

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 2020 will be the Alumni Reunion to be held at the Ken Miller Recreation Center on Saturday, January 11th at 11:00 am. where we will meet the new student cultural exchange applicants for 2020, reflect upon the experiences of the 2019 student delegates, and recognize outgoing and incoming officers and board members. Many thanks to **Chair Cindy Kang** and her committee of **Donna Dunlap, Shirley Tanaka, and Yuki Tsujii**, for organizing and preparing for this annual event. Break out those happi coats and join us in kicking off 2020!

Thanks to the many adults **Deanna Diederich, Cindy Kang, Amie Komae, Lori Eurich, Jen Hirashiki, Jessica Haugen, Jeremy Gerson**, and 2019 student delegates **Chiara Aiello, David Contreras, Edward Fu, Olivia Newland, Lily Penland, Amanda Staal**, and for their efforts to publicize the “trip of a lifetime” for 2020.

Jeremy Gerson has volunteered to chair the important Student Selection Committee for the second consecutive year, thank you very much Jeremy!

To the outgoing board members, **Ron Reeve, Shirley Tanaka, and Keiko Clark** thank you for your expertise and efforts from Bunka-Sai, August Activities to the Sayonara Banquet, please continue your highly valued and

appreciated support of TSCA.

As 2020 President, I look forward to working with the board, including new members: **Donna Dunlap, Jen Hirashiki, Gail Roulette, Matthew Staal, and Karen Wheeler**, including new executive board members **Sindy Kang** as treasurer and **Karen Wheeler** as Secretary.

Please save April 18 and 19 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 for Bunka-Sai, please contact us at torrancesistercityinfo@gmail.com.

Let your friends and neighbors know that this year's 47th Annual Bunka-Sai presents 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. We are truly grateful for your support and involvement.

Here's wishing the very best to TSCA, its members and supporters! ☸

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Membership News

Alyssa Yamauchi, Membership Chairperson

Our membership drive for 2020 has started. Pay your membership dues electronically with Paypal (<http://www.torrancesistercity.org/join.html>). See the 2020 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
Doyle, Marlene Cambra
Dunlap-Ihde Family
Fichtner, Dan and Rand, Ray
Henson, Mikko Haggott
Sekiguchi, Joh

Corporate (\$200/year)

King, Dennis and Patricia

Benefactor (\$125/year)

Bauer, Craig
Lee, Jacquie
Roulette, Ray and Gail
Taniguchi, Hazel
Yamauchi, Bryce and Cheryl

Supporting (\$75/year)

Dowell, Bob and Peggy
Furey, Pat and Terry
Willoughby, Werner and Aileen

Family (\$40/year)

DeLeon, Tristan
The Diederich Family
Druten, Jason, Yoko and Max
Eurich, Lori and Dane
Eustaquio, Joseph
Fuller, Jeannie
Gallagher, Ann and Marty
Heidebrecht, Bill and Kathy
Higa, Reiko, PK and Ken Shrivastava
Hirashiki, Hiro and Jen
Hofer, Gary and Fusae
Ito, John and Wendy
Kaplan, Harry
Kimmel, Ronald and Gudrun
Komae, Jody, Kent, and Amy
Kosobayashi, Brian
Kranz, Dave and Linda
Lin, Derwei
Little, Vera and Bob
Maroney, Mark and Jill
Martel, Lou and Lori
The Mealins Family
Medlock, Thomas and Kathleen
Nakano, Helen and George
Newhart, Lance
Nishi, Kikuko and Katsuhisa
Nishimura, Scott and Terri
Peitzman, Fred and Ann
The Penland Family
Poh, Uijung and Audrey Kim

Reeve, Ron and Susan
Rubin, Marilyn and Sherwin
Seraydarian, Mark
Scotto, Frank and Cindy
Segovia, Felipe
Southbay Judo
Tanaka, Keith and Shirley
Yorizane, Eddie and Eileen

Individual (\$20/year)

Ando, Jennifer
Ashcraft, Dan and Heidi
Chen, George
Coury, Amy
Gibson, Judy
Hardison, Lowell
Kilburn, Victor
Kragh, Evalyn
Matsumoto, Brandon
Mayanja, Angelica
Ozawa, Eleanor
Peck, James
Perez, Ayako
Radomski, James
Sakamoto, May
Shimizu, Marie
Tabata, Lynn
Yamauchi, Alyssa
Yamauchi, Blaine

Donations

Hofer, Gary and Fusae	\$10
Tabata, Lynn	\$30

Torrance Sister City Association

PRESIDENT

Werner Willoughby

VICE PRESIDENT

Jen Hirashiki

SECRETARY

Karen Wheeler

TREASURER

Sindy Kang

Newsletter Editor

Rae Ann Carr

Newsletter Distribution

Donna Dunlap

Comments or submissions?

