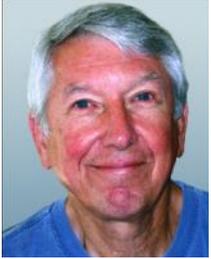


President's Message Werner Willoughby



Bunka-Sai, or Japanese Cultural Festival, is just around the corner, and TSCA needs your help. This is the major fundraiser for our student exchange program, and turns out to be a reunion for many TSCA friends as well. By late Sunday night of the weekend, when equipment and supplies are returned to the storage unit, and the key in the lock makes its final turn and is removed, there is an ecstatic feeling of relief, accomplishment and satisfaction, followed by loud volleys of cheers, accompanied by high fives all-around. Save the dates — April 13-14th.

I recently reviewed archival materials about the Bunka-Sai and came across a full page ad from the Daily Breeze, dated Friday, May 31, 1974, advertising the 2nd Annual Bunka-Sai. Sponsors of the ad included important names from the past: **James R. Armstrong, Ken Miller, Mrs. W. L. Geissert, Del Conte's Restaurant, Lily's Flowers and Gifts, Airport Nursery**, and more. Exhibits and performances were highlighted by a garden display, a koi pond, an abacus demonstration, and Miss Kashiwa in person. Admission back then was: Adults \$1.00, Students 50 cents, under 6, free. What great memories!

Here are some ways you can contribute to the success of our 46th annual event:

Secure donations for raffle prizes from local businesses; solicit ads for our program – business related or personal; help staff a booth; cook/bake delicious food in one of the facility kitchens; help recruit and manage volunteers; set-up Friday and/or tear-down Sunday; move equipment in and out of storage; help with performances; sell opportunity drawing raffle tickets; clean-up in the eating areas; assist the hourly drawing and gift booths; and much more.

We can use many volunteers, who will be able to sign-up soon via the online portal, probably near the end of February and into March.

Many thanks to all who attended this year's first Bunka-Sai planning meeting on Jan. 30th. We will be implementing evaluation comments received from last year. Our next planning meeting will be held February 20th at 7:00 pm in the Polly Watts Room (second floor of the main library). Ideas and suggestions are always welcomed from attendees.

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 and renew today. Your membership supports our goal of promoting friendship, goodwill, and understanding between the cities of Torrance and Kashiwa, Japan. Thank you to **Reiko Higa** for her efforts to promote, update and maintain our membership list. New and changing mailing and email addresses are coordinated with the newsletter editor to maintain our newsletter circulation. Reiko is also responsible for updating and assembling the Membership Directory each year. Please observe the February 28, 2019 membership deadline to be included in the directory.

Included in this issue is the application to purchase an ad. Do you own or work for or know a company or organization that might be interested in purchasing an ad? 60 companies, large and small, local and international, individuals as well as nonprofits, purchased ads last year. About 1000-1500 program booklets are printed and distributed to an estimated 2,000+ visitors to the festival each year. The ads are a great way to advertise your business or one that you patronize, and it supports the student exchange program between the sister cities.

Thank you, again, for your support. ☘

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FEBRUARY 11

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room

FEBRUARY 15 and 22

2019 Student Delegate Meetings*
Mitsuwa Marketplace

FEBRUARY 17 and 24

2019 Student Delegate Home Visits*

FEBRUARY 19, 25, 26

2020 Adult Leader Interviews*
Katy Geissert Library Community Reading Rm

FEBRUARY 20

Bunka-Sai Planning Meeting (7-8:45 pm)
Katy Geissert Library Poly Watts Room

MARCH 5 and 26

August Activities Meeting (7-9 pm)
Torrance Art Museum Conference Room

MARCH 9

Student Selection Committee Picnic and Selection (10 am—2 pm)
Alta Loma Park | 26126 Delos Drive Torrance

MARCH 11

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)
City Hall West Annex Commission Room

MARCH 13

Bunka-Sai Planning Meeting (7-8:45 pm)
Katy Geissert Library Poly Watts Room

MARCH 31

Torrance Cherry Blossom Festival (11—4)
Columbia Park

*Times will be scheduled individually

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

Membership News

Reiko Higa, Membership Chairperson

Our membership drive for 2019 has started. Pay your membership dues electronically with Paypal (<http://www.torrancesistercity.org/join.html>). See the 2019 Membership Application for check writing and mailing instructions.

