# TSCA NEWS



#### TORRANCE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

www.torrancesistercity.org

March 2017

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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

Join us at the 44th annual Bunka-Sai on Saturday, April 22, and Sunday, April 23, at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center. From 11 am to 5 pm, Japanese culture will be on display,

occupying the Ken Miller Recreation Center, Toyota Meeting Hall, Assembly Room, and the Torino Plaza. Bunka-Sai is our major fundraiser for the student cultural exchange program. The festival presents two days of entertainment, arts and crafts, demonstrations and, of course, delicious food.

On stage, performances will feature music—shakuhachi, koto, and minyo—and the always-popular, exciting taiko, dancing, calligraphy and martial arts: judo, kendo, naginata, aikido, and karate.

Two years ago, TSCA started an anime contest for middle school and high school students throughout Torrance. This year's entries will be displayed on the wall of the Recreation Center auditorium. Last year's winning drawing by Sarah Donaldson is featured on this year's program and flyer.

We will be introducing six new arts and crafts vendors that will join returning vendors showcasing paintings, jewelry, clothes, ceramics, books, origami, and greeting cards, to name a few items.

Bring your appetite, as I'm sure we have most of your favorites: Plates of BBQ beef, chicken, and salmon; yakisoba; curry and rice; Spam musubi; a great selection of drinks and desserts; shaved ice; and snacks. Why not snack on the always-favorite Okinawan dangos while you're listening to the Taiko drums? We are redoing the children's game area and will feature the popular water yoyos right from Japan!

In this month's mail you will receive two books of opportunity drawing tickets. Please purchase the tickets or sell them. There will be many prizes donated by restaurants, local businesses and individuals, including a grand prize of \$250. We will contact all winners who are not present at the time of the drawing on Sunday and arrange for prize delivery.

For the last several years, we have had over 300 volunteers help with Bunka-Sai, whether for a couple of hours or for the entire weekend. Every minute makes a difference and is greatly appreciated. This is a great opportunity to meet new friends, renew old acquaintances and enable our students to enjoy the "trip of a lifetime." If you would like to volunteer or have questions, please contact Wendy Ito at kawenaito@gmail.com.

With free admission and parking, this makes for a great family outing. Come and enjoy the food, entertainment and cultural experience that is Bunka-Sai. We hope to see you there and thank you for your support! 署

## **CALENDAR**

MARCH 3, 17 & 31 City Hall Closed

MARCH 11

TSCA Yard Sale 7 am - 12 noon (see back page)

#### MARCH 13

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

#### MARCH 18

TSCA Café at Torrance Craftsman's Guild's Spring Arts & Crafts Faire

Ken Miller Recreation Center, Torrance Volunteers needed! Please email TSCACafe@gmail.com

**APRIL 14 & 28** City Hall Closed

**APRIL 22 & 23** 

44th Annual Bunka-Sai (11 am-5 pm) Ken Miller Recreation Center 3341 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** Wendy Ito

TREASURER Cindy Scotto

Newsletter Editor Summer Nagano Gray

Newsletter Distribution Donna Dunlap

Comments or submissions? Please send an email to tscanewsletter@gmail.com

## **ALUMNI NEWS**



Congratulations to Kristin Namimoto (student delegate, 2000), who married Bryan Posner on September 4, 2016, at the Presidio in San Francisco. The happy couple make their home in San Francisco.

Best wishes to the newlyweds for a long and happy life together!



## TSCA Student Club

The pins were flying on February 11, as the TSCA Student Club enjoyed food, friendship, and fun at Palos Verdes Bowl.

Next Event: Saturday, March 11 at 2 pm Max Karaoke Studio, Torrance ◆ \$5/hour

## **IN MEMORIAM**

By Gail Roulette

We are sad to learn that longtime TSCA members **Aki** and **Tom Delovd** are deceased—she as of August 2016, and he as of February 2017. They were both in their 90s. Aki will be fondly remembered for her amazing efforts selling raffle tickets by the hundreds each Bunka-Sai. In her best year, she sold 800! TSCA appreciates the support and friendship the Deloyds provided over the years and offers condolences to their family.



