

Torrance Sister City Newsletter



Torrance, California



Torrance Sister City Association



Kashiwa, Japan

January 2014

<http://torrancesistercity.org/>

President's Message

By Lori Chong Eurich



Akemashite Omedeto Gozaimasu! Happy New Year to the members of TSCA, our friends at City Hall and TSCA's friends and their families in Kashiwa. I hope you all enjoyed the holidays with your family and friends.

The first event of the year is the Alumni Reunion on Saturday, January 11th at the Ken Miller Recreation Center from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please join TSCA members from the past and present, welcome our new board members and officers and meet the applicants for this year's student exchange program. Our 2014 Partnership Award winner will also be announced. Thanks go out to Reiko Higa and Shirley Tanaka for co-chairing this potluck event. We're known for excellent potlucks and look forward to sampling some tasty dishes from everyone.

On Saturday, February 8th our annual Yard Sale fundraiser will take place from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. If you're cleaning out closets and cupboards, please consider donating your items by dropping them off early that day. The sale will be held on the front lawn of Kuwahara CPA, 22426 Palos Verdes Blvd., Torrance. Proceeds from the yard sale help us fund the student exchange activities in the summer.

Our 42nd annual Bunka-Sai cultural festival is scheduled for Saturday, April 26th and Sunday, April 27th. Planning meetings begin this month under the leadership of Werner Willoughby. We have already received commitments from many performers and groups giving cultural demonstrations.

The deadline for the 2015 Adult Leader applications has been extended to January 24, 2014. A letter of intent from candidates is due on January 17th to Stephanie Ewing-Warner, the chair of the Adult Leader selection committee. See the flyer in this issue for more details.

Finally, special thanks to Werner Willoughby, a diplomatic, organized and generous individual who ably led TSCA for the past two years with his equally supportive wife, Aileen. Together, their immense patience and support along with a dining room table that served as headquarters has helped TSCA continue its mission and flourish.

Best wishes for a wonderful new year and we look forward to seeing you at our events.

Upcoming Events

January	1	City Hall Closed - New Year's Day Holiday
	10	City Hall Closed
	11	Alumni Reunion
	13	Association Meeting 7:00 p.m. West Annex Commission Room
	20	City Hall Closed - Martin Luther King Day
	24	City Hall Closed Adult leader applications deadline
February	8	TSCA yard sale at Kuwahara CPA 8 am - 12 pm 22426 Palos Verdes Blvd., Torrance, CA Cross-streets: PV Blvd & Milne Dr.

2014 Alumni Reunion Potluck

Saturday, January 11, 2014

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

Ken Miller Recreation Center
3300 Civic Center Drive

Everyone is welcome at our annual Alumni Reunion to celebrate the installation of our new officers and board members. Meet the 2014 Partnership Award recipient and updates from the 2013 Student delegates and Adult Leader. Renew friendships, share favorite memories and enjoy tasty potluck dishes. Applicants for the 2014 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 Reiko Higa at reikookinawa@gmail.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.

Save the date! **BUNKA-SAI** is coming soon

April 26 and 27, 2014

Student Club

By Emiko Kranz



As we start up the new year, the 2013 Torrance Delegation is starting up activities with the TSCA Student Club. However, many people are still wondering: what is the Student Club? As the president, it's my responsibility to fill you in!

The Student Club is a group of students who, under the name of the Torrance Sister City Association, comes together to learn about Japanese culture as an assembly of past, current, and prospective candidates of the annual exchange program. Once a month (the second Saturday of each month, to be exact) we meet and engage in activities where we learn, interact, and volunteer together to keep our bonds strong. Activities range from field trips, cooking, eating, watching movies, and doing volunteer work to support other Japanese American foundations in the area. We may also do some fundraising to help lower the costs of activities. Volunteering, eating, and socializing with other cool students interested in Japan? What more do you need?

Getting involved in the Student Club is a great way to get involved with TSCA if interested in applying for the annual Torrance-Kashiwa exchange. Any incoming hopefuls who join will have the benefit of getting to know alums and to show their character. It can only help!

All Torrance students (from North High, South High, Torrance High, West High, Bishop Montgomery, CAMS, and El Camino) are welcome to join, as well as all past delegates! If interested, please contact me by Facebook or email: emi.kranz@gmail.com. Next meeting is Jan. 18 at 3:00 PM.

Thank you, and see you in this new year! Akemashite omedetou gozaimasu!



