

Torrance Sister City Association



<http://torrancesistercity.org/>

July 2015

2015 Kashiwa Delegates and Adult Leader



Front row (L-R) : Hiroki Tanimoto, Natsuki Sugiura, Hisataka Takikawa (Adult Leader), Hiroki Matsushima, Shoko Onuma
Back row (L-R) : Mizuki Niwa, Yukiko Kanno, Hanako Senda, Rieko Takatsuka

Hisataka Takikawa

Adult Leader

Yukiko Kanno

11th grade, Kogane High School

Mizuki Niwa

11th grade, Hakuryo High School

Shoko Onuma

11th grade, Waseda Jitsugyo High School

Natsuki Sugiura

11th grade, Higashi Katsushika High School

Rieko Takatsuka

11th grade, Shibuya Senior High School

Hiroki Matsushima

Sophomore, Hosei University

Hanako Senda

Sophomore, Seitoku University

Hiroki Tanimoto

Freshman, Shibaura Institute of Technology

President's Message

Happy Summer Vacation! No school and some time to relax and take in the warm sunshine and long daylight hours. Much has been happening in our organization:

- a new Foreign Language Lecturer [FLL] has been chosen to teach at the Kashiwa Municipal High School;
- the Sayonara Banquet on August 20th at the Doubletree Hotel is in final preparations;
- our student delegates have been working long and hard to learn more about their "work" as delegates this summer;
- the list of August activities for our Kashiwa guests has been formalized;
- Bunkasai dates for the next five years have been scheduled [Some changes may occur.];
- our Bunkasai activities created

somewhere around \$33,000; and

- a new and improved TSCA brochure is in its final stages of development.

You can read more about some of these exciting happenings in the pages of this newsletter. All of this is happening because our members

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Upcoming Events

July 3, 10, & 24
City Hall closed

July 13

TSCA Association Meeting

July 7

Torrance delegates depart for Japan!

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are giving of their time and energy to make it happen. We are meeting our mission:

Our mission, as the Torrance Sister City Association, is to promote friendship, goodwill, and understanding between the City of Torrance and the City of Kashiwa, Japan, through a people-to-people, citizen diplomacy approach and through joint participation in mutually established programs.

Let's continue to work together to foster cross-cultural understanding between Kashiwa's citizens and Torrance's citizens. We need to understand each other, and that is accomplished through person-to-person contact.

This summer TSCA will be sending a delegation of eight students and

one adult leader to Kashiwa to spend a wonderful 3-week period learning about the citizens of Kashiwa and greater Japan. In August we will host the Kashiwa delegation and have them experience Torrance and the US. That's what our Bunkasai helps to fund - people-to-people experiences.

May it never end.

Yours,
Dan Fichtner
TSCA President



Membership News

New or renewed memberships:

Makino, Hiro and Linda (Family)
Allred, Ted and Nikki (Benefactor)
Kelly, Daniel and Bobby (Family)
Komae, Amie (Family)

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 please email Reiko Higa at tscamembership@gmail.com.

Scottos Awarded the Jared Sidney Torrance Award

Former Mayor Frank Scotto and wife Cindy, a TSCA board member, were honored on May 6, 2015 by the Torrance City Council with the Jared Sidney Torrance Award, the highest honor given by the city for community service and volunteerism.

Former Mayor Scotto is a successful businessman who has been a longtime volunteer with the American Youth Soccer Organization and was twice director of the AYSO National Games.

Cindy Scotto has volunteered for many groups, including the American Heart Association, Las Vecinas, the



Cindy Scotto, Mayor Pat Furey, Frank Scotto

South Bay Children's Health Center, and the Torrance Sister City Association.

Together, the Scottos have received awards from the Torrance Performing Arts Consortium and the

Torrance Cultural Arts Association for their support of the arts, and now the Jared Sidney Torrance Award for their many years of dedicated volunteerism.

The Scottos are very supportive of the Sister City Program and have gone to Kashiwa for the 30th, 35th, and 40th anniversary celebrations. They have also hosted Kashiwa students several times for TSCA's Student Cultural Exchange Program.

Congratulations to the Scottos!

- Hazel Taniguchi, 2014 recipient of the Jared Sidney Torrance Award

August Activities for 2015

The August Activity Committee has put together some great events for our guests from Kashiwa and the Torrance Delegation. Here are a few highlights.

Students will have an opportunity to get a picture with a \$100 M+ painting, Van Gogh's *Irises* at The Getty. Rembrandts, Monets, Cezannes, and Rubens, they are all there.

We will visit the most popular university campus in the United States with over 112, 000 applications for the fall semester.....UCLA. Guiding us through the smallest of the UC campuses but the university with the largest enrollment in California will be former Torrance delegates Rachel Todd, Emiko Kranz and Ken Shrivastava, all Bruins.

