

## President's Message

### Werner Willoughby



As the County of Los Angeles slowly begins to lift its COVID-19 restrictions, we hope you and your loved ones are safe and well.

Although our student exchange program activities have been suspended for the 2021 year, the board continues planning with the Torrance Committee in Kashiwa for next year's 2022 student exchange, with hopes that we will reach some degree of normalcy by then. As the venues for City of Torrance facilities book quickly, we felt the need to schedule the annual Alumni Reunion for Saturday, January 8, 2022, and the Square Dance/Chili Cook-Off on August 10, 2022. Other reservations will follow as we gain confidence in both countries' responses to COVID and coordination with the Kashiwa committee.

TSCA will celebrate its 50th anniversary in February 2023, and the TSCA 50th Anniversary Committee has begun planning for the celebration of our Golden Jubilee with our Sister City of Kashiwa. The delegation from Kashiwa is currently scheduled to visit Torrance in February 2023, while the Torrance delegation is scheduled to visit Kashiwa in October.

By now you should have received your Membership Directory for 2021. Thank you again to **Alyssa Yamauchi**, our Membership Chair, for her time and effort completing this huge task.

Thank you to **Lori Chong Eurich**, **Brandon Matsumoto**,

**Deanna Sun**, and **Amie Komae** for facilitating Zoom activities with the Torrance delegates for 2022 and the Kashiwa students at Ichikashi High (a.k.a. Kashiwa Municipal High School).

The composition of the 2021 TSCA Board was completed with the vote of approval of our newest member, **Sumi Arnheim**. We welcome Sumi to the Board and look forward to working with her. Sumi is the co-chair of the TSCA Historical Committee and has volunteered at Bunka-Sai for many years, primarily in the dessert booth.

At our September 2020 Association meeting, TSCA included a presentation of Japanese culture called Culture Corner, a suggestion proposed by Lori Chong Eurich. This sharing of culture by the Kashiwa Torrance Committee members was so informative that it was added to each meeting's agenda and has turned out to be the highlight of each meeting. The presentations are narrated by a member of the Torrance Committee (in Kashiwa) and enhanced by slides with text. On behalf of TSCA, I would like to thank the following members of the Torrance Committee (in Kashiwa) for their time and effort in their preparations of these informative and appealing presentations:

- **Akiko Nobusawa:** Celebration of Respect for the Aged Day and Autumn Equinox Day (9/20 meeting)
- **Akiko Maruta:** Sports/Health Day (10/20)
- **Akemi Kosuge:** Shichi-go-san (3-5-7) Year Milestones in a Child's Life (11/20)

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## JUNE 14

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)

## JULY 12

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)

## SEPTEMBER 13

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)

## OCTOBER 11

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)

## NOVEMBER 8

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)

## DECEMBER 13

Budget Meeting for Executive Board (7-9 pm)

## JANUARY 8 2022

Alumni Reunion

\*\*Schedule subject to change due to pandemic\*\*

## Torrance Sister City Association

### PRESIDENT

Werner Willoughby

### VICE PRESIDENT

Donna Dunlap

### SECRETARY

Karen Wheeler

### TREASURER

Mayoori Shetti

### Newsletter Editor

Rae Ann Carr

### Newsletter Distribution

Donna Dunlap

### Comments or submissions?

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

- **Yoko Nakano:** Traditional Zodiac, the 12-year Planetary Cycle New Year (1/21)
- **Hank Watanabe:** *Makemaki* (Bean Tossing/Throwing) (2/21)
- **Makiyo Doi:** Girls' Day - Hina Matsuri (3/21)
- **Masako Fujiwara:** Cherry Blossom Viewing – Hanami (4/21)
- **Etsuko Kawamura:** Children's Day/Boys' Day (5/21)

Wishing you safe and healthy days as we move into the warm summer months. ☘

### Scenes from Hank Watanabe's Bean Tossing Presentation



On Monday, February 8th, Hank Watanabe introduced TSCA to *makemaki* (bean throwing). On *Setsubun*, February 2nd, people scattered roasted soybeans to symbolically purify the home by warding away the evil spirits and *oni*, that bring misfortune and bad health with them.

### What kind of beans do people scatter?

⇒ people scatter **roasted soybeans**



### What is Oni? (鬼)

⇒ A monster with human body, red or blue face, horns and fangs, usually harmful to people but sometimes helpful.

