

Torrance Sister City Association



<http://torrancesistercity.org/>

September 2015

President's Message

Greetings to All Members and Friends,
This summer has been extremely busy with our Torrance students visiting Kashiwa in July, being graciously hosted and learning much about our Sister City and its country. Then upon their return to the States, we in Torrance have been excitedly waiting to show the Kashiwa students Torrance and its surroundings in August. All the students have expressed their gratitude to KIRA [Kashiwa International Relations Association] and us for the once-in-a-lifetime experience.

If you wish to view photos and/or read about their exploits you can view them on Wordpress. To view and read about the Torrance students' experiences go to: tsca2015.wordpress.com. To see and read about the August activities with the Kashiwa students here in Torrance go to: kashiwa2torrance2015.wordpress.com. There you will find photos of their exploits and also blogs written by the students and their Adult Leaders.

Special thanks go out to **Sherri Crowson** who acted as Adult Leader for our Torrance students and attended almost all of the events, and wrote up many of the blogs. She has been tireless in her dedication to TSCA's Student Exchange. **Hisataka Takikawa** has also been instrumental in leading

the students in their activities. A special thanks goes out to **Werner Willoughby** and **Steven Ihde** too. They set up the August activities, arranged for transportation and entrances to venues, and provided food and activities for the visiting students to enjoy. It was a well-oiled machine that ran this endeavor. Teamwork made it happen.

Thank you also to all of you who took part in the activities - attending the Welcome Party, going to the Dodger game, to the Hollywood Bowl and on other excursions. This was a sign that we all wish to help make this student exchange an event that involves everyone.

The visit to the City Council is evidence that the city is behind our mission of promoting friendship, goodwill and understanding through people-to-people diplomacy. The Kashiwa students were welcomed to the City Hall Offices by Mayor Pat Furey one morning and then in the evening at a Council meeting they were invited to speak and then were presented with beautiful plaques. This is strong evidence that Torrance is involved and serious about our mission. Mayor Furey also sent a letter to Mayor Akiyama of Kashiwa expressing his delight in our Sister City exchanges. Mr. Takikawa will deliver it personally to

Mayor Akiyama upon his return. Our ties to Kashiwa remain strong and deep rooted!

At our Sayonara Banquet, chaired by **Reiko Higa** and **Lori Eurich**, many families will be able to say a well-felt goodbye to their "adopted kids". A big thank you to the host families for sharing their homes and lives with our visitors. The home stays are ranked among the most important activity that students mention in their evaluations of the exchange program.

This is written before the departure of the Kashiwa Delegation, but I am certain that tears will be shed at both the Sayonara Banquet and at LAX when goodbyes are said. But as many languages say, "It is not goodbye, it is until we meet again."

I am sure that many of us will meet again, and that our lives have been enriched by this and all the other exchanges that we have made. May this exchange continue to improve and strengthen our friendship with Kashiwa.

Yours in cross-cultural understanding,

Dan Fichtner, Ph.D.
TSCA President 2015



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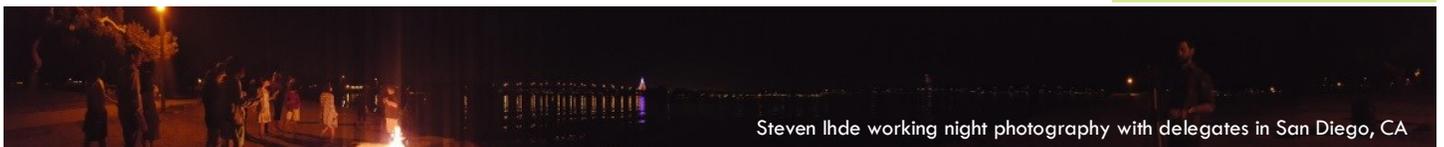
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- * 2016 Adult Leader flyer

Upcoming Events

September 4, 7 & 18
City Hall closed

September 14
TSCA Association Meeting



Steven Ihde working night photography with delegates in San Diego, CA

Membership News

New or renewed memberships:

Tim Goodrich (B)

Olivia Hansen (F)

Adam Jordan (I)

Joanne Harada Okamoto (I)

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

Alumni News



Tiffany Yoshida (2004 delegate) and Kevin Yonemoto were married on July 11, 2015 at Old Ranch Country Club in Seal Beach, CA. Congratulations to the newlyweds and we wish them all the best. Tiffany wrote, "we really appreciate all the love and support from TSCA."

