

President's Message Werner Willoughby



We've had a successful 46th annual Bunka-Sai Japanese Cultural Festival! A special *ARIGATOU GOZAIMASU* to the seven 2019 student delegates-- **Chiara Aiello, David Contreras, Edward Fu, Lilly Newhart, Olivia Penland, Amanda Staal, Yuko Wilson**—and their parents and their

Adult Leader Jessica Haugen for their commitment in setting up, working, and cleaning up over three days, Friday through Sunday. The students were involved in moving equipment and supplies from our storage unit and setting up at the Cultural Arts Center, working all day both days, then cleaning up afterward. Their enthusiasm and energy were appreciated by all who worked at the festival, including the craft vendors, many of whom drove long distances and had lots of boxes to unload. The festival ended on Sunday after the opportunity drawing at 5 pm, but for the workers, we breathed a great sigh of relief with the click of the lock at our storage unit just before 8:00 pm Sunday evening.

TSCA thanks many other volunteers, not just TSCA members, but individuals and groups from the community, for their contribution toward this event. Some helped for a few hours, and there were those who devoted the entire weekend, some starting as early as 7:30 am on Friday. The committee chairpersons devoted countless hours, not just in planning meetings, but in working the entire weekend. We also appreciated the help of **Mayor Patrick J. Furey** and his wife, **Terry**, in a booth, making this a truly community event.

A big thank you to the City of Torrance Central Services staff of **William Urquilla, Allen Teng, and Gail Shota** for the design, assembling and printing of the program, flyer and tickets. **Scott Villalva** and his crew were responsible for setting up the venues, from the Mt. Fuji backdrop on the stage, to all the tables and chairs, under the beautiful new canopy which covered Torino Plaza. We also give a shout-out to the support of City of Torrance Cultural Services under **Manager Eve Rappoport**, and her staff including **Secretary Debbie Collins**, and Liaison to TSCA, **Michael Field**.

We were very fortunate for the efforts of many organizations who presented a wide variety of Japanese culture. There were stage performances, exhibits, demonstrations and hands-on opportunities in the arts of *koto*, *kimono* dressing, tea ceremony, *judo*, *naginata*, *bonsai*, *ikebana*, *karate*, *shodo/calligraphy*, *anime*, music, traditional dance, story-telling (*kamishibai*), unique Japanese candy sculpting (*amezaiku*), origami, and the always popular taiko (drums). Truly, a fantastic opportunity to enjoy and learn about Japanese culture— for free.

As this year's President and Chairperson for the Bunka-Sai, I feel very blessed and humbled to work with such a dedicated group of individuals. My heartfelt THANK YOU to Team Ichiban (#1)!!

Mark your calendar for next year's Bunka-Sai—April 18 and 19, 2020. It will be even better, so you don't want to miss it. See you then! ☘

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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

JUNE 4

Student Orientation #7 (4:30-6:30 pm)
Torrance Art Museum Conference Room

JUNE 4

August Activities Meeting #4 (7-9 pm)
Torrance Art Museum Conference Room

JUNE 10

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

JUNE 11

Student Orientation #8 with Parents
(7-9 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room

JUNE 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

JULY 8

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

Torrance Sister City Association

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Rae Ann Carr

Newsletter Distribution

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Comments or submissions?

Please send an email to

tscanewsletter@gmail.com

Membership News

Alyssa Yamauchi, 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

Family (\$40/year)

Hargrove, Eunice Linda and Richard

Individual (\$20/year)

Miike, Pam

Donations

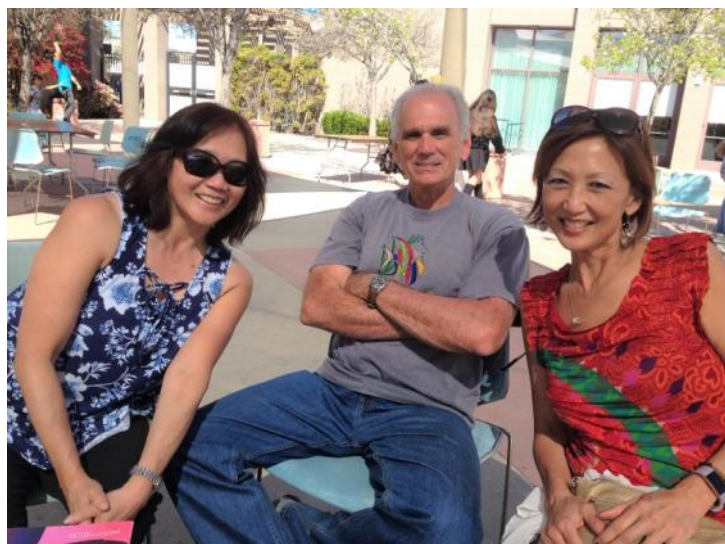
Carr, Eric and Rae Ann \$400

ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to TSCA alumni and recent UCLA graduates, **Adam Jordan** and **Melanie Nomiya** for their acceptance into the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program.

