

Torrance Sister City Newsletter



Torrance, California



Torrance Sister City Association



Kashiwa, Japan

<http://torrancesistercity.org/>

Newsletter Editor: Mona Wong

September 2013

Newsletter Mailing: Steven Ihde

President's Message

By Werner Willoughby



During an emotional three hours at LAX on August 22, we bid farewell to our guests from Kashiwa. After bags were checked, business cards and gifts exchanged, tears shed, individuals and groups hugged and lots of picture taken all around, the Kashiwa delegation entered the security area where waves of good bye continued until the last hand disappeared around the corner and the realization set in that eighteen days were spent. Our guests, friends, "adopted" brother and sister and newly-found member of our family were going home. After one last group hug by the tearful Torrance students the "trip of a lifetime" was over but the experiences and friendships might just last a lifetime.

Making the last two months a reality took many individuals and groups working together across 9,000 miles, focused on the goal of establishing friendships, exchanging our similarities and differences and absorbing each other's culture.

Thanks to the TSCA August Activities Committee who helped me plan this year's activities: Steven Ihde, Butch Ihde, Donna Dunlap, Michelle Heredia, and David Gelbaum.

Many thanks to the wonderful translators that were available at so many activities: Mariko Namimoto, Aki Tsurukami, Lori Chong Eurich, Yoko Mendelson, Mikko Haggott Henson, Reiko Higa, and Mayumi Todd. We appreciate the generous donation of your time and expertise.

Many thanks to the Activity Leaders and TSCA members who helped me make contact and arrangements with various venues, leading the tours and/or providing the support materials for the many successful experiences: Steven Ihde, Butch Ihde, Michelle Heredia, Robert Heredia, Stephanie Ewing Warner, Steve Warner, Linda Canada (President of the Japanese American Historical Society and West High graduate), Donna Dunlap, Lori Chong Eurich, David Gelbaum, Gary Kuwahara, Teri Kuwahara, Tiffany Yoshida, Kevin Willoughby, Patsy Shintani, Ray Roulette, Gail Roulette, Debbie Simpson Hayes and Janet Payne.

Thanks also to: the City of Torrance Transit Department and the many drivers for transporting us throughout Torrance and the greater Los Angeles area; Suzie Wand and her skills and knowledge in coordinating the resources of the city and our activities, and her send off each morning at the West Annex; Secretaries Gina Bullock and Margie Werner for expediting our needs with Central Services, the Mayor's Office as well as Council Members; and Lisa Morales and her staff — Elizabeth and Chris — for helping to secure venues.

Thanks to the Toyota USA Automotive Museum, Susan Sanborn the director and her staff for their warm and supportive

hospitality at the Square Dance/Chili Cook-Off and Sayonara Banquet.

Our eight students hosted their Kashiwa counterparts and were fantastic ambassadors of friendship and goodwill, both in Kashiwa and Torrance: Matthew Tiansay, Ann Lobo, Melanie Nomiya, Cindy Chan, Emiko Kranz, Jay Matsumoto, Vanessa Barragan and Ken Shrivastava.

To the parents of these students, thanks for your support of the many TSCA activities and willingness to contribute to the exchange program with your time, effort and as host families to the Kashiwa delegation: PK Shrivastava and Reiko Higa, Leo Barragan and Dana Cortez, Mickey and Frances Matsumoto, Dave and Linda Kranz, Kenneth Chan and Janice Fukuda, Tash and Miae Nomiya, Kevin and Pindi Lobo, Robert and Barbie Tiansay. Other host families included: Steven and Butch Ihde along with Donna Dunlap, Sherwin and Marilyn Rubin, Bob and Vera Little, David and Randi Gelbaum, Bill and Diana Sutherland, Tom and Jeannie Kawabata, Sheila Allen, Edwin and Mayumi Todd, Werner and Aileen Willoughby. TSCA is very grateful to these families for opening their homes, providing meals, making that special effort to expose the guest to many venues and experiences that supplemented and enhanced our activities, and most importantly, their personal interactions and conversations with the individual.