Kashiwa English Teacher News



Our past and current English teachers at Ichikashi (Kashiwa Municipal high school) gathered at Liane Okada's home for a yummy summer BBQ. Their friendship and support continue to flourish after their three-year posting. They also meet on Tuesdays at Starbucks and enjoy iced drinks in the hot humid summer weather.

Left to right: Karl Takauye, Matthew Medlock, Liane Okada, Stephanie Mikamo and Kevin Butt. Stephanie said, "the BBQ was a lot of fun and it was great hanging out with other Ichikashi teachers."

This month's English Teacher article takes a break for summer vacation so here is a recent photo of our teaching ambassadors. A warm welcome to Amie Komae and good luck as she starts her new position replacing Matthew Medlock. We look forward to reading Amie's essay in October. Thank you to Matthew Medlock for a job well done and best of luck in the future.

Introducing Carl Kaemerle, TSCA's New City Liaison

One year ago, the Torrance Community Services did a massive reorganization. As a result, TSCA's City Liaison of many years, Suzie Wand, was reassigned different responsibilities, and we were assigned a new City Liaison. That person is Carl Kaemerle, whom we are seeing at an increasing number of our events, and are pleased to tell you more about him.

Carl has worked for the Torrance Recreation Dept. since 1982. He started part-time, working events like the Turkey Trot Fun Run, staffing City parks, and staffing City facilities. In 1991 Carl became full-time Program Coordinator, helping Cultural Arts Center Manager Bob Stewart get the Cultural Arts Center established, doing bookings, scheduling staff, and the like. In a few years he was promoted to Recreational Supervisor in charge of all classes at the Cultural Arts Center. The yoga and country dancing instructors he

brought on board are still on staff. Before long Carl was put in charge of the new Dee Hardison Sports



Carl Kaemerle

Center at Wilson Park, and then in charge of all adult sports.

Carl's current title is Senior Supervisor for the

Cultural Services Division. Added to his duties is overseeing the Torrance Art Museum and all activities held there. As liaison to the Torrance Rose Float Association, Carl has arranged to hold their meetings at the museum, where he also has his office. He encourages more use of that community room.

As TSCA liaison, Carl expects to make sure our needs are met as they relate to the city. He will attend our meetings and events, and be the go-between for the organization and city officials. Carl says he is a good listener, stays neutral, and enjoys a challenge. He is well acquainted with TSCA because his mother Dolores was a supporter for many years. And Carl is now a member himself.

In his own words, "I am honored to be the liaison to a great bunch of people and look forward to many years together." Carl can be reached at his work number 310-618-2343 or at ckaemerle@torranceca.gov.

Welcome aboard, Carl!

- Gail Roulette

Companies Offer Grants for Volunteer Work

TSCA coffers are richer thanks to two members who have taken advantage of their companies' volunteer support programs. These companies have seen the value in encouraging their employees to do community service, and reward their organization with monetary donations.

CHERYL YAMAUCHI, an employee of Northrop Grumman Corporation, describes their Community Service Grant process. She first completes a form to nominate TSCA as a recipient for a grant and itemizes her volunteer time. The president of the organization then is asked to validate the employee's volunteer hours. This can be done electronically, making it all quick and easy. Cheryl has done this for TSCA for

11 years, each time adding \$200 to our treasury. With the 2015 submission, that will total \$2,200!

JOHN ITO, who works for The Boeing Company, recently submitted his first volunteer gift-matching application for his volunteer hours in TSCA this past year. The process, basically the same as Northrop Grumman's, has brought us \$250 as a result.

Many thanks to these two members who are generous with their time to serve and obtain contributions for the benefit of TSCA. It occurs to us that there may be others out there among our large list of volunteers who qualify for a special grant from

their employers who have similar support programs for their employees. We urge you to check it out!

- Gail Roulette

Sayonara Banquet A “Happy” Event

The Sayonara Banquet on August 20th which honored the Kashiwa delegates was well attended with 115 members and guests gathered to celebrate the new friendships and enriching experiences of the student cultural exchange program at the Doubletree by Hilton. The new location in the penthouse allowed co-chair **Reiko Higa** and I to make the evening a little fancier and fun with a surprise toast, a specially-designed photo frame, buffet dinner, group Happy dance, colorful yukatas and sweeping views of the city and sunset.

