



President's Message

By Brad Reynolds



Hello friends of TSCA!

Student Exchange

Our student delegation has been in Kashiwa for almost 3 weeks as I write this, and they will be coming home in 2 days. It was a wonderful trip, full of new experiences and friendships. We will share some pictures in this issue!

Thank you to the KIRA Torrance Committee for planning this year's trip activities, and to each of the host families in Kashiwa that welcomed our ambassadors into their homes and daily lives. We couldn't have done this without you - **Domo arigato gozaimasu.**

Now that our own delegates are arriving home, the Association's attention turns to our hosting efforts. We have been hard at work preparing to host the delegation from Kashiwa.

Kudos to our August Activities and Host Families committees for all the long hours put into ensuring our guests from Japan have an enriching experience, full of what makes Torrance and the United States special. Every year is unique, and while the format stays largely the same, the details change dramatically each year. Daily activities need to be planned out in great detail, so that transit can be arranged and schedules produced for all participants.

I also want to extend that thanks to the Host Families themselves, who have agreed to host a Kashiwa guest for a little over a week each. This is a true commitment to our mission of spreading and strengthening friendship and understanding between our two cities. Besides our own delegate families that are mostly new to hosting, we have three families new to TSCA that are hosting as well! This makes my heart swell with pride and joy, as we get to share this wonderful experience with more families. It also shows that word of mouth for our program is also very good; as people talk to friends and family about their positive experiences, that makes others want to participate.

Thank you for supporting us!

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MEMBERSHIPS & DONATIONS LIST

Compiled by Alyssa Yamauchi, Membership Chair

FAMILY (\$40)

Donaldson, Dan and Janet

Freiler, Eric and Victoria

La/Vo Family

Peitzman Family

Vuong Family

Yick Family

INDIVIDUAL (\$20)

Arreygue, Aimee



Questions about membership?

Email tscamembership@gmail.com

Torrance Sister City Association

PRESIDENT

Brad Reynolds

VICE PRESIDENT

Alyssa Yamauchi

SECRETARY

Aimee Arreygue

TREASURER

Steve Warner

Newsletter Editor

Maureen Ortega

Content Submissions:

tscanewsletter@gmail.com



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**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**

****UPCOMING EVENTS****

Monthly Association Meeting

City Hall West Annex

@ 7:00 PM

September 22, 2026

October 20, 2026

November 17, 2026

Kashiwa Ambassadors in Torrance

August 3-20, 2026

Sayonara Banquet

August 19, 2026

@ 5:00 PM

Toyota Meeting Hall

Alumni Reunion

Jan. 9, 2027

@ 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Ken Miller Recreation Center



We invite all TSCA members to participate in the summer activities. Some events are free, but we need a head count for planning purposes. Some events require TSCA members to purchase a ticket. Please complete the Jotform using this link to participate in upcoming events:

<https://form.jotform.com/261834765110152>

For a complete list of daily activities, please view the August Activities Calendar using this link:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/114b_NCzUuEGhjY06vGaoXXJ1xT_0_wruwoniN7NVtDI/edit?usp=sharing

If you would like to attend an event not listed on the Jotform (UCLA, Griffith Observatory, Long Beach Day, etc.) please contact Stephanie Ewing-Warner at sewingwarn@aol.com for additional details.

We always need extra help with set up and clean up at the Welcome Reception, Square Dance, and Sayonara Banquet. If you are available to help with any of these events, please complete this form:

<https://forms.gle/rcrgeow6DEGk2kUT9>

As always, thank you for supporting TSCA. We appreciate you!

2026 Delegation in Kashiwa



2026 Delegation in Kashiwa



2026 Torrance Delegates – Highlights of Their Stay in Japan (Part 1)

By the Event & Host Family Coordinators, KIRA Torrance Committee

This 53rd student exchange is made possible through the dedication of TSCA, KIRA, host families and community partners. Although only the delegates experience this three-week adventure firsthand, their excitement and warm moments allow us all to share in their joy. Here, KIRA is happy to share these moments with TSCA through six themes: the fast-moving start of their stay, school visit highlights, exchanges with city leaders, cultural and sports experiences, the Hiroshima–Kyoto tour, and the essential role of host families.

