

# Torrance Sister City Association



<http://torrancesistercity.org/>

February 2015

## President's Message

**S**orry for the delay on this message, but it didn't make the deadline for the December issue, so a belated:

Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu!  
Happy New Year.

The year 2014 is over and a new one is opening! Here's hoping that 2015 is a great year for all of us: TSCA members, our supporters in City Hall and the folks in Kashiwa.

At our 2015 Potluck we celebrated a reunion of students and other TSCA members. Everyone was welcome to come and see old friends or make new ones. For me it will be about 36 years of relationships with TSCA. I started in 1979 as the first English teacher in Kashiwa, and that was quite a while ago!

I'd like to take this time to thank everyone who has been helping to make TSCA such a wonderful success with their enduring help and support. One extra special person who comes to mind is Werner Willoughby who is diligently developing a plan to make this year's Bunka-Sai something to be remembered. Others right now are too numerous to mention, but all should know that their help is invaluable to the organization.

Just one more person not to forget for her untiring help is Lori Chong Eurich, who has been President of TSCA and has headed our organization with zeal, talent and undying devotion. We are in a good place because of her support. Thank you, Lori. She has also been a great help to me in getting this Newsletter out. I sure do appreciate that.

Don't forget to let others know that the

English teacher position in Kashiwa committee is still taking applications. For information review the page in this newsletter regarding the teaching position at Kashiwa Municipal High School. The time spent in Kashiwa will be life-changing. It is a wonderful chance to "spread your wings" and grow as a person.

### *Article for February:*

Dear Members,

The Alumni Meeting on the 10th was a smashing success. All had plenty of good food to eat, and there was much conversation going on. Thanks to the help of Shirley Tanaka and Reiko Higa and their crew there was a great display of food and there were gorgeous flowers on the tables. Butch Ihde, Donna Dunlap, Werner Willoughby, David Gelbaum and their committees did a fantastic job of making the meeting a success. Steven Ihde also worked to make sure that the prospective student delegates were introduced to the assemblage and got to know some of us.

At our January Board meeting we learned that we are doing financially well. Bryce Yamauchi explained our financial record and also our proposed budget which was approved by the board. We also heard from Ron Kimmel that we have, as of the meeting date, 120 members, but we also learned that Ron will be leaving the post of Membership Chair after the next Directory is published. That means we are actively soliciting a successor for him. If you are interested in this important position in our organization, please contact me at

[dfichtner@aol.com](mailto:dfichtner@aol.com). All other board members have agreed to stay on for one more year.

Thank you all for your continued support. As Hazel Taniguchi said, "It takes a village." And our "village" is strong. We need to keep up our great teamwork.

Keep March 15th open for the Cherry Blossom Festival in Columbia Park. It will be a chance to meet with others and to enjoy the wonderful beauty of the cherry blossoms! And on March 21st there will be another TSCA Cafe. Shirley Tanaka invites all to help with the Cafe we are fostering with the Torrance Arts and Crafts Fair. Come enjoy yourselves and help support TSCA.

Bunka-Sai is quickly approaching and Werner Willoughby is busy with his committee making sure that this year will be even better than last year. If you would like to help during the Bunka-Sai on April 25th or 26th, give Werner a buzz. The more help the better the result.

That's all for this time. Thanks to all who make this organization such a great one. Please continue to help keep it that way. I look forward to meeting you all.

Yours,  
Dan Fichtner, TSCA  
President



## Upcoming Events

**February 6, 12, 16 & 20**

City Hall closed

**February 7**

TSCA Rummage sale

**February 9**

TSCA Association meeting

**March 15**

Cherry Blossom Festival

**March 21**

TSCA Café at Spring Craft Fair  
Ken Miller Recreation Center

**April 25 & 26**

Bunka-Sai Festival

## 2015 TSCA Rummage Sale

**When: Saturday, February 7 from 8 – 11:30. Set up starts at 7:00**

**Where: Kuwahara CPA, 22426 Palos Verdes Boulevard, Torrance, CA 90505**

Help support TSCA by donating old or unwanted items from your garage, closet, or attic. All you need to do is drop it off. The 2015 student applicants will be doing all of the selling.

