

TSCA NEWS

TORRANCE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION



www.torrancesistercity.org

September 2016

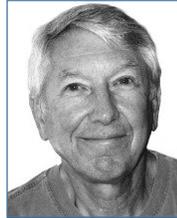
What's Inside

- 2** Calendar
Sneak Peek at
Sayonara Banquet
- 3** Kashiwa Delegates in
Torrance 2016 Photo Album
- 6** Member Update
Historian & Photographer
Wanted
Nominating Committee
Report
- 7** English Teacher Report
- 8** Membership Application

INSERT

From Generation to Generation
TSCA News Is Going Digital Form

Since 1973, the cities of Torrance, California, and Kashiwa, Japan, have enjoyed a sister city partnership, with the goal of furthering international friendship across cultures.



President's Message

By Werner Willoughby

Eight students from Kashiwa and their adult leader began their adventure at Narita Airport on August 8. After boarding their plane and spending 5 hours waiting on the tarmac, they were told to disembark as their 4:50 pm flight was cancelled. Yes, they were caught in the Delta Airlines debacle. They spent the night in a hotel near the airport, catching a flight the next day... not to LAX but first to Detroit and then to Las Vegas. Because there were no flights from Las Vegas to LA, they boarded a bus and finally arrived at City Hall at 3:30 AM Wednesday morning! It was a 55-hour ordeal from Narita Airport to Torrance! After a short but emotional and enthusiastic welcome in the wee hours of the morning, everyone went to their Torrance homes.

After an abbreviated trip of 16 days, our guests—friends, “adopted” brothers and sisters and newly found members of our Torrance families—were returning to Kashiwa. After bags were checked, tears shed, individuals and groups hugged, and lots of pictures taken, the Kashiwa delegation entered the security area where waves of goodbye continued until the last person disappeared and the realization set in that 16 special days had gone by too quickly. After the last goodbyes were exchanged, the “trip of a lifetime” was over, but the memories and experiences are sure to last a lifetime.

Making the last two months a reality took many individuals and groups working together across 9,000 miles, focused on the goal of establishing friendships, exchanging similarities and differences and absorbing each other's culture. On behalf of TSCA, many thanks to liaison **Hisataka Takikawa** and Chairperson **Akiko Maruta** of the Torrance Committee (in Kashiwa) for their assistance in supporting these goals.

Thanks to the TSCA August Activities Committee who helped me plan this year's activities: **Steven Ihde, Butch Ihde, Donna Dunlap, Lori Chong Eurich, Wendy Ito** and **David Gelbaum**.

Many thanks to the wonderful translators who were available at so many activities: **Aki Tsurukame, Yoko Mendelson, Keiko Clark, Reiko Higa** and **Kulie Fintak** of Oriental Motor. We appreciate the generous donation of your time and expertise in facilitating communication.

Arigato gozaimasu to the activity leaders and TSCA members who helped make contacts and arrangements with various venues, leading the tours and providing the support materials for the many successful experiences: **Steven Ihde, Butch Ihde, Michelle Heredia, Stephanie Ewing Warner, Donna Dunlap, Lori Chong Eurich, David Gelbaum, Teri Kuwahara,**

continued on page 2 >

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2, 16 & 30

City Hall Closed

SEPTEMBER 12

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)

City Hall West Annex

Commission Room

3031 Torrance Blvd

Torrance, CA 90503

Contact: Werner Willoughby

w.p.willoughby@gmail.com

Torrance Sister City Association

PRESIDENT

Werner Willoughby

VICE PRESIDENT

David Gelbaum

SECRETARY

Dana Cortez

TREASURER

Cindy Scotto

Newsletter Editor

Summer Nagano Gray

Newsletter Distribution

Donna Dunlap

Comments or submissions?

Please send an email to
tscanewsletter@gmail.com

SNEAK PEEK

Don't miss next month's coverage of the Sayonara Banquet...tears, laughter, dignitaries, odori, and more!



President's Message

cont'd from page 1

Debbie Simpson Hayes, Janet Payne, Jill Maroney and Linda Canada (Past President of the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego and West High graduate).

