

Torrance Sister City Newsletter



Torrance, California



Torrance Sister City Association



Kashiwa, Japan

<http://torrancesistercity.org/>

Newsletter Editor: Mona Wong

April 2013

Newsletter Mailing: Steven Ihde



**Ann Lobo, Sophomore,
Torrance High**



**Cindy Chan, Junior
South High**



**Emiko Kranz, Senior
West High**



**Jay Matsumoto,
Junior, South High**



**Ken Shrivastava,
Senior, Torrance High**



**Matthew Tiansay,
Senior, Torrance High**



**Melanie Nomiya,
Sophomore, North High**



**Vanessa Barragan,
Senior West High**



**Steven Ihde
Adult Leader**

Congratulations to the 2013 Exchange Students who will go to Kashiwa in July for our annual cultural exchange program. They will be accompanied by Steven Ihde, the adult leader who is a middle school teacher in Palos Verdes. The Student Selection Committee would like to welcome them to the TSCA family!

President's Message

By Werner Willoughby

A lot of congratulations are in order this month! Congratulations to our eight 2013 exchange students on their upbeat and enthusiastic participation in the 2nd annual Cherry Blossom Festival March 9th at Columbia Park. Please see Steven Ihde's article in this issue.

Congratulations to Shirley Tanaka and her crew in their first effort providing the concessions for the Torrance Crafter's Guild on March 16th at the Ken Miller Recreation Center. Mary Anne St. John, the President of the Crafter's Guild, told me that her members had nothing but praises for the TSCA workers and their personal touch. See Shirley's article in this issue.

Hazel Taniguchi and Makiyo Doi (KIRA/Torrance Committee) deserve a big thank you for their efforts in coordinating the Torrance delegation's visit to Kashiwa. The Torrance delegation included Mayor Scotto, Councilmen Gene Barnett, Bill Sutherland, Pat Furey, Tom Brewer, and City Treasurer Dana Cortez, and many TSCA members. These individuals comprised the 40th Anniversary group that visited Kashiwa during the last week in March. We're looking forward to Hazel's report and the many stories from members of the delegation upon their return to Torrance.

Our most important fundraiser, The Bunka-Sai, is almost



here!!! Please encourage your friends and neighbors to purchase raffle tickets that you received in the mail. Winner need not be present for the drawing on Sunday afternoon, and we will deliver any prizes that they win. If you need additional tickets, contact Tim Goodrich at 310-294-9319 or me at 310-326-0389 and we'll get the tickets to you. The grand prize is \$250 cash and there are many other terrific prizes as well. Be on the look-out for our banner that will be on display at Wilson Park on the billboard facing south next to Crenshaw Blvd. If you know of a business or possible place where the flyer can be displayed, you can pick up additional flyers at the next Bunka-Sai meetings April 3rd and 10th in the Polly Watt Room of the Library as well as at the Board meeting on April 8th at the West Annex. Please help get the word out. We have confirmed that a Bunka-Sai article will appear during April in the "Lighthouse" and "LaLaLa," which are the top two Southern California Japanese publications found at all of the major Japanese markets and many Japanese restaurants. Thank you to Shun Kohrogi for his translation expertise and for arranging for the articles to appear in these publications. TSCA would love to have your support at Bunka-Sai in some capacity. Please contact Patsy Shintani at shintani4@earthlink.net, and she will find a booth that needs your help.

Finally, our annual membership drive needs your attention: if your mailing label has a "12 or 11" after your name, please use the form on the outside of the newsletter and renew your membership. On behalf of TSCA, thank you for your support!



40th Anniversary In Kashiwa

TSCA Café Opens at the Torrance Crafts Faire

By Shirley Tanaka

Our first refreshments table, aka TSCA Café, was a big success, thanks to members and family who helped tirelessly throughout the day. The café provided a variety of lunch entrees and snacks to the 60 vendors and many visitors to the Torrance Craftsmen's Guild Spring Faire on Saturday, March 16. Several teams formed and delivered lunch promptly to the vendors, our primary customers. Giuliano's torpedo sandwiches and Ladybug's teriyaki chicken bowl were popular meals. Chinese chicken salad, spam musubi, hot dog, and chili rice were other tasty offerings. Some of us are already thinking of other menu items for the Fall Faire in November!

HUGE kudos to the best crew ever - Donna, Gwenn, Jenny, Jill, Joe, Kerry, Leslie, May, Pam, Patsy, Stephen and the 2013 student delegates – you made it all possible!



Student Selection Committee Update

By Lori C. Eurich, SSC Chair

Congratulations to our eight student ambassadors who were recently selected for this summer's exchange program to Kashiwa. The committee is pleased to welcome them as they support our upcoming Bunka-Sai and begin preparations for their "trip of a lifetime" in July. Collectively, the ambassadors are a diverse group of high-achieving students from each public high school in Torrance and bring a wide variety of talents and enthusiasm. Steven Ihde, this year's Adult Leader has a terrific group who will represent our association and city proudly.

Special thanks to student selection committee members: Werner Willoughby, Steven Ihde, Rachel Todd, Marilyn Rubin, Margie Inouye and Dana Vinke for all of their time, valuable insight and support through the selection process.