1. A Sudden Beginning & Warm Welcome to Our City

The 2026 program began unexpectedly at Narita Airport. Although the KIRA Welcome Team waited at the arrival gate for a long time, the delegation did not appear even though their flight landed early. Suddenly, Delegation Leader, Ms. Tanya Welsch called out a cheerful “Hi!”—and with that, the program finally began.

At the bus, two boys immediately climbed into the luggage compartment to help load suitcases, showing teamwork and willingness to assist from the very first moment. During the ride to Kashiwa City Hall, the students looked out at the green rice fields and shared their excitement: they had finally arrived in Kashiwa.

At 5:30 p.m., the bus reached City Hall, where KIRA members, **the 53rd Kashiwa Delegates**, and host families waited with banners, welcome signs, and warm smiles. The Delegates were surrounded by encouragement as they stepped off the bus. From that moment, their “**once-in-a-lifetime**” three-week journey began.

2. Exchanges

The delegation began their stay with a visit to **Fuse Benten**, a historic temple with a 1,200-year legacy, where they prayed for a safe and meaningful time in Japan. That evening, they were welcomed at a lively reception with more than 140 attendees—coordinated by the 52nd/53rd joint Kashiwa Delegates—an unforgettable start that showed how warmly Kashiwa embraces this exchange.

School Exchanges

School visits began the next morning. Among all visits, Kashiwanoha Elementary School became a major highlight and a perfect example of how Ambassadors and Hosts cooperate to create meaningful exchange. Before the visit, our Chair, Ms. Mutsuko Tsukamoto sent questions about school life and Torrance to the Delegates, and despite their busy schedule, Ms. Tanya Welsch prepared a thoughtful 16-slide presentation with her students. This preparation became a bridge across language differences and allowed them to communicate confidently with the local students. Kashiwanoha Elementary School also prepared enthusiastically: a dance performance, a true or false quiz, and warm interaction between their sixth graders and the Torrance high school students. Sharing school lunch deepened the connection. Through gestures, smiles, and curiosity, both sides introduced their daily lives—across countries, languages, and generations.

Welcome Performance by Ichikashi Brass

Another unforgettable moment came from the Kashiwa Municipal High School Brass Band performance. More than 140 members performed for the nine delegates, filling the hall with powerful renditions of Getaway, I Need to Be in Love, Clarinet Candy, You Raise Me Up, España Cañí, 76 Trombones, and Tequila. Many of the delegates said they had never experienced such a moving performance. It felt as if Kashiwa’s youth were offering their very best to welcome Torrance’s youth.

KIRA staff felt that this beautiful moment did not happen by chance. The quiet support of **Chris sensei and Yuko sensei** added depth to the exchange, strengthening the bond between the two cities and creating an atmosphere of genuine friendship.

(continued on page 6-7)

3. Courtesy Call

A major highlight of the first half was the delegation's visit to the Kashiwa City Council and their meeting with **Mayor Kazumi Ota**, the first in three years. Both Kashiwa and Torrance currently have women mayors of almost the same generation, creating an immediate sense of connection.

The Torrance students asked thoughtful questions one after another. When asked what inspired her to become mayor, Mayor Ota explained that she wanted to improve the city where she was born and raised. Regarding what she takes pride in, she said the role requires constant decision-making and that she works under the guiding principle of “**Continuing and Connecting.**”

She also spoke about Japan's challenges of declining birthrate and aging population, emphasizing the importance of using AI effectively to improve public services and investing strongly in children who will shape the future.

After exchanging gifts and taking commemorative photos, Mayor Ota expressed her hope to see them again at the Takayanagi Bon Dance Festival on July 25 and dance the Kashiwa Odori together.

