

TSCA NEWS

TORRANCE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION



www.torrancesistercity.org

October 2016

What's Inside

2 Calendar

Save the Date: TSCA Café to Open at Craft Faire

Historian Wanted

3 Friendships Celebrated at Sayonara Banquet

4 Torrance Delegates Share Parting Thoughts on their Japan Visit

6 Member Update Kashiwa News

7 English Teacher Report

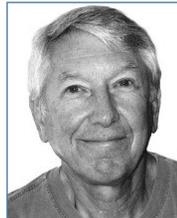
8 Membership Application

INSERT

Flyer: Teach English in Japan

Flyer: Seeking Student Delegates for 2017 Japan Cultural Exchange

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

Please welcome our new student representatives to the TSCA Board, **Sarah Donaldson** and **William Fu**. Both are students at West High School and were delegates for 2016.

Over the next three months we will be publicizing the availability of applications for our 2017 student exchange program. The basic requirements are as follows:

- Must be a student who is a sophomore, junior, or senior enrolled in high school at the time of application, or enrolled in college and not older than 19 at the time of the trip.
- The student must be a full-time resident of the City of Torrance.

The application is available on our website at www.torrancesistercity.org.

If you have a son, daughter, neighbor, or relative who qualifies to apply, this would be a "once-in-a-lifetime experience" for that student. It takes only a few minutes to download the application from our website. After completing the form, the student needs to submit it by the deadline of December 19. It may just result in friendships and memories that last forever! Since 1973, more than 300 students from Torrance have participated in, and enjoyed, this outstanding cultural experience and, reciprocally, families in the South Bay have hosted an equal number of students from Kashiwa, Japan.

As has been announced in the last few newsletters, *TSCA News* is going digital! This will be the last hard copy that you will receive via the U.S. Postal Service, except for those who do not have a computer and submitted the form to continue receiving a printed copy. Some hard copies will be available at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library and branch libraries, Torrance Art Museum, West Annex of City Hall, and the Torrance Cultural Arts Center. We will be emailing *TSCA News* to you using the email address we have on file. By the third week of October, you should have received both a hard copy and an e-newsletter. If you do not receive your e-newsletter, please contact us at tsca.eneews@gmail.com and provide us with your email address. Please note that we DO NOT SHARE our email addresses with any other organizations!

This move to an electronic version of our newsletter will save time, labor, cost of materials, and mailing for the City of Torrance and TSCA. We hope this will also expand our readership and exposure of TSCA. We thank the City of Torrance for all its support and effort over the years with the distribution of our hard copy newsletters. TSCA is now making every effort to be as efficient and financially responsible as possible!

Thank you for your understanding. ☘

CALENDAR

OCTOBER 14 & 28
City Hall Closed

OCTOBER 10
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

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Please send an email to
tscanewsletter@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATE!

November 19-20

TSCA Café to Open at Craft Faire

TSCA is once again opening its refreshments stand at the popular Torrance Holiday Arts and Crafts Faire. All proceeds will benefit the TSCA student cultural exchange program!

Drop by and grab a Spam musubi or two. We are also selling hot dogs, chili, and freshly baked goods.

For more info or to volunteer, please send an email to Shirley Tanaka at TSCACafe@gmail.com.

Torrance Craftsmen Guild's
47th Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Faire

Torrance Cultural Arts Center
3330 Civic Center Drive, Torrance 90503
Sat and Sun, November 19-20, 2016 | 9 am to 4 pm
<http://www.torrancecraftsmenguild.org/>

HISTORIAN WANTED

The TSCA Historical Committee is seeking 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. Position does not require regular meetings.

Please let us know if this opportunity sounds like something you might be able to assist with. We would be happy to discuss details with you!

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



Friendships Celebrated at Sayonara Banquet

By Lori Chong Eurich, Banquet Chair

The Sayonara Banquet, the final event of the student cultural exchange program, celebrated new friendships, fond memories and memorable experiences at the Toyota USA Automobile Museum on August 24 with 89 guests, including students, host families, TSCA members, city officials and the Consul General of Japan for Los Angeles. The event also served as a thank you to the host families for their hospitality, with Councilman **Mike Griffiths** presenting certificates of appreciation.

