

President's Message Werner Willoughby



On February 20, 1973, the City of Torrance officially became a Sister City with Kashiwa, Japan, and 2023 will mark the 50th Anniversary of this very special relationship. As our Golden Anniversary is observed, many special events and activities will take place, and we will welcome a delegation of many people

from Kashiwa to celebrate this event. With this in mind, meetings within Torrance Sister City Association (TSCA), between TSCA and the City of Torrance Anniversary Committee, as well as between TSCA and the Kashiwa International Relations Association (KIRA) Committee (Japan) have already begun.

TSCA members, associates, and supporters, please save February 16 – 20, on your 2023 calendars.

Due to the COVID restrictions over the past two years, our programs have been cancelled and deferred, but we have great hopes of returning in 2022.

It has been an honor to serve as President of TSCA for the past several years, and as I write my last President's Message for this newsletter, I would like to express my appreciation for the dedicated, enthusiastic support of many individuals, in Torrance as well as in Kashiwa, especially during this past year. I have tried to recognize so many other individuals in past years' newsletters (December 2020 and 2019). *Doomo arigatou gozaimasu* to:

TSCA Member Lori Chung Eurich: For her contributions as Chair of the teacher program and TSCA website

as well as overseeing our virtual communications with KIRA, including hosting and coordinating our Zoom meetings and the many virtual interactions with Kashiwa. Lori is also very proactive in her communications with the teachers whom TSCA has recruited from the City of Torrance to teach in the English Department at Kashiwa Municipal High School.

KIRA and the Torrance Committee (in Kashiwa): Their efforts as participants in our Association meetings, for sharing their special presentations in Culture Corner, and in their valuable dialog and contributions in planning our upcoming 50th Anniversary.

KIRA Liaison, Yuko Ishibashi: For her timely responses and detailed communications between TSCA and KIRA. Additionally, may I also thank **Akemi Kosuge**, President of KIRA; **Mike Arai**, Vice President of KIRA; and **Hisataka Takikawa**, Chair of the Torrance Committee, for all their support, especially due to the impact of COVID upon the relations and activities between the two organizations.

Torrance City Staff Member, Michael Field: As TSCA's liaison with the City's Cultural Arts Center, Michael has always been there to receive and respond to my phone calls and emails. He has been invaluable in many aspects of coordinating TSCA activities, including organizing the calendar for the upcoming year (from reservations for venues, dates and times related to all our meetings and actual events) and guiding us on technical and legal issues.

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DECEMBER 13

Budget Meeting for Executive Board (7-9 pm)

SAVE
the
DATE

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 5 2022

Alumni Reunion | Wilson Park

Details coming soon

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

City Councilman Mike Griffiths: For attending our in-person and Zoom meetings as our Liaison with the City of Torrance. I appreciated his contributions and sharing of expertise toward the well-being of TSCA within the City of Torrance.

TSCA Board Members Donna Dunlap, Mayoori Shetti, and Karen Wheeler, our Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Each are dedicated TSCA board members, going over-and-beyond their roles, and have been invaluable in the smooth operation of the organization.

TSCA Board Member Rae Ann Carr: For lending her technical expertise in her role as editor of the TSCA newsletter, an inviting, informative, and attractive publication.

TSCA Membership Chair Alyssa Yamauchi: For enhancing membership outreach and communications through her technical skills.

TSCA Chairman of the Nominating Committee Bryce Yamauchi: For his many years of canvassing the membership for potential board positions, including executive board positions, and assuming responsibility for board elections (preparing the ballot, tabulating votes, announces results).

TSCA Member Mark Richardson: He manages responses to our website, relaying important messages with recommendations as to appropriate responses.

I would like to compliment the November Event presented via Zoom on November 5 by KIRA. **Chie Suzuki** led the team of **Etsuko Kawamura, Naomi Kitazawa, Atsuko Takahashi, Hiroko Miyazaki** and **Ryuji Niwa**, while **Mike Arai** and **Yoshimi Enomoto** were technical support for the team. The presentation highlighted several performances from their KIRA Fest, followed by a presentation on *obento* (school lunches) as they have changed over time. Several Torrance students, **Abigail Trattner, Amanda Kang, Kaitlyn Kikuchi, Matthew Segovia**, and their Adult Leader **Cara Ihde** contributed by sharing pictures and commenting on their lunches.

On behalf of TSCA, may I congratulate and wish a **Happy Retirement** to **Eve Rappoport**, the Cultural Services Manager of the Community Services Department for the City of Torrance. Eve has served the City of Torrance for 13 years, and since TSCA was transferred under the wings of Cultural Services, it has been my pleasure working with Eve, who has always supported TSCA. She attended many of our activities such as the Alumni Reunion, Bunka-Sai, and the student exchange Sayonara Banquet, and served on the 45th Anniversary Committee, even visiting the City of Kashiwa with the 45th Anniversary delegation.

I look forward to continued involvement with and support of TSCA, knowing firsthand how important this program is.

