

## President's Message Werner Willoughby



On behalf of TSCA, I would like to thank our two student board members for 2019, **Ruchi Shetti** and **Andrew Kang**. They were valuable connections to the Student Club and provided student perspectives on issues that TSCA faced during 2019.

At the September meeting, the board approved the newest student board members from this year's student delegates, **Chiara Aiello** and **Olivia Penland**. A warm welcome to them.

A favorite feature of the TSCA newsletters throughout the year are the English teachers' articles. Thank you to **Alison Abraham** and **Brandon Matsumoto** for their descriptions and insights of their experiences and activities as teachers at Kashiwa Municipal High School.

Thanks to **Mark Richardson** for monitoring our website and facilitating communications with the public. We appreciate his time and commitment.

On Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, TSCA supported the Torrance Rose Float Association (TRFA) in publicizing their 2020 Rose Parade float which is inspired by the Pine Wind (Japanese) Garden in the Cultural Arts Center. We appreciated four of this year's student delegates – **Chiara Aiello**, **David Contreras**, **Edward Fu**, and **Yuko Wilson** – for wearing their yukatas and serving as docents in the garden. Also representing TSCA and adding a more formal flair to the occasion were **Cara Ihde** and **Yuki Tsujii (Ihde)** who were dressed in beautiful kimonos and acted as greeters, welcoming guests and distributing programs. Please see the photos provided by **Steven Ihde** of the TSCA members in the garden. Thanks to **Aileen**

**Willoughby** for loaning her kimonos, dressing Cara and Yuki, and assisting the students with their yukatas. She was also instrumental in researching the history of the garden, and locating special guests – the families of renowned landscape architect **Takeo Uesugi** and Torrance commissioner and promoter of the garden, **Kenny Uyeda**, to whom the garden is dedicated. **Donna Dunlap** and **Butch Ihde** set up an appealing presentation at TSCA's information table. Thanks to **Gail Roulette** for the loan of the t-shirt quilt that enhanced the table. Additional participants in the TRFA program were Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai, Yuki Yasuda Koto, Sensei Semho Minamitani of Ikenobo Japanese Flower Arranging and Senseis Soyu Kubo and Sochoku Onizuka of the Urasenke School of Tea. All of these groups participate in our Bunka-Sai. Special guests also included the new Consul General of Japan, **Akira Muto**, and his wife, who had an opportunity to meet TSCA members and Torrance City Councilmembers in attendance.

All TSCA members will receive a mailed ballot during the first week of October, allowing them to endorse the five candidates proposed by the nominating committee or add write-in candidates. All ballots must be returned to TSCA, or submitted at the TSCA Association meeting Monday, October 14, 2019, and will be tallied at the meeting. Thank you to nominating committee chairman, **Bryce Yamauchi**.

Do you know students who reside in Torrance and are interested in Japanese culture? Then TSCA's "Trip of a Lifetime" is for them. Please see the flyer in this issue or visit our website at [torrancesistercity.org](http://torrancesistercity.org). ☸

### WHAT'S INSIDE:

Calendar, Torrance  
Rose Float Association  
**PAGE 2**  
Kashiwa Students in  
Torrance  
**PAGES 3-5**

Membership  
Application  
**PAGE 6**  
Sayonara Banquet  
**PAGE 7**  
Student Delegate Flyer  
**PAGE 8**

Student Report:  
Japanese Teen Fashion  
**PAGE 9**  
English Teacher Flyer  
**PAGE 10**

English Teacher  
Report: Cold Noodles  
on a Hot Day  
**PAGE 11**  
Torrance  
CitiCABLE  
**PAGE 12**

**OCTOBER 14**

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

**OCTOBER 14**

Ballots tallied for Board of Directors election

**NOVEMBER 12**

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

**DECEMBER**

No Association Meeting

**DECEMBER 9**

2020 Budget Planning Meeting (7 pm)  
City Hall West Annex Commission Room

Representatives from TSCA attended the Torrance Rose Float Association’s celebration on Saturday, September 21st.