Questions? – Contact Steven Ihde at [steven.ihde@gmail.com](mailto:steven.ihde@gmail.com) or at (310) 920-8564.

## Membership News

### New and renewed memberships:

Allred, Ted and Nikki (B)  
Barnett, Gene and Linda (F)  
Cornwall, Rich (I)  
Flynn, Janet and John (F)  
Frichtel, Mikaela (F)  
Gallagher, Ann (I)  
Goodrich, Marge (I)  
Griffith, Kay (I)  
Guan, Jie and Helen (F)  
Hardison, Dee and Lowell (F)  
Hedges, David (B)  
Herbers, Jerry and Sue (F)  
Hiramoto, Lindsey (F)  
Hsiao, Chris (F)  
Inouye, Kevin Margie and Kristen (F)  
Ito, John and Wendy (F)  
Kanishiro, Myrtle (I)  
Kawaoka, Noelle (F)  
Kikuchi, Breanna (F)  
Kilburn, Vic (I)  
Kim, Jenny (F)  
Kono, Kazuhiro (F)  
Kranz, Dave and Linda (F)  
Kuwahara, Mas and Taeko (F)

Kuwahara, Teri and Gary (F)  
LaRue, Julie (F)  
Lee, Jacquie (S)  
London, Emily (F)  
Maeshiro, Tsuyeshi (F)  
Martel, Lou and Lori (F)  
Matsumoto, Mickey and Frances (F)  
McGee, John and Carmen (F)  
Medlock, Matthew (I)  
Medlock, Kathleen (F)  
Mikamo, Stephanie (I)  
Miike, Pamela (I)  
Miles, Frank and Lynn (S)  
Mullowney, Pamela (I)  
Mundy, Christine (F)  
Nakano, George and Helen (F)  
Nkansah, Jacqueline (F)  
Oliveros, Megan Ann (I)  
Ozawa, Eleanor (I)  
Peck Family (F)  
Reeve, Ron and Susan (S)  
Rust, Joe and Carol (B)  
Sakamoto, May (I)  
Scotto, Frank and Cindy (F)  
Seraydarian Family (F)

Snider, Tom and Allison (F)  
Sonoyama, Hiroki and Makiko (F)  
Sprague, Brian and Tracy (F)  
Stojcic, Goran (F)  
Sueyoshi, Allison (F)  
Tanaka, Keith, Shirley, and Jenny (F)  
Tanaka, Yae (I)  
Thompson, Bruce (F)  
Todd, Ronan (F)  
Toya, George and May (F)  
Ueki, Mas and Sumi (F)  
Yorizane Family (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 Ron Kimmel at [tscamembership@gmail.com](mailto:tscamembership@gmail.com)

## Alumni Reunion Revisited

Fourteen tables, and every seat was filled at the TSCA Alumni Reunion on January 10, 2015. An enthusiastic crowd received a welcome from TSCA President Dan Fichtner. Mayor Patrick Furey spoke of his admiration for the organization and introduced the other council members in attendance: Gene Barnett, Tim Goodrich, Mike Griffiths, and Kurt Weideman.

City Clerk Rebecca Poirier installed the new officers. She also assisted Donna Dunlap in recognition of the following outgoing officers and Board members with Certificates of Appreciation: Lori



(l to r) New officers Bryce Yamauchi, Treasurer; Donna Dunlap, Vice President; Dan Fichtner, President; City Clerk Rebecca Poirier, installing officer. Missing is Dana Cortez, Secretary

Chong Eurich, Erin Wauke, Werner Willoughby, Tim Goodrich, Ann Lobo, and Melanie Nomiya.

Each year a person or organization that is exceptionally supportive of TSCA is selected to receive the TSCA Partnership Award. This year's recipient is the martial art of Naginata, which has been performed at Bunka-Sai for many years. Donna Dunlap presented the award, and Helen Nakano accepted the award for the group.