Because of limited space only Kashiwa students will visit the Torrance Bakery. While at the bakery each delegate will decorate their own cake which will serve as dessert at the Square Dance and Chili Cook-Off that night.

The next stop for the delegates will be Little Tokyo, accompanied by our translator Yuki Tsujii a 2007 exchange student from Kashiwa now attending El Camino College. We will visit the JACCC Memorial Court, Irvine Garden, Go For Broke

Monument, and the Japanese American National Museum. Two more venues that day are over 100 years old, the Rafu Shimpo one of the few Japanese American newspapers in existence and Fugetsu-Do a confectionary store. Last stop will be a visit to see the Space Shuttle Endeavour at the California Science Center.

The Torrance tour will be guided by members of the Torrance Historical Society, Janet Payne and Debbie Hays. The tour will end at Torrance Beach with swimming, pizza, and games. Then keep your eye on the scoreboard at Dodger Stadium that night for the introduction of TSCA and the students before the Dodgers take on the Washington Nationals.

A tour of Torrance would not be complete without visiting the Police and Fire Departments, Japanese Garden, Farmers' Market and the City Council Chambers. The Kashiwa delegation will be introduced at the City Council meeting, Tuesday August 11th at 7:00 p.m., you're invited to attend and show your support.

Couple exciting rides with some good food and a sprinkling of history and you have a visit to Knott's Berry Farm, fun for an entire day!

See how one of the top-rated dinner rolls in the country is produced on a commercial scale at King's Bakery. Enjoy some of those rolls with your

dinner that night at the Hollywood Bowl as you listen to the Bowl Orchestra and their presentation of the music from the movie 2001 Space Odyssey.

Between stays with the two host families both delegations will visit San Diego for three days and two nights. Visiting the first mission, Basilica San Diego De Alcala, Old Town, the original site of San Diego, and the Presidio, they will experience the origins of California. The next day starts with a tour of San Diego's Friendship Bell and the Fisherman's Memorial on Shelter Island, then on to the Cabrillo National Monument followed by kayaking around Mission Bay. The evening ends with Mariachi music while enjoying dinner at a Mexican restaurant. A visit to San Diego must include the world famous San Diego Zoo with a return trip back to Torrance.

Finally, experience the emotion and excitement of the Sayonara Banquet as Kashiwa delegates, the host families and Torrance delegates say good bye, realizing that a memorable 18 days have come to an end.

Reminder: August activity order form and emergency contact form are due July 7th (pages 5 and 6)

- Werner Willoughby, August Activities Chair

Other News



This book is a gift from TSCA to the English Department at Kashiwa Municipal High School. We hope it will encourage the students to improve their skills with this story that features a beloved cultural tradition.
- Lori Chong Eurich



Congratulations to outstanding scholars Leane Kuo (2014 delegate) and Melanie Nomiya (2013 delegate) who each won \$1,000 scholarships from Panhellenic Alumnae South Bay Association (PASBA). They are number one in their graduating classes from South and North high. Lori Chong Eurich is secretary of PASBA.

Slow Me Down

Personally, I've had little time to slow down.

When I do have a chance to pause and see how much has happened since the beginning of the year, I'm blown away. "Where did all the time go? How is it already the middle of 2015?" I wonder.

I've been living and working in Japan for over 10 months now. It hasn't been a full year but I've noticed I have already acclimated myself to living in Japan.

For example:

1. I can fall asleep on the train/bus and wake up right before my stop.

I always marveled at how people in Japan did this. I thought, "Surely, they're going to miss their stop! I'd be too nervous to sleep!" When you're tired though, you forget all of that and sleep. Maybe it's half in your consciousness to not be in deep sleep. (I have fallen asleep on the bus and didn't wake up in time for my stop. Thankfully, the last stop is only one station away from where I live).

2. Where English words fail, there's Japanese.

This is happening more frequently, whether I am talking to co-workers or friends and an English word or expression won't come to mind, I know what it is in Japanese. I teach English, but my vocabulary has been failing miserably. Perhaps I need to read more.

3. I can get by without people giving me as *frequent* strange looks.

I look like a native Japanese because of my ancestry. When I first got here, people were always confused and looked at me like I was crazy for not understanding what they were telling me. Now I can understand what people say for the most part, which means progress! Yay!

Slowing down has also given me time to think about upcoming changes. By the end of this month, Matthew will have transitioned out of Ichikashi and the new teacher will be here the following month. This year, I have learned a lot about Ichikashi, the school, and life in Japan from Matthew.



Stephanie and Matthew

However, with this change, I no longer am the *kohai* [the younger one], but I become the *sempai* [the older one or the boss]. The change is inevitable and needs to be faced head on.