4. Cultural & Sports Experiences

Hands-on cultural experiences brought excitement and discovery to the delegation. Their first activity took place at the historic Someya Residence, where they learned to make the traditional **Toribisha craft**. This was followed by a variety of Japanese cultural workshops: tea ceremony, koto, otedama (beanbag juggling), kendama, calligraphy, wadaiko (Japanese drumming), and **an Art session featuring Mt. Fuji**.

Sports exchanges also played an important role. Students tried martial arts such as judo, kendo, and karate, as well as familiar sports like tennis and pickleball. Every activity was filled with smiles, curiosity, and teamwork. Through these experiences, the Torrance Delegates connected with Japanese culture in a direct, hands-on way—supported at every step by Kashiwa's instructors, volunteers, and host families. We want to note that many of the Kashiwa Delegates led by Adult Leader, Ms. Yumiko Ueno also made time to deepen exchanges with Torrance students during their busy term-end exam period before summer break.

5. Hiroshima–Kyoto Tour (July 15–17)

If school exchanges are the Torrance student ambassadors' core mission, then the trip to Hiroshima and Kyoto might well be considered their **reward**. Visiting Hiroshima—powerful in its message of peace—and Kyoto—rich in history, culture, and scenic beauty—created memories that will last a lifetime.

For the chaperones, however, ensuring three smooth and meaningful days required careful planning. Without thorough preparation, students unfamiliar with Japan's train system could easily miss a train or forget to get off. Popular destinations also bring heavy crowds, tight schedules, and challenges in securing transportation and dining. Thanks to extensive coordination before the trip, the result was highly rewarding.

Miyajima & Peace Memorial Museum

The students loved Miyajima, especially seeing the Great Torii up close at low tide and enjoying time for shopping under the moderate weather. Their etiquette on the Shinkansen was excellent—one student even reminded the group about train manners, and everyone followed. Dinner at a Hiroshima **okonomiyaki** restaurant became a highlight, and all students were able to enjoy the meal together without any dietary or allergy concerns.

The visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum left a deep impression. Many delegates quietly absorbed the exhibits and listened respectfully to the tour guide at Peace Memorial Park. It was a moment of learning that went beyond textbooks.

(continued on page 7)

Kyoto – Fushimi Inari & Temples

In Kyoto, **Fushimi Inari Shrine**—famous for its mountainside path through 5,000 vermillion torii gates—was one of the students’ favorites. With three hours available, the group decided to climb all the way to the summit. Students encouraged each other, carried bags for adults, and made sure everyone reached the top. Their comment, “If we keep going, we can achieve anything,” captured the spirit of the exchange.

Early morning **Kiyomizu-dera** offered a peaceful visit before the crowds arrived. At **Kinkaku-ji**, the students admired the brilliant golden pavilion, and later at **Ryoan-ji**, they experienced a striking contrast: a quiet Zen rock garden that invited deep reflection.

Throughout the tour, Ms. Welsch’s leadership and the students’ strong sense of responsibility allowed the chaperones to feel secure. Their teamwork made the Hiroshima–Kyoto tour smooth, meaningful, and full of positive memories.

6. Homestay/Host Family Highlights

The homestay program—together with school visits and hands-on activities—is one of the “two wheels” driving this exchange. From mid-June, the KIRA Host Family Committee held thorough orientation sessions to share schedules, meal plans, allergy concerns, and cultural tips, even though time was exceptionally limited prior to the delegates’ arrival. Families also created colorful welcome signs out of fabric and paper. On the evening of July 8, the first and second host families gathered. No one present will ever forget the deeply moving sight of everyone breaking the ice and connecting instantly upon meeting for the first time.

Many first host families welcomed the students with classic, home-cooked Japanese dishes. Starting the next day, they introduced everyday routines—cooking, grocery shopping, neighborhood walks, and sorting trash and recyclables—giving the students an authentic look at Japanese family life. During the day, while the students were busy with ambassador activities, host families thoughtfully checked what the students had eaten for lunch so they could plan that evening’s meal without repeating the same menu.

