

Torrance Sister City Association



<http://torrancesistercity.org/>

December 2014



TSCA 2015 Board Members

President's Message

We had a very successful year thanks to the generous support of our members, friends, city officials, city departments, local businesses and organizations. Our Bunka Sai festival was well attended and we raised enough money to fund our busy summer cultural exchange program. TSCA is indeed very fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers who help out at Bunka Sai, the cultural exchange program, the student orientation, TSCA Café, newsletter production and more. These programs continue to thrive with the kind support of our volunteers whose time and expertise are much appreciated.

Congratulations to the new elected TSCA officers: **Dan Fichtner**, president; **Donna Dunlap**, vice president; **Dana Cortez**, secretary and **Bryce Yamauchi**, treasurer. Donna and Bryce are serving second terms in their positions. These individuals have years of experience and insight with TSCA and will do a

fine job leading us. Thank you to **Erin Moriwaki Wauke** for serving as secretary for two years.

Please join us at our annual Alumni Reunion Potluck luncheon on Saturday, January 10th at 11:00 a.m. at the Ken Miller Recreation Center. This event will include the installation of the new officers, the 2015 Partnership Award recipient, an introduction of the students who are applying to the cultural exchange program and a roll call of alumni.

The deadline to submit applications for our cultural exchange program is **December 18th** and all documents need to be in by this date. Applications are available on our website. Please tell high school students about this "trip of a lifetime."

Many thanks to this year's exchange students: **Megan Oliveros, Adam Jordan, Kyle Nishimura, Leane Kuo, Andrew Rodov and James Peck** for joining me at presentations at West and South High school and 2013

student **Melanie Nomiya** at North. Their reflections sparked interest in the exchange program. Thanks to **David Gelbaum** for making the terrific trip video that was shown during the visits. View this on our website on the exchange program page.

A big thank you to **Shirley, Keith and Jenny Tanaka** for organizing and managing the TSCA Café at the Fall Craft Fair. The volunteers worked together efficiently and managed to do some shopping, too.

Contributions received in remembrance of two members who passed away this year, **Fujiko "Fuzzy" Ishikawa and Gini Loy Good** have enabled us to purchase new stanchions for use at Bunka Sai. They are imprinted with their names to honor them. Thank you to all the donors.

I hope we can count on the *continued support of everyone* as we endeavor to deepen the bonds of friendship between Torrance and Kashiwa and promote goodwill and lasting relationships.

In closing, thank you to the board and everyone for your support this year. It was a pleasure to serve and I will continue to be involved on committees and assist the new board.

Best wishes for the holidays and the new year.

- Lori Chong Eurich,
TSCA President



Upcoming Events

December 12, 24, 25, 26, & 31
City Hall closed

January 7, 2015
Bunka-Sai planning meeting

January 10, 2015
Alumni Reunion Luncheon

January 12, 2015
TSCA association meeting, 7:00 pm

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Membership News

The following have renewed for 2015 or recently joined. Thank you for renewing or joining.

All Nippon Airways (B)
ExxonMobil (B)
Torrance Y's Men's Club (S)
Deloyd, Aki (I)
Diaz, Frank, Patty, Anthony (F)
Fichtner, Dan (F)
Fuller, Jeannie and Steve (F)
Gibson, Judy (I)
Jensen, Davis and Kathleen (F)

Johnson, Lynn and Harold (F)
Mori, Christopher A. (I)
Namimoto, Jim and Mariko (F)
Shrivastava, Ken (F)
Tabata, Lynn (I)
Van Bellehem, Edith (I)
Weideman, Kurt (I)
Yee, Stephanie (F)

It's time to renew your membership for 2015. Please fill out the application form on the back of the newsletter or download a form

from our web site and submit it with your dues payment. You soon will receive a reminder in the mail with an application form. The membership committee needs 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, email Ron Kimmel at tscamembership@gmail.com

Alumni News

Cara Ihde has been a member of TSCA for over twenty-five years, born to parents who were already active members and former adult leaders. After many years of volunteering at Bunka Sai, attending Sayonara Banquets, and hosting Kashiwa delegates, she was finally old enough to apply to be a Torrance delegate. Cara was selected and traveled to Kashiwa in 2006. Since then she attended California Lutheran University for her undergraduate and graduate studies. She continued her passion for playing volleyball as a member of the CLU Regals volleyball team for four years. She coached the team the following year. In 2010, Cara had the opportunity to spend a semester studying abroad, traveling the world by ship on a program called



Cara Ihde in the classroom

Semester at Sea. In just four months, Cara and her fellow classmates traveled to ten countries including Japan. While in Japan, she was able to see Natsuka Goto, the Kashiwa delegate with whom she hosted in 2006, and spend the day with her in Tokyo. She believes that

the three week trip to Kashiwa gave her the ambition and courage to travel.

