

## President's Message

By Donna Dunlap



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

*I look forward to welcoming in the Year of the Rabbit. May you all be blessed with happiness, health, and success in the new year.*

I would like to take a moment to thank you for the support offered to restart our activities this past year. We had many challenges in 2022, but we accomplished and succeeded in everything we set out to do. I cannot thank you enough for working so hard to realize our dreams of putting on Bunka-Sai this past April, which enables us to send our exchange students to Japan. I once again salute you for planning and staging the festival in just six weeks!

This is the year that TSCA will operate on its usual pre-pandemic schedule! We will start on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, with the first planning meeting for Bunka-Sai. This first meeting will be held in the West Annex Commission Room at 7 pm. If you ran a booth or if you volunteered at Bunka-Sai in the past, please come to this meeting. It is very important to know we have the support and peoplepower to plan and implement this worthwhile festival. Not only does Bunka-Sai serve as our major fundraiser to support the summer exchange program, but it also introduces the public to Japanese culture and food. Many come for the food and stay for the performances and activities, plus support the wide variety of Japanese themed vendors. PLEASE attend on January 24, 2023.

As the new year begins, our TSCA board has the usual changes. We say goodbye to **Rae Ann Carr** and **Sindy Kang** who have served on the board since 2016. No, this math teacher has not miscalculated; the pandemic lengthened the terms of all those serving by another year. Thank you for your untiring support. Rae Ann has also retired from editing the TSCA newsletter. We really appreciate all the time and effort you spent recording each of TSCA's activities.

Filling in those two board positions will be **Eleanor Hom Jones**, a student delegate in 1981, and **Felipe Segovia**, the father of Matt, a 2022 student delegate. I welcome you to the board and look forward to working with you. Eleanor has jumped in with both feet on the ground. You will see her at the Golden Jubilee Alumni Picnic on February 18, running around to help her committee members carry out their assigned tasks.

**Mayoori Shetti** and **Karen Wheeler** will remain on the board, but each has fulfilled their two years serving as the treasurer and secretary, respectively. I have worked directly with them this past year and they both have done an excellent job and been a great part of making my first year as President run smoothly. Thank you for your support of both me and TSCA. These two positions will be filled by **Kevin Lobo** as treasurer and **Amie (Komae) Campbell** as secretary. *Welcome aboard, all!*

**Tracy Sprague** (2002 Adult Leader) has graciously agreed to chair the Adult Leader Selection Committee. There were three applicants for Adult Leader, and **Maureen Ortega** was chosen for 2023. She will be

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## JANUARY 24, 2023

Bunka-Sai First Planning Meeting (7 pm)  
West Annex Commission Room

## FEBRUARY 6, 2023 (change of date)

TSCA Membership Meeting (7 pm)  
El Retiro Park (change of venue)

## FEBRUARY 18, 2023

Golden Jubilee Picnic (11 am)  
Wilson Park

The Friendship Festival (7-9 pm)  
James R. Armstrong Theatre, Torrance  
Tickets at <https://torrancearts.org/show/friendship/>

## FEBRUARY 19, 2023

Tall Ship Sailing Cruise (12 pm-3 pm)  
San Pedro Harbor

Sayonara Banquet (6 pm-9 pm)  
Torrance Doubletree Hotel

### HELP NEEDED!

For **The Friendship Festival**  
on Saturday, Feb 18, 2023

**Position Available:**  
Slideshow Editor

For more info or to volunteer,  
contact Aileen:

[wiloughbyak@gmail.com](mailto:wiloughbyak@gmail.com)

## Torrance Sister City Association

### PRESIDENT

Donna Dunlap

### VICE PRESIDENT

Stephanie Ewing-Warner

### SECRETARY

Amie Campbell

### TREASURER

Kevin Lobo

Temporary Newsletter Editor

Summer Nagano Gray

Newsletter Distribution

Donna Dunlap

### Comments or submissions?

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

introduced at the Alumni Reunion on Saturday, January 14, 2023. Applications from interested students have started to come in. The applicants will also be introduced at the Alumni Reunion. *Join us for the potluck luncheon at the Ken Miller Rec Center at 11 am to welcome these new members.*

Immediately following the reunion, the Student Selection Committee, led by Jeremy Gerson (2017 Adult Leader), will start the months-long process of getting to know these students and their families. Just after the final students are selected, TSCA will be working with these new families at Bunka-Sai in April. And the process proceeds as usual throughout the spring, culminating in the students visiting Japan from July 11 through August 1, 2023. It will be an amazing trip of a lifetime for another lucky group of students.