**Eleah Kang**, a student from West High School, submitted the winning sketch, *Our Garden of Hopes and Dreams*, for Torrance’s entry into the 2020 Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade. Our float is based on the Pine Wind Japanese Garden, designed by National Landscape Award Winner **Takeo Uesugi**, at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center.

Attendees were able to view displays of student float designs and enjoy a koto performance and tea ceremony demonstration.

Visit <http://torrancerosefloat.org> to get involved with the Torrance Rose Float Association or to help decorate the float during the week of December 26-30. ☸



*Cara Ihde and Yuki Tsujii*



*Our Garden of Hopes and Dreams*

## Torrance Sister City Association

**PRESIDENT**

Werner Willoughby

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Jen Hirashiki

**SECRETARY**

Gail Roulette

**TREASURER**

Ron Reeve

*Newsletter Editor*

Rae Ann Carr

*Newsletter Distribution*

Donna Dunlap

**Comments or submissions?**

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



*Yuko Wilson, Edward Fu, Chiara Aiello, and David Contreras*

*Watch the Rose Parade on  
January 1, 2020*



# Kashiwa Delegates in Torrance

For three weeks in August, KIRA's eight student delegates enjoyed their "trip of a lifetime" as part of the Kashiwa-Torrance Sister City student cultural exchange program. Along with their 2019 Adult Leader **Mitsuko Tsukuda**, the students — **Karin Fukui**, **Sakura Iida**, **Arata Kawabe**, **Kana Kishida**, **Mina Nomoto**, **Sei Sakamoto**, **Riho Shimaoka**, and **Gen Yasuda** — lived with two different American host families. The Kashiwa delegates were introduced to many new cultural experiences, and enjoyed a whirlwind of activities, such as attending a square dance and chili cook off, decorating cakes, visiting Dodger Stadium and the Hollywood Bowl, and taking an exciting trip to San Diego. ☘



Arrival at Los Angeles International Airport



Welcome Reception



Torrance Farmer's Market



Torrance Fire Station



Torrance Fire Station



Torrance Civic Center and Mayor Furey





Cake Decorating at Torrance Bakery



UCLA



Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge at Disneyland



Square Dancing



Little Tokyo



San Diego



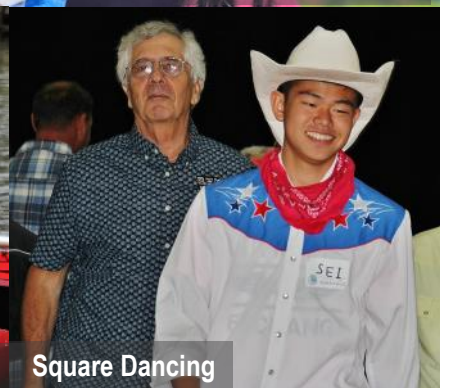
California Adventure



Hollywood Bowl



Kayaking in Mission Bay



Square Dancing





Sunset Cliffs—San Diego



Dodger Game



Pool Party



Torrance Beach



Torrance CitiCable



Oriental Motor



San Pedro, CA



San Diego Zoo



Sayonara Banquet



San Diego

# Scenes from California





# Sayonara Banquet Celebration

## Summer Nagano Gray, Sayonara Banquet Co-chair

The Sayonara Banquet, held August 21, at the Toyota Meeting Hall, was the final event of this year's 18-day student cultural exchange with Kashiwa, Japan. It was a bittersweet evening filled with hugs, tears, shared memories, and promises to stay in touch from Kashiwa's eight student delegates and their adult leader.

Nearly 80 guests attended this celebration, which was emceed by **TSCA President Werner Willoughby**. To kick off the program, **Torrance Mayor Patrick Furey** welcomed everyone and introduced city officials. Then in a surprise presentation, Mayor Furey and **Councilman Mike Griffiths** (the Council's liaison to TSCA), and **Andrew DeBlock**, Senior Field Rep for **Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi**, asked President Willoughby to come to the podium to receive beautiful certificates of recognition for his many years of leadership and outstanding service to TSCA and the community.

