it to my own."



Lily Newhart
West High School
11th Grade

"I look forward to being immersed in a culture and language I have been studying for the past three years."



Olivia Penland
South High School
11th Grade

"I'm excited to see the beauty of Japan in its nature and in its cities and use what I learned to help me broaden my perspective."



Mandy Staal
West High School
11th Grade

"I'm looking forward to experiencing Japan's unique fashion, traditional architecture, and art."



Yuko Wilson
South High School
11th Grade

"I'm interested in experiencing life in Japan because I may go to college there in a couple of years to study psychology."

Since 1973, Torrance Sister City Association has been sending Student Delegates and an Adult Leader to Kashiwa, Japan, as part of its Sister City Cultural Exchange Program. For three weeks in July, these high school students will live with host families in Kashiwa and enjoy a rich cultural learning experience.

Torrance Cherry Blossom Festival

On March 31st, the 2019 Student Delegates and other TSCA members attended the Torrance Cherry Blossom Cultural Festival, presented by the City of Torrance Community Services Department. The annual event at Columbia Park in Torrance includes a variety of multicultural performances and demonstrations representing Asia and including Japan, Philippines, India, and Korea. The festival featured works by artists and crafters from the Torrance Craftsman's Guild, a variety of food trucks and booths, and fun activities for kids.

Our student delegates, dressed in their purple happi coats, sold Bunka-Sai raffle tickets and distributed information about Bunka-Sai and TSCA.

Torrance Sister City Association is a partner of the festival. We hope you enjoyed the 2019 Cherry Blossom Cultural Festival and we hope to see you next year.



Cherry Blossoms at Columbia Park in Torrance



The 2019 TSCA Adult Leader, Student Delegates, and Deputy Consul General Hiroki Matsuo at the Torrance Cherry Blossom Festival.

(L-R) Jessica Haugen, Lily Newhart, David Cotnreras, Edward Fu, Deputy Consul General Hiroki Matsuo, Chiara Aiello, Mandy Staal, and Yuko Wilson

46th Annual Bunka-Sai

Japanese Cultural Festival

Performance Schedule

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

Ken Miller Recreation Center Stage

11:00 am	Tea Ceremony	Soyu Kubo and Sochoku Onizuka Urasenke Tea School
11:40 am	Koto Music	Yuki Yasuda and LA Koto Ensemble
12:20 pm	Announcement	Anime Contest Winners
12:30 pm	Kimono Dressing	LA Kimono Club
1:10 pm	Taiko	Taiko Center of Los Angeles
1:50 pm	Martial Arts	South Bay Judo
2:30 pm	Dance	Wakahisa Kai Classical Japanese Dance
3:10 pm	Martial Arts	Torrance Naginata Dojo
3:45 pm	Dance	Bando Hidesomi Nihon Buyo Class
4:20 pm	Taiko	Ryukyukoko Matsuri Daiko

Ken Miller Assembly Room

11:30, 3:30	Story Reading	Kamishibai (in Japanese and English)
12:30 pm	Ikebana	Flower arranging by Instructor Minamitani Semho
1:30 pm	Book Reading	Children's book reading by author Susan Lendroth
2:30 pm	Bonsai	Bonsai and saikei by Jason Saito
1-4 pm	Calligraphy	Hands-on Shodo demonstrations
11 am-5 pm	Origami	Hands-on lessons with Pam and Hisako

Torino Plaza Outdoor Stage

12:10-12:30 pm	Taiko	Nakama Daiko youth drum ensemble
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SUNDAY, APRIL 14

Ken Miller Recreation Center Stage

11:00 am	Shakuhachi Music	Shoshi Watanabe, K. Matsumoto, and S. Schroeder
11:40 am	Music	Matsutoyo Kai Minyo Japanese folk music
12:20 pm	Martial Arts	Torrance Aikido
1:00 pm	Tea	Urasenke Sofu Hamano Shachu of Urasenke School
1:40 pm	Calligraphy	Beikokoku Shodo Kenkyu Kai
2:20 pm	Dance	Mai No Kai Bando Hiromiya traditional dance
3:00 pm	Music	Awaya Koto Music Conservatory
3:40 pm	Music	Shikino Kai and Fuji Japanese Music: classical music
4:20 pm	Taiko	Los Angeles Taiko Institute

