

President's Message

Werner Willoughby



On behalf of TSCA, may I extend a healthy and prosperous New Year to you and your family.

Mr. John Jones, the Director of Community Services for the City of Torrance has retired after 38 years of service to the City of Torrance. Mr.

Jones has been an enthusiastic supporter of TSCA, attending many of our activities each year and lending his expertise and knowledge of the many resources and contacts within the City. John has been instrumental in the preparation for the visit of our Kashiwa guests during our anniversary activities. Congratulations on your retirement John and thank you for your support of TSCA. Assuming John's position is **Mr. John La Rock**. TSCA looks forward to working with you Mr. La Rock, welcome to Torrance.

Thank you to **Ilene and Mark Gelbaum** of our Hospitality Committee for spending many hours expressing TSCA's feelings to our members in their time of sorrow and need. Ilene and Mark create unique, handmade cards sometimes accompanied with small tokens of our sympathy. Both Ilene and Mark proposed the idea and were very instrumental in TSCA's tree planting ceremony for Ray Roulette at Victor Park. Thank you for your sincere efforts in expressing our feelings.

May I welcome new Executive Board members for 2021, **Donna Dunlap** as Vice President and **Mayoori Shetti** as Treasurer. Thank you both for your time and expertise in support of TSCA.

Thank you to **Jennifer Hirashiki** (TSCA Vice President,

Adult Leader in 2016, Orientation Committee member), and **Mathew Staal** (Board member and parent of a 2019 student) who will not be able to continue serving on the board. TSCA thanks you both for your efforts and contributions toward the success of TSCA.

The Alumni Reunion scheduled for January 9, 2021 at the Ken Miller Recreation Center became the first event to be cancelled for 2021 due to the Corona virus. Beginning with our first Association meeting in January, TSCA will be discussing the future of Bunka-Sai and coordinating the future of the student exchange program with the Torrance Committee in Kashiwa. We are hoping for the best in these uncertain and unstable times.

Nancy Hayata, the webmaster for TSCA, offered to donate 10% of her sales of face masks that she personally makes, for the month of December to benefit TSCA. Nancy sews beautiful masks highlighted by Japanese prints and surgical inserts. Thanks Nancy for your generous donation of \$125.

Mechele Rodriguez, an employee for the Torrance Unified School District and the City of Torrance passed away in December. Mechele was the event manager for many of our Bunka-Sai festivals, lending her support and effort to make our event a success. May I extend our condolences to her family. We will miss you Mechele.

Here is a friendly reminder to renew your membership for 2021, by using the PayPal site found on our website or complete the application found in our newsletter. The deadline to be included in the 2021 Directory is February 17, 2021. Thanks to those that have already renewed your membership. Many challenges lie ahead for Torrance and

WHAT'S INSIDE:

President's Message
PAGE 1
Membership News:
PAGE 2

English Teacher Report:
Hope Amidst the Crisis
PAGE 3
2021 Membership Form
PAGE 4

Ichikashi Student Report:
Judo
PAGE 5

FEBRUARY 8

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)

FEBRUARY 17

Bunka-Sai Meeting (7-9 pm)

MARCH 1

Bunka-Sai Meeting (7-9 pm)

MARCH 8

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)

APRIL 7

Bunka-Sai Meeting (7-9 pm)

APRIL 12

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)

APRIL 17-18

Bunka-Sai

APRIL 21

Bunka-Sai Evaluation Meeting (7-9 pm)

MAY 10

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)

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)

Schedule subject to change due to pandemic

Kashiwa to sustain and nurture our relationship, especially with the student exchange program. We appreciate your support and will make every effort to validate your trust in TSCA.

A big thank you to **Alyssa Yamauchi**, as Membership Chair she has sent reminders and applications to our members. and is spending a lot of time updating and preparing our 2021 Directory for publication. Thank you so much Alyssa.

As 2020 closed with so many heart breaks and disappointments, I must thank **Rae Ann Carr**, our Newsletter Editor, for another year documenting TSCA with such an uplifting, positive presentation, the many pictures and wonderful articles. We needed that!

