

# Torrance Sister City Association



<http://torrancesistercity.org/>

April 2014

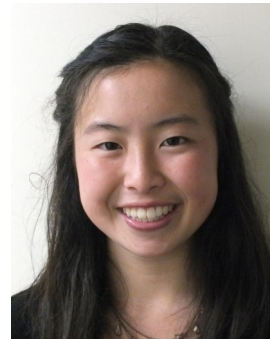
## 2014 Torrance Sister City Association Delegates



**Arianna Barragan**  
West High, Junior



**Adam Jordan**  
South High, Senior



**Leane Kuo**  
South High, Junior



**Rachel Lobo**  
Mary Star High,  
Sophomore



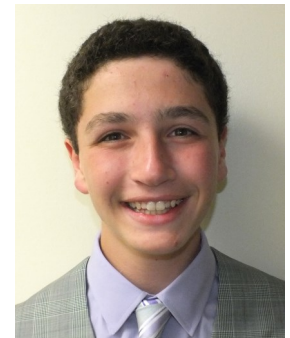
**Kyle Nishimura**  
South High, Junior



**Megan Oliveros**  
West High, Junior



**James Peck**  
South High, Sophomore



**Andrew Rodov**  
South High,  
Sophomore



**David Gelbaum**  
Adult Leader

Congratulations to the 2014 Exchange Students who will go to Kashiwa in July for our annual cultural exchange program. They will be accompanied by David Gelbaum, the adult leader who is a middle school music teacher. The Student Selection Committee would like to welcome them to the TSCA family!

### Upcoming Events

**April 4 & 18**

City Hall closed

**April 12**

Student Club Meeting

**April 14**

TSCA association meeting, 7:00 pm

**April 26-27**

Bunka-Sai Festival

## What's Inside?



### P2

- \* President's Message
- \* Membership News
- \* Welcome News

### P3

- \* Bunka-Sai flyer
- \* Student Club

### P4

- \* Type Casting article

### P5

- \* Cherry Blossom Festival
- \* TSCA Serves Lunch at the Spring Craft Faire

### P6

- \* English teacher flyer

### P7

- \* Adult Leader flyer

## President's Message

Our annual Bunka-Sai Japanese cultural festival is coming up April 26 & 27 and everyone is welcome to enjoy the terrific program of demonstrations and performances in the Ken Miller Recreation center. New this year is Kamishibai, Japanese storytelling in English and Japanese performed by Kazue Takada on Saturday and throughout the day by students using the traditional wooden theater. Be sure to buy our delicious yakisoba, curry rice and barbecue lunch plates and don't miss the tasty desserts including Okinawa dango, cocoa mochi, strawberry mochi and cookies. The Toyota Meeting Hall will feature vendors offering books, crafts,

clothing and jewelry related to Japan.

We're especially grateful to all the Bunka-Sai performers for their loyal support of this event that gives guests a rare opportunity to experience a wide variety of Japanese culture. Bunka-Sai is the only *FREE festival* that brings many facets of Japanese culture together in two days including traditional dance, koto, shakuhachi flute, folk singing, a kimono talk, taiko, bonsai, ikebana and martial arts demonstrations.

Dozens of parents, TSCA members, students and friends will be volunteering many hours to present Bunka-Sai and we hope that everyone enjoys their participation. It

takes many folks to organize this event but a big note of thanks to Werner Willoughby for leading this event and taking care of the numerous details, forms, meetings, and follow up.

A special thank you to Linda Kranz for the beautiful re-design of our monthly newsletter. Please let us know if you have any news to share. Finally, be sure to check out our new website at:

[www.TorranceSisterCity.org](http://www.TorranceSisterCity.org) for updates on events and the full-color version of our newsletter. The re-



design and hosting of our site is by South Bay Online.

