

Torrance Sister City Association



<http://torrancesistercity.org/>

April 2015

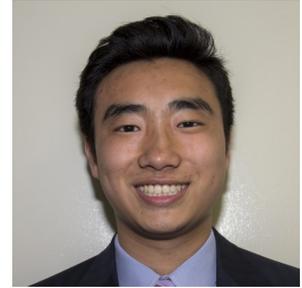
Congratulations 2015 Torrance Delegates!



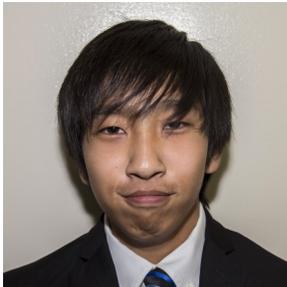
Sherri Crowson
Adult Leader



Mikaela Frichtel
Bishop Montgomery High School -
10th Grade



Chris Hsiao
West High School - 11th Grade



Alexander Ito
West High School - 10th Grade



Garrett Reeve
South High School - 10th Grade



Nikola Stojcic
South High School - 11th Grade



Allison Sueyoshi
North High School - 12th Grade



Ronan Todd
West High School - 12th Grade



Julia Tokeshi
South High School - 10th Grade

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Upcoming Events

April 1 at 7:00 PM
Bunka-Sai planning
Katy Geissert library

April 3 & 17
City Hall closed

April 13
TSCA Association Meeting

April 25 & 26
Bunka-Sai Festival

President's Message

As you have seen on page one, our student delegates for Kashiwa have been selected. It was a difficult committee decision that was based on a few months of truly getting to know the applicants. It was not easy to decide on the final eight students as all were well qualified to represent us in Japan, but it was a decision that had to be made. Congratulations to all the participants and their families for a wonderfully interactive Selection Process. We only wish we could send all the applicants. Our pre departure meetings start soon, and we look forward to helping those selected to make the most of this "Once in a Lifetime" journey. They are in good hands with Sherri Crowson, our 2015 Adult Leader.

We also have been busy with a Cherry Blossom Viewing on March 15th and a TSCA Cafe on March 21st. The next big

event is the Bunka-Sai on April 25th and 26th in the Ken Miller Recreation Center. Look inside this Newsletter for more information on this Student Delegate fund raising event. Werner Willoughby and so many other volunteers have been meeting and preparing for this event for many months. Volunteers have been aptly handled by Shanli Tsui and Patsy Shintani. And a whole host of other volunteers are making it happen.

The Adult Leader for our next delegation to Kashiwa in 2016 is still open, so if you know of someone who would be a good Adult Leader, please "put a bug" in his ear about the open position. More information is in this Newsletter. The deadline is very soon.

Well, don't forget to come to the

Bunka-Sai and support our student delegation to Kashiwa. There will be entertainment, food, and many other cultural activities taking place all day long, so come for a good stay. Lori Eurich has initiated an Anime Contest this year, and Shirley Tanaka will be handling the food. Remember we are a volunteer organization, so we welcome all to give a hand. We can only do all we do because of the generous donation of time, energy and money from like-minded individuals to our organization. Let's keep the volunteerism alive!

Yours in Intercultural Understanding,
Dan Fichtner
TSCA President



Membership News

After the directory is published, we will remove former members from the newsletter mailing list who have not renewed their membership since 2011. This is necessary to reduce mailing costs.

New and renewed memberships:

Allen, Sheila (F)

Amano, Kay (I)

Barragan, Leonard (I)

Charroux, Dolores (I)

Conlon, Annette, Kelli, Kevin (F)

Drueten, Jason, Yoko and Max (F)

Fuller, Jeannie and Steve (F)

Furey, Pat and Terry (S)

Gelbaum, David (F)

Hargrove, Eunice Richard and Linda (F)

Ichikawa, Christie (I)

Kircher, Ellen (I)

Lorenz, Sarah and Larry (F)

Nishimura, Scott and Terri (F)

Nomiya, Tash and Miae (F)

Nowatka, M/M Paul (F)

Tanabe, Fred and Jan (F)

Thank you for joining or renewing your membership for 2015.