Many thanks to **Lori Chong Eurich**, Chair of the English Teacher's Committee, the TSCA website and host of our TSCA Association meetings via Zoom. We appreciate your efforts Lori.

Congratulations to the officers of the Torrance Committee for 2021. Considering the challenges ahead, may you and the entire Torrance Committee have a successful and rewarding 2021. TSCA looks forward to working with you.

Thanks to **Yuko Ishibashi** for her timely responses and efforts to maintain our communications with the Torrance Committee.

May I wish the best of health to members of TSCA, KIRA and the Torrance Committee, as well as the citizens of Torrance and Kashiwa. ☘

2021 KIRA Torrance Committee Officers

Chair	Mr. Hisataka Takikawa
Vice Chair	Ms Mitsuko Tsukuda (Adult Leader 2019)
Treasurer	Ms Kinuko Furuya
Liaison	Ms Yuko Ishibashi

Membership News

Alyssa Yamauchi, Membership Chairperson

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

<p>Life Membership (\$2,000+) Oriental Motor U.S.A. Cambra, May Ikeda Chan, Kenneth Family Doyle, Marlene Cambra Dunlap-Ihde Family Fichtner, Dan and Rand, Ray Henson, Mikko Haggott Jordan, Leah Ray Roulette, Ray & Gail Family Sekiguchi, Joh</p> <p>Benefactor (\$125/year) Bauer, Craig Rust, Joe and Carol Willoughby, Werner & Aileen Yamauchi, Bryce & Cheryl</p> <p>Supporting (\$75/year) Eurich, Lori & Dane Rappoport, Eve</p> <p>Family (\$40/year)</p>	<p>Carr, Rae Ann & Eric Fuller, Jeannie & Steve Gelbaum, Mark & Ilene Gerson, Jeremy, Jennifer & Family Hirashiki, Hiro & Jen Hofer, Gary & Fusae Kang, Sindy Kido, Kenji King, Dennis & Patricia Medlock, Matthew, Thomas, & Kathleen Newhart, Lance & Natalie Peitzman, Fred and Ann Rubin, Marilyn & Sherwin Sargent, Dave & Toni Thompson, Bruce & Family The Todd Family</p> <p>Individual (\$20/year) Ando, Jennifer Gibson, Judy Hardison, Lowell Kawai, Masaru Kent</p>	<p>Ketch, Devin Little, Vera Matsumoto, Brandon Okamoto, Narumi Ozawa, Eleanor Ozima, Ellen Sakamoto, May Snoddy, Jeffrey Sun, Deanna Tabata, Lynn Takikawa, Hisataka Wilson, Yuko Yamauchi, Alyssa Yamauchi, Blaine Yamauchi, Patsy</p> <p>Donations Ando, Jennifer (\$50) Little, Vera (\$20) Sargent, Dave & Toni (\$20) Tabata, Lynn (\$30)</p>
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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

Hope Amidst the Crisis

Deanna Sun



Finally, after months of preparation, sending letters back and forth between America and Japan, emergency requests sent to the government, two weeks of quarantine, and five COVID tests, I have arrived in Kashiwa, Japan safe and happy! This year has been the most difficult for all of us, and traveling

has been nearly impossible. Thus, I feel extremely fortunate to be able to teach at Ichikashi today. The students at this school are extraordinarily bright and talented, and living in Japan these past two months has showed me how unique this country is. However, while there are cultural differences that I've experienced, there are also many commonalities between the U.S. and Japan. All of these aspects of Japan have provided me with the most surreal, life-changing experience of my life.