Please send an email to
tscanewsletter@gmail.com

Autumn Leaves

Seiichi Miyata, past Adult Leader from Kashiwa, submitted photos of fall leaves turning bright red, orange and yellow at Yoshida Park in Kashiwa. The park is on the grounds of the historic Yoshida Mansion that our students visit in July.



Memories of Japan

Physical Disabilities in Japan

Jessica Haugen

TSCA 2019 Adult leader



With Japan's population of 126 million people across an area of only 145,000 square miles (compare that to California's 39 million people within an area of 163,000 square miles), building up and down instead of across is the norm to conserve space and serve the needs of the

general population. With an abundance of multi-level buildings and underground railways, stairs are a common occurrence in Japan. Which got me thinking, how do the 3.5 million Japanese people with physical disabilities navigate the confined terrain of Japan?

I noticed that Japan has provided the most accommodations for the visually impaired. A notable accommodation for people with visual impairments is yellow tactile paving on sidewalks and platforms which serve as guiding paths. These are called Tactile Ground Surface Indicators (TGSI). These raised lines and bumps guide visually impaired people safely to their destinations (such as the train, bus, or elevator). Other accommodations for people with visual impairments include braille on toilet controls, ATMs, and elevators, as well as Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) at intersections which play a melody or chirps when the walk sign is active.



Handicap accessible mobility ramp at a tourist attraction.



Left: Handicapped parking space

Right: Tactile Ground Surface Indicators that will lead a visually impaired person to a restroom

Although there are other accommodations meant to serve the needs of individuals with motor impairments (examples being ramps at tourist attractions and multi-purpose toilet rooms), improvements can still be made. Many buildings and locations are not accessible to people in wheelchairs due to narrow pathways and winding roads, and many structures that are two to four stories do not have elevators installed.

In preparation for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Japan has equipped all subways with multi-purpose elevators and ensured hotels that contain over 50 rooms have at least one percent of them accessible to wheelchair users. As Japan strives to make their country more accessible to tourists, these additional accommodations will provide more opportunities for Japanese citizens with disabilities to be present in public spaces, and therefore become visible members of Japanese society. ♪

2020 TSCA Calendar of Events

JANUARY

- 11 Alumni Reunion Potluck (11 am-2 pm)
Ken Miller Recreation Center
- 13 TSCA Association Meeting (7 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room
- 18 Student Selection Interviews
- 25 Torrance Art Museum Conference Room
- 29 Bunka-Sai Planning Meeting #1 (7-9 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room
- 31 2020 Student Applicant Pizza Party at Adult Leader's House

FEBRUARY

- 10 TSCA Association Meeting (7 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room
- 14 2020 Student Applicant Meeting #1 (TBD)
Mitsuwa Marketplace
- 21 2020 Student Applicant Meeting #2 (TBD)
Mitsuwa Marketplace
- 26 Bunka-Sai Planning Meeting #2 (7-8:45 pm)
Katy Geissert Library Polly Watts Room
- 29 Student Garage Sale (TBD)

MARCH

- 4 August Activities Meeting #1 (7-9 pm)
Torrance Art Museum Conference Room
- 7 2019 Student Applicant Home Visits (TBD)
- 9 TSCA Association Meeting (7 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room
- 14 2020 Student Applicant Home Visits (TBD)
- 18 Bunka-Sai Planning Meeting #3 (7-8:45 pm)
Katy Geissert Library Polly Watts Room
- 21 Student Applicant Picnic and Selection (TBD)
- 24 August Activities Meeting #2 (7-9 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room

APRIL

- 5 Cherry Blossom Festival (11 am-4 pm)
Columbia Park
- 8 Bunka-Sai Planning Meeting #4 (7-9 pm)
Torrance Art Museum Conference Room
- 13 TSCA Association Meeting (7 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room
- 17 Bunka-Sai Setup (TBD)
Cultural Arts Center
- 18 **Bunka-Sai** (11 am—5 pm)
- 19 Cultural Arts Center
- Student Orientation #1 with Parents
- 28 (6-8:30 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room
- 29 Bunka-Sai Evaluation Meeting (7-8:45 pm)
Katy Geissert Library Polly Watts Room

