

Torrance Sister City Association



<http://torrancesistercity.org/>

September 2014

President's Message

Our August cultural exchange program was a tremendous success and the 18-day visit flew by. Many members and organizations contributed to the smooth operation this year's program but a special note of appreciation to **Werner Willoughby** who chaired the August activities committee and led the San Diego trip. He expertly handled numerous details and arrangements ensuring that each day was well organized. **David Gelbaum and Steven Ihde** accompanied the group on their daily outings and to San Diego to help with logistics and photos.

Thank you to the 17 host families for graciously opening their homes to the Kashiwa students and adult leader and providing them with a taste of American family life. The families made the delegates' stay memorable and they now have new Japanese family members. Thank you to our host families: **Ilene & Mark Gelbaum, Vera & Bob Little, Frank & Cindy Scotto, Sheila Allen, Nishimura family, Peck family, David Gelbaum family, Kuo family, Kranz family, Lobo family, Jordan family, Barragan-Cortez family, Shrivastava family, Oliveros family, Rodov family, Marilyn & Sherwin Rubin, and Bill & Diana Sutherland**. They were recognized at the Sayonara banquet with certificates of appreciation signed by **Mayor Furey**.

Thank you to **Michelle Heredia** for recruiting and coordinating the host family arrangements. She assigned the families based on student/family requests, interests and availability.

We deeply appreciate the kind support of many local businesses, city



departments and organizations that welcomed the Kashiwa and Torrance students by providing tours, tasty lunches, fun experiences and informative presentations. Thank you to: the Mayor's office, Torrance Fire Department, Torrance Police Department, Armstrong Theater, Torrance Farmers Market, Oriental Motor USA Corp., The Attic, Torrance Bakery, Torrance YMCA and the Y's Men's Club, Toyota USA Automotive Museum, Getty Center, UCLA, Japanese American National Museum, Rafu Shimpo, Go For Broke National Education Center, Americans of Japanese Ancestry World War II Memorial Alliance, Japanese American Cultural Community Center, Torrance Historical Society, International Transport Service, King's Hawaiian Bakery, Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego, Boots and Bows Square Dancing group and the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel.

Thank you to **Suzie Wand**, our city liaison for her wonderful support in coordinating many details including the Transit department bookings, city council appearance, venue arrangements, printing needs with Central Services and greeting the

group at West Annex.

Thank you to **Susan Sanborn and the Toyota USA Automotive Museum** for allowing us to hold our Chili cook-off and Sayonara Banquet at their fabulous facility. Everyone marvels at the car collection and the large room is perfect for our events.

Thank you to our treasurer **Bryce Yamauchi** and his wife **Cheryl** for their detailed record-keeping in maintaining our accounts. There were several payments received and disbursements made for exchange program events that they processed.

Thank you to **Teri Kuwahara** for updating the Tour Book that the students received to learn more about the places they visited. It's filled with color photos and detailed information for a great keepsake book.

Arigato to **Reiko Higa, Yoko Mendelson and Mikko Haggott Henson** for providing interpreting assistance to the delegates who appreciated the details in Japanese.

Thank you to **Butch and Steven Ihde and Donna Dunlap** for organizing the Welcome Potluck and Chili Cook-off and Square Dance. The chili (*continued*)

Upcoming Events

September 1, 5, and 19
City Hall closed

September 8
TSCA association meeting, 7:00 pm

What's Inside?



P2

- * Membership News
- * Alumni News
- * TSCA Display at Katy Geissert
- * TSCA Nominating Committee

P3

- * The Calm Before the Storm
- * Sayonara Banquet Special Tribute to Suzie Wand

P4 to P7

- * Photo Album of Kashiwa Delegates Hosted by Torrance Sister City Association (TSCA)

President's Message (Continued)

cook-off winner was Marilyn Rubin and the Kashiwa delegates enjoyed the judging duties. Donna and Butch brought all of the colorful square dance dresses and shirts for the students to wear and washed everything after the event.

Thank you to **Shirley Tanaka** for assembling the gift bags presented at the Welcome Potluck filled with gifts including a TSCA t-shirt, apron, duffle

bag, snacks and tour book. She and daughter **Jenny** are loyal hard workers at the chili cook-off.

Thank you to **Reiko Higa** and her Sayonara Banquet committee including **Donna Dunlap, Steven Ihde and Marilyn Rubin** for creating a memorable evening celebrating the new friendships and happy memories of the trip.

Finally, many thanks to **Linda Kranz**, newsletter editor for an excellent job designing our monthly updates filled with terrific photos. Her expertise in getting all of the August activities information in the newsletter kept everyone informed.



Lori Chong Eurich,
TSCA President

Membership News

There are no new memberships or renewals.

If you have any questions please call Ron Kimmel at (310) 530-2382 or email at tscamembership@gmail.com

Alumni News

Ken Radomski, a past exchange student (2004) and English teacher (2009-2012) officially registered his marriage (kon-in-todoke) to Kaori Nagasawa on June 20th. A wedding and reception are planned at a later date.

Interestingly, Ken's father, James met his wife Rumi when he was an English teacher in Kashiwa, so-- like father, like son!

Congratulations to Ken and Kaori and best wishes for a life filled with love and happiness.



Kaori and Ken
Radomski

TSCA Display at Katy Geissert Library



TSCA photos and objects were on display for viewing during the month of August at the Katy Geissert Library. The following TSCA members contributed their hard work in arranging the items in the display: Donna Dunlap, Gail Roulette, Marilyn Rubin, and Hazel Taniguchi.