Also very important was the organization and selection of the host families, compiling all of the data about each family and guest and the critical point of pairing the host family with each guest by taking into account the guests interests, gender, possible health concerns, pets involved, occupations and ages of the family members. The difficult task of coordinating the home stays was undertaken by Michelle Heredia. The success of the August Activities depends upon the host family and guest relations and interactions. Many thanks to Michelle who assumed the challenge, coordinated responsibilities and brought everyone together with an orientation meeting. You did a wonderful job Michelle, thank you!!

Thanks to the many businesses and organizations within Torrance and the surrounding communities that opened their doors and/or provided resources and experiences to our August Activities; The Torrance Historical Society, The Toyota USA Automotive Museum, The Torrance Farmers' Market, Costco, International Transportation Services (ITS), the Torrance Fire and Police Departments, The Getty Art Museum, UCLA, The Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego, Farmer Brothers, King's Hawaiian Bakery, Oriental Motor, Torrance Bakery, The Go For Broke National Educational Center, Americans of Japanese Ancestry World War II Memorial Alliance, Kizuna, The Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Boots and Bows Square Dancing group, *Rafu Shimpō* Japanese newspaper, Y's Men-Torrance, Japanese American National Museum, Torrance Public Library, San Diego Zoo, Hollywood

Bowl and the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Again, as in 2006, 2011, and 2012, Teri Kuwahara did a spectacular job of producing another Tour Book that was customized to our new itinerary as many of the days and times changed for the venues. This is a very popular resource and memento for the Torrance and Kashiwa delegations which not only included the times and dates but the complete historical background of all of the venues and people involved.

Thank you to treasurer Gary Kuwahara for keeping track of our finances, writing and cashing checks, distributing of monies to the activity leaders and making reimbursements. Thank you for making the extra effort to have the checks and money ready for each activity. I appreciate your support.

As expressed by the emails from many of the Kashiwa and Torrance parents, the daily posting of photos of each of the activities was very special for them. It was very reassuring to them to experience and enjoy each activity through their son or daughter's pictures and smiles! I must extend thanks and gratitude from all the parents, TSCA and Torrance Committee members and supporters of TSCA to Steven Ihde who was assisted by Jay Matsumoto for the most extensive photo coverage ever.

Let me extend my deepest gratitude to all of these individuals, groups and venues for their time effort and support to make this year's August Activities a success! If, by chance, I did not mention your name, please accept my apologies, and thanks to you as well!!

Books From Kashiwa

by Hazel Taniguchi

Hillary Theyer, City Librarian, and Dana Vinke, Principal Librarian of Operations, have finished re-identifying and cataloguing books and AV materials donated by Kashiwa that are at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

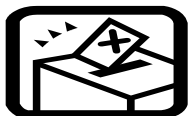
Every item is recorded with the following entry: "Presented to the Torrance Public Library from Sister City, Kashiwa, Japan."

Each item has a bookplate stating "Presented by the Kashiwa International Relations Association."

The link to this collection is: <http://library.torrnet.com/uhtbin/cgiirsi.exe/x/O/O/5?searchdata1+Kashiwa+Torrance&Library=All>

TSCA members, please check this out and enjoy the donations from Kashiwa.

Many thanks to Hillary and Dana and staff!



VOTE!

There will be an election of the Board of Directors at the October board meeting. The nominating committee will present nominees for election, and will ask for additional nominations from the floor at the September board meeting. If you would like to nominate a member to the board or if you would like to be considered for a board position, please contact Joe Rust, Gail Roulette or Jill Maroney. Ballots will be mailed to members after the September board meeting.

by Joe Rust

September Calendar

September 2	Holiday - City Hall Closed
6	City Hall Closed
9	Association meeting 7:00 p.m. West Annex Commission Room
20	City Hall Closed

Membership News

Membership Chairman:
Ron Kimmel

New and renewed memberships:

Miller, Mary P. (I)

Takikawa, Hirufumi (I)

Address changes:

Tim Goodrich|

9917 Flavian Ave, Torrance, CA 90503

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



2013 STUDENTS TO REPORT

The 2013 exchange students will present their post-trip reports at the association meeting on September 9th. These reports are topics of research selected by each student and cover a wide variety of the Japanese culture.