MAY

- 5 Student Orientation #2, #3 (4:30—6:30 pm)
- 12 Torrance Art Museum Conference Room
- 11 TSCA Association Meeting (7 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room
- 19 Student Orientation #4, #5 (4:30—6:30 pm)
- 26 City Hall West Annex Commission Room
- 26 August Activities Meeting #3 (7-9 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room

JUNE

- 2 Student Orientation #6, #7 (4:30—6:30 pm)
- 9 Torrance Art Museum Conference Room
- 8 TSCA Association Meeting (7 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room
- Student Orientation #8
- 16 Parents and All Host Families (6—9 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room
- 23 August Activities Meeting #4 (7-9 pm)
Torrance Art Museum Conference Room
- 30 Torrance Students Leave for Kashiwa

JULY

- 13 TSCA Association Meeting (7 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room
- 21 Torrance Students Return from Kashiwa
- 24 2020 Summer Olympics Starts in Tokyo

AUGUST

- No Association Meeting
- 3 Kashiwa Students Arrive in Torrance
- Welcome Reception for Kashiwa Students and Adult Leader (5:30—8:30 pm)
George Nakano Theater
- Square Dance and Chili Cook-off
- 5 (5:30—8:30 pm)
Toyota Meeting Hall
- 9 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics Ends
- Sayonara Banquet for Kashiwa Students
- 19 (5:30—8:30 pm)
Toyota Meeting Hall
- 20 Kashiwa Students Leave Torrance

SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

- No Association Meeting
- 14 2021 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

News from Japan



Group photo of the Kashiwa students and adult leader along with Vice Mayor, KIRA President, KIRA Vice President, and Torrance Committee Chairperson

2019 Kashiwa Delegates Briefing Session

Akiko Nobusawa
KIRA

The 2019 Kashiwa Delegates Briefing Session was held on November 24th with three other sister-city exchange committees. They are Chengde in China, Guam, and Camden in Australia.

This session was supposed to take place in October, however it was delayed due to the typhoon that hit the Chiba prefecture.

Seven students in Torrance windbreakers delivered the speeches based on their memorable experience in Torrance. Unfortunately Riho Shimaoka couldn't join because of a schedule conflict. They achieved the representative role as the long standing exchange program.

Lastly the adult leader, Ms. Mitsuko Tsukuda, highlighted the importance of this program.

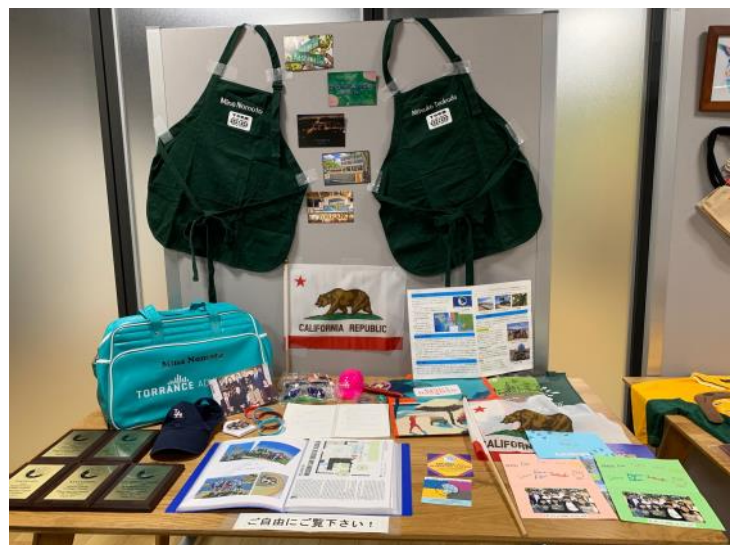
After the students' presentation, a round-table discussion followed. Eight students chosen out of each committee exchanged questions and answers with the Vice Mayor, Mr. Kizawa in a very relaxed atmosphere. ☘



2019 Kashiwa student delegates with adult leader, Ms. Tsukuda, and Torrance Committee Chairperson, Mr. Takikawa



2019 Kashiwa student delegates delivering their reports. (L-R) Karin Fukui, Mina Nomoto, Sakura Iida, Sei Sakamoto, Kana Kishida, Arata Kawabe, Gen Yasuda



Torrance booth decorated with memorable Torrance goods.



