

Tenth Anniversary Celebration



Torrance and Kashiwa: A Tale of Two Sister Cities 10 Years of Friendship





Mayors Shin Suzuki and James Armstrong met the Torrance High Flag Squad at 10th anniversary observances.



As a climax to the 10th anniversary banquet, most of the audience joined in dancing the Kashiwa Odori, wearing "happy coats" which were gifts of the visitors.



The two mayors exchanged gifts at the city's 10th anniversary banquet at the Holiday Inn.

10 Years of Friendship: Torrance and Kashiwa

A Story of The Two Sister Cities

*Compiled by Dr. Thomas Rische, PhD
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Torrance and its adopted sister city, Kashiwa, Japan, have reached across the ocean each year for the past ten years, exchanging students, delegations, ideas, and assorted bits of their native cultures.

Although the Sister City program draws enthusiastic acclaim from participants, it is not as well-known to many residents. The Kashiwa alliance represents Torrance's third—and, by general agreement, most successful—attempt to respond to President Eisenhower's 1956 call for "people to people" contacts among ordinary citizens as well as diplomats. Torrance's first sister city was Konya, Turkey, but a government change ended the relationship; a similar fate met a connection Guatemala City. In 1971, then-Mayors Ken Miller of Torrance and Ryotaro Yamazawa of Kashiwa met at a mayors' conference in Honolulu and, after two years of negotiations, signed a mutual "adoption" agreement in 1973. (About 169 Japanese-American affiliations exist now, 52 of them in California.)

Since then, the program has grown, with annual exchange visits between students from both cities (with more than 150 selected to date). There also have been official and unofficial visits of officials, businessmen, and visitors. Current Mayors Shin Suzuki of Kashiwa and James R. Armstrong of Torrance have led local exchange delegations, and the cities have exchanged art work, gifts, displays, products, and cultural arts performers. (Torrance's Civic Center has a "friendship grove" of trees from Kashiwa, which also has offered to help plan a proposed Japanese garden on the site.) Sister school programs have also been set up at several local schools, with art and pen pal exchanges between youngsters. Five Torrance teachers, Dan Fichtner, Jean Biles, Roy Cencirulo, John Hetman, and Jim Radmoski have instructed in Kashiwa schools on an annual basis, and two more were selected in 1984.

A major highlight and fund raiser for the Torrance association is the annual Bunka Sai Festival each April, featuring demonstrations of Japanese music, dancing, and arts such as flower arranging, doll-making, calligraphy, and bonsai. Several thousand people annually attend to sample Japanese foods and to see the demonstrations and displays.

Originally sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, the Sister City Association now is autonomous, directed by a 15-member volunteer board which cooperates with city, schools, Lions Clubs, Chamber of Commerce, and in-

Torrance-Kashiwa



The first chairmen of the respective sister city associations, Kazanari Takahashi, Kashiwa, and Brian Bell, Torrance, both ran in Japan's National Athletic festival in 1973.



A 1982 delegation, led by Mayor James Armstrong, visited Kashiwa as part of the observance of the 10th anniversary of the affiliation.

Sister Cities For 10 Years



The late Ben Haggott and his wife, Mikko, were active throughout the early years of the association. She is currently the president.

terested local citizens. Over the past several years, the Torrance-Kashiwa program has won several awards from Sister Cities International for outstanding exchange projects. The most recent award was made last July.

A primary coordinator and current president of the association is Mikko Haggott, Japanese-born widow of Ben Haggott, local developer. She has travelled back and forth across the ocean many times, coordinating Sister City activities, usually at her own expense. Born shortly before World War II, she recalls her home being destroyed by fires caused by American bombs. She also remembers the fear Japanese felt when U.S. occupation armies arrived: "We sharpened bamboo sticks, to defend ourselves against the Americans whom our propaganda said were coming to rape and murder us. We were pleased to find most Americans nice, and discovered they too had heard similar frightening tales about us." Her late husband noted, "World understanding is more than her hobby. It's her passion!" Mrs. Haggott has also served as coordinator for cultural projects at UCLA and USC and is recognized for her art projects. For the 1984 Olympics, she will be a translator for some Japanese teams, a task she has previously performed.

Why do non-Japanese people get involved with the sister city activities? Mrs. Janice Williams, an ex-president, became involved after her son, Ron, was selected for the 1975 exchange. Said she, "I was impressed by what he said about the experience, about meeting people and learning that, although their customs are different, people are people most everywhere. I like the association too because of the chance to work with young people on a meaningful basis—and that's all too rare today."

Several exchange students from both sides of the ocean have returned to study abroad. Ray Moser, a member of the first exchange delegation in 1974, returned to study, married, and is teaching. Mark Richardson, a 1976 visitor, now is teaching English in Japan and took a Japanese bride.

Several other Torrance students have returned to visit; others have taken Japanese language classes in college. A number of the Kashiwa students have come to Torrance for study at El Camino College or pleasure.

Mrs. Irene Harter, immediate past president of the group and the 1979 chaperone for the exchange program, recently became an English teacher at a Japanese-language elementary school in Hermosa Beach. Under her two-year term, support for the program grew considerably.

Current officers of the group include Mrs. Haggott, president; Dr. Amy Coury, vice president; Dr. Tom Rische, secretary, and Mrs. Fuzzie Ishikawa, treasurer.



Official signing of papers affilating Torrance and Kashiwa took place in 1973. Shown are Fukugiro Watanabe, chief of the Kashiwa secretary section, along with then-Mayors Ryotaro Yamazawa and Ken Miller.

Some Highlights of Torrance-Kashiwa 'Sisterhood'

1971

Torrance Mayor Ken Miller and Kashiwa Mayor Ryotaro Yamazawa meet at a mayors' conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, and discuss the possibilities of a sister-city relationship.

Torrance businessman Jack Eardley and his family visit Kashiwa, conferring with Sanjo Watanabe and representatives of the Kashiwa Lions Club about the possible affiliation. He reports favorably to the City Council and Chamber of Commerce. A Chamber committee, headed by Brian J. Bell recommends making Kashiwa Torrance's sister city. Other members of the committee include J. Walker Owens, Tom Rupert, Naomi McVey, Harry Van Bellehem, Jack Eardley, and Doris Harris.

In October, a Kashiwa city delegation visits Torrance. The Torrance City Council passes a resolution authorizing Mayor Miller to extend an invitation to Kashiwa to become Torrance's "sister."

1972

Shuichi Ushida, director of the Kashiwa mayor's staff, is named Sister City liaison for Kashiwa.

After a visit by Torrance Lions Club President Joe Banando, the Torrance and Kashiwa Lions Clubs become "sisters." A Kashiwa Lions delegation visits Torrance and donates books to the Torrance Library.



A 1973 Kashiwa banquet joined the respective Sister City Chairmen, Kazanari Takahashi and Brian Bell, shown with an interpreter and Mayor Ken Miller.

1973

Mayor Yamazawa and a five-man delegation from Kashiwa arrive to sign the affiliation papers. He is accompanied by Mr. Ushida, Kashiwa City Council Chairman S. Suzuki, Mr. F. Watanabe, Mr. F. Kaneko, and Mr. Hoshu.

On Feb. 20, the affiliation papers are signed, making Torrance and Kashiwa officially sister cities. This date is celebrated as the birthday of the organization, known locally as Kashiwa Day.

A Bunka Sai festival is held in June to raise funds for the organization and the October visit of Mayor Miller, Sister City Chairman Bell, and a seven-member delegation to Kashiwa. In November, a 10-man Kashiwa delegation of city councilmen and officials returns the visit, bringing displays of various Japanese arts and crafts. The first children's art work exchange takes place.

1974

The first Kashiwa Day celebration, commemorating the anniversary of the signing of the charter, is held at Torrance Library, the first of what was to become an annual observance.

A Kashiwa citizen, Miss Kasai, performs the tea ceremony for the Bunka Sai, attends El Camino College, and spends a year in Torrance. She donates 200 hours to Torrance Memorial Hospital.

The second Bunka Sai festival presents displays of various Japanese arts, crafts, and performances; it is also a fund raiser for various Sister City activities including the student exchange. (The festival will be observed in November for a couple of years, then switch to the spring date now used.)

Five students spend three weeks in Kashiwa as part of the first exchange program, led by Mrs. Lucille LeMieux. Six Kashiwa students, led by the Rev. Tayoo Watanabe, return the visit. (The visits have continued until the present time, with varying numbers of delegates from both sides.)

A pen pal program between Torrance and Kashiwa students is begun.

In November, an art show is sent to Kashiwa, in cooperation with the Torrance Library and Fine Arts Commission.

1975

The second exchange takes place, with eight Torrance and seven Kashiwa students travelling across the ocean.

1976

A 100-man delegation, headed by Yoshio Uehara, arrives for a visit from Kashiwa. In special ceremonies, a Kashiwa oak is planted at the civic center, as part of a proposed "friendship grove." Their visit notes the third anniversary of the affiliation and the American Bicentennial. (In years to come, many such delegations will visit Torrance; local groups also will go to Kashiwa.)

The third student exchange brings 10 Kashiwa students to Torrance and seven Torrance youth to Japan.

The Sister City Association, having previously operated under the Chamber of Commerce, becomes an independent entity.

1977

The Torrance Sister City Association becomes a tax-deductible, non-profit organization and assumes a new structure. News areas of program are explored.

In January, Kazuijo Taguchi, a nurse, comes from Kashiwa in a technical exchange, working at Torrance Memorial Hospital and other hospitals.

Kashiwa presents a "product show" and Torrance provides materials for a Torrance booth in a Kashiwa department store.

Kashiwa sends 50 photos of Kashiwa, past and present, which are displayed in the Torrance Library. On Kashiwa Day, Feb. 20, movies are shown about Kashiwa, and exchange students talk about their experiences in Japan.

Eight Japanese elementary students come with three teachers to visit Perry and Magruder Schools.



Irene Harter, former association president, posed with men in traditional costumes during her visit as chaperone.