- Ogre (人食い鬼)
- Demon (悪霊)
- Devil (悪魔)



## Membership News

Alyssa Yamauchi, Membership Chairperson

### NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

#### Family (\$40/year)

The Moore Family  
The Segovia Family

#### Individual (\$20/year)

Fernandez, Angelica  
Noto, Seishi

#### Donations

Medlock, Kathleen, Thomas & Matthew (\$40)



## Soba Uchi Takamasa Furuya

Every Summer, Torrance delegates experience “*Soba Uchi*” at Suzumean (Soba restaurant in Kashiwa). Soba uchi means making soba on their own. This time, **Brandon Matsumoto** and **Deanna Sun** experienced soba uchi for the first time.

Soba uchi must go through all steps and it took two hours to make. Brandon and Deanna worked on all the steps very carefully. In particular, the final cutting process is very delicate and the most difficult. but they concentrated on this process.

After making soba, we ate the soba that they made. It was so delicious.

We will have ZOOM meeting (“Online Exchange Program”) on May 22<sup>nd</sup> between Torrance and Kashiwa. Please see their experience and how to make soba on this meeting. Do not miss it!! ㊄



1. KIRA + TSCA Soba making at Suzumean
2. Delicious meal with hand made soba
3. Kneading the soba dough
4. Rolling out the soba dough
5. Finished packages of cut soba noodles



# Alumni News



**Leane Kuo**, 2014 Student Delegate and UC Berkeley graduate will start medical school at Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit, Michigan.



**Jenny Tanaka**, a 2005 TSCA student delegate and Bunka-Sai Dessert Booth Co-Chair, and her husband **Afzal** recently welcomed their second son, **James Koji Hossain-Tanaka**, on January 27, 2021. Two-year-old **Aiden** is in love with his baby brother and new big brother role.



**Anna (Wheeler) Browning**, 2016 Student Delegate, married the love of her life, **Charles Wesley Browning III**, on March 17, 2021 at the Chapel of Memories at Mississippi State University. Anna and Wesley plan on staying in Mississippi until Wesley gets his degree in Computer Engineering and Security then will move to Arizona or New Mexico.





**Jessica Haugen**, 2019 TSCA Adult Leader, and **David Chien** tied the knot on May 8, 2020. They were married at a pop-up wedding ceremony in the Honda Center parking lot in Anaheim, CA, with only one witness and no guests. They had always planned to get married in May; however, like all of 2020, their day looked different than initially imagined - but it was still perfect in every way.



**Craig Yorizane**, a 2006 TSCA student delegate, and his wife, Traci, recently welcomed their first child. Leah Ai Yorizane was born on February 27, 2021 weighing in at 8lb 9oz. The family is doing well as Leah has brought countless smiles and sleepless nights to the Yorizane household.



**Adam Jordan**, 2014 Student Delegate and UCLA graduate will be attending Keio University Tokyo in the fall of 2021. He will be studying for a Masters in Economics.



# Kevin Butt: English Teacher at Reitaku High School

Article originally published in the KCC News (Volume 61, May 2021)

This year will be my 11th year in Japan, and as many years living in Kashiwa.

My first three years I spent at Kashiwa Municipal High School (Ichikashi) with the Teaching Exchange program, exploring Japan in my free time and learning about the different places and communities through conversation and experiences. At school, I made friends and helped them with English conversation. To deepen the bonds between the visiting teachers and the Japanese teachers, I joined the high school's judo club team and happened to learn enough judo along the way to win a few tournaments and earn a black belt.

After three years, I had to leave Ichikashi, but I was not ready to leave Kashiwa. Though I had opportunities to work elsewhere and explore new parts of Japan, I enjoyed living in Kashiwa, a community that not only welcomed foreigners to learn about Japan but was interested in learning about the cultures of its foreign residents as well.

When I changed schools, I had to find a new place to meet people and get exercise. I searched on the internet for new activities or clubs when I found a youth judo school that was nearby. I joined the school and the next four years I helped teach judo and taught a little English.