In 2012 Cara received a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. She moved back to Torrance to accept three jobs: teaching, coaching high school volleyball, and acting as a church youth director. After juggling three jobs for two years, she is now focusing her time exclusively on teaching. Cara is teaching fourth grade at Riviera Hall Lutheran School in Redondo Beach. She enjoys finding ways to incorporate her travel experiences into lessons. Cara feels incredibly blessed for all of the opportunities she has had to travel and create life-long friendships with people across the world. Cara still keeps in touch with friends from Kashiwa, hoping one day to return to Japan again.

Thomas Seraydarian (2012 delegate) will be participating in a study abroad program through Temple University Japan from January to April of 2015. Temple University Japan's campus is in the heart of Toyko; Thomas will be living in the Hiyoshi Men's Dorms, about three minutes away from Hiyoshi Station. While there, he will be finishing up his Japanese Studies Minor and will be

taking Advanced Japanese language courses in addition to a course on Japanese film and Japanese literature. He is currently a Junior at Chapman University.



Thomas Seraydarian

Member News



A congratulatory cake was given to TSCA member Shirley Tanaka at the November TSCA association meeting in honor of her retirement. Happy Retirement Shirley!



Takikawa-san (pictured front, center) is the Kashiwa 2015 adult leader. He is the father of Hirofumi (2011 Kashiwa student) and Takahiro (2013 Kashiwa student). Photo taken at the UCLA campus when Takikawa-san came to visit before Hirofumi returned to Japan. Tour guides Steven Ihde (2013 adult leader), Ken Shrivastava, and Emiko Kranz (2013 Torrance delegates).

At the Torrance Fall Craft Faire, over 30 TSCA members and family members worked hard and harmoniously to ensure that lunch was served promptly to the vendors and plenty of refreshments were available throughout the weekend of November 15th and 16th. A variety of entrees and snacks were provided to over 90 vendors and many visitors of the Torrance Craftsmen's Guild Holiday Arts and Craft Faire. Spam musubi freshly

made by energetic teams both days, Giuliano's sandwiches, Ladybug's teriyaki chicken, Chinese chicken salad, and chili dog on rice were popular requests. This year we offered a new dish, vegetarian quinoa chili, which received great reviews from vegetarians and non-vegetarians alike. Delicious homemade cookies were sold as quickly as they were taken out of the oven!

My thanks to the best crew ever— Afzal, Aileen, Butch, Cheryl, Colleen, Dan, Dana, David, Donna, Frances, Hazel, Jenny, Jill, Joe, Keith, Kerry, Leilani, Leslie, Lori, Marilyn, Pam, Patsy, Shanli, Steven, Susan, and Teri. Special thanks to our wonderful student assistants— Ada, Adam, Garrett, Hayley, Joey, Kyle, Leane, Lindsay, Natasha, and Noelle. All of you made this possible!

- Shirley Tanaka



TSCA volunteers working at the TSCA café at the Torrance Fall Craft Faire, November 15 and 16, 2014

I was presented with a Proclamation from the City of Torrance by Mayor Patrick Furey, presented by Councilman Kurt Weideman.

I was recognized as one of the founding members twenty years ago "instrumental in the creation and development of a solid cornerstone foundation which is now the Adventures In Art Torrance program." I served as the Founding Advisor (Past Chairman) as Adventures In Art Torrance was created out of the South Bay Hands On Art program in Redondo Beach.

AIA is, "comprised of community members from all walks of life who

step away from their normal schedules and volunteer to bring nonjudgmental art and art expression to thousands of Torrance K-8 students yearly."

This art exhibit was a celebration of the 20th anniversary of Adventures In Art. In the last 20 years, I was astounded to learn over 250,000 students have been taught in this program by over 6,000 community volunteers collectively producing over 350,000 hours of donated community time and educational support in Torrance schools.

- Teri Kuwahara, past president of TSCA



Councilman Kurt Weideman presenting Teri Kuwahara with Proclamation from the City of Torrance

Missing Home

Ofentimes, you don't realize something until it's blatantly stated to you.

It doesn't need to come in an exaggerated way or in a grandeur fashion. Usually it's in the smallest, simplest, and most innocent of ways that comes unexpectedly.

