

President's Message

Donna Dunlap



BUNKA-SAI IS BACK!!! It has been two looonng years. But our Japanese cultural festival is finally coming home to the Torrance Cultural Center on April 23rd and 24th. There will be some modifications, but the festival you love and remember will greet you once again.

On behalf of the Torrance Sister City Association (TSCA), I'd like to invite all members, their family, friends, neighbors, and residents of Torrance and surrounding communities to our 47th Bunka-Sai festival. Parking and admission are free, so bring the family and add Bunka-Sai to your weekend must see things to do. From 11 am to 5 pm, Japanese culture will be on display, occupying the Ken Miller Recreation Center, Toyota Meeting Hall Assembly Room and the Torino Plaza. The festival presents two days of entertainment, arts and crafts, demonstrations, and of course, delicious food.

We need EVERYONE'S HELP!!! Before the festival to prepare and on the afternoon of April 22nd to unload and transport all the items out of storage to the Ken Miller Center. On the 23rd and 24th we hope to see you all day. You can sign up for shifts in a variety of booths or work all day in your favorite booth. Shifts are 10 am to 1 pm, 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm, and 3:00 pm to 6 pm. If you have volunteered and worked Bunka-Sai in the past but have not heard from a booth chair by the time you read this, please visit us at torrancesistercityinfo@gmail.com, we will contact you and sign you up. We all appreciate your help, especially the students who will be going to Japan this summer. The students and their parents will be hard at work for the entire weekend to make the students' trip

finally a reality now that the COVID restrictions have been lifted.

We have a small and energetic group of volunteers that would appreciate your help. If you ever helped out in the following booths and can spare a couple of hours or more, please reach out to offer your time and/or expertise to any of these TSCA members: **Bryce Yamauchi** and **Brian Diederich** are back on the grill making the best chicken, beef and salmon barbecue in town, and it is only available for these two days. Or if you would rather have yakisoba, we have the best from the tried and true wizardry of **Mariko Namimoto** and **Sumi Ueki** who have been making yakisoba for more than 10 years at Bunka-Sai. Curry and rice will tantalize your taste buds thanks to **Dave Kranz**. Finish off your lunch with an Okinawan Dango, or three, fried to perfection by **Stephanie, Steve** and **Seth Warner**. We can also offer you cotton candy for the young and old thanks to **Deanna Diederich's** quick and nimble hands. These volunteers and many more will be there all weekend to provide an exceptional eating experience you can't afford to miss.

Food is not the only reason to come visit Bunka-Sai. There are at least fifteen Asian-themed craft vendors. This year the arts and craft vendors have everything from jewelry, pottery, bonsai, greeting cards, and clothes, including kimonos, yukatas and accessories. The TSCA Gift Booth craftily run by **Karen Wheeler** is full of delightful one-of-a-kind items you didn't know you needed and have to have. So much to choose from right here in Torrance!

We have two days of wonderful cultural performers from music, dance, martial arts, kimono demonstration, callig-

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APRIL 1

Last day to apply for English Teacher position

APRIL 11

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)
West Annex

APRIL 13

Bunka-Sai Meeting (7-9 pm)

APRIL 22

Bunka-Sai Setup
Ken Miller Recreation Center

APRIL 23-24

Bunka-Sai (11:00 am—5:00 pm)
Ken Miller Recreation Center

MAY 9

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)
West Annex

JUNE 13

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)
West Annex

JULY 11

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)
West Annex

JULY 11

Torrance delegates depart to Kashiwa

AUGUST 2

Torrance delegates return from Kashiwa



Bunka-Sai 2019
Photo by Linda Kranz

raphy, bonsai, ikebana, origami, tea ceremony and *kamishibai* (Old time Japanese story telling in both Japanese and English). Bonsai and ikebana will not only be on display all weekend, but will also demonstrate how you too can create your own beautiful displays. The onstage Japanese entertainment will enlighten your senses. Taiko drum performances have been expanded, opening the festival at 11 am and again at 4 pm both days. The drums are magical and will get your blood and your feet moving. The performers seem to be dancing to their own music, it is as much of a visual experience as an audio one.

