

President's Message

By Donna Dunlap



**HELP WANTED!!!
NO EXPERIENCE
NECESSARY!!!**

If you are looking to enrich your life experiences in 2023 look no further. Torrance Sister City has many opportunities for you and your family. I welcome you to read on and see

where you can get involved.

If you have been enjoying these beautiful **TSCA Newsletters** over the past few years, we have Rae Ann Carr to thank. Her talents have enlightened us for years. She has expertly gathered the articles and photos and intertwined them to fill the pages for all of us to enjoy. When you read online, you can also experience exciting videos. Sadly, we say goodbye to Rae Ann in this role. Fortunately, she is willing to help the new editor so we will still enjoy her talents. Please join me in my heartfelt **thank you to Rae Ann** for getting TSCA's news out so beautifully.

Rae Ann, as well as **Sindy Kang**, are leaving the board as their terms have expired. I thank these two hardworking women for all their time and effort in volunteering wherever needed. You may no longer be a board member, but you are still an invaluable part of our organization. We look forward to working with both of you and seeing you at future activities, especially the 50th Anniversary Celebrations in February 2023.

Looking at this newsletter, you may think that this is Rae Ann's last edition. You are witnessing a past and now the interim editor, Summer Nagano Gray, who is using all the information that Rae Ann has passed on to the new editor to publish this document. Our newsletters are a valuable tool to keep everyone informed and aware of TSCA's

activities. We need you to volunteer your time to continue this newsletter as an editor in 2023. You do not have to be a member of TSCA. We welcome you to join our forces that is dedicated to enriching the lives of high school students living in Torrance.

Speaking of our outreach to high school students, ALL of TSCA's programs are back as usual in 2023. Our website torrancesistercity.org has been updated with the current information and the application for the 2023 summer Student Exchange program. Students attending any Torrance school in grades 10, 11, or 12 are eligible to apply for a trip of a lifetime. In July, the students will visit our sister city in Kashiwa, Japan. Getting these opportunities back on track requires many people to volunteer to help out. The TSCA board needs your involvement to facilitate the student exchange program.

Student Selection Committee is accepting applications until December 19, 2022. Jeremy Gerson has volunteered once again to be chair of this committee.

TSCA is currently accepting applications for the following:

Students: Any high school sophomore, junior, or senior who lives full time in Torrance is eligible. Check out specific details at torrancesistercity.org

Exchange Teacher: TSCA will be sending a teacher to teach in the Kashiwa public high school in August 2023. See the Teach English in Japan flyer on page 7.

It is exciting to have these well-established programs that have existed since the 1970s back in full swing in 2023.

We do need your help. No prior experience is necessary. You must just be able to talk and read and have fun.

continued on page 2 >>>

WHAT'S INSIDE:

President's Message
PAGE 1-2
Alumni News
PAGE 2

Focus on 50: Golden Jubilee
Picnic & Friendship Festival
PAGE 3
Golden Jubilee Alumni Picnic
PAGE 4
Creative Expressions
PAGE 5

English Teacher Report
PAGE 6
Teach English in Japan
PAGE 7
Friendship Festival Flyer
PAGE 8

Friendship Festival Program
Ad Form
PAGE 9
TSCA Membership Form
PAGE 10
Student Exchange Flyer
PAGE 11

JANUARY 9, 2023

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)
Katy Geissert Library Meeting Room

JANUARY 14, 2023

Alumni Reunion (11 am)
Ken Miller Recreation Center

FEBRUARY 18, 2023

Golden Jubilee Picnic (11 am-2 pm)
Wilson Park (across the parking lot from the
Southern California Live Steamers Train
Station at 2290 Washington Ave, Torrance)

The Friendship Festival (7-9 pm)
50-Year Celebration of TSCA
James R. Armstrong Theatre, Torrance

I count on you to jump-start these wonderful programs and get them back on track. Please email me at Ihdebat@aol.com and offer your assistance **TODAY!**

Our first activity in 2023 is our Annual Alumni Potluck Luncheon on Saturday, January 14, 2023. The luncheon will be held in the Ken Miller Rec Center at 11 am. Please bring a dish that will serve at least eight people. This luncheon allows TSCA members to meet and greet the new student applicants and their families. It is a great opportunity to welcome new members into TSCA and enjoy a wonderful lunch.