TSCA has an amazing opportunity for all members in February 2023. The 50th Anniversary details have been mentioned in every newsletter for several months. The time has finally come to celebrate. The itinerary for the Kashiwa delegates is in this newsletter. As advertised, everyone is invited to participate in the **Golden Jubilee Alumni Picnic** in Wilson Park and the **Friendship Festival**, both held on Saturday, **February 18**. There are two more exciting opportunities the next day on Sunday, **February 19**: The **Tall Ship Cruise** in San Pedro Harbor and the **Sayonara Banquet** that evening. Tickets and reservations are required for all four of these rewarding events.

**If you have been procrastinating making reservations, now is the time to sign up before you miss the opportunity to spend time with the Kashiwa delegates and friends from TSCA. Here are details:**

**Golden Jubilee Picnic: \$15** includes a 50th Anniversary commemorative T-shirt (the actual ticket) for a BBQ lunch and a ride on Torrance's Live Steamer train.

**Friendship Festival: \$25 - \$35.** Tickets are on sale at the Armstrong Theatre Box Office, or online at <https://torrancearts.org/show/friendship/>. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience of talent from Japan to the eastern United States assembled here for you to enjoy. Never again in Torrance will you see traditional Japanese comic storytelling by a Master from Japan (a 1993 Kashiwa delegate) and contemporary Taiko compositions written and performed by a 2015 Torrance delegate. A variety of singing rounds out the program, again representing delegates from Kashiwa and Torrance from 1980 to 2019. Torrance delegates will be showcasing their artwork in the lobby.

**Tall Ship Sailing Cruise: \$30** (bargain price for this cruise) which also includes lunch.

**Sayonara Banquet: \$40.** Come witness the re-enactment of the signing of the Sister City Affiliation by the current Mayors of Torrance and Kashiwa. It's the last chance to say goodbye to our Kashiwa friends. Personal invitations will be sent to members in January. If you are not currently a TSCA member, please contact me.

If you want to purchase any of these tickets, please email me as soon as possible at [lhdebat@aol.com](mailto:lhdebat@aol.com). I would like everyone to join in on all of these events. Families are welcome. ☘

# Membership List

Compiled by Alyssa Yamauchi, Membership Chair

## NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

### LIFE (\$2,000+)

Cambra, May Ikeda  
Chan Family, Kenneth  
Doyle, Marlene Cambra  
Fichtner, Dan and Ray Rand  
Henson, Mikko Haggott  
Ihde/Dunlap Family  
Jordan, Leah Ray  
Oriental Motor USA  
Roulette Family, Ray and Gail  
Sekiguchi, Joh

### CORPORATE (\$200+)

Miyako Hybrid Hotel

### BENEFACTOR (\$125+)

Bauer, Craig  
Furey, Pat and Terry  
Smith, Ritas (Ritas Smith and Associates)  
Taniguchi, Hazel  
Warner, Stephanie Ewing-Warner, and Steve  
Willoughby, Werner and Aileen  
Yamauchi, Bryce and Cheryl

### SUPPORTING (\$75+)

Arnheim, Bruce and Sumi  
Johns Family, Patricia  
Newhart, Lance and Natalie  
Rappoport, Eve  
Shiosaki, Ed & Joan  
South Bay Judo

### FAMILY (\$40)

Albitz, Phil and Velma  
Chapman Family  
Contreras Family, David  
Chen, George and Amy  
Chou Family, Maya  
Diederich Family  
Dowell, Bob and Peggy  
Druten, Jason, Yoko, & Max  
Eurich, Lori and Dane  
Flynn, Janet and John  
Gallagher, Anne and Marty  
Gerson, Jeremy, Jennifer, Aurora and William  
Gray, Bob, Summer and Jeremy