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

Supporting (\$75/year)

Miyako Hybrid Hotel
South Bay Judo

Family (\$40/year)

Albitz, Phil and Velma
Briseno, Isela
Flynn, Janet and John
Gelbaum, Mark and Ilene
Lorenz, Sarah
Maroney Family

Individual (\$20/year)

Cauble, Lynn
Grace, Carla
Haugen, Jessica
Jordan, Adam
Norwyn, Jessie
Perez, Ayako
Yamauchi, Alyssa

Donations

Briseno, Isela	\$60
Shetti, Mayoore & Navin	\$10

TSCA 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/>

How can you get involved?

- Follow @torrancesistercity
- Like or comment on our posts
- Share your photos by tagging @torrancesistercity
- Tag your photos with TSCA hashtags

Hashtags (the “pound” sign and words that directly follow it) turn into searchable links on social media. By tagging your photos with TSCA-associated hashtags #TorranceSisterCity or #TSCA, others can click on the hashtag to see all the posts that mention the subject in real time.



Torrance Sister City Association—TSCA

@torrancesistercityassociation

<https://www.facebook.com/torrancesistercityassociation>

Like our Facebook page to have TSCA’s latest news and events appear in your newsfeed.

Please share our Bunka-Sai event page (<https://bit.ly/2tlHuY5>) with your friends.

Japanese Street Food

Marie Shimizu, 2018 Student Delegate



Walking through Harajuku, side streets, and matsuri festivals all have a compelling sensation that brings everyone together — street food. The smells ranged from savory Japanese octopus balls called *takoyaki* to the sweet smells of *yaki imo* (baked sweet potato) and *wataame* (a Japanese version of cotton candy),

Japanese street food have been worldly known to have a wide variety of both sweets and savory treats.

My previous experiences in Japanese street food came from TSCA's Bunka-Sai Festival and the Torrance Cherry Blossom Festival. Torrance student delegates were able to experience a small snippet of Japanese culture and food right in our own city. At Bunka-Sai, I was able to taste *wataame* and *yakisoba*, a Japanese stir-fry noodle dish with meat and vegetables, made by our wonderful TSCA volunteers. As a Japanese-American, I am familiar with traditional Japanese food. However, street food was unknown to me and made me interested in this type of Japanese food.

During my three-week stay in Japan, I was fortunate to visit a few places that offered different styles of street food and I was able to gain insight on the Japanese culture. Street food classics such as *yakitori* (grilled meat skewers) and *oden* (hot pot) started during the Meiji period (1868-1912) when *yatai*, wooden food carts, became widespread as a fast food option for workers to eat on the run.

One of the first places I visited with my first host family was the Tsukiji Fish Market. Known as the largest wholesale fish and seafood market in the world, Tsukiji offers more than 400 different types of seafood ranging from enormous tunas to oysters to fish balls on a stick. From



eating fresh clams to even *tamagoyaki* (Japanese rolled omelette) on a stick with my host families, I was able to not only eat delicious food, but experienced the wonderful community around the market formed by the bond between the various street vendors and their customers.

With my second host mom, I visited Harajuku and Shibuya which is home to many popular street vendors and the busiest pedestrian street crossing in the world. By walking around, I saw countless vendors selling everything from the six-layer rainbow *watame* to Harajuku crepes and from skinned potatoes wrapped around sticks to *takoyaki*. It was amazing to see how each vendor flourished and stood out on its own out of the hundreds of vendors on each street. Each store had their own story and unique experiences to offer to their customers.



Seeing the festive scene of street food vendors with their colorful and graphic stores itself was such a wonderful experience that you can only get in Japan. The aura of the distinctive smell of each stand and the community that has been built around Japanese street food really had an amazing way of bringing different people together. I was very fortunate to experience Japan and the amazing culture they have to offer and I can't wait to visit Japan again! ☘

Second part in a series of reports
from TSCA's 2018 Student Delegation

Alumni Reunion 2019

Sindy Kang

Alumni Reunion Chair

The more than 80 attendees at the TSCA Alumni Reunion on January 12 were greeted with colorful blue and white tablecloths and beautiful orange rose centerpieces with greenery (thanks to **Reiko Higa**).

TSCA President **Werner Willoughby** welcomed all the guests, TSCA members and 2019 new student applicants for this year's 46th student exchange program.