February is just around the corner...the Kashiwa delegates will soon be arriving. Please read the *Focus on Fifty* article to see what is planned for the weekend of February 18-19, 2023. Please participate as much as possible. Buy your tickets today! ☘

Save the Dates now on your new 2023 calendar!

HELP NEEDED!!!

For **The Friendship Festival**
on Saturday, Feb 18, 2023,
7 pm to 9 pm

Positions Available:

Videographer
Photographer
Slideshow Editor

For more information
or to volunteer,
contact Aileen:

willoughbyak@gmail.com

Alumni News



Congratulations to **Jessica Haugen Chien**, TSCA 2019 Adult Leader, and husband David who welcomed their first child, a baby boy, on December 12, 2021. Almost 1 year old already, Ivan Arrow Chien is so sweet and is growing up so quickly!

Torrance Sister City Association

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Comments or submissions?

Please send an email to
tscanewsletter@gmail.com



Focus on Fifty

A Look at the Future

By Donna Dunlap
President of TSCA

Golden Jubilee Picnic

Saturday, February 18, 2023, will be a fun-filled day beginning with the **Golden Jubilee Picnic** at Wilson Park at 11:00 am. TSCA has reserved all of the picnic tables in the southeast corner of the park located across the parking lot from the Southern California Live Steamers Train Station at 2290 Washington Avenue, Torrance, 90501.

The Kashiwa delegates will arrive closer to noon, but this gives TSCA members time to catch up with each other until the Kashiwa delegates arrive. We have many former delegates representing the 1970s, '80s, '90s, and all the decades in the 2000s from both Torrance and Kashiwa. It will be the biggest reunion TSCA has ever experienced!

I hope you, too, will be there. To ensure we have enough food, you **must RSVP for the Golden Jubilee Picnic** at either the association email torrancesistercityinfo@gmail.com or to ihdebat@aol.com.

For just \$15 (pre-sale) you need to buy a Gold Commemorative 50th T-shirt, which is your ticket to enter the picnic, enjoy a BBQ lunch and also a ride on a Live Steamer train. Mail a \$15 check to TSCA at 3031 Torrance Blvd, Torrance, 90503, on or before January 6. Pre-paid T-shirts can be picked up on December 12 at the Katy Geissert Library Meeting Room at 6:30 pm, or on January 14, 2023, at the Ken Miller Rec Center at the TSCA Alumni Potluck luncheon at 10:00 am.

The pre-paid T-shirts will also be available for you at the Golden Jubilee Picnic when you check in. If you do not take advantage of the pre-sale price, tickets at the "door" will be \$20. There is no guarantee any commemorative T-shirts will still be available if you did not take advantage of the pre-sale.

Lunch will include hot dogs, hamburgers (including turkey options), condiments, chips, drinks and dessert. TSCA always enjoys potlucks so if you would like, bring a salad or dessert to make lunch extra special. Besides the train ride, games and activities will be provided by the

City of Torrance Parks and Recreation staff. The Kashiwa delegates will be leaving about 2 pm for a bus tour of Torrance. Everyone else is welcome to stay and visit.

The Friendship Festival

This exciting day is not yet over! At 7 pm, at the James Armstrong Theatre, TSCA will be producing a spectacular production: **The Friendship Festival**, featuring past exchange students from both Torrance and Kashiwa.

The talent includes a variety of singers, a traditional Japanese comic storyteller, and taiko drums. See the flyer in this newsletter for more information. Besides those on stage, there will be artists showcasing their artwork in the lobby. You will not want to miss this once-in-a-lifetime experience on Saturday evening, February 18, 2023. Tickets are on sale now online at Torrancearts.org or at the Armstrong Theatre box office, 3330 Civic Center Drive, Torrance, CA 90503. Ticket prices were intentionally kept reasonable to include the entire family. Bring a friend and share the joys of Japanese art at its finest.



Master Shinoharu Tatekawa

In the last edition of the newsletter, I inadvertently misquoted the year that Ittetsu Kojima was an exchange student. Ittetsu was a 1993 Kashiwa delegate. Now known as Master Shinoharu Tatekawa, he will share Rakugo, the traditional art of Japanese comedic storytelling, in English. Shinoharu, a Yale graduate, has devoted his life to promote and preserve this traditional Japanese art form. The second half after intermission will begin with this rare performance, never seen live in Torrance until now. Closing the Friendship Festival is contemporary Taiko rarely performed in Torrance. Alex Ito, a Torrance 2015 delegate, composes his own variation of traditional Taiko.