I am now working at Reitaku High School and though I don't have enough time to continue with judo, at Reitaku I can continue fostering cultural exchange through English education and extracurricular activities like rugby. (Kevin helps KCC as an English translation proofreader.) ☘

Interested in more news from Kashiwa?  
Visit the Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center's  
website here:

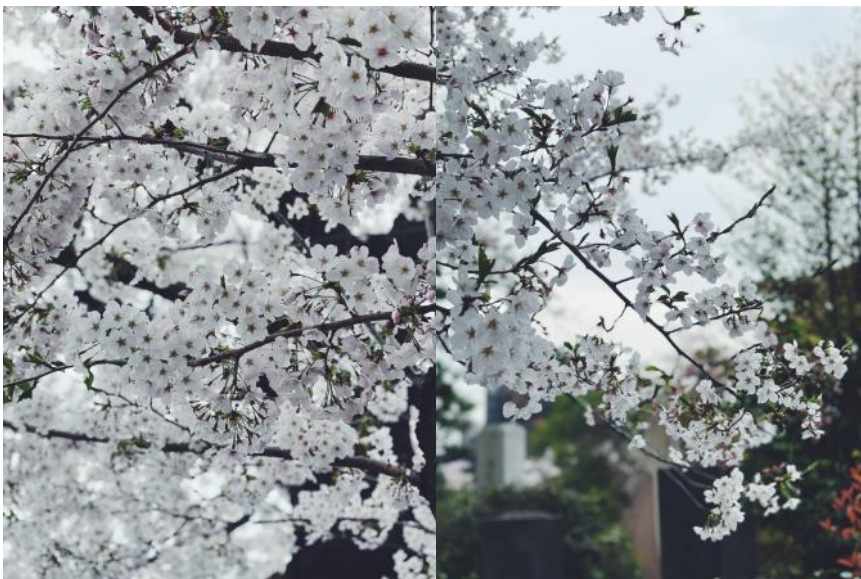
<https://www.kcc.kira-kira.jp/pdf/news/english.pdf>



(Scan the QR Code with  
your cellphone to visit the  
KCC News website)



Kevin Butt teaching judo



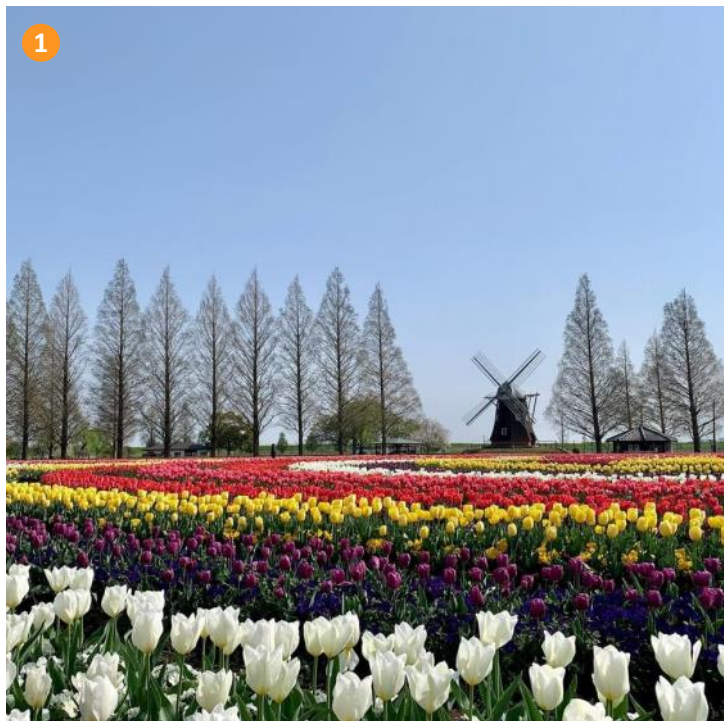
*A white cloud among  
White clouds, a bloom of incense  
Grasps at the heavens*

