

Torrance Sister City Newsletter



Torrance, California



Torrance Sister City Association



Kashiwa, Japan

<http://torrancesistercity.org/>

Newsletter Editor: Mona Wong

November 2013

Newsletter Mailing: Steven Ihde

President's Message

By Werner Willoughby

Congratulations to the six new Board members for 2014: Dana Cortez, Reiko Higa, Steven Ihde, David Kranz, Jill Maroney, and Marilyn Rubin. Each of these individuals bring a great deal of experience and expertise in a variety of fields to TSCA. We wish them the very best, and a rewarding experience.

Congratulations to Stephanie Ewing-Warner as the new chair of the Adult Leader Committee. Good luck, Stephanie, in your quest to find that special individual to guide our young people in 2015. If you know of an individual that might fit the bill, please contact Stephanie.

A very special thank you goes to Mona Wong, our Newsletter Editor. In addition to TSCA and KIRA members, there are many others who enjoy reading the newsletter. A staff member of the Japanese Counsel General's office downtown, shared how he enjoys reading the newsletter and is amazed that we publish it on a monthly basis which is mainly due to Mona's efforts. For the many people who have been stressed by not being able to submit their article on time, we thank you for your patience. TSCA thanks Mona for her time, effort and commitment to such a quality newsletter.

Thanks to Joe Rust, the chair of the Nominating Committee, and members Gail Roulette and Jill Maroney, for putting together a slate of new Board members that was approved unanimously. Thanks to all of you that took the time to return your ballots. Good luck to the Committee in their efforts to assemble a slate of officers for 2014.

Congratulations to Emiko Kranz, the new president of the Student Club. Please note the flier included in this issue that was designed by Emiko in promoting the Student Club. This is a great opportunity for students to meet and talk with those who have gone to Japan as well as being involved with their peers.

Tell your friends, relatives and neighbors who are high school students in Torrance to listen for announcements and presentations at their school about the student exchange program. Presentations will be coming to each school beginning late October through November.

For the past nine years since 2005 when her daughter Alyssa went to Kashiwa as an exchange student, member Cheryl Yamauchi has received a grant from Northrop Grumman which acknowledges its employees for their contribution to their community. At the last Association meeting, she presented TSCA with a check for \$200 from Northrop Grumman. Congratulations and thanks very much, Cheryl, not only for the check but for your time and commitment to TSCA.

There is no Association meeting scheduled for December, but the outgoing and incoming executive boards will meet to discuss and construct a budget for 2014, to be approved at the January meeting.

TSCA welcomes a new editor for our newsletter, Linda Kranz, mother of Emiko, one of our exchange students this year will assume the duties as editor of the Newsletter. Good luck to you Linda!

Please note the next Association meeting will be held in the Commission Room of the West Annex at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday November 12th as Monday the 11th, our usual meeting day is a holiday, Veterans Day.



November Calendar

November 1 City Hall Closed
11 City Hall Closed -
 Veterans Day Holiday
12 Association Meeting 7:00 p.m.
 West Annex Commission Room

NOTE: THIS IS A TUESDAY

15 City Hall Closed
16 & 17 TSCA Cafe at Crafts Fair
28 & 29 City Hall Closed - Thanksgiving
 Holidays

SAVE THE DATES

Alumni Reunion

IS COMING SOON

January 11, 2014

BUNKA-SAI

IS COMING SOON

April 26 and 27, 2014

Membership News

Membership Chairman:
Ron Kimmel

New and renewed memberships:

Bruce and Sumi Arnhem (F)

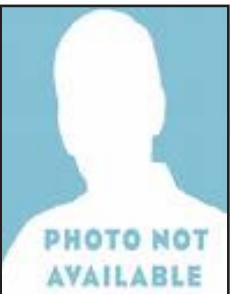
Kathy and Davis Jenson (F)



All membership applications received starting with the above will be for 2014. An application form should be filled out and submitted with your dues payment so that the membership committee has a record with your current information. Please circle the type of membership and check any changes on the Directory Update line.