On the weekend, some families took students to popular local shopping spots in Kashiwa like Ario or Don Quijote, or to places the students hoped to visit—Tokyo Skytree, Asakusa, the Pokémon Center Tokyo Bay, or the Harry Potter Studio Tour Tokyo. Others enjoyed a relaxing weekend at home, cooking fun dishes like takoyaki together.

Host family recruitment improved greatly this year. KIRA expanded its outreach to families with younger children, and many kids quickly came to see the student ambassadors as their own “**big brothers**” and “**big sisters**.” Some students even brought LEGO sets from the United States and enjoyed building them with the host families’ children—simple moments that became special memories.

A new initiative this year was a morning “Do’s & Don’ts” session held right after arrival, emphasizing the importance of staying healthy and acting responsibly. Thanks to the host families’ support and the students’ strong awareness, everyone maintained excellent attitudes throughout the first half of the program.

Daily photos shared by host families showed how quickly relationships were forming and how much genuine hospitality was happening every day. Through meals, conversations, and simple moments at home, hosts and delegates built connections filled with trust, kindness, and curiosity—at the heart of this exchange program. We believe many children will treasure the memories of spending this summer with their new big brothers and sisters from America for years to come.



Nice to meet you! A warm welcome
at City Hall (*July 8*)



Praying for a safe journey
at Fuse Benten (*July 9*)



True or False Quiz at Kashiwanoha
Elementary School (*July 10*)



Introducing Torrance at Kashiwanoha
Junior High School (*July 10*)



Swinging shinai and beating the heat
at TTC (*July 11*)



Visiting the Kashiwa City Council
(*July 13*)



With Mayor Kazumi Ota (*July 13*)



With over 140 members of the Ichikashi Brass Band (*July 13*)



Art Workshop (*July 14*)



Miyajima Torii Gate at low tide during our visit (*July 15*)



Aiming for the summit this year!
Walking through Fushimi Inari's red torii gates (*July 16*)



Visiting Kiyomizu-dera early in the morning (*July 17*)

TSCA's Connection to **Toy Story 5** by Aileen Willoughby

If you have enjoyed the dangos at Bunka-Sai, chances are they might have been made by Kerry Cababa, one of the seasoned volunteer chefs in the Dango “booth” at Bunka-Sai. Also, Kerry was the Adult Leader for the Student Ambassadors who traveled to Kashiwa in 1987. Our friends in Kashiwa know her through her continued involvement in TSCA/Kashiwa activities through the decades, including as a host family and her numerous visits to our Sister City as part of the Goodwill Adult Delegation. Outside of TSCA, her community involvement is immense: she and her family are heavily involved in several WWII Japanese

incarceration camp pilgrimages, including Heart Mountain and Manzanar. Her aunt, Sue Kunitomi Embrey, was the co-founder of the Manzanar Committee which held its inaugural pilgrimage in 1969, an event which continues to this day. Kerry also supports the Friends and Family of Nisei Vets (FFNV) as a way to honor her uncle, Pfc. Ted Fujioka, who was sadly killed just after the rescue of the Lost Battalion in France during WW2. If you are not familiar with the story of the RCT (Regimental Combat Team) 442nd and the Rescue of the Lost Battalion, learn about the courageous Nisei soldiers at this link: [Rescue of the Lost Battalion | Densho Encyclopedia](#)

But those closest to Kerry know that she is the mother to Krissy Cababa, who has worked at Pixar animation studios for over 20 years. Pixar, as you may have heard, just released its blockbuster “Toy Story 5,” a film that she worked on as associate producer. The movie has ticket sales of over \$160 million in North America and over \$150 million internationally, making it the franchise’s best-ever opening weekend. According to the June 29th issue of the *LA Times* (pg A9), “Toy Story is now the most watched franchise on the Disney+ streaming service.”