1980 Cultural Exchange Instructor Yoshikazu Katioka introduced Arlington Elementary students to Japanese dance.

A seven-person Torrance delegation visits Kashiwa in April, taking California poppy seeds to schools, a perpetual award trophy for the dedication of a new sports gymnasium, and a number of pictorial books about California and the United States.

The association cooperates with local business to prepare material for a week celebration with a Japanese theme at a local savings and loan firm.

Seven students each from Torrance and Kashiwa exchange visits.

Sister City Week observances are held for school children of both cities. Kashiwa sends 100 pieces of children's art which is displayed at Joslyn Center and later becomes a travelling exhibit. Mikko Haggott lectures on art and makes as TV movie for the district station.

A Christmas card exchange is set up with 50 cards sent to Kashiwa.

1978

In honor of the fifth anniversary of the affiliation, a 45-member Kashiwa cultural delegation comes to hold a two-day workshop at Joslyn Center. They demonstrate dances, calligraphy, art, flower arranging, origami, poetry, and various other Japanese specialties.

The Torrance-Kashiwa program receives the best single project award from the Sister Cities International Assn. meeting in St. Louis, Mo. The award is for the best cultural program among cities of its class.

The Torrance Association receives an award from the Torrance Fine Arts Commission for its contributions to the city's culture through the Bunka Sai festival.

A travelling program of cultural demonstrations for school children is inaugurated in Torrance.

A seven-member delegation of teachers comes in November to visit local schools and talk with Torrance educators. (This will become an annual event. Half the cost is borne by the city of Kashiwa and half by the individuals.)

1979

The association receives a grant from the Toyota Motor Corp. to provide an artist-in-residence and to choose a journalist to publicize the program and inform local citizens about Kashiwa.

Dan Fichtner becomes the first Torrance teacher chosen to teach in Kashiwa schools for a year. He arrives in February and spends 1½ years there. Jean Biles becomes the second Torrance teacher, arriving in September, staying one year.

The Sister City International Global Education workshop is held at the Joslyn Center of the Arts.

Eight Torrance and Kashiwa students exchange summer visits. Torrance students are accompanied by Chaperone Irene Harter and Dr. Tom Rische, journalist chosen with Toyota funds. A detailed report of the sister city program will be published in Torrance magazine as a result.

The overall Torrance-Kashiwa program wins its second award at the Sister Cities International convention in Louisville, Ky., for having the best single project among cities in the 100,000 to 300,000 category.



Torrance President Mikko Haggott joined Yoshikazu Katioka and Kashiwa elementary school children during a play day there.

The school-to-school affiliation program is begun, as Adams School becomes a sister school of Asahi School in Kashiwa and Carl Steele School affiliates with Kashiwa School No. 1.

1980

To celebrate the seventh anniversary, a 24-member Kashiwa Chamber of Commerce group visits Torrance in February.

John Hetman, who will spend three years, and Roy Cencirulo, who will stay two years go to Kashiwa under the exchange teacher program.

Yoshikazu Katioka, Kashiwa city councilman and former Sister City chairman, comes to Torrance for two months under the artist-in-residence program. His specialty is folk dancing, which he teaches to local school children. He also participates in local demonstrations.

All third and fourth graders in Torrance are bussed to Joslyn Center for a two-week celebration of Japanese culture. A mini-museum demonstrates Japanese music, dance, arts, food, living, and life styles.

Special evening demonstrations of arts and martial arts are presented by Mr. Katioka and various artists.

The National Recreation and Park Association gives Mikko Haggott an award for "cross-cultural" volunteer services.

The Torrance-Kashiwa association receives another award from Sister Cities International— this time for achievements in global education. At ceremonies in San Diego, Mayor Shin Suzuki and a Kashiwa group come to accept the award; so does Torrance's Mayor Jim Armstrong. The Japanese group also spends some time visiting Torrance.



President Lynn Bramhall and Tom Rische help to introduce a visiting delegation from Kashiwa to life in an American home.



Mayor James Armstrong (center) and Mayor Shin Suzuki were pleased to receive a Sister Cities International Award for their joint activities. At the right is Ken Rhodes, of the Readers' Digest Foundation.

1981

Arlington Elementary School becomes a sister school of Sakaine School in Kashiwa.

Several Kashiwa councilmen visit Torrance at the same time as the student exchange visit (and all get a ride in the Goodyear Blimp).

1982

Mayor James Armstrong, City Councilman Donald Wilson, and a 20-member delegation visit Kashiwa as part of the 10th anniversary celebration of the affiliation. (The Japanese celebrate the anniversary at the beginning of the 10th year, rather than at the end, as Americans do.)

In honor of the 10th anniversary, larger student delegations take part in the summer exchange— 10 from Torrance and 15 from Kashiwa.

James Radomski goes to Kashiwa as an exchange teacher from Torrance.



Japan's famed Shinkansen (bullet train) was enjoyed by a 1982 Torrance delegation to Kashiwa.

1983

In honor of Torrance's 10th anniversary in February, Mayor Suzuki and 50 delegates from Kashiwa attend the celebration. A banquet honoring the occasion at the Holiday Inn draws a crowd of about 250.

Another award is given the local program by Sister Cities International at its convention in Phoenix, Ariz. This is for the best overall program among cities in the 100,000-300,000 class.

The Torrance Sister City program gets an award from the Torrance Recreation Department for all the work of its volunteers.

The West High School basketball team, led by Coach Dan McGee, makes plans to visit Kashiwa in June, 1984, staying with local families and competing with Japanese teams.

Teachers Virginia Loy Good and Michael Swantko are selected to go to Kashiwa.

Teacher Recalls "Internationalization"

(An interesting and unique part of the Kashiwa-Torrance relationship is Torrance's sending teachers to teach in Kashiwa schools— while a delegation of Kashiwa teachers makes a yearly visit each November. Dan Fichtner was a Torrance teacher in Kashiwa. He spent two years there, and here are some of his recollections.)

In March, 1979, I first came to Kashiwa, to the Kashiwa Municipal Senior High School.

As school started, I was introduced to the Japanese school system: uniforms, schedules, clubs, etc. Many things were different. In America, public school students don't wear uniforms, and students go to different classrooms throughout the day. In Japan, the teachers change classrooms, not the students.

The school's setting, out in the country, really impressed me very much. There is so much room for sports and other activities.

It took me a while to appreciate the Japanese way of thinking. There are definite differences in the lifestyles of the two countries, and I wanted to experience more. The very close teacher-student relationship is most remarkable. Of course, there are many close teacher-student relationships in America too, but not to the extent as in Japan.

Students spend much more time on campus and are thus influenced more by the teachers who are also on campus much longer than their American counterparts, sometimes 12 to 14 hours in one day.

The size of Kashiwa is just right, not too large and not too small. When I first came to Kashiwa, I felt a growing city, with much energy in its people and organizations: The Sister City organization, the Lions Club, Rotary Club, Y's Men's Club, the Komikan, Bunkakaikan, etc. The people involved in these organization are extremely dedicated to their projects and are active in the "internationalization process" of the citizens of Kashiwa. They are becoming more aware of the world and Japan's place within it through their people-to-people projects.

Kashiwa city is also very busy protecting its citizens from too much urbanization. The "green campaign" is saving much land for use as parks and places where people can enjoy the cool green of grass and trees.

On Jan. 15, 1980, I was honored to speak at the Kashiwa Adult Day Ceremony. That was a great thrill for me. I was able to share some of my ideas on life. One was that we should never stop learning. Another was that we should retain some of our child-like qualities, even as we grow older. This will keep us from becoming truly old.

I also was lucky to start teaching adult classes at the Central Komankan. It was my first experience in Adult Educations. My students and I have developed a very close relationship, one that time and space will not alter. They have grown from very timid speakers, to students who aren't afraid to make mistakes. This is very important.

EXCHANGE TEACHERS

Dan Fichtner	.....	1979-80
Jean Biles	.....	1979-80
John Hetman	.....	1980-83
Roy Cencirulo	.....	1980-82
Jim Radmoski	.....	1982-84
Virginia Loy Good	.....	1984-
Michael Swantko	.....	1984-



Dan Fichtner is one of seven representatives from Torrance who have been exchange teachers in Kashiwa schools.

In September, 1979, I started work in the teacher consultant section of the Kashiwa Board of Education. I made many visits to the different junior high schools. I was able to see how very anxious the teachers are to do their best. We I can see how contagious the teacher's energy is. It spills over into the students, who want to learn more. The students' energy fuels the teachers, and the process repeats *ad infinitum*.

English will be valuable to the students in many ways. They can use English as a tool to learn about other cultures. They must learn to listen, speak, read, and write, and then the process of "internationalization" will begin.

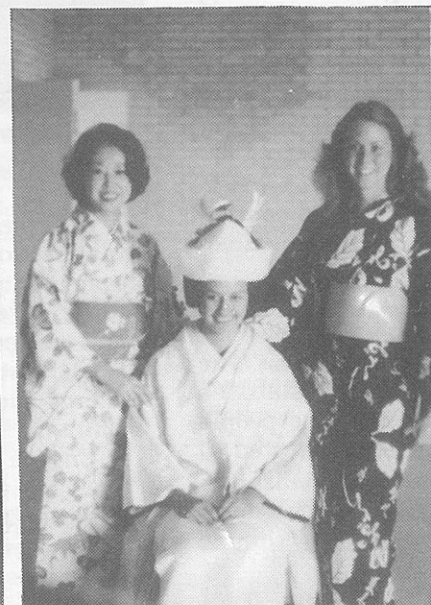
Nations must trust one another and trust cannot come about without dialog. This is best done on a person-to-person basis.

Interestingly, on my junior high visits, for some students, it was the first time that they had spoken to a foreigner in English. We had fun learning games, singing songs, telling jokes, and studying English. The freshness of their spirit and the excitement in their learning was a wonderful experience. After my first visit to a classroom, I often felt like a movie star, because many students would ask for my autograph. That was fun for a while.

I also made a visit to the pre-school at Christmas time. The little ones sang some songs and played a few games. Then I played Santa Claus and gave out presents. Each child politely said, "Arigato gozaimasta!" But was I surprised when one little four-year-old said, "Thank you very much."

