

# Torrance Sister City Association



<http://torrancesistercity.org/>

June 2014

## 2014 Kashiwa Student Delegates and Adult Leader

We had a very nice first orientation session. It was held in a very warm atmosphere.

Mr. Nakayama (president of KIRA) explained about the relationship between Torrance and Kashiwa,

Mr. Kato (secretary of KIRA office) talked about KIRA, Ms. Mariko Nemoto (city hall staff) celebrated the students for being selected, I

explained about the city of Torrance, Yunchao and Rikako (40<sup>th</sup> students) introduced their precious experiences and told the 41<sup>st</sup> students that they were always happy to support them.

At first, 41<sup>st</sup> students and their parents looked nervous but gradually they became so friendly with each other.

- Masahiko "Mike" Arai, Liaison for the Torrance Committee

1. Satoko Miyake, Adult Leader
2. Mami Igarashi, 16, Kashiwa High School
3. Sayaka Naoi, 16, Higashi Katsushika High School
4. Mina Suzuki, 17, Nishogakusha Kashiwa High School
5. Rei Kawamura, 16, Chuo Gakuin High School
6. Yamato Kanai, 16, Matsudo Municipal High School
7. Saya Fuwazaki, 18, Aoyama Gakuin University
8. Shunsuke Kimura, 20, Keio University
9. Yuka Sugiura, 18, University of Tokyo



Front L-R : Shunsuke Kimura, Sayaka Naoi, Satoko Miyake (Adult Leader), Mami Igarashi, Yamato Kanai

Back L-R : Saya Fuwazaki, Mina Suzuki, Yuka Sugiura, Rei Kawamura

## Upcoming Events

**June 13 & 27**  
City Hall closed

**June 9**  
TSCA association meeting, 7:00 pm

**June 28 & 29**  
JCI Festival

**Note: No Student Club meeting in June**

**July 14**  
TSCA association meeting, 7:00 pm



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)

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## 2014 TSCA Student Delegate Biographies



On May 13, the 2014 TSCA delegates were introduced at the Torrance City Council meeting. Along with the student delegates are TSCA President, Lori Chong Eurich and Adult Leader, David Gelbaum along with Mayor Frank Scotto and the Torrance City Council members.

**Arianna Barragan**, age 17, is a junior at West High School. She is a member of the school band and orchestra. She plays the baritone and flute. Her favorite subject is anatomy which she wishes to pursue in college. She aspires to major in pre-medicine / biology and to become a surgeon. Arianna loves to spend her time outside of school biking, spending time at the beach, and volunteering locally.

**Adam Jordan**, age 18, is a senior at South High School preparing to graduate this June. Adam has shown a unique interest in the Japanese language and culture from a young age. As a result, he began avidly studying to master Japanese and learn as much about the culture as possible. His favorite subject in school is economics and would like to combine his love for Japanese culture with his interest in business and economics by majoring in International Relations focused in Japan.

**Leane Kuo**, age 16, is a junior at South High School. She is very involved with the music groups at her school, including band, choir, and Tri-M music honor society. She is a member of her school's swim team and also participates in other various clubs. Her favorite classes are math and psychology. Outside of school, Leane volunteers at her local community

helpline, tutors kids at Calle Mayor Middle School, and interns at Harbor UCLA. In her free time, Leane loves watching movies, hanging out with friends and family, and biking.

**Rachel Lobo**, age 15, is a sophomore at Mary Star of the Sea High School. She is a cheerleader on her school's team, and a member of her student council. In her free time, Rachel enjoys reading and photography. Rachel looks forward to experiencing Japanese culture firsthand.

**Kyle Nishimura**, age 16, is a junior at South High School. He is a member of the varsity track team, and also plays golf. His favorite subject is anatomy, and hopes to become a veterinarian. Apart from school, he is a Boy Scout and was recently awarded the rank of Eagle Scout. He is also an active member of KIWINS as a divisional officer, and a school officer. Kyle has been a camp counselor at Camp Escapades, a camp for children with special needs for the past 5 years. He spends his free time dancing, learning, and making memories with his friends.