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

New Board Members



Dana Cortez . I am a mother of lovely daughters that have enjoyed being part of the Torrance Community. I have been part of TSCA for about four years, of which I have been a host family for three of the four years. I believe in the TSCA mission and truly believe that TSCA is one of the hidden gems of the city. If elected as a board member I would like to support TSCA in any way possible.



Steven Ihde . I have been involved with TSCA since 1986 and feel fortunate to have grown up in this organization. For many years I volunteered at Bunka-Sai selling raffle tickets and making dangos. Most recently I served as the TSCA Vice-President and have been an active member on the August Activity, Student Selection Committees, and Bunka-Sai Committees. This past July, I accompanied the student delegation to Kashiwa as their adult leader. I currently teach math and social studies at Miraleste Intermediate School in the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District



Jill Maroney I first became a volunteer for TSCA after my oldest daughter went to Japan with the 2001 delegation. She (and all of us) had such a positive experience that I wanted to do what I could to help TSCA thrive. I have been on the Board almost every year since, and when not on the board, I have still been helping in various ways. I was the 2005 Adult Leader, which was one of the highlights of my life, and my younger daughter was a delegate in 2007. When not volunteering for TSCA, I volunteer for the Torrance Historical Society, play golf, read, garden, spend time with family and friends. Oh, and work as a medical office manager. I'd love to serve another term on the TSCA Board.



Marilyn Rubin . I am Marilyn Rubin, a 40 year retired Torrance elementary teacher. My husband Sherwin and I became involved with the Torrance Sister City Association in 1994 when we participated in TSCA summer activities. In 1995 our eldest son, Sandler, was chosen to be a student delegate to Kashiwa. Subsequently, our son met and married a lovely girl from Osaka when he was in college at UC Davis. I have been a host mother 6 times for TSCA. Because I love to cook, one of our Kashiwa visitors has called our home, Restaurant Marilyn. I have worked at Bunka-Sai not only selling tickets, greeting guests and preparing mochi but also finding wonderful Japanese items throughout the year at yard sales for the Japanese resale booth. I am dedicated to TSCA and its goal of creating international friendship across cultures. I have been on the student selection committee for three years. My husband and I participated in the 40 year reunion tour to Kashiwa with the Mayor and City Council this spring. Because we have previously made Kashiwa friends, we were happy to be able to visit with them while we were in Japan. If I am selected as a TSCA Board member, I will continue to work diligently to create a successful cultural exchange program between Torrance and Kashiwa.



Reiko Higa . I am mother of Ken Shrivastava who was one of eight delegates this year. My husband PK Ken and I have lived in southeast Torrance last 17 years and the city has been a safe and friendly place to raise our son Ken. PK is originally from India and I am from Okinawa, Japan. We hosted Takahiro from Kashiwa this year and it was such a wonderful experience having him at our house for 10 days. Ken's experience at Kashiwa was once in a life time experience like everyone said. I hope to thank back to TSCA and being one of the board members will be a great chance for me to do so. I look forward to meeting you at the first meeting. Thank you so much



David Kranz . My wife, Linda, and I and our 2 kids, Nick and Emiko, moved to Torrance in 1998. I became involved in AYSO Region 14 as a coach for our kids' soccer teams and as a referee from 1998 through 2009. I was also an assistant activities from Torrance Elementary school through Bert Lynn Middle School and West High School. I have always enjoyed attending or participating in our kids' school activities including talent shows, Gold Rush days, soccer games, track meets, fashion shows and other activities. Our son, Nick, is currently attending San Diego State University. Our daughter, Emiko, was a 2013 student delegate for the Torrance Sister City Association and we hosted a student from the KIRA delegation this past summer. We thoroughly enjoyed the experience and met some wonderful people. Emiko has graduated from high school and is attending UCLA this fall. When I am not participating in our kids' activities, I work as a business manager supporting an engineering organization for a local aerospace company. In my free time, I enjoy swimming, surfing and spending time with my family. I look forward to the opportunity to participate on the TSCA board

Student Selection Committee Now Accepting Applicants

**By Lori Chong Eurich, chair
Student Selection Committee**

Applications for the 2014 TSCA Student Cultural Exchange Program are now being accepted. There are eight (8) positions open for the "trip of a lifetime" in July 2014 for three weeks in Kashiwa. Details on how to apply are in the application packet available at the counseling office of all public high schools in Torrance and Bishop Montgomery High school. Students must be in grades 10, 11 and 12 and be a Torrance resident. Applications are also on the TSCA website at: www.torrancesistercity.org. The deadline to apply is December 19, 2013.

