

President's Message

Donna Dunlap



I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the Alumni Reunion Picnic at Wilson Park on February 5th. It has been 25 long months since we celebrated our last reunion in January 2020 and TSCA and the world has gone through a lot of changes since then. Little did we know that the 2020 Alumni Reunion would be

our last in-person activity or that the restrictions due to the pandemic would last this long. Our students selected for the 2020 delegation have been very patient, waiting over two years for their opportunity to represent Torrance in Kashiwa. We feel their pain and appreciate their tenacity. Find out more details about our Covid friendly, open-air picnic in the Alumni Reunion flyer on page 7 for the chance to see old friends and create new friendships.

At this moment, TSCA is preparing for our usual events (Bunka-Sai and our student exchange program) as if we can finally proceed. We have frequent communication with KIRA on the state of travel restrictions in Japan that can possibly impact our events and we will make decisions that consider the well-being of our members, our communities, and our countries.

Our next Bunka-Sai planning meeting will be held on February 23, 2022 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Watch for an email invitation with Zoom login information. We need EVERYONE involved in Bunka-Sai in the past AND anyone who would like to get involved. Ideas, suggestions, and concerns are always needed and appreciated from the attendees during this uncertain time. All are welcome to come and participate.

Thank you for renewing your TSCA membership. If you have not done so, please visit our website at torrancesistercity.org or use the membership application in this newsletter to renew today. Your membership supports our goal of promoting friendship, goodwill, and understanding between the cities of Torrance and Kashiwa, Japan. This will be an exciting year, we are planning the 50th anniversary of the signing of the affiliation connecting the two cities, Torrance and Kashiwa on February 20, 1973. Your membership includes the monthly newsletter that will keep you informed of TSCA events as well as a new monthly article, "Focus on Fifty," giving the history of how the programs we take for granted became a reality decades ago. Renew your membership by February 16th to be included in the 2022 TSCA Membership Directory.

Thank you to **Alyssa Yamauchi** for her efforts to promote, update and maintain our membership list. All new and old mailing addresses as well as email addresses are coordinated with the newsletter editor, **Rae Ann Carr**, to maintain our newsletter circulation.

As February 2023 gets closer, your membership information will be used to invite you to participate in the 50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee celebration events. Some events will be family oriented and free to attend, others like the Sayonara Banquet, will be by reservation only. All events will be celebrations you won't want to miss.

Thank you, again, for your continued support as we begin our 50th year as Torrance Sister City Association. ☘

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NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

FEBRUARY 5

Alumni Reunion (11 am—1 pm)
Wilson Park

FEBRUARY 9

August Activities Committee (7-9 pm)
Library Meeting Room

FEBRUARY 14

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)

FEBRUARY 16

Student Orientation (6-8 pm) West Annex

FEBRUARY 20

Kashiwa Day

FEBRUARY 23

Bunka-Sai Meeting (7-9 pm)
Polly Watts Room—Library

MARCH 9

August Activities Committee (7-9 pm)

MARCH 14

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)

MARCH 23

Bunka-Sai Meeting (7-9 pm)
Polly Watts Room—Library

MARCH 30

Bunka-Sai Meeting (7-9 pm)

APRIL 1

Last day to apply for English Teacher position

**Meetings may be conducted via Zoom to prevent the spread of the coronavirus

Supporting (\$75/year)

Eurich, Lori and Dane
Miles, Frank and Marilyn

Family (\$40/year)

Kikuchi Family
Scotto, Frank and Cindy
Sprague, Brian and Tracy
Tsudama, Geoff, Mickie, Meisa, and Reymi

Individual (\$20/year)

Arai, Mike
Miike, Pamela
O'Donnell, Maureen

Donations

Scotto, Frank and Cindy	\$100
Miles, Frank and Marilyn	\$25

ALUMNI NEWS



Congratulations and best wishes to Kristin Eriko Posner (Namimoto) and her husband Bryan. The Posners are expecting their first child in April. Kristin was a TSCA Student Delegate in 2000. ☺

Torrance Sister City Association

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Donna Dunlap

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Mayoori Shetti

Newsletter Editor

Rae Ann Carr

Newsletter Distribution

Donna Dunlap

Comments or submissions?