Grundhaus, Duretta  
Gunji Family, Nao  
Han, Dai Sup and Jill  
Heidebrecht, Bill and Kathy  
Hirashiki, Hiro and Jen  
Hofer, Gary and Fusae  
Ito, John, Wendy, and Alex  
Jones Family, Eleanor  
Kikuchi Family, Alice  
Kimmel, Ronald and Gudrun  
Kuwahara, Gary and Teri  
Lee, Jacquie  
Little Family, Vera  
Lobo, Kevin, Pindi, Ann, and Rachel  
Maroney, Mark and Jill  
Martel, Lou and Lori  
Matsumoto, Mickey and Frances  
Mealins Family, Kathy  
Nakano, Helen and George  
Nishi, Kikuko and Katsuhisa  
Numark Family, Cliff  
Ortega Family, Maureen  
Ozawa, Noriko and Michael  
Peitzman, Fred and Ann  
Penland, Thomas, Olivia and Ginger  
Radomski Family, James  
Roulette, Mark and Peggy  
Rubin, Marilyn and Sherwin  
Sargent, Dave and Toni  
Scotto, Frank and Cindy  
Seraydarian Family, Mark  
Shetti, Mayoore, Navin, Jeena, and Ruchi  
Sprague, Brian and Traci  
Takikawa Family, Hisataka  
Tanaka, Keith and Shirley  
Tsurukame, Akira and Kay  
Trattner Family  
Wheeler, Karen and Robert  
Yorizane, Eddie and Eileen

### INDIVIDUAL (\$20)

Allen, Sheila  
Ando, Frances  
Ando, Jennifer  
Ashcraft, Heidi  
Cauble, Lynn  
Fernandez, Angelica (Mayanja)  
Griffiths, Mike

Hayata, Nancy  
Henson, Andrea  
Komae, Amie  
Kraemer, Lynda  
Laidoner, Gail  
Matarrese, John  
Matsumoto, Brandon  
McIntyre, Hugh  
Namimoto, Jim and Mariko  
O'Donnell, Maureen  
Penick, Tiffany (Calhoun)  
Perez, Ayako  
Sakamoto, May  
Tabata, Lynn  
Uchima, Ray  
Wand, Suzie  
Willoughby, Kevin  
Yamauchi, Alyssa  
Yamauchi, Blaine  
Yamauchi, Patsy

### Donations

\$1,000 Dunlap Ihde Family  
\$1,000 Glassman, Keith  
\$100 Scotto, Frank and Cindy  
\$60 Abitz, Phil and Velma  
\$60 Roulette, Mark and Peggy  
\$50 Hofer, Gary and Fusae  
\$30 Sakamoto, May  
\$30 Tabata, Lynn  
\$30 Willoughby, Kevin  
\$20 Ando, Jennifer  
\$10 Gallagher, Anne and Marty  
\$10 Han, Dai Sup and Jill  
\$10 O'Donnell, Maureen

If you haven't paid your 2023 membership dues yet, it's not too late!

See the Membership form in this newsletter or pay online at

[https://torrancesistercity.org/membership\\_join.html](https://torrancesistercity.org/membership_join.html)

**Thank you for your support!**



THE TORRANCE SISTER ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

# Golden Jubilee Alumni Picnic

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary with TSCA members and 50 KIRA delegates, past and present



**When:** Saturday, February 18, 2023

**Time:** 11 am Social hour, 12:00 - 2:00 pm Lunch

**Where:** Wilson Park (2290 Washington Ave) southeast corner by lunch tables and Live Steamer trains.

*Additional parking will be available for TSCA members at Adult School lot.*

**Cost:** Purchase of yellow Golden Jubilee 50th Anniversary T-shirt entitles you to a BBQ lunch and Live Steamer train ride

T-shirts can be purchased: Pre-sale \$15 on [torrancesistercity.org](http://torrancesistercity.org)

Pick up instructions on website. \$20 At the picnic, while supplies last

*In case of inclement weather the picnic will be held in the Dee Hardison Sports Center*

## — LUNCH MENU —

Hot dogs, Hamburgers, Salads, Chips, Dessert, and Assorted Beverages





# Focus on Fifty

## Meet the Kashiwa 50th Anniversary Delegation

The Torrance Sister City Association is looking forward to meeting the 45 delegates from Kashiwa who will be visiting Torrance from February 16-20, 2023!

