

President's Message Werner Willoughby



I would like to thank each of the following board members and officers for their contributions to a successful 2019 for TSCA.

Vice President Jennifer Hirashiki, our go-to tech person. To access information easier and quicker we have been looking to her to process orders, evaluations and especially publicity electronically. Thanks Jen for your expertise, insight and making things happen!

Treasurer Ron Reeve; processes our TSCA monies from memberships, donations, deposits, reimbursements, bills, honorariums to monthly statements from our bank and to our board at each association meeting. Overseeing all financial aspects of our weekend long Bunka-Sai to making out that last minute check and mailing it... doing all with a smile.

Secretary Gail Roulette; at every association meeting Gail focuses intently on the discussion, noting all that speak, motions made and seconded, votes taken, monies mentioned, lists of people and more. Gail is extremely conscientious and detailed in the minutes that she submits.

Board members, **Rae Ann Carr, Keiko Clark, Shirley Tanaka, Brian Diederich, Lori Chong Eurich, Summer Nagano Gray, Sindy Kang, Amie Komae, Kathi Matsubara, Cindy Scotto, and Mayoori Shetti**. Thank you for your efforts on so many committees and activities, from Bunka-Sai to August activities, time and effort on your part made 2019 so enjoyable for all.

Congratulations to the following TSCA members who were elected to the Board of Directors: **Donna Dunlap, Jennifer Hirashiki, Gail Roulette, Matthew B. Staal, and Karen Wheeler**. These board positions will begin January 1, 2020 and will be for a term of three years. They will be installed at the Alumni Reunion January 11, at the Ken Miller Recreation Center.

Thank you to the Nominating Committee of **Bryce Yamauchi**, chair and **Jennifer Hirashiki** for the difficult task of selecting new board members, a new slate of officers for 2020 and running the election.

A big, big thank you to the folks at Cultural Services that enable TSCA to utilize the facilities and services that the City of Torrance offers. From transportation, venues, all printed materials and communications within the City these people are very special. The quality and depth of our program depends upon their expertise and very genuine desire to help TSCA. The door is always open, smiles and good feelings abound and support that “what can I do to help you” attitude, just wonderful!! **Eve Rappoport** – Manager, **Michael Field** – TSCA Liaison, Senior Supervisor and **Debbie Collins** – Administrative Assistant.

Do you know a friend or relative residing in Torrance who is a high school student and would be enriched by a cultural exchange program? Then we have a “trip of a lifetime” for them. Please see the flyer included in this issue of the newsletter. You may also go to our website torrancesistercity.org, to view some student-made videos from past years and print out an application. That applica-

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No TSCA General Meeting in December

DECEMBER 9

2020 Budget Planning Meeting (7 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room

DECEMBER 16

2020 Student Delegate Applications Due

JANUARY 11

Alumni Reunion Potluck (11 am-2 pm)
Ken Miller Recreation Center
3341 Torrance Blvd | Torrance, CA

JANUARY 13

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room
3031 Torrance Blvd | Torrance, CA

JANUARY 18 and 25

Student Selection Interviews*
Torrance Art Museum Conference Room
3320 Civic Center Dr | Torrance, CA

JANUARY 29

Bunka Sai Planning Meeting (7-9 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room
3031 Torrance Blvd | Torrance, CA

*Individual meetings to be scheduled

Torrance Sister City Association

PRESIDENT

Werner Willoughby

VICE PRESIDENT

Jen Hirashiki

SECRETARY

Gail Roulette

TREASURER

Ron Reeve

Newsletter Editor

Rae Ann Carr

Newsletter Distribution

Donna Dunlap

Comments or submissions?

Please send an email to
tscanewsletter@gmail.com

tion may open the door to a wealth of cultural experiences and a lifetime of friendships. Exchange students from last year and TSCA representatives will make presentations at each high school to promote the exchange. The deadline to submit the application is December 16, 2019

To our newsletter editor Rae Ann Carr, thank you so much for your text and visual presentation of TSCA. It's a treat reading your creation.

And finally a big thank you to all of our members and friends who support TSCA through memberships, donations and working at activities like Bunka-Sai. Volunteers are our foundation! ☘

Follow Us on Social Media

Follow Torrance Sister City Association on social media to stay up-to-date on the latest news, announcements, events, and more. View our photos and videos on Instagram and Facebook.