Kashiwa No. 1 Elementary School and Asahi Elementary School both have sister schools in Torrance. I found the kids quite excited about having a sister school. These programs are very beneficial. There is a real value in this personal contact with another culture, starting in the early years and developing over a long period of time. There is instant coffee and instant ramen, but no such thing as an "instant friend."

'Sisters' Trade Culture



Torrance residents can experience the Japanese tea ceremony, dances, costumes, flower arranging, traditional food, and other bits of Japanese culture at at the Sister City Association's annual Bunka Sai festival and at other programs held from time to time.

through Bunka Sai, Exchanges



During his 1980 cultural instruction in Torrance, Yoshikazu Katioka (left center) appeared at Adams Elementary School, which has a Japanese sister city. At right, Adams students perform for Japanese dignitaries who made a friendship visit.

Japanese arts, crafts, martial arts, dances, and various other specialties are displayed for the Torrance public every year at the Sister City Association's Bunka Sai festival, held at the Torrance Recreation Center.

The cultural festival, in addition to commemorating Torrance's sister city affiliation, also is used to raise funds for the annual student exchange and other association projects. Drawing thousands of local residents, it has grown larger each of the 10 years it has been held.

Many other community organizations have booths at the festival; these include the Japanese Clubs at El Camino College and North High School, the Japanese American Citizens League, the American Field Service, and other groups supportive of similar ideals.

The public gets a chance to sample many traditional Japanese food specialties and view displays of such Nipponese arts and crafts as origami (paper folding), sumie (painting), haiga (water color brush painting), ikebana (flower arranging), bread flowers and tsumamie, kimekomi ningyo (dolls), chiyogami nongyo (paper dolls), and ueki (tree gardening).

In addition, there is a traditional Japanese garden setting provided by the Gardena Valley Gardeners' Association and displays of fish tanks of koi (large golden carp) by the Zen Nippon Airindai. Other programs vary from year to year.

At the same time, stage presentations include colorful, in-costume demonstrations of Japanese dancing, music, poetry, calligraphy, martial arts, and other specialties. No festival, of course, would be complete without the traditional tea ceremony.

In recent years, this important event has been held in the spring, usually in April.



During a 1980 cultural festival, elementary children journeyed to the Joslyn Arts Center where they saw (top) the furnishings of a typical Japanese house and (bottom) the workings of an abacus.

1. What are the advantages of the Sister City program?

MAYOR SUZUKI — In Japan now, we are becoming strong economically, but we Japanese are sometimes too ethnocentric. The Japanese people don't have, I think, a real understanding of democracy. As I said before, the mayor has been too much the ruler. Japanese citizens cannot talk to the City Council at meetings, as yours do. They only watch, and their councilmen (we have 40) must speak for them. We use the same word, "democracy," but it has a very different meaning.

I think that the exchange program provides, I hope, in the long run, mutual understanding among young people, who will be tomorrow's leaders. The young people can pick up ideas which they can bring back to us. A number of adults from Kashiwa have visited Torrance and they have brought back some interesting ideas. The individual benefits greatly, but I think it is basically a long-range program — for tomorrow.

MAYOR ARMSTRONG — The obvious answer is the people-to-people aspect. It's a great way of soothing relationships, especially after the war. America is, after all, a nation of immigrants. Exchanging teachers and students is good.

The student exchange is the highlight of the program, but we need an economic exchange. If a Kashiwa firm were looking for a place in this country, it would be good to have them here.

There also is talk of having a classical Japanese garden in the Civic Center complex, in the center. Kashiwa's Mayor Suzuki has said that he would find us an architect if we decide to go ahead with the plan. There already is a friendship grove of trees here.

The entire program broadens our educations, as 20th century man. We can learn much more about ourselves in the process — and that's good.



Mayor Armstrong got in the swing of things during a visit to Kashiwa.

Mayors Compare Viewpoints

The mayors of the two Sister Cities, Shin Suzuki of Kashiwa and James R. Armstrong of Torrance, both are in their second terms. Both have visited the other's city. Here, they reflect on their respective cities and backgrounds.

What is your background?

MAYOR SUZUKI — I was born in a family, in a house on the property my family has owned for 250 years. I still live there. After graduating from high school, I spent five years in the army, in China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, and Burma, in the intelligence section. I was a British prisoner of war in Malaysia for 10 months. I was injured in the war.

I was a farmer for seven years, growing wheat, potatoes, vegetables. Before Kashiwa became a city (it incorporated in 1954, including territory taken by five small villages), I was assistant manager of our village. When Kashiwa was formed, I joined the city staff and worked up, including service as wholesale market chief and head of the fire department. In the last election, I ran against the incumbent mayor and won.

Why did you want to be mayor?

MAYOR SUZUKI — I worked under three mayors for the city of Kashiwa, and I had my own ideas of how to do things. I wanted to try things my way. I think the mayor should be an administrator who does what the people want. The people are the ones who have power. The mayor should think how he can serve them. Once a month, I have a town meeting with the citizens. I want to bring the office closer to the people. Too often, the mayor is the ruler and the employees are servants. We have a 40-member city council.

MAYOR ARMSTRONG — Once I got involved in city politics, it seemed a natural progression. I want to do the best for my community. I wanted, for instance to help turn things around from a time when we were park-poor. I helped get Wilson Park for the city and I was the swing vote on securing Columbia Park.

I wanted to contribute to the environmental movement, through such things as conversion of the city fleet to clean air. I wanted to help senior citizens housing and tax exemptions. I wanted to revitalize the downtown area. I believe in the community. This is where I make my home. It's been good to me, and I want to give something back.

I'm an optimist, about people and society. These are rough times, an aberration perhaps, but we can win on conservation and other matters. City government in California is the most dynamic in the nation. We have more power in Torrance than in the great cities of the world, over our own destinies.

2. What can Torrance and Kashiwa learn from each other?

MAYOR SUZUKI — I have been very interested, during my visit here, to see how Torrance does things. We have energy problems — and so do you. The 1973 "oil shock" hit us harder than you, because over 90 per cent of Japan's oil is imported. We have tried to think of ways to cut down, including what we call the "save-energy look" (office workers not wearing neckties and shirts in summer), but these have not been as popular as we hoped. It is difficult because much of it affects living standards. Japan has talked about having "rolling blackouts", cutting off power to certain areas at certain times of the day, during severe crises. Smaller cars have been popular longer in Japan. They fit our roads and our energy needs.

Like you, we have also had some water shortages, due to lack of rain and reservoir supplies.

MAYOR ARMSTRONG — The cities are demographically similar. We might have a joint economic exchange. We are planning to share ideas on energy conservation. Our land use problems and city-state relationships are different, but in education, energy, and economics, there might be many benefits of comparing our practices with theirs.

3. What are the advantages of sending exchange students to each others' sister city?

MAYOR SUZUKI — The individual, I think, benefits greatly. I can't really say that certain things within them happen or don't happen. It's a long-range program for tomorrow's leaders.

MAYOR ARMSTRONG — I am a native Californian, going all through schools here, including Pepperdine, UCLA, and USC. After serving in the Navy in World War II, I majored in political science and American history and hold a master's degree. I have been active in partisan politics during much of my adult life, managing assembly campaigns, serving on various committees, and serving as field representatives for congressmen.

I started teaching in 1954 at Wood Elementary School and am now at Torrance High School, teaching government. I served on the Torrance Beautiful and Planning Commissions before being elected to the Council in 1972. Re-elected in 1976, I was elected mayor in 1978. My wife, Anne, also teaches and we have two children.

about their Respective Cities



Mayor Suzuki leads fellow bicyclists along the Tone River in Kashiwa.

4. What problems do Torrance and Kashiwa share?

MAYOR SUZUKI — We both have problems of inflation, I think, although our property taxes are governed nationally. There is a local residents' tax — an income tax paid to the city. The rate is set by the federal government; everywhere, the tax rate is the same. So far, Kashiwa has been able to balance our budget.

We have a severe housing shortage for lower income people. The city has a few lower income rental housing units, but not many. (Kashiwa is a bedroom community for Tokyo, much as Torrance is for the Los Angeles area.)

Unemployment is not really a problem with us. Once, we had a program like your CETA program, but now we have no need of it. I think federal programs create more lazy people, who do not really earn their way.

MAYOR ARMSTRONG — Those I mentioned previously. An obvious similarity is our kids. We have more competition for their time and interests. They assigned less value to rah-rah activities. The kids reflect the political attitudes of their homes. I like to have, as a teacher, kids choose candidates to work for. In my government class, it's a requirement. They can get involved in a campaign they choose — except my own.

5. What are the most difficult problems your city faces?

MAYOR SUZUKI — Energy, water shortages, inflation, taxes, housing, traffic, building schools and facilities for our growing population. We may have 350,000 people in five years. (They now have about 230,000.) Our priorities go to schools and welfare facilities.

Schools are under the city government; I appoint the superintendent and the school board. I understand Torrance is closing schools; we add two elementary and one middle school yearly. Our land is expensive, yearly we buy about \$18 million of land each year. (4 billion yen).

MAYOR ARMSTRONG — The energy crises and environmental concerns are all related. Inflation, of course. Housing shortages: there's not enough housing to keep young people here — or it's too expensive. Refuse disposal. After December, 1980, we're going to have to find a viable alternative for our trash. Our tax rate is not so big. Our city rate is one of the lowest in the country.

With us in Torrance, Proposition 13 is not so big a problem as in some cities. We are shifting toward a user-free mode, charging, for instance, for entrance to teenage musicals here, for the first time. Because of less money, there may be time delays in providing additional public works and capital expenditures. When cuts must be made, there are, of course, disagreements on how and what to cut.

6. What are your impressions of Torrance and this area?

I must report what I saw, which I hope is not inaccurate.

I am struck by your traffic. There are many cars, but the roads are wide and the drivers' manners are good. Kashiwa is an old city, and once our major transportation was the ricksha. We didn't need wide streets then. Now, to widen the streets would take people from their homes and cost a great deal.