Here are the names of the Kashiwa Delegates and their affiliated roles:

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Kazumi Ota         | Mayor of Kashiwa   |
| Hitoshi Miyamoto   | Kashiwa City Public Relations Department Manager   |
| Norihito Tsumuraya | Kashiwa City Assembly Chairperson  |
| Ichirota Fujita    | Kashiwa City Assembly Staff  |
| Junichi Nio        | Kashiwa City Diversity Relations Promotion Division Manager                                |
| Momoka Kaneko      | Kashiwa City Diversity Relations Promotion Division Staff                                  |
| Akemi Kosuge       | President of KIRA, Past Chair of the Torrance Committee, 1988 Adult Leader                 |
| Toshio Kosuge      | Husband of Akemi Kosuge  |
| Megumi Kosuge      | Daughter of Akemi Kosuge   |
| Masahiko Arai      | Vice President of KIRA, Past Chair of the Torrance Committee, 2013 Adult Leader            |
| Masako Fujiwara    | Leader of 50th Anniversary Comm, Past Chair of the Torrance Comm, 1990 Adult Leader        |
| Makiyo Doi         | Member of 50th Anniversary Comm, Past Chair of Torrance Comm, 2002 Adult Leader            |
| Noriko Fujita      | Member of KIRA, Editor of KCC Newsletter   |
| Naomi Kitazawa     | Vice Chair of the Torrance Committee, Mother of 2017 Kashiwa Exchange Student, Host Family |
| Ittetsu Kojima     | 1993 Kashiwa Exchange Student, Master Rakugo Artist Shinoharu Tatekawa                     |
| Shigeo Matsukawa   | Director of KIRA   |
| Ako Matsumoto      | Member of KIRA, Mother of 2004 Kashiwa Exchange Student                                    |
| Kazuo Matsumoto    | Husband of Ako Matsumoto   |
| Yoko Nakano        | Past Chair of the Torrance Committee, 1989 Adult Leader                                    |
| Ketsuo Nemoto      | Member of KIRA, Dance Instructor   |
| Tami Ooka          | 1980 Kashiwa Exchange Student, Opera Singer in Friendship Festival                         |
| Nami Sato          | Member of the Torrance Committee, 2012 Kashiwa Exchange Student                            |
| Makiko Sekiguchi   | 1976 Kashiwa Exchange Student  |
| Hiroko Sugiyama    | Member of the Torrance Committee, 1977 Kashiwa Exchange Student                            |
| Toshio Tanaka      | Member of KIRA   |
| Mutsuko Tsukamoto  | Liaison of the Torrance Committee to TSCA, 1978 Adult Leader                               |
| Hitoshi Watanabe   | Member of the Torrance Committee, 2023 Adult Leader  |
| Hironobu Yamazawa  | Audit of KIRA, son of Ryotaro Yamazawa, former Mayor of Kashiwa (1966-1978)                |
| Kayoko Yamazawa    | Daughter of Hironobu Yamazawa  |
| Maiko Ohira        | Granddaughter of Hironobu Yamazawa – High School Student                                   |
| Mutsuko Akahoshi   | Kashiwa resident   |
| Yoshiharu Hanazawa | Former member of Torrance Committee  |
| Yukie Ishido       | Kashiwa resident   |
| Yoko Kawamoto      | Kashiwa resident   |
| Misako Kikuchi     | 1982 Kashiwa Exchange Student  |
| Yoko Kojima        | Kashiwa resident   |
| Akio Mori          | Kashiwa resident   |
| Haruko Nishimura   | Kashiwa resident   |
| Akio Okayasu       | Member of KIRA   |
| Chikako Ono        | Kashiwa resident   |
| Susumu Shoji       | Former resident of Torrance  |
| Setsuko Shoji      | Wife of Susumu Shoji   |
| Akemi Tezuka       | Member of KIRA   |
| Kazue Tomizawa     | Kashiwa resident   |
| Yumiko Ueno        | 1982 Kashiwa Exchange Student  |



