

## President's Message Werner Willoughby



Join us for the 46<sup>th</sup> annual Bunka-Sai, Japanese Cultural Festival on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, the 14<sup>th</sup> at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center. Parking and admission are free, so bring the family and add Bunka-Sai to your weekend. From 11 am to 5 pm, Japanese culture will be on display, occupying the

Ken Miller Recreation Center, Toyota Meeting Hall, Assembly Room, and the Torino Plaza. The festival presents two days of entertainment, arts and crafts, demonstrations, and of course, delicious food.

This year the arts and craft vendors have everything from jewelry, books, pottery, bonsai, greeting cards, glass art, and clothes, including kimonos and yukatas. The new student delegates and their adult leader will be easy to spot as they will be wearing the bright purple happi coats, a gift from the Torrance Committee in Kashiwa. The students and their parents will be hard at work for the entire weekend to make the students' "trip of a lifetime" a reality.

Bring your appetite, as I'm sure we have most of your favorites – BBQ plate lunches of beef, chicken and salmon, yakisoba, curry and rice, spam musubi, a great selection of drinks and desserts, shave ice, and snacks. A big thank you to the City of Torrance because now you can enjoy your lunch under new canopies that cover most of the Torino Plaza. These are permanent, offering great shade with a decorative flair. Don't forget the always favorite Okinawan dangos while you're enjoying the performances on stage. The children's game area will feature the popular water yoyos right from Japan!

If you volunteered and worked Bunka-Sai in the past, TSCA and especially the students are indebted to you. If you have volunteered in the past but have not heard from a booth chair by the time you read this, please visit our website <http://torrancesistercity.org>, look at the top of the page and click on "Volunteers needed at Bunka-Sai," which will take you to SignUpGenius where you can signup and help in the booth at a convenient time. **Wendy Ito**, the chair of volunteers, set up this page with a job description for each position. Kudos to Wendy, for developing our SignUpGenius and coordinating the 200-300 volunteers.

Thanks to the many booth and activity chairs that have lent their expertise to a successful Bunka-Sai.

**Bryce Yamauchi:** BBQ; **Mariko Namimoto & Sumi Ueki:** yakisoba; **Shirley Tanaka:** dessert, donations/ads; **Cindy Scotto:** opportunity drawing, donations/ads, **Jeff Fu:** dango; **Reiko Higa:** spam musubi; **Dave & Linda Kranz:** curry & rice; **Deanna Diederich:** cotton candy; **Ed & Joan Shiosaki:** shave ice; **Karen Wheeler:** gift booth; **Aileen Willoughby:** cultural performances; **Jen Hirashiki:** publicity; **Chelsea Keys/Student Club:** children's games; **Wendy Ito:** volunteers; **Ron Reeve:** financials; **Jessica Haugen/2019 Student Delegates:** signage/decorations; **Donna Dunlap, Sindy Kang, Kathi Matsubara:** hourly drawing; **Werner Willoughby:** vendors, raffle tickets, health department, cultural exhibits/demonstrations, **Werner Willoughby** and **Steven Ihde:** setup/cleanup, moving supplies/equipment.

Thanking you in advance for your support of Bunka-Sai. I hope to see you there! ☘

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**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

**APRIL 4**

Bunka-Sai Planning Meeting (7-8:45 pm)  
Torrance Art Museum Conference Room

**APRIL 8**

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

**APRIL 12**

Bunka-Sai Setup (7-9 pm)  
Cultural Arts Center

**APRIL 13 and 14**

Bunka-Sai (11 am—5 pm)  
Cultural Arts Center

**APRIL 23**

Student Orientation #1 with Parents (7-9 pm)  
City Hall West Annex Commission Room

**Torrance Sister City Association**

**PRESIDENT**

Werner Willoughby

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Jen Hirashiki

**SECRETARY**

Gail Roulette

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**Comments or submissions?**

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

**Corporate (\$200/year)**

Torrance Refining Company

**Benefactor (\$125/year)**

Rust, Joe and Carol

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

Gelbaum, Randi and David  
Han, Dai Sup and Jill  
Matsubara, Kathi and Sydney  
McGee, John and Carmen  
Mealins, Kathy and Family  
Newhart, Lily and Family  
Nishimura, Scott and Terri  
Reeve, Ron and Susan  
Shetti, Mayoori and Navin