**Megan Oliveros**, age 16, is a junior at West High School. Her favorite subjects are Japanese and chemistry. In school, she pole vaults in the track and field team and volunteers with the school's Interact and Friendship Circle

clubs. In her free time, Megan enjoys reading, trying new food, volunteering at the hospital, and visiting beaches. In college, she plans on studying sustainability.

**James Peck**, age 15, is a sophomore at South High School. His favorite subject in school is history, any form of history. James plays the bass clarinet for the Marching Band, is a member of the Swim Team, and participates in Robotics Club. Outside of school, James is highly involved in his karate dojo and achieved the rank of Shodan (black belt) in December. James is also a founding member of a volunteer organization called HOPE, which he founded with friends from South.

**Andrew Rodov**, age 16, is a sophomore at South High School. He loves playing piano, singing, painting, doing Taekwondo, and especially studying languages. His favorite subject in school is a toss-up between Math and Japanese. He plays tennis in school, and is involved in CSF, a volunteering club, the Japanese Tomodachi Club, and sang in the school choir last year.

## Membership News

### New and renewed memberships:

LaRue, Julie (F)

If you have any questions, please call Ron Kimmel at (310) 530-2382 or email at:

[tscamembership@gmail.com](mailto:tscamembership@gmail.com)

## 2014 Graduate News

Congratulations to the 2014 graduates who will be venturing off in the Fall for new learning endeavors.

**Jay Matsumoto** will be attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

**Cindy Chan** will be attending Pacific University in Oregon,

**Adam Jordan** will be attending El Camino and plans to transfer to UC San Diego.

## Student Club News

This month, Student Club went out for a night of karaoke!

*Karaoke* means “empty orchestra” in Japanese. It has grown to be an immensely popular social activity in Japan with numerous karaoke businesses tucked away in the buildings. Unlike the karaoke we have become familiar with in America, karaoke in Japan involves groups of friends renting out rooms in which they sing together. They can also rent a variety of instruments to set the mood, including tambourines, maracas, and even a disco ball. The soundproofed room allows those occupying it to enjoy themselves without worrying about other parties hearing their tunes.

I myself had the pleasure of going to karaoke in Japan and wanted to share the experience with the Student Club! It’s always nice to have something so fun and cultural readily available in Torrance. Thank you to everyone who came out!

- Emiko Kranz, Student Club President



On Sunday May 4, the student delegation had the opportunity to learn about Japanese food customs and try an amazing array of Japanese food at Ichiriki Sushi Restaurant.

## New Adult Leader Named



Sherrie Crowson

The Adult Leader Selection Committee has chosen Sherrie Crowson to be the 2015 Adult Leader. Sherrie is a Para Educator at North High School where she works with special needs students. Her interest in Japan started when she traveled there for six weeks on the Torrance-South Bay YMCA exchange program to Nagoya when she was in high school.

Her interests include crafting, singing,

walking and teaching baby sign language courses. She has an A.A. in American Sign Language Interpreting and is pursuing a B.A. degree and teaching credential. She has two grown children who reside in Texas.

Thank you to Steven Ihde and Stephanie Warner (past Adult Leaders) for their insight on the selection committee.

- Lori Chong Eurich

## New English Teacher Announced



Stephanie K. Mikamo

The English Teacher Selection Committee is pleased to announce that Stephanie K. Mikamo has been chosen to join the teaching team at Kashiwa Municipal High School. She begins her term in August when Kevin Butt’s third year ends.

She is a graduate of North High School and visited Kashiwa on the school’s exchange program. Stephanie earned a B.A. in East Asian Cultures and a minor in English from UC Irvine. She also attended the American Language Institute at California State University, Long Beach for a Teaching English as a

Foreign Language certificate.

Her interests include travel and photography and she is active in her church where she has lead a bible study and traveled to Mexico and Idaho for outreach events.

Special thanks to Dan Fichtner, Yoko Drueten, Geoff Tsudama (all past teachers at Kashiwa Municipal HS) and Stephanie Warner (past Adult Leader and exchange student) for serving on the selection committee. Stephanie will have an orientation session to prepare for her new position with the committee.