Please send an email to
tscanewsletter@gmail.com

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[@torrancesistercity](https://www.instagram.com/torrancesistercity)



[@torrancesistercityassociation](https://www.facebook.com/torrancesistercityassociation)



Focus on Fifty

Beginning of the Beginning

Mikko Haggott Henson

First President of TSCA

The most frequently asked question I receive is “How did Torrance become a sister city of Kashiwa?”

The answer is Kashiwa chose Torrance to be their sister city.

Unbeknownst to Torrance, in 1969, the Kashiwa Lions club wanted Kashiwa to have a sister city in the US and started to search for a suitable city on the west coast. One of the Lions club members asked a friend who resided in Gardena to recommend a city which was compatible to Kashiwa. Torrance was chosen because both had approximately the population 150,000 at that time. Both were bedroom communities for a big city. The distance from Tokyo to Kashiwa and Los Angeles to Torrance was the same about 20 miles.

In 1971, Torrance was informed that an official delegation from Kashiwa was coming to propose becoming sister cities. Torrance rolled out the red carpet, expecting Kashiwa City officials to arrive. Instead, the delegation was Kashiwa Lions club members who came to form a sister club with the Torrance Lions club. They said that the city of Kashiwa also wanted to become a sister city of Torrance. There was no further communication between the two cities once the Lions club members left Torrance.

In 1972, I had a trip planned to visit my family in Tokyo. I was asked if I could go to Kashiwa on a fact-finding mission. The Torrance city manager and the director of Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce wanted me to meet with the mayor of Kashiwa to find out what was going on. I was sent to clear up a lot of miscommunications.

When I visited Ryotoro Yamazawa, the Mayor of Kashiwa, he said it was the Lions club desire to find a sister city. He said the city had no intention of becoming a sister city. He said he would not do it unless the city council gave unanimous consent. Kashiwa had 44 assembly members, and many belonged to the socialist party. So, I reported back to Torrance that this would not happen, because the mayor was not interested. Even if it were to happen, it would take time.



Kashiwa Mayor Ryotoro Yamazawa and Torrance Mayor Ken Miller signed official papers affiliating the two cities in 1973.

To my big surprise at the end of that year (1972), we were notified that the Mayor of Kashiwa was coming to Torrance to sign the affiliation in the middle of February 1973. We had less than two months to prepare! It was an ordeal for Torrance. Despite what he told me in Kashiwa, he bulldozed the Kashiwa assembly into forming the sister city relationship. No one knew what made him change his mind.

Much later, I found out that when I had visited the Mayor of Kashiwa in 1972, I had told him that my father founded Shibaura Institute of Technology in Tokyo. Back then, compulsory education ended at middle school. Kashiwa's accelerated students had to attend high school in Tokyo. To meet their needs, the mayor wanted a well-known, respected high school located in Kashiwa. Therefore, a plan was underway to entice Shibaura Institute of Technology High School to relocate in Kashiwa. It materialized and SIT High school opened in Kashiwa in 1978. I was very happy to learn that my visit and connection to Shibaura Institute of Technology expedited the affiliation between the two cities. I could not help feeling that fate was involved and it made me devote my life to the sister city relationship between Kashiwa and Torrance. ☘



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, 2022, to July 31, 2023. 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 submit your resume and cover letter by email to Lori Chong Eurich (Chair, English Teacher Selection Committee) at [lace167@hotmail.com](mailto:lance167@hotmail.com).

Also, two letters of recommendation are needed. Arrange to have them emailed directly to the Chair by those submitting letters on your behalf.

Deadline to apply is

April 1, 2022

Qualified applicants will be scheduled for panel interviews in May.

Questions?