The evening also featured a delicious buffet dinner, a short trip video created by Torrance student delegate **Lily Newhart** and, of course, heartfelt farewell messages from the Kashiwa delegates and their host families. (Each summer, Kashiwa delegates stay with two host families to experience life in different American households.)

In their messages, the Kashiwa delegates shared how their host families set up many wonderful experiences for them, such as bike riding at the beach, going to a Galaxy soccer game, taking the ferry to Catalina Island, going to the Rose Bowl flea market to look for vintage clothing, and even shopping at Costco ("I was surprised at how large the shopping cart is," exclaimed one delegate). Throughout the messages, a common theme was



*Certificate of Recognition Presentation for Werner Willoughby*



*KIRA and TSCA Student Delegates*



*Host Families and Students*

heard: "Torrance is a great city, and I want to come back someday."

At the conclusion of the evening, everyone gathered in a circle and danced the Kashiwa Odori—the perfect end to another successful cultural exchange and the beginning of new cross-cultural friendships.

Special thanks to co-chair **Lori Chong Eurich**, as well as **Donna Dunlap** and **Butch Ihde**, **Sherwin** and **Marilyn Rubin**, **Hazel Taniguchi**, **Cheryl** and **Alyssa Yamauchi**, **Reiko Higa**, **Keiko Clark**, **Toni Sargent**, **Wendy Ito**, **Rae Ann Carr**, and **Regan Galinato**.

To view Torrance CitiCABLE's (Aug 29–Sept 5, 2019) coverage of the Sayonara Banquet, log on to <https://bit.ly/2mGXEEp> and cue up to 11:25 minutes to begin the segment. ☘





# 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](mailto: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 16, 2019 • [TorranceSisterCity.org](http://TorranceSisterCity.org)



## Japanese Teen Fashion

Mackenzie Holloway



Despite not being much of a fashion icon myself, I have always admired cultural fashion styles – especially Japanese street fashion. As a cosplayer, I have come to admire many different types of “looks”, but Japan’s fashion culture really blows me away. In Japan I was able to explore each type of teen fashion style in depth and understand what makes each type so special. I was excited to visit certain fashion districts, such as Harajuku and Shibuya, and I was able to get a good taste of Japanese fashion from the KIRA delegates themselves.

Some current popular types of Japanese street fashion are *Lolita*, which can divide into subcultures such as *Gothic Lolita* and *Punk Lolita*. Other styles, mostly popular in the late 1900’s and early 2000’s, are *Gyaru*, *Decora* and *Kuroi Niji*. Each style has a very specific expression. The KIRA delegates helped me judge for myself that clothes teens in Japan wear today often mirror what many American teens wear: shorts, T-shirts and sneakers. However, there is a creative difference that I discovered.



The Japanese are all about accessories, whether that means a matching handbag or cute hair clip. While Americans go for the short and simple, the Japanese always manage to add a different cute flair to an outfit. While visiting different outlets and shopping malls in Japan, I discovered that clearly no outfit is complete without said accessory. Many Japanese teens had colorful purses or eccentric phone cases to go with their outfits. On that note, there was also a common pattern with their actual clothes as well. Some popular styles would be a long, plain flowy skirt with a tucked in T-shirt, or a form-fitting dress and attached belt. Another style I noticed was a top that *looked* like it was off-the-shoulder, but actually had fabric that came from the front and secured the top to the shoulder. I thought it was very creative and helpful for an American school like mine whose dress code does not permit “not having straps”.

Overall, Japanese fashion is unique, just like its culture, and I’m so glad that I got to experience it in person. I even bought an outfit or two during my trip to remember it by! ☘







# 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, 2020, to July 31, 2021. 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 send resume, cover letter, and two letters of recommendation by U.S. mail only.

Must be postmarked by **April 10, 2020**, and received by **April 17, 2020**.

