

## President's Message Werner Willoughby



Here's hoping that as you read this newsletter, you and your family are in the best of health.

At the July 12th Association meeting, Board member and Chair of the English Teacher Selection Committee, **Lori Chong Eurich**, updated everyone on the status of our two English teachers,

**Brandon Matsumoto** and **Deanna Sun** from Torrance, who are on staff at Kashiwa Municipal High School. We were concerned with their health and well-being related to the COVID-19 virus, as they have not been included in the projected vaccination timeline for Japan and, particularly, for Kashiwa. To date, they, and the staff at the high school have not been included in the vaccination timeline. They were eager to return to the US to be vaccinated as soon as the school year ended in July. I wrote a letter expressing our concern to the principal and vice principal of the high school and the Kashiwa Board of Education. After several weeks of discussion in Kashiwa, Brandon and Deanna were granted leave to return to Torrance to receive their vaccinations, as long as one remained on staff at the school while the other was away. Brandon returned to Torrance in July and Deanna in August. Both were vaccinated and have returned to Kashiwa.

After hearing of the two teachers' concerns and the financial impact on them, the TSCA Board members in attendance on July 12th, voted unanimously to reimburse them each \$1,700 to cover the cost of their flight and COVID tests required for them to fly to Torrance. Brandon and Deanna have both written a letter expressing their sincere gratitude for TSCA's financial, professional

and emotional support. Their letter is included in this issue of the newsletter. May I thank Lori for monitoring and updating TSCA and myself on their status during this difficult process.

TSCA has actively solicited, screened and selected teachers to assist the English Department at Kashiwa Municipal High School since 1979. Each teacher has the option of extending their stay one year at a time, up to three years, with many taking this path. There are usually two teachers working onsite during the year, for a total of 44 teachers since 1979. This has been a fantastic program benefiting the high school, its students, staff and the teachers from Torrance who hold their experiences in high regard.

On behalf of TSCA, may I congratulate **Harry Kaplan** on his receiving the Congressional Award Gold Medal. The Daily Breeze article is accessible in this issue of our newsletter and details his commitment over five years. We are very proud of you for your outstanding contribution to this community, Harry!

Thank you to the following members of the Torrance Committee (in Kashiwa) who made a presentation via Zoom at our July meeting: **Makiyo Doi, Yoshimi Enomoto** (who did all the technical work for us), **Akiko Maruta, Yoko Nakano, Akiko Nobusawa** and **Yukari Shimada**. Their informative video presentation was about the Akibonoyama area which is visited each year by our Torrance exchange students, and included facts, stimulating questions and a visit to a shrine.

We are all hoping that 2022 will bring some normalcy to TSCA's programs. Please stay safe and be well. ☘

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# Membership News

Alyssa Yamauchi, Membership Chairperson

## NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

### SEPTEMBER 3

KIRA Virtual Event (6 pm)  
New and Old Kashiwa City

### SEPTEMBER 13

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)

### OCTOBER 11

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)

### NOVEMBER 5

KIRA Virtual Event (6 pm)  
Bento, School Lunch, and KASHIWA FESTA

### NOVEMBER 8

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)

### DECEMBER 13

Budget Meeting for Executive Board (7-9 pm)

### JANUARY 8 2022

Alumni Reunion

\*\*Schedule subject to change due to pandemic\*\*

#### Family (\$40/year)

The Kikuchi Family  
Numark, Clifford

#### Individual (\$20/year)

Ando, Frances  
Penick, Tiffany (Calhoun)  
Tanaka, Jenny

## SAVE THE DATE



**Date: Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6 p.m.**

**Topic: Introduction of new and old Kashiwa city with 2016 Kashiwa student delegates**

New: Smart City Kashiwa project

Old: Historical residence of a wealthy farming family, the Yoshidas

**Event Leader: Seiichi Miyata**



**Date: Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.**

**Topics: Japanese boxed lunch (bento) and school lunch. Introduction of KIRA FESTA**

**Event Leader: Mrs. Chie Suzuki**

TSCA members please join the event and introduce KIRA to your lunches

## Torrance Sister City Association

### PRESIDENT

Werner Willoughby

### VICE PRESIDENT

Donna Dunlap

### SECRETARY

Karen Wheeler

### TREASURER

Mayoori Shetti

*Newsletter Editor*

Rae Ann Carr

*Newsletter Distribution*

Donna Dunlap

### Comments or submissions?

Please send an email to  
[tscanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:tscanewsletter@gmail.com)