**Family (continued)**

Shintani, Ron, Patsy, and Melissa  
Tsudama, Geoff, Mickie, and Meisa  
Ueki, Masaki and Sumiko

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

Fernandez, Angelica  
Kircher, Ellen  
Komae, Amie  
Laidonez, Gail  
Perez, Ayako  
Yamauchi, Alyssa

**Donations**

|                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Kircher, Ellen | \$100 |
| Daggett, Dan   | \$20  |

### VOLUNTEER GRANTS

In addition to matching gifts for donations to non-profit organizations, many corporations in the South Bay area also offer volunteer grants. Volunteer grant programs provide monetary grants to non-profit organizations where employees volunteer regularly. These programs are mutually beneficial to both businesses and TSCA by encouraging volunteerism in communities that employees live and work.

Many volunteer grant programs (also called Dollars for Doers or Community Grants) have a minimum requirement of volunteer hours for eligibility. Quickly accumulate volunteer hours with Bunka-Sai planning meetings and volunteering on Bunka-Sai weekend, monthly TSCA meetings, August activities planning meetings and events.



*Bunka-Sai Volunteers*

1. Verify your employer's volunteer grant and matching contributions program requirements and deadlines to benefit TSCA.
2. Submit grant request to your employer
3. Your employer will notify TSCA of the grant and request verification of volunteer hours. Torrance Sister City Association's non-profit eligibility will be verified by its Tax EIN #95-3079582. Your company may also require a copy of TSCA's W-9 form.

Please email Werner Willoughby at [w.p.willoughby@gmail.com](mailto:w.p.willoughby@gmail.com) for requests for TSCA's W-9 form and volunteer hour verification.

## Samurai

Daniel Diederich, 2018 Student Delegate



Even though Japan is now one of the world's most technologically advanced countries, it is still very connected to its history and ancient roots. The 2018 TSCA Student Delegates and I were able to experience Japan's rich history, as we visited many historical landmarks throughout our stay. Prior to the trip, I only knew of brief part of Japan's history, but I selected a part of Japanese history in which I wanted to learn more about. Heading to Japan, I was excited to learn more about *samurai* and experience it with my host family. Like many Americans, samurai was my first introduction to Japanese culture and history and I was eager to learn more about their historical and cultural relevance in Japan.

To Americans, one could view samurai as “the knights” of Japan. And although that could be true to an extent, there is much more to it than that. Samurai has a literal meaning, as it stems from the word *saburau*, or “to wait upon” or “to serve someone”. This makes sense as the samurai were very loyal to and served in close attendance to their respective feudal lords. The samurai were also part of the military caste in Feudal Japan. In Japan, being a samurai wasn't just about being a warrior, it was a way of life. Similar to chivalry, the samurai followed the *Code of Bushido*, or “way of the warrior”. This code, although not explicitly, is still used today and is commonly referred to as the foundation of Japanese civilization.

During my trip to Japan, I was able to visit a samurai museum with my host family. From what I encountered, samurai have become a popular icon to attract tourists, like many cultural icons all around the world are used today. But despite that, the Japanese people still have a deep respect for them and their cultural significance. The fine craftsmanship and design that went into each armor piece was a spectacle to behold, but also learning about how many details in the armor represented something was truly amazing. In the museum, they had rows of samurai armor on display, each being unique and having amazing detail in every part of the set.

I was able to view the weapons commonly used during Feudal Era wars. From the basic bow and arrow to the



Three of samurai suits of armor. Each kabuto (helmet) was adorned with its own unique crest .

famous *katana* to *yari* (Japanese spears), these weapons showed the vast array of skills samurai had to learn. My host family and I were able to witness a demonstration of the sword skills of samurai. This, along with the design of the armor and weapons, shows the duality of the samurai, how they were deadly warriors but also showed loyalty and respect. This sort of mindset is still present in Japan today, from my experience.

I learned a lot about Japan's history and the samurai during my stay in Kashiwa. I learned that although they were on opposite sides of the world, European knights and samurai developed in much of the same way without ever interacting with one another. They had similar positions in society and also similar roles. The Bushido Code and chivalry contain many similar ideals as well. But, learning about how the two differ really opened my eyes to the cultural significance that the Bushido code and Samurai as a whole still has on Japan today. And because of the amazing experience I had there, I will definitely return and hopefully learn more about the ways the Japanese people are keeping their rich history alive today. ☩

# 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

## Let It Snow

Brandon Matsumoto



These days, I am greeted by the chilly winter of Japan. Getting out of bed when it is 0°C (32°F) is unimaginable. I don't think I will ever get accustomed to it. It's become a habit to count down from three in order to build up the courage to throw the covers off to start the day. I usually

don't succeed on the first try. However today, I was able to get out of bed on the fourth try and went over to open the curtains.