Steven Ihde, Chair of the Student Selection Committee, introduced the other committee members. He then called on each of the 17 applicants to introduce themselves and their family members. For the first time in many years, there are applicants from each of the five Torrance high schools.



Past President Hazel Taniguchi conducted the reunion roll call so all could see the people to appreciate for the ongoing success of TSCA: past presidents, past and present officers and Board members, adult leaders, participants in Anniversary trips, host families, and, finally, all members. There were many individuals who stood up in several of these categories!

David Gelbaum, 2014 Adult Leader, directed the video presentation put together by Ann Lobo. It was clear to see from the pictures why the exchange students consider the experience in Kashiwa the "trip of a lifetime."

Closing out the event was the traditional Kashiwa Odori, performed by many skilled in the art - or those who were game enough to try!

Many thanks to committee members David Gelbaum, Shirley Tanaka, Donna Dunlap, Reiko Higa, and Lori Chong Eurich for putting together this annual event. Thank you also for all the people who brought the tasty dishes that make TSCA potlucks the pride of the city.

- Gail Roulette

## New Year's in Japan

When I first arrived in Japan, I debated whether or not I should go home for the holidays. By December, I would have only been living in Japan for a total of four months. I felt like four months was too short of a time to warrant going home.

Yet as time went on, I regretted my decision. Inside, I had a little freak-out—what was I thinking, spending the holidays by myself in the beginning of winter? Japan started putting up Christmas decorations and selling party goods by the beginning of November. There was no way to escape the eminent fact that while everyone in the country would be spending it with family or friends, I would be alone. I'd be alone not only for Christmas, but for New Years as well.

Christmas came and went, and I got through it. As soon as Christmas passed, I was relieved because that meant that all of the Christmas decorations would be taken down and business would go about as normal. Thinking about what to do on New Year's Eve, I drew a blank. I'm not much for going out and was planning on staying at home and watching some TV shows.

However, my friend decided to book a last-minute flight to Japan for the last week of December and the first week of January. If you don't have any plans for New Year's Eve, it's



difficult to find and make plans the day of in Japan, (although that applies to anywhere). After a bit of research, we ended up deciding to visit Zōjō-ji, which is a temple near the foot of Tokyo Tower.

The grounds of Zōjō-ji were filled with people, food stands were selling hot snacks, and there was even a group of people pounding fresh mochi. Lanterns were strung above the stalls, all zigzagging toward Zōjō-ji and in the direction of Tokyo Tower. We were able to eat some delicious hot mochi in the cold weather. By the time it was a quarter until the New Year, we walked closer to Tokyo Tower to witness the countdown. A few minutes until, we waited in anticipation for Tokyo Tower to light up.

In those last few minutes of 2014 I thought back on all the year brought me. The beginning of 2014, I was in such a different place—I was working a few different part-time jobs, living at home with my family, and still searching for jobs in Japan. It was

surreal to think that a mere year later, I am living and working in Japan, teaching at Ichikashi, and ringing in the New Year with a good friend from home. That was something I never would have imagined a year prior.

Tokyo Tower lit up all on its own, and we, as well as the people surrounding us, were a bit confused at first for the anticlimactic count-down. Shaking it off, we all wished each other a happy new year.

As we exchanged well wishes with each other, I couldn't help but wonder what 2015 would bring. Everything that happened in 2014 definitely grew and stretched me in ways I could never imagine. I can only hope that 2015 will do the same, if not more, than what I learned from this year. Beginning a new year signals a fresh start and I want to give this year my best. Although I can't predict where I'll be this time next year, I am determined to continue to develop the relationships I have at Ichikashi, within Kashiwa, and with my friends and family. Best wishes to you this



New Year. May 2015 bring you lots of joy, new experiences, and great stories to share!