# Focus on Fifty (cont'd)

## Itinerary with Kashiwa Delegation

February 16-20, 2023

### Thursday, February 16

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 10:00 am       | Arrive LAX - JAL Flight 62                    |
| 12:00 pm       | Drop off luggage at Torrance Doubletree Hotel |
| 1:00 - 3:30 pm | Lunch and Tour of SCROC                       |
| 6:00 - 8:00 pm | Welcome Reception at Doubletree Hotel         |

### Friday, February 17

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 8:20 am          | Leave the hotel (casual)                                      |
| 8:45 - 9:45 am   | City Hall Welcome   |
| 10:00 - 11:30 am | TAM Japanese Art Exhibit/Plant Cherry Tree                    |
| 12:00 - 1:00 pm  | Arrive North Torrance High School/Lunch                       |
| 1:00 - 2:00 pm   | Tour North Torrance High School                               |
| 2:00 - 3:00 pm   | Bus Tour around Torrance                                      |
| 3:30 pm          | Return to Doubletree Hotel                                    |
| 6:00 - 9:00 pm   | Mayor's Dinner (business casual)/(TSCA-hosted Dinners Casual) |

### Saturday, February 18

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 8:45 am             | Leave the Hotel  |
| 9:00 - 10:00 am     | Bus Tour around Torrance   |
| 10:00 - 11:00 am    | Tour Mannon Aquatic Center   |
| 11:00 am - 12:00 pm | Visit Torrance Certified Farmers' Market   |
| 11:00 - 2:30 pm     | **Golden Jubilee Alumni Picnic and Live Steamers Train**<br>(Ticket is a gold 50th Anniversary T-shirt)  |
| 3:00 pm             | Return to Doubletree Hotel   |
| 5:00 - 6:30 pm      | Dinner, Nakano Theater (casual)  |
| 7:00 - 9:30 pm      | **Friendship Festival, Armstrong Theatre**<br>(Buy tickets online at <a href="https://torrancearts.org/show/friendship/">https://torrancearts.org/show/friendship/</a> ) |

### Sunday, February 19

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 11:00 am        | Leave hotel  |
| 12:00 - 3:00 pm | **Lunch and Tall Ship Sailing Cruise (San Pedro)** |
| 3:30 pm         | Return to Hotel                                    |
| 6:00 - 9:00 pm  | **Sayonara Banquet at Doubletree Hotel**           |

### Monday, February 20

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 9:00 am | <b>KASHIWA DAY</b> (Actual Day Affiliation was signed in 1973)<br>Departure from Doubletree Hotel, JAL Flight 62 (12:00 pm) |
|---------|---|

Events with a double asterisk (\*\*) are open to everyone.

All events require an RSVP to Purchase Tickets.

RSVP to [Ihdebat@aol.com](mailto:Ihdebat@aol.com); Subject line: TSCA [Event name(s)]

See 50th Anniversary flyers in this newsletter for more information.





# English Teacher Report

## Two Years in Japan—a World of Difference

By Deanna Sun

One year ago, I made a video about my first magical, thrilling experience in Japan. I touched on the extreme ups and downs of living abroad, the novelty of discovering new things, exploring untouched lands, reminiscing about the old Torrance days, and relishing in everyday interactions with new faces. I learned SO much in that first year, but absolutely nothing compares to my second year in Japan. The contrast between this year and the last is unbelievable.

I moved to Kashiwa, Japan, in October 2020 during the

peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. I've already mentioned the traveling aspects of being here, so I'll spare you the usual overstated glamour of eating the finest sushi in the world and swimming with jellyfish in Okinawa (although both are excellent). Initially, my first impression of Kashiwa was a quiet one. During my first year in Japan, the country was in a constant state of emergency, meaning that all businesses would close around 8 pm, city lights would turn off, and the streets would be clear of people. I hadn't seen my students' faces for an entire year. Luckily, by the end of 2020, as more and more people were able to get vaccinated, the dimmed streets completely transformed.