## Membership News

By Reiko Higa, Membership Chair

#### **NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS**

Corporate (\$200/year) Miyako Hybrid Hotel

**Benefactor** (\$125+/year) Goodrich. Tim Rust, Joe and Carol

**Supporting** (\$75+/year) Cababa, Ed and Kerry Torrance Y's Men's Club

Family (\$40/year) Albitz, Phil and Velma Cortez, Dana Coury, Amy and George Fichtner, Dan and Ray Rand Frichtel, Mikaela, Debbie, Tim, and Caitlin Fu. Albert Gan, Ethan Gelbaum, Ilene and Mark Gelbaum. Randi and David Grace, Carla Gray, Robert, Summer, and Jeremy Han, Dai Sup and Iill Hargrove, Richard, Eunice, and Linda Hofer, Gary and Fusae Huynh, Jacquelyn Kang, Sindy Kido, Kenji and Family

Kimmel, Gudy and Ron

Kranz, Linda and Dave

Kuo. Leane

Kuo, Samantha

LaRue, Julie Little, Vera and Bob Makino, Sako Matsubara, Sydney Matsumoto, Mickey and Frances McGee, Carmen and John Mealins, Kathy and Earl Mundy, Christine Nakamoto, Hannah Nakano, George Namimoto, Mariko Nash, Renee Reeve, Ron and Susan Roulette, Mark and Peggy Sargent, Dave and Toni Sprague, Brian and Tracy Tanabe, Fred and Janice Todd, Edwin, Mayumi, Alissa, Rachel, and Ronan Toya, George and May Tsay, Irene Uchima, Ray Ueki, Masaki and Sumi Uiimori. Harvey and Kay Yorizane Family

Individual (\$20/year) Allen, Sheila Ando, Frances Ashcraft, Heidi **Bothwell Automotive** Gerson, Jeremy

Grageda, Bryan Griffith, Kay

Griffith, Mike Kraemer, Lvnda O'Donnell, Maureen Ozawa. Eleanor Peck, James Perez, Ayako Plank, Janice Sakamoto, May Shiosaki, Ed - South Bay Judo Webb. Donald

**Donations** MGM Resorts, Craig Bauer (\$250) Cababa, Ed and Kerry (\$25) Fu, Albert (\$60) Gray, Robert, Summer, and Jeremy (\$10) Griffith, Kay (\$5) LaRue, Julie (\$5) O'Donnell, Maureen (\$10) Sargent, Dave and Toni (\$10) Wheeler, Karen (\$10) 異

Thank you for joining or renewing your membership for 2017 and the generous donations.

Membership questions? Please call Reiko Higa at (310) 619-4361 or e-mail tscamembership@amail.com.

## **ADDITIONAL TSCA DONORS IN 2016**

The Torrance Sister City Association would like to thank the following donors for supporting our organization's mission and programs, including our annual Student Cultural Exchange Program with Kashiwa, Japan.

\$200 - \$2,000

MGM Resorts - Craig Bauer • Boeing Company - John Ito Northrop Grumman - Cheryl Yamauchi • Dunlap-Ihde Family



## **Torrance Sister City Association**

# **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

## Have You Paid Your 2017 Membership Dues Yet?

If not, please complete the form below and mail it in today along with your check. There are several membership levels available.

Note: Please pay your dues by **March 15** to be listed in the 2017 TSCA Membership Directory

If you have any questions about membership, pleas		_
TORRANCE SISTER CITY  2017 Membership A  Except for the Life Membership, all dues are in effective.	ASSOCIAT Application	ION on
Name	Individual \$20 per year Family \$40 per year	
Address	Supporting	\$75+ per year
CityState ZIP Code	Benefactor Life member	\$125+ per year \$2,000+ (one-time donation)
Telephone ( ) E-mail address		
My membership is: . NEW □ RENEWAL □ I do not want to	o be listed in the TS	SCA directory
Directory Update: ☐ New address ☐ New telephone num	nber 🗆 New e-ma	il address
I am interested in participating in TSCA activities		
Enclosed is a donation to TSCA (in addition to my annual dues) in the amou	unt: \$ Total er	nclosed: \$
Make your <b>check</b> payable to <b>TSCA</b> and <b>mail with this form</b> to:	Torrance Sister Circ/o Community Se 3031 Torrance Bly Torrance, CA 9050	ervices Department rd.