TSCA Nominating Committee

There will be an election of the Board of Directors at the October board meeting. The Nominating Committee will present nominees for election and ask for additional

nominations from the floor at the September board meeting. If you would like to nominate a member to the board or if you would like to be considered for a board

position, please contact Jill Maroney. Ballots will be mailed to members after the September board meeting.



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

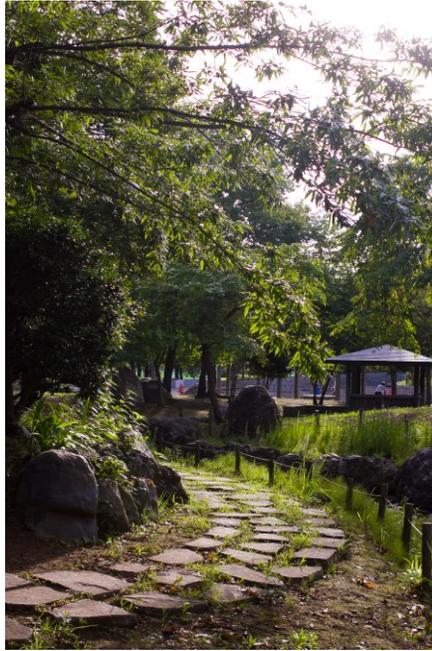
The Calm Before the Storm

August in Japan promises: hot and humid weather all day and night, scurrying to the bus, train, or nearby mall to take refuge in their air conditioning, and eating lots of *soumen* (cold noodles).

This is my first time in Japan during summer. I have to say, the weather here is unlike anything I've experienced before. One day it could be sunny, hot, and humid, while another day it can be pouring rain, making the air cool. I arrived in Japan the week of *obon*, when most establishments are closed for the week. The first week was filled with filling out official forms, receiving my residency card at City Hall, and meeting with members from the Kashiwa Board of Education. I also met many of the teachers at Ichikashi and am coming to enjoy the brass band practicing music filling the hallways during summer vacation. One of my highlights was getting to eat ramen and *abura soba*! (I highly suggest that they bring *abura soba* to California if they haven't already).

Living in Japan has been interesting so far, to say the least. I've already started making my apartment feel like home away from home, filled my refrigerator and cabinet with

groceries, and gotten used to having tatami in my bedroom. I have successfully gone to and from school by myself using the bus. (Although, I have gotten lost a few times when I've



used the train to explore places nearby. No need to worry since I eventually found my way to where I needed to be). I've also started brushing up and practicing my Japanese by buying a language book. I'm hoping to use more of what I learn when I travel and as I interact with the students and teachers at Ichikashi.

Although summer has been a bit slow with school not in session, the upcoming weeks are going to be brimming with energy and full days. The last week of August I'll be helping judge a junior high speech contest. Then in September, we have the opening ceremony for the fall term, English Camp for the 1-A students, *bunkasai* (cultural festival), and *taikusai* (sports day). With all of these events planned, I'm sure that the first month at Ichikashi is going to pass by very quickly. Fall will come and I'll wonder where the last weeks of summer went.

Thank you TSCA for this amazing opportunity. I am looking forward to teaching and starting this fall term at Ichikashi. I cannot wait to start teaching classes, meeting the students, and going to all of the school festivals this month.



Stephanie Mikamo,
English Teacher



At the Sayonara Banquet, a special tribute was made to **Suzie Wand** by the current and past presidents of TSCA (Lori Chong Eurich, Werner Willoughby, Gail and Ray Roulette, and presented by Hazel Taniguchi) for all of her outstanding support she has provided to the organization over the years.

Thank you Suzie!

Photo Album of Kashiwa Delegates Hosted by Torrance Sister City Association



Welcome Banquet, at the Toyota Meeting Hall



Kashiwa delegates with Torrance Mayor Pat Furey



Kashiwa delegates in Torrance City Council chambers



Delegates tour Torrance Police Department



Delegates tour Japanese Garden



Delegates tour Torrance Fire Department



Delegates tour Oriental Motor



Mayor Furey presents Kashiwa delegates with plaques



Kashiwa delegates decorating cakes at Torrance Bakery



Donna Ihde explains Chili Cook-off rules to Kashiwa delegates



Adult leaders and delegates at the Square Dance and Chili Cook-off



Cakes decorated by Kashiwa delegates



Marilyn Rubin, 2014 Chili Cook-off Champion



Square dancing!

More photos!



Delegates tour the Getty Museum, Los Angeles



Delegates tour UCLA campus



Delegates tour JACCC Memorial and in the Garden



Delegates tour Japanese American National Museum



Delegates tour Go For Broke Memorial



ITS tour



San Diego kayaking



San Diego tour



San Diego tour



San Diego Mexican dinner



Delegates tour YMCA



Rock climbing at the YMCA



Tchaikovsky Spectacular played by the Los Angeles Philharmonic with fireworks at the Hollywood Bowl



Delegates at a Dodgers game



Delegates at Universal Studios



Delegates at a L.A. Dodgers game



Delegates playing a game led by TSCA Student Club at Torrance Beach



Torrance delegates at the Sayonara Banquet



Cake at the Sayonara Banquet made by Torrance Bakery



Kashiwa delegates at the Sayonara Banquet



Torrance host parents



Sayonara Banquet planning committee

**Sayonara!
Until we meet
again!**



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 _____ 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.