- Lori Chong Eurich



# August Activities Order Form

**PARTICIPATION AND ORDER FORM  
TSCA AUGUST ACTIVITIES 2014**

**GENERAL**

DIRECTIONS:

- 1) Include the family name, phone number, and e-mail address
- 2) For EACH activity under "NAME OF PARTICIPANT(S)" include the FIRST NAME(S) of each participant(s) and expenses for the individual(s), for that event. If the person is a guest of the family add a "G" behind their first name.
- 3) Meals (ie. Lunch/Dinner) for the 2014 Torrance students and participants are a separate cost not included in the cost per ticket.
- 4) If meals and admission were not prepaid, please bring CASH ONLY, no credit/debit cards.
- 5) To participate, you must also complete the EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM for each family or each individual.

FAMILY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ph # \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Event	Name of Participant(s)	Meal Type	Cost		# Attending		Total Cost		
				Admission \$ / person	Meal \$ / person	Adult	Child	Admission \$ Subtotal	Meal \$ Subtotal	Total Amount Due
Mon 8/4	Welcome Reception		Potluck	-	-			-	-	N/A
Tue 8/5	Torrance Tour, Farmers Market, Fire & Police Department	<b>Kashiwa &amp; Torrance delegates only</b>	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Wed 8/6	Oriental Motors & Torrance Bakery Tour	<b>Kashiwa delegates only</b>	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
	Chili Cook-Off and Square Dance		Chili Potluck	-	-			-	-	N/A
Thu 8/7	Getty Museum & UCLA Tour Limited to 24 Participants		Lunch	-	\$13			-	\$	\$
Fri 8/8	Space Shuttle Endeavor, Little Tokyo Tour & JANM Limited to 25 participants		Lunch	Adult \$9 Student w/ID \$5	\$15			\$	\$	\$
Mon 8/11	ITS Tour, Student Cooking & Sports Day	<b>Kashiwa &amp; Torrance delegates only</b>	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Fri 8/15	YMCA & Torrance Tour	<b>Kashiwa &amp; Torrance delegates only</b>	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
	Hollywood Bowl (Includes Park N' Ride Bus Fee)		On your own	\$32	-			-	\$	\$
Mon 8/18	Universal Studios Limited to 38 Participants		On your own	\$75	-			-	\$	\$
Tue 8/19	Kings Hawaiian & Beach Party	<b>Kashiwa &amp; Torrance delegates only</b>	Lunch	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
	Dodger Baseball (includes bus) Limited to 38 Participants		On your own	\$15	-			\$	-	\$
Wed 8/20	Torrance Shopping Day	<b>Kashiwa &amp; Torrance delegates only</b>	Lunch	-	\$10	-	-	-	-	N/A
	Sayonara Banquet		Dinner	-	Adult \$25 Child < 9 \$10			-	\$	\$
			Host Parents	-	No Charge for Host Parents			-	-	-
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED:</b>				-	-	-	-	\$	\$	\$

NOTE: THIS FORM, EMERGENCY FORM AND CHECK (payable to TSCA) must be POSTMARKED BY July 7, 2014

MAIL TO: **Torrance Sister City Association**  
**ATTN: AUGUST ACTIVITIES**  
 c/o Community Services Department  
 3031 Torrance Blvd  
 Torrance, CA 90503

**IMPORTANT:** If you have questions, please contact Werner Willoughby at [W.P.Willoughby@gmail.com](mailto:W.P.Willoughby@gmail.com)

**AUGUST ACTIVITIES EMERGENCY CONTACT AND CONSENT FORM  
2014**

**Please note:** If you, a family member or guest is/are a participant in any of the activities during August this form must be completed and accompany the **Participation and Order Form** when it is mailed back to TSCA.

**Family Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please supply as much of the following information as applicable. If you have a guest, please copy this form and complete a separate form for them. If they are a minor include their parents as the primary and secondary sources and have one of the parents sign the release at the bottom.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cell phone #</u>	<u>Work phone #</u>	<u>Relation in Family</u>
1) _____ Primary Contact/ Participant	_____	_____	_____
2) _____ Secondary Contact/Participant	_____	_____	_____
3) _____ Participant	_____	_____	_____
4) _____ Participant	_____	_____	_____
5) _____ Participant	_____	_____	_____

**Specific health information you may wish to provide:**

Person #

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In the event any of the above individuals need **IMMEDIATE** medical attention, I give my permission to TSCA'S assigned activity leader(s) to obtain the necessary medical aid or assistance for **IMMEDIATE** care.