TSCA is honored to present outstanding artists, who were once delegates, onstage together for the first time, that will never be seen again in Torrance. ☸

This entire day is not to be missed! Save the date for Saturday, February 18, 2023 and purchase your tickets today!

THE TORRANCE SISTER ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

Golden Jubilee Alumni Picnic

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary with TSCA members and 50 KIRA delegates, past and present



When: Saturday, February 18, 2023

Time: 11 am Social hour, 12:00 - 2:00 pm Lunch

Where: Wilson Park (2290 Washington Ave) southeast corner by lunch tables and Live Steamer trains.

Additional parking will be available for TSCA members at Adult School lot.

Cost: Purchase of yellow Golden Jubilee 50th Anniversary T-shirt entitles you to a BBQ lunch and Live Steamer train ride

T-shirts can be purchased: Pre-sale \$15 on torrancesistercity.org

Pick up instructions on website. \$20 At the picnic, while supplies last

In case of inclement weather the picnic will be held in the Dee Hardison Sports Center

— LUNCH MENU —

Hot dogs, Hamburgers, Salads, Chips, Dessert, and Assorted Beverages



Creative EXPRESSION

in the Time of Pandemic

By Summer Nagano Gray and Lori Chong Eurich

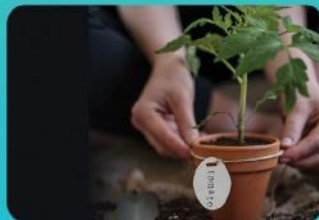


Calling all creative souls... that means YOU!

Whether you are a karaoke queen, weekend gardener, or beginning piano player, TSCA and KIRA need your creative submissions for an exciting, new cross-cultural project titled "Creative Expression In the Time of Pandemic."

This project is meant to provide a window into your life during the pandemic, share something that sparks joy in you, and showcase your creativity. We all have been affected by a shutdown of our normal lives, but not a shutdown of our creativity!

So please send in your creative written works, photos of your creations, or videos. We will be compiling them into a book and/or audiovisual presentation that will be displayed and shown at future events.



Creative Expression Ideas

Although your creative expression submissions may take any form, here are a few ideas to spark your creativity: haiku, poetry, spoken word, cooking/new recipes, cute bento box lunches, origami, singing, funny videos, photography, playing a musical instrument, composing a song, crafts like knitting, crochet, painting, drawing, fabric arts, pottery, sports, paper mâché, cross-stitch, traveling, hiking, journaling, calligraphy, writing on a grain of rice, soap making, candle making, book making, washi tape art, videos of your cat or dog doing tricks, juggling, hula hooping, doll making, Lego art, salsa dancing, Zumba, yoga at the beach, ikebana/floral design, hula dancing, line dancing, rock painting, gardening/landscaping, kite flying, Cosplay outfits, martial arts (such as judo/karate), Tai Chi, weaving, home organizing (such as KonMari), etc.

GUIDELINES

- Limit of 3 submissions per person
- Video submissions should be no longer than 90 seconds and in a horizontal/landscape position. Videos taken with your mobile phone work great!
- Submissions should have been created after the pandemic and shutdown began (March 2020).
- Please keep submissions positive and uplifting.
- Include your name and any comments about your submission that provide further detail.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Please send submissions to the TSCA Creative Expression Committee by

- 1) Clicking our Google Drive link and uploading your submission at <https://bit.ly/3jWW9mi>, or
- 2) Sending an email to 4summer@gmail.com, or
- 3) Mailing your submission to the TSCA Creative Expression Committee c/o Community Services Department, Cultural Services Division, 3031 Torrance Blvd, Torrance, CA 90503.

DEADLINE

December 31, 2022 (could be extended). Please feel free to send in your submissions now, as we would like to begin compiling them into audiovisual and hard copy formats.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Summer at 4summer@gmail.com or call (310) 804-5191.

English Teacher Report

Bunka-Sai, Ichikashi Style

By Chris Pigao



Time works in such mysterious ways. One moment you are at the Ken Miller Recreation Center in Torrance doing Shodo calligraphy, and then next thing you know, you're at the Old Gym's stage in Kashiwa dancing to Da Pump's "USA" without having any sort of practice. It's moments like these that define what a Bunka-Sai festival should be,

your own personal experience.