Torrance Sister City Association

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Our 2020 Membership Drive has begun!

There are several membership levels available,
and two convenient payment options:



Pay by MAIL:

Complete the form below,
and mail with your check.



Pay ONLINE:

Visit

www.torrancesistercity.org

and

Check out with **PayPal**

Postmark deadline to be included in the printed TSCA Membership Directory is 2/26/20.

Torrance Sister City Association

2020 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

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)

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**

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

www.torrancesistercity.org

The Culture of Owarai

Wakana Monma



Do you know *owarai*? This means comedian in Japanese. Did you know that they are many kinds of *owarai*? There are *manzai*, *konto*, and *pin genin*.

Manzai is normally performed by two people. They talk about a topic standing in front of the standing microphone. For example, they act out a date, hotel lady, or a beauty salon. One of them is *boke*, who says funny or stupid things. The other one is *tsukkomi* who points out what is wrong with *boke*'s words or actions. *Tsukkomi* often says, *nandeyanen* or *mouiiwa*. This is what *tsukkomi* people say when *boke* people say funny or stupid things. *Mouiiwa* is what they say when they finish the act.

Konto is a type of skit. *Konto* is normally performed by two or three people. *Konto* is performed in one situation, such as a hospital, office, school, and more. In *konto*, comedians play each role. There are *boke* and *tsukkomi* for *konto* as well.

Pin Geinin is a Japanese comedian who doesn't belong to any comedy groups. *Pin Geinin* talks about a topic alone on the stage, acts in situation skits, and shows funny pictures.

I love *owarai*. I have since I was 6 years old. I saw many kinds of *owarai* in the theater. My favorite *owarai* group is *Wagyū*. In this instance, *wagyū* does not mean beef, *Wagyū* is the *manzai*'s name. They are good actors. I don't think you can understand Japanese very much but I recommend that you watch it. ☘



The guest writer, Wakana, is a third year student at Ichikashi High School.



Torrance Sister City Association's

5th Annual ANIME DRAWING CONTEST 2020!

BUNKA-SAI
JAPANESE CULTURAL
FESTIVAL!
APRIL 18-19



Akari Nakashima, Anime Contest Winner 2019

DIVISIONS

- Middle School
- High School

Prizes for each Division:

- 1st Prize = \$50
- 2nd Prize = \$25
- 3rd Prize = \$20

All contestants will receive a certificate

RULES

- Entries must be drawn on 8½" x 11" paper. Digital art is also acceptable.
- Format: Portrait (vertical) or Landscape (horizontal).
- Entries may be in Color OR Black & White.
- Maximum of two entries per person.
- No dark or violent themes, such as death and funerals.
- Entries must include a Release Form and Waiver signed by the artist and parent/guardian (if a minor).

Entries must be submitted **IN PERSON** on Friday, **APRIL 17, 2020**, 4pm – 6:30pm

Ken Miller Recreation Center (3341 Torrance Blvd)

Winners will be announced on Saturday, April 18, 2020

Forms and more info at www.torrancesistercity.org

Alumni News



Jessica Haugen, 2019 Adult Leader, met her host sister, Manami, over the Thanksgiving Break. Manami is participating in a Disney International Program at UC Riverside (UCR). The program blends academics with paid training at Walt Disney World. After completion of the program, Manami will earn a Certificate in Hospitality and Tourism Management from UCR.



Werner Willoughby, Lori Chong Eurich, Shirley Tanaka with grandson, Aiden met Ms. Kawamoto and Mr. Saito from Kashiwa High School for coffee during their annual student exchange trip to North High School on Nov. 13, 2019. They enjoyed chatting about school and sharing photos of their families.



Congratulations to Kyle Nishimura, 2014 TSCA Student Delegate, for graduating from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a bachelors degree in Animal Science. Kyle plans on getting an advanced degree in Occupational Therapy.

Submit your alumni updates to:
tscanewsletter@gmail.com



Teach English in Kashiwa, Japan

The Torrance Sister City Association seeks qualified applicants for one high school English teacher in Kashiwa, Japan, the Sister City of Torrance. A minimum one-year contract runs from August 1, 2020, to July 31, 2021. The contract is renewable for a maximum three-year assignment.