Here, I am surprised by the number of battered and not-so-well-kept cars. In Japan, we try to keep our cars like new. We fix scratches and dents and we seem to have stiffer safety regulations. Every year we go through extensive safety checks. Driving is expensive, and only about a quarter of the people have cars. (Bicycles are commonly used for short distances; trains for distance.)

Driver training programs in high school are unknown in Japan. It might be worth thinking about, because it costs so much money privately. (Drivers take expensive private lessons in Japan.)

From what I saw our housing seems to emphasize the exterior more. Your housing is not as impressive as ours, I think, with our sturdy tile roofs, which are needed because of the rain and storms. Your roofs look so light, as if they might blow away in a strong wind. Your interiors, however, are much more impressive than Japanese homes. In my country, the exteriors are well-kept, to impress others.

In schools, our students clean the classes; it is a tradition. I understand you do not have this tradition. Our high school students buy their books; yours do not. Education with us is compulsory only to the junior high.

I visited the South Coast Botanic gardens, built, I understand, on a dump. I noticed the smell and saw the garbage in piles. I wondered if there were many complaints or whether pollution seeped out to harm human health.

I enjoyed my stay in Torrance and gained many new ideas to think about when I return to my home. My impression is that some of the materials that are used to teach about Japan in the U.S. are outdated. There is too much emphasis on geishas and individual farmers plowing their fields. Japan is a very modern country.



Students Fondly Recall Kashiwa Days

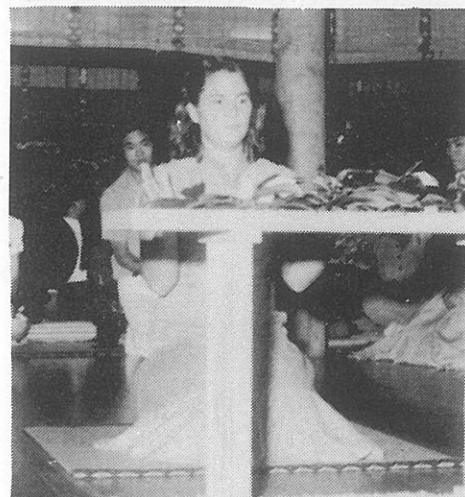
By Joanne Harada
1980 Torrance Exchange Student

Before my trip to Japan, I had studied the lifestyles and customs of that country for about two years. But I have since learned that, in fact, one picture is worth a thousand words. In this case, I learned more in the three weeks I spent in Japan than in all the previous time studying about it. In Japan, I received first-hand experience; in school, my learning was always second-hand. Obviously, the impressions I received are quite different. The following are impressions I received as the result of my trip:

The People. In school, I had learned that the Japanese are a very homogeneous people. In Japan, I learned this is both true and false. Japanese people are as alike and as different as Americans are. In group situations, such as on the trains, the Japanese are very homogeneous. They are very patient and treat each other as they expect they will be treated by the others. In group situations, they are very cooperative, and I believe this to be the secret of success in that very crowded country.

In individual and small-group situations, the Japanese are very individual. They are not afraid or shy to let their true personalities show. I think this is the reason I never felt my time in Japan was wasted.

The Japanese I came in contact with are all very eager to learn about a culture different than theirs—the American culture. I strongly admire this eagerness to learn, because I too feel it important to learn and understand another culture.



Kris Peitzman and 1980 students visited a Buddhist temple.



1981 students Tom Peitzman and Rob Barrett joined Kashiwa festival activities.

The hospitality shown me is also an admirable point of the Japanese. Every day, everyone did as much as he or she could to make me feel at home, and this alone made me feel very comfortable.

The Culture. I am deeply impressed by Japan's long history and even more impressed by the influence its history has had on the present-day country, even after the crucial test of many centuries. If I had to single out the one most impressive point about the Japanese, it would be the culture. America is young by comparison, so when I saw the temples, shrines, and arts of Japan, my interest was heightened, especially in Kyoto, with its many historical sights.

The Land. I had heard many stories about Japan being polluted and full of crowded cities, but seeing it left a different impression. The Japan I saw, namely in the Kanto and Kansai areas, are highly urbanized, but I was very surprised to see that, close to these urban areas were also rural areas with rice fields and woods. I was happy to see such different plots surviving together in harmony.

When I first learned that the main form of transportation in Japan is the train, I immediately wonder why cars would not be the best means of getting around, regardless of other factors. I have since learned otherwise, because of

the small size of Japan and its large population. I also realized that Los Angeles' traffic system would not at all be suitable there. I now wish that Los Angeles would adopt Japan's train system.

The Food. Because two of my favorite foods are ebi and maguro sashimi, I really enjoyed eating in Japan. These foods are expensive in Torrance, so I was surprised when I ate them almost every day there. I also was happy to find that whenever I missed American food, I could find a McDonald's nearby. In Japan, I tried mugicha for the first time, and I enjoyed it so much that I brought home a package, only to discover it available here in supermarkets! Although we have many Japanese foods in Torrance, I discovered many new ones in Japan I wish we had too.

The Schools. In Kashiwa, I visited two elementary schools, one junior high, and one senior high. At each, I was really impressed to see such a homogenous group of students, each seemingly so eager to learn and get along with fellow students. I feel this early behavior has an important influence on adult life. Torrance students are not so homogeneous and not so eager to learn. I feel this is a major problem.

In conclusion, my trip to Japan and Kashiwa left a very favorable impression on me. The trip was too short. I was just beginning to really understand. I probably will always see Japan with an American viewpoint, but I hope I can some day return there for longer, to gain a more Japanese viewpoint. As I am majoring in Japanese in college, I will have many more second-hand experiences. When I once more experience it first-hand, I hope to have a much deeper and wider understanding and to be able to communicate fluently.



Horsoeplay knows no national boundaries, as these 1976 students show.



1979 students visited a Japanese deer park.



The 1981 delegation was royally welcomed to Kashiwa.

By Keith Glassman
1976 Torrance Exchange Student

I gained several lasting ideas about Japan on my trip. One is that it has an amazing ability to adapt world technology to meet its own individual needs. In adapting, the technology is often changed and refined to make Japan a world economic power.

When compared to other world countries, Japan has only a fraction of the problems they do.

Why? Japan is a homogenous nation. They have had a long time to develop their culture and traditions. Getting along is Japan's greatest virtue, and it shows in all aspects of living. In other words, cooperation is the key to Japan's success.

Japan depends on group-reliance and interdependence, while America stresses self-reliance and independence. I wonder why we aren't more group-dependent than we are.

Both countries believe everyone should have a basic education, but in Japan, more kids are held responsible for learning a lot more at a comparatively younger age. America stresses education for all, but we underestimate the capabilities of many kids.

There are many similarities and differences between the countries, but Western-style houses, food, toilets, and music are abundant in Japan now. They still take off their shoes when entering a household and sleep on futons (Japanese-style beds which are laid out on straw tatami mats.)

The most valuable part of the Sister City activities for me was staying with the host families. Sharing experiences with people is the greatest ways to learn. Having to speak a common language (either English or Japanese) offers greater insight into your own culture and country. Now that I've been exposed to Japanese culture and language, I've gained a peripheral perspective about the world in general. If we make sincere efforts to understand each other in this generation, and pass on our knowledge to future generations, then we will, ideally, achieve world peace.

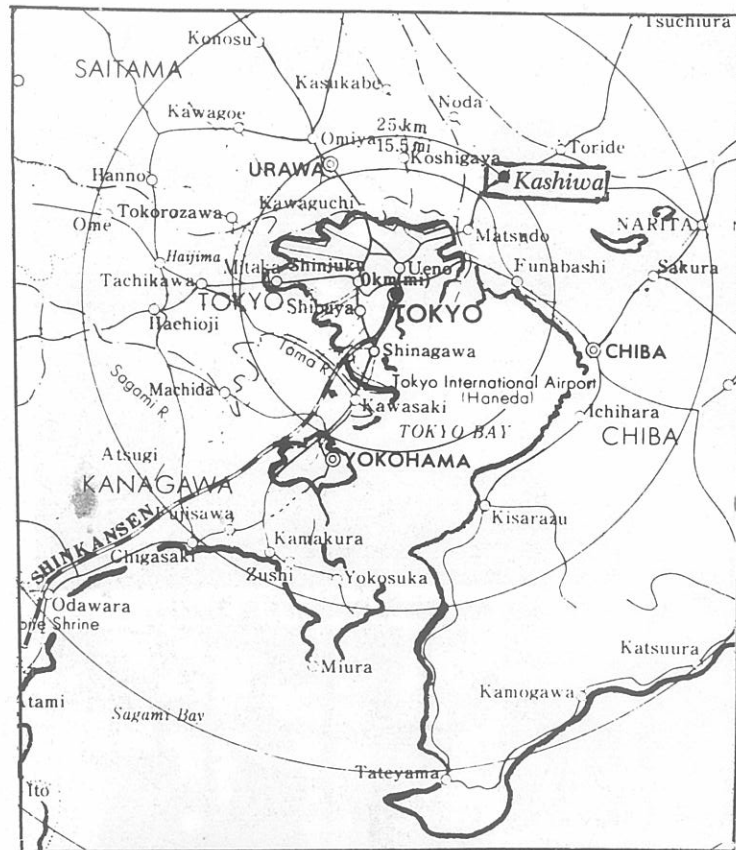


Tom Rische, Greg Strawn, and other 1979 delegation members rode aboard Kashiwa festival floats.



1983 Chaperone Lynn Cauble is surrounded by costumed hosts at a Kashiwa elementary school.

Kashiwa: 8640 Miles Away, but Similar in Many Ways



This map shows Kashiwa, 17 miles northeast of Tokyo.

Although Kashiwa's population and area are larger than Torrance's— and are separated by 8642 miles— the two cities have much in common. Both cities originally consisted originally mostly of farmland and they now take great pride in their industries, businesses, and homes. Both are commuter suburbs of larger nearby metropolises.

Kashiwa was incorporated as a city in 1954, enclosing 40,000 citizens in an area which used to include five villages. Today it has more than a quarter million people living within its 28 square miles. About 40 per cent of its land still is farmed and about 17 per cent consists of woods and marshes.