April Calendar

April	5	City Hall Closed
	8	Association Meeting 7:00 p.m. West Annex Commission Room
	19	City Hall Closed
	20 & 21	BUNKA-SAI 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Second Annual Cherry Blossom Festival

By Steven Ihde

On March 9, TSCA participated in the second annual Cherry Blossom Festival held at Columbia Park. The event attracted hundreds of visitors that shopped numerous craft vendors and watched cultural entertainment beneath the blossoming cherry trees. Our newly selected 2013 student delegates volunteered to work the event.

Our students, very visible in their new, purple happi coats, promoted next month's Bunka-Sai festival by passing out flyers and talking to the public. In addition, the students sold a number of raffle tickets. By day's ends, 185 tickets were sold amounting to \$169. Great work!

A big thank you to President Werner Willoughby, Steven Ihde, and student delegates Ann, Cindy, Emiko, Jay, Ken, Matthew, and Vanessa for making this event possible.



The Gift Booth Needs Your Help

It's time for Spring Cleaning! Clean out your closets, drawers, garage, etc., and donate re-saleable items to TSCA for our Gift Booth. Japanese items are especially appreciated, but any kitchen items, toys, art, decorative items, etc. are welcome.

All money raised goes to fund our student exchange program. Please contact Jill Maroney to arrange drop-off or pick-up of items. mjmaroney@gmail.com or 310-951-7502.

Thanks, we couldn't do it without you!

Forget me not!

By Matthew Medlock

Foreign Language Lecturer in Kashiwa



When thinking about life, many people say that our lives are significantly shorter compared to the existence of the earth. This is true, but even though the distance between life and death is short, it is how we live our lives that make us so special. Many humans in their lives tend to resonate towards one thing that they enjoy. Even in modern society, many people tend to find they resonate more in nature rather than the hustle bustle of a city. Throughout time, humans have had a special relationship with nature. In early civilizations, many of the belief systems were polytheistic with many of the gods being anthropomorphic. Even now, Shinto is still considered the official religion of Japan and spirits with anthropomorphic features are still cherished at shrines. Even though the remnants of these religions have transcended over the centuries, most have lost their traditional beliefs and have turned more into a cultural phenomenon. However, in Japan, despite the fact of losing some of its cultural practices and ceremonies, one in particular is still alive and thriving today—the graduation ceremony.

In Japan, there has always been an underlying tone of nature that has indirectly influenced Japanese society. Every time a Japanese person uses a greeting, generally the first thing that is brought up is something about the weather. Especially when writing letters, Japanese will always start the introduction of their letter mentioning something about the seasons. So this is no surprise that this custom has been transmitted into yearly traditions such as the graduation ceremony.

The Japanese school year starts in April and finishes in early March. The graduation ceremony happens in early March as oppose to American graduations, which usually happen in early June. The timing of the Japanese school year, I believe, has to do with the seasons.

In earlier times, many Japanese poets and scholars expressed themselves through writings involving nature. The most common themes portrayed in these writings were of life and death. However, in the western world we view life and death as finite, everything must come to an end. In Japan, the idea of life and death is cyclical- it is a continuing process that never ends.

This concept can be applied to the Japanese school year. The school year starts when the Cherry Blossoms are in full bloom representing life-the beginning. The school year ends in winter representing death-the ending. So it would be only fitting that the graduation ceremony would come at the end of the season cycle: winter.

The Japanese take great pride in the graduation ceremony tradition. Ichikashi spent three days rehearsing for the ceremony and one whole day preparing the gym. On the day of the ceremony, the mood was solemn yet eager and for the most part everyone held a stoic appearance. It was not until the student body president came and delivered his speech that the whole auditorium broke down and started to sob. Even though being at Ichikashi for such a short amount of time, I was touched by his speech and felt the passion in his words, which represented the student body so well. I will miss the students that I have just become acquainted with and wish them the best of luck with their future endeavors. I end with a poem about the winter plum blossoms:

“Through the harshest of winter tides

Comes pushing through the plum blossom rides

Here come forth the spring time pleasures

Time to bask in the Sakura treasures

Never forgetting winter’s past

Writing on leaves to have it last

The plum blossom carries the weight on its shoulders

To make sure time gets older and older

Do not forget what is has done

Brought life to you and then to none

The road to life is high in the sky

Same with the plum blossom in days gone by”

SISTER SCHOOLS PROGRAM

by Hazel Taniguchi

Did you know that TSCA has a Sister Schools Program? We certainly do! Here is the list of partnerships:

*Adams ES and Asahi ES

*Arlington ES and Sakaine ES

*Arnold ES and Dai-ichi ES

*North HS and Kashiwa Municipal HS

Of these partnerships, the high schools are the most active. However, things are happening between Adams ES and Asahi ES!

