

## President's Message

By Karen Wheeler



Dear Friends:

As I write this, our 2025 Torrance Student Ambassadors are only hours away from going to the airport to depart for Kashiwa Japan. I could not be prouder of them and their hard work in preparation for this journey. And I could not be happier knowing that, in a few short weeks, the Kashiwa Student Ambassadors will similarly be traveling here to Torrance. So, I will just keep quietly smiling as I tell you about our latest news and events.

When the Kashiwa students come, a flurry of fun activities quickly follows! A complete August Calendar is on page 6 with times and locations. Put as many of them on your calendar as you can. Here are some highlights:

1. Please attend the Welcome Potluck to meet and greet the Kashiwa students the day they arrive in Torrance on Monday, August 4th. Bring your favorite dish, enough to feed 8 people.
2. The Chili Cook-Off and Square Dance is on Thursday, August 7th. You are welcome to bring chili, even if you do not want to enter the contest. Otherwise bring a salad. Please note change of venue.
3. All too quickly, on Wednesday, August 20th, we will share an evening to say farewell to our new Kashiwa friends who are now part of our growing international family. The Sayonara Banquet is a catered dinner. Please sign up to attend and pay for the banquet using the Jot Form on page 7.
4. There are other ticketed events, such as a Dodger Game, a Tall Ship Sunset Cruise, and Hollywood Bowl Night. Spaces must be reserved and paid for in advance. Please refer to the August Calendar and the handy Jot Form registration procedure included on page 7. We look forward to seeing you many times in August, as we share the best of life in Southern California with our Kashiwa guests.

**President's Message**  
**PAGES 1-2**

**Calendar of Events**  
**PAGE 3**

**New and Renewing**  
**Members and Donations**  
**PAGE 3**

**ConGRADulations!**  
**PAGE 3**

**An Article by Shun**  
**Tamaoki**  
**PAGE 4**

**Arigato by Pedro Abina**  
**PAGE 5**

**August Calendar of Events**  
**PAGES 6**

**Special Events with**  
**Kashiwa Delegates**  
**PAGE 7**

**Membership Application**  
**PAGE 8**

# Calendar of Events

Members are welcome to join us for the August Activities by signing up via the Jot form link <https://form.jotform.com/251855156295162>

## JULY 2025

**July 8 – 29**

Student Ambassadors in Kashiwa

**July 15** Monthly Association Meeting

7-9 pm West Annex Commission Room

## AUGUST 2025

**August 4** Kashiwa Delegation arrives and

**Welcome Potluck**

5:30 pm George Nakano Theater  
Please RSVP by July 28

**August 7** Square Dance and Chili Cook Off

5:00 pm, Riviera United Methodist Church, 375 Palos Verdes Blvd., Redondo Beach  
Please note change in venue!

**August 20** Sayonara Banquet

5:00 pm Toyota Meeting Hall  
Please RSVP by August 4

**August 21** Kashiwa Delegation Returns to Japan

## President's Message, con't

In other news, the Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation held their annual TOCApalooza music festival on June 21st, and TSCA was there, greeting people and tapping our toes to the beat.



Warm congratulations to our Student Ambassadors from this and prior years, who have just graduated from high school, and college. We wish them the best wherever life takes them next. See page 3 for the details.

English Teacher Pedro Abina will soon be bidding “farewell” to Kashiwa, and Yuko Wilson will be taking his place. Please read some reflections on Pedro’s time teaching high school in Kashiwa, both from his perspective and that of his department head on pages 6 and 7.

This Newsletter also contains information about July meetings, membership numbers, and more. Thank you for staying informed and involved. Our 50+ years of success are due to members and friends like you!



Torrance student delegates at the Torrance Street sign in Kashiwa

## ConGradulations!

**Gianna Solorzano-Kaats**  
Bishop Montgomery High School  
UCLA, Biology major  
2023 Student Ambassador



**Aidan Reynolds**  
Bishop Montgomery High School  
Colorado School of Mines, Civil Engineering  
2024 Student Ambassador

**Jordan Kisiler**  
Redondo Union High School  
University of Calgary, Electrical Engineering  
2024 Student Ambassador

**Kyra Nakamoto**  
South High School  
BYU Idaho, Kinesiology  
2024 Student Ambassador

**Kai Long**  
West High School  
Cal. State Dominguez Hills, Asian Pacific Studies  
2025 Student Ambassador

**Nathan Kneller**  
South High School  
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Art and Design with a focus on photography and videography  
2025 Student Ambassador

**Artemis Vuong**  
Torrance High School  
Taking a gap year. Plans to attend Cal Poly, Pomona, Engineering  
2025 Student Ambassador

**Colin Welsch**  
West High School  
Oregon State University (honors college), Geography  
2024 Student Ambassador

**Ryan S. Eurich**  
U.C. Irvine  
B.S. Informatics; Minor in Management  
Leadership Development Program at RTX (Defense & Aerospace)  
Son of Lori Chong Eurich (2014 TSCA president) & Dane Eurich

## New and Renewed Members

Compiled by Alyssa Yamauchi, Membership Chair

### 1 - INDIVIDUAL (\$20)

Willoughby, Kevin



Our delegation visited Torrance Street in Kita Kashiwa holding the name of the street they reside on. Kosai-san from the Kita Kashiwa Residents Association escorted the group to the area that bears the name, "Torrance Street" on the asphalt and magically appears when water is spilled on it or during a rain shower.