Lori Chong Eurich,  
TSCA President

## Membership News

### New and renewed memberships:

Torrance Y's Men's club (S)  
Diaz, Frank, Patty and Anthony (F)  
Ewing-Warner, Stephanie (F)  
Fichtner, Dan (I)  
Gelbaum, Randi and David (F)  
Han, Dai Sup and Jill (F)  
Ichikawa, Christie (I)

Kawai, Masaru Kent (I)  
Kircher, Ellen and Bob (F)  
Namimoto, Jim and Mariko (F)  
Shintani, Ron and Patsy (F)  
Tanabe, Fred and Janice (F)  
Van Belleham, Edith (I)  
Yorizane. Eddie and Eileen (F)

After March 31 we will review the newsletter mail list and remove all former members who have not renewed since 2010. Your last membership year is on the mail label after your name. If you have any questions please call Ron Kimmel at (310) 530-2382 or email at [tscamembership@gmail.com](mailto:tscamembership@gmail.com)

## Welcome News



Ms. Satoko Miyake is the 2014 adult leader of student delegation. She has been a member of the Torrance Committee for two years. She lives with her husband, two sons and a dog; and teaches English at the high school.



Rachel Maroney Ain, 2011 TSCA Student Delegate, with husband Farris and their daughter, Delilah Rose, born February 9, 2014.



# 42nd Annual Bunka-Sai

## Japanese Cultural Festival

Saturday & Sunday  
 April 26 & 27, 2014  
 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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

- New This Year  
*Kamishibai Storytelling*
- Aikido, Judo, Kendo, Naginata, Karate
- Koto, Taiko, Minyo, Shamisen,  
*Odori (Classical Dance)*
- Ikebana & Bonsai
- Shodo Calligraphy & Tea Ceremony
- Origami, Roketsu, Kimekomi Ningyo Dolls
- BBQ Plate Lunch, Shave Ice, Yakisoba,  
*Okinawa Dango, Curry and Rice,  
 Cotton Candy, Desserts, Drinks*
- Arts & Crafts Boutique
- Games for children
- Hourly drawings

\*Program subject to change without notice

Presented by The Torrance Sister City Association  
[TorranceSisterCity.org](http://TorranceSisterCity.org)

Proceeds to benefit the student cultural exchange program

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

Torrance Sister City Association  
 2014 **Bunka-Sai** Performance Schedule  
 Ken Miller Recreation Center

**Saturday, April 26** – Dr. Dan Fichtner, Emcee

- 11:50 Kamishibai – *traditional storytelling by Kazue Takada*
- 12:30 Tea ceremony by *Sakiko Monuki*
- 1:10 Judo
- 1:50 Naginata
- 2:30 Dance by *Mai No Kai*
- 3:10 Kendo
- 3:40 Kimono dressing talk by *Toshiko Ohkawa*
- 4:20 Kishin Taiko



**Sunday, April 27** – Tricia Takasugi, Emcee – pending

- 11:50 Shodo calligraphy by Mrs. Ikuta
- 12:30 Okinawa taiko & dance – *Okinawa Association of America*
- 1:10 Aikido
- 1:50 Koto by *Awaya Kai*
- 2:30 Dance by *Bando Hidesomi Nihon Buyo Kai*
- 3:10 Shakuhachi demo and talk by *Shoshi*
- 3:40 Folk singing by *Matsutoyo Kai*
- 4:20 Taiko Center
- Demonstrations in Assembly Room

**Saturday, April 26 and Sunday, April 27**

- 12:00 Ikebana (flower arranging) by *Ikenobo Kai*
- 1:00 Bonsai by *Koyu Kai* (Saturday only) pending

[www.TorranceSisterCity.org](http://www.TorranceSisterCity.org)