Ken Miller Assembly Room

11:30, 1:30, 3:30	Story Reading	Kamishibai (in Japanese and English)
12:30, 2:30	Bonsai	Bonsai and saikei by Jason Saito
12-3 pm	Calligraphy	Hands-on Shodo demonstrations
11 am-5 pm	Origami	Hands-on lessons

Torino Plaza Outdoor Stage

12-5 pm	Amezaiiku	Candy sculpture artistry by Shan Ichyanagi
12-12:30 pm	Karate	Wado-Ryu Karate Do Torrance YMCA

Saturday and Sunday
April 13 and 14
11:00 am—5:00 pm

**Schedule may change without notice*



Expand Your Cultural Horizons

Host a student from Kashiwa, Japan, for 1 week in August

(August 5–13 or August 15–22, 2019)

Share our American culture with a student from Kashiwa for the experience of a lifetime!



“Hosting was very rewarding! We went on adventures, had lots of fun, and built a lifelong bond.” ~ *The Lolge Family*

“Hosting two students was fantastic, and we learned so much from each other regarding our different cultures. Most impactful was the strong friendships formed.” ~ *The Galinato-Carr Family*

The students stay with two host families during their 18-day stay in Torrance. All daytime activities are planned and hosted by the Torrance Sister City Association (TSCA). Host families are responsible for transporting their students to and from the West Annex at City Hall each morning and late afternoon. Some weeknight activities are planned and host families are welcome to join the fun! At all other times, the host families will arrange their own activities and meals with their exchange student in accordance with TSCA guidelines. Each host family will have one weekend to plan their own activities. Kashiwa students are able to communicate in English.

A Host Families orientation will be held in late June or early July.

QUESTIONS? Please contact Host Family Chair **CHERYL YAMAUCHI** at TSCAHostFamilyProgram@yahoo.com



TORRANCE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION, INC.



HOST FAMILY INTEREST FORM

All first-time applicants will be screened by TSCA

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____ Emergency/Daytime Phone _____

We would prefer to host a Boy _____ Girl _____ Either _____

We would prefer to host a student from August 5-13 _____ August 15-22 _____ Either week _____ Both weeks _____

Number in household _____ List pets, if any _____

Name of Adults _____ Occupation _____

_____ Occupation _____

Children _____ M / F Age _____ M / F Age _____

_____ M / F Age _____ M / F Age _____

Others _____

Our family has participated in these TSCA Activities: Bunka-Sai _____ Student Exchange Program _____ Host Family Program _____ Other _____

Please mail form to **Torrance Sister City Association, Attn: Host Family Program, 3031 Torrance Blvd, Torrance, CA 90503**

Schooling Systems in Japan

Ruchi Shetti, 2018 Student Delegate



Visiting three different schools in Japan gave me a first hand opportunity to interact with Japanese students and experience a day in the life of a elementary and high school student. Although every day was a new adventure in Japan, going to Kashiwa Municipal High School, Daichi Elementary, and

Nippon Sports and Science University was an adventure that will stay with me for years to come.

When going to the first school, Kashiwa Municipal High School, we had no idea what to expect. The famous brass band was something we were all looking forward to seeing. During part of our tour, I was chosen to play guitar with some of the students in the music room, with the principal playing alongside me. We then went to the school's auditorium, where the entire brass band was in position, waiting for our arrival. We were placed in the center with the band surrounding us, and they performed multiple songs with dancing and singing included.

We visited Daichi Elementary School next, and immediately after walking in we became celebrities. The fifth and sixth grade students greeted us with a flag performance. For lunch, the delegates were separated into different classrooms, and we were amazed to see eight and nine-year-olds serve the entire class food. When I asked if it was difficult to maintain, the boy next to me said, "No, because everyone helps and it is our duty". To see such



TSCA 2018 Student Delegates with students from Nippon Sports and Science University

small children running a major part of school was eye opening, and increased our respect for all Japanese students.

Nippon Sports and Science University focuses on sports and STEM academics. We were introduced to the principal, who explained to us that there were "major and minor" sports, which meant that some activities were prioritized more than others. We were joined by the karate team, which was a mix of boys and girls who had already achieved a black belt. The actual karate training was very interactive with the sensei and students, and although at times it was difficult, the students were enthusiastic and encouraging.