The Student Selection Committee is delighted to have Dave Kranz join the seven-member panel charged with vetting the applicants through a variety of fun events including the Alumni Reunion potluck, student interviews, home visits, dinner at Mitsuwa Marketplace, yard sale fundraiser, pizza & game night and picnic. Dave and Linda Kranz's daughter, Emiko was a member of the 2013 delegation.

Special thanks to the committee: (in alphabetical order) David Gelbaum (2014 adult leader), Steven Ihde (past adult leader), Dave Kranz, Jay Matsumoto (past exchange student), Marilyn Rubin, and the next TSCA president for their forthcoming insight and support in this important process.

Applicants who have questions about the student cultural exchange program and student selection process can call me at (310) 373-6146.

A short Bios of our 2013 Student Delegation



Ann Lobo
Sophomore
Torrance High

Ann, age 16, is a junior at Torrance High School. She enjoys basketball having played on the school team. Ann is an avid singer and displays her talent as a member of the school's jazz choir. Her favorite subject is anatomy and is considering studying medicine in college. Interests outside of school include skateboarding and volunteering locally. Ann's favorite memory from the exchange was the arrival at Kashiwa City Hall and meeting the host families and delegates for the first time.



Cindy Chan
Junior
South High

Cindy is 17 years old and a senior at South High School. Softball is one of her favorite activities and plays on both the school's varsity team and the OC Impact, a club team in Buena Park. Her favorite class at South is anatomy and would like to pursue a pre-medicine/biology major in college. She hopes to become veterinarian. When she is not in school, Cindy enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking and going to the beach. Her fondest memory in Kashiwa was dancing at the Matsuri and enjoying the festivities despite the rain.



Jay Matsumoto
Junior
South High

Jay, age 17, is a senior at South High School. His favorite subject in school is physics. Jay is a member of the track and field team and also competed in cross country. Outside of school, Jay is active in Boy Scouts and was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout this summer. Jay also spends many hours volunteering with the Kiwin's. Looking back, Jay's favorite activity in Kashiwa was learning how to play the taiko drums and performing for KIRA at the sayonara party.



Emiko Kranz
Senior
West High

Emiko, age 18, graduated from West High School last June. While at West, Emiko served as a member of the student government and competed on the track and field team. She is currently a freshman at UCLA studying Neuroscience. Emiko enjoys painting, baking cakes and pastries, running. Out of all of places she visited in Japan, Nikko was her favorite because it was both beautiful and historic

**Melanie Nomiya
& Ann Lobo are our
new Student Board
Member
Emiko Kranz is
our Student Club
President**



Ken Shrivastava
Senior
Torrance High

Ken, age 18, is a recent graduate of Torrance High School. He competed on the cross country team and was an active volunteer with the Kiwin's participating on numerous beach cleanups. Ken currently is studying Materials Science and Engineering at UCLA. Kiyomizudera in Kyoto was Ken's favorite stop on the exchange. He was amazed to see how the historic temple was next to the modern shopping areas



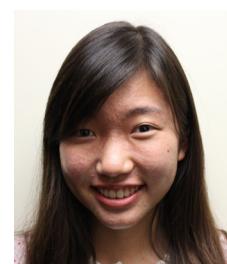
Vanessa Barragan
Senior
West High

Vanessa, age 18, is a recent graduate of West High School. At West, Vanessa was a member of the marching band. She currently attends Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles and is majoring in business. Vanessa is a member of the college's student government. Back home, Vanessa enjoyed volunteering for the Torrance Rose Float Association and Torrance Centennial Committee. Vanessa's favorite memories in Kashiwa come from the free host family weekends. She enjoyed spending time with the families doing decorative paintings and visiting the amusement park.