A big thank you to the many people who are working behind the scenes to make Bunka-Sai a successful fund-raising event to benefit the cultural exchange program in 2022. I need to say a big THANK YOU to **Werner Willoughby** and his wife, **Aileen**. Bunka-Sai would only be a memory if it were not for the two of them. Werner is not only chairing Bunka-Sai, as he has done for many years, organizing the whole festival, but he has found and is communicating with all the vendors. Aileen has done the same with all the performers. Without these two elements, there would not be a Bunka-Sai. We all owe a tremendous amount of gratitude for the time and effort the two of them have committed to TSCA and Bunka-Sai.

To ALL of you who are donating your time and effort to showcase Japanese culture here in Torrance, DOMO ARIGATOU GOZAIMASU.

All are welcome! TSCA is looking forward to seeing you on April 23rd and 24th!

Torrance Sister City Association

PRESIDENT

Donna Dunlap

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Stephanie Ewing-Warner

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Comments or submissions?

Please send an email to
tscanewsletter@gmail.com

Membership News

Alyssa Yamauchi, Membership Chairperson

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

Supporting (\$75/year)

Kircher, Ellen
South Bay Judo

Family (\$40/year)

Gallagher, Ann and Marty
Hai, Dai Sup and Jill
Moore Family, Gary
Ozawa, Noriko and Michael
Wheeler, Karen and Robert
Yoshida, Gary

Individual (\$20/year)

Chien, Jessica Haugen
Fernandez, Angelica Mayanja
Grace, Carla

Donations

Kircher, Ellen	\$25
South Bay Judo	\$25
Han, Dai Sup, and Jill	\$10



Focus on Fifty

Torrance-Kashiwa Student Exchange

Mikko Haggott Henson

First President of TSCA

In February, 1974, one year after the affiliation, Kashiwa informed us that they would like to start a student exchange that summer. The Chamber of Commerce was not expecting this development, so we had to rush to form a committee including **Lynn Bramhall** and **Lucille Lemieux** from the Torrance School District. We had a very short time to organize and begin work in order to have an exchange program. It was a very challenging, busy year and everything was an experimental experience.

Torrance and Kashiwa mutually agreed to:

1. Exchange five high school students and one chaperone.
2. Exchange duration would be ten days.
3. Torrance sends students to Kashiwa in July; Kashiwa sends students to the Torrance in August.

We reached out to all high schools to get applicants in this short time. At that time, many students were going to Europe in summer exchange programs and not many were interested in going to Japan. So, we decided to offer complete scholarships for this program with no cost to the students. We selected five students, one each from Torrance/West/South High schools and two from North

High by the end of May. Their names were **Gary Yoshida, Mark Ozawa, Ray Moser, Carolyn Kragh, Aren Corrick** and the chaperone was **Lucille LeMieux**.

Our students had very little time to prepare for their trip. They had about a month of orientation and in the middle of July, the first Torrance Exchange Students visited Kashiwa. One of their activities was a two-night YMCA camping trip with Kashiwa youth held in Nikko. At that time, Kashiwa had three host families within a week. Our students had to move every two days to a new family! Here in Torrance, the Kashiwa students had just one host family. There was no time to look for host families, instead the committee members hosted the Kashiwa students. The first host families were Mikko & Ben Haggott, Brian Bell, Joe Banando, Lucille LeMieux. Sho & Gary Yoshida, Yuki & Lucious La Fleur and Jim Gates.

In 1974, the second Bunka Sai was on June 1st and 2nd. This time the festival was a two-day event to raise funds for this student exchange. While planning for the festival, a surprise notification from Kashiwa said that they had so many applicants that they would be sending seven students instead of the mutually agreed upon five students!



1974 Torrance Delegation

Torrance-Kashiwa Student Exchange (cont.)

After the first year's experience, Torrance changed the second exchange program:

1. Seven students and one chaperone.
2. Duration of trip: two weeks including a short excursion outside of the city.
3. Torrance will have two host families for each Kashiwa student.
4. Torrance students will pay half the cost of airfare and the cost of the trip out of Kashiwa.
5. Torrance students' families must host a Kashiwa student. If it is not possible then they must find a host family.
6. Torrance students must attend orientation meetings. If they miss more than two, they will be disqualified. (An alternate student was selected, but this idea was eliminated after the third exchange.)