Thanks also to the **City of Torrance Transit Department** and the many drivers for transporting us throughout Torrance and the Greater Los Angeles area; **Eve Rappoport** and her skills and knowledge in coordinating the resources of the city and our activities; secretaries **Debbie Collins** and **Zulma Gent** for expediting our needs with Central Services, the **Mayor's Office** and our **Councilmembers**; and **Lisa Morales** and her staff—**Loretta** and **Elizabeth**—for helping secure venues.

Thanks to Toyota USA Automotive Museum and Director **Susan Sanborn** and her staff for their warm and supportive hospitality at the Square Dance/Chili Cook-Off and Sayonara Banquet.

Our Torrance students hosted their Kashiwa counterparts and were fantastic ambassadors of friendship and goodwill, both in Kashiwa and Torrance. Thanks to **Erika Clark, Sarah Donaldson, William Fu, Ashley Kang, Derek Kido, Miwa Mayemura, Jeena Shetti, and Anna Wheeler.**

To the parents of these students and host families, thanks for your support of the many TSCA activities and for your time and effort as hosts to the Kashiwa delegation: **Kenji and Yorcka Kido, John and Wendy Ito, Steve and Tina Hsiao, Chia and Rachael Fu, Paul and Amy Mayemura, Dan and Jan Donaldson, Frank and Cindy Scotto, Navin and Mayuri Shetti, Pat and Terry Furey, Butch Ihde and Donna Dunlap, Ron and Susan Reeve, Paul and Keiko Clark, Greg and Sindy Kang, Dana Cortez and Leo Barragan, Robert and Karen Wheeler, Bob and Vera Little, and Hiro and Jennifer Hirashiki.** TSCA is very grateful for opening your homes and making that special effort to expose the guests to many venues and enriching experiences, and most importantly, your personal interactions and conversations.

Also very important was the organization and selection of the host families, which contributes greatly to the successful interaction the guests experience. This process involved compiling all of the data about each guest and each host family and then making the best match. Many thanks to **Michelle Heredia** and **Susan Reeve** for a wonderful job. Thank you!

Again, as in 2006 and 2011 through 2016, **Teri Kuwahara** did a wonderful job of producing another custom Tour Book which has always been a treasured memento for our guests.

Thank you to treasurer **Cindy Scotto** for keeping track of our finances, writing and cashing checks, distributing money to the activity leaders and making reimbursements. I appreciate your support, Cindy!

As expressed by the emails from the Kashiwa and Torrance parents and committee members, the daily posting of photos and blogs of the activities enabled all to enjoy each activity soon after they were experienced. On behalf of all, thank you to **Steven Ihde, Jen Hirashiki** and **David Gelbaum** for the most extensive activity coverage ever.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the groups and venues, and to all of the individuals, including many others not mentioned, for their time, effort and support to make this year's August activities a success! ☘

Kashiwa Delegates in Torrance 2016



In August, just after the Torrance student delegates returned from their trip to Japan, it was time for the Kashiwa student delegates to visit Torrance for three weeks as part of the **Kashiwa-Torrance sister city student cultural exchange program**.

Along with their 2016 Adult Leader *Seichi Miyata*, the students—*Miki Akita, Megumi Arai, Minori Hisanaga, Yuki Katsuumi, Shiori Murakami, Karin Osawa, Kanami Tsukada* and *Rina Yamada*—lived with Torrance host families, were introduced to many new cultural experiences, and enjoyed a packed agenda of activities. Among the activities were meeting the Torrance mayor, riding a bike along the beach, listening to music at the Hollywood Bowl, and visiting The Getty Center, Japanese American National Museum, *Rafu Shimpō* newspaper, California Science Center, Knott's Berry Farm, plus enjoying a Dodger's baseball game, and taking a side trip to San Diego.

Pictured here are some of these activities.

To view more photos of their trip, go to <http://torrancekashiwa2016.wixsite.com/japan-2016>





Kashiwa Delegates in Torrance 2016



Kashiwa Delegates in Torrance 2016



Member Update

By Gail Roulette

Congratulations to **Ilene** and **Mark Gelbaum** who celebrated their **50th wedding anniversary** on August 14. That weekend, they had a small, intimate renewal of their vows overlooking the ocean in Palos Verdes, with their children and grandchildren participating.