## CONGRATULATIONS

### Congratulations to Harry Kaplan!

Harry recently received the Congressional Award Gold Medal. The award recognizes initiative, service, and achievement in American youth. To receive the award, Harry dedicated over 1,200 hours to meet personally challenging goals in the following categories: voluntary public service, personal development, physical fitness, and expedition/exploration.

Daily Breeze article: <https://bit.ly/3xHahoN>

For more information about the Congressional Award Certificate and Medal: <https://bit.ly/3AJLnGY>



**Harry Kaplan**  
2022 TSCA Student Delegate

# Konnichiwa Chat Reflections

Compiled by Lori Chong Eurich

In May, three of our 2022 student exchange delegates participated in Konnichiwa Chat, a virtual chat with students at Ichikashi organized by **Brandon Matsumoto** and **Deanna Sun**. Here are reflections on the event from the participants.

**Amanda Kang:** I had a lot of fun talking with the English class at Ichikashi High School. I got to learn a little bit about them in addition to answering their questions, which made the experience even better. There were some issues with connection (their voices were cutting out a little at times), but otherwise it was a great experience and something I would definitely love to do again.

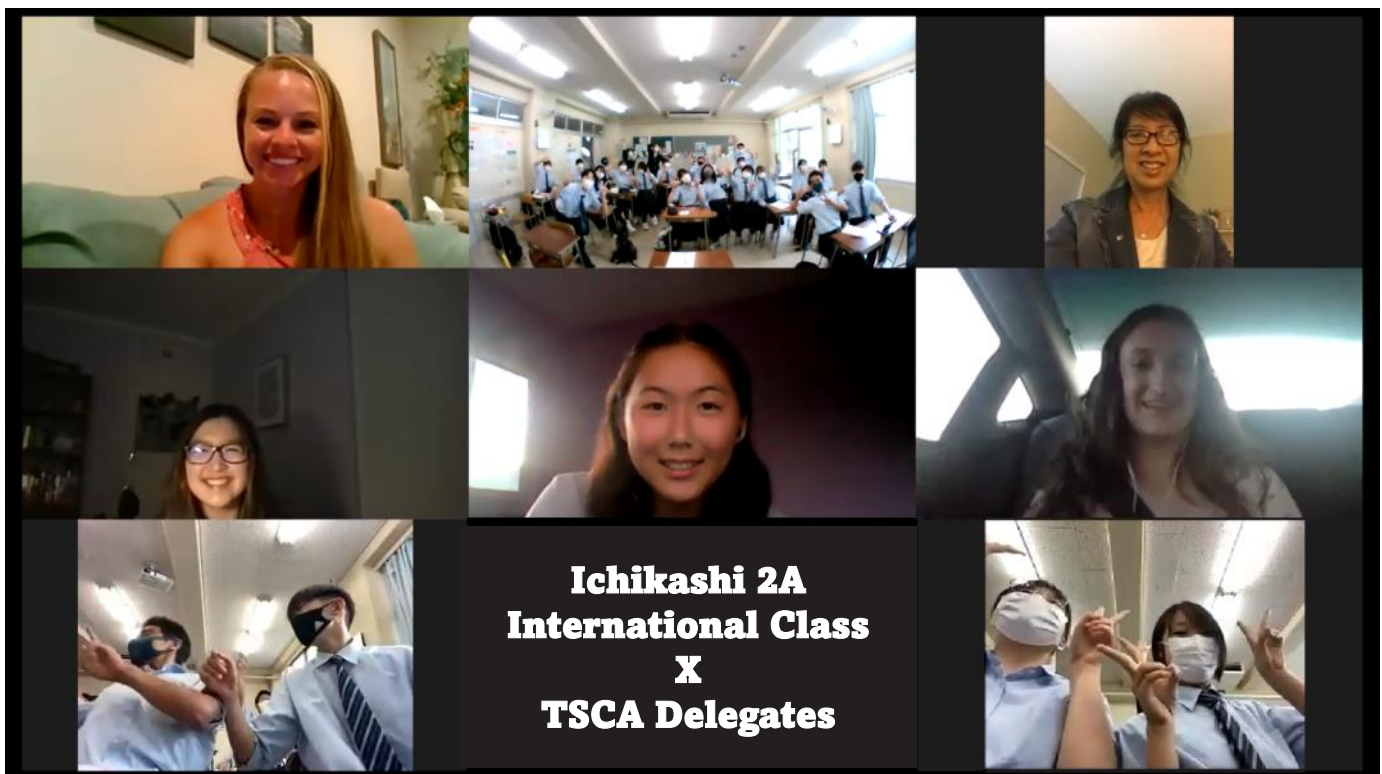
Thank you for including us in this chat. It was so much fun.