I went to the University of California, Irvine for college. Irvine is only a 40-minute drive from Torrance. The distance wasn't too far, yet it wasn't close enough to go home for dinner and make it back early enough to sleep at a reasonable time. During my first year, I would talk to my family maybe once a month or so. I knew that they cared; my parents just valued giving us our space and independence. Perhaps that's why coming to Japan I knew getting homesick wouldn't be an issue.

However, this is my first time living away from home, way over a 40-minute drive away, and let alone in a different country.

In October, I was invited to dinner at a co-worker's house with his family. We ate delicious home-cooked Japanese food, I got to play with their dogs (I have a dog at home that I



miss so much, so this was wonderful), and had good conversation. Somewhere into the night, they asked me if I was homesick. A few days earlier, I had asked myself the same question, to which I concluded I was a little bit. I do miss my family and friends and my dog. I told them that, and they immediately replied, "Don't worry, Stephanie. We will be your family here in Japan!" Tears instantly filled my eyes as I averted my gaze and muttered a sincere "thank you" as I kept on petting the dog in my lap. Their unabashed straightaway answer caught me off-guard. Hearing that I have family here in Japan made me realize how I might be a little bit more homesick than I initially believed myself to be.

These past few months have been great and I've gotten to meet a lot of

wonderful people. I have met with friends who are living in various parts of Japan. I've also gotten to know some of the teachers here at Ichikashi better. If I were to think about all of the people I know in Japan, it's a wide web of people. For that, I'm eternally grateful.

The great thing about living and working abroad is that with the more people you meet, the bigger your family and the wider your definition of "home" becomes. Homesickness is inevitable, no matter how strong you think you are. Yet, missing home isn't such a bad thing. A speaker I heard once said, "I chose to miss you, when I chose to love you." Missing my family and friends in America only means that I have chosen to love so many different people. Reflecting on that, I don't think that is such a bad thing.



- Stephanie Mikamo,
English teacher

2015 Alumni Reunion Potluck

Saturday, January 10, 2015

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Ken Miller Recreation Center

3300 Civic Center Drive, Torrance

Everyone is welcome at our annual Alumni Reunion to celebrate the installation of our new officers and board members. Meet the 2015 Partnership Award recipient and updates from the 2014 Student delegates and Adult Leader. Renew friendships, share favorite memories and enjoy tasty potluck dishes. Applicants for the 2015 student exchange program will be attending to learn more about the trip of a lifetime.

Individuals or couples, please bring a dessert or a vegetable. Families, please bring a main dish and a salad. Drinks will be provided. Please bring serving utensils labeled with your name.

To volunteer to help or for more information, contact David Gelbaum at gelbaummusic@yahoo.com. We look forward to seeing everyone. Please feel free to wear your hapi coat, yukata, or t-shirt from your year. We'll also be accepting membership renewals.

Student Report: Women's Roles in Japan

While I was in Japan, I subtly observed the different gender roles present in everyday life, and I noticed that there was quite some contrast between their gender customs and our traditions. What I concluded about women's roles was that the women there, just like the women in America, are gradually gaining more and more authority and power in the leadership area and workforce.

My first host family was the Fuwazaki household, in which the mother stayed at home during the week and worked at a part-time job on the weekends. I learned that many Japanese mothers are expected to quit their job once they have a family.

Mothers quitting their jobs is a more traditional Japanese custom, which is contrasted with my second host

family, the Yoshibas. Although she now teaches calligraphy once a week, my second host mother used

the first move in Japan, not boys. After going on a date or two, the girl is expected to give an answer to the guy, either asking him out as her boyfriend or politely breaking it off.

Girls in Japan are expected to be a lot more dainty and fragile than the women in America... most girls dressed very cute and fashionable all the time and practically none of them would say bad words or talk about anything slightly profane.

In conclusion, despite the fact that there are many differences between our two cultures, there are also many similarities. Just because we have grown up in different places, until we have gone to that "foreign" country ourselves do we realize neither of us really is "foreign" to each other after all.

- Leane Kuo



Leane Kuo, shown in first row, 4th from the left

to work in the police force. Not only is keeping a job while raising two children hard to do, but working in a department that is primarily made up of men is also not very common.

Dating customs in Japan dictate that girls usually are expected to make

Student Report: Museum Hopping from Shogun to the Imperial Army

Japanese military history interests me in several ways. History has always been my favorite subject in school; I wanted to see World War II from the Japanese perspective; I would like to be in the Marine Corps after college.

With my first host family I went to two museums. At the National Museum of Japanese History I was able to have an English audio book. This museum had more history on the wars in the first half of the 20th century, in which Japan had many wars: the Sino-Japanese War, against China; the Russo-Japanese Wars against Russia; World War I on the side of the Allies; and the Asia-Pacific War (World War II), where Japan fought on the side of the Axis.