Haiku by Kevin Butt



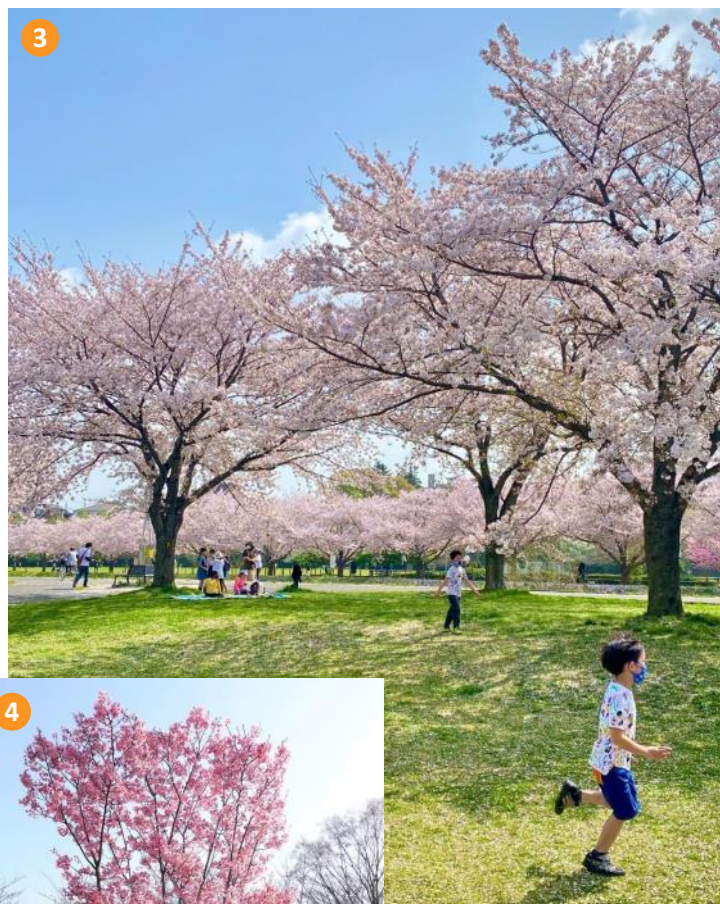
## Enjoy the Seasons in Kashiwa

Mike M. Arai



In Kashiwa, we can enjoy each season by watching beautiful flowers. Along the Oohori River, we can enjoy full blooms of cherry blossoms this year too. Some people ride bicycles and others have picnics.

In the Furusato Park, you can see our 40th Anniversary Cherry Blossoms in full bloom. In 2023, we will have the 50th anniversary of our sister city friendship with Torrance. In Akebonoyama Park, we can enjoy tulips now, then in the summer, enjoy sunflowers. ☘



1. Akebonoyama Park tulips
2. Akebonoyama Park sunflowers
3. Cherry blossoms at Oohori River
4. Cherry blossoms at Furusato Park



We've missed all of our TSCA events this year because of the coronavirus but we don't have to miss out on the delicious food that is popular at our potluck events. Cook your favorite TSCA recipes at home!

Send your favorite recipes to: [tscanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:tscanewsletter@gmail.com) to be published in future editions of the *TSCA News*.

### FURIKAKE SALMON

Pam Miike, 2006 Adult Leader

#### Ingredients:

- 1 side of salmon
- Bottled teriyaki sauce
- Mayonnaise
- 1/2 bottle nori furikake (flaked seaweed seasoning)

#### Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Marinate salmon in teriyaki sauce overnight. Remove from marinade, place on baking dish. Salt and pepper salmon. Spread a thin layer of mayonnaise over entire top of salmon. Sprinkle nori furikake all over salmon. Don't skimp. Bake at 350°



*Furikake Salmon*

### MRS. OGAMI'S TWO TONE

Werner Willoughby, Parent of Exchange Student

#### Ingredients:

##### Crust

- 1 stick margarine
- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 cup walnuts

##### Filling #1

- 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 medium sized Cool Whip

##### Filling #2

- 2 packages instant chocolate pudding (small size)
- 2-1/2 cups milk

##### Topping

- Small Cool Whip (spread separately)
- Toasted coconut (optional)

#### Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Mix ingredients for crust. Pack it in bottom of a 13x9 inch pan. Bake about 10 minutes in approximately 350° oven. Let cool. Combine first two ingredients for filling #1. Stir (hand beat). Add medium sized Cool Whip. Spread on cooled crust. Prepare filling #2: combine chocolate pudding packages and milk. Beat until thick. Spread in pan on top of filling #1. Spread small Cool Whip on top of filling #2. Sprinkle toasted coconut on top, if desired.



*2018 Kashiwa Delegates making their own pizzas for lunch.*



# Favorite Recipes



*Bunka-Sai Mochi Making Team*

## TAPIOCA DESSERT

Regan Galinato, 2018 Student Delegate

### Ingredients:

- 7 cups of water
- 1 cup of small tapioca pearls
- 1 ½ cups of sugar
- 1 can of coconut milk
- 1 jar of nata de coco
- Canned or fresh fruit (we typically use canned mandarin oranges and pineapples, and fresh strawberries and mangoes).

### Instructions:

1. Boil water
2. Add in tapioca pearls, boil for 15 minutes
3. Turn off the stove and let sit for 30 minutes
4. Add sugar, mix, and refrigerate for 2 hours
5. Add coconut milk, fruit, and drained nata de coco and mix.

(You can use liquid from canned fruit to thin out the tapioca if desired).