Councilman Mike Griffiths provided a warm welcome on behalf of **Torrance Mayor Patrick Furey**, then introduced his colleague on the City Council who was in attendance: **City Councilman George Chen**. Also in attendance were **Eve Rappoport**, Cultural Services Manager, and **Former City Clerk Sue Herbers**.

Werner also thanked the Alumni Reunion chairpersons: **Sindy Kang, Donna Dunlap, Butch Ihde, Reiko Higa** and **Shirley Tanaka**.

Ms. Herbers installed the incoming TSCA officers and new and continuing Board Members for 2019 and presented each person with "100 Grand" chocolate bar.

Council Member Griffiths presented the Certificates of Appreciation to outgoing officers and board members and presented each of them with a reward of "100 Grand" chocolate bar as a thank you for their services.



Outgoing Officers and Board Members

Jeremy Gray, Wendy Ito, Hazel Taniguchi, Cindy Scotto, Donna Dunlap, Marilyn Rubin, Bryce Yamauchi, and Council Member Griffiths



The 2019 Student Delegate Applicants

David Gelbaum, Student Selection Committee Chair for 2018, introduced the 2018 TSCA student delegates. They each shared a favorite experience of their student cultural exchange last summer in Kashiwa.

Jeremy Gerson, 2019 Student Selection Committee Chair, then called on each of the 2019 applicants to introduce themselves and their families and share why they are interested in being a student delegate.

The Adult Leader for 2019, **Jessica Haugen**, was once again introduced and she shared her excitement for the upcoming trip.

The annual roll call of members, acknowledging their participation in various roles in the organization, was led by TSCA Vice President 2018, **Cindy Scotto**.

The 2018 student delegates shared the video of their Kashiwa trip made by **Mackenzie Holloway** and the host family video made by **Marie Shimizu**.

At the conclusion of the program, attendees danced the traditional Kashiwa Odori, led by the 2018 student delegates. Everyone circled the room, smiling and in graceful rhythm, a fitting end to a joyous occasion. ☸

Torrance Sister City Association's
**ANIME DRAWING
CONTEST 2019!**

*****Win Cool Prizes!*****

Open to middle school & high school students

Bunka-Sai
Japanese Cultural Festival!
April 13-14, 2019



Rui Maruyama, Anime Contest Overall Winner 2018

CATEGORIES

- Overall
- Cutest
- Best represents Japanese culture

Prizes awarded for each Category

RULES

- Entries must be drawn on 8½" x 11" paper; can be either Portrait (vertical) or Landscape (horizontal) format.
- Entries may be in Color OR Black & White.
- One entry per person per category.
- On the **BACK** of the drawing, include the following: Artist Name, Age, School, and Cell Phone Number.
- Entries must include a Release Form and Waiver signed by the artist and parent/guardian.

Entries must be submitted **IN PERSON** on Friday, **APRIL 12, 2019**, 4pm – 6:30pm
Ken Miller Recreation Center (3341 Torrance Blvd)
Winners will be announced on Saturday, April 13, 2019, at 12:20 pm

Forms and more info at www.torrancesistercity.org

46th Annual Bunka-Sai

Japanese Cultural Festival

Saturday & Sunday

April 13 and 14, 2019

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Ken Miller Recreation Center

3341 Torrance Boulevard (At Madrona Avenue)



Enjoy children's games and activities, tasty plate lunches, baked goodies, craft items, and cultural performances



FREE
Admission
&
Parking



\$250
Grand
Prize!

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

Until Spring Comes

Alison Abraham



I was reading the article I'd written for the same time last year, and it's interesting for me to see the way my perspective on things has and hasn't changed since then. I bought mittens last year, but I haven't seen them since then. I haven't used *kairo* – disposable hand warmers – at all since winter started, but everyone's

still got their brightly colored lap blankets. And, it hasn't snowed...yet.

School is quiet since the third years are now on leave to prepare for whatever they've decided to do after graduation in March. Their former desks and lockers line the hallways outside their now empty classrooms in preparation for a big cleaning. It's a little lonely and bittersweet, especially for their homeroom teachers who now have more free time, but as a teacher, I realize now how proud I am for all the things they have accomplished, how excited I am for the endless possibilities at their feet.

The rest of our students have about a week off in February as junior high schoolers will flood the classrooms and take the entrance exam for Ichikashi. In

spring, those who pass will become our new students! I can't wait to meet them in the new school year.