We requested that Kashiwa not have so many host families for our students, but Japanese people generally are not accustomed to accepting guests in their home. They said that the host families in Kashiwa were worn out in just a couple of days! The three host families for each student continued for eleven years until the 12th exchange!

In 1975, the student selection committee wanted to send the alternate student, but the Chamber of Commerce would not allow it. So, Ben Haggott personally financed the extra student and Torrance sent eight students to Kashiwa for the second exchange.



The first student exchange students from Kashiwa in 1974, accompanied by their chaperone, Tayoo Watanabe. The Kashiwa delegates included Naomi Tanaka, Hiroyo Toda, Tomoko Narushima, Masako Noguchi, Hirotsuke Umegaki, and Akira Kaneko.



1975 Exchange Students

In 1976, the Chamber of Commerce was notified that Kashiwa would be sending a 100-member Friendship Citizen Delegation for America's 200-year Celebration. That adult group came in February. After that delegation left, the Chamber of Commerce decided not to have Bunka-Sai in 1976 and instead to have a raffle for a Toyota car to raise money for the student exchange. Also at this time the Chamber of Commerce Sister City Committee chairman had changed from Brian Bell to Joe Banando. As the responsibilities increased it was getting too much for the Torrance Chamber of Commerce committee to handle all the activities. It was becoming apparent something different needed to be done.

Torrance Rose Float Committee, also under the Chamber of Commerce, had just separated and formed their own independent organization. The Chamber of Commerce and the City of Torrance came to Mikko and asked her to make an independent organization as well. Not knowing how this could be done, Mikko decided to join Sister Cities International to learn how to form a sister city organization independent from the Chamber of Commerce. In June 1976, the newly named Torrance Sister City Association was an independent organization.

In July 1976, the third student exchange group went to Kashiwa sponsored by the newly formed Torrance Sister City Association. And so, it began. ☸

47th Annual Bunka-Sai

Japanese Cultural Festival

Saturday & Sunday
April 23 and 24, 2022
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Ken Miller Recreation Center
3341 Torrance Boulevard (At Madrona Avenue)



Enjoy tasty plate lunches,
sweets, arts and craft items,
cultural performances,
dance, music, martial arts,
exhibitions, demonstrations



FREE
Admission
&
Parking



We will follow the health and safety guidelines set by the State and County health officials

Presented by
The Torrance Sister City Association
TorranceSisterCity.org

Proceeds to benefit the student cultural exchange program

City of Torrance • Community Services Department • 310-618-2930



Torrance Sister City Association's

6th Annual ANIME DRAWING CONTEST 2022!

BUNKA-SAI
JAPANESE CULTURAL
FESTIVAL!
April 23-24



Akari Nakashima, Anime Contest Winner 2019

DIVISIONS

- Middle School
- High School

Prizes for each Division:

- 1st Place: \$50
- 2nd Place: \$25
- 3rd Place: \$20

All contestants will receive a certificate

RULES

- Entries must be drawn on 8½" x 11" paper
Digital art (printed out) is also acceptable
- Format: Portrait (vertical) or Landscape (horizontal)
- Entries may be in Color or Black & White
- Maximum of two entries per person
- No violent or dark 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 22, 2022**, 4pm – 6pm
 Ken Miller Recreation Center (3341 Torrance Blvd)
Winners will be announced on Saturday, April 23, 2022

Forms and more info at www.torrancesistercity.org

'Sisters' Trade Culture through Bunka-Sai, Exchanges



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

Japanese arts, crafts, martial arts, dances, and various other specialties are displayed for the Torrance public every year at the Sister City Association's Bunka-Sai festival, held at the Torrance Recreation Center.

The cultural festival, in addition to commemorating Torrance's sister city affiliation, also is used to raise funds for the annual student exchange and other association projects. Drawing thousands of local residents, it has grown larger each of the 10 years it has been held.

Many other community organizations have booths at the festival; these include the Japanese Clubs at El Camino and North High School, the Japanese American Citizens League, the American Field Service, and other groups supportive of similar ideals.

The public gets a chance to sample many traditional Japanese food specialties and view displays of such Nipponese arts and crafts as *origami* (paper folding), *sumie* (painting), *haiga* (water color brush painting), *ikebana* (flower arranging), bread flowers and *tsumamie*, *kimekomi nimgyo* (dolls), *chiyogami nongyo* (paper dolls), and *ueki* (tree gardening).