**Deanna Sun:** Being one of the ALTs that teaches English to our students, I was excited for them to finally use what they've learned into practice. During the group games, all the students were really engaged and all of the Torrance students were so friendly! As for the breakout rooms, for many of our students, it was their first time really talking to native English speakers other than me and Brandon, so they were quite nervous. However, they all told me how happy they were to meet the Torrance students and are looking forward to more events in the future! It's a rare experience for students to have such a personal interaction with people on the opposite side of

the world, and I think this event truly had an impact on all the students and they will be talking about it for years. I am so grateful to be teaching these students, and to see them go out of their comfort zones and talking to people from my hometown is both rewarding and heartwarming! Thanks to everyone who joined.

**Abigail Trattner:** Thank you so much. The event was so much fun and very entertaining. I can't wait to hopefully experience all of this for ourselves. The video made by the students was amazing and I would love to thank them. Hopefully we will be able to visit soon and meet all of them. I was able to send their video to our group chat for everyone to see even if they couldn't make it to the zoom event. Once again thank you so much and please thank Brandon and Deanna, as well as all of the wonderful students and teachers for making that video for us. Have a wonderful weekend.

**Kaitlyn Kikuchi:** This event was very enjoyable and fun, and it was great to have the opportunity to converse with the Ichikashi students. We were able to learn more about each other and ask questions about different things, such as what is our favorite food and what type of hobbies we have. It was great to have the opportunity to answer questions that they have and the things that they want to know about. ☘



# Alumni News



Several 2018 TSCA delegates reconnected at an outing to Little Tokyo. Clockwise from top right: **Tejas Lolge, Ruchi Shetti, Mackenzie Holloway, Regan Galinato, Danny Diederich, and Andrew Kang.**



**Tracy Abe**, a 2006 TSCA student delegate, and **Daniel Inouye** recently tied the knot on June 5, 2021. After postponing their wedding and reception one year due to the pandemic, they married at Coyote Hills Golf Course in Fullerton, CA in front of close family and friends. Tracy is currently a teacher in Torrance Unified School District.

## ConGRADulations!!



**Ronan Todd**, TSCA 2015 student delegate, graduated from UC Riverside with a B.S. Computer Science

**Alex Ito**, TSCA 2015 student delegate, graduated UC Riverside. He earned a B.S. Business Administration with honors

**Rachel Lobo**, TSCA 2014 student delegate, is completing her masters degree at CSU Fullerton and is considering further study for a PhD.

**Ann Lobo**, TSCA 2013 student delegate, was accepted at Johns Hopkins University with a scholarship for the nursing program.

**Kyle Nishimura**, TSCA 2014 student delegate, was accepted to University of Southern California for the occupational therapy program following the path of his mother, Terri. She is the founder of Pediatric Therapy Network.

**Edward Fu**, TSCA 2019 student delegate, graduated from West High and will be attending NYU to major in Data Science.

**Ryan Eurich** graduated Palos Verdes Peninsula High School with honors. He will be attending UC Irvine to study Informatics.