Stephanie Mikamo,  
English Teacher

## Student Club: A New Year with Old Faces

As the first event of this 2014-2015 Student Club, we decided to go out on a nice evening at Del Amo mall, watch a movie, and catch up with some old friends. Seeing as the holidays were underway, many could not make an appearance, but nonetheless it was a great way to get this club rolling this year. The movie picked out was none other than Disney's Big Hero 6, based on the Marvel comics of the same name. The setting was in the high-tech city of San Fransokyo. As the setting suggests, the movie incorporated several elements of Asian culture, (predominantly



Adam Jordan, Andrew Rodov, Cindy Chan, Jay Matsumoto

Japanese), with that of American culture. You could see Sakura Blossom Trees on the trees, along with the tall Golden Gate Bridge. I

suppose that us teenagers would call it the "Happa City". While I will not spoil the story for those of you who may not have seen it, I will just say that it was very touching. And not only in the content of the plot, but it reminded us how interconnect cultures are and can be. It was great to see each other's faces, hear each other's stories, and discuss future possibilities for the club as we enter 2015. I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Safe New Year.

- Andrew Rodov

## TSCA 2015 Partnership Award

In 1978, Helen Nakano was contacted by Mr. John Eardley of Torrance Sister City Association to ask if her Naginata group would be willing to do a demonstration at Bunka-Sai.

Every year, since 1978, Naginata has supported the Torrance Sister City Association at Bunka-Sai with a Naginata demonstration and sometimes a booth. TSCA feels honored to have their martial arts demonstrated at Bunka-Sai.

Naginata officially started in Southern California when, in 1974, the Southern California Naginata Federation was formed, along with the United States Naginata Federation. At that time, outside of Japan, Naginata was a little-known martial art.

In 1966, Helen traveled to Japan with her husband, George, a member of the

United States Kendo Federation. George was competing in the World Kendo Championship. During a kendo practice at Osaka Castle, Helen was introduced to the art of Naginata by three high ranking Naginata sensei (teachers). She fell in love with the beautiful art, and continued practicing here in California when she returned. Because there was no Naginata sensei in the US, she initially learned Naginata from a well-known Kendo sensei. From time to time, Japanese sensei would come from Japan to teach, and Helen would also travel to Japan to learn.

Helen has been teaching Naginata at El Camino College since 1998. It's the only college-accredited Naginata class in the United States.

The Naginata group has four Dojos (practice halls) in Southern

California: Torrance, Gardena, Pasadena and Irvine. The largest Dojo is the Torrance Naginata



Helen Nakano receiving the Partnership Award

Dojo which meets at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Dance Studio #1 every Thursday evening from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM. The students range in age from 10 and up, and include men, women and children.

## Student Selection Committee Update

With the start of the New Year, the 2015 Student Selection Committee is in full swing. I am pleased to be chairing the selection committee again. Joining me on this important team are: Sherri Crowson, 2015 Adult Leader, Dan Fichtner, TSCA President, David Gelbaum, 2014 Adult Leader, Shanli Tsui, mother of Leanne, a 2014 exchange student, 2014 students Megan Oliveros and Kyle Nishimura, and finally Marilyn Rubin, whose son Sandler was an exchange student in the 90's.

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 2013 and 2014 delegates. Prospective applicants also had the opportunity to watch a brief video produced by David Gelbaum highlighting activities from last summer's exchange.



2015 Torrance student exchange applicants

Everyone attending the alumni reunion on January 10 had the chance to meet the 2015 applicants. For the first time in years, all five Torrance high schools are represented. The committee will have the opportunity to spend nearly every weekend with the sixteen applicants and their families throughout the two month long selection process. Interviews were held at the Torrance Art Museum on January 24 and 31. Our next selection event is the annual rummage sale at Kuwahara CPA on

Saturday, February 7 from 8:00 to 11:30 am. If you have any items that you would like to donate for the rummage sale, please contact Steven Ihde at (310) 920-8564 or at [steven.ihde@gmail.com](mailto:steven.ihde@gmail.com).

The committee will meet in early March to make the selection of the eight students that will represent our city this summer in Kashiwa. Thank you in advance to the committee members for their time and support.