## Torrance Sister City Association

### PRESIDENT

Karen Wheeler

### VICE PRESIDENT

Alyssa Yamauchi

### SECRETARY

Aimee Arreygue

### TREASURER

Stephanie Ewing-Warner

*Newsletter Editor*

Eve Rappoport

### Comments or submissions?

Please send an email to  
[tscanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:tscanewsletter@gmail.com)





## An Article by Shun Tamaoki, head of the English Department at Kashiwa Municipal High School

As a teacher, one of my greatest joys is seeing my students grow and develop. I first met Pedro Abina in Torrance in 2017. He was the host student of my homeroom student, Eisuke. The following year, Eisuke hosted Pedro in Japan. The exchange with the classmates, including the two of them, continues to this day. I was very happy to be working with Pedro as a colleague. I believe that he came back to Japan because of the wonderful memories he had of interacting with Ichikashi during his high school days. I am very grateful for that, and at the same time, I am proud that I am involved in such a wonderful international exchange program.

In Japan, there is an expression, "show your back." This means to set a good example for your juniors by your actions, not by explaining things verbally (He literally has a great back because he works out every day at the school gym...).

As a teacher, he set a good example for his students and juniors. By sharing his experiences during his homestay, what he found rewarding, and what made him happy, the students were able to participate more actively in the program. During the "Happy Friday Lunch" every Friday, he helped the students grow by being a good conversation partner and mentor.

Pedro, I wish you even more success in the future. You have worked very hard both in your Japanese studies and in your life in Japan. You can now write kanji and katakana better than I can. As your homeroom teacher, I am proud of you. When you come back to Japan, I will treat you to your favorite Teradaya ramen!

Thank you to Ms. Lori and everyone at TSCA for always watching over Ichikashi with kindness. We all are happy to be able to continue this bond with you.

International Department Head  
Shun Tamaoki



*Pedro Abina during his first visit to Ichikashi on the North Torrance High School Exchange in 2017*



*Pedro with his students at Ichikashi in June 2025*

## *A Thoughtful Arigato from Pedro Abina*



Note: TSCA is grateful for Pedro's hard work and support that made an impact on Ichikashi students and staff. We wish him well in his future endeavors and look forward to seeing him at events.

蝉の音が耳に心地よく聞こえますね。  
(The sound of the cicadas is pleasant to the ear.)

I want to take a moment to sincerely thank the board for this teaching opportunity. Living and working in Japan has been one of the most meaningful and formative experiences of my life. It certainly presented challenges—not so much because of cultural or linguistic differences, but because it required me to step outside of familiar structures and face aspects of myself I hadn't previously paid much attention to. In doing so, I grew in ways I didn't expect.

I learned a great deal about Japan, and those lessons only deepened my admiration for the people and values here. One lesson, in particular, has stayed with me: *"How you do anything is how you do everything."* There's a similar Japanese saying—「一事が万事」(Ichiji ga banji).

Before coming here, I had heard that phrase, but it never quite resonated. Over the past two years, though, I've seen it embodied in daily life. Whether someone is mowing the lawn in a public area, preparing documents, or wrapping up purchased items, there is care and attention in every task. Nothing is treated as too small to matter. That mindset has taught me that consistency, intention, and pride in your work—even in the smallest actions—can shape not only how others see you, but how you see yourself.

It's a principle I want to carry forward with me in both my personal and professional life.

Thank you again for your continued support. I'm incredibly grateful to have been part of this program.

Warm regards,  
Pedro Abina

**P.S.** If you're curious about what's next—I plan to stay in Los Angeles for the next few years, so I'll definitely be around to help with future Bunka-sai festivals or anything else you might need support with! My next goal is to join a talent agency in L.A. During my time in Japan, I had the chance to collaborate with Brandon Matsumoto (a former ALT) in Tokyo, helping host monthly community-building events that gave artists of all kinds a platform and more visibility. That experience inspired me to continue supporting creatives while growing professionally in the entertainment industry.