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.

If you have any questions, contact Relko Higa or Ron Kimmel at tscamembership@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



43rd Annual Bunka-Sai
Japanese Cultural Festival

Saturday & Sunday
April 25 and 26, 2015
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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

- Anime Contest & Kimono Lecture
- Kamishibai Storytelling & Candy Artist
- Aikido, Judo, Kendo, Naginata, Karate
- Koto, Taiko, Minyo, Shamisen, Shakuhachi, 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, Spam Musubi
- Arts & Crafts Boutique
- Games for children
- Hourly drawings

FREE Admission & Parking

Presented by The Torrance Sister City Association
TorranceSisterCity.org

Proceeds to benefit the student cultural exchange program

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

Torrance Sister City Association
2015 Bunka-Sai
Cultural Performances
Ken Miller Recreation Center



Saturday, April 25 – Dr. Dan Fichtner, Emcee

- 11:50 Okinawa Taiko by Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko, LA
- 12:20 Anime Contest winners announced
- 12:30 Tea Ceremony by Sakiko Monuki and Yuko Kubo
- 1:10 South Bay Judo
- 1:50 Torrance Naginata
- 2:30 Dance by Mai No Kai (traditional & classical)
- 3:10 Torrance Kendo
- 3:40 Kimono lecture by Toshiko Okawa
- 4:20 L.A. Taiko Institute

Sunday, April 26 – Tricia Takasugi, Emcee

- 11:50 Shodo Calligraphy by Beikoku Shodo Kenkyukai
- 12:30 Prota Taiko
- 1:10 Torrance Aikido
- 1:50 Koto music by Awaya-kai
- 2:30 Dance by Bando Hidesomi Nihon Buyo class
- 3:10 Shakuhachi flute by Shoshi Kanokohata
- 3:40 Folk Music by Matsutoyo-kai
- 4:20 L.A. Taiko Center

- Candy Artist Amezaiku on Saturday, Torino Plaza.
- Karate demo by USA Wado-ryu Karate-do, Torrance YMCA on Sunday at 2:00, Torino Plaza.
- Ikebana demonstration on Saturday at 12:00 in Assembly Room.
- Kamishibai storytelling every 30 minutes in Assembly Room both days.

Program subject to change without notice.

TorranceSisterCity.org
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Alumni News

Derek Kuwahara, a Torrance exchange student from the 2005 delegation, will graduate this May from the University of Southern California with a Pharmacy Doctorate and a Master's Degree in Regulatory Science. He recently accepted an offer for a two-year post-doctoral fellowship with the pharmaceutical company Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) in collaboration with Rutgers University in Strategic Analytics and Business Intelligence. Derek will be working within the Research & Development Strategy and Worldwide Business Intelligence groups to evaluate the commercial value of potential new drugs and guide company strategies in navigating the competitive landscapes. Derek will be moving to New Jersey begin his fellowship on July 1st, and will be focusing on combining the clinical applications of

pharmacy to principles of business incentives and performance trend analysis.

Derek is a graduate of Wesleyan University in Connecticut with a double major in Economics and Molecular Biology/Biochemistry. He spent his time between undergraduate and graduate school working in finance before applying to USC. Throughout his time at USC School of Pharmacy, Derek has worked at the Los Angeles Department of Health Services, SelectHealth in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the USC Norris Cancer Hospital assisting with clinical practice, health benefits management, and pharmacy administration. Now, at nearly the end of his fourth and final year of his doctorate program, Derek is finishing his rotations at Long Beach Memorial Hospital after beginning his rotations at the Food and Drug Administration in Washington, D.C. Derek is looking

forward to the move back to the east coast and is happy he will soon be able to share his treasured experiences with Torrance Sister City with his cousin, Garrett Reeve, who was recently selected for the 2015 delegation to Kashiwa, Japan.