Many of its residents travel daily to Tokyo, about 17 miles away by rail. The famed subway, crowded as it is at rush hour, is the major transportation link for the city. Only about 1 in 4 Japanese families own a car, and many adults never learn to drive. Roads are crowded, and many streets are narrow, following the routes of long-ago paths. Safety is a major concern.

Many residents make their living by growing such crops as turnips, onions, spinach, oriental garlic, cucumbers, rice, and radishes. There also are a number of large industries, including Nikka Whiskey, Hitachi Electric, Sumitomo Light Metals, Ichikawa Woolens, and Mitauya Soft Drinks. The city also has a number of industrial parks for smaller firms.

Kashiwa has natural beauty in lakes, rivers, woodlands, and a continuing agricultural green belt. Environmental control is a major concern, and special squads of citizens clean up litter as part of a "furasato-clean" campaign. Much attention is given to air and noise pollution, the latter a particular problem as Japanese homes tend to be closer together

In Kashiwa, parking garages serve bicycles, not automobiles.



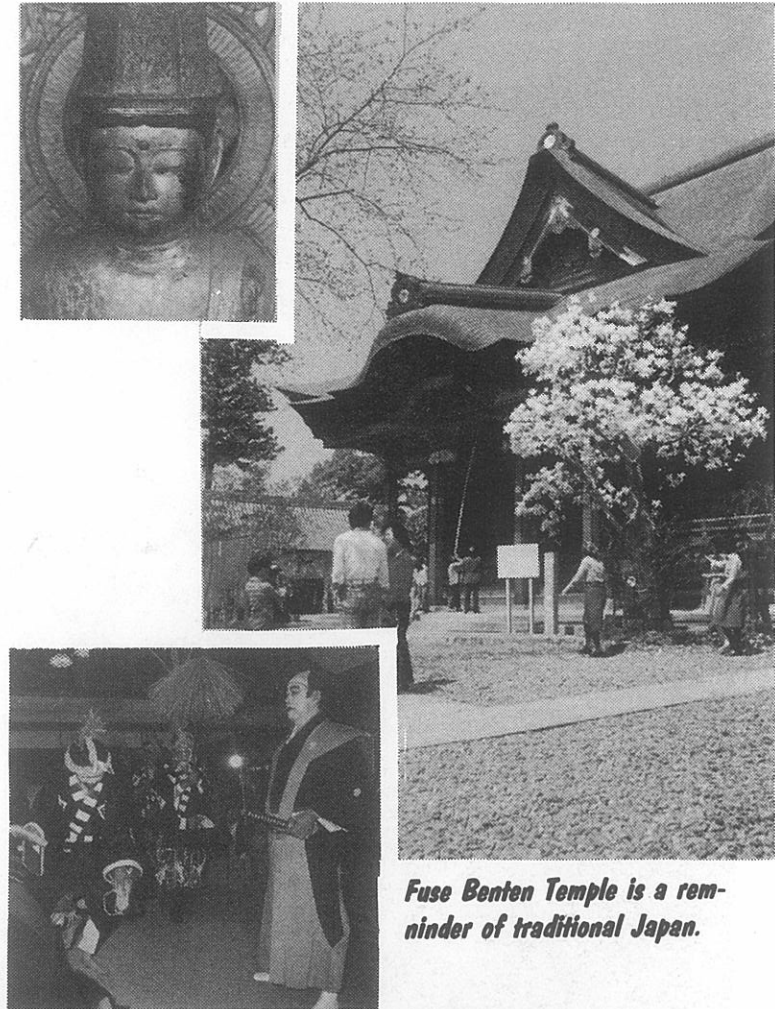
and closer to the streets than their American counterparts.

The city also serves as a commercial shopping center for nearly a million people in western Chiba prefecture (the Japanese equivalent of an American state). The 13-story Sogo Department Store towers over the downtown area, and contains as much area under one roof as many American shopping centers. Other large stores also serve downtown Kashiwa; The custom is that shoppers are met by smiling and bowing greeters at the entrances.

The school population has grown rapidly, along with the town, and education is highly stressed. The Japanese have the smallest high school dropout rate of any major country. Many Kashiwa high schools are private, and students may commute as far away as Tokyo daily. English is a required subject, and curiosity about things American is widespread. American music is very popular among the young, as are t-shirts with American rock stars, college emblems, or slogans on them. Like Americans, some teachers are beginning to complain that some youth are not as studious as they were a few years ago.

The city has several combined library-community center facilities, as well as special facilities for senior citizens and the handicapped. (For instance, beeping traffic signals at major intersections enable the blind to "hear" when street crossing is safe.) The city provides most services that their American cousins would offer, and the school and health systems are under civic control as well. Several parks and swimming pools, as well as a municipal gymnasium provide recreational outlets for citizens of all ages. The Japanese are very health and sports conscious (although smoking is much more prevalent than in the US).

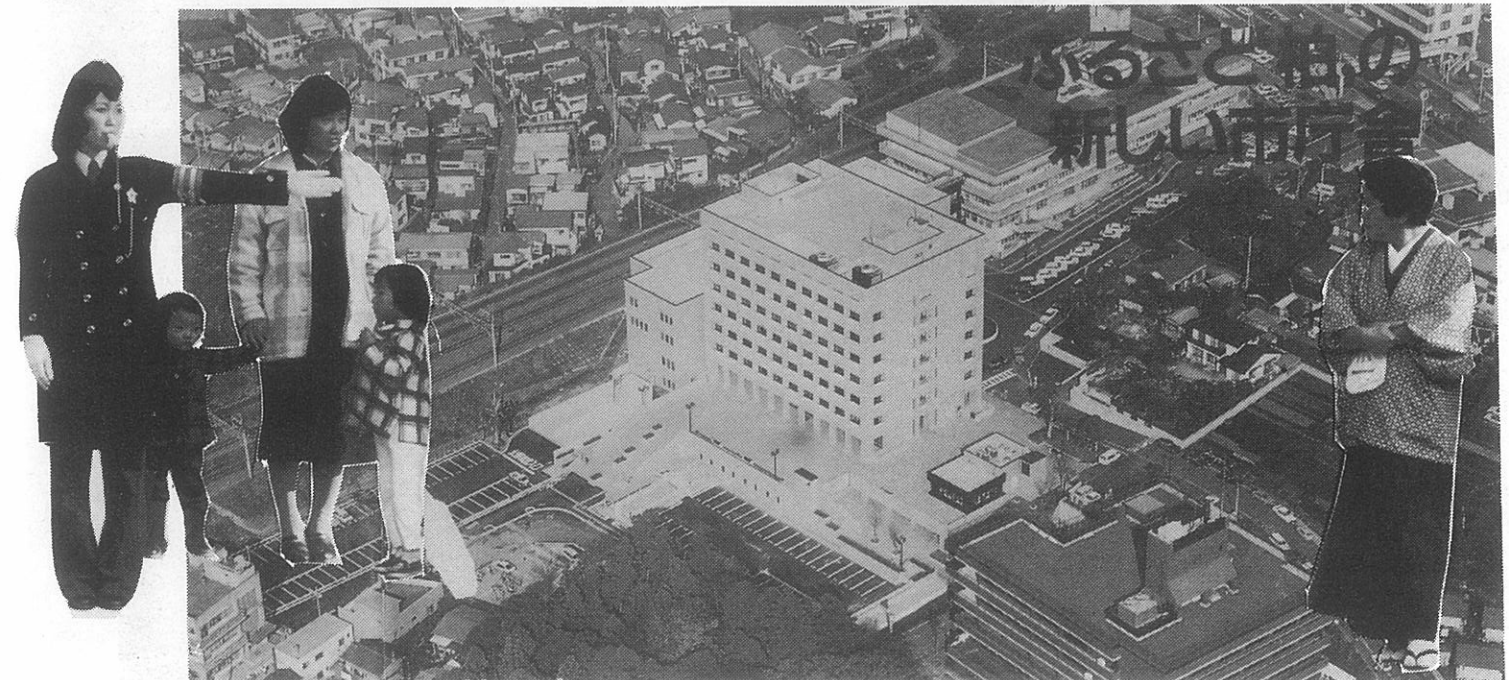
The city is governed by an elected mayor and 40 city councilmen, who meet only quarterly however, more in the style of American state legislatures than of most city councils.



Fuse Benten Temple is a reminder of traditional Japan.



The 13-story Sogo Department Store dominates a newly-developed downtown plaza with a subway underneath.



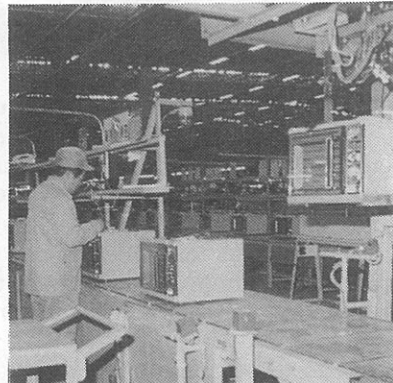
A new addition to the Kashiwa City Hall opened just recently. The old city hall is shown in the background.



Cleanliness is important in a crowded country.



High rise apartments are very common in Kashiwa.



Kashiwa has many industries; shown here is one of the major ones, the Hitachi Corp.



Kashiwa's downtown center.



The produce market is one of Kashiwa's major businesses, distributing crops grown in the area.



Kashiwa's city symbol.



Nearly a third of Kashiwa's land still is for farming.