On September 16 and 17, Kashiwa Municipal High School had its first Bunka-Sai festival in over 3 years. For many of our students, it was their first school festival. Sadly, for our third-year students, it was their only Bunka-Sai as Ichikashi students because of COVID-19. Nevertheless, the students were given time to plan and prepare for this event. Most classes were painting set pieces, trying on costumes for their theme cafes, and one class most notably was crafting push carts for their "Toy Story" ride. Some students even went as far to catch the last bus just so they could decorate their classrooms. During the days leading up to the event, Deanna-sensei (the other TSCA teacher) and I began eagerly anticipating the school's Bunka-Sai. We even planned out which attractions we wanted to visit.

The event started off with a schoolwide assembly. All of the students wore their distinctive class shirts, some with creative nicknames and others with unique designs and logos. The opening ceremonies advertised the events and attractions for each class. Principal Nakamura also assured the students to have a safe and fun event. .

While the classes ran their events, the extracurricular clubs were putting on performances at the main stage. Clubs like the **Dance Club**, the **Light Music Club**, and even the **3rd-Year classes** showcased their talents. One of the highlights from these performances were when the teachers performed a **surprise dance routine** to the song "Ultra Tiger" by Radio Fish. Everyone was so surprised at how well they performed. We were all cheering as if we had just seen The Beatles on the "The Ed Sullivan Show."

One of my favorite activities was participating in the **traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony**. It was one of my goals here in Japan to experience it, so I was glad that I could do it at the comfort of my workplace.

Deanna and I even got homemade bracelets from the Arts & Crafts club. At the end of each day, the school's Brass Band closed out the event showcasing their extraordinary skills that they practice every single day.



Top: The most innovative attraction was the Toy Story Mania ride, made by the 3rd-year students. **Bottom:** The Maid Café was a common theme. The cuteness or "kawaii" aspect was present in all the class attractions.

As I reminisced after that weekend, I couldn't help to think if our schools had that type of event. I remembered that we had school rallies, dances, back-to-school nights, and Springfest back home. However, **it is hard to compare Bunka-Sai to those events**. It's the **beauty** and **charm** of Bunka-Sai that makes this asset of school culture here so fascinating. There is this sense of **camaraderie** and **unity** that makes it feel so special. Every single person is involved in some way, shape, or form. It's creating these moments for our students to remember, and it's a reminder for us staff and faculty that there is always time for fun in our ever-so-busy lives. ☘



Teach English in **Kashiwa, Japan**

The Torrance Sister City Association seeks qualified applicants for one high school English teacher in Kashiwa, Japan, the Sister City of Torrance. A minimum one-year contract runs from August 1, 2023, to July 31, 2024. The contract is renewable for a maximum three-year assignment.

Duties: Conduct and assist in a variety of English conversation classes; assist with coordinating campus visits by parents, administrators, and junior high students; and assist with extracurricular activities, which may include judging and assisting with speech contests, serving as adviser to the English Conversation Club and business trips, and coach students for college interviews. Volunteer work with KIRA (Kashiwa International Relations Association) and other city groups may also be required.

Qualifications

Applicants must:

- Live or work in Torrance
- Be fluent in written and spoken English
- Hold a Bachelor's degree plus a teaching credential or have demonstrated teaching experience
- Possess a keen interest in the Japanese language and culture
- Represent the Torrance Sister City Association and foster the goals and objectives of the English Teacher Exchange Program.

Compensation

- Annual salary of approximately 4,800,000 Japanese yen
- One-way airfare from Los Angeles to Japan
- National health insurance (deducted from monthly salary)
- Subsidized housing and transportation allowance
- Paid Japanese holidays and personal days

To Apply

Please submit your resume and cover letter by email to Lori Chong Eurich (Chair, English Teacher Selection Committee) at [lace167@hotmail.com](mailto:lance167@hotmail.com).

Also, two recent letters of recommendation from people not related to the applicant are to be sent directly to the Chair.

Deadline to apply is

April 1, 2023

Qualified applicants will be scheduled for panel interviews in May.

Questions?

Email [lace167@hotmail.com](mailto:lance167@hotmail.com)



Alex Ito



Carol Williams MacIntyre



Shinoharu Tatekawa



David Contreras



Tami Ooka

Don't Wait! Tickets available online, at the Box Office, or by calling (310) 781-7171

FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL — A 50-YEAR CELEBRATION OF THE TORRANCE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION



Celebrating 50 years of friendship with sister city, Kashiwa, Japan, the Torrance Sister City Association proudly presents an evening of music and artistry, featuring past cultural exchange students who today are highly accomplished performing artists.