Signature of Primary Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail with Participation and Order Form to: Torrance Sister City Association  
August Activities  
c/o Community Services Department  
3031 Torrance Blvd.  
Torrance, CA 90503**

**DUE: July 7, 2014**



# TORRANCE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

3031 Torrance Boulevard

Torrance, California 90503



## Be a HOST FAMILY in August for a student from Kashiwa

**Share our American culture with a student from Kashiwa for the experience of a lifetime!**

August 4 - 12 or August 13 - 21

The students stay with two host families during their 18-day stay in Torrance.

All daytime activities are planned and hosted by the Torrance Sister City Association (TSCA). Host families are responsible for transporting their student to and from the West Annex at City Hall each morning and late afternoon. Some weeknight activities are planned and host families are welcome to join in on the fun! At all other times the host families will arrange their own activities and meals with their exchange student in accordance with the guidelines of TSCA. Each host family will have one weekend to plan their own activities.

Kashiwa students are able to communicate in English.

An Orientation meeting for all Host Families will be held in late June or early July.

If you have any questions, please call Host Family Chairman Michelle Heredia, (310) 480-6691.

### HOST FAMILY INTEREST FORM

All first-time applicants will be screened by TSCA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

e-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency/Daytime telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

We would prefer to host a boy \_\_\_\_ a girl \_\_\_\_ either \_\_\_\_

We would prefer to host a student during the first \_\_\_\_ the second \_\_\_\_ either \_\_\_\_ half of the student's stay in Torrance.

Number in Household: \_\_\_\_\_ Pets: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Children: \_\_\_\_\_ M/F Age: \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ M/F Age: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ M/F Age: \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ M/F Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Others: \_\_\_\_\_

Our family has participated in the following TSCA Activities:

\_\_\_\_ Bunka Sai \_\_\_\_ Student Exchange Program \_\_\_\_ Host Family Program \_\_\_\_ Other

Please mail this Interest Form to: The Torrance Sister City Association  
3031 Torrance Blvd.

Torrance, CA 90503 (Attention: Host Family Program)

## What Remains of the Day

A few weeks ago I was back in town visiting the family. Over my two-day stay I made it a point to do them the favor of going through some of the baker's-dozen large boxes of stored goods I had packed away into a number of closets as a part of my preparation to move to Japan three years ago.

The process was simple: open a box, dump out its content, and then throw everything away. After all, the thinking was that if I hadn't missed it in boxes over the past three years, I probably wasn't going to miss it in the trash.

I will admit to not touching a single one of my dozen boxes of books in the attic, but the rest I was able to consolidate into one box of ratty t-shirts, picture files, documents and portfolios, and a random assortment of gift toys that I feel more bad about throwing away than I feel compelled by romantic notions to keep.

Similarly, I will also admit that I haven't been having much trouble with sentimentality in cleaning out the apartment in Japan, either. Then again, many of my friends would argue that I have never had much trouble with sentimentality in the first place.



我々は星の間に客に来て

"We have come to be guests among the stars."

The image is one of contrast between the hospitality of the distant, halting beauty that nature offers capitulated against the unstated tenuousness of our being. Relative to the comparatively permanent backdrop of the heavens, ours is the trembling, stolen privilege one feels entering into a great house of smoky, oaken walls, or walking down the grand chambers of a cathedral bathed in the flowing colors of stained glass.

This at-once sense of awe and terror is encapsulated in the saying, "Memento Mori": though countless trophies may rest glowingly upon your wall and mantel, always "remember that you will die." In the West, this Latinate truism echoed throughout the Medieval world the constant reality of the inevitability of one's

death and subsequent, impending eternal judgment. Such stress places tension on the **quality** of impermanent things to build towards something more lasting, whether that be the legacy of earthly glory or the bliss of heavenly reward.

The paralleled expression in Japanese art and writing is "物の哀れ," *mono no aware*. Literally meaning "the sorrow of things," *mono no aware* expresses an appreciation for the grief associated with the passing, fleeting nature of the world (無常 - *mujou*).