Kashiwa Has Many Varied Aspects



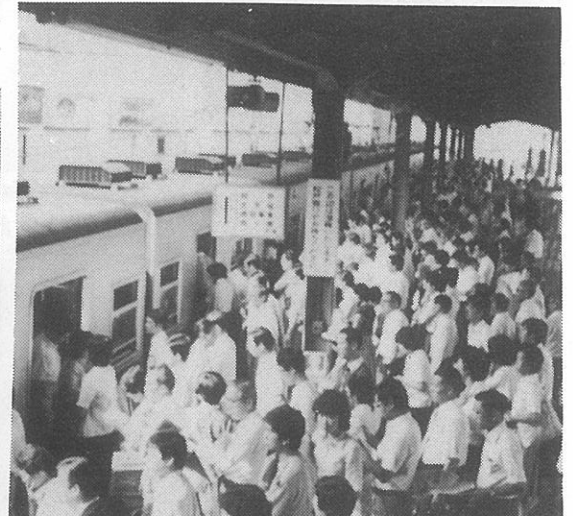
The huge Sogo Department store has a rooftop park



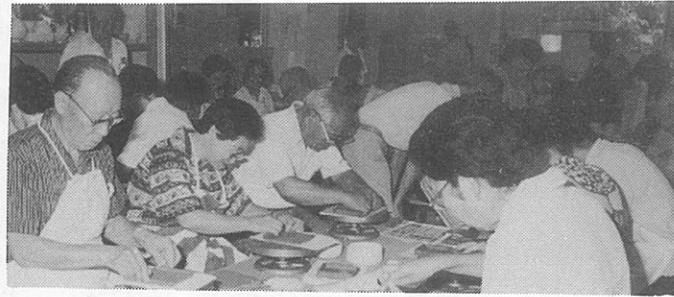
Shoppers enjoy an enclosed shopping mall



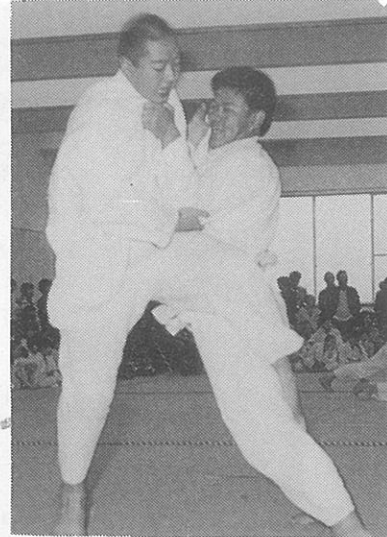
The city's streets are filled with costumed dancers doing the Kashiwa Odori during the annual Kashiwa Festival.



Crowds throng the railroad station at rush hour for the 17-mile journey to Tokyo.



Kashiwa has many recreational programs for its citizens.



Martial arts are ever-popular.



Watch the youngsters grow!



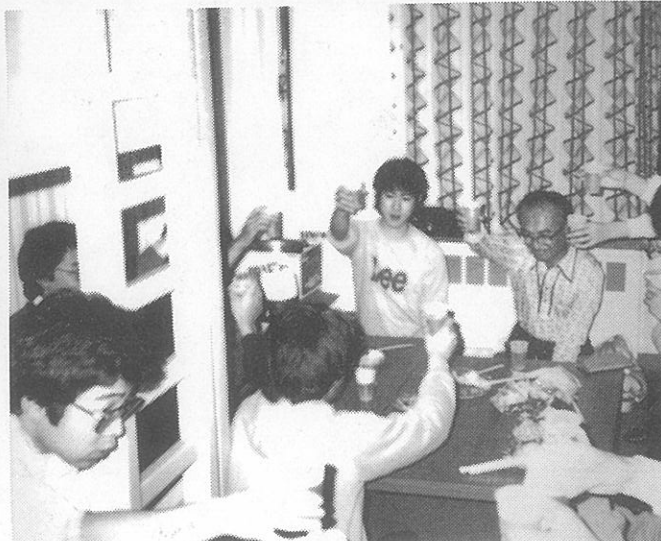
Youngsters' health, education, and safety are important to Kashiwa.



Earthquakes are an ever-present threat, so shaking machines condition children and adults to the 'feel' of a tremor.



Two Japanese families enjoying a wedding feast.



"Kampai" is a favorite Japanese toast among friends.

A Tale of Two Sister Cities

Torrance and Kashiwa statistics

(1983 Figures)

	Torrance	Kashiwa
Location	commuter suburb, 17 miles southwest of Los Angeles	commuter suburb, 18 miles northeast of Tokyo
Area	20.8 square miles	28 square miles
Average Temperature Range	49-81 degrees, Fahrenheit	38-80 degrees, Fahrenheit
Average Rainfall	12 inches (fall and winter rains)	36 inches (summer rain and winter snow)
Incorporation Rate	1921 (on mostly undeveloped land)	1954 (unification of five existing villages)
Population	131,000 (decreasing slightly)	263,000 (growing)
Residential Land	48%	33%
Commercial Land	9%	3%
Industrial Land	33%	3%
Farming Land	--	30%
Recreational Land	.6%	--
Woods and marshes	--	12%
Roads	17%	19% (including waterways)
Children in Public Schools	20,500 (decreasing)	43,500* (increasing)
Number of Public Schools	30 + 3 adult centers	45*
School budget	\$58,840,000	\$32,555,000** (part of city budget)
City budget	\$58,000,000 \$155,306,000** (includes schools)	
Parks	27	241 (mostly small)
Chief administrator	City Manager appointed by council	Mayor elected by people
Legislators	Mayor and 6 city councilmen elected by people	40 city councilman elected by people
School board	Elected by people	Appointed by Mayor
School superintendent	Appointed by board	Appointed by Major
Major local transportation	Autos, buses	Bicycles, autos, buses, commuter trains
Major Industries	Douglas Aircraft AiResearch Hughes Aircraft Martin Marietta Armco Steel Mobil Oil Union Carbide Magnavox Dow Chemical Xerox Toyota Motors	Hitachi Electric Nikka Whiskey Sumitomo Light Metals Mitsuya Soft Drinks Ichikawa Woolens Farming: turnips, onions, spinach oriental garlic, radishes, cucumbers, rice
Retail/Sales	\$1.25 billion	\$34 million
Average Family Size	2.6	3.2

*Figures not entirely comparable, because most high schools are private in Kashiwa

**Figures not entirely comparable, because of different practices and jurisdictions

Torrance Exchange Students

1974
Aren Corrick, West
Gary Yoshida, North
Mark Ozawa, Torrance
Carolyn Kragh, South
Ray Moser, South
Mrs. Lucille LeMieux,
Chaperone



Torrance's 1974 delegation was its first.

1975
Liz Hughes, Torrance
Shirley Takigawa, North
Jay Gregory, South
Teri Bell, West
Susan Okuma, North
Wendy Miller, North
Ron Williams, Torrance
Desiree Truscott, Bishop
Montgomery
Mr. Glen Tanaka, Chaperone

1976
Liz Gordon, South
Nancy Mitchell, North
Steve Nagamoto, North
Keith Glassman, South
Sharon Kellman, West
Bill Manuel, Torrance
Jon DuQuesne, El Camino
Mr. Chuck Gallucci,
Chaperone

1980
John Chikahisa, Torrance
Paul Ottengheime, South
Leslie Lang, West
Gary Sakamoto, North
Joanne Harada, El Camino
Kris Peitzman, South
Rhonda Holmes, West
Dr. Amy Coury, Chaperone



The 1975 delegation studied the globe.

1977
Mark Richardson, El Camino
Carol Williams, South
Linda Takai, North
Laurie Kuwashima, North
Christien Engelman, Torrance
Olga Hajek, West
David Maupin, Bishop
Montgomery
Mr. Ed Brown, Chaperone

1981
Robert Barrett, South
Nancy Blades, El Camino
Sandra Brewster, South
Patricia Edrich, West
Eleanor Hom, UC, Long
Beach
Gayle Nakasaki, North
Tom Peitzman, South
Mrs. Marge Goodrich
Chaperone

1978
David Bissiri, South
Dee Ann Tanaka, North
Dan Peinado, Torrance
Karen Bogart, Bishop
Montgomery
Doug Hampson, South
Ken Sakamoto, North
Jackie Lee, West
Marilyn Early, Torrance
Mrs. Verna Mattox,
Chaperone

1982
Stephanie Ewing, South
Jackie Lane, South
Karen Karacsony, South
Nina Antonelli, Bishop
Montgomery
James Johnson, El Camino
Diane White, El Camino
Darin Kato, North
Nancy Nozaki, North
Jim Aviani, South
Robert Kragh, South
Mrs. May Sakamoto,
Chaperone



A bicentennial group went to Japan in 1976.

1979
Lori Ann Barfield, North
Jeanne Costello, Bishop
Montgomery
Dean Hanaoka, West
Sara Lopes, West
Joanne Minatoya, El Camino
Gregory Strawn, South
Nanette Matsui, Torrance
Mrs. Irene Harter, Chaperone
Dr. Tom Rische, Journalist

1983
Marcia Born, South
Brian Imahori, North
Jon Jackman, West
Monica Kagdis, South
Renee Nash, South
Kim Tsujimoto, North
Cecile Wong, North
Mrs. Lynn Cauble, Chaperone

1984
Marie Garvey, Torrance
Linda Hargrove, El Camino Col-
lege
Kristi Koyamatsu, South
Frank Marumoto, Torrance

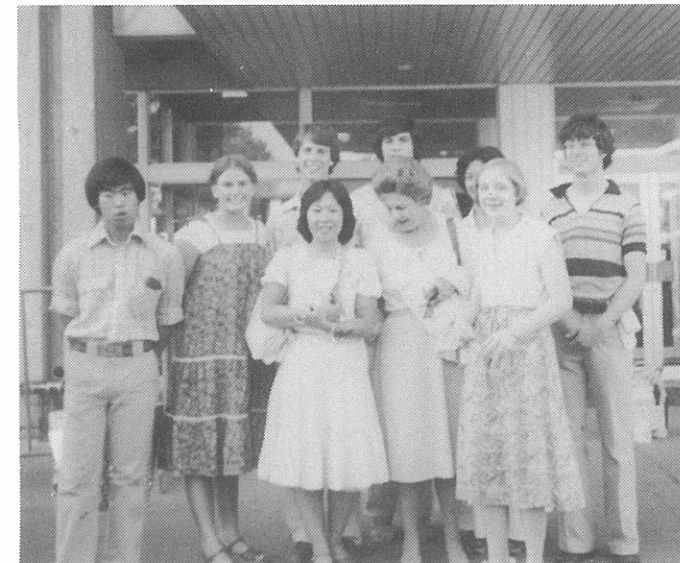
Alan Matsumoto, Torrance
Paul Turner, Torrance
Janet Wagner, Torrance
Pearl Yu, North
Mrs. Donna Dunlap,
Chaperone



1977 students posed by the Kashiwa sign.