Former TSCA student delegate, **Greg Aurit**, attended KIRA's prospective delegate meeting. Greg was also a JET participant from 2002-2005 and currently works as the First Secretary and Deputy Cultural Affairs Officer at the US Embassy in Japan.

The JET Program is a competitive employment opportunity that allows young professionals to live and work in cities, towns, and villages throughout Japan. JET Program participants are not only teachers and public servants—they are cultural ambassadors of the United States to Japan, and only the best candidates (including many TSCA student delegates) are chosen to represent America. ☘



TSCA Alumni Support Bunka-Sai
Eleanor Hom Jones (1981), Mark Richardson (1977), and
Jacquie Lee (1978) at the Bunka-Sai Festival

Scenes from Bunka-Sai







Scenes from Bunka-Sai

Photos by: Linda Kranz and Summer Nagano Gray



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**

Anime Contest Winners

Summer Nagano Gray, Anime Contest Chair

Congratulations to all of the participants of the 2019 annual TSCA Bunka-Sai Anime Contest! This year, we received 20 impressive entries from middle and high school students. The drawings were displayed during Bunka-Sai in the auditorium for all to admire.

The winner of the “Best Overall” award was presented to **Kaya Obata**. The award for “Cutest” was awarded to **Sakura Shimomura**. The “Best Represents Japanese Culture” award was given to **Elise Fujita**, and **Akari Nakashima** took home the “Honorable Mention” award. All winners this year were from West High School.

Each winner received a sketch book, colored pencils, and a book of anime drawing tips and tricks, and all of the talented artists received a Certificate of Excellence for their fine work.

Special thanks to judges **Lori Chong Eurich**, **Jennifer Hirashiki**, **Amie Komae**, and **Mackenzie Holloway**.

Congratulations to all the winners! ☘



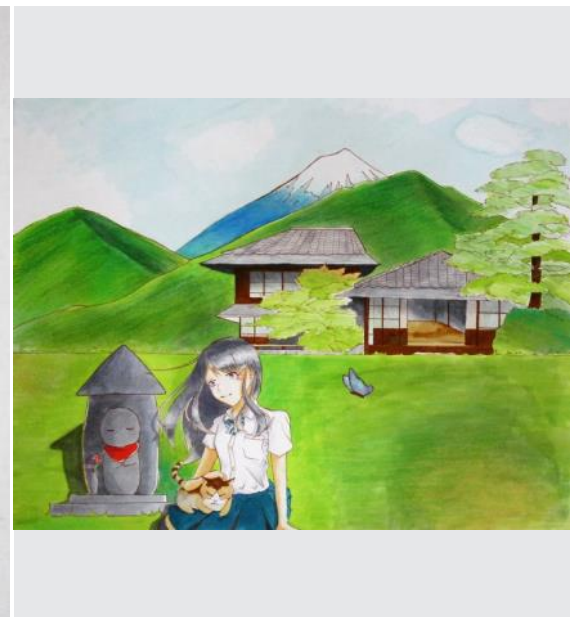
Best Overall: Kaya Obata, West High School



Best Represents Japanese Culture: Elise Fujita, West High School



Cutest: Sakura Shimomura, West High School



Honorable Mention: Akari Nakashima, West High School

Thank You to Our Bunka-Sai Volunteers

A big thank you to the spam musubi team who made more than 630 spam musubis at Bunka-Sai. Thanks to your spam making skills, all of them were sold out. We received many comments from visitors that they liked what you made. We thank you for showing up and put your smiley face while making musubis on an assembly line. It was fun two days and TSCA thanks you.

Thank you for taking back rice bins every year, Kay Ujimori.

— Reiko Higa



Spam Musubi Team

(L-R) Marty Penland, Danielle Kim, Clarice Miyamoto-Kim, Kris Ihori, Takako Hinkson, Reiko Higa

We would like to give our heartfelt thanks to the many friends and students who helped with the desserts booth at this year's Bunka-Sai Festival. The three days went by really fast, and it was fun working together to make the scrumptious desserts.

Jenny and I want to thank the very talented kitchen crew - Noelle, Mayoori, Pam, Sumi, Susan, Sindy, Lori, Marilyn, Frances, Natalie, Jill, Aileen, Marty, and Lana. You skillfully baked, cut, and packaged seventy batches of yummy desserts!

And, big kudos to the amazing sales team - Natalie, Dick, Ada, Navin, Marianne, and student volunteers. You helped make our booth a sweet success!