Krissy grew up in Torrance, is a North High School alum, then graduated from UC Berkeley and has lived in the San Francisco Bay area since then. Since the late ‘80s, she has played taiko, first with the San Francisco Taiko Dojo and then with a small group, Taiko Ren. In her professional career, she has worked at Pixar on a variety of films through her years, including the Pixar shorts, “Float,” and “Loop,” both of which deal with themes of acceptance.

In an interview with journalist J.K. Yamamoto of the *Rafu Shimpo*, she described her work as associate producer for ‘Toy Story 5’:

“... the role does change with every project... some of the responsibilities include ensuring the project has adequate staffing, watching over the overall budget, milestones and timelines for the film, and working to resolve the varied and frequent challenges and speed bumps that arise during the production.”

“My work on ‘Coco’ as the editorial manager required additional planning due to the heavy use of music in the film, and ‘Elemental’ was extremely challenging—there was a lot of artistic exploration and technical R&D needed to create characters entirely composed of water and fire.”

As a child of mixed heritage (Filipino father and Sansei mother), Krissy is proud to work for a company that features diverse characters, including Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPI).

Congratulations to Krissy and her very proud mom, both of whom are pictured at the June 19th world premiere at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood.

Note: JK Yamamoto of the Rafu Shimpo gave permission to include his interview with Krissy.



Alumni News - Kevin Willoughby, Student Ambassador 2007

by Aileen Willoughby

One of the eight Torrance Student Ambassadors who visited Kashiwa in 2007 was Torrance High School junior Kevin Willoughby. He cherished that first trip to Japan and the friendships he formed there. Years have passed since then, and Kevin has lived in Tokyo for the past eleven years, pursuing his passion for traditional Japanese music. He will be in Los Angeles for an appearance at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center on Saturday, August 22nd, as shamisen accompanist to legendary Japanese vocalist Yuki Saori.

After his 2007 "trip-of-a-lifetime" to Kashiwa, Kevin attended UCLA. During each summer break, he traveled to Tokyo to study the traditional three-stringed shamisen under renowned master Honjoh Hidetaro.

After graduating from UCLA in 2013 with a double major in Ethnomusicology and Japanese language, he moved to Tokyo to continue his studies under Honjoh Sensei while also completing a two-year program in traditional Japanese music at Toho Gakuen College of Drama and Music.

During his years in Tokyo, Kevin has remained close with many of the students from the 2007 exchange, reconnecting when former Torrance delegates visit Japan or Kashiwa delegates meet in Tokyo. When Kevin had his first solo recital in February 2023, a group of KIRA friends (Kashiwa International Relations Assn) braved the cold weather and an hour-long train ride to Tokyo to support him, and Kevin was very grateful for their kindness.

Kevin performs under his professional name, Honjoh Hideeiji, which was bestowed upon him by Honjoh Sensei, who is the *iemoto* (headmaster) of the Honjoh School of Shamisen. Kevin's schedule these days involves rehearsals, recording sessions, and performances. He performs with and serves as an apprentice to Honjoh Sensei. Also, Kevin is one of six musicians in J-Trad Ensemble MAHORоба, a group of musicians who perform contemporary music on traditional Japanese instruments—koto, shamisen, shakuhachi, and Japanese percussion. The ensemble performs works written specifically for its members, often by internationally renowned composers.

In recent years, Kevin has accompanied vocalist Yuki Saori, who is also studying shamisen under Honjoh Sensei, on concert tours throughout Japan and occasionally overseas. His most recent international performance with her was in Paris in 2024.

Yuki Saori's repertoire spans jazz, popular music, and contemporary songs. Since her last Los Angeles appearance ten years ago, she has also incorporated traditional Japanese melodies into her concerts, accompanied by Kevin on the shamisen.

The August 22nd show will open with a performance by the Los Angeles-based classical Japanese dance troupe Bando Hidesomi Nihon Buyo Class, a group well known for its appearances at Bunka-Sai.

The Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center is located at 1935 Manhattan Beach Blvd., in Redondo Beach. Tickets for the 4:00 p.m. performance on Saturday, August 22, are available online. <http://weeklylalala.ticketspice.com/yuki-saori>.



- From 1969 to the Future -

YUKI SAORI
山紀さおり
in Los Angeles

チケット販売中
チケット販売サイト: <https://weeklylalala.ticketspice.com/yuki-saori>

2026
8.22 (SAT) 開演 3:00PM 閉演 4:00PM
Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center
1935 Manhattan Beach Blvd. Redondo Beach, CA 90278

チケット
<https://weeklylalala.ticketspice.com/yuki-saori>

Price: \$100
A Seat: \$100
B Seat: \$60
C Seat: \$40
Wholesale: Inquire Seat: \$40

2026
8.22 (SAT) 開演 3:00PM 閉演 4:00PM
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Price: \$100
A Seat: \$100
B Seat: \$60
C Seat: \$40
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Guest Performers:
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Kashiwa MHS, I've given you all and now I'm something.

"Kashiwa, 1,452 days and a little bit of yen" Anyways, enough with the Allen Ginsberg reference.

It saddens me to write this but, this will be my last article for the TSCA Newsletter as an Assistant Language Teacher at Kashiwa Municipal High School. I had 3 goals in my life: be a rockstar, become an English teacher, and live in Japan. Being at Ichikashi, I was able to achieve those goals all under the same roof. One moment I'm performing "Johnny B. Goode" with arguably the best guitarist in all of Japan - Shun Tamaoki. Then on my weekends visiting off-the-beaten path places like the Tottori Sand Dunes & Huis Ten Bosch in Nagasaki. Typically, it does not compare to my abnormal evening where I find myself screaming along to my favorite Japanese Punk Rock Bands at the live houses deep in Tokyo. These are moments that at one point of my life, felt out of reach and nearly impossible to do...and yet I did it. I defied those expectations and manifested them into reality.

There are a vast number of individuals that I need to thank for my successes (and failures) here at Ichikashi, but I want to take the moment to recognize and shine the light on the most imperative figures who have made such an impact on me: Deanna Sun & Yuko Wilson.



From the 2025 Holiday vacation that I took with the financial assistance of TSCA. It's still mind-boggling that Deanna happen to meet my cousin through music. It was bound to happen.

To Deanna Sun, my twin flame, my Excel Queen & by Japanese workplace culture, my senpai. I thought I had mastered pedagogical practices and teaching management before coming to Kashiwa. Turns out, they were vastly different from what I had previously experienced. You taught me all of the intricacies about this school and gave me insights on our students. Not only were you open to my crazy ideas and grandiose approaches, you were able to support and build a foundation of my life here in Japan. Dee, you ran alongside me and motivated me to keep going, especially when I was stressed out. You were my best friend, even at those moments when I did not deserve to be. Your optimism and your naturality for connecting & interacting with people is something I try to emulate. However, I can't radiate positivity like you do. You always taught me to just be myself. Most importantly, your love and endless support to our

International Class students is something that I continue to do these days. You would be surprised to know that I finally finished filing the picture wall in the Club Room that you started. I still miss working alongside you everyday, even though we're neighbors back home.



Top: Exploring Tottori Sand Dunes. I'd figure I would wear @tvehoneycomb "Nippon Hardcore" as a homage to them.



Bottom: My friend @jifenwick taking action shots of what I love the most other than teaching: singing along and stagediving to Hardcore Punk.

Kashiwa MHS, I've given you all and now I'm something.

To Yuko Wilson, my Kouhai & most importantly, my angel. I had such a difficult period, both professionally and privately, before you came to Kashiwa. When you reached out to me, I felt such genuine and honest intentions from you that I knew that I was going to get the best partner. I apologize for presuming those intentions upon you because honestly, you exceed and transcend those expectations. Not only are you wise beyond your age, you have the gentleness and maturity that has not been present in our English Department for a while now. You are a Canva genius and a natural at stirring up heartfelt conversations - you truly are an extrovert as you mentioned during our first ever conversation at our desks.