At the Edo-Tokyo Museum, I was fortunate to be part of an English tour guide group. This museum had more history on the Asia-Pacific War in the Tokyo area. One of the first exhibits was on Japanese Daimyos (feudal rulers) around the Edo area.



Torrance delegates in Hiroshima. James Peck is the 2nd from the right

These Daimyos controlled huge areas of land and paid samurai land to fight for them. Soon the tour reached the Asia-Pacific War area and the air raids and devastation that ensued. The museum has an actual bomb from one of the air raids.

Japan was once a hugely militaristic empire, during the reign of the shoguns. Many wars are started by differences in understanding of each other. With these sister city programs, where we learn about other cultures, hopefully civilization will be more understanding of each other leading to fewer wars.

- James Peck



2014 exchange students Andrew Rodov, James Peck and Adam Jordan joined Lori Eurich last month at South High to speak at presentations about the exchange program. The group is in Mrs. Takahashi's Japanese classroom. Not pictured: Leane Kuo and Kyle Nishimura.

TSCA Members Shine at 2014 Excellence in Arts Award Program

On Saturday, November 1st, over 200 people filled the Toyota Meeting Hall at the Cultural Arts Center for the 37th annual City of Torrance 2014 Excellence in Arts Award program. This awards program recognizes artists who live or work in the City of Torrance and who excel in the fields of dance, visual arts, drama, literature, music or arts education and provide service to our community through the arts. In addition, the program presents the Katy Geissert Award to an individual or organization that demonstrates outstanding support for promotion of arts in the Torrance community.

Two TSCA members were among the honorees---Mai No Kai (Aileen Willoughby) and Frank and Cindy Scotto.

The prestigious Katy Geissert Award was named after the first female mayor of Torrance, whose dedication to the arts prompted this recognition that bears her name.

Receiving this award for "Outstanding Dedication to the Arts"

were Frank and Cindy Scotto, whose commitment to the arts are reflected in their years of affiliation with the Torrance Sister City Association, the Torrance Rose Float Association, the Arts Council of Torrance, the Torrance Symphony Association, the Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation, and the Torrance Theatre Company. First prompted by Cindy's involvement with the Cultural Arts Foundation, her time and effort led to Frank's interest and support when he became mayor. Their involvement in the organizations are in the way of fundraising, providing business expertise, participation on the boards, volunteering their time, acting as hosts for Kashiwa students, and overall, serving as philanthropists supporting the arts in our community.

The Excellence in Arts Award in the dance category was presented to Mai No Kai Japanese Traditional Dance, a studio/dance school under the direction of TSCA member Aileen Willoughby (stage name, Bando Hirosuzu) and her two partner/instructors, Hiroe Wolf (Bando Kohiro) and Etsuko Yokota (Bando Hiromiya). The three have studied the art for

many decades and were awarded their professional stage names from Bando Mitsugoro, a Kabuki actor, television actor, and Headmaster of the Bando School of Japanese classical dance. For Aileen, it has been a journey of over 50 years during which she was awarded a rank of "Shihan," akin to a Master's degree while Bando Kohiro and Bando Hiromiya were awarded "Natori" titles. All three have studied in Japan but came together under South Bay teacher of the Bando School, Madame Bando Mitsuhiro who has participated in the Bunka Sai since the 1970s and was the recipient of the TSCA Partnership Award in 2012. With Mitsuhiro Sensei's declining health, the three ventured out on their own, opening their studio in June 2012 at 18097 Prairie Avenue, and continuing with their school's participation in the Bunka Sai.

Congratulations to our TSCA award recipients and thank you for your dedication to the arts in the City of Torrance.



Aileen Willoughby, pictured center



Cindy and Frank Scotto

Bunka-Sai 2015 planning meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month starting in January from 7:00 to 8:50 p.m. in the Katy Geissert library meeting room on the first floor. Mark your calendar to join us on these Wednesdays: January 7, February 4, March 4 and April 1. We need input from members and supporters to help plan our biggest event of the year. Suggestions and new ideas welcome!

If you have questions, please contact Werner Willoughby at: w.p.willoughby@gmail.com



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

Experience Japan!



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

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.

Applications are in your school's Counseling Office or call the Torrance Community Services Department at 310/618-2930. Download application at our website

- ◆ 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!



**APPLICATION MUST
BE POSTMARKED BY
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2014**

TorranceSisterCity.org



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TORRANCE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

2015 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 email Ron Kimmel
at tscamembership@gmail.com

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.