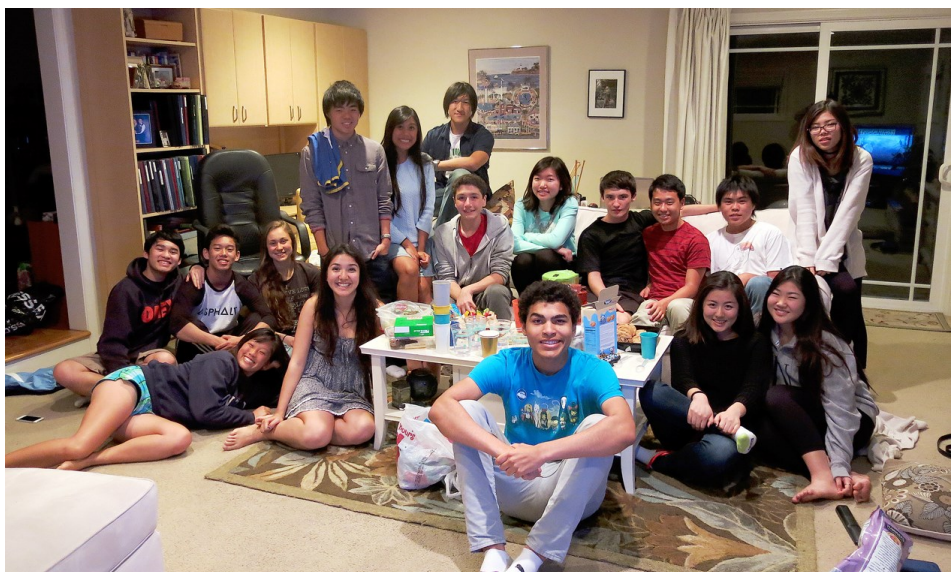
## Student Club

During our March meeting, the Student Club came together for movie night! We watched *Princess Mononoke*, a Japanese animated film produced by the highly acclaimed company Studio Ghibli. Based in Japan, Studio Ghibli has created major features such as *Totoro*, *Grave of the Fireflies*, *Spirited Away*, and many more films that have become so renowned that they were dubbed in English and brought to the United States, among other countries. We had a fun night together—with plenty of snacks, as usual—and had a relaxing meeting before the storm that is Bunka-Sai hits.

That reminds me! Bunka-Sai is upon us! Student Club will be needing volunteers to help with *Kamishibai*, a form of Japanese storytelling, as well

as with a couple of game booths. If you are interested in either volunteering with us or coming out to our next meeting (April 12<sup>th</sup>) then

please contact me, Emiko Kranz, via email at [emi.kranz@gmail.com](mailto:emi.kranz@gmail.com). Thank you, and happy spring everyone!  
 - Emiko Kranz, Student Club President



## Type Casting

Chances are, if we don't begin with samurai, ninjas, geisha or otaku, if I were to ask you to paint me a picture of Japan, you are most likely going to start with Mount Fuji (富士山). It is unquestionable that Fuji-san continues to have a marquee presence in Japanese iconographic culture, since time immemorial.

For centuries, the volcano was so sacred that for long points of its history no man was allowed to even set foot on the face of the mountain, with no first "official" climbing, as the stories say, being recorded until 663 CE by an unnamed monk.

But it was not until the capital was moved in 1603 under the Tokugawa Shogunate from Kyoto (京都) to Edo (江戸), with most people traveling the 53-stations along the Tokaido (東海道) Road, that the Mountain became a central feature of Japanese artistic identity. Traveling the road circumventing the base of Mount Fuji as they passed by the Izu Peninsula (伊豆半島), the mountain stood in stark contrast to the geographical and cultural flatness of Eastern Japan (関東). While Kyoto (京都) and Nara (奈良) had hundreds of temples and centuries of history to look to behind them, the citizens of Tokyo, instead, only had to look up to understand their place as the root of the ladder to the heavens.

Since the Meiji Era (明治時代), climbing Mount Fuji has been an exercise in discipline in the long tradition of Japanese ascetic practices. The summit, which was once a sacred seating place for Kono-hana-sakuya Hime (木之花開耶姫), the goddess of earthly life, is considered a power-spot, upon which prayers can be more clearly heard and directly answered.

And while tourists numbering in the hundreds-of-thousands continue to climb the mountain annually, climbing Mount Fuji had not always been such an egalitarian affair.

For centuries, the holy mountain's 3,776 meter (12,388 feet) ascent remained an unattainable pilgrimage to many due to such unfortunate afflictions as illness, injury, old age, cost, living in Kansai or being a woman.