- Steven Ihde

## Torrance Adult Leader Report: Japanese Brass Bands

Ever since I saw the Ichikashi Brass Band in 1993, I have always had an interest in how this group created such an amazing performance. Not only did they play their instruments, they had dance routines and props to enhance what they were doing. Most of the music was memorized. Students performed solos and small ensemble pieces. My interest was stirred in how the Japanese brass band rehearses and how I could utilize it in my own classroom.

In Kashiwa, our group had the chance to hear and see the brass band at Ichikashi High School. The group surrounded us in different formations and there was even a chorus above us on the second floor singing like angels. I was overwhelmed by joy and excitement. My favorite part was when the band incorporated the Taiko drums. The sound boomed around the gym and vibrated through my body.

I got to meet the band director Mr. Ichida. However, when my host family tried to get permission for me to see a rehearsal, the band was too busy. Instead, I was able to see a full concert in Bando City, with my host mom and two other Torrance committee members. We were taken back stage for lunch where we had our own special room. Every five minutes, Mr. Ichida would come in to check on us and to give me gifts. He was extremely



David Gelbaum (front right) with 2014 Torrance delegation and Ichikashi Brass Band

relaxed. No wonder. He was only on stage for literally 5 minutes the entire show, because everything was done by the students. The group performed for two straight hours with no intermission. We had the best seats in the theater, right in the middle.

From my observations and band conference experiences, I have learned the reasons for Japanese bands' success. The band is not a class, but a club that meets after school and on Saturdays, rehearsing 2 hours during the week and 3 to 4 hours on Saturday. The majority of the rehearsals are run by the students of each section. One student does the warm-ups, others

run the sectional, and students even take care of discipline if needed. Lastly, the students have a social responsibility to do their best all the time. In addition, the director teaches another subject, requiring time spent on lesson plans, grading papers, etc.

The brass band experience I had this summer was beyond any expectations I had. I would like to thank TSCA for the opportunity to return to my second home. I will never forget the three weeks in Kashiwa and the three weeks here in Torrance with the Kashiwa students. Thank you and Kanshya Shimasu.

- David Gelbaum, Adult Leader

## Steve Warner Joins TSCA Board

Steve has been involved with TSCA since 1983 when he met his wife Stephanie Ewing-Warner, a 1982 exchange student. He is a past board member, at one time serving with both his wife and late mother-in-law Ila Ewing. In 1992 Steve was selected as the "Adult" Leader. He and his wife have hosted numerous exchange students, as well as an adult leader and several adult delegation members in their home. They were both members of our 25th Anniversary Delegation.

Steve has lived in Torrance almost continuously since first moving here in 1960. During that time he has

competed in many sports. He has been involved with the Torrance South-Bay YMCA for over 50 years starting as a kindergartner. He is currently involved with the Torrance Y's Men's club and is a past President of that group. He has been our liaison with the Y's Men's club regarding Student Exchange activities hosted at the YMCA over the last few years. Although his son is no longer involved with AYSO soccer, he still volunteers his time as a referee, often to the detriment of his honey-do list. Steve is also currently serving a long-term sentence on the Board of his local Homeowners Association.



Steve Warner

## Kashiwa Alumni News—Yuki Tsuji

Since my first trip to Torrance as one of the exchange students from Kashiwa in 2007, I have continued to visit my friends and host families over the past 7 years. My friendship with my friends and host families from Torrance got stronger each time I visited them in Torrance and when they visited me in Kashiwa. Gradually, I started thinking about staying longer in America, and now I am back enrolled as a student at El Camino College in Torrance.

I considered what I wanted to do in the near future and saved up for it since I graduated from the University in Tokyo. I researched a lot of information about what I could do in America, and I also participated in workshops over the past few years. The last time I came to California in 2013, I visited a school to see how it looked and considered life in America. In the end, I found myself

wanting to study business at an American school and obtaining a degree. After graduating from school, I hope to gain to work experience in America and utilize my studies in the workplace. I had finally decided what I wanted to do and felt that I was ready to make it happen in early 2014. In 3.5 years of work experience in the fields of sales and marketing, especially in my last 2.5 years in an international work environment at an American medical device company in Tokyo, I wanted to learn more about the business culture in America and global business skills. Those experiences led me to decide my current path.