TSCA president **Werner Willoughby** emceed the evening, which included heartfelt speeches from each Kashiwa delegate (and tears from many), adult leader **Seiichi Miyata**, and host families. We played a video message for delegate Rina from Mayor Furey and family, who served as hosts but were unable to attend. The video featured photos from her stay and comments from the Furey family. Mr. Miyata surprised the audience by singing a song from a Western. He has a keen interest in old Western films. All the delegates looked festive in their colorful yukatas and sang "Lean On Me" in English.

Councilman Griffiths, delivered the official city remarks for the Mayor, acknowledging the efforts of all the members, board members, volunteers, and the community. These remarks were interpreted by **Alex Ito**, 2015 delegate, with support from **Reiko Higa**.

Mr. Akira Chiba, newly appointed Consul General of Japan for Los Angeles met the Kashiwa students in Japan before their departure and made good on his promise to see them in Torrance. Mr. Chiba said that groups like the Torrance Sister City Association make his job easy in promoting goodwill between the people of Japan and the U.S. He also explained that the chief duty of a Consul General is to take care of expatriates (Japanese nationals) living in the western U.S. in terms of passports and other official government assistance.

A snappy video with Beach Boys' tunes showed photos of the various events throughout the Kashiwa group's stay in Torrance. Thanks to Torrance adult leader **Jennifer Hirashiki** for creating the video using photos taken by **Steven Ihde**.

Special thanks to **Cheryl Yamauchi** (flower order, set-up and cake delivery), **Reiko Higa** (translation and RSVPs), **Hazel Taniguchi** (check-in, set-up and cake serving), **Shirley Tanaka** (cake serving), **Alex Ito** (interpreter for Mr. Griffiths), **Gudy Kimmel** (flower arranging), **David Gelbaum** (sound tech), **Donna Dunlap** and **Butch Ihde** (table linen stewards), **Kirk Rossberg** of Torrance Bakery (cake donation), and **Susan Sanborn**, museum curator (event support). ☘



The Kashiwa and Torrance delegates at the Sayonara Banquet share one last group photo.



Mr. Akira Chiba, the new Consul General of Japan for Los Angeles addresses remarks to banquet attendees.



Kashiwa delegate Yuki Katsuuma (center) thanked his host families, represented by Mr. Kenji Kido (left) and Maxwell Reeve (right).

To view Torrance CitiCABLE's (Sept 1-7, 2016) coverage of the Sayonara Banquet, log on to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-67G8NE-lxU> and cue up to 11:06 minutes to begin the segment.

Torrance Delegates Share Parting Thoughts on their Japan Visit

In July, on the eve before their return back home to Torrance, TSCA's eight student delegates and adult leader were celebrated in Kashiwa at their own Sayonara Banquet. What follows are some reflections and favorite moments on their three-week cultural exchange...



Jennifer Hirashiki, Adult Leader

I enjoyed so many new experiences. The school visits were really interesting and I liked joining in the activities and meeting the staff. I especially enjoyed Ichikashi's brass band! The KIRA [Kashiwa International Relations Association] staff and host families really took care of us here and made our stay very enjoyable. Finally, I enjoyed seeing the Torrance students encounter new experiences each day, become friends with the Kashiwa students, and learn about new places. It will be exciting to see how this trip impacts each of their futures, interests, and goals.



Erika Clark, Student Delegate

I learned a lot about the Japanese culture but also about American culture. Sometimes we take for granted what we have, and going somewhere else teaches you to be grateful for what you have and for what others have. My surprisingly favorite moment was when we went to the Kashiwa Odori Competition; it was really inspiring to see people who love their city so much—they are so dedicated in learning and performing the Kashiwa Odori! It was also really cool to talk with Miss Guam, and we actually exchanged social media contact information and have become pretty good friends. That's something I would never have anticipated!



Sarah Donaldson, Student Delegate

When comparing my experience in Japan to America, I was shocked to find just how much of Japan's traditional culture still holds up today. America's culture is so mixed that I can't really say we have one defined American culture. Because of this, I found Japan so fascinating. For example, shrines and temples are scattered everywhere throughout Kashiwa, people wear yukatas (summer kimono) to festivals, and many still play taiko (traditional Japanese drum). I have too many good memories here to name a favorite but one of mine probably was when we visited Ichikashi High School. Their band was hands down the most amazing I've ever seen and the students were so fun. I think everyone enjoyed the school visits as much as I did and I'm really grateful to have been given this experience. Thank you so much.