*2019 TSCA Delegates enjoy a cooking lesson in Kashiwa*



*Rainbow Mochi sold at Bunka-Sai.*

## JELLO MOCHI

Shirley Tanaka, Parent of Exchange Student & TSCA Board Member

### Ingredients:

- 1 box mochiko
- 2 cups white sugar
- 1 three oz box of Jello (your choice of flavor)
- 1 cup boiling water
- 2 cups water

### Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Grease or spray 13x9 pyrex pan with Pam spray. Melt Jello in hot water and add cold water in a big bowl. Mix all the ingredients together. Use an electric mixer to get rid of the little lumps. Pour into the greased pan and cover with foil. Bake at 350 degrees for 55 minutes. After removing pan from oven, carefully remove foil immediately. Cool. Cut the next day, it'll be easier. Coat with potato starch or cornstarch to prevent sticking.

Optional: Repeat with different Jello flavor for different flavors of the rainbow. At Bunka Sai, we make as many as 6-7 flavors of Jello mochi.

# Ichikashi Student Reports

## My High School Life

Yumi Kato (3rd Year Student)



Hello! My name is Yumi. I am a third grade student at Kashiwa Municipal High School. This school's nickname is Ichikashi. This school is enthusiastic about club activities. I am a member of the brass band club. Ichikashi's brass band participates in the national tournament as a representative every year.

We have many stage costumes according to each place, for example, red marching costumes, blue t-shirts, dance costumes, and more. This brass band has a variety of music, such as Japanese traditional music, foreign songs, and new songs. We have the "Ishida Method", an original way of practicing. We use this method with the aim of winning the national tournament. Last year, many events were canceled because of Coronavirus, but this year we want to get the gold award at the national competition, and I want to proudly say that we received a national gold award.

In addition, I'm studying the history of the U.S. and its music history. I want to cross borders and meet many people through music. I want to do my best in brass band, English, and History.



*Ichikashi Brass Band*

Our brass band has about 171 people and 8 teachers. It has a history of 44 years.

At first, Ichikashi's brass band had only 14 members, but Mr. Ishida treated his students like his own children. Now, this brass band has a large family.

The music has wonderful power, because if we use the music, we can make our own style of language. For example, outside of Japan, other country's people can understand. I want to be a person who connects Japanese people and people from around the world.☞

## My High School Life

Nowa Sagiya (3rd Year Student)



Hi, I'm Nowa. I am an Ichikashi student. Ichikashi is surrounded by a river and lush greenery. Ichikashi is enthusiastic about club activities. I will introduce my school's class style and break times.

First, I have six 50-minute classes every day for five days. During break times, I talk with my friends or I take a nap. During lunchtime, we eat and keep socially distanced because of Coronavirus. In Ichikashi, we call it "Mokushoku", and the goal is prevent the spread of COVID during lunch.

Next, I will introduce my hobby. My hobby is walking and supporting my favorite idols. I like walking with my friends or family. I like SixTONES, a Japanese men's idol group. I love them.

Finally, my goal this year is to pass the college entrance exam and talk to a lot of people and improve my communication skills. Thank you.☞



*SixTONES, a Japanese Idol Group*



# English Teacher Report

## Welcome to Ichikashi Brandon Matsumoto



Students with brand new uniforms walk down the hallways. It seems that every student I cross in the hallways is a new face. April is the time where the incoming first years start their incredible journey at Ichikashi. During their orientation, Deanna and I were chuckling in the back of the gym, seeing their nervous bodies squirming in their seats, knowing fully well that they will be talking non-stop once they become friends in a few weeks.

This year is a year quite different from other years. We had a record number of foreign students apply for our international program. Usually we have around two or three students in the international class. However, this year we had 11 students from countries like Brazil, Nigeria, Peru, China, Pakistan, Ukraine, and the Philippines. Deanna and I are so excited to have such a diverse class. I look around this new class and it reminds me of home, where many different cultures and backgrounds are mixed together in one room. I believe that this is how students can dive deep into understanding each other's attitudes and values. It is truly an international class.

I was fortunate to be asked to make a short promotional



*Eager First Year Students at Ichikashi*

video for the students and parents for orientation. It included videos and pictures of the international program we offer here at Ichikashi. My goal was to show the parents the invaluable journey their child can experience. Hopefully they can use this to promote the absolutely amazing international course Ichikashi has for students next year as well.

The voice over was done by our very own, Mami Takeda, from the English Department! She has visited Torrance in 2017 and 2018. Please enjoy! ☘

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2Itrx3je00>



*International Class at Ichikashi*



(Scan to QR Code with your phone to go the video)

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 \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail your check and this form to:

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

- 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

<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**

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

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

[www.torrancesistercity.org](http://www.torrancesistercity.org)



**Torrance Sister City  
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