2014 elected officers for 2014

Lori Chong Eurich – President
Donna Dunlap – Vice President
Bryce Yamauchi – Treasurer
Erin Moriwaki – Secretary

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Student Selection Committee Update

By Steven Ihde



After successfully chairing the Student Exchange Committee last year, Lori Chong Eurich has stepped down to assume the role of TSCA president. Under her leadership, she and her committee worked diligently to choose the eight students that represented our organization and city last summer in Kashiwa.

I'm pleased to be taking over from Lori and am grateful for her detailed notes and insight. This will be my third year on the committee. Joining me on this important team are: David Gelbaum, 2014 Adult Leader; Lori Chong Eurich, our fearless leader; David Kranz, father of Emiko, a 2013 exchange student; Jay Matsumoto, from South High School and 2013 exchange student; and finally Marilyn Rubin, whose son Sandler was an exchange student.

Committee members made visits in the fall to Torrance, West, South and North high schools and Bishop Montgomery and made presentations to student clubs and Japanese language classes to recruit potential candidates. Past exchange students helped support this effort. The presentations were short and informal with personal reflections from the 2013 delegates. Prospective applicants also had the opportunity to watch a brief video produced by Jay Matsumoto highlighting activities from last summer's exchange.

The deadline to apply was Thursday, December 19, 2013. Applications are currently being processed. Everyone attending the alumni reunion on January 11 will have a chance to meet the 2014 applicants. Thank you in advance to the committee members for their time and support.



Newsletter Editor: Linda Kranz
tscanewsletter@gmail.com

Newsletter Mailing: Donna Dunlap

Cultural Exchange

By Matthew Medlock

Foreign Language Lecturer in Kashiwa



With the New Year on its way, many of us take a leap of faith and set goals to challenge ourselves in the oncoming year. Many might say they want to do something like jump out of plane or go to an exotic place. But for less adventurous, maybe a time of self-reflection

to address certain character flaws about themselves.

For me, I am at a crossroad. When I was younger, I had a dream of traveling the world and living in a different country from my own. I strived to achieve that goal, with success, but now I am at a cross. What is next on my journey?

From living in Japan for over year, I can tell you that Japanese people love to celebrate anything and so any excuse to party is welcomed! But, some of these celebrations come from age-old traditions such as Tori no Ichi. Tori no Ichi is a festival particular to the Kanto region of Japan. It is held in the month November, on the day of the rooster (Chinese calendar), which normally comes every 12 days. On the days this festival takes place, copious amounts of food and drink are consumed (like with every celebration in Japan! ;D), but special ornaments called kumade (bear claw), which are bamboo rakes that are adorned with good luck charms to bring luck and wealth into the New Year, make the festival what it's truly about. These "rakes" are generally used by businesses to make sure they 'rake' in the profits and have a prosperous year.

This year, I got a chance to see these beautiful, eclectic rakes in person. They range in all different sizes from a golf-ball size to a yoga-ball size.

There is custom that is said in accordance to size of the kumade, that every year you buy a kumade it has to be bigger than the previous year to better your odds of getting more luck. I would have liked to buy one but I did not because I did not want to continue and uphold

this tradition for it would be a hassle to buy a bigger and bigger one every year. Where would I put it? But seeing these kumade made me think about my future and what I am to expect this coming year – what should I do at this crossroad I'm at? What will this next year be for me? Well for one, training the new ELT and for two, maybe traveling a little more.

In 2014, I will be entering into my final year at Ichikashi –

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what will the future hold for me? In the past, I focused on how to define myself as a person, and I thought it was determined by what I had done in the past. But as the future unfolds, I realize that it is not the past that defines you, it is the path you make that defines you. So whatever the future has in store for me, I will welcome it with open arms and carve a path of my own that I will be proud of. Here is to you, 2014!

Membership News



Membership Chairman:
Ron Kimmel

New and renewed memberships:

Allred, Ted and Nikki (B)	Mullowny, Pamela (I)
Amano, Kay (I)	Mundy, Christine and Nate (F)
Ando, Jennifer (I)	Nomiya, Tash and Miae (F)
Applegate, Linda and Bill (F)	Ozawa, Eleanor (I)
Barnett, Gene and Linda (F)	Peck, James (I)
Burton Family (F)	Peitzman, Fred and Ann (F)
Chan, Anna (I)	Penick, Tiffany (I)
Cortez, Dana (F)	Radomski, James (F)
Coury, Amy and George (F)	Roulette, Mark and Peggy (F)
Drueten, Yoko (I)	Roulette, Ray and Gail (S)
Eurich, Dane and Lori (F)	Rubin, Marilyn and Sherwin (F)
Fichtner, Daniel and Rand, Ray (F)	Rust, Joe and Carol (B)
Fuller, Jeannie and Steve (F)	Sakado, Vickie and Gerrick (F)
Gibson, Judy (I)	Sakamoto, May (I)
Gimian, Reed and DeDe (F)	Scotto, Frank (F)
Goodrich, Tim (I)	Snider Family (F)
Hattori, Lisa (I)	Tabata, Lynn (I)
Johns, Patricia (Miller) (F)	Tanabe, Fred and Janice (F)
Kawatana, Garret (F)	Tanaka, Keith, Shirley and Jenny (F)
Kawabata, Tom and Jean (F)	Taniguchi, Eisei and Hazel (S)
Kilburn, Vic (I)	Thompson, Bruce and Fusake (F)
Kimmel, Gudy and Ron (F)	Tigerman, Peggy Craven (I)
Kimmel-Dagostino, Leilani (B)	Toya, George and May (F)
Kragh, Evalyn (I)	Wand, Suzie (I)
Kuwahara, Gary and Teri (F)	Yamauchi, Bryce and Cheryl (S)
Little, Vera and Bob (F)	
Maroney, Mark and Jill (F)	
Martel, Louis and Lorraine (F)	
Matsumoto, Mickey and Frances (F)	
Mattson, Bruce and Kerri (F)	
McIntyre, Hugh (I)	
Miller, Ken and Judy (F)	
Moriwaki, Erin (F)	

Thank you for joining or renewing your membership 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 indicate the type of membership and check any changes on the Directory Update line. 88 memberships have been received for 2014.

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



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 by Friday, January 17, 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, January 24, 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

Teach English In Kashiwa, Japan

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.

Memories of Japan

The fourth 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.

Japanese Appearances

By Jay Matsumoto

During my 21 days of adventure and excitement, I visited many parts of Japan and observed the several appearances of Japan's citizens. I also talked with both a young and old Japanese family, resulting in various responses.

School uniforms. In Japan, most schools require uniforms. Typically, students don't have to wear uniforms until middle school, but some public elementary schools still require it. The high school girl I hosted from Japan told me that she likes her uniform but would prefer to wear her own clothing instead. The only chance she gets to wear her own clothes is weekends and summer break...and, she likes to shop. The male uniform is usually a button-up white short sleeve shirt that can be worn with a black coat in the winter. Takahiro Takikawa, a delegate from this year, despises his uniform because he always has to wear slacks.

Hair. In Tokyo and Kyoto, I noticed that many young women have their hair bleached or dyed a different color other than black and wear makeup to look extremely young. A member of my second host family, Lisa Hirano, is 18 and working towards becoming a beautician. She has been dyeing her hair since middle school and experiments with different shades of brown and gold. Her father doesn't support completely the idea of dyeing hair but reluctantly allows it because Japan is modernizing towards this trend.

Pierced ears. The idea of guys piercing their ears was another thing that bothered Mr. Hirano, quoting "only gay people used to do it" but recently Japan has been changing and it is becoming more and more popular.

Foreign influences are affecting Japan and changing the traditional lifestyles.



Harajuku Fashion

By Melanie Nomiya

Harajuku is known as the heart of fashion in Japan—top trends start here and fashionable teens stroll around in their unique outfits.

I was fortunate to take a visit to Harajuku with my first host family during the free weekend on Saturday. We took the train, which took approximately one hour, then headed towards Takeshita Street—the most famous and crowded area of Harajuku. It is a pedestrian-only street lined with an infinite number of shops, boutiques, and cafes.

The to most popular styles in Harajuku are street fashion and kawaii (cute) fashion. Street fashion is a popular trend among young adults and teenagers in the urban areas of Japan. Some popular street fashion items include oversized t-shirts, studded clothing, bright colors, platform sneakers...or the more feminine pastels, laces, chiffons, floral prints, etc.

On Sunday many teens take part in Harajuku fashion walks... where they are dressed up in cosplay, gothic lolita, visual kei, decora, and so on. "Cosplay" is a style where people dress up as their favorite anime, manga, or video game characters. Gothic lolita has a more dark and edgy style.

Many stores had decora or "kawaii" fashion accessories, like plastic hair clips and huge teddy bear key chains to accentuate one's cuteness.

I noticed that in Harajuku nearly everyone has their own sense of style, expressing their own personality through their clothing. No one judges each other for what they wear; the district is an example of non-conformity.

* * * * *

[Editors note: When Melanie gave her report she was dressed in an outfit purchased at Harajuku - complete with hair clips, green chiffon blouse, white floral print skirt and interesting shoes!]



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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Torrance, CA 90503

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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 _____

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.