Anyway, for those not bold enough to challenge the rules outright or those not physically or fiscally able, as a



nearly mandatory spiritual pilgrimage, ingenuity abounded.

One of the more ingenious work-arounds was the creation and proliferation of 富士塚 (Fujizuka): local-sponsored miniature representations of the Sacred Mountain.

Usually services of the Fuji-ko pilgrims (富士講), devotees constructed replica Mount Fujis out of stones or plants brought back from their sojourn to remember their experiences by and share their enlightenment with those from their town who were not as fortunate to go, as a sort of advanced-level omiyage (お土産).

Often never taller than 12 meters, these mounds consist of simple faux-mountain trails complete with block-lava stones, hand carved "lava-caves" and shrines, and are adorned with plants similar to, if not exactly, the ones found sparsely dotting the side of the rocky volcano's

face. Often, Fujizuka feature summits with picturesque views from which the holy mountain can be viewed and contemplated. Or at least used to, before all those pesky apartment buildings got in the way.

Interestingly enough, most Fujizuka even host local festivals and ceremonies that echo the tradition of Mount Fuji itself, like the one at Shinagawa Shrine (品川神社), which celebrates an Opening Festival on July 1st, "Just like the one at the real Mount Fuji." Or so they say.

Un-cite-able sources claim there to be more than 50 Fujizuka remaining throughout Tokyo alone, with hundreds strewn across Japan as far south as Osaka (大阪) and Kobe (神戸).



And while I have not yet made any plans to visit any of the purported "hundreds" of Fujizuka, I am 100% certain that, after a quick Google-search, I have actually been to more than a dozen on accident.

Heck, there's even one 30 minutes away from where I live, in Nagareyama...



Kevin Butt, English Teacher

Note: The two images are credited to Hiroshige from a collection called "One-Hundred Views of Edo." Kevin found them on: [www.nippon.com/en/currents/d00021/](http://www.nippon.com/en/currents/d00021/)

## Cherry Blossom Festival

On Saturday, March 15, the student delegation manned a booth at the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Cherry Blossom Festival at Colombia Park. The students sold raffle tickets and passed out Bunka-Sai flyers. They sold tickets to the vendors, festival goers, prospective city council members and Mayor Frank Scotto. Overall, the day was a success. The students sold an astounding 526 tickets. Their hard work paid off. Congratulations!!

- David Gelbaum, 2014 TSCA Adult Leader



## TSCA Serves Up Lunch at the Torrance Spring Crafts

With members and family working tirelessly throughout the day, the TSCA Café served delicious lunch and refreshments to the 70 vendors and many visitors to the Torrance Craftsmen's Guild Spring Crafts Faire on Saturday, March 22. This year, a team formed early in the morning to make our own spam

musubi, a very popular snack. While we did offer several healthy options, best sellers included hot dog, chili dog, and chili rice. This was not surprising as they all tasted so good!

A HUGE kudos to an amazing crew – Ann, Barbie, Butch, Donna, David, Frances, Hayley, Hazel, Janet, Jenny,

Jill, Joe, Keith, Kerry, Leslie, Marilyn, Matt, May, Pam, Pindi, Reiko, Shelley, and Stephen. Special thanks to David and all the 2014 student delegates for helping make the Café a success. It was a pleasure working with you all!

-Shirley Tanaka, Hospitality Committee Chair



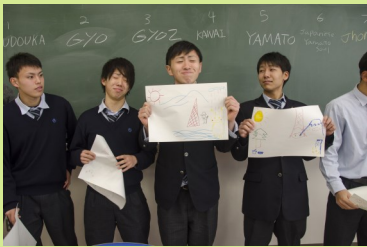
## Teach English In Kashiwa, Japan

### Kashiwa Municipal Photos

Kevin Butt, English Teacher



Bunka-Sai, 3-C built their own Toy Story Mania arcade, complete with rolling cart trolley!



Group C tries their hand at the "Preposition Mapping" game. How much can you memorize in 2 minutes?