Ilene met Mark at Wingate High School in Brooklyn, New York, when she was 14 years old and he was 16; however, it was in the college darkroom and editing the senior yearbook where their mutual interest in photography began.

Shortly after their marriage, they volunteered for the Peace Corps and served for 3 years in Sri Lanka. Back in the United States, they developed an interest in their local sister city and its international mission. As a result, TSCA has been the beneficiary of many of their artistic and leadership talents over the last 24 years.

The Gelbaums have lived in their present home in Torrance since 1981 and have hosted Kashiwa students and adults numerous times. Ilene was an Adult Leader in 1997. Son **David** was a member of the student delegation to Kashiwa in 1993, was the Adult Leader in 2014, and continues the legacy of his family's active involvement in TSCA as our current Vice President.

Our best wishes go to this wonderfully supportive TSCA couple on their Golden Anniversary! ❀



Ilene and Mark Gelbaum celebrated five decades of marriage in August.

HISTORIAN & PHOTOGRAPHER WANTED

With the retirement of Amy Coury from the TSCA Historical Committee, we find ourselves in need of a **Historian**. We are looking for a volunteer who is interested in helping to keep the annual records – either as an addition to the committee or as the designated Historian.

Duties include assembling materials in a binder, which can be done at home and does not require regular meetings.

In addition, we are looking for someone who can serve as TSCA's official **Photographer** and help chronicle our many activities.

Please let one of us know if either of these opportunities sounds like something you might be able to assist with. We will be happy to discuss details with you!

Contact: Gail Roulette at rayngailroulette@verizon.net
Hazel Taniguchi at HazNT@aol.com

Nominating Committee Report

Elections for new members of the **TSCA Board of Directors** will be held in **October**.

We have a great slate of candidates, so please keep an eye out for your ballots, which should be arriving in your mailboxes soon.

~ Jill Maroney
Nominating Committee Chair



English Teacher Report

By Amie Komae

Reflections on my year in Japan

A year ago, I packed up my bags and moved across the Pacific Ocean to Japan. I remember feeling so many mixed emotions before my departure. I was excited to start my new job, uncertain of how I would manage living alone, anxious to meet all my coworkers and students, and thrilled to set my feet on Japanese soil again.

Now, 365 days later, I can say without a doubt that I love Japan more than I ever thought possible. A lot of people have asked me how I'm doing being so far away from family, if I am ever homesick, or what makes me love Japan so much. So I thought that for this month's newsletter I'd share a few reasons why this has been the best year of my life.

Ichikashi. It is hard for me to put into words what this place means to me. Monday through Friday, from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, I am at Ichikashi and I wouldn't want to spend my days anywhere else. The teachers I get to work with are incredible. They are extremely experienced in what they do, and are dedicated, driven, and organized, as well as full of curiosity, humor, and genuine love for passing on knowledge to the next generation. On top of that, Ichikashi has amazing students, school events, club activities, and international programs. I am honored to be a part of this great educational establishment.

Culture. Japan is a relatively small nation (roughly the size of California) and yet it is so dense in culture and tradition. It is safe to say that you could live in the heart



Here I am teaching a group of 20 students who traveled to Australia this summer as part of the school's exchange program.

of Tokyo your entire life and only scratch the surface of its culture and beauty. I find myself on a never-ending search for new places to eat, museums to visit, shops to explore, and places to take photos. There are so many tiny pockets of beauty in just Tokyo, so imagine when I take a step back and look at the map of Japan—endless possibilities!

Convenience. Japan is an extremely convenient nation. It seems there are convenience stores at every corner and every station. These stores live up to their name by providing access to ATMs, an amazing array of food/drink, toiletries, and books, plus a place to pay your bills, buy airplane tickets, and ship packages. Japan is also convenient when it comes to travel. Taking public transportation has changed my life

and introduced me to a whole new world of freedom and independence. Plus, public transit in Japan is so precise and reliable, you know you will arrive at your destination on time.