In February, five Kashiwa City Assemblymen came to Torrance and visited Adams ES, among other places, bringing with them letters from students of Asahi ES. In March, when the Torrance delegates went to Kashiwa to celebrate the 40th anniversary, Asahi ES sent Adams ES letters and origami made by students. Because of this exchange of letters, more plans are being formed. Dr. Kumi Smart, principal of Adams ES, and Aki Tsurukame, TSCA's longtime travel agent and interpreter, are formulating plans for a Skype Program, a video exchange, and an e-mail program. THIS IS A GREAT REJUVENATION OF THE SISTER SCHOOLS PROGRAM!

Thank you to Dr. Smart for her interest and motivation! Thank you to Aki-san for all his help!

We will keep you all posted on developments. Please stay tuned.

Membership News

**Membership Chairman:
Ron Kimmel**

The directory is in preparation and will be mailed next month.

New and renewed memberships for 2013:

Furey, Pat (S)

Jones, Eleanor Hom & Family (F)

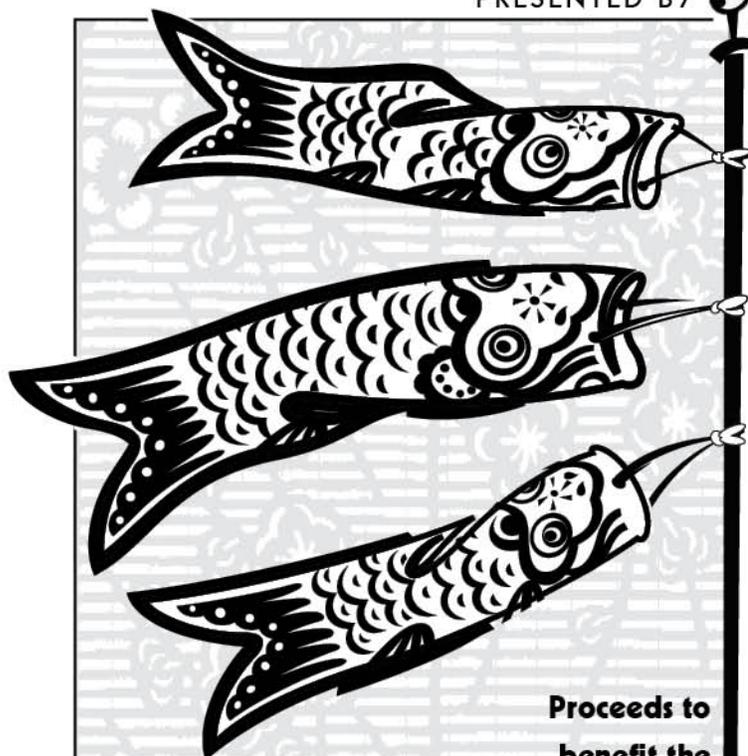
Kawataba, Tom & Jeannie (S)

Nomiya, Tash, Miae & Family (F)

Wilder, Jean (I)

If you have any questions, call Ron Kimmel at (310) 530-2382.

PRESENTED BY  The Torrance Sister City Association



Proceeds to
benefit the
Student Cultural
Exchange Program

Japanese Cultural Festival

Ken Miller Recreation Center
3341 Torrance Boulevard
(AT MADRONA AVENUE)

41st Annual **Bunka Sai** **FREE ADMISSION & PARKING**

● ***NEW THIS YEAR***

The "Candy Man", Shan Ichiyanagi
(Saturday only)

Okinawa Taiko and Dance
(Sunday only)

● Aikido, Judo, Kendo, Naginata

● Koto, Taiko, Minyo, Shamisen,
Odori (Classical Dance)

● Ikebana (flower arrangement),
Bonsai and Kimono Dressing
return for 2nd year!

Shodo Calligraphy and Tea Ceremony

● Origami, Sumi-e Painting, Roketsu
Batik, Kimekomi Ningyo Dolls

● Beef, Chicken, Fish, BBQ Plate Lunch
Shave Ice, Yakisoba, Okinawa Dango
Curry and Rice, Cotton Candy,
Desserts, Drinks

● **ARTS AND CRAFTS BOUTIQUE**

● **DOOR PRIZES, SPECIAL GAMES FOR
CHILDREN**

● **HOURLY DRAWINGS**

Program subject to
change without notice.

For more
information please
contact the

CITY OF TORRANCE
**Community Services
Department**

3031 Torrance Boulevard
310/618-2930

www.TorranceCA.Gov

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
April 20 & 21, 2013
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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SISTER CITY
ASSOCIATION
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Torrance, CA 90503

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TORRANCE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

2013 Membership Application

Except for the Life Membership, all dues are in effect from January 1st to December 31st.

Name _____

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone () _____ e-mail address _____

Individual	\$20 per year
Family	\$40 per year
Supporting	\$75+ per year
Benefactor	\$125+ per year
Life member	\$2000+(one time donation)

My membership is: NEW RENEWAL I do not want to be listed in the TSCA directory

Directory Update: New address__ New telephone number__ New e-mail address__

I am interested in participating in TSCA activities. _____

Enclosed is a donation to TSCA (in addition to my annual dues) in the amount: \$_____ Total enclosed: \$_____

Make your check payable to TSCA and mail with this form to: The Torrance Sister City Association
c/o The Community Services Department
3031 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90503

If you have any questions about your membership, please call Ron Kimmel at 310-530-2382.