In late May, a group of students from North High School visited Japan, along with a few teachers. On their last night, we took a few of the teachers out to eat sushi. One of the teachers and I were taking the train to the restaurant, and we were talking how my time teaching at Ichikashi has been so far. I shared with her my experience teaching and also living in Japan. I also confessed



how worried I was about becoming the *sempai* and having to show the new teacher around, teach them the ropes, and take more of a leadership role in our position at the school. How was I supposed to be a good *sempai* if I've only been here for a year and just learned everything

there is to know? What if there are things I don't know how to answer? She smiled and reassured me. She told me, "Perhaps it's not until you are put into those situations where you realize how much you actually can do and are capable of".

Taking time to stop and reflect is important yet we tend not to do it often enough. With everything that has happened and all that is yet to occur, it's so vital to recognize what has been accomplished and what has yet to be done. It has been a wild ride so far, and I'm only looking forward to what is in store for the rest of this year.



Stephanie Mikamo,
English Teacher

**August Activities Order Form (General)
MAIL AND POSTMARK BY JULY 7, 2015**

Instructions:

- 1) Include family name, phone number and e-mail address
- 2) Under "NAME OF PARTICIPANTS" include FIRST NAME(S), if the person is a guest add a "G" behind their name.
- 3) Please note that admissions and meal costs are separate and should be calculated as such.
- 4) If meals and admissions were not prepaid via this form, bring **CASH ONLY**, no credit/debit cards.
- 5) **IMPORTANT! To participate, you must also complete and submit the EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM for ALL individuals listed here. DO NOT INCLUDE TORRANCE STUDENT DELEGATES ON THIS FORM**

**Mail both forms to:
Torrance Sister City Association
ATTN. August Activities
c/o Community Services Dept.
3031 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90503**

FAMILY NAME: _____ Ph # _____

E-mail _____

Day Date	Event	List Name of ALL participant(s) for each event. Important: for the 2 highlighted "Potlucks", incl. no. of Adults and Children	# of Adults	# of Children	Meal type	Meal \$/person	Admission \$/person	Adm. Subtotal	Meal Subtotal	Total Amt. Due
Tue. 8/4	Welcome Reception				Potluck					
Wed. 8/5	The Getty Museum, UCLA tour				Lunch	\$13.00				
Th. 8/6	Square Dance, Chili Cook-Off				Potluck					
Fri. 8/7	Little Tokyo, Japanese Amer. Nat. Museum, Go For Broke, Rafu Shimpo, Space Shuttle				Lunch	\$15.00	Adult \$9.00 Student \$5.00 With ID			
Mon. 8/10	Dodger game vs. Washington				Dinner	On your own	\$25.00 Incl. Bus			
Mon. 8/17	Knott's Berry Farm				Lunch, Dinner	On your own	\$45.00			
Tue. 8/18	Hollywood Bowl 2001 Space Odyssey				Dinner	On your own	\$25.00* Incl. Bus			
Thur. 8/20	Sayonara Banquet at Doubletree Hotel Penthouse				Dinner	- Adult - Child <11 - Host Family Parents	\$33.00* \$15.00* Paid by TSCA			

* Please note the change in price since the last publication

Grand Total:

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August 2015 Activities Emergency Contact and Consent Form

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, 2015

English Teacher Selection Committee Update

The English Teacher Selection Committee (ETSC) is pleased to announce that Ms. Amie Komae has just been selected to be the next foreign language lecturer at Kashiwa Municipal High School in August. She will join Stephanie Mikamo who started a year ago. Amie was selected by a panel that included: Dan Fichtner, Hazel Taniguchi, Yoko Druten, Stephanie Warner, Werner Willoughby and this writer. Thank you to the committee for its support during the interviews and with Amie's orientation in July.

Amie is a Torrance native who graduated from North High School where she was involved in the Kashiwa exchange program and hosted students. She earned her degree in Communications from Azusa Pacific

University and spent time in Uganda in a special journalism program. Amie is currently teaching English to Japanese students at a school in Torrance and is now studying Japanese. Amie is no stranger to TSCA and her extended family members, Jill and Dai Sup Han are past teachers in Kashiwa on our program. A note of thanks to another teacher from our program, Kevin Butt who contacted Amie about this opportunity to live and work in Kashiwa while learning more about the culture and gaining language skills.

Amie looks forward to joining the English department at "Ichikashi." TSCA's ETSC is confident that her polished skills and bubbly personality will be warmly welcomed. We wish



Amie Komae

Amie all the best in her new position. Otsukare samadeshita and thank you to Matthew Medlock who is completing his third and final year at

the high school. We appreciate all he did at Ichikashi and the impact he made with the students and faculty. His Japanese skills have improved and he plans to stay and pursue new opportunities and travel.