# Okage Sama De (お陰様で): How TSCA's Student Exchange Program Affected My Academic, Professional, and Personal Life

Melanie Nomiya



The first time I ever visited Japan was when I was accepted into TSCA's Sister City Exchange Program in 2013. After an unforgettable summer spent communicating to my host family through gestures, navigating through unfamiliar streets, and taking photos of almost everything, I became motivated to continue my lifelong journey of understanding my cultural background as a second generation Japanese Korean American.

During my time as a student at UCLA, I became more involved with the Japanese American community in Los Angeles through different organizations and academic courses. In 2016, I became a cultural ambassador through the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) Kakehashi Project, a sponsored trip that sends Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) students to Japan to learn about US-Japan relations through lectures, cultural activities, and a rural homestay. Through program discussions and long bus rides, I met other post-first-generation, biracial or multiethnic AAPI students who resonated with similar struggles of cultural identity formation and language loss. This motivated me to progress my Japanese language studies, along with joining cultural organizations such as UCLA's Nikkei Student Union, to continue engaging in conversations on cultural identity. The following summer, I studied abroad at Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea taking courses in Korean American History and Korean Cinema. During

my summer breaks, I served as a camp counselor for a Japanese American organization called Kizuna where I led Nikkei elementary and high school youth through cultural activities and community service.

After graduating UCLA in 2019, I joined the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program to teach English at elementary schools. I was placed in a small, rural, and snowy town in Akita Prefecture in the Tohoku Region. During my one year term, I continued to self-study Japanese to build rapport with teachers and students while implementing cultural activities in the classroom. The impactful experience I spent working in Japan has led me to pursue my Master's in International Higher Education at Boston College while working at the Office of International Students this fall. Currently, my future goals include working in study abroad or with international students in the US to make cultural exchange more inclusive and accessible.

I remember knowing only a handful of Japanese phrases when I first visited Kashiwa in 2013, and years later, although my Japanese is far from perfect, I am now able to have conversations with my *Obaachan* living with me at home! Looking back on all of my experiences, I am extremely grateful for TSCA for providing me the opportunity to foster meaningful relationships with a community abroad. One of my favorite Japanese phrases I learned during my time there is *Okage Sama De* 「お陰様で」 which roughly translates to, "Because of you, I am." So with that, I'd like to thank TSCA for catalyzing my journey of self-acceptance and love for global exchange. ☸

## Dedicated to TSCA's Ideals

Adam Jordan



TSCA allowed all of us to engage with Japan in a way that would not be possible for a teenager on their own. We met with mayors and city council members, spoke at packed banquets, and experienced Japanese culture in a manner unavailable to tourists. Of all these incredible experiences, the most important to me was the opportunity to make friends and establish bonds that I still cherish almost eight years later. I no longer refer to my host families as 'host families' but just as my family.

After my time as a delegate, I became dedicated to a life based on TSCA's ideals of friendship and understanding between people. That is why I studied abroad in Tokyo during my senior year at UCLA. And why, after graduating, I spent another year in Tokyo on the JET program teaching English to high school students. Thanks to what I learned through TSCA, every time I return to

Japan, I come away with even more bonds (and Line contacts) and the feeling that I have a home on the other side of the world.

Now, I am very excited to be returning to Tokyo once again this fall as a graduate student at Keio University. Whatever the future holds, I know that I will continue to act as a bridge between the US and Japan. I am so grateful to everyone at TSCA and all of the hard work they put into the association. Looking back, I can say without a doubt that TSCA was the most impactful experience of my life. I am proud to have been a part of it.

I would love to thank Mrs. Takahashi and Mrs. Cauble for nominating me all those years ago and Lori Chong Eurich for her continued support over the years. ☸

Melanie was a student delegate in 2013  
Adam was a student delegate in 2014

# Student Delegate Pool Party

## By Cara Ihde

This past year has provided many difficulties for us all, but the eight students and adult leader who were selected in 2019 have experienced unprecedented challenges. Not only has the delegation had to postpone their trip to Kashiwa twice, but they also were unable to interact in person for over a year. The group found ways to stay connected through Zoom sessions and text message conversations.