Spring is so close. I can feel everyone, myself included, antsy for the warm days to arrive. But, winter term always means fun events, too. That's the nice thing about Japan - every season has something special to offer. For example, recently, Meros Language School from Tokyo brought some of their students to Ichikashi. This is the second time I've been able to participate.

The Meros students are typically at least old enough to be in university, and many of them are foreigners in Japan learning Japanese and English for work and study. Our first and second year international classes have the opportunity to communicate with them in English while introducing something from their personal lives or from Japanese culture.

Although these students are typically shy with new people, this exchange really brings out the best parts of everyone's personalities. I find myself holding my sides and bending over in laughter at some of their honest responses. Things like that keep me warm during school hours. But, until spring comes, I'll be spending the rest of my free time under an electric blanket. ☘





Torrance Sister City Association
3031 Torrance Blvd | Torrance, CA 90503



Advertising Form

TSCA's Bunka-Sai 2019 Program Booklet

Supporting the Student Cultural Exchange Program

The TSCA Student Cultural Exchange program takes place every year in July and August. Since 1974, Torrance sends at most eight student delegates and an adult leader to Kashiwa, Japan for three weeks. In August, Kashiwa sends a delegation to Torrance to learn about American culture.

Please help us by placing an ad in our Bunka-Sai Festival program booklet. It will reach more than 2,000 visitors over the festival weekend. Your ad will promote your company/business and support the Student Cultural Exchange Program. Personal ads celebrating special occasions are also welcome.

Dates

Saturday April 13 and Sunday April 14

Where

Ken Miller Recreation Center, Toyota Meeting Hall, and Torino Plaza
3330 Civic Center Drive, Torrance

Objectives of Bunka-Sai

- Help the community learn about the Japanese culture
- Raise funds for the Student Cultural Exchange Program

Ad Specifics

- No larger than 8.5 x 11 inches
- **Camera ready**
- Submit ad, form, and check by **March 8, 2019**

Thank you for your support!

Complete and return the section below by March 8, 2019

<input type="checkbox"/> Full Page	\$200
<input type="checkbox"/> Half Page	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/4 Page	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Card	\$25
Total Enclosed \$ _____	
Make your check payable to TSCA	

Company Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Contact Name _____

Telephone _____ Email Address _____

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

Ad Information:

- New Use last year's ad Camera-ready copy enclosed

Specific Instructions:

Questions?
Please email
TSCAads@gmail.com

www.torrancesistercity.org

Kashiwa New Year's Party

Akiko Nobusawa, Torrance Committee Liaison

TSCA Member News

On January 21st, KIRA had a New Year's party at Palette Kashiwa, KIRA headquarters. 28 members joined the festivities, including two guests: **Brandon Matsumoto** and **Karl Takauye**. After the business meeting, everyone enjoyed the quiz prepared by Brandon and other games while eating boxed dinners. ☘



New Torrance Committee Board Members
Treasurer/Mariko Hayasaka,
Chair/ Hisataka Takikawa, Vice Chair/Yumi Shii
and Liaison/Akiko Nobusawa



2019 Adult Leader
Mitsuko Tsukuda



All attendees of the KIRA New Year's Party



Keiko Clark

Keiko Clark, TSCA Board Member, will be performing in the Pacific Opera Project's bilingual production of Madama Butterfly.

Keiko will perform the lead role of Cio-Cio San (Madam Butterfly). In this production of Madama Butterfly, the Japanese roles will be sung in Japanese while the American roles will be performed in English.

Torrance CitiCABLE featured Keiko in 2014 when she won the Excellence in Arts Award. Watch the interview and clips of Keiko's performances here: <https://bit.ly/2RVyfHP>

Madama Butterfly will be performed at the Aratani Theater in Los Angeles, CA on April 6, 13, and 14. See <https://bit.ly/2GE3EfT> for ticket information. ☘

Alumni News

Jenny Tanaka, a 2005 student delegate, and husband **Afzal** welcomed a healthy baby boy, **Aiden Aman Hossain-Tanaka**, on December 21, 2018. Grandparents, **Shirley** and **Keith Tanaka**, couldn't be more thrilled. Both Shirley and Jenny can often be found in the kitchen at TSCA events, and are also the baking experts responsible for the delicious sweets at Bunka-Sai each year. ☘

Congratulations to the Hossain-Tanaka Family!



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

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**

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)

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

www.torrancesistercity.org



**Torrance Sister City
Association**

3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503