Master Shinoharu Tatekawa will share Rakugo, the traditional art of Japanese comedic storytelling. The Torrance Civic Chorale will join in the celebration along with Carol Williams MacIntyre of the MacIntyre Family Singers, who have performed on stages of Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Broadway, and American Idol. Operatic vocals by David Contreras and Tami Ooka, and modern taiko drum stylings of Alex Ito, will leave a lasting resonance. Join us for this golden anniversary celebration!

Armstrong Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive, Torrance, CA 90503



TOCA

Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation



For more information or to purchase tickets, please scan code, call (310) 781-7171 or visit TorranceArts.org

Advertising Form for the Friendship Festival Program



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THE FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL

50-YEAR CELEBRATION OF TSCA

Celebrate TSCA's friendship with Torrance's Sister City, Kashiwa, in Japan, by highlighting talented past student delegates from Torrance and Kashiwa who have pursued professional careers in the performing arts.

**Saturday, February 18, 2023 at 7 pm
James R. Armstrong Theatre**

We welcome your ads in our Friendship Festival Program booklet which will be distributed to all attendees of the event.

Examples of ads:

- Congratulatory messages to TSCA or performers on this auspicious occasion
- Promotion of your business/company
- Messages of appreciation (e.g., to TSCA)

Additional Info:

- Deadline to submit ads is Saturday, December 31, 2022
- Submit camera-ready ads to: TSCAads@gmail.com

Ads will be printed in black and white

Complete and return with payment by December 31, 2022



Company/Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____
Contact Name _____
Telephone _____ Email Address _____

- | | |
|--|-------|
| <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 |

Make your check payable to TSCA

Thank you for your support!

Mail your check and this form to:

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



Torrance Sister City Association

Dear Friends of TSCA,

The 2023 Membership Drive has just begun, and we're excited about everything the upcoming year has in store! In addition to all of the exciting programs Torrance Sister City Association works to bring the community each year, 2023 will be extra special as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary. This Golden Jubilee celebrates 50 years of student exchange programs, adult leaders, English language teachers, host families, anniversary delegations and, of course, Sister City friendship.

We couldn't be more thankful for your continued support through your membership dues and donation contributions – especially through these last few years. Your contributions continue to help offset annual operational costs, allowing our fundraising efforts to focus on continuing our mission of promoting friendship, goodwill, and understanding through people-to-people connections.

Thank you for being a part of our 50-year story, and we hope that TSCA has played an integral part of your story as well.

Thank you, again, for your continued support and consideration.

Best regards,
Alyssa Yamauchi
TSCA Membership Chair

Our 2023 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE has begun!

There are several membership levels available,
and two convenient payment options:



Pay by MAIL:
Complete the form below,
and mail with your check.



Pay ONLINE:

Check out with **PayPal**

Scan the QR code
or visit

www.torrancesistercity.org



Postmark deadline to be included in the printed TSCA Membership Directory is 02/15/23.

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

2023 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

Member Information

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Additional Contact Info

***TSCA Newsletters are sent to all members via email.*

Email**: _____

Phone: _____

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

EXPERIENCE JAPAN



TORRANCE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION



Torrance Sister City Association

is looking for highly motivated Torrance residents who are high-school sophomores through college freshmen, 19 years old and younger, to serve as cultural ambassadors in the Student Cultural Exchange Program. Since 1974, TSCA has sponsored hundreds of students to represent the highest qualities of American Youth in Kashiwa, Japan, our sister city, for three unforgettable weeks in July.

Download application at our website

Email: torrancesistercityinfo@gmail.com

- Promote international friendship and understanding
- Become part of a family in Kashiwa, Japan
- Visit modern Tokyo and the ancient temples of Kyoto
- Gain understanding of Japanese customs and daily life
- Experience Hiroshima
- Make lifelong friends and much, much more!

APPLICATION must be postmarked by Monday, December 19, 2022 • TorranceSisterCity.org



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THE FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL

50 YEAR CELEBRATION OF TSCA

Don't miss this evening of music and artistry with our friends from Kashiwa at the James R. Armstrong Theatre

Saturday, February 18, 2023

Purchase tickets for \$25-35 at the Armstrong Theatre box office or online at <https://bit.ly/2JBXMpf>.



Torrance Sister City Association

3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503