At last the delegation was able to reunite in person. On July 16, the group met for a fun pool party. They enjoyed hanging out in the pool listening to music and catching up

with one another. **Steven Ihde** also made an appearance with his Japanese shaved ice machine to let the students make their own shaved ice. Later, they gathered around for dinner and dessert before watching the virtual event together. Thank you to **Butch Ihde** and **Donna Dunlap** for opening their home to host this event.

The delegates will be gathering together for more fun events in the future. They are especially looking forward to the festivities in the Spring and going to Japan next summer! ☘



*Matthew Segovia, Harry Kaplan, Jake Diederich, Cara Ihde, Abby Trattner, Kaitlyn Kikuchi, and Amanda Kang*



*Steven Ihde serves up Japanese shaved ice*



*Harry, Matthew, Jake, and Cara*



*Amanda, Abby, Kaitlyn, Jake, and Cara*

# English Teacher Report

## A Peek into Japanese School Life

Deanna Sun



Every high school has their own special organizations. When I went to South High School in Torrance, our sports teams were very strong. At other schools, perhaps their drama club or science club were the most popular. At Ichikashi, the level of motivation, popularity, discipline, and uniqueness of

every single club is unlike any school I have ever seen. I was lucky enough to witness and even participate in these clubs firsthand.

In Torrance, some of the organizations at my schools included those that were symbolic of California, such as surf club and skate club. Here at Ichikashi, I've been introduced to organizations unique to Japan, including *kendo*, *judo*, *shodo* (calligraphy), *sado* (tea ceremony), and many more! Thanks to Brandon taking charge of producing a bukatsu promotional video for our school, I was able to see these clubs in action, all of which were an entirely new cultural experience for me.

One of the most interesting experiences was watching the baseball team during their practice. I was greeted by their manager, a student who presented me and Brandon with a drink menu and led us to the viewing pit. She served us tea and a sports drink in fancy glasses on a tray, and we proceeded to watch practice. It was already so much more formal than any sports' practice I've encountered in the states. In addition, although I'm used to being greeted by my students in the halls, the baseball boys were the most



*Eager First Year Students at Ichikashi*

polite, well-behaved athletes I've ever met in my life! One by one, they took off their caps and greeted me with a deep bow and a "*Konnichiwa*"- not once, not twice, but EVERY single time they passed me. I was astonished by the mannerisms of our high school baseball boys.

Another club I visited was Keion, the rock band club of Ichikashi, and yes, it is exactly how it sounds. When I found out there was a rock band club, I was so intrigued, I had to go see for myself. It was hard for me to picture such respectful, well-mannered students rocking out, but I was shocked. I went inside the room where they practiced, and they performed a Japanese song for me- complete with a singer, bass player, guitarist, keyboard player, and drummer. The music was BOOMING and I felt like I had just entered the Hollywood Bowl starring the cast of "School of Rock" and "AC/DC" (but in a 10x10 square foot room). I was so impressed that I came several more times to enjoy the music and even played guitar with one of my students. I played and sang songs with my student for a long time, and it was then that I felt I was more than just an English teacher here. Although my student couldn't speak English, I felt we could connect through music, and I learned how incredible this school really is. From my experience at baseball practice to

*(Continued on page 9)*



*Keion, Ichikashi's Rock Band Club*

# Creative Expression in the Time of Pandemic

## By Summer Nagano Gray and Lori Chong Eurich

### Calling all artists and creative souls...that means YOU!

Whether you are a karaoke queen, weekend gardener, or beginning piano player, TSCA and KIRA need your creative submissions for an exciting, new cross-cultural project titled “Creative Expression in the Time of Pandemic.”

While COVID-19 has disrupted our lives and placed our student cultural exchange program and other association events on hold for two years, we thought it would be fun to work together on a shared project in which ALL association members in Torrance and Kashiwa can participate.