If you have any questions about your membership, please email Reiko Higa at tscamembership@gmail.com





## Kashiwa News



- 1] The KIRA Torrance Committee enjoyed a New Year Party at Palette Kashiwa on January 16.
- 2] Meet 2017 Adult Leader Ms. Yukari Shimada.
- 3] 2017 Torrance Committee Board Members - From left: Liaison Mr. Hisataka Takikawa, Vice-chair Ms. Yoriko Ishida, Chair Mr. Masahiko Arai, Treasurer Ms. Chie Suzuki. This new cabinet will begin their term in April.
- 4] At the 8th KIRA English Speech Presentation, Minori Hisanaga, Kashiwa Student 2016 (front row - 3rd from right), gave a wonderful speech about her experience visiting Torrance last summer.







# Memories of Japan

Part 4 in a series of reports from TSCA's 2016 Student Delegates

## **Japanese Schools and Education System**

By Ashley Kang

During our three-week stay in Kashiwa, we visited a total of three schools. Each of them taught me something about the overall system of Japanese education.

The first, Kashiwa Municipal High School, showed the emphasis of extracurricular activities, as we witnessed the time and effort put into their number-one ranked brass band. Similarly, Nippon Sport Science University places great value on sports activities, as shown by their impressive number of Olympic athletes.

However, the Daiichi Elementary School was the most significant in terms of revealing what the Japanese government hoped its education system would be all about. As a welcome performance, the entire sixth-grade class performed a dance in perfect unison. As we all watched in awe, someone commented that this level of togetherness could only be achieved through strict discipline and a promotion of group behavior rather than individuality.



Here I am (back row left) with Erika (another TSCA student delegate) and students during a school visit.

This resonated with me, and something as simple as a group performance highlighted the major differences between the Japanese and American education systems.

My host mother had her own opinion, however. She said that personally, she didn't like the highly structured ways of their education system, which was aimed at preparing students to pass the difficult entrance exams. She felt that the praising and promotion of group togetherness led to a sort of robotic population that was afraid of marching to the beat of their own drum—that the Japanese mindset of the group over the individual came with a high price of sacrificing individuality.  $\Re$ 

## TSCA Memorabilia Displayed at Torrance Katy Geissert Library



During this month of March, the Torrance Katy Geissert main library is featuring TSCA in the front entrance showcase, with the Bunka-Sai flyer prominently displayed.

Thanks to Lori Chong Eurich, Donna Dunlap, Butch Ihde, Gail Roulette, and Cindy Scotto, who brought in their treasured gifts and souvenirs from Japan to beautifully decorate the shelves, providing library patrons with an appreciation for Japanese culture and greater awareness of the Torrance Sister City Association.

Special thanks to Lori, Donna, and Butch for setting up this beautiful display case. 業



# **English Teacher Report**

By Amie Komae

# Highlights from Teaching English in Japan

In February, the third-year high school students have the month off to prepare for University, thus freeing up time for Stephanie [the other TSCA English teacher] and me to visit some elementary schools. A staple in all elementary and junior high schools in Japan is Kyushoku (school lunch). On this day, we were served thick udon noodles in a kabocha (pumpkin) soup, fish filet, pickled vegetable salad, fruit with mochi and a carton of milk. Everything is cooked fresh on-site and the students eat like this every single day. Along with the food being delicious and cheap (around \$2 per day US), it instills great cooperation and teamwork skills in the kids at a young age. I do hope one day America as well as other countries can follow suit and serve healthy and delicious balanced meals at schools.





Wear teaching them English writing. They are a wonderful and enthusiastic bunch of students who will be graduating this year on March 8. One reason I enjoyed teaching this specific class is the diversity of club activities represented by this group. Class 3C has members from almost every club activity at school! There are members from both girls and boys soccer, basketball, and tennis, as well as baseball, judo, kendo, dance, cross country, brass band, music club, and more. Amazing!