@torrancesistercity

<https://www.instagram.com/torrancesistercity/>



Torrance Sister City Association - TSCA

Nonprofit Organization



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Sports in Japan

Natasha Barragan



Ever since I was little, sports has been a part of my life, especially when I started to help the football team at West High. I was interested in learning about the traditional sports in Japan as well as the American sports that are popular in Japan. When/where do the sports teams practice? How long are practices?

What are the coaches like? I would be able to answer these questions after doing research on the sports in Japan. I am most looking forward to in Japan is talking to my host families and the students about sports, which will be a part of my post-trip report.

This report includes a description of the traditional and non-traditional sports in Japan such as baseball, sumo, and martial arts. The difference between traditional sports, how some American sports became popular in Japan, and the way practices are held.

During our time in Japan, we got to visit many different schools such as Kashiwa Municipal High School, Daichi Elementary School, and a Sports and Science High School. On our tour to the first high school, Kashiwa Municipal High School, we had the ability to explore the

school's grounds and also visit some of the different clubs. One of the clubs that we got to experience was Judo. We got to put on the Judogi which is the traditional name for the Judo uniform. Then we went to practice with the Judo team. The judo team practices in a room that has wrestling like mats. During practice, I noticed that the players were very disciplined. They would listen to the coach with no hesitation or disrespect. We got to learn a Judo move where the pair would shuffle to the right and then one person would swipe the other person's foot in order to cause them to fall. When we were instructed to show our moves we were told to bow before our opponent and then continue. This shows that a major part of Judo is to show respect towards others even if they are your opponent.

When we visited the Sports and Science High School we got to explore the campus and visit some of the classrooms. Later, we got to practice with the Karate team. We did warm up and learned some of the moves. Karate is a very vocal sport. We were told to scream when we punched or kicked the cushion. Karate was very similar to Judo. In both Judo and Karate, there is respect, discipline, similar practice space, and uniform. ☸



Meet the 2020 Adult Leader

Congratulations and Best Wishes Cara



Cara Ihde

Hello, my name is Cara Ihde. I have been involved in TSCA since 1989, thanks to my parents' dedication to the program since the early 1980s. Over the past thirty years I have volunteered in numerous events, including Bunk-sai, hosting Kashiwa delegates and serving as a board member and student club president. In 2006, I had the privilege of traveling to Kashiwa with my adult leader, Pam Miike, as a student delegate. My trip to Japan and the three weeks that followed, changed my life forever. I hope to give the delegates the same experience that I received.

Currently I am a fifth grade teacher at Riviera Hall. Last year, I received my Master's degree in Education from California Lutheran University. My passions are playing and coaching volleyball, assisting with middle and high school youth groups, and traveling. In college I was fortunate to study abroad through a program called Semester at Sea, sailing to eleven different countries around the world, one of which was Japan. During this trip I was able to meet with friends from Kashiwa.

One of the many aspects I love about TSCA is the relationship it has with KIRA and the chance to create life-long friendships. Not only have I remained in contact with those I met in 2006, but also the students I have met while hosting. It is also remarkable to see the lasting friendships my parents created when they were adult leaders. I have developed great relationships with many of these men and women as well. I am looking forward to seeing my Kashiwa friends again soon.

This upcoming year will be exciting and memorable. I cannot wait to interact with the applicants and bond with the eight delegates on our trip of a lifetime. TSCA is a phenomenal program and I am honored to represent Torrance as the adult leader in 2020. ☘

News from Japan



Erika Clark, 2016 Student Delegate, recently visited Japan and had reunion with her host family. Erika is pictured with Mrs. Eiko Kido and her two girls.

English Teacher, **Brandon Matsumoto**, volunteered in Southern Chiba for the typhoon disaster relief. Many of the houses in Southern Chiba suffered damage and they don't have adequate resources in the smaller cities to house a lot of volunteers. Brandon met many dedicated volunteers from all over Japan, who were sleeping in their cars for days to help with the cleanup. Thank you Brandon for your support to the community.



Ichikashi Student Report

Hyakunin Isshu

Ryozen Maruyama



I did *hyakunin isshu* in elementary school. All students competed in a *hyakunin isshu* tournament. I did not place but it was very fun. I have never forgotten this memory. So I want you to know how fun it is by reading this article.

First of all, what is *hyakunin isshu*? To put it simply, it is a collection of 100 poems for 100 singers. It is known as song *karuta*. But it is not the usual *karuta* many people know. It is a little difficult because there are cards that are read and cards you must grab.

Hyakunin isshu was made a long time ago. It was made around seven hundred years ago. *Hyakunin isshu* is the collection of excellent poems during that time. *Hyakunin isshu* has many love poems so I think people these days will be interested in it. Please listen to many poems and you will surely like them.