Karate training at the Nippon Sports and Science University

Leaving the schools was the hardest part, because at the end of our visit we had gotten extremely attached to everyone. The students led completely different lives than what us Torrance students face on a daily basis, but after exchanging contact through social media like Instagram and Snapchat, we all realized that we were the same teenagers at heart. School systems in Japan train students to be well disciplined, kind, humble, and welcoming. Some of the differences between American and Japanese schooling were obvious, such as uniforms and lunches, but the similarities between all students were greater. We were very lucky to have such a once in a lifetime opportunity, and all look forward to visiting again. ☘

Kashiwa News

2019 KIRA Prospective Delegate Explanatory Meeting

Mike Arai

The KIRA Torrance Committee held their Explanatory Meeting for prospective candidates on Sunday, March 24th. This year, they introduced a new approach to garner interest and get more applicants for the program. Former KIRA delegates **Ms. Keiko Osawa** (1989 delegate) and **Mr. Hirofumi Takikawa** (2011 delegate) presented their experiences to the potential candidates. Later, the 2018 Kashiwa Student Delegates shared their knowledge about Torrance and their homestay experiences.

KIRA believes the presentations from the former delegates will result in an increase in applications.

A surprise guest, former TSCA student delegate **Greg Aurit**, attended the meeting. He currently works at the US Embassy in Tokyo.



KIRA delegates displayed memorabilia from their trips to Torrance



On March 24, the Kashiwa Torrance Committee held its Explanatory Meeting for prospective candidates of the 2019 Sister City Cultural Exchange Program.



The 45th (2018) Kashiwa student delegates shared their knowledge about Torrance and their home-stay experiences using PowerPoint presentations

Birthday Blossoms

Alison Abraham

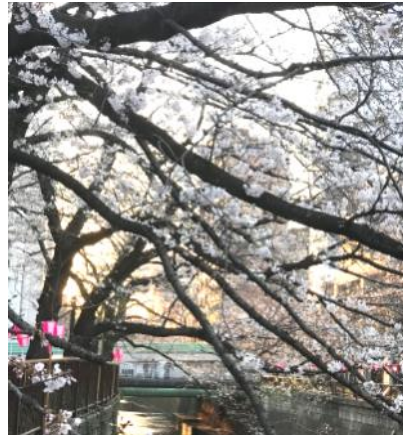


Spring has officially arrived in Japan! It's welcomed by budding cherry blossoms, a national holiday, and both the end of a school year and the beginning of the next. The days are still tinged with the last vestiges of winter, but spring is always special for me because my birthday is right at the start of it. It's especially fun, having celebrated for the second time since moving to Kashiwa.

On the first day of spring, I spent the day with **Shibata-san**, the KIRA Adult Leader from 2011, and her friends. We visited a space center and planetarium and took a tour at the Kirin Beer Factory!

At Ichikashi the next day, after our closing ceremony to signal the end of the school year, the English department held our last department meeting for the year. It was a bittersweet affair as we celebrated the end of a year well-done but also bid farewell to co-workers who would be transferring to other schools in April.

At one point during the meeting, my kind friends in the English department surprised me for my birthday! On the meeting's agenda, they'd written "Project for A" which I'd misconstrued as something to do with our international students, referred to as Class A. However, teachers who had stepped out returned with a cake and decorations, singing happy birthday to me. It's really hard feeling homesick when I've got such wonderful friends everywhere I turn in my home away from home.



Cherry blossoms in Naka-Meguro

And, of course, there's no mentioning spring in Japan without mentioning cherry blossoms! How lucky I am that I get to celebrate with nature's very own decorations. My recommendation for anyone wanting to find some of the best views around Tokyo is definitely Naka-Meguro. With little red bridges connecting some streets and sakura trees hanging over a peaceful river, Naka-Meguro paints a charming sight. Street vendors sell flutes of champagne with strawberry kebabs submerged in them, quite fitting for the happy occasion and a perfect way to spend spring break.

With spring comes spring break, and with spring break comes English Club field trips! Recently, I took the English Club to the Tokyo Global Gateway in Odaiba where our Ichikashi students were able to experience simulations of visiting a campus bookstore, a cafe, and making a news broadcast in English with foreigners who spoke English. It was a fun learning experience - for both the students and for me - that reminded me of the joy and fun of being a teacher. Definitely looking forward to what the rest of the year has in store for me and Ichikashi! ☘



Surprise birthday celebration with the English Department at Ichikashi



Ichikashi's English Conversation Club at the Tokyo Global Gateway experience in Odaiba

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**

3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503