In addition, there is a traditional Japanese garden setting provided by the Gardena Valley Gardeners' Association and displays of fish tanks of *koi* (large golden carp) by the Zen Nippon Airindai. Other programs vary from year to year.

At the same time, stage presentations include colorful, in-costume demonstrations of Japanese dancing, music, poetry, calligraphy, martial arts, and other specialties. No festival, of course, would be complete without the traditional tea ceremony.

In recent years, this important event has been held in the spring, usually in April.



BUNKA-SAI NXXDS YOU!!!!

THXRX IS NOTHING WRONG WITH OUR KXYBOARD XXCXPT FOR ONX KXY. THX OTHXR SIXTY SXVXN WORK PXRFXCTLY. BUT JUST ONX INACTIVX KXY MAKXS A DIFFXRXCX, DOXSN'T IT?

FOR INSTANCX, YOU MAY SAY TO YOURSXLX, "I AM JUST ONX. WHAT I DO OR DON'T DO WON'T MAKX MUCH DIFFXRXCX TO THX BUNKA-SAI FXSTIVAL". BUT YOU ARX WRONG!

TSCA NXXDS YOU. THX NXXT TIMX YOU THINK YOU ARX NOT IMPORTANT, RXMXMBXR OUR KXYBOARD AND SAY TO YOURSXLX, "I AM NXXDXD VXRY MUCH AS A KXY MXMBXR OF AN IMPORTANT GROUP OF VOLUNTXXRS."

PLXASX CALL OR XMAIL TODAY AND VOLUNTXXR TO MAKX BUNKA-SAI ANOTHXR GRXAT FXSTIVAL TO SUPPORT THX STUDXNT XXCHANGX PROGRAM IN 2022.

ARX YOU THAT MISSING X?? PLXASX COMX TO BUNKA-SAI AND BX A PART OF OUR FUN, XNXRGXNTIC, AND SOCIAL GROUP IF NOTHING XLSX!! WX WOULD LOVX TO SXX YOU AFTXR ALL THXSX YXARS OF BXING STUCK IN OUR HOUSXS.

XVXRYONX IS WXLCOMX!!
SXX YOU THXRX!



TSCA Gift Booth

The TSCA Gift Booth at Bunka-Sai Festival is collecting your new or gently used Japanese items to raise funds for the TSCA Student Cultural Exchange Program.

Wanted: Home goods (dishes, ceramics, chopsticks, figurines, dish towels), books (travel guides, Japanese/English textbooks, cookbooks), posters, prints, banners, art, dolls, cases, apparel (t-shirts, yukata, kimono, scarves, accessories, purses), toys, music, stationery, school supplies.

Your donations will be loved by new owners who seek out our treasures every year. Receipts available for tax purposes.

Contact torrancesistercityinfo@gmail.com to arrange for drop-off to our coordinator, Karen Wheeler, or contact Karen directly at bobandkaren@earthlink.net with any questions. ☘



What Are You Thankful For?

Deanna Sun



With all the terrible events that has happened in the world, it can be difficult to find the good in our lives. In fact, this past February, I contracted the dreaded Coronavirus and spent two weeks in my home lying in my bed praying that the symptoms would disappear.

This is why now is the most vital time to be taking care of our mental and physical health, and to stay positive in times of crisis. I have compiled a list of things that I am grateful for here in Kashiwa, and I hope it inspires you to think about your own surroundings and what you are thankful for!

First off, there is some good news in Japan! Those who reside in Japan are now allowed to travel freely if they received a booster shot without any quarantine restrictions coming back, which means that after three years, our Ichikashi students may finally have the possibility of visiting Torrance this November! In addition, Japan is no longer under a state of emergency. People are now able to get their booster shots (I already did!), and businesses are starting to reopen.