Wishing a healthy and happy 2022 year to all. ☘



English Teacher Report

Ken-taikai

Brandon Matsumoto



In Japan, the prefectural contest or tournament is called “ken-taikai.” High school baseball students dream of being able to get on that stage. Girls volleyball students have posters on their walls to one day achieve this goal. However, only a handful get to participate. All contests and tournaments are competitive and are performed at a high level.

This year, four students participated in the Kashiwa Speech Contest from Ichikashi. Koyomi, our first year student, won second prize in the reading division. In the speech division, another first year, Jumpei received second place, earning himself a ticket to the prefectural tournament this November. Let’s cross our fingers for him! Please enjoy Jumpei’s speech! <https://bit.ly/3roN4Ih> ☘



Ichikashi Student Reports

Haruna Kimura

3rd Year Student

I am a third year student of Kashiwa Municipal Kashiwa High School. It is called “Ichikashi” by some people. Ichikashi has a big brass band. It is a very famous brass band throughout the Japanese high schools’ brass bands. Brass band has one hundred seventy students and it has many great teachers. I belong to brass band and I am really enjoying my club activity. I want to win the Japanese brass band contest held across Japan, so I want to practice more now.

My hobby is to listen to music. I like Ed Sheeran’s songs. Of all his songs, I especially listen to “Nancy Mulligan”, “Galway Girl”, and “Shape of You”.

This year I want to be a brass band contest member and get gold prize with Ishida teacher. In addition, I want to sing English songs because I like Ed Sheeran. ☘

Mikoto Senzai

3rd Year Student

Hello. My name is Mikoto. I am a third year student at Kashiwa Municipal Kashiwa High School. We call it “Ichikashi”. The good point of Ichikashi is English. There are two ALTs and great English teachers. I like English, so I appreciate it very much.

Additionally, I also like to listen to English music. I started listening to English music when I was in junior high school because my teacher said to me, “It’s good for studying English”. I can say it was the beginning of my English life.

This year, I want to pass my entrance examination because I have already decided the university I will apply for. To pass the test, I will study hard every day, and I want to be able to talk with foreigners confidently. ☘

English Education in Elementary Schools in Kashiwa

By Mutsuko Tsukamoto

Today I'd like you to know about English education in elementary schools in Kashiwa. I am very interested in English education and teach at Prefectural Kashiwa Chuo High School as a part-time teacher.

English has become a required subject for 5th and 6th graders since last year. They study English two times a week using certified textbooks. These textbooks are chosen by the board of education in the regional community, which is different from your system, isn't it? The textbook they are now using surprised me. In the first unit, "Hello, friends." for 5th graders, students learn to ask and reply to questions like "How do you spell your name?" and "What sport do you like?" When I studied English many years ago, the English textbook began with "I am Jack Jones. You are Betty Smith." We didn't even study the past tense during 7th grade. Amazingly, students these days can listen to the English of native speakers and repeat it even at home because the textbook has QR codes. Every elementary and junior high school student in Kashiwa can borrow an iPad or personal computer from the board of education to take advantage of such features.

KIRA members **Kiyomi Shibata**, **Yumi Shii**, and I had a chance to visit English classes at two elementary schools. One was Tegahigashi Elementary School; the other was Ootsugaoka-Daiichi Elementary School. Tegahigashi Elementary School is the smallest school with only 59 students; in comparison the largest school here has 1071 students! We watched an advanced English class that we had never seen before. Students were practicing ordering food and paying money at five shops. Students were made up of a group of three, and ordered food from the shops of five Assistant English Teachers whose countries were the USA, the UK, Australia, the Philippines, and Italy. These teachers were not in the classroom but at home. They could talk through an online platform, while seeing each other face-to-face. Students went to the five different desks which had iPads placed on them one by one in the next room.



A student practices ordering Italian food.

The conversation went as follows

Shop clerk (AET): What would you like?

Customer (student): I'd like a hamburger and a salad.

Shop clerk: OK.

Customer: How much?

Shop clerk: --- yen, please.

Customer: OK. Here you are.

Shop clerk: Thank you.

Both Japanese teachers as well as AETs and students seem to have the perfect command of this advanced technology. Students seemed to happily enjoy English conversation.

Next, we visited Ootsugaoka-Daiichi Elementary School. We visited there because the principal of this school, **Ms. Yumiko Ueno**, is the only principal in Kashiwa to have visited Torrance; she was part of the 9th exchange. She said the three-week experience in Torrance changed her way of life and inspired her to become a teacher.

We were able to see two classes: 5th and 6th grades taught by an AET. The Kashiwa board of education has hired 22 AETs this year; they are from the USA, New Zealand, the Philippines, India, Singapore, Spain, Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, Cameroon and so on.

In both 5th and 6th grade classrooms, there is a supporting English teacher, who is Japanese and good at speaking

English. Actually Kashiwa City has 39 such teachers to help elementary school homeroom teachers with English.