This project is meant to provide a window into your life during the pandemic, share something that sparks joy in you, and showcase your creativity. We all have been affected by a shutdown of our normal lives, but not a shutdown of our creativity!

So please send in your creative written works, photos of your creations, or videos. We will be compiling them into a book and/or audiovisual presentation that will be displayed and shown at future events, in our newsletters, and possibly on our website.



Photo by Linda Kranz

### Ideas for Your Creative Expression Submission

Although your creative expression submissions may take any form, here are a few ideas to spark your creativity: haiku, poetry, spoken word, cooking/new recipes, cute bento box lunches, origami, singing, funny videos, photography, playing a musical instrument, composing a song, crafts like knitting, crochet, painting, drawing, fabric arts, pottery, sports, paper mâché, cross-stitch, traveling, hiking, journaling, calligraphy, writing on a grain of rice,

soap making, candle making, book making, washi tape art, videos of your cat or dog doing tricks, juggling, hula hooping, doll making, Lego art, salsa dancing, Zumba, yoga at the beach, ikebana/floral design, hula dancing, line dancing, rock painting, gardening/landscaping, kite flying, Cosplay outfits, martial arts (such as judo/karate), Tai Chi, weaving, home organizing (such as KonMari), and so much more!

### Guidelines

- Limit of 3 submissions per person
- Video submissions should be no longer than 30 seconds and in a horizontal/landscape position. Videos taken with your mobile phone work great!
- Submissions should have been created after the pandemic and lockdown began (March 2020).
- Please keep submissions positive and uplifting.
- Include your name and any comments about your submission that provide further detail.

### How to Submit

Please send submissions to the TSCA Creative Expression Committee by

1. Clicking our Google Drive link and uploading your submission at <https://bit.ly/3jWW9mi>
2. Sending an email to [4summer@gmail.com](mailto:4summer@gmail.com). You will receive an email in reply with the Google Drive link.
3. Mailing your submission to the  
TSCA Creative Expression Committee  
c/o Community Services Department  
Cultural Services Division  
3031 Torrance Blvd  
Torrance, CA 90503

### Deadline

December 31, 2021 (could be extended). Please feel free to send in your submissions now, as we would like to begin compiling them into audiovisual and hard copy formats.

### Questions?

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Summer at [4summer@gmail.com](mailto:4summer@gmail.com) or (310) 804-5191.

We are looking forward to YOUR submission! Remember, everyone is an artist and creative in their own way. Don't be shy. Just submit! ☘



# Thank You TSCA

## Brandon Matsumoto and Deanna Sun

Dear TSCA members, Aug. 4

I have safely arrived in Japan and very grateful for the trip to see my family after 2 years. Without the TSCA's help and support with letters backing our trip to Torrance for the vaccine and to see family, I would not have been able to spend much needed time with my siblings, parents, and my dog. Although Japan's covid cases are spiking to all time high, I feel safe knowing I have at least a layer of protection. The reimbursement helps me immensely due to the expensive tests required to travel to and from the US. I am thankful to TSCA and will continue to represent Torrance proudly here in Japan.

-Brandon Matsumoto

8/3/21

Dear TSCA ~

I am currently sitting on my flight back to America feeling overwhelmed with gratitude and excitement that I am able to see my family and be in the comfort of my home. Not only this, but I am so relieved to finally be able to get vaccinated. You all at TSCA made this possible, and there are no words to express how thankful I am. TSCA is the most caring, responsible, and generous group of individuals. I hope you all know the effect you've had on my life in Japan, and I will continue to represent Torrance in Kashiwa the best way that I can. Please stay in touch and I look forward to meeting you all in person again. ありがとうごさいます!!

-Deanna Sun

## A Peek into Japanese School Life (continued)

connect through music, and I learned how incredible this school really is. From my experience at baseball practice to playing guitar in rock band club, I realized that it's possible to feel both completely foreign and at home at the same time. I've had MANY other encounters such as these, but writing about them would result in a full novel. All I can say is, the challenge and spontaneity of daily life in Japan mixed with the familiarity of playing music, watching sports, and building friendships here at school has been one of the greatest highlights of my entire life. I hope that everyone gets to have the same opportunity to learn and connect in the way I have these past eight months.