First described by 18th century Edo scholar, Motoori Norinaga (本居宣長), *mono no aware* initially evoked a sense of empathetic awareness of the vitality of an object, but more specifically describes the transient sadness that accompanies the realization of the ephemeral nature of any particular instance of pleasure.

Motoori pointed, foremost, to the image of the cherry blossom, whose shocking beauty was marred almost instantly with the knowledge of the imminence of its passing.

"Mono no aware," Ken Liu writes in his eponymous 2013 Hugo Award winning short story, "is an empathy with the universe." It is an attention to the cycles of nature, especially with regards to its forceful impact on every day life. And one does not have to listen very closely to hear the tickling whisper of the winds of nature upon the *dolos* isles of Japan, to feel it's hot, sultry breath in the summer and cold, uncaring shoulder in the winter.

It has long been said that Japanese culture grew in tandem with the trees that root the island to the seafloor, that Japanese culture was formed by the very waves that so regularly washed away at its shores.

In that case, Japanese culture stands perilously carved out, battered by furious storms, along the edge of a dangerous world of fire along the Asian-Pacific rim. They became a people shaped as much by the scenery and the seasons as by wars and words. As Yamaori Tetsuo (山折哲雄) points out, whether the dangers be natural or man-made, much of the Japanese world was nurtured around "a tendency to submit to nature instead of resisting it." The ancient Japanese, he argues, learned their best lessons for the survival of their

culture from listening to the subtle sounds of the heavens and appeasing the fiery tantrums of the earth, bending as the soft branches of the willow does under its burden of snow; bending until the snow sloughs off.

Of all these lessons learned from nature, the foremost, as taught directly from the Shakyamuni (釋迦牟尼) was that "all must die." "It is the experience of repeated earthquakes and typhoons," Yamaori muses, that "nurtured an awareness of mortality and the transience of all things." Everything passes. Everything will eventually die. So remember, you will die. And the things you love will also pass.

And in a thrice post-nuclear apocalyptic Japan, such attention to the end-of-all-things is an ever-present reality.

But, irrespective of natural disaster, nuclear fallout, famine or plague to both Eastern and Western peoples, far from devolving into a sense of despondency and despair, the selfsame acceptance of the transience of the natural order necessarily implies that even the apocalyptic is temporary. "The natural environment also fostered a comforting awareness of the cycle of the seasons and the rebirth that invariably follows death," Yamaori continues. While the flowers that bloomed in the spring withered away in the summer sun, "Invariably the old year gave way to the new," and spring would arrive yet again, allowing the people to face life with grace and patience, flexibility and fortitude, and accept what is before them for what it is and what it offers.

The wise man does not lament the absence of melons as summer passes to autumn. Rather autumn gourds and the anticipation of winter citrus fill his plate.

やがて死ぬ  
けしきは見えず  
蝉の声

- Matsuo Basho

(松尾芭蕉, 1690)

Nothing in the cry  
Of cicadas suggest they  
Are about to die

- Trans. by Sam Hamill

This attachment to the beauty of things in the face of their impermanence (not even in spite of) persists today without attenuation. Take, for example,

Naotaro Moriyama's (森山直太朗) 2003, "Sakura" (「さくら」):

さくら さくら  
ただ舞い落ちる  
いつか生まれ変わる時を信じ  
泣くな友よ  
惜別のとき  
飾らないあの笑顔で さあ

さくら さくら  
いざ舞い上がれ  
とわにさんざめく光を浴びて  
さらば友よ  
またこの場所で会おう  
さくら舞い散るみちの  
さくら舞い散るみちの上で

Sakura, sakura  
They dance as they fall  
I believe there will come a day we will  
begin anew  
Don't cry, my friend  
Though it's time for our sad goodbye  
Come now, put on your smile  
Sakura, sakura  
Now they fly in the air  
We will bask in the light of their eternal  
play  
While it's time to say goodbye  
Let's meet again here  
On the way where sakura dance and  
scatter  
Where the sakura dance and scatter  
upon the way.

This emphasis on the beauty of obviously impermanent things, such as cherry blossoms, and the not so obviously impermanent, such as relationships, allows for the valuation of a thing apart from its temporal duration. Its timeless value is preserved in romantic, mystic visions, such as how Ken Liu describes it as, "at once so fleeting and so permanent, like the way I had experienced time as a young child." When seen at the distance of age, which flattens all sense of longevity, each memory becomes a sharp, staccato of images, of poignant feelings that together paint a stippled portrait of life upon the mind with the bold colors of the heart.