- Lori Chong Eurich, English Teacher Selection Chair

Impressive Cultural Performances at Bunkasai

Many thanks to the 16 expert cultural performers whose beautiful, thrilling and enlightening presentations gave our guests and members a most authentic and educational experience at Bunkasai. There is no other free, two-day, public event in Southern California that presents as many traditional cultural arts as Bunkasai. Nearly all of last year's performers returned to share their talents. **Dan Fichtner** and this writer noticed some regular attendees sitting in the front row recording the performances.

TSCA is grateful to its emcees, **Dan Fichtner and Tricia Takasugi** who gave information about each group, made several announcements throughout the day and supported each group's speaker. Thank you to **Mayor Furey** for welcoming guests and giving his recommendations to try our tasty dango.

This year **Prota Taiko and LA Taiko Institute** joined us for the first time filling the recreation center with their amazing, high-energy performances beating huge drums. Two drums were too large to fit through the backstage entrance and had to be rolled into the building from the plaza.



Prota Taiko

The kimono presentation by stylist **Toshiko Okawa** featured four, 2014 student delegates, **Leane Kuo, Rachel Lobo, Kyle Nishimura, and Megan Oliveros** who modeled beautiful short-sleeved kimonos. Okawa-sensei also demonstrated how the obi sash is tied.

Special thanks to **Adam Jordan and Andrew Rodov** for being the Kamishibai story-telling monitors and readers in Japanese. They did a great job keeping our young guests engaged in the four stories. Our 2015 students read these popular tales in English.

Thank you and arigato gozaimasu to our performers: **Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko, Los Angeles, Sakiko Monuki and Yuko Kubo** (tea ceremony), **South Bay Judo, Torrance Naginata, Mai no Kai dance, Torrance Kendo,**

Beikoko Shodo Kenkyukai, Torrance Aikido, Awaya-kai koto, Bando Hidesome Nihon Buyo class, Shoshi Kanokohata shakuhachi, Matsutoyo kai folk singers and musicians, **Prota Taiko, LA Taiko Center and Asano Taiko.** And finally, thank you to **David Gelbaum**, 2014 adult leader for being the technician operating TSCA's new sound system.

The Girls Day doll exhibit was expertly assembled by **Yuki Tsujii, Reiko Higa, Toni Sargent, Shanli Tsui and Tami Peck** and a humble arigato to these ladies for this big task setting up the dolls.

- Lori Chong Eurich, Bunkasai Chair of Performances

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 **September 1, 2015** or mail a brief letter of intent to apply for the position, giving TSCA a brief personal background.

Deadline for applications is September 1, 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

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

Chili Cook-Off at the Square Dance!



Come join us for a chili cook-off at the annual square dance honoring this year's Kashiwa Exchange Students.

Break out your favorite recipes and work up a gallon of your best home-made chili to enter in our cook-off contest. Enter more than one recipe if you like! First 8 cooks that arrive, that wish to, will be entered into the chili contest.

Prizes for the best chili!

This event is a potluck, so if chili is not your thing, bring a salad or fruit or a fruit salad. Please bring ample portions, enough to feed at least 8 people. Let's show our Kashiwa friends some abundant western hospitality.

Cornbread will be provided by the square dance club this year and dessert will be cakes that were decorated by the Kashiwa delegates when they visited Torrance Bakery.

When:

Thursday, August 6

Starting at 5:30 PM to approx. 9 PM

Where:

Toyota USA Automobile Museum

19600 Van Ness Avenue
Torrance, CA 90501

We will enjoy the chili dinner, square dance, and then announce the chili cook-off winners over dessert.

COME FOR THE CHILI!

Welcome Potluck



Tuesday, August 4, 2015

5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Nakano Theater at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center

3341 Civic Center Dr.
Torrance, CA 90503

This event is a potluck. Please bring enough food for 8 people.

- * Family — Main dish plus salad, side dish, or dessert
- * Single or couple — Salad, side dish, or dessert



Sayonara Banquet

When: **Thursday, August 20, 2015**
6:00p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Where: **Double Tree by Hilton**
Penthouse Ballroom
21333 Hawthorne Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90503

Mail in order form by July 9, 2015
Checks made payable to TSCA

Ticket prices:

\$33.00 per adult

\$15.00 per child

(11 years old and under)

Tickets are NOT sold at the door.

Dinner buffet includes: salad, chicken marsala, potatoes, steamed vegetables, cake, coffee, tea, or lemonade

Questions? Please contact, Reiko Higa at reikookinawa@gmail.com

We are looking forward to spending a memorable evening with a beautiful night view of Torrance!



TORRANCE
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ASSOCIATION
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Torrance, CA 90503

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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.