— Shirley and Jenny Tanaka

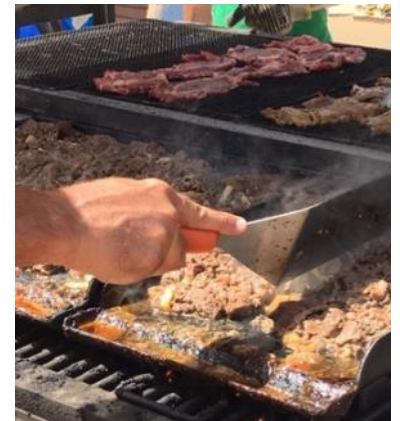


BBQ Booth Team

Mahalo (thank you) to all the volunteers that came out to support the BBQ booth. We appreciate you returning year after year to help us with our fundraising efforts.

To the “Grillers” who stood at the hot flames for two days cooking hundreds of pounds of tasty beef, chicken and salmon – we salute you. Brian Diederich, Dan Donaldson, Paul Matsubara, Mickey Matsumoto, Charlie Peck, and Matt Staal – you are the best!

To our food prep, servers, cashiers, and sales crew – thank you for your support and flexibility. Phyllis and Fred Aiello, Rae Ann and Eric Carr, Owen and Regan Galinato, Summer Gray, Adam Jordan, Greg Kang, Pratiksha Lolge, Chris Lum, Aki Makino, Phaedra Pruett, Michael Rentana, and the many high school volunteers – we couldn't have done it without you.



Thank you for sacrificing your weekend and paying it forward so other students and families can share in the experience of our cultural exchange program.

— Bryce and Cheryl Yamauchi



Dessert Booth Team



English Teacher Report

Hard Rock Festival

Brandon Matsumoto



“Cause I’m T.N.T.! I’m dynamite. T.N.T.! And I’ll win the fight!” Hearing the popular AC/DC song being played live had me jumping out of my seat! I couldn’t believe that I was listening to hard rock right here in Japan!

Today, I had an opportunity to accompany Ichikashi High School’s “Light Music Club” to attend the “Hard Rock Festival” hosted annually by Ichikawa High School. This is a club where students can create their own bands and look for talent among their members who can sing, play guitar, bass, drums, and keyboard.

High School bands from all over Chiba prefecture and Tokyo came to perform songs by Van Halen, Bon Jovi, KISS, Queen, and more. I got choked up when I heard a song by Red Hot Chili Peppers. (California represent!!) The students did such a great job mimicking their voices, it seemed like I was at a Red Hot Chili Peppers concert! I was surprised by the overwhelming influence of rock culture that is so strong in Japan. It was magnificently breathtaking.

The adviser overseeing this club is Mr. Tamaoki, an English teacher at Ichikashi. He is a very unique teacher who loves to teach with enthusiasm and humor. He’s only been at Ichikashi for three years, but is absolutely beloved by his students. He’s usually silly on a daily basis, but today, I was able to observe his serious demeanor.

Out of nowhere, the lead guitarist suddenly fell ill, and was unable to perform. Mr. Tamaoki saw anxiety and concern spread among his students and he quickly saw



Kouchi



Ichikashi High School’s Rockstar, Mr. Tamaoki

this as a teaching opportunity for his young pupils. He introduced the English saying “the show must go on” and emphasized the importance of performing no matter what the case may be. He stressed the significance of putting on a show for an audience that traveled far just to see their performance. He gave real life examples of different bands overcoming adversity to put on a show as well as personal anecdotes of his own band. After the encouraging lecture, the band wasted no time to prepare, and rocked an outstanding performance.

I was pleasantly surprised to witness that Mr. Tamaoki not only taught music, but he taught the significance of showmanship, the art of performing, and most importantly, how to rock and roll.

I left that concert feeling energized and nostalgic. I was left speechless watching high school students rocking out to “Bohemian Rhapsody” and tearing it up on the guitar singing “Welcome to the Jungle.” I’m so proud and impressed of what these students accomplished. They’ve gained a new fan.

The vibe was electrifying! Check out T.N.T. for yourself and click the link to feel their energy!

<https://bit.ly/2Vq9R7Y> ☞



Hard Rock Festival

Brandon Matsumoto
This performance will blow your mind, careful it might bust your speakers.

<https://bit.ly/2Vq9R7Y>

Member Information

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

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)

Payments are also accepted via Paypal
<http://www.torrancesistercity.org/join.html>

*If you have
any questions
about your membership,
please email Alyssa Yamauchi at
tscamembership@gmail.com*

www.torrancesistercity.org



**Torrance Sister City
Association**

3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503