There are many kinds of ways to enjoy *hyakunin isshu*, for example, competition *karuta*. It is played by old and young, both men and women. They have group battles and individual battles. Both battles get heated. I once saw a video where they slap the card very hard. Players are given rankings from A to D. The first place winners



in the men's division are called masters and the first place winners in the women's division are called queens. There is a lot of information about competition *karuta*.

This is why I love *hyakunin isshu*. I want many people to know about its charm. Competition *karuta* is played only by Japanese people so if you become the top player in Japan, you'll become the top player in the world. If you're interested in this article you can try to become a master. I hope you will make an effort someday. Let's do it together! ☘



The guest writer, Ryozen, is a third year student at Ichikashi High School.



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, 2020, to July 31, 2021. 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 10, 2020**, and received by **April 17, 2020**.

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.

English Teacher Report

Rites of Passage

Alison Abraham



As the year draws to a close, Ichikashi continues to bustle with student activity. For the English Conversation Club, it's prime speech contest season, and I am proud to say that two of our second year students - the equivalent of juniors in American high schools - placed in the district! **Koukyoku** received second place in the original speech division and **Lana**

received first prize in the recitation division. Although they both qualified to move onto the prefectural speech contest, it unfortunately coincides with their class trip to Torrance in November.



Speech Contest Winners from the English Conversation Club

Speaking of class trips, in November, all of the second years will embark on their own such trip. The international class will be going to Torrance – they've been working toward this since they entered high school – and the others will go to the island of Okinawa in the south of Japan. According to the teachers I've spoken to, most if not all Japanese students experience some kind of excursion with their classmates and teachers during their high school days. It's their own rite of passage and one of the rare opportunities for them to travel at this age, unhindered by the daily commitments of club activities, school work, and the like.



In other news, I recently traveled to *Kawaguchiko* with my 2011 KIRA student **Mina Marushima**. We met with her extended family to celebrate her grandfather's birthday! Close to Kawaguchiko is a theme park called Fuji-Q Highland, and as its namesake suggests, Mount Fuji, reaching into the sky, towers over the park. After enjoying a day riding attractions and playing with her cousins' children, Mina and I made our way to the ryokan - a traditional Japanese inn. From our room, we also had a clear view of Fuji-san. I hadn't realized it until then, but I'd never actually laid my eyes upon Mount Fuji. In all the years and all the trips I'd made, I'd never been able to actually see it with my own eyes. Despite our distance, it was grand, majestic. I felt breathless even at its base. It felt like my own rite of passage - it felt like something finally sliding into place. There's still so much I haven't seen or experienced yet in Japan, and I only have so much time left here as a resident and Ichikashi teacher, but somehow...this has helped make my journey that much closer to feeling complete. ☘

Alumni Reunion Potluck

Saturday, January 11, 2020 | 11 a.m.—2 p.m.
Ken Miller Recreation Center | 3300 Civic Center Drive, Torrance

Join us at our annual Alumni Reunion to celebrate the installation of our new officers and board members. Come enjoy the 2019 delegates' pictorial presentation of their trip to Kashiwa last July. Renew friendships, share favorite memories, and enjoy tasty potluck dishes. Applicants for the 2020 student exchange program will be attending to learn more about the trip of a lifetime.

Individuals or couples, please bring a dessert or a side dish. Families, please bring a main dish and a salad. Please bring serving utensils labeled with your name. Drinks will be provided.

Please feel free to wear your happi coat, yukata, or t-shirt from your year.
We'll also be accepting membership renewals at the event.

For more
information, contact *Sindy Kang*
kanggreg@gmail.com

www.torrancesistercity.org



**Torrance Sister City
Association**

3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503



Torrance Sister City Association

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Our 2020 Membership Drive has begun!

There are several membership levels available,
and two convenient payment options:



**Option
1**

Pay by MAIL:

Complete the form below,
and mail with your check.



**Option
2**

Pay ONLINE:

Visit

www.torrancesistercity.org

and

Check out with **PayPal**

Postmark deadline to be included in the printed TSCA Membership Directory is 2/26/20.

Torrance Sister City Association

2020 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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 the Civic Center West Annex
Commission Room 7-9 pm
(No meetings in August or December)

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

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	

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

www.torrancesistercity.org

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.

- 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 and daily life
- Experience Hiroshima
- Make lifelong friends and much, much more!

APPLICATION must be postmarked by Monday, December 16, 2019 • TorranceSisterCity.org