Outside, a delicate blanket of snow, which fell overnight, covered the streets and rooftops.

Admiring a transformed scene that I was unfamiliar with, I decided to take a walk around the area. Being a long-time Torrance resident, I was not used to snowflakes falling from the sky and was curious to explore. For the past few weeks, I have been diagnosed with a case of "it's way too cold to go outside" and I have not been able to step outside to even go out with friends. It's a minor annoyance that I was struggling with everyday. Winter has been so bitter and bleak in Japan. By the time I leave work, the sky is dark, and I leave knowing that I was not exposed to one ray of sunlight to end the day.

But today was different. Walking outside, there was a refreshing vibe so pure in the air.



This was the first snow of the year and on this particular day, it felt as though time had stopped. No cars were zooming down the street and there were no people in sight. The busy city that's usually full of life had slowed down to a pause. The city was still asleep. I closed my eyes, and listened to the silent fall of snowflakes and my deep warm breath.

I strolled along the river, attempting to take as many



shots with my camera as I could before my hands froze off, and finally ended up at my favorite park. There were only a few visitors present. An Akita-ken, (a dog native to Japan), thrilled by the winter wonderland, was playfully jumping around. As I turn to head back, I stumbled upon a simple white post that looked elegant nestled in the snow among the bare and leafless cherry blossom trees. Engraved in Japanese was, 柏市・トランス市姉妹都市40周年, which translates to, Kashiwa and Torrance Sister City 40th Anniversary. I was in awe and amazed to observe something that hits so close to home.

It was a sign (literally and figuratively). I realized that I wouldn't be here in Japan if there were no relationship between our two cities. The founders of this sister city program gave me the opportunity to be here. It made me feel proud and grateful to be part of the history between Kashiwa and Torrance and I felt honored that I was representing my hometown which is thousands of miles away. I managed to snap a rare photo while snowflakes softly fell around me.

Spring is just around the corner but this peaceful winter day was significant for me as it helped me leap into the new season. Winter isn't so bad after all.

Here's a video I threw together of that winter day, enjoy!

<https://youtu.be/cLe5tA7hoD0> ☞



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

# Photos from Kashiwa



**Brandon Matsumoto** presented his 11th grade English class at Ichikashi School with videos of Southern California, including Venice Beach, Griffith Observatory, and Santa Monica Pier on the last day of class on February 27th. ☘

## Alumni News



**Todd Yorizane**, a 2005 student delegate, and his wife, Dorothy, recently welcomed two bundles of joy. Their identical twins, Noah and Ethan Yorizane, were born on December 6, 2018, weighing in at 6lbs 3oz and 6lbs 1oz, respectively. ☘

***Congratulations to the Yorizane Family!***

## Bunka Sai

### TSCA Gift Booth

The TSCA Gift Booth at Bunka-Sai Festival is collecting your new or gently used Japanese items to raise funds for the TSCA Student Cultural Exchange Program.

Wanted: Home goods (dishes, ceramics, chopsticks, figurines, dish towels), books (travel guides, Japanese/English textbooks, cookbooks), posters, prints, banners, art, dolls, cases, apparel (t-shirts, yukata, kimono, scarves, accessories, purses), toys, music, stationery, school supplies.

Your donations will be loved by new owners who seek out our treasures every year. Receipts available for tax purposes.

Contact [torrancesistercityinfo@gmail.com](mailto:torrancesistercityinfo@gmail.com) to arrange for drop-off to our coordinator, Karen Wheeler, or contact Karen directly at [bobandkaren@earthlink.net](mailto:bobandkaren@earthlink.net) with any questions. ☘

### Volunteer for Bunka-Sai

Interested in volunteering at the Bunka-Sai Festival? Sign up online at SignUpGenius.

<https://bit.ly/2VAK88f>

Any questions? Contact Wendy Ito at [kawenaito@gmail.com](mailto:kawenaito@gmail.com).



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



**Torrance Sister City  
Association**

3031 Torrance Boulevard  
Torrance, CA 90503