Duties: Conduct and assist in a variety of English conversation classes; assist with coordinating campus visits by parents, administrators, and junior high students; and assist with extracurricular activities, which may include judging and assisting with speech contests, serving as adviser to the English Conversation Club and business trips, and coach students for college interviews. Volunteer work with KIRA (Kashiwa International Relations Association) and other city groups may also be required.

Qualifications

Applicants must:

- Live or work in Torrance
- Be fluent in written and spoken English
- Hold a Bachelor's degree plus a teaching credential or have demonstrated teaching experience
- Possess a keen interest in the Japanese language and culture
- Represent the Torrance Sister City Association and foster the goals and objectives of the English Teacher Exchange Program.

Compensation

- Annual salary of approximately 4,800,000 Japanese yen
- One-way airfare from Los Angeles to Japan
- National health insurance (deducted from monthly salary)
- Subsidized housing and transportation allowance
- Paid Japanese holidays and personal days

To Apply

Please send resume, cover letter, and two letters of recommendation by U.S. mail only.

Must be postmarked by **April 10, 2020**, and received by **April 17, 2020**.

Mail to:

Lori Chong Eurich, Chair
TSCA English Teacher
Selection Committee
Attn: Community Services Dept.
c/o 3031 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90503

Qualified applicants will be scheduled for panel interviews in May. For more information, call Lori Chong Eurich at (310) 373-6146.

English Teacher Report

International Festival

Brandon Matsumoto



The city of Kashiwa held an international festival in the middle of a busy main street near Kashiwa Station. The festival was canceled last year because of a typhoon, but thankfully the weather was outstanding this year. The air was buzzing with excitement with a variety of dance performances, by Filipino, Peruvian, and Indian cultural groups. Even a jazz group performed. At the event, I learned that Torrance was not Kashiwa's only sister city. I was impressed to learn that there are three separate exchange programs that Kashiwa sponsors.

High school students have the opportunity to experience the cultures of Guam, China, and Australia as well. During the festival, each committee has a booth to answer questions, look for potential new candidates and host families. Many students and families stopped to admire the photos displayed, showing smiling Kashiwa students in Torrance. Numerous questions were asked which put a big smile on my face as I listened to their conversations, "Amazing, did they go to a fire station? What is a square dance? Where is Torrance? I've never heard of it." It's a great feeling to hear people on the other side of the world take interest in my hometown.

The student club that I support, Kashiwa Exchange Youth Society (KEYS), also had a booth. For months, we were contemplating what to do for our booth. We wanted something international, but more importantly, something enjoyable for the kids that pass by. I then suggested cornhole and introduced the fun American game to them. We looked online to see how much it would cost us and discovered that it would cost us an arm and a leg for the board and bean bags. But then I thought, how hard could it be to MAKE? I went to the local home improvement warehouse and got an estimate of the materials. I was shocked how cheaply it could be made, so I didn't waste a moment to get started. It wasn't too difficult. I've had past experience with woodworking before so it was an enjoyable Saturday morning for me. Later, the students helped design, color, and paint the cornhole. During the next meeting for KEYS, the students sewed the bean bags by hand. It was a great opportunity to have fun and create a sense of togetherness within the group. The booth was a huge success! Everyone had a lot of fun and enjoyed making kids laugh while promoting the club.

Here's a video of the whole event!
Enjoy! ☘

<https://bit.ly/2sq8tEB>



Kashiwa Exchange Youth Society volunteers at the Kashiwa International Festival. Karl Takauye, a former TSCA English Teacher is also a volunteer for KEYS.



Alumni Reunion Potluck

Saturday, January 11, 2020 | 11 a.m.—2 p.m.
Ken Miller Recreation Center | 3300 Civic Center Drive, Torrance

Join us at our annual Alumni Reunion to celebrate the installation of our new officers and board members. Come enjoy the 2019 delegates' pictorial presentation of their trip to Kashiwa last July. Renew friendships, share favorite memories, and enjoy tasty potluck dishes. Applicants for the 2020 student exchange program will be attending to learn more about the trip of a lifetime.

Individuals or couples, please bring a dessert or a side dish. Families, please bring a main dish and a salad. Please bring serving utensils labeled with your name. Drinks will be provided.

Please feel free to wear your happi coat, yukata, or t-shirt from your year.
We'll also be accepting membership renewals at the event.

*For more
information, contact **Sindy Kang**
kanggreg@gmail.com*

www.torrancesistercity.org



**Torrance Sister City
Association**

3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503