Yuko, you supported me through the good times, the stressful periods, my grievances of my losses. We started a band together in the Rock Band club, knowing that you have other obligations outside of work. Sometimes, I feel like I talk too much and you never get a word in. However, I do know that you actually listen to every single detail to make sure my non-linear & incoherent thoughts become understandable. I'm very cautious about who I let into my life the majority of the time. Yuko Wilson, I consider you a "true friend" and the best Kouhai / partner-in-crime that I will ever have in my educational career. I will miss every morning where you toast your breakfast alongside me brewing coffee in the English Department room or you vibing out whenever I'm singing random songs, either real or made up. I am honored and privileged to have ended my career at Ichikashi working alongside you. I would not want to end it with anyone else but you.



During the cleanup after the Sayonara Party for N.H.S. Out of all of the exchanges that I've done in the past 4 years, it did not rain even once.



Our International A Gumi Class and English Conversation Club Members.



Sometimes, I wonder what I would be remembered as from all of the individuals that I have met during this tenure. I redefined what it takes to be an A.L.T. Ichikashi shaping it into a teacher, friend, mentor, enemy, comedian, tour guide, Ned from the MCU's Spiderman, & my personal favorite - international celebrity. All-in-all, I thank you, fellow KIRA & TSCA newsletters and members out there, for allowing me to personally examine and indulge into the foresights of my simple, yet extraordinary, life at Kashiwa Municipal High School and Japan as a whole.

Although I am heartbroken to move away from this beautiful, magical school full of my loved ones from Kashiwa Municipal High School, I am positively optimistic on making more memories in the future, *wherever I go*. For all the staff & most importantly, my A Gumi & Rock

Band Club students from Ichikashi and beyond, *you are in my hearts* forever! I am humbly grateful for everything that transpired during this run. I guarantee that we will meet once again, having the time of our lives & making new, wonderful memories. I promise you, I will.

Until next time! **Amazing Loveable Teacher**, Chris Pigao (They/Them); 2022 ~ 2026.

A Tribute to Chris Pigao

*by Mr. Shun Tamaoki, former chair of the English/International Department
at Kashiwa Municipal High School (TSCA calls this school by its nickname, “Ichikashi”)*

TSCA is grateful for Tamaoki-sensei’s heartfelt words below.

To my dear friend, Chris,

The memories of the four years I spent with Chris are simply the best—impossible to sum up in a single phrase. From the moment Chris arrived in Japan—or, to be precise, even from our email exchanges prior to that—I was certain that fun times lay ahead.

I remember meeting Chris at Narita Airport in August 2022, guitar case in tow, and going out for “yakiniku” with Kuwabara sensei. A few days later, I talked Chris into buying a Cherry Sunburst Gibson Les Paul at a second-hand shop. Then there was the time I took him to “that” place—our beloved Ramen Jiro (and just think of how many bowls of Jiro we’ve shared since then!). And how many times did we perform live on stage together? How many inside jokes did we share, and how many fun songs did we create? The memories are endless.



When I first met Chris, we were still wearing masks. We constantly asked ourselves: How can we make classes and school events fun despite the restrictions? How can we restart international exchange activities? Chris always shared great ideas with us. Thanks to him, we were able to resume in-person exchanges with Torrance.

I am also grateful for the tremendous enthusiasm he poured into enriching the English Conversation Club (ECC) and our daily classes. What drives Chris is his unwavering commitment to putting students first and his passion for education. As a fellow teacher, I deeply respect him. He undoubtedly brought a ray of hope to Ichikashi’s international exchange programs. His students will surely keep studying, practice hard, polish their skills, and NEVER give up on their dreams.

Let’s meet again soon, bro!

Your amigo,
Shun Tamaoki

2026 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

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

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Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Additional Contact Info

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Phone: _____

If you have questions about membership, please send an email to: tscamembership@gmail.com

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



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Torrance, CA 90503