Deanna Sun and her students at Ichikashi

The thing about living in a foreign country is that every little moment of every single day is exciting and new. My typical day goes like this. I wake up, walk to the nearest *hanbaiki*, or vending machine, to buy a 100 yen warm corn soup in a can, and head out to explore. I notice little things on my walk- the enormous palm-sized spiders in every bush, fresh yuzu hanging from my neighbors' trees, and the river next to my apartment filled with fishermen, fish, swans, and ducks. For lunch, I go to a ramen shop filled with businessmen ALL reading manga as they eat. I walk throughout Kashiwa, a perfect suburbia for food and



Yuzu fruit tree

shopping and tourism, and realize that there are very few foreigners compared to the last time I lived in Japan. Missing a little bit of Torrance, I decide to try Mexican food in Tokyo. To my surprise, an extra-large burrito is about the size of a single taco, so I decide to head to one of the many Indian restaurants that surround me. Feeling food coma overwhelm my body after two dinners, I decide to relax a bit and watch a foreign film in the theater called "Tenet". I discover that unlike Americans, Japanese people stay until the very end of the credits, followed by complete silence when leaving the theater. Late night rolls around, so I visit a local karaoke spot, where every single person has the voice of an angel (or Mariah Carey, Whitney Houston, Sam Smith, Ariana Grande...you get the idea). Of course, this is just an example of one day in my life. Every day is completely different. All these little things make up the Japanese culture, and having been born and raised in America, I've come to realize that I have so much to learn these next few years.

(Continued on page 5)

English Teach Report (Continued)

Despite these amusing cultural differences, I have realized that America and Japan have more similarities than we may realize. The pandemic this year has been one of the worst of our generation, and cases continue to increase all over the world every day. However, we are all doing our best to beat this virus.

My Japanese coworkers and students always come in with bright attitudes and I find myself laughing every day. We continue to remain positive amidst the chaos, and despite the language barrier and actual physical distance between me and my students, I have never felt more welcome and comfortable settling into my new home. My coworkers are the most genuine, hilarious, and caring individuals I have ever worked with, and we are always feeding off each other's ideas, jokes, songs, and dances.

Amidst the pandemic and the cultural differences, my experience this year has been unforgettable, and I hope that those reading this are inspired to get out of their comfort zones, help each other through this pandemic, and take the time to be grateful for the little things every day. I cannot wait for what 2021 will bring to my coworkers, students, and all of Japan, and I am hopeful that by working together and lifting up each other's spirits every day, we will not only overcome this pandemic, but strengthen our relationships among foreign countries along the way. Something



Deanna Sun and Brandon Matsumoto enjoying a break with refreshing boba drinks.

much greater will come from ending this pandemic, and I look forward to experiencing it firsthand here in my new home. ☘

**Deanna Sun arrived in Japan on October 20, 2020.

Ichikashi Student Report

Judo

Satoru Baba

If I could start my own business, it would be a judo coach business. If you have a judo coach, you can grow into a strong person. Many students need them to practice judo.

I practice judo now. I know a lot of judo techniques and a lot of groundwork techniques. If I become a judo coach, I can help students at a low cost. I can teach judo techniques to each student. Moreover, students can practice their best move and perfect it. However, practicing judo is difficult every day. Though it is tiring, students can participate in a judo tournament and possibly win a championship.

Considering the benefits mentioned above, if students have a judo coach they would be successful. This



business is not profitable, but I don't need a lot of money. Students only need to buy one judo gi. This is why I would become a judo coach. ☘



During school closures, our English teachers and their co-workers at Kashiwa Municipal High School made videos for their students to keep them engaged. Check out these videos!

Volume 1: <https://youtu.be/wb9Z8nhiNC8>

Volume 2: <https://youtu.be/0Un3fq4Fx1Y>

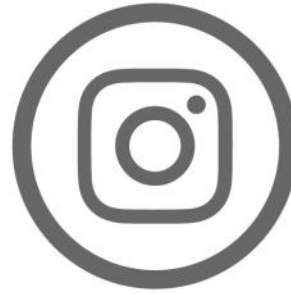
Volume 3: <https://youtu.be/V1YduUCoyyA>

Volume 4: https://youtu.be/pU_a19TkbdU

Daily English: <https://youtu.be/lgaNKXjLsZs>



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**Torrance Sister City
Association**

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