During my second year here, I discovered that Kashiwa is BEAMING with life! All of the people hiding in their homes for the past year had finally come out to play. Summer festivals, fireworks, and restaurants were so vibrant that it was hard to believe I had been in this city all along. Drinks were flowing in *izakayas*, my coworkers and I could finally eat somewhere other than our desks, and the streets were filled with the hustle and bustle you'd expect from one of those travel documentary montages of the streets of Asia.

One of the most memorable moments this year was stumbling upon one of Japan's *Bon Odori* festivals with my friends while wearing summer *yukatas*. We danced in tune to Taiko drums in a huge crowd. On the other side of the spectrum, one of the more painful memories

was getting extremely sick with COVID in February. Nonetheless, this year, like the first, was filled with numerous memories I can share for a lifetime. However, I want to touch on why my second year living here is so vastly different from before.

Living in Japan has had an unexpected effect on me. While last year was an externally stimulating roller coaster of a ride, this year has been a surprisingly personal journey. Because I was finally getting used to the culture here, I decided to challenge myself

more. I started my own English course and called it "Deekaiwa." I finally pursued what I have been putting off for 10 years, which was to get my yoga teaching certification. I learned to drive on the opposite side of the street and got my Japanese license after a highly rigorous exam. I got engaged to the love of my life and I found the most passionate, funny, supportive



At a magical Bon Odori summer festival

friends here in Japan.

I realized that while you don't need to live abroad, the challenges you face in the first year make all the difference in your future. These achievements, my appreciation for others, and all the language mishaps have made pursuing my personal goals and loving myself and others so easy to manifest. Living abroad honestly has changed my life for the better.

My goal going into my third year in Japan and into 2023 is to show my students how big the world is and how much they can accomplish. Just recently, our international students have been matched up with North High student pen pals, sending letters, video chats, and messages back and forth. As they go through the struggle of trying to make small talk with their new friends, they're already setting themselves up for successful futures. My hope is to encourage them to consistently challenge what they know and open up their minds to this huge, beautiful world! As for everyone in TSCA and Torrance, I'm wishing you a happy, prosperous, and adventurous 2023! ☘



# 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, 2023, to July 31, 2024. 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 submit your resume and cover letter by email to Lori Chong Eurich (Chair, English Teacher Selection Committee) at [lace167@hotmail.com](mailto:lance167@hotmail.com).

Also, two recent letters of recommendation from people not related to the applicant are to be sent directly to the Chair.

Deadline to apply is

**April 1, 2023**

Qualified applicants will be scheduled for panel interviews in May.

### Questions?

Email [lace167@hotmail.com](mailto:lance167@hotmail.com)





Alex Ito



Carol Williams MacIntyre



Shinoharu Tatekawa



David Contreras



Tami Ooka

**Don't Wait! Tickets available online, at the Box Office, or by calling (310) 781-7171**

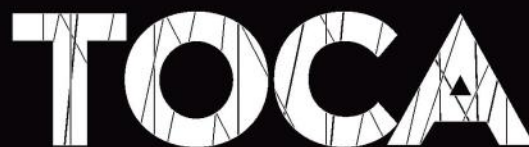
# FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL — A 50-YEAR CELEBRATION OF THE TORRANCE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION



Celebrating 50 years of friendship with sister city, Kashiwa, Japan, the Torrance Sister City Association proudly presents an evening of music and artistry, featuring past cultural exchange students who today are highly accomplished performing artists.

Master Shinoharu Tatekawa will share Rakugo, the traditional art of Japanese comedic storytelling. The Torrance Civic Chorale will join in the celebration along with Carol Williams MacIntyre of the MacIntyre Family Singers, who have performed on stages of Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Broadway, and American Idol. Operatic vocals by David Contreras and Tami Ooka, and modern taiko drum stylings of Alex Ito, will leave a lasting resonance. Join us for this golden anniversary celebration!

Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive, Torrance, CA 90503



Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation



For more information or to purchase tickets, please scan code, call (310) 781-7171 or visit [TorranceArts.org](http://TorranceArts.org)



# 2023 Alumni Reunion Recap

## Scenes from this year's event



The 11 Student Cultural Exchange applicants (with Committee members) introduced themselves at the Alumni Reunion.



Induction of TSCA officers: From left, Treasurer Kevin Lobo, VP Stephanie Ewing-Warner, and President Donna Dunlap.

### Recipient of the 2023 TSCA Partnership Award: YOKO AWAYA

Congratulations to **Yoko Awaya**, who was presented with the 2023 TSCA Partnership Award at this year's Alumni Reunion, held on Saturday, January 14, at the Ken Miller Rec Center. Awaya Sensei is one of the leading koto artists in Southern California and has graced the stages of the Bunka-Sai since 1986.

She began studying the koto, a 13-stringed classical instrument, at age 13 in Japan, eventually receiving her teaching credential and master's degree from the Michio Miyagi School of Koto in Tokyo.

After moving to the Los Angeles area, she established her koto group, Awaya-Kai, and later founded the Yoko Awaya Koto Music Conservatory, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of traditional Japanese koto and jiuta-sangen shamisen music (a type of three-stringed lute).

Over the past 50 years, Awaya Sensei's performances have included radio, television, and motion picture soundtracks, as well as studio recordings for Walt Disney World. She and her students have performed in major venues across the country, including community events such as TSCA's Bunka-Sai. Other venues include The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, major colleges and universities across the country, The Getty Center, and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Awaya Sensei has been recognized by many organizations for her outstanding gift of koto music to the community. In the spring of last year, she was among the recipients of a 2022 Women of the Year award presented by the Downtown Los Angeles Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) and the Japanese Women's Society of Southern California.

Recognizing Awaya Sensei's participation in Bunka-Sai for over 32 years, a number of TSCA members attended this awards luncheon to celebrate her achievement. At her 40th anniversary koto concert at the Armstrong Theatre in 2017, she showcased her great interest in collaborating with international artists, and her program featured a creative presentation of koto music with Flamenco-style dancing, of Okinawan festival drums, and the traditional Chinese instrument, the erhu.

Among Awaya Sensei's students, 15 have received their teaching degrees. As in past Bunka-Sai festivals, some of her students will delight audiences with the beautiful music of koto at this year's cultural festival in April.



TSCA President Donna Dunlap (at right) presents Yoko Awaya with the 2023 TSCA Partnership Award.



# Torrance Sister City Association

Dear Friends of TSCA,

The 2023 Membership Drive has just begun, and we're excited about everything the upcoming year has in store! In addition to all of the exciting programs Torrance Sister City Association works to bring the community each year, 2023 will be extra special as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary. This Golden Jubilee celebrates 50 years of student exchange programs, adult leaders, English language teachers, host families, anniversary delegations and, of course, Sister City friendship.

We couldn't be more thankful for your continued support through your membership dues and donation contributions – especially through these last few years. Your contributions continue to help offset annual operational costs, allowing our fundraising efforts to focus on continuing our mission of promoting friendship, goodwill, and understanding through people-to-people connections.

Thank you for being a part of our 50-year story, and we hope that TSCA has played an integral part of your story as well.

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

Best regards,  
Alyssa Yamauchi  
TSCA Membership Chair

## Our 2023 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](http://www.torrancesistercity.org)



*Postmark deadline to be included in the printed TSCA Membership Directory is 02/15/23.*

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

### 2023 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](mailto:tscamembership@gmail.com)





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# THE FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL

## 50 YEAR CELEBRATION OF TSCA

Don't miss this evening of music and artistry with our friends from Kashiwa at the James R. Armstrong Theatre

**Saturday, February 18, 2023**

Purchase tickets for \$25-35 at the Armstrong Theatre box office or online at <https://bit.ly/2JBXMpf>.



**Torrance Sister City Association**

3031 Torrance Boulevard  
Torrance, CA 90503