It's a beauty that does not just accept the transience of life and its attendant imperfection, but rather reveres it, as in *wabi-sabi* (侘寂). Richard Powell writes of wabi-sabi, it "nurtures all that is authentic by acknowledging three simple realities: nothing lasts, nothing is finished, and nothing is perfect." The beauty of the hand-fired tea cup, of a garden left to grow of its own accord, of a solitary beauty mark upon the cheek, wabi-sabi allows that "beauty" is not limited to those things we deem "perfect," or even "permanent." In ironic actuality, even the temporary beauty of impermanent things

exists in perpetuity in the heart of the observer.

"The life of the dead is placed on the memories of the living," as Cicero said.

In this way, if a thing, in its very imperfection, strikes the soul as the peal of a bell that tantalizes the balanced edges of the mind, that object has obtained a form of perfection. Wabi-sabi elicits a sense of "serene melancholy and a spiritual longing" to pursue greater forms of perfection, as Andrew Juniper argues.

Counter to the conservative inclination that mutability is a sign of poor quality, the knowledge that a thing will end or an experience can never be repeated heightens the emotional impact. Rather than being washed away with remorse or regret, an object or expression's impermanence begs for intense focus, its imperfection leads to wonder.

Maybe, then, the power of wabi-sabi is curiosity: a curiosity at peace with the various and necessary stages of incompleteness, a curiosity that intrigues us into pursuing more of this fleeting, incorporeal perfection.

And yet, at the same time, wabi-sabi forces us to examine what characteristics we consider comprise "perfection" or "wholeness."



My time at Ichikashi grows ever shorter. But we have known this for the past three years. It is not so unexpected. And so it feels like I have been trying to write my farewell article, my farewell speech ever since my first day. What would I want to say has been my legacy, what would I want to say has left an indelible mark upon my being?

Every day would be a new line, a new paragraph to the account I would have to give. And I hoped that it would amount to a narrative of which I would be proud, a story with which I would be satisfied.

I want to thank TSCA for this opportunity: I hope you are proud of the ways we have worked towards strengthening the bonds between Torrance and Kashiwa, between cities and people.

Matthew: I am proud of the things we have built and done together, both at Ichikashi and as friends. I hope that you remember to take the time to make the remainder of your time at Ichikashi one that you think back on with fond

satisfaction and peace. Eighteen months is both a short while and an eternity. I am excited to hear of the things you are going to do over the coming year as sempai. You will be a good sempai. You better be a good sempai.

Stephanie: Soon it will be your turn to open the book and begin to write your own story on your own blank page. But you do not receive an empty book; you inherit a journal that was first opened 30 years ago, into which 40 teachers before you poured. And you will hand this heavy book to the person who follows.

Think to write a story of which you will be proud. But because Ichikashi is a place of endless excitement and incredible opportunity, think to pen lines that will bring you joy. And show your growth.

The Ichikashi campus is shaped like a ring, around whose center resides an empty lot and a stage. For most of the year the courtyard stands empty, save for the dozen or so cars that use it for parking.

Your entire tenure at Ichikashi will be this way: your work is your work and it is the very reason you are sent here, and it is the thing about which you will spend most of your time thinking. But the core of which, this large empty lot, is ambiguous space that you can fill and use as you wish. You can fill it with cars or junk or dust, or you can fill it with purpose and challenge. My only advice is to think about how you want to fill that space because that will help shape every decision you are likely to make, and how you will likely grow. Or not grow.

For all of its opportunities and all of its charm, no one in Kashiwa will make it a point to challenge you to remember to invest in yourself and your personal development. So it will be up to only you to ensure that you leave Ichikashi with anything more than just fond memories.

But, oh, what memories.

Ichikashi, Kashiwa: thank you for the memories. And I hope these won't be the last.

But even if they are, what remains is perfect.



Kevin Butt, English  
Teacher



TORRANCE  
SISTER CITY  
ASSOCIATION  
3031 Torrance Boulevard  
Torrance, CA 90503

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ORG.  
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Return Service Requested

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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.

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.