Gene Barnett thanked the host families and TSCA for their kind hospitality and strong commitment to its programs respectively. Council members, **Geoff Rizzo, Heidi Ashcraft and Kurt Weideman** also enjoyed the event.

The trip to Kashiwa and activities in Torrance were showcased in a creative video produced by two students, Nikola Stojcic and Alex Ito.

The host families shared stories, favorite times and an overview of their weekend. Each speaker

David Gelbaum for managing the sound and video, **Patsy Shintani and Cheryl and Alyssa Yamauchi**



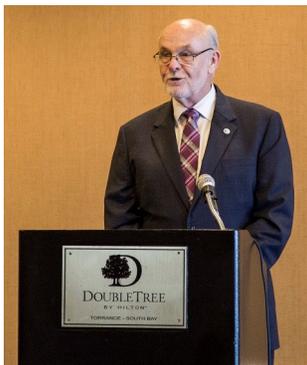
Front row (l-r) Alyssa Yamauchi, Lori Eurich and Bryce Yamauchi, treasurer
Back row (l-r): Cheryl Yamauchi, Toshiko Okawa, yukata stylist, Reiko Higa, Patsy Shintani and Shanli Tsui



Happy dance!

The evening's theme of a *happy* event was marked by the word happy on the photo frame and everyone danced to Pharrell's big hit song, "Happy." Twelve lucky winners of the lovely floral centerpieces went home happy, too when their number was drawn. I remarked about how lucky TSCA was to have Werner Willoughby's expertise in organizing the August activities and chairing Bunkasai and presented with a lottery ticket.

Mayor **Patrick J. Furey** and Councilman



Mayor Pat Furey

mentioned how much they enjoyed hosting and the impact on their family. They all welcomed their Kashiwa guest back for a future visit. The Torrance student delegates added that they will miss their new student sibling.

The Kashiwa speakers started their heart-felt message with a Seinfeld-like, "how you doin'?" followed by words of gratitude, a desire to return, longing to stay and memorable activities. They took home new vocabulary words, treasured memories, engaging experiences and loads of photos and gifts.

Both delegations sang "Let it Go" from the movie "Frozen" in Japanese with words on mobile phones. The program closed with everyone dancing the Kashiwa odori.

Reiko and I would like to thank

for check-in help, **Linda Kranz** for cake delivery and photos, **Sherwin Rubin** for the projector loan, **Hazel Taniguchi** for proofreading and advice, **Toshiko Okawa** for yukata styling, **Andrew Rodov** for interpreting, **Gudy Kimmel** for flower design, **Melanie Nomiya** for program booklet artwork, and the **Lobo/Shrivastava** team for creating the photo frame.

A final note of appreciation to the Doubletree by Hilton general manager, Linda Amato and Stephanie Yee, catering manager for their generous support of the event.

- Lori Chong Eurich, Banquet Co-chair and Emcee

Photo Gallery: 2015 Kashiwa Delegates Visit Torrance



Welcome banquet held at the Nakano Theater. Shirley Tanaka, TSCA Hospitality Chairperson, presented gift bags to the Kashiwa delegates



Getty Museum in Los Angeles



University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) campus



Emiko Kranz (2013) and Rachel Todd (2012) tour guides at UCLA where they attend



Oriental Motor tour



Kashiwa delegates decorated cakes at Torrance Bakery



Kashiwa delegates judge the Chili Cook off



Delegates in their square dance outfits



Line dancing



WWII Memorial



Friendship Knot



Go for Broke Memorial



Onizuka Memorial



Japanese American National Museum



Rafu Shimpo tour



California Science Center



Space Shuttle Endeavour tour



Historic Torrance tour



Rocketship Park



Dodger baseball game



Meeting Mayor Pat Furey



Torrance Fire Department tour



Torrance Police Department tour



Fingerprints!



Kashiwa delegates presented at the Torrance City Council



San Diego



San Diego bonfire, delegates painting with light in the night sky



San Diego Point Loma Lighthouse



San Diego kayaking



Mission Basilica



San Diego Historic Old Town



In N Out burgers!!



San Diego Zoo



Knott's Berry Farm



ITS tour

Photo credit (all above): Sherri Crowson



Photo credit: Linda Kranz

**Sayonara Banquet...
Until we meet again!**

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 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

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



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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.