Mail to:

**Lori Chong Eurich**, Chair  
TSCA English Teacher  
Selection Committee  
Attn: Community Services Dept.  
c/o 3031 Torrance Blvd.  
Torrance, CA 90503

*Qualified applicants will be scheduled for panel interviews in May. For more information, call Lori Chong Eurich at (310) 373-6146.*



## Cold Noodles on a Hot Day

Brandon Matsumoto



*“Ikuyo!”* This means, “It’s coming!” in Japanese. I yelled this at the top of my lungs as I grabbed a handful of thin wheat noodles and swiftly threw it down the artistically crafted, halved bamboo chute. The students eagerly waited for the white noodles to slide down. This is *Nagashi Somen*. It’s a traditional Japanese activity that’s usually held in the summer.

The day before the party, our group went on a mission to the depths of a bamboo forest and picked out the straightest, brightest green bamboo we could find. Shedding blood, sweat, and tears, we cut, grinded down, and smoothed out the inside of the 10-foot bamboo pole.

Our Nagashi Somen party had around 30 participants from high schools and colleges in the area. We were able to meet many interesting people from countries such as Iran, China, Laos, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and America. For many, it was their first time meeting each other so we played a few games to break the ice.

Laughter followed as we became more acquainted with each other and we went outside under the beautiful summer skies to get started. We poured cups of “tsuyu,” a mixture of *dashi* (soup stock), soy sauce, *mirin*, and sugar. We also had *wasabi* (green horseradish), *karashi* (mustard) or green onions for an extra kick. We cooked the noodles, connected the water to the bamboo, and called everyone to gather around. It takes a combination of patience, skill, and a little bit of luck to be able to catch the noodles.



*Kashiwa Exchange Youth Society*



*KEYS Nagashi Somen Event*

Our foreign guests were ecstatic to be able to experience such a rare treat. For many of our Japanese students, it was their first time as well! However, my excitement exceeded the students. I’ve only seen Nagashi Somen in dramas and animes, and I couldn’t believe that I got the opportunity to not only try nagashi somen, but to help set up an event for others to enjoy.

Back in March, I was asked to be a supporter of a student-run club called Kashiwa Exchange Youth Society (KEYS). It’s a group of high school and college students and focuses on cultural exchange between people from different countries. We’ve held a Japanese BBQ party, a singing competition, and this past August, the Nagashi Somen event. We have other events planned for this upcoming year and I’m excited to help this group and to watch these students grow.

I absolutely love the mission and events of KEYS. We encourage students to take on leadership positions and responsibilities and emphasize that making mistakes are just part of the process. My goal is to create a safe environment where students can be themselves and learn from their mistakes without the fear of getting ridiculed or disciplined. I want to see the shy, quiet students, who may not get an opportunity at their own school, grow at their own pace and develop leadership and communication skills for the future. If you want to see our past events or see how we’re doing in Kashiwa, follow our [Instagram @studentclubkeys](https://www.instagram.com/studentclubkeys).

Here’s a video of the Nagashi Somen day.  
<https://bit.ly/2oebVA8> Enjoy! ☘





# Thank You Torrance CitiCABLE

CitiCABLE has provided quality television programming for the Torrance community. Watch coverage of City Council Meetings, Torrance news and sports, and their weekly news magazine “This Week in Torrance.” They have covered many TSCA events and graciously invited the Kashiwa students to participate in a broadcast this summer.

TSCA clips courtesy of CitiCABLE Channel 3:

- **Kashiwa Delegates’ News Broadcast**  
<https://bit.ly/2kmtzAd>
- **Sayonara Banquet Coverage**  
<https://bit.ly/2mGXEEp> (cue to 11:25 min)

Check out <https://www.torranceca.gov/cable> for more information and view broadcasts online at [CitiCABLE’s YouTube Channel](#). ☞



*KIRA 2019 Student Delegates at CitiCABLE*



**Torrance Sister City  
Association**

3031 Torrance Boulevard  
Torrance, CA 90503