Derek Kuwahara

Through It All

The morning was full of life and excited chatter; today was the day that the third-year students would graduate from high school. The arena was filled with students and family waiting in anticipation to see their *sempais* and loved ones recognized for all of their hard work over the past three years. Minutes before the ceremony, the third-year students walked into the arena with their homeroom class. As students filed past, they waved hello to teachers at the entrance; full of excitement for what was to come.

went up to the microphone to announce each of the student's names. First was 3-A, the international class. Although I have only been teaching at Ichikashi and taught these students for less than half a year, I had so much love and appreciation for all of them. As the 3-A homeroom teacher called out each name, each student stood up and replied with a loud, confident, definite “はい!” (“Yes!). When each student stood up to be recognized, I couldn't help but be overcome with pride and excitement for these

Another teacher had a very energetic and lively class full of talkative students who were always looking to have a good time. There was yet another teacher who would help her students with their problems, even though it had nothing to do with school. I thought about all the hard work and effort that these teachers had to invest in their homeroom classes outside of class time. Taking care of a class full of students for three years, five days a week, is no easy feat. I felt all the pride, and other mixed emotions the teachers must have been feeling, announcing their students' names and seeing them graduate at long last.

Near the end, a student from the Student Council gave a ten-minute speech in front of the principal. He started from the beginning when they entered Ichikashi as first-year students and recalled all the events that unfolded throughout their first, second, and third year. For each event he gave a little anecdote, and towards the end of his speech, he thanked everyone for everything they had done for them. I was touched by his thoughtful speech, illustrating the past three years and leading his peers, as well as everyone else in the arena, a walk down memory lane, remembering what they experienced and what they had to look forward to in the coming years.

After the graduation ceremony ended, all of the students filed out of the arena and the third-year teachers were waiting outside of the exit to say congratulations. I was expecting the students to walk out of the arena proud, relieved, and excited that high school was over. However, I saw students who were crying, had red eyes, and were trying to avoid eye contact out of embarrassment. Of course there were students who were composed and walked with pride out of the arena, but the mixture of emotions I saw on the students' faces caught me off guard. I thought it was strange that the students were



The third-year international class standing in front of the principal to be recognized for graduating and completing their high school education.

I took one of the best seats in the house on the second floor gallery. The first floor was a sea of third-year students, with the second-year students sitting behind them, while the first-year students were sitting in the wings on the second floor. There is a great contrast between graduation ceremonies in Japan and the ones in America. Instead of cheering, applause, and laughter filling the arena, there was a lot of formalities, standing, bowing, and staying quiet throughout the ceremony. Although this made the graduation ceremony seem solemn and serious, this emphasized the weight of the moment that the students were experiencing.

After the principal made a speech, each third-year homeroom teacher

students. I was proud that they had come this far and finished their education, with some students giving it their all to finish high school and be present at the graduation ceremony with their classmates. I was excited for what was yet ahead of them as many of them would go off to college to further their education and prepare for the jobs they want to pursue in the future.

While all of the homeroom teachers went up to the microphone to announce each of their student's names, for some of the classes, I thought of how much work the homeroom teachers put into their classes. One of the teachers spent endless hours helping prepare his students for a musical they held during the school festival in the fall.

Continued from page 4

crying and sad when graduation was supposed to be a joyous occasion.

Then, I thought back to what I witnessed in the graduation ceremony and what I have observed during my time at Ichikashi so far: the relationships in Japanese schools runs deep. The homeroom teachers spend most of their time investing, disciplining, taking care of, and watching out for the students in their class. They sacrifice time and energy to cultivate a safe learning environment. The students are heavily involved in club activities, some students coming to school every day to practice. Some of the

club activities run until 8:00pm. All of the time spent together is what made these relationships so strong and left such a deep impression. Graduating high school wasn't simply leaving for a better, more exciting life in college. Graduating high school was leaving behind and ending a chapter of their lives of hours spent with their classmates they've come to know over the past three years; hours of time spent with their club attending different events and participating in various tournaments; and hours of time well spent with friends.

There is never really an easy way

to say goodbye. I know that these students spent their time at Ichikashi well and that they have nothing but a bright future ahead of them to look forward to. My hope for them is that they wouldn't dwell on what used to be, but have an insatiable quench to continue exploring who they are and how they want to live their own life.