Living outside of Japan long-term and going to school are quite challenging for a girl who never left her parents' house and never took a class taught entirely in English. I

already have wonderful friends in Torrance and I feel at home. I also have many friends who are away from home and following their dreams in different countries such as Kevin Willoughby (TSCA exchange student in 2007, is currently studying Japanese music in Tokyo) and Nozomi Tsuchio (Kashiwa exchange student in 2007 is currently working in Mongolia). Each one of them encouraged me to achieve my



goals! I'm so lucky that I've met such wonderful people here and there in my life.



**Save the Date!**  
**March 21, 2015**

### TSCA Cafe

TSCA is running the refreshment booth at the Torrance Spring Craft Faire on Saturday, March 21. All proceeds will benefit the student exchange program.

Volunteers are needed to pick up donuts, make spam musubi, deliver lunches to the vendors, and sell snacks. Any amount of time is greatly appreciated!

To help, please email to Shirley Tanaka, [ksjtanaka3@yahoo.com](mailto:ksjtanaka3@yahoo.com) Thank you!

**Torrance Craftsmen Guild's Spring Arts and Crafts Faire**

**Torrance Cultural Arts Center**

**Saturday, March 21, 2015**

**9 am to 4 pm**



## 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
- Kamishibai Storytelling
- Aikido, Judo, Kendo, Naginata, Karate
- Koto, Taiko, Minyo, Shamisen, 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, Drinks
- Arts & Crafts Boutique
- Games for children
- Hourly drawings



Presented by The Torrance Sister City Association  
[TorranceSisterCity.org](http://TorranceSisterCity.org)

Proceeds to benefit the student cultural exchange program

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

## Bunka-Sai 2015

**B**unka-Sai—it's been 43 years since its inception and still going strong! I hope that this year's April 25-26 Bunka-Sai is on your calendar, as another exciting weekend is in the works. If you have ever participated or volunteered in this enjoyable event, thank you for your help. If not, then you can start this year! Did you know that we have been mentioned in the AAA magazine, Westways, resulting in visitors from as far away as Russia?

### Here are some ways you can help out:

- 1) We are looking for donations of new or like-new items, especially Japanese items, kitchenware, toys, etc., for our gift booth which is run by TSCA members. You may contact Jill Maroney at 310-951-7502 or [mnjmaroney@aol.com](mailto:mnjmaroney@aol.com), or Reiko Higa at 310-619-4361 or [reikookinawa@gmail.com](mailto:reikookinawa@gmail.com). Another possibility is to drop off your donation at one of our Association meetings on February 9, March 9 or April 13 at the West

Annex of City Hall from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Thank you for your support.

- 2) We print and distribute almost 1,800 programs for each Bunka-Sai. These programs include ads from large corporations, small businesses, families sending photos celebrating special occasions, etc., at costs ranging from \$200 for full-page ads to \$25 for business card sizes. For this great advertising opportunity, please contact Shirley Tanaka at 310-293-8600 or email to [TSCAads@gmail.com](mailto:TSCAads@gmail.com).
- 3) Opportunity Drawing prizes needed: If you are a business, we appreciate gift items or gift certificates for services. If you are an individual, we appreciate merchant gift cards in any denomination. Please contact Erin Wauke at [tscasaevents@gmail.com](mailto:tscasaevents@gmail.com). All donors will be recognized in the official Bunka-Sai program booklet.
- 4) Finally, we need volunteers to prepare for and staff the event on Fri., April 24 (12 pm to 6 pm); Sat., April 25 (8 am to 6 pm); and Sun. April 26 (8 am to 6 pm). Each year groups from businesses, schools, clubs, other