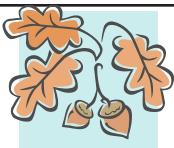
Matthew Tiansay
Senior
Torrance High

Matthew is 18 years old and graduated from Torrance High School last June. He was a member of the school's cross country team and is still a running enthusiast. Matthew now attends El Camino College and is studying nursing. The Kyoto and Hiroshima trip was the highlight of his time in Japan. He remembers the three-day trip for the delicious food and many opportunities to bond with the other delegates.



Melanie Nomiya
Sophomore
North High

Melanie, age 16, is a junior at North High School. Melanie contributes much of her free time volunteering and was the founding member of the Red Cross Club at North. Her favorite subjects in school are English and Korean. When not in school, Melanie enjoys painting and playing tennis. Her fondest memory from Japan was visiting the peace memorial in Hiroshima.



SAVE the DATE - November 16-17, 2013

TSCA Cafe

TSCA is running the refreshments stand at the Torrance Fall Craft Faire on November 16 - 17. 100% of our proceeds will benefit the exchange program!

We need you to make this event a success. Please volunteer to help at the Cafe on Saturday or Sunday, or set up on Friday. Helping hands can pick up donuts, deliver lunches to the vendors, work light kitchen duty, or sell snacks. Any amount of time is greatly appreciated!

Big request: Is there any chance that the craft fair article be placed on page 3 or 4 and not on the next to the last page? It's important to catch the readers' attention early (so they'll volunteer...)

Please call/text Shirley Tanaka, 310-293-8600, or email ksitanaka3@yahoo.com.

Thank you!

Torrance Craftsmen Guild's Fall Arts and Crafts Faire
Torrance Cultural Arts Center
Saturday and Sunday, November 16-17, 2013
9 am to 4 pm

Setting into Stone

By Matthew Medlock

Foreign Language Lecturer in Kashiwa



Everywhere you are, people form all different kinds of relationships- relationships out of love, relationships out of necessity, relationships out of responsibility- there are many different kinds of relationships that we form. When you are in school, all of these relationships come into play, but you can ultimately decide who you want to be around and how you want to be around them. But what happens when we get older?

Growing up, my parents always told me that my relationships with the people I went to school with would change after I go to college. They often told me that people just lose touch with one another. I always thought of this as such a sad reality; the idea of spending almost a quarter of your life with someone everyday and then ultimately losing relations with them just simply baffled my mind. So I decided to put that thought in the back of my mind until the time came when I would ultimately have to say farewell to my friends on the day of graduation. So the time came and even though it was bittersweet I bid adieu to my high school friends and went off to college.

In college, I consciously decided to make friends with people in my classes. Not necessarily because I wanted to, but because counselors at my orientation told us that it was the wise thing to do. So I did, I made friends, but what is actually remarkable is I was still kept my relationships with my friends from high school.

I thought that my relationships would fade, like I was told, but they were stronger than ever. I thought about the reason as to why- why were my high school relationships

lasting? The answer, social media. Growing up, my parents did not have the convenience of the Internet so such things as facebook and twitter were not available. And so for me, having such things available to me had made a significant impact on my relationships with the people I went to high school with.

Though, this is not to say that all my high school friendships have lasted (there were a few that fell through the cracks, but nonetheless inevitable). I have pondered and wondered as to why these few relationships have fallen. Being in Japan has opened my eyes to a lot of things. I have more chances to be alone to think about things than I would have had in America. And having these chances to be alone have made me more decisive with my life choices. As I said before, my parents always told me that your relationships fade, as you get older, especially when graduating high school. But with the Internet relationships can be saved. However, in this new day and age, relationships do not change because of losing touch with one another, it is we lose touch with one another because we get set in our ways.