These are just a few reasons why living abroad in Japan has been the best experience of my life. I am honored to represent the city of Torrance in Kashiwa and look forward to what is to come as I begin my second year here! ☘



Amie Komae has been teaching at Kashiwa Municipal High School (Ichikashi) since August 2015 as part of TSCA's 3-year English Teacher

program. This program provides the opportunity to live and work in Kashiwa while learning about the Japanese language and culture.

From Generation to Generation

By Hazel Taniguchi

Karin Osawa, 2016 Kashiwa exchange student and I have a connection. Twenty-seven years ago, in 1989, I was the TSCA Adult Leader to Kashiwa, together with Yoko Nakano of Kashiwa. There was a student named **Keiko Nozawa** in the Kashiwa group. Keiko is Karin's mother. Since 1989, I have met Keiko in Kashiwa during our TSCA anniversary visits. Friendships are not forgotten.

In 1956, President Dwight Eisenhower started the Sister Cities Program as a people-to-people, common sense approach to world peace. That was 60 years ago! Did President Eisenhower envision this success then? He would be proud and happy if he were here today to see how his idea has blossomed into the world's largest citizen diplomacy group, working for peace one friendship at a time. Today, there are 1,200 U.S. cities, counties, and states that have 2,100 partners in 125 countries worldwide, with cultural, technical, and economic exchanges. Torrance and Kashiwa became sister cities in February 1973 and are registered with Sister Cities International, the mother organization.

In both Torrance and Kashiwa, generations have participated in the Student Cultural Exchange Program: Exchange students who become parents have led to their own children becoming exchange students; exchange students have grown up to become adult leaders; adult leaders have led to their own children becoming exchange students; exchange students have become board members and officers—from one generation to another. It's a beautiful cycle. Some families have had both parents and all their children participate in this program, and many mothers and fathers have become adult leaders either before or after their children participated as exchange students. Many families have kept their membership in TSCA, many continue to enjoy hosting Kashiwa guests, and many still participate in other TSCA activities/programs, most of these jointly sponsored by both cities. There truly are many fans and supporters of the Sister Cities Program.

The Sister Cities Program has proven to be a sustainable program and perhaps the best method toward establishing world peace, from generation to generation. ☘



Karin Osawa (left) and Hazel Taniguchi, 2016

TSCA News Is Going Digital!

The *TSCA News publication* will be going digital in a few months.
Read below for instructions on how to sign up for your digital newsletter
or continue to receive a hard copy.

Digital Newsletter

If you have access to a computer and you have an e-mail address, you may sign up today to receive the *TSCA News* publication by e-mail in beautiful color!

Here's how:

1. Send an email to **tsca.eneews@gmail.com**
 - Include your name and postal mailing address as confirmation.
 - Include email addresses for other members of the family (including students) who wish to receive our newsletter.
 - Include email address for friends who have past TSCA connections or who would be interested in receiving our newsletter.
2. Click on **SEND**. You are done!

We will inform you through our printed newsletter when the first e-newsletter will be sent.
Also, please note that TSCA does NOT share its list of email addresses with anyone for any reason.



Printed Newsletter

If you **DO NOT** have access to a computer, you may continue to receive a hard copy of the *TSCA News* by postal mail.

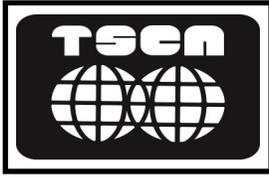
Please fill out the following information and mail this tear-off to:

Torrance Sister City Association
c/o Community Services Department
3031 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90503

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____



TORRANCE
SISTER CITY
ASSOCIATION
3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Torrance, CA
Permit No. 78

Return Service Requested



TORRANCE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION 2016 Membership Application

Except for the Life Membership, all dues are in effect from January 1 to December 31

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ ZIP Code _____

Telephone () _____ E-mail address _____

Individual	\$20 per year
Family	\$40 per year
Supporting	\$75+ per year
Benefactor	\$125+ per year
Life member	\$2,000+ (one-time donation)

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:

Torrance Sister City Association
c/o Community Services Department
3031 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90503

If you have any questions about your membership, please email Reiko Higa 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 pm