Email [lace167@hotmail.com](mailto:lance167@hotmail.com)

English Teacher Report

One Incredible Year Abroad

Deanna Sun



I wake up around 6:30 am, say good morning to my puppy Forrest, get dressed in Uniqlo heat tech and head to the *conbini* for onigiri and coffee, and then I am off to one of the greatest jobs I could ask for.

This is a typical morning for me these cold, winter days, but, unlike my life in California, my mornings aren't all quite the same. I have been living in Kashiwa, Japan for over one year, and I have had all kinds of mornings. Summer mornings can be blistering hot, which makes it hard to believe that just last week I was playing in the snow with my dog just outside my home. Some mornings, I am up by 4 am, sleepily grabbing my snowboard for a day of hitting the slopes of Japan. Other mornings, I wake up in a beautiful yukata and have an incredible hotel buffet breakfast, followed by dipping in a steaming hot outdoor bath with the view of Mt. Fuji displayed in front of me.

What I've learned about living abroad in Japan is that my routine is always an adventure. From coaching my students in English speech contests, to swimming in Okinawa, scrambling to swim away from poisonous jellyfish, I am completely overwhelmed with passion for new experiences, love for the Japanese culture, and gratitude for TSCA for bringing me here.

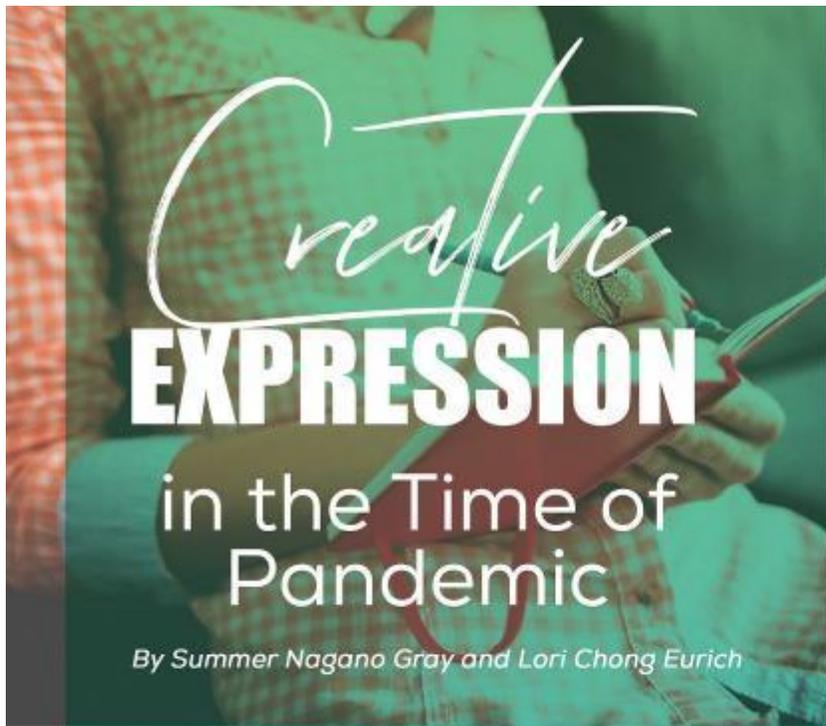


I made a “One Year Abroad” video on my YouTube page to remember my time here thus far and to hopefully inspire others to do the same. I hope you enjoy all the beautiful and unfiltered memories and lessons I've learned here. I'd like to especially thank the members of TSCA for making every scene in this video a dream come true. Happy New Year to you all and may your 2022 be filled with peace, happiness, and adventure!

Here is the link to my video! Please watch with captions and in 720p for the best quality!

<https://youtu.be/9y1qEPkg1Bk> ☞





By Summer Nagano Gray and Lori Chong Eurich



Calling all creative souls... that means YOU!

Whether you are a karaoke queen, weekend gardener, or beginning piano player, TSCA and KIRA need your creative submissions for an exciting, new cross-cultural project titled "Creative Expression in the Time of Pandemic."

This project is meant to provide a window into your life during the pandemic, share something that sparks joy in you, and showcase your creativity. We all have been affected by a shutdown of our normal lives, but not a shutdown of our creativity!