I've attached a link of the Rock Band Club's YouTube channel, as well as the amazing video of our school's club activities made by Brandon. Enjoy! ☘

(Scan the QR Code with your phone to go the video)

KEION YouTube Channel  
<https://bit.ly/3yQtKo8>



Ichikashi Bukatsu Intro Video  
by Brandon Matsumoto  
[https://youtu.be/k6B\\_3GTIMIY](https://youtu.be/k6B_3GTIMIY)





**Hi!!** My name is **Thomas Dachi**

(the "h" is silent, so: To Mas)

My Friends just call me **TOMO**

I am quite new to TSCA and I was hoping

To get your help to find ALL your friends

That have EVER been involved with TSCA.

My address book is blank and I need to fill it NAMES, EMAIL ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS, etc.

I know this is a HUGE task, but with all of you helping me, I know we can get it done.

My Goal is to meet EVERYONE at the BIG Celebration in 2023.

(More on that party in the coming months.)

We know that YOUR FRIEND is MY FRIEND and MY FRIEND is YOUR FRIEND

Let's gather as much contact information as possible: send to [shssumita@yahoo.com](mailto:shssumita@yahoo.com)

THANK YOU TOMO DACHI

## KIRA Torrance Committee — July Team

*Front row (L to R):  
Chie Suzuki, Mr. Fumoto  
Middle row: Akiko Maruta, Yoko  
Nakano, Akiko Nobusawa and  
Seiichi Miyata  
Back row: Mike Arai, Makiyo  
Doi, Yukari Shimada  
and Kiyomi Shibata  
Not pictured: Mr. Enomoto,  
videographer*



# Scenes from Kashiwa

## Lake Tega

Seiichi Miyata

Lake Tega in Chiba has a perimeter of 38 km (24 miles) and an area of 650 *ha* (2.5 square miles). Various wildlife live in Lake Tega. Lake Tega is famous for the many species of birds including migratory birds through the winter and freshwater fish. The Lake provides fishing, swimming, sailing, and paddleboats to its surrounding residents including Kashiwa. Fireworks in August and a marathon in November have become annual events. However, both were canceled this year.☹