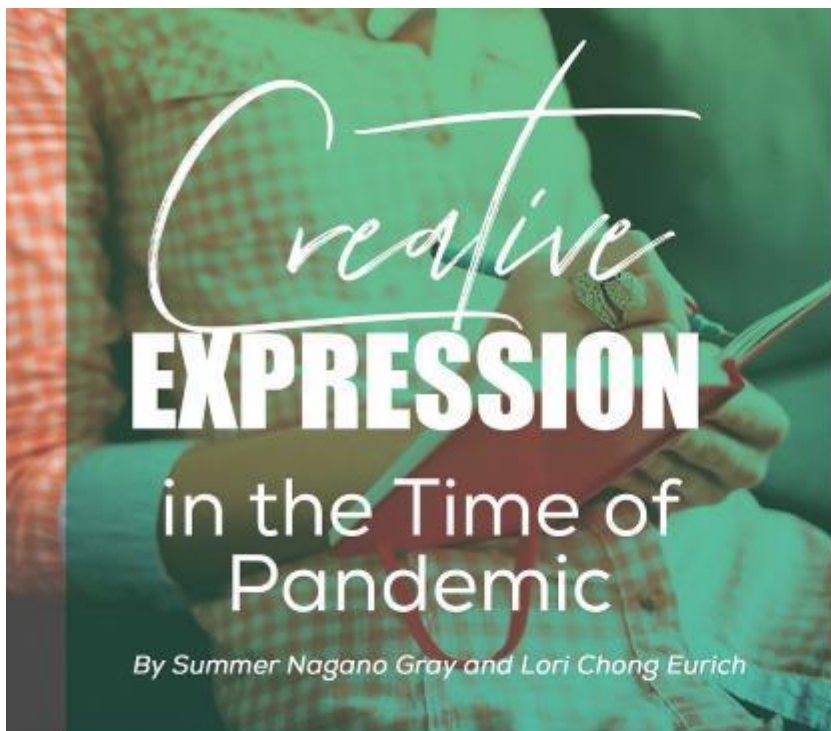
As for me, contracting COVID-19 was somehow a blessing in disguise. Of course, I don't want to minimize the severity of this disease, as many lives have been lost all around the world. However, for those of you who overcame the infection and are healthy today, I'm sure you've come to the same realization as I have. Simple, seemingly mundane, pleasant things in life are so much more magnified now.

Stepping outside to the sunshine on my skin after two weeks inside my house felt like I was being reborn. I discovered that I don't need tons of money or lavish vacations to have a full life, as I was able to spend every day playing with my dog Forrest and indulging in home-cooked meals. I re-kindled my passion for reading, writing, and playing guitar, an intense feeling that I haven't experienced since I was a child. I recognized the value of time, and how much of it I've wasted worrying and stressing when I could have been living in the moment. I cherish my loved ones' health and my own health so much more deeply than before I got COVID, as it was probably



the most sick I had ever been in my life. I am reminded of the importance of rest, something that seems so simple to do in theory but is nearly impossible to do in today's breakneck society.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "When I despair, I remember that all through history, the way of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time they seem invincible. But in the end, they always fall. Think of it, always." These words remind me that good is coming, and is often already here without us realizing it. It is up to us to recognize it ourselves, and if we can't, then we can try our best to find it. For example, Japan is doing its part in not only accepting refugees from Ukraine, but helping them find homes, jobs, and language support. If we can spread positivity and offer a hand to those in need, it often goes full circle, and we experience deep gratitude and appreciation for what we have. What are you thankful for right now? ☘



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, travelling, 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 90 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

June 30, 2022 (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.

English Teacher Report

Double Take Brandon Matsumoto



Sleek, eye-catching, mesmerizing. These were the words that perfectly describe the new ECC club jackets.

Ichikashi's English Conversation Club had a rollercoaster of a year. With the government's restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, it was a year like no other. Last year, our most anticipated Tokyo trip was canceled. Our weekly meetings were limited to only a couple times per month. No more eating together on Happy Fridays. It was hard to stay positive. We wanted a change of pace. ECC needed a fresh new look.

Deanna created a design, I took care of the ordering, and for the first time ever in Ichikashi history, the ECC club jackets were born. We made a short video to promote our club for the incoming 1st years in April. The students started to look like their old selves again. Everyone seemed excited to start fresh and look fresh this upcoming school year.

Check out the ECC Ichikashi Promo 2022 on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3DeQIOk> ☞



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

Postmark deadline to be included in the printed
TSCA Membership Directory is 2/16/22

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

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	

www.torrancesistercity.org



**Torrance Sister City
Association**

3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503