William Fu, Student Delegate

I learned that Japanese people are very honest and moral. I saw this through the self-service amulet purchases and the trust that restaurants have that their customers will walk up to the cashier and pay after a meal.

Torrance Delegates Share Parting Thoughts on their Japan Visit



Ashley Kang, Student Delegate

During this trip, my favorite moment was probably with the students at Daiichi Elementary School. I learned that I love being with kids, hence my favorite moment. One thing I found surprising, however, was the fact that many words in Japanese are shared with other languages (e.g., “pan” means bread in Spanish and Japanese).



Derek Kido, Student Delegate

I learned a lot about Japan's history and customs. I also learned about a lot of different Japanese foods. My favorite moment was probably seeing the band at Ichikashi High School. It was absolutely breathtaking and stunning to hear all the instruments playing in harmony.



Miwa Mayemura, Student Delegate

During this trip, I had the amazing opportunity to fully learn and absorb different aspects of Japanese culture. I enjoyed visiting the various schools and meeting new friends within them. Surprising things that I noticed throughout this trip is that everything in Japan is on the left (opposite) side, it is rare to find paper napkins anywhere, and that certain things in Japan are inexpensive compared to the U.S.

Jeena Shetti, Student Delegate

These past 3 weeks have been one of the best experiences of my life! Everyone here is so helpful and welcoming. My favorite moments were at Boso-no-Mura and at the Kashiwa Matsuri. The host families were the best part because they made me feel like I was part of their family. I will hold on to these memories forever.



Anna Wheeler, Student Delegate

I learned a lot on this trip, including the fact that Kashiwa has a city bird (the azure-winged magpie, or “onaga”) and that there are different kinds of cicada that come out at different times each day. I enjoyed all of the things we did, but the one I enjoyed the most was, now that I think of it, the Kashiwa festival. Everyone was singing and dancing, and it was so happy and vibrant. Finally, the thing that surprised me the most was the fact that all the cities I have visited are a perfect blend of wilderness and urban, not just urban sprawl like we know and love in LA. ☘



Sayonara!

Kashiwa friends, we hope to see you again soon!

Member Update

By Gail Roulette

Former adult leader **Kerry Cababa**, along with **Bruce Embrey**, represented the Manzanar Committee when it was given special recognition during Nisei week in August. Kerry has been co-chair of this Committee for 10 years, but is stepping down in favor of assisting in other ways.

To refresh our memories, the Manzanar Committee has organized an annual pilgrimage to the World War II Relocation Center in California for the past 47 years. More than 1,000 people attend each year to pay their respects and honor those who were incarcerated there during World War II. This was an important yet tragic period in the lives of Japanese Americans in our community.

Through the Committee's efforts, Manzanar is now established as both a California State and a National Historic Site. It is recognized as a National Park, administered by the National Park Service, which is celebrating its Centennial this year. So far this year, 63,919 people have visited the site. That's up from 58,469 visitors during the same period last year, an increase of 8.5 percent. For the second consecutive year, Manzanar had more than 10,000 visitors in June and more than 13,000 in July. ☞



Kerry Cababa (inset) has served as co-chair of the Manzanar Committee for 10 years.



Kashiwa News

By Hisataka Takikawa



The KIRA Festival was held on September 25, and was the association's biggest event! The KIRA Torrance Committee set up a "Torrance booth." Many people visited the booth, and enjoyed shopping and conversing with Torrance Committee members. It was a successful day and everyone had a lot of fun!

Left photo - Pictured from left: Ms. Sato, Ms. Kosuge, Mr. Niwa, Ms. Maruta, Ms. Shibata, Ms. Tsukuda, Ms. Miyake, Mr. Takikawa, and Ms. Ishida. Right photo - The Torrance booth. ☞



English Teacher Report

By Stephanie Mikamo

The First of the Last

If you say “September,” high school students in Japan think “Bunkasai [School Festival].”

The week prior to the school festival, I asked my third-year students to write about school festivals in the past and what they were planning on doing for this year’s festival. As I read through their notebooks, I saw that many students wrote that since it was their last school festival, they wanted to enjoy it fully. Then I realized it would be my last school festival, too.