# Please join us for August Activities!

For a more detailed calendar, please follow this link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15eFOps1aGCFxqUW5vcOHgOrbzMotuQCjjBHq7w0eLiM/edit?usp=sharing>

Remember you can use this Jot Form link to sign up for any activities:

<https://form.jotform.com/251855156295162>

## August Activities 2025 (as of 7/11/25)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	11:30 a.m. Torrance Delegation boards bus to airport 1:00 PM Kashiwa Students Arrive 5:30 PM Welcome Reception at George Nakano Theater	8 A.M. - -Orientation Torrance Tour Part 1 Visit to Mayor's Office, Farmers' Market, Fire Station 3:00 pm return to West Annex 6:00 pm City Council Meeting	9:30 a.m. Board bus to Dodger Stadium DODGER DAY - Game begins at 1:10 . 5:30 p.m. approximate return to West Annex	9:45 A.M. - Oriental Motor 1:15 P.M. Visit to Police Station and 911 Call Center Students select square dance outfits. 4 P.M. - Chili Cookoff Entries due 5-8 P.M. Chili Cookoff and Square Dance	7:45 A.M. - King's Hawaiian Factory Tour 12:00-3:00 P.M. - Beach Party 5:00 P.M. Hollywood Bowl 11:30 p.m. Approximate return to Torrance	Free Weekend with Host Family
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Free Weekend with Host Family	8:30 A.M. - Torrance Tour Part 2 including Historical Society 12:30 -3:30 p.m. Pool Party	Kashiwa Students in San Diego	Kashiwa Students in San Diego	Kashiwa Students in San Diego	8:00 Pickle Ball 11:00 A.M. Madrona Marsh with painting activity 1:30 p.m. Lunch at King's Hawaiian Restaurant 3:00 p.m. Maritime Museum 4:30 P.M. Tall Ship	Free Weekend with Host Family
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Free Weekend with Host Family	9:00 a.m. La Brea Tar Pits and UCLA Tour	7:00 a.m. California Adventure Park 11 p.m. approximate return to West Annex	9:30 a.m. Torrance Bakery - Cake Decorating 3:30 p.m. students arrive for Sayonara Banquet 5:00 Sayonara Banquet	10:00 a.m. Host families and Kashiwa students meet at LAX		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## WELCOME RECEPTION!



Monday, August 4, 2025

5:00 – 8:00 PM

Join us as we welcome our Kashiwa student delegates

**George Nakano Theatre**, 3330 Civic Center Drive, Torrance 90503

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

**Family:** Main Dish

**Single or Couple:** Salad, side dish, or dessert

Open to all TSCA members

Please RSVP by July 28 at this link:

<https://form.jotform.com/251855156295162>

## Chili Cook Off and Square Dance

Thursday August 7, 2025

5:00 – 8:00 pm

*Let's show our Kashiwa friends what Western hospitality is all about!  
Yee Haw!*

**Riviera United Methodist Church**

375 Palos Verde Blvd., Redondo Beach

*Please note change in venue!*

**Family:** Bring chili to serve 8

**Single or couple:** Salad to serve 12 – 16 or optional chili

Open to everyone. Please RSVP at this link:

<https://form.jotform.com/251855156295162>



## Sayonara Banquet

Wednesday August 20, 2025

5:00 – 9:00pm

Join us as we say farewell to the Kashiwa students and thank the Host Families

**Toyota Meeting Hall**

3330 Civic Center Drive, Torrance 90503

Dinner Tickets: \$30 adults / \$10 children 10 and younger

Please RSVP by August 4 to the Jot Form link:

<https://form.jotform.com/251855156295162>

Instructions regarding payment are provided in the Jot Form. Mail a check to TSCA or pay at the Welcome Reception August 7. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

----- Cut and return the below with your check payment. -----

## 2025 TSCA Membership Application Form

Mail your check and this form to: Torrance Sister City Association, c/o Community Services Dept, 3031 Torrance Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503



**TORRANCE  
SISTER CITY  
ASSOCIATION**

3031 Torrance Boulevard • Torrance, California 90503

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

- ☐ \$20 Individual    ☐ \$40 Family    ☐ \$75+ Supporting    ☐ \$125+ Benefactor  
☐ \$200+ Corporate    ☐ \$2,000+ Lifetime Membership\*

Donation to TSCA (in addition to annual dues): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I am Interested in TSCA activities, specifically: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ For the TSCA Directory, only include my: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make your check payable to: TSCA*

### Member Information

*Please complete your contact information directly below and to the right.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Contact Info

**\*\*TSCA Newsletters are sent to all members via email.**

Email\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have questions about membership, please send an email to: [tscamembership@gmail.com](mailto:tscamembership@gmail.com)



Torrance Sister City  
Association  
3031 Torrance Boulevard  
Torrance, CA 90503