Come and listen to these interesting reports

WEDDING NEWS

By Gail Roulette

Congratulations to TSCA Board member and website guru Tim Goodrich who married Maev Ear on June 15 at Torrance Beach. The reception was held at their recently purchased home in West Torrance, to which they returned after a brief honeymoon in Yosemite. We wish you the best!





Snap shots of the 2013 Exchange Students in Kashiwa. Please look forward the coming student report in our next newsletter



Foreign Language Expression

By Matthew Medlock

Foreign Language Lecturer in Kashiwa



Most of us in life have to do some type of public speaking. Whether it be at work, or in school, or even at family gatherings — speeches are a necessary part of life that most of us tend to avoid like the plague. But what if you enjoy speeches? Hearing the articulation of your words; the intonation of your voice; the powerful gestures and movements with every breath you take. Are these some of the things that you enjoy? In English, it is hard enough to speak with confidence and conviction in everyday life, so why would someone voluntarily do it?

I recently had to judge a speech contest for the city of Kashiwa. It is a routine thing that happens every year, but for some reason this year was different. We had many more students this year than last year; I listened to about 42 speeches in all including recitation speeches. There were a few that stood out to me and I thought to myself, “why?” As I compared all of the speeches from that day, it occurred to me that the speeches that stuck out to me more were the ones that displayed more emotion. These emotional speeches that were delivered were believable. I found that with most of

the speeches that I saw however, had a disconnect between the text and the emotionality of the utterances. Most of the students, I realized, memorized their speeches verbatim but did not give an emotional response during their conveyance — it seemed more like a chore to them rather than excitement. But, for the few who drew my attention it was surefire way to get to the top of my list and to move onto the next round.

Last year, the winners of the very same speech contest came to Ichikashi to be tutored personally by the judges (Kevin and I). The boy I tutored was absolutely incredible; his pronunciation of English was almost impeccable and his rhythm and timing seemed effortless. I asked him how he prepared for the speech contest and he told me that he spent hours with an Assistant Language Teacher to prepare for the speech contest — and it showed; it truly showed.

While working with him, I got a sense of his understandability of English. He was able to do so well because he understood the text and what it was saying. That of course, I saw, was the chain reaction to his success. From his understandability to his pronunciation and rhythm — it was the entire package.

In conclusion, I feel, it is not a love of public speaking that people have but a passion; an emotional connection of what they are saying, what they are doing, and what they are believing.

柏市から交換学生9人 市民レベルで交流と研修

生の家庭にホームステイしながら研修を積み、地域住民と市民レベルの交流を図っている。今月初めからいろいろな施設を見学している一行は、まずトレンス市議会を訪れ、

加州トレンス市と姉妹都市関係にある千葉県柏市が、第40回青少年交流プログラムに参加の高校生6人、大学生3人がトレンス市を訪れ、姉妹都市委員会メンバーや同プログラムで柏市を訪問したことがある学

市長らを表敬訪問して懇談。その後は、市内の図書館、博物館、企業などを見学したり、ユニバーサル・スタジアム、オ、トレンス・ビーチなどを訪れた。20日には日系人コミュニ



羅府新報社を訪れた千葉県柏市からの交換学生と姉妹都市委員会メンバーら

ティ歴史探訪の環として羅府新報社、全米日系人博物館、ゴフオーブパーク・モニュメント、日米文化会館を訪れて日系社会の歴史や日系メディアの役割などについて学んだ。

Sister City Visitors



GWEN MURANAKA/Rafu Shimpo

Students from Torrance and Kashiwa, Chiba Prefecture, toured the office of *The Rafu Shimpo* on Aug. 20. Hosted by the Torrance Sister City Association, the students also toured the Japanese American National Museum and the Go For Broke Monument during the day-long visit to Little Tokyo.

The articles appearing in the Rafu Shimpo showing the Kashiwa students visit to the newspaper when they toured Little Tokyo.



Farewell Kashiwa Delegates





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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.