When we are young, opinions easily sway the way we think and the way we do things. As we get older, we become more solid in our beliefs and stay truer to our convictions- as this follows the same patterns with our relationships. The friends that we retain are the friends that can readjust to our thinking and our way of life. The friendships that suffer are the ones that refuse to evolve.

Being in Japan, and coming into my mid-twenties has made me realize that we become who we are going to be for the rest of our life, so it is imperative that we adjust our sites and the way we think to better ourselves for our futures as well as better ourselves for the individuals we choose to be around.

TSCA's Cotton Candy Man

Passing the Cone from Lou to You

By Shirley Tanaka/ Lou Martel

Lou Martel has been active in TSCA since his daughter Kristi was a delegate to Kashiwa in 1999 and his wife Lori was selected as the adult leader in 2001. He himself became very involved with the organization, serving on the Board and as Treasurer.

However, one of Lou's most cherished roles has been serving as Chair of the cotton candy booth. The cotton candy machine, a gift from Kashiwa, has delighted thousands of children at the Bunka-Sai Festivals. Lou finds it very rewarding and fun to be able to work with the many high school volunteers, who he credits are really the pulse of the operation. Each volunteer learns how to spin the cones and interact with customers.

Lou likes to put a chair in front of the booth for little children to stand on so they can watch their cotton candy being spun. The excitement on their faces gives him a lot of pleasure, and is also very rewarding to the student volunteers.

"People are what make the booth an interesting or fun place to spend one's time because each customer is there with you for the two or three minutes it takes to make the cone, usually with one or more small children. I try to engage the children in the process, starting with asking the color they want, and watching how the little ones make the decision. More often than not, the girls opt for the pink. Most children and many of the adults will actively watch from the time the sugar is poured into the spinner until the final threads are spun. I just have fun doing it."

After many treasured years of working in the booth, Lou feels that it is time for him to "pass the cone." If there is someone out there who would like to assume this very rewarding position, Lou would be happy to share all he knows.

**Thanks for the sweet memories,
Lou!**



Experience Japan!

**Become
a Cultural
Ambassador for
the adventure
of a lifetime!**

- ♦ Here's your chance to represent the best of Torrance youth
- ♦ Promote international friendship and understanding
- ♦ Become part of a family in Kashiwa, Japan
- ♦ Visit modern Tokyo and the ancient temples of Kyoto
- ♦ Gain understanding of Japanese customs & daily life
- ♦ Participate in an authentic tea ceremony & martial arts
- ♦ Experience Hiroshima
- ♦ Make lifelong friends and much, much more!

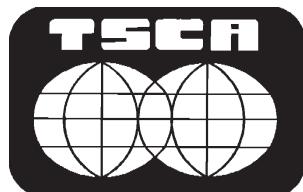


Torrance Sister City Association (TSCA)

is looking for highly-motivated Torrance residents who are high school sophomores through college freshmen, 19 years old and younger, to serve as cultural ambassadors in the Student Cultural Exchange Program.

Since 1974, TSCA has sponsored hundreds of students to represent the highest qualities of American youth in Kashiwa, Japan, our sister city, for three unforgettable weeks in July.

Pick up an application in your school's Counseling Office or call the Torrance Community Services Department at 310/618-2930.



**APPLICATION MUST
BE POSTMARKED BY
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2013**

TorranceSisterCity.org

Memories of Japan

The Second in a mini-series of reports from the 2013 Kashiwa exchange group Compiled by Gail Roulette

Each summer TSCA sends a student delegation to our sister city Kashiwa. Before they go, we give them eight two-hour orientation sessions to prepare them for the trip. Each of these students, usually high-school age, and their adult leader selects a particular topic to research. They write their findings prior to going, then write a report after the trip describing what they have learned. For the next few issues we will present excerpts from their experiences based on their post-trip reports.