So please send in your creative written works, photos of your creations, or videos. We will be compiling them into a book and/or audiovisual presentation that will be displayed and shown at future events.



Creative Expression Ideas

Although your creative expression submissions may take any form, here are a few ideas to spark your creativity: haiku, poetry, spoken word, cooking/new recipes, cute bento box lunches, origami, singing, funny videos, photography, playing a musical instrument, composing a song, crafts like knitting, crochet, painting, drawing, fabric arts, pottery, sports, paper mâché, cross-stitch, travelling, hiking, journaling, calligraphy, writing on a grain of rice, soap making, candle making, book making, washi tape art, videos of your cat or dog doing tricks, juggling, hula hooping, doll making, Lego art, salsa dancing, Zumba, yoga at the beach, Ikebana/floral design, hula dancing, line dancing, rock painting, gardening/landscaping, kite flying, Cosplay outfits, martial arts (such as Judo/karate), Tai Chi, weaving, home organizing (such as KonMari), etc.

GUIDELINES

- Limit of 3 submissions per person
- Video submissions should be no longer than 90 seconds and in a horizontal/landscape position. Videos taken with your mobile phone work great!
- Submissions should have been created after the pandemic and shutdown began (March 2020).
- Please keep submissions positive and uplifting.
- Include your name and any comments about your submission that provide further detail.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Please send submissions to the TSCA Creative Expression Committee by

- 1) Clicking our Google Drive link and uploading your submission at <https://bit.ly/3jWW9mi>, or
- 2) Sending an email to 4summer@gmail.com, or
- 3) Mailing your submission to the TSCA Creative Expression Committee c/o Community Services Department, Cultural Services Division, 3031 Torrance Blvd, Torrance, CA 90503.

DEADLINE

June 30, 2022 (could be extended). Please feel free to send in your submissions now, as we would like to begin compiling them into audiovisual and hard copy formats.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Summer at 4summer@gmail.com or call (310) 804-5191.

News from Kashiwa



(L-R) : Mutsuko Tsukamoto, Yumi Shii, Kieko Sato, Masaaki Fumoto, Nami Sato, and Kiyomi Shibata. Front : Yoshimi Enomoto



By Lori Chong Eurich

Many thanks to KIRA's Torrance Committee, January Team for their outstanding and informative program on January 21st. The live, virtual event featured a New Year's holiday theme with traditional foods called Osechi, a demonstration of games including kendama, small juggling bean bags, and a card game, a kimono fashion show, and a tour of a Kashiwa elementary and middle school during lunch and cleaning time. The Osechi portion included a short quiz about the elaborate food boxes and its delicious, meaningful contents. Mr. Fumoto, team leader, playfully donned a white bridal kimono and wig to the delight of viewers. ☘

A game card with hiragana characters, small bean bags, fan, and wooden kendama toy with red ball attached

you're invited...



WHAT: Alumni Reunion Picnic

WHEN: February 5, 2022
11 am to 1 pm

WHERE: Wilson Park,
Southeast corner near the live
steamer railway (look for the
balloons)

BYOP: Please bring your own
picnic lunch and beverage

Picnic may be canceled if it rains

Except for the Lifetime Membership*
all dues are in effect from
January 1 to
December 31

Member Information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Email Address _____

- My membership is: New Renewal
- TSCA Directory Update:
- New Address New Telephone Number New Email Address
- I do not want to be listed in the TSCA Directory
- TSCA Activities:
- I am interested in participating in TSCA activities

TSCA meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 7-9 pm
(No meetings in August or December)

Postmark deadline to be included in the printed
TSCA Membership Directory is 2/16/22

*If you have
any questions
about your membership,
please email Alyssa Yamauchi at
tscamembership@gmail.com*

Mail your check and this form to:

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$75+
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$125+
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$200+
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership*	\$2,000+

Enclosed is a donation to
TSCA (in addition to \$ _____
annual dues)

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make your **check** payable to **TSCA**

www.torrancesistercity.org



**Torrance Sister City
Association**

3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503