In the winter months in Japan, the flu has a tendency to spread rapidly. Many schools actually close down for a few days due to mass student absences. Recently there was a mandatory rule at Ichikashi stating that all students and teachers had to wear a face mask to prevent the spread of the flu. After living in Japan for more than a year, I am now accustomed to "face mask" culture but, on this particular day, looking out at all of the Ichikashi students in their uniforms and masks, I couldn't help but be shocked and amazed. This is probably a sight you can only see in Japan!





Every week, Stephanie and I meet individually with Nakano Sensei [far right] to study Japanese. Mrs. Nakano has been a long-time member of KIRA (Kashiwa International Relations Association), and we are lucky to call her sensei! During my 90-minute lesson with Nakano Sensei, she corrects my homework, teaches me through a textbook, and also chats with me about my week and upcoming plans. Recently Stephanie and two other students passed various levels of the Japanese Language Proficiency test (I may take it next year), and Nakano Sensei took us all out to dinner to celebrate! Studying Japanese is a big challenge, but with a great teacher and good companions alongside you, it is an enjoyable adventure!







# 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.



#### Torrance Sister City Association 2017 Anime Drawing Contest Rules

- 1. Entries must be drawn on  $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11''$  paper in "portrait" (vertical) format
- 2. Entries can be in color or black and white.
- 3. One entry per person per category.
- 4. Entries must have the name, age, school, division (middle or high school), category, and a contact number of the artist on the BACK of the drawing.
- 5. Categories include:
  - a. Most dramatic b. Cutest c. Best representation of Japanese culture
- 6. Entries are to be submitted in person on Friday, April 21 from 6:00 pm 8:00 pm at the Ken Miller Recreation Center at 3341 Torrance Blvd.
- 7. All entries must have a signed release form and waiver signed by artist and parent or guardian.
- 8. Entries will be placed in a protective sleeve and displayed during the Bunka-Sai festival.
- 9. Winners will be announced on Saturday, April 22, at 12:20 pm. Winners need not be present.
- 10. Winning entries will be featured in the TSCA newsletter as well as displayed on the website.
- 11. TSCA will retain the rights to any entries, and will scan copies of them before returning to the artist.
- 12. Anime drawings may be picked up on Sunday, April 23 at 4:30 pm. Any remaining after this time will become property of TSCA.

Thank you for participating in the Anime Drawing contest and supporting the Torrance Sister City Association's Bunka-Sai festival.

Questions? Please feel free to contact Jennifer Eureka Hirashiki at jeneureka@yahoo.com

#### **Statement of Authenticity and Photo Release**

IPrint entrant/artist name	am the <b>original</b> artist of the drawing submitted. ame	
It is not copied from any other artis	st.	
Entrant (Signature)	Date:	
PARENT RELEASE		
My child (print name)	is allowed to be photographed along with	
his/her drawing and included in the	TSCA Newsletter and on its website.	
Parent/Guardian Name		
Print	name Signature	
Date:		
TSCA Representative		
Print		
Nata		

# Bunka-Sai

Japanese Cultural Festival

Saturday & Sunday April 22 and 23, 2017 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Ken Miller Recreation Center
3341 Torrance Boulevard (At Madrona Avenue)





Come and enjoy the many Food Vendors – Craft Booths and Live Entertainment



















Presented by

The Torrance Sister City Association

TorranceSisterCity.org

Proceeds to benefit the student cultural exchange program

City of Torrance • Community Services Department • 310-618-2930



# TSCA YARD SALE

## Saturday, March 11, 2017 • 7 am - 12 noon

22426 Palos Verdes Boulevard, Torrance, CA 90505 (near Linda Drive)

Do you brake for bargains? Enjoy flea market finds? Enjoy spending your money on a good cause?

If you answered Yes to any of these questions, you won't want to miss this once-a-year blockbuster Yard Sale, which will feature a variety of interesting and unique new and gently used items (such as books, toys, clothing, kitchenware, furniture and gadgets).

All proceeds (and we mean every single penny) will benefit this summer's TSCA Student Exchange Program. This event is hosted by the TSCA Student Selection Committee and the 2017 student exchange applicants and their parents.

Note: If you have any items to donate for this Yard Sale, please bring them by 7 am, already priced. Thank you!