organizations as well as individuals return year after year to help out. It's a great opportunity to see old friends, meet new ones, and get involved in a great sister city program. Many volunteers take pride in making that perfect dango, batch of yakisoba, piece of grilled fish/beef or chicken, tasty bowl of curry or delicious dessert, skills they have fine-tuned over the years and are happy to teach to new volunteers. To join this outstanding group, please contact student volunteer coordinator Patsy Shintani at [shintani4@earthlink.net](mailto:shintani4@earthlink.net); or contact adult volunteer coordinator Dana Cortez at [dcortez@torranceca.gov](mailto:dcortez@torranceca.gov).

The Bunka-Sai is the major fundraising event for our successful Student Exchange Program, which is the envy of many other sister city organizations. TSCA truly appreciates your support. See you April 25 and 26!

- Werner Willoughby

## Third Annual Cherry Blossom Festival

**O**n Sunday, March 15th the City of Torrance will be presenting its third annual Cherry Blossom Festival at Columbia Park from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The newly-selected student exchange delegation will be promoting TSCA and our major fundraiser Bunka-Sai

by distributing event fliers, selling raffle tickets and displaying photos of many past visits to Kashiwa.

Come out and enjoy the food available for purchase, entertainment featuring Japanese music, dance, martial arts and other cultural activities. Stop by the TSCA booth and meet the new student

delegates and their Adult Leader Sherrie Crowson. Don't miss this opportunity to bring your family and friends to enjoy these beautiful cherry trees with a picnic. Hope to see you there

- Werner Willoughby

## Kashiwa News



Torrance committee members. The party was held at the "Suzume-an" where the Torrance delegates went there for Soba-uchi (making soba)



The board members of the Torrance committee (l to r): Mitsuko Tsukuda (Treasurer), Makiyo Doi (Vice Chair), Akiko Maruta (Chair), Masahiko "Mike" Arai (Liaison)



Kashiwa Adult Leader 2015 Hisataka Takikawa

## Torrance Sister City Association Bunka-Sai 2015 (Japanese Cultural Festival) Supporting the Student Cultural Exchange program

When: **Saturday, April 25, and Sunday, April 26, 2015**  
Where: Ken Miller Recreation Center, the Toyota Meeting Hall, and the Torino Plaza  
Objectives: To help the community learn about the Japanese culture  
**to raise funds for the Student Cultural Exchange Program**

### The Student Cultural Exchange Program is.....

a cultural exchange program that takes place each year in July and August. Since 1974, Torrance sends a maximum of eight students and an adult leader to Kashiwa, Japan for three weeks in July. Kashiwa sends a similar group to Torrance in August. This program is often referred to as "the gem" of the Sister City Program.

### Please help us by placing an ad in our festival program booklet

Your ad will promote your company and support the Student Cultural Exchange Program.  
Personal ads are also welcome.

Cost (no change in years): Full-page ad.....\$200  
Half-page ad.....\$100  
One-fourth page ad.....\$50  
Business card size ad.....\$25

Specifics: Must be no larger than 8 1/2 x 11 inches. **Must be camera ready.**

**Deadline: March 12, 2015 in order to meet the printing deadline**

**Checks payable to: Torrance Sister City Association or TSCA**

**Questions? Please call Shirley Tanaka 310-293-8600, or e-mail to [TSCAads@gmail.com](mailto:TSCAads@gmail.com).**

\*\*\*\*\* Complete and return the section below\*\*\*\*\*

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Ad information: Size \_\_\_\_\_ Cost \_\_\_\_\_ Use last year's ad? \_\_\_\_\_

New? \_\_\_\_\_ Camera ready copy enclosed? \_\_\_\_\_

Specific instructions \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail this portion, your ad, and check to: **Torrance Sister City Association**  
**3031 Torrance Blvd. Attn: Community Services Dept.**  
**Torrance, CA 90503**

***Thank you for your support!***

## 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](http://www.TorranceSisterCity.org)



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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**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](mailto: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.