*Lake Tega's center bridge is likened to bird wings. (2016)*



*Great Cormorants live in Lake Tega (2019)*

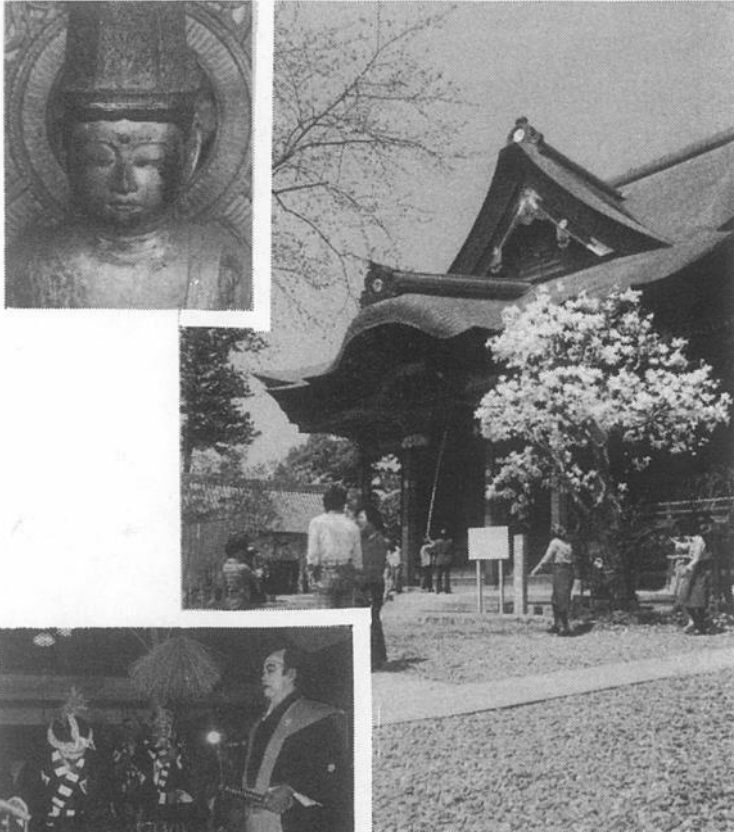


*Yachts and the statues of Kappa, the water spirit. (2021)*

# Kashiwa: 8640 Kilometers Away but Similar in Many Ways

Although Kashiwa's population and area are larger than Torrance's—and are separated by 8642 miles—the two cities have much in common. Both cities originally consisted mostly of farmland and they now take great pride in their industries, businesses, and homes. Both are commuter suburbs of larger nearby metropolises.

Kashiwa was incorporated as a city in 1954, enclosing 40,000 citizens in an area which used to include five villages. Today it has more than a quarter million people living within its 28 square miles. About 40 percent of its land still is farmed and about 17 percent consists of woods and marshes.



*Fusebenton Temple is a reminder of traditional Japan.*



*The 13-story Sogo Department Store dominates a newly-developed downtown plaza with a subway underneath.*

Many of its residents travel daily to Tokyo, about 17 miles away by rail. The famed subway, crowded as it is at rush hour, is the major transportation link for the city. Only about 1 in 4 Japanese families own a car, and many streets are narrow, following the routes of long-ago paths. Safety is a major concern.

Many residents make their living by growing such crops as turnips, onion, spinach, oriental garlic, cucumbers, rice, and radishes. There also are a number of large industries, including Nikka Whiskey, Hitachi Electric, Sumitomo Light Metals, Ichikawa Woolens, and Mitauya Soft Drinks. The city also has a number of industrial parks for smaller firms.

## *Article was originally published in 1983 in Torrance and Kashiwa: A Tale of Two Cities. 10 Years of Friendship*

Kashiwa has natural beauty in lakes, rivers, woodlands, and a continuing agricultural green belt. Environmental control is a major concern, and special squads of citizens clean up litter as part of a “furusato-clean” campaign. Much attention is given to air and noise pollution, the latter a particular problem as Japanese homes tend to be closer together and closer to the streets than their American counterparts.

The city also serves as a commercial shopping center for nearly a million people in western Chiba prefecture (the Japanese equivalent of an American state). The 13-story Sogo Department Store towers over a downtown area, and contains as much area under one roof as many American shopping centers. Other large stores also serve downtown Kashiwa; the custom is that shoppers are met by smiling and bowing greeters at the entrances.

The school population has grown rapidly, along with the town, and education is highly stressed. The Japanese have the smallest high school dropout rate of any major country. Many Kashiwa high schools are private, and students may commute as far away as Tokyo daily. English is a required subject, and curiosity about things American is

widespread. American music is very popular among the young, as are t-shirts with American rock stars, college emblems, or slogans on them. Like Americans, some teachers are beginning to complain that some youth are not as studious as they were a few years ago.

The city has several combined library-community center facilities, as well as special facilities for senior citizens and the handicapped. (For instance, beeping traffic signals at major intersections enable the blind to “hear” when street crossing is safe.) The city provides most services that their American cousins would offer, and the school and health systems are under civic control as well. Several parks and swimming pools, as well as a municipal gymnasium provide recreational outlets for citizens of all ages. The Japanese are very health and sports conscious (although smoking is much more prevalent than in the US).

The city is governed by an elected mayor and 40 councilmen, who meet only quarterly however, more in the style of American state legislatures than of most city councils. ☸

***The 13-story Sogo Department Store dominates a newly-developed downtown plaza with a subway underneath.***



***Torrance and Kashiwa will  
celebrate 50 years of friendship in 2023.***

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 \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail your check and this form to:

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

- 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

<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 7-9 pm  
(No meetings in August or December)

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

[www.torrancesistercity.org](http://www.torrancesistercity.org)



**Torrance Sister City  
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