During some of the long home-room periods, the students would be busily preparing their classrooms. They featured food, games, performances, themed cafes, and horror houses. There was also a variety of different themes, ranging from *Toy Story Mania*, *Little Mermaid*, *Sound of Music*, and *High School Musical*. Walking through the hallways and seeing the progress that students were making in transforming their classrooms was inspiring. For the few days leading up to the school festival, students were working together to decorate and cooperate to make the best attraction possible for others to enjoy.

The school festival is held over two days: one day is for just the teachers and students and is used as a rehearsal day, and the other is for friends and family who can come and enjoy the school festivities. Seeing the classrooms transformed and how excited the students were to show off their work was such a great experience.

This year’s school festival was special for me, not only



Me (center) with some 1st-year international class students.



The teachers’ dance.



Mrs. Kawamoto, me, Amie, and Mr. Mashiko wearing the 2nd-year international class t-shirts.

because it was my last year, but also because I was able to share it with some of my friends: One friend I met in Japan, another (whom I met in college) is now living here, and another was visiting Japan at the time. I was able to share with them my school, students, and coworkers whom I’ve come to know and love. The other TSCA teacher, Amie, and I were also gifted class t-shirts from one of the international classes, customized with our names on the back! To top it off, we also participated in a special teachers’ dance at the end of the performances on the second day. It was a bit embarrassing, but seeing the students cheer and enjoy our performance made it worth it.

The school festival is one of the first major events of the fall term, which makes me nostalgic. I still remember being captivated by all the magic that happens on the day of school festival during my first month at Ichikashi. At this last school festival, I was still just as captivated, if not more so, than I was two years ago. I’m sad that my time at Ichikashi is slowly coming to a close but, if this was any indication, I want to make the most of every last moment here that I have. ☘

Stephanie Mikamo has been teaching at Kashiwa Municipal High School (Ichikashi) since August 2014 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.



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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

EXPERIENCE JAPAN



TORRANCE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION



Torrance Sister City Association

is looking for highly-motivated Torrance residents who are high school sophomores through college freshmen, 19 years old and younger, to serve as cultural ambassadors in the Student Cultural Exchange Program.

Since 1974, TSCA has sponsored hundreds of students to represent the highest qualities of American youth in Kashiwa, Japan, our sister city, for three unforgettable weeks in July.

Download application at our website

Email: torrancesistercityinfo@gmail.com

- Promote international friendship and understanding
- Become part of a family in Kashiwa, Japan
- Visit modern Tokyo and the ancient temples of Kyoto
- Gain understanding of Japanese customs & daily life
- Experience Hiroshima
- Make lifelong friends and much, much more!

APPLICATION must be postmarked by Monday, December 19, 2016 • TorranceSisterCity.org



Teach English in **Kashiwa, Japan**

The Torrance Sister City Association seeks qualified applicants for one high school English teacher in Kashiwa, Japan, the Sister City of Torrance. A minimum one-year contract runs from **August 1, 2017, to July 31, 2018. The contract is renewable for a maximum three-year assignment.**

Duties: Conduct and assist in a variety of English conversation classes; assist with coordinating campus visits by parents, administrators, and junior high students; and assist with extracurricular activities, which may include judging and assisting with speech contests, serving as adviser to the English Conversation Club and business trips, and coach students for college interviews. Volunteer work with KIRA (Kashiwa International Relations Association) and other city groups may also be required.

Qualifications

Applicants must:

- Live or work in Torrance
- Be fluent in written and spoken English
- Hold a Bachelor's degree plus a teaching credential or have demonstrated teaching experience
- Possess a keen interest in the Japanese language and culture
- Represent the Torrance Sister City Association and foster the goals and objectives of the English Teacher Exchange Program.

Compensation

- Annual salary of approximately 4,800,000 Japanese yen
- One-way airfare from Los Angeles to Japan
- National health insurance (deducted from monthly salary)
- Subsidized housing and transportation allowance
- Paid Japanese holidays and personal days

To Apply

Please send resume, cover letter, and two letters of recommendation by U.S. mail only.

Must be postmarked by **April 14, 2017** and received by April 21, 2017.

Mail to:

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

Qualified applicants will be scheduled for panel interviews in May. For more information, call Lori Chong Eurich at (310) 373-6146.