House Architecture And Interior Designing In Japan

By Ann Lobo

The people of Japan are especially known for their ability to use spaces extremely efficiently. At my first host family's home, the main doors (leading in to bedrooms and other rooms) were sliding doors...that go into the wall so the room is instantly more spacious. Closet doors were like the doors of a restroom on an airplane. To open them, you have to pull them and then push and they fold on either side. The reason: so you can have a full view of everything. When you use a sliding door on a closet, you obstruct half the view.

In Japan, the bathroom is separated into two different rooms. They could be right next to each other or all the way across the house. One of the rooms has a toilet in it, which has an inbuilt basin on top of the tank! So when you flush, water automatically comes flowing out of the tap. The water you use to wash your hands fills into the tank and is used for the next time you flush. The second room is for having a bath and is separated into two sections. The first is the dressing area, and it includes the washer/dryer in one machine. The second section is for bathing, with a shower area and a tub. When there is a need for hot water in the washer, they attach a tube to the tub and use the bath water.

Japanese people may sleep on a futon (a roll-out mattress on the floor), which is stored in a closet during the daytime. The futons are put on a rice woven mat called a tatami mat. The most popular style of beds that I saw in Japan was the bunk bed. I had the pleasure of sleeping on both styles of bed.

Most homes have a small tea ceremony room that is completely covered with tatami mat.

When you enter a home in Japan, you are expected to take your shoes off. This keeps the house cleaner.

The living room and dining room are much like the standard American ones. The staircases really fascinated me. They are thinner and higher, making them really steep and pretty scary to walk down.

The kitchen of a Japanese house is usually a narrow passageway with cabinets and other kitchen utensils on either side. Contrary to most homes, my second host family had a dishwasher. It is one small drawer that rolls open and closes and is about $\frac{3}{4}$ the size of one rack of an American dishwasher.



The Concept Of Space

By Matthew Tiansay

Compared to the U.S., Japan has a much more restrictive use of space and yet I was surprised at how minimalist Japan was. In Japan the people have this concept of finding beauty and comfort in free or clear space and minimalism. Because of this, buildings and ways of transportation look quite different. Many of the cars I observed were very compact and many households had only one car because most people are reliant on public transportation.

Architecture and living areas such as apartments and houses in Japan are built more vertically than horizontally. Many stores in Harajuku utilized an underground area, and in Akihabara stores consisted of multiple floors each with their own unique area.

Tea ceremonies are about a calm stress-free environment in a room clear of any obstructions. In many of the places I saw the theme of "less is more," whether it be as simplistic as the Ryoan-ji Rock Garden with the evenly spaced grooves placed in the gravel, to the unoccupied rooms lined with tatami. They all had a feel of finding beauty within simplicity.

Rarely have I seen a house in Japan that had a garage. Yet I really enjoyed observing how creative space is used in Japan and how you can find serenity in such a small room.



TORRANCE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION STUDENT CLUB



WHAT IS THE STUDENT CLUB?

This group exists to keep contact between past and present TSCA delegates as well as to provide insight and experience for prospective delegates of the student ambassador program.

WHO CAN JOIN?

Any Torrance school student is eligible to join! This includes students from Torrance, North, South, West, CAMS, and Bishop Montgomery.

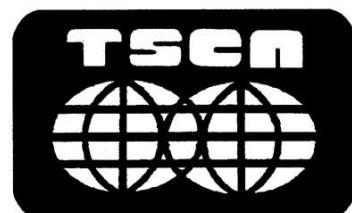
HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Contact Emiko Kranz to receive emails or to be added to the Facebook page. Meetings are every second Saturday of the month with times TBA.

Learn more about the annual TSCA exchange and selection process and the host family program in November or go online to torrancesistercity.org for more information. See you at the next TSCA Student Club meeting!

Emiko Kranz, Student Club President

Please message me on Facebook with any questions and/or comments.





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SISTER CITY
ASSOCIATION
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TORRANCE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION
2014 Membership Application

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

Name _____

Individual \$20 per year

Address _____

Family \$40 per year

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Supporting \$75+ per year

Benefactor \$125+ per year

Life member \$2000+(one time donation)

Telephone () _____ e-mail address_____

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.