At first, we watched a 6th grade class of 31 students. **Mr. Silva**, an AET from Portugal, led the class and had them practice pronunciation of such words as use, fruit, huge, juice, mule and so on. Every student has a personal computer on their desk and can use Google Chrome freely. When they didn't know the word "mule", Mr. Silva let them use Google Chrome to check the meaning. After that, students practiced questions and answers, changing pairs several times. I could hear the questions like; What color do you like? Where do the lions live? Can you play the piano? In the end, Mr. Silva introduced the Halloween costumes of his family.

The 5th grade class had 25 students. Students were very active and spoke so loudly that everybody could hear them speak. The class started like this: "Let's start English! — Yeah!" "What's the date?" —It's October 29th." "What day is it? —Friday." "Do you like Friday? —Yes." The activity of this class was a three-hint quiz using Power-Point. One student came up to the front, asking other students questions. One example was, "Hello. Who is this? He can defeat demons. He has a fire sword." They used

appropriate drawings or photos from the Internet. After other students wrote the answer on a mini whiteboard and showed them to the student who asked the question, the answer was put on the screen. Students came to the front one after another, and others wrote the answers. The use of mini whiteboards is a measure against COVID-19, so the students avoid speaking loudly. Mr. Silva's last words were, "Use English and enjoy."

Yumi Shii and I were amazed to see how both teachers and students could handily use these ICT tools. The principal told us that almost all the families had smartphones or computers at home and could use them freely. Lastly, I can tell that English education in elementary schools in Kashiwa has been changing.

I hope your 2022 is filled with happiness and good health, and also that next year we continue to maintain the great relationship between Torrance and Kashiwa.

On October 30th, there was an election for the Mayor of Kashiwa and for the first time, a woman was elected. Her name is Mazumi Ohta, and she used to be a member of the house of Representatives in Japan. ☘



AET from the Philippines



A group of three students

The students use tablets to help them learn English.



Ms. Yumiko Ueno

Creative EXPRESSION in the Time of Pandemic

By Summer Nagano Gray and Lori Chong Eurich

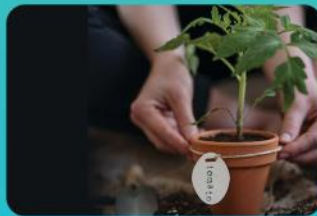


Calling all creative souls... that means YOU!

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."

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.



Creative Expression Ideas

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), etc.

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 shutdown 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>, or
- 2) Sending an email to 4summer@gmail.com, or
- 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 or call (310) 804-5191.



Torrance Sister City Association

Hello TSCA Members,

We hope that you and your family are safe and well.

The 2022 Membership Drive has just begun, and we're excited about everything the year has in store! Unfortunately, like many other organizations, we've postponed all TSCA programs and events for the last two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But we're excited and hopeful to bring them back in 2022 and have already begun planning for our 50th Anniversary celebration in 2023.

We couldn't be more thankful for your continued support through your membership dues and donation contributions. Your contributions continue to help offset annual operational costs, allowing TSCA to continue our mission of promoting friendship, goodwill, and understanding through people-to-people connections.

Thank you, again, for your continued support and consideration.

Best regards,
Alyssa Yamauchi
TSCA Membership Chair

Our 2022 ANNUAL 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:

Check out with **PayPal**

Scan the QR code
or visit

www.torrancesistercity.org



Postmark deadline to be included in the printed TSCA Membership Directory is **02/16/22**.

----- Cut and return the below with your check payment. -----

2022 TSCA Membership Application Form

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



**TORRANCE
SISTER CITY
ASSOCIATION**

3031 Torrance Boulevard • Torrance, California 90503

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

- \$20 Individual
- \$40 Family
- \$75+ Supporting
- \$125+ Benefactor
- \$200+ Corporate
- \$2,000+ Lifetime Membership*

Donation to TSCA (in addition to annual dues): \$ _____

- I am Interested in TSCA activities, specifically: _____
- For the TSCA Directory, only include my: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make your check payable to: TSCA

Member Information

Please complete your contact information directly below and to the right.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Additional Contact Info

***TSCA Newsletters are sent to all members via email.*

Email**: _____

Phone: _____

If you have questions about membership, please send an email to: tscamembership@gmail.com



AUNT CALLIE'S PECAN PIE

Werner Willoughby, TSCA President and Parent of Exchange Student

Ingredients:

- 1 (8") unbaked pie shell
- 3 whole eggs
- 2 Tablespoon butter/margarine melted
- 2 Tablespoon flour
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1-1/2 cup dark corn syrup
- 1-1/2 cup broken pecan halves

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 425 degrees.

Beat eggs. Blend in butter, flour, vanilla, salt, sugar and syrup. Sprinkle pecan nuts on bottom of pastry shell. Gently pour syrup mixture over nuts. Bake in hot oven at 425° for 10 minutes. Reduce heat to slow 325° and bake for about 40 minutes (or more). Check doneness by inserting knife to see if it comes out fairly clean.

TSCA Favorite Recipes



**Torrance Sister City
Association**

3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503