1980 students joined in a banquet toast.



The 1978 group in front of Kashiwa City Hall.



1981 delegates sang for their hosts.



Mayor Suzuki joined the 1979 delegation.



The 1982 delegation was larger than usual.

The 1983 students are shown on page 23.

Kashiwa Exchange Students

1974

Naomi Tanaka
Hiroyo Toda
Tomoko Narushima
Masako Noguchi
Hirosuke Umegaki
Akira Kaneko
Mr. Tayoo Watanabe,
Chaperone

1975

Yakiyo Itaguki
Hideo Kawawaki
Hideaki Saito
Yaemi Shimazaki
Yoshie Fujii
Keiko Kaneko
Eriko Sakamaki
Mr. Yoshiakzu Katioka,
Chaperone

1976

Mayumi Oikawa
Kayoko Ohnishi
Michiko Ochiai
Ryahei Kadoi
Sayuri Takashima
Misako Matsumoto
Masahiko Yashino
Koichi Yamanobed
Makiko Kubota
Takao Aoki
Mr. Yoshio Suda, Chaperone

1977

Tatsuhiko Eiji
Miyuki Hosoda
Nobuhisa Kato
Isamu Takata
Yuji Kurokawa
Mutsuko Watanabe
Mr. Shigeru Taniguchi,
Chaperone

1978

Yukiko Tanaka
Harumi Kato
Makiko Abe
Hiromi Udeki
Taku Oshima
Yataka Shibuya
Miki Higurashi
Shinji Hosaka
Mrs. Mutsuko Tsukamoto,
Chaperone

1979

Yuki Kobayashi
Yuko Mori
Shoichi Yoshida
Naoto Hashimoto
Kazumi Hayashi
Kenzo Fujii
Shuichi Suzuki
Mutsumi Takata
Mr. Shintaro Nishino,
Chaperone

1980

Eriho Takeuchi
Erika Morita
Satomi Kato
Sumie Kaneko
Masami Fujisawa
Hideki Karokawa
Nakamasa So
Mr. Takashi Harano,
Chaperone

1981

Rumi Takano
Satoshi Shinozaki
Yoko Harigaya
Tetsuro Moriya
Katsuhito Takeuchi
Masako Motoyama
Yukiko Hirai
Katsuhide Kasuga
Mr. Yoshiaki Kaneki,
Chaperone

1982

Masafumi Uesugi
Naoko Mitani
Momoyo Yokoi
Sachiko Horiki
Noriko Imagawa
Kaori Shimizu
Shizuka Kobayashi
Atsushi Chaki
Yumi Saito
Yohko Kiura
Hiroshi Naka
Yumiko Yasuda
Misako Kanbayashi
Natoshi Takahashi
Mrs. Kazuko Yagisawa,
Chaperone

1983

Takeshi Adachi
Yuzumi Tanaka
Reiko Fujiwara
Naohisa Tateishi
Atsuko Gomguchi
Rei Sukuki
Rei Kosakai
Ichiro Ehara
Mr. Masayuki Itagaki,
Chaperone



1979 visitor Shuichi Suzuki got a lesson in marksmanship at the Torrance Police Station.



The first student exchange students from Kashiwa came in 1974, accompanied by the chaperone, the Rev. Tayoo Watanabe.

Hiroko Okawa



1976 Kashiwa visitors met the City Council.



The 1983 Kashiwa delegation visited the Huntington Cactus Gardens.



West High's basketball squad will play in Kashiwa in June, as part of that city's 30th anniversary festivities. The coach is Dan McGee.



The 1979 exchange students displayed the Torrance Recreation Department T-shirts they got as gifts.



Torrance and Kashiwa citizens make friends.



1983 Torrance exchange students received many gifts in Japan.

Torrance Host Families

1974

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Haggott
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Eves
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Bell
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Gates
Mr. and Mrs. Bertrand LeMieux
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Banando
Mrs. Sho Yoshida
Mr. and Mrs. Lucius LaFleur

1975

Mr. and Mrs. John Gregory
Mr. and Mrs. Mas Takigawa
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ozawa
Mr. and Mrs. James Williams
Mr. Chuck Gallucci
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Moser
Mr. and Mrs. Otto Strobach
Mr. and Mrs. William Peterson
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Okuma
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Deloyd
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bailey
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Bell
Mr. and Mrs. Ted LaFleur
Mr. and Mrs. Russell West
Mr. and Mrs. Steve McMahon

1976

Mr. and Mrs. Utako Takigawa
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Mayeda
Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Glassman
Mr. and Mrs. Brandt
Mr. and Mrs. Otto Strobach
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Nagamoto
Mr. and Mrs. Dick Hughes
Mr. and Mrs. Miller
Mr. Chuck Gallucci
Mrs. Diana Oakley
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hashimoto
Mr. and Mrs. Gene McGrew
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Geissert
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ishikawa
Mr. and Mrs. Ishibashi
Mr. and Mrs. Al Tripaldi
Mr. and Mrs. Tom DeLoyd
Mr. and Mrs. Ross Yamahata
Mrs. Shirley Shitabata
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Gates
Mr. and Mrs. George Coury

1977

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Eardley
Mr. and Mrs. John Gregory
Mr. and Mrs. George Brewster
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ishikawa
Mr. and Mrs. John Engelman
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Nagamoto
Mr. Chuck Gallucci
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Minatoya
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Deloyd
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dinicola
Mr. and Mrs. Otto Strobach
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Geissert
Mr. and Mrs. James Williams

Mr. and Mrs. Barrett Billica
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Tamaki
Mr. and Mrs. Russell West

1978

Mrs. Verna Mattox
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Richardson
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bissiri
Mr. and Mrs. James Hampson
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dinicola
Mr. and Mrs. David Nair
Mr. and Mrs. Otto Strobach
Mr. and Mrs. Kazuo Sakamoto
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Tanaka
Mr. David Maupin & Mrs. Shawn Hartigan
Mrs. Irene Harter
Miss Liz Hughes
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Minatoya
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Oda
Mr. and Mrs. John Engelman
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Testerman
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Costello

1979

Dr. and Mrs. Tom Rische
Mr. and Mrs. George Coury
Mr. and Mrs. Mas Takigawa
Mr. and Mrs. Mel Grubb
Mr. and Mrs. Otto Strobach
Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Hawkins
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Strawn
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ishikawa
Mr. David Maupin & Mrs. Shawn Hartigan
Dr. and Mrs. Don Emlaw
Mr. and Mrs. John Mitoma
Mrs. Irene Harter
Mr. and Mrs. Barrett Billica
Mr. Chuck Gallucci
Mr. and Mrs. Gene McGrew
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dinicola
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Costello
Miss Laurie Kashiwahara

1980

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Rische
Mr. and Mrs. Pete Walker
Mr. and Mrs. Dick Hallahan
Mr. and Mrs. Karl Erickson
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Matlock
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Peitzman
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Testerman
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Harada
Mr. and Mrs. Mack Jacobs
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Matsui
Mrs. Marjorie Goodrich
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Williams
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hanaoka
Mr. and Mrs. Mas Takigawa
Mr. and Mrs. Otto Strobach
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bissiri

1981

Mr. and Mrs. James Nishimura
Mr. and Mrs. Neil Griffith

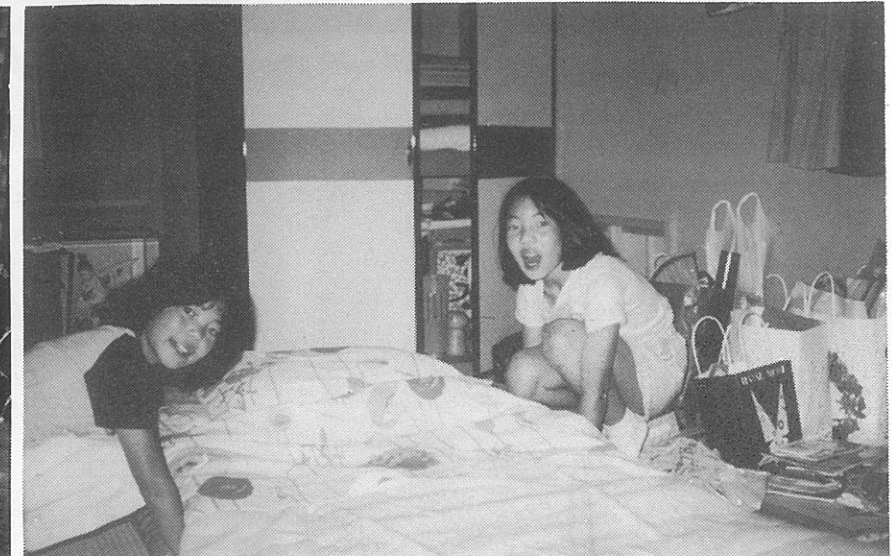
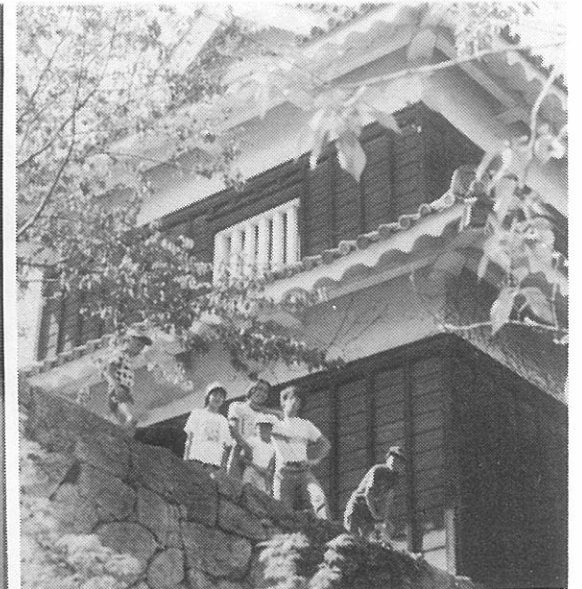
Mr. and Mrs. George Brewster
Mr. and Mrs. James Crawford
Mr. Robert Barrett
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Rische
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Myhren
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Soar
Mr. and Mrs. Otto Strobach
Mrs. Marjorie Goodrich
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Testerman
Mr. and Mrs. William Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Nakasaki
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Derriksen
Mr. and Mrs. John Bramhall
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Peitzman