1, 2, 3 4! Warm-up exercises (準備運動: jumbi-undō) for the Sports Festival.

The Torrance Sister City Association seeks qualified applicants for one high school English teacher at Kashiwa Municipal High School in Kashiwa, Japan, the Sister City of Torrance. A minimum one-year contract runs from August 1, 2014 to July 31, 2015. The contract is renewable for a maximum three year assignment.

**Duties:** Create and deliver engaging lessons in English conversation and composition, assist with coordinating campus visits by parents, administrators and junior high students, provide support to Japanese teachers of English and extra-curricular activities as specified by the Principal including: judging and assisting with speech contests, serving as advisor to the English Conversation Club, business trips and coaching students for college interviews. Volunteer work with KIRA (Kashiwa International Relations Association) and other city groups may also be required.

### Qualifications

Applicants must:

1. Live or work in Torrance
2. Be fluent in written and spoken English
3. Hold a Bachelor's degree plus a teaching credential or have demonstrated teaching experience (verified in recommendation letter)
4. Possess a keen interest in the Japanese language and culture
5. Represent the Torrance Sister City Association and foster the goals and objectives of the English Teacher Exchange Program

### Compensation

1. Annual salary of approximately 4,800,000 Japanese yen
2. One-way airfare from Los Angeles to Tokyo, Japan
3. National health insurance (deducted from monthly salary)
4. Subsidized housing and transportation allowance
5. Paid Japanese holidays and personal days

Please send detailed resume, cover letter, and two letters of recommendation by U.S. mail only postmarked by **April 4, 2014 and received by April 11, 2014** to:

Lori Chong Eurich, Chair  
TSCA English Teacher Selection Committee  
Attn: Community Services Dept.  
c/o 3031 Torrance Blvd.  
Torrance, CA 90503

Please discuss your connection to Torrance in cover letter. Qualified applicants will be scheduled for panel interviews held in May.

**For further information call: Lori Eurich at (310) 373-6146 or Dan Fichtner at (310) 316-6092.**



Newsletter Editor-in-Chief: Linda Kranz  
Newsletter Distribution: Donna Dunlap  
We welcome your comments and submissions to the TSCA newsletter.  
Please send them to: [tscanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:tscanewsletter@gmail.com)



# Torrance Sister City Association

c/o Community Services Division  
3031 Torrance Boulevard  
Torrance, CA 90503



## Have You Considered Being an Adult Leader for the TSCA Student Cultural Exchange Program?

- Accompany up to eight high school students to Torrance's sister city, Kashiwa, Japan in July 2015
- Learn about the Student Cultural Exchange Program and Japanese Culture
- Spend up to three exciting weeks in Japan as an Ambassador of goodwill

### Qualifications:

- Be at least 26 years of age at the time of the trip
- Reside or work in Torrance
- Have a background working with youth in at least one of the following areas:
  - ◆ Education, counseling, behavioral sciences, or
  - ◆ Youth activities, chaperone for school trips

### Interested?

**Contact: Stephanie Ewing Warner, chair Adult Leader Selection Committee at [sewingwarn@aol.com](mailto:sewingwarn@aol.com) by Friday, April 11, 2014 or mail a brief letter of intent to apply for the position, giving TSCA a brief personal background and a request for an application packet.**

**Deadline for applications is Friday, April 11, 2014. Send your completed application by U.S. mail.**

**Qualified applicants will be called for a panel interview with the Adult Leader Selection Committee.**

### Mail all material to:

Torrance Sister City Association  
c/o Community Services Division  
3031 Torrance Blvd.  
Torrance, CA 90503  
Attention: Adult Leader Program



TORRANCE  
SISTER CITY  
ASSOCIATION  
3031 Torrance Boulevard  
Torrance, CA 90503

NON-PROFIT  
ORG.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Torrance, CA  
Permit No. 78

Return Service Requested

✂

---

## TORRANCE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION 2014 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.

TSCA meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, except in August and December, at the Civic Center West Annex Commission Room 7:00 p.m.