Stephanie Mikamo, English Teacher

Third Annual Cherry Blossom Festival Update

On Sunday, March 15th, the 2015 student delegation showed their support by hosting the TSCA booth at the Torrance Cherry Blossom Festival at Columbia Park. The students' main responsibility was to sell raffle tickets for Bunka-Sai and pass out flyers for the upcoming event. There was some friendly competition to sell the most raffle tickets; battling the boys versus the girls (who were outnumbered 5 to 4). The delegation sold tickets to vendors, performers, festival attendees, and even TSCA Board Members! Overall the event was a huge success with the students selling 551 tickets. What a way to kick off a year of events for the 2015 delegation.

Congratulations!

-Sherri Crowson, 2015 TSCA Adult Leader

Sherri Crowson, TSCA adult leader along with the 2015 delegates are having some fun at the Cherry Blossom Festival



Student Club News

With the upcoming selection for the 2015 delegation inching closer, everyone was filled with frantic emotions and high hopes. So what better way to relax and relieve stress than with yet another Student

Club meeting. This time's edition of bonding included a dinner at Pieology and a generous invitation of the Kuo Family to their house for a movie night. The chit-chat in between scenes from the movie strengthened

everyone's friendship and got everyone more excited for future meetings.

- Andrew Rodov

Thank You, Ron Kimmel

After 20 years of dedicated service, Ron Kimmel is stepping down as TSCA Membership Chairman. Ron took over the duties from Vic Kilburn in 1996, keeping up the membership roster, adding and deleting names, getting out the membership directory every year, submitting lists for various mailings. When technology became the norm, Ron set up our records on the computer for both membership and treasurer.

Ron has been an active member of TSCA since 1992. He and his wife Gudrun hosted students from Kashiwa that year and the next. In 1994 they traveled to Kashiwa as part of the 20th anniversary delegation, and hosted adult leaders of the student



Ron Kimmel

delegations the next three years. For two years, Ron served as secretary for TSCA, and in 1999 did the first of his three stints as treasurer. When Bunka-Sai needed a new frame for the gift booth, Ron took over for Hank Ishikawa and constructed the sturdy frame we now enjoy. For years he assembled the frame for each Bunka-Sai festival. In addition, Ron used his truck to transport goods from the farmers market and storage unit.

Poised to take over the responsibility of Membership Chair is energetic new

Board member Reiko Higa. Reiko, whose son Ken Shrivastava, was a student delegate in 2013, has stepped right in to chair the Sayonara Banquet last August and serve on the Nominating Committee this year. Ron will be assisting Reiko with the details of the directory this year, but you will see her name beginning in this newsletter as the membership person to contact.

Thank you, Ron, for your past devotion and excellent work you have done for TSCA. Welcome, Reiko, as part of our team to carry on the leadership for our sister city program. We greatly appreciate you both!

- Gail Roulette

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 2016
- 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 **April 10, 2015** or mail a brief letter of intent to apply for the position, giving TSCA a brief personal background.

Deadline for applications is April 10, 2015. Send your completed application by U.S. mail. Qualified applicants will be called for a panel interview with the Adult Leader Selection Committee.

Please see website for more details at www.TorranceSisterCity.org

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. The minimum one-year contract runs from August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2016 and is renewable for a maximum three-year assignment. This is a full-time position as a regular instructor at this site.

Duties: Create and deliver engaging lessons in English conversation and composition, present mini seminars to junior high students, make presentations to visiting dignitaries, 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, teaching weekend conversation classes for adults, 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:

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 letters)
4. Possess a keen interest in Japanese language and culture
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
Paid Japanese holidays and personal days

Send detailed resume, cover letter, and two signed letters of recommendation by U.S. mail only **postmarked by April 9, 2015 and received by April 13, 2015** to:

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

Please discuss your connection to Torrance in cover letter. Qualified applicants will be scheduled for panel interviews in May. For information call: Lori Eurich at (310) 373-6146 or Dan Fichtner at (310) 316-6092.

www.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.