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Mrs. Gerta Gallob
Mr. and Mrs. Neil Griffith
Mr. and Mrs. William Robertson
Dr. and Mrs. Don Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Lane
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Mr. and Mrs. Claude Bogart
Mr. and Mrs. Grey Brooks
Mrs. Ila and Miss Stephanie Ewing
Mrs. Terri and Miss Kimi Miwa
Mr. and Mrs. Sumikichi Nozaki
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Connett
Mr. and Mrs. John Guyton
Mr. and Mrs. James Kragh
Mr. and Mrs. Isao Kato
Mr. and Mrs. Don Lust
Mr. and Mrs. Duke Walker
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hilker
Mrs. Cheryl Fisher
Mr. and Mrs. Dick Quinn
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Aviani
Mr. and Mrs. Bud Hodge
Mr. and Mrs. Otto Strobach
Mrs. Miyo Yasukochi
Mr. and Mrs. George Brewster
Mr. and Mrs. Gil Archambeau
Mr. and Mrs. William Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Kengo Oda
Mr. and Mrs. John LaBouff

1983

Mr. and Mrs. Imahori
Mrs. Miyo Yasukochi
Mr. and Mrs. Otto Strobach
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Jackman
Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Nash
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Cauble
Mr. and Mrs. E. Tsujimoto
Mrs. Helen Born
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ishikawa
Mrs. Ila and Miss Stephanie Ewing
Mr. and Mrs. Felix Antonelli
Mr. and Mrs. Neil Griffith
Mrs. Terri and Miss Kimi Miwa
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wong
Mr. and Mrs. John Kagdis
Mrs. Gene Drevno
Mr. and Mrs. A. Ives



Many aspects of culture are exchanged by visitors. Japanese students always enjoy the beach, staying in the homes of Torrance residents, and seeing all aspects of American life. The same is true of Torrance students who experience various aspects of Japanese culture and food, including (bottom) helping to pound the meal for bean cakes at Mayor Suzuki's house and sleeping on the traditional Japanese futons.

Leaders of Sister City Programs

Torrance Sister City Association Board of Directors

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 Dr. Tom Rische, *secretary*
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Dean Hanaoka
 Irene Harter
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Kathy Geissert, *City Council liaison*
 Terry Timar, *Lions Club liaison*
 Edith Simpelaar, *Torrance city liaison*

Torrance City Council

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 Bill Applegate
 Katy Geissert
 Tim Mock

George Nakano
 Dan Walker
 Mark Wirth

Donna Babb, *City Clerk*
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 Leroy C. Jackson, *City Manager*

Past Board Sister City Board Members

During the years of its existence, the following local citizens have served on the Sister City Association Board of Directors:

Dr. Carl Ahee, Laurie Anderson.
 Joe Banando, Jack Barrett, Brian Bell, Lynn Bramhall, Charles Burlingame.
 Lynn Cauble, Dr. Amy Coury.
 Jack Eardley, Elaine Edrich, Karen Engleman, Ed Enrietta.
 Dan Fichtner, Guy Fox.
 Chuck Gallucci, Keith Glassman, Marge Goodrich.
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 Louise Kilburn, Victor Kilburn.
 Yukiji LaFleur, Carrie Lateri, Lucille LeMieux.
 Nanette Matsui, Naomi McVey, Wendy Miller, Mabel Minatoya, Mas Miyakada, Ray Moser.
 David Nair.
 Noboyuki Ohya, J. Walker Owens, Ellie Ozawa.
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 Moriyuki Takata, Glen Tanaka, Mary Taylor, Al Tripaldi.

Bruce Uchino, Kenny Uyeda.
 Robert Vroman.
 Eric Wada, Jean Westendorf, Mrs. Bruce Wilkinson, Janice Williams.
 Gary Yoshida.
 Jan Zellner.
 City Council Liaison: Ross Sciarotta, James Armstrong, Katy Geissert.
 J.A.C.L. Liaison: Ed Mitoma.
 Lions Club Liaison: Terry Timar.
 Torrance City Staff Liaison: Edith Simpelaar.

Torrance Chairmen

Brian J. Bell 1971-74
 Joe Banando 1974-76
 Mikko Haggott 1976-78
 Lynn Bramhall 1978-79
 Janice Williams 1979-81
 Irene Harter 1981-83
 Mikko Haggott 1983-

Kashiwa Chairmen

Kazunari Takahashi
 Yoshikazu Katioka
 Shuzo Terajima



Planting a tree symbolic of friendship at the Torrance Civic Center are a group of Kashiwa visitors in 1976 and then-Mayor Ken Miller. (Kashiwa means "oak.") Shown are Yoshio Uehara, Tsuyoshi Kobayashi, Mr. Noguchi, Sanjo Watanabe, and Mayor Miller. In the background is Councilwoman Katy Geissert, Sister City liaison representative.



Mayor Ken Miller and former Assemblyman Paul Bannai received a Bunka Sai tour. The first festival was held in 1973.



Bill Hashimoto and two girls in costume posed for the camera at Bunka Sai.

Japanese-Americans Long-Time Residents Here

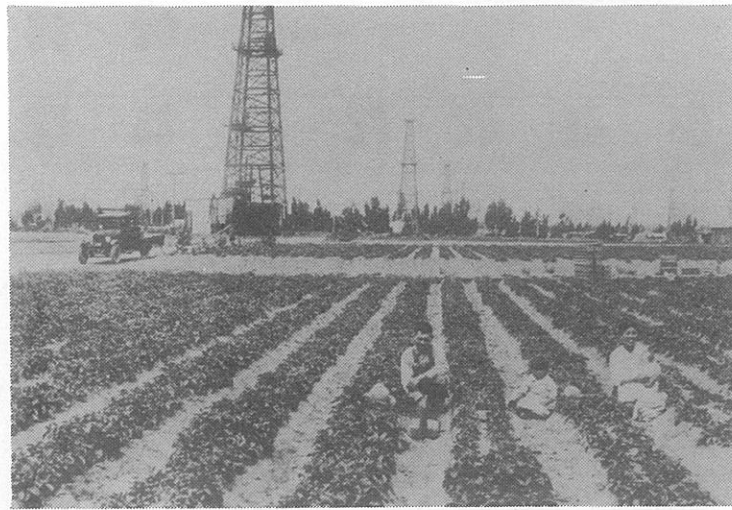
Torrance long has had citizens of Japanese-American descent— and that number is still growing. Today, an estimated 7 per cent of the 130,000 citizens claim that heritage. In addition, an increasing number of Japanese firms are settling here.

Before World War II, many Japanese farmers grew crops in Torrance. These ranged from vegetables and strawberries to flowers, most notably chrysanthemums. The present site of Del Amo Center was once a large strawberry patch and until recent years, many flowers were grown in North Torrance. A few still are grown on Torrance Airport property.

Many of these farmers lost their land when they were sent to relocation camps during World War II. Nevertheless many of them returned after the war, and other Japanese-Americans moved here also.

The coastal climate proved attractive, and the area between the Los Angeles Airport and Harbor proved a plus for farming and industries. Neighboring Gardena long has been a center of the county's Japanese community, with its own Buddhist temple and cultural center, as well as many ethnic stores and shops.

The Toyota Motor Corporation recently opened a headquarters at 190th and Western in Torrance, and the Honda Corp. is planning similar facilities in old downtown Torrance. They join familiar names like Minolta, Seiko,



Back in the late 1920's, the Omatsu family grew vegetables and strawberries on the land now the site of Del Amo Center.

Sumitomo, Sanwa, and a host of other firms with offices in Torrance and the South Bay area. As Japanese food gains popularity, the city also has gained several restaurants specializing in traditional dishes. Other specialty shops also have opened their doors in the city.

Prejudice against Japanese-Americans, once quite widespread, has largely disappeared and representatives have assumed many important positions in the community. Mrs. Fumiko Hachiya Wasserman served as president of the Board of Education, after her victory in the 1981 elections. For many years, Kenny Uyeda served as Torrance Planning Commissioner, and in the most recent Torrance elections, the first Japanese-American, George Nakano was elected to the City Council. Traditional values of education and hard work have paid off for the *nisei* (children) and *sensei* (grandchildren) of immigrants who, at one time, could not legally own land in California.

Torrance figures parallel California statistics, which show that twice as many Japanese-Americans will graduate from college as their Caucasian counterparts. Occupationally, nearly 1 in 3 falls in the professional-managerial category (as compared to only 1 in 25 back in 1940). Some statistics show that more than half of the young will marry Caucasians.

Pride in heritage is strong among many Japanese-Americans, many of whom attend Saturday Japanese language classes. North High School and El Camino College offer Japanese language courses and have active ethnic clubs; their students tend to win awards in greater proportion to their numbers.

They have, as the saying goes, come a long way from the time when their ancestors came to this country as laborers and many of their grandmothers were imported brides. It is fitting that Torrance, like 169 other cities in the U.S., should have a Japanese sister city.



A Japanese warrior doll and Mrs. Mitsuo Skaguchi of the 1974 Sister City committee reflect aspects of traditional Japanese culture.



This 10th anniversary pamphlet was made possible by a grant from the Toyota Corp., which recently opened a new headquarters at 190th and Western Ave., Torrance. This grant was designed to further understanding between the two cities, and Dr. Thomas Rische went to Japan under its terms.

Neighbors Back Sister City Program



Benihana Restaurants offered a scholarship to a 1984 Torrance exchange student in 1984 to gather information and write a report about his trip to Japan this summer. Paul Turner was the winner. Benihana is one of an increasing number of Japanese restaurants to locate in Torrance.