

## President's Message Werner Willoughby



On behalf of the Torrance Sister City Association, I would like to extend our condolences to the family of the late **Ken Miller**, former Mayor of Torrance. TSCA came into existence in 1973 when Ken was the Mayor, and his signature with the then-Mayor of Kashiwa, sealed the deal for a cultural exchange program

between the cities of Torrance and Kashiwa, Japan. Ken's support has fostered thousands of friendships, not only between the people of our two cities but among the people within the cities--people whose paths would have never crossed but for the program. As we now engage in the process of selecting the delegation of eight students for our 2020 exchange, we continue the legacy that Ken began in 1973. Please see the article appearing in this issue about Ken, written by former TSCA president, **Hazel Taniguchi**.

Our biggest fundraiser for the student exchange program is the annual Bunka-Sai, or Japanese Cultural Festival, which is coming soon on April 18-19, from 11 am to 5 pm each day. Many thanks to the attendees of the first planning meeting held on Jan. 29th. The remaining three meetings, all on Wednesdays, are scheduled for February 26, March 18, and April 8, at 7:00 pm in the Polly Watts Room, second floor of the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library. Please join us with your ideas and suggestions.

The Bunka-Sai is not only a fundraiser, but a reunion of many TSCA friends and supporters. Volunteers are critical for its success. Please consider some ways you can contribute to our 47th annual event: (1) secure donations

for opportunity drawing prizes from local businesses; (2) solicit ads for our program – business related or personal; (3) help staff a booth; (4) cook/bake delicious food in one of the facility kitchens; (5) help recruit and manage volunteers; (6) set-up Friday and/or tear-down Sunday; (7) move equipment in and out of our storage facility; (8) help with stage performances; (9) sell opportunity drawing tickets; (10) assist in the hourly drawing and gift booths; and much more. We are always looking for new friends to be part of this exciting team, so please email us at [torrancesistercityinfo@gmail.com](mailto:torrancesistercityinfo@gmail.com).

Included in this issue is the application to purchase an ad in our Bunka-Sai program. If you would like an electronic copy of the application, request one by email, [torrance-sistercityinfo@gmail.com](mailto:torrance-sistercityinfo@gmail.com). About 1,000 to 1,500 program booklets are printed and distributed to an estimated 2,000+ visitors to the festival each year. Do you own, work for, or know a company or organization that might be interested in having an ad in our program booklet? There were 62 companies, large and small, local and international, individuals as well as nonprofits, who purchased ads last year. The ads are a great way to advertise your business or one that you patronize. They can also be congratulatory messages for a special occasion or personal messages in support of TSCA.

We also depend on memberships to sustain our organization. If you have renewed your TSCA membership for the year, thank you. If you have not, please visit our website or use the membership application in this newsletter and renew today. Your membership supports our goal of promoting friendship, goodwill, and understanding

### WHAT'S INSIDE:

Calendar of Events  
News from Japan  
**PAGE 2**  
In Memory of  
Ken Miller  
**PAGE 3**

Alumni Reunion  
**PAGE 5**  
Anime Contest Flyer  
**PAGE 6**  
Host Family Flyer  
**PAGE 7**  
Bunka-Sai Prizes  
**PAGE 8**

Religion in Japan  
**PAGE 9**  
Bunka-Sai Ads  
**PAGE 10**  
Ichikashi Student  
Reports  
**PAGE 11**

Teach English in Japan  
**PAGE 12**  
Little Changes  
**PAGE 13**  
Membership Application  
**PAGE 14**

## FEBRUARY 10

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

## FEBRUARY 26

Bunka-Sai Planning Meeting #2 (7-8:45 pm)  
Katy Geissert Library Polly Watts Room

## FEBRUARY 29

Student Garage Sale (TBD)

## MARCH 4

August Activities Meeting #1 (7-9 pm)  
Torrance Art Museum Conference Room

## MARCH 9

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

## MARCH 18

Bunka-Sai Planning Meeting #3 (7-8:45 pm)  
Katy Geissert Library Polly Watts Room

## MARCH 21

Student Applicant Picnic and Selection (TBD)

## MARCH 24

August Activities Meeting #2 (7-9 pm)  
City Hall West Annex Commission Room

## APRIL 5

Cherry Blossom Festival (11 am—4 pm)  
Columbia Park

## Torrance Sister City Association

### PRESIDENT

Werner Willoughby

### VICE PRESIDENT

Jen Hirashiki

### SECRETARY

Karen Wheeler

### TREASURER

Sindy Kang

*Newsletter Editor*

Rae Ann Carr

*Newsletter Distribution*

Donna Dunlap

### Comments or submissions?

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

between the cities of Torrance and Kashiwa, Japan. Thank you to **Alyssa Yamauchi**, our new Membership Chair, for her efforts to promote, update and maintain our membership list. New and changing mailing and email addresses are coordinated with the newsletter editor to maintain our newsletter circulation. Alyssa is also responsible for updating and assembling the Membership Directory each year. Please observe the February 26, 2020 membership deadline to be included in the directory. ☺

## NEWS FROM JAPAN BY AKIKO NOBUSAWA, KIRA

On January 20th, the KIRA Torrance Committee had an annual New Year's Party at Palette Kashiwa, KIRA headquarters. Twenty-nine members attended the festivities with four honorable guests: **Karl and Sharlin Takauye**, **Alison Abraham** and **Brandon Matsumoto**. After the regular business meeting, a new year party followed. All of us were so thrilled to answer the 10 questions done by Alison. Bingo game and Janken game were also activities. It was such a successful opportunity that we could feel the unity of the long-standing KIRA Torrance Committee over having the delicious boxed dinners and playing games.



### 2020 Torrance Committee Board Members

**Treasurer: Mariko Hayasaka, Chair: Hisataka Takikawa,  
Vice Chair: Yumi Shii and Liaison: Yuko Ishibashi (New)**

**2020 Adult Leader: Hitoshi Watanabe (pictured on right)**

Hitoshi Watanabe works at a precision machine manufacturer and stayed in Torrance for three years as an oversea staff with his family from 1991 to 1994. At that time he got a lot of hospitalities from Torrance people and this time he hopes to enhance the relation between two cities as an adult leader.



# Ken Miller

August 22, 1922—January 19, 2020  
Mayor of Torrance 1970-1978

**Ken Miller** was and will always be known as the “Sister City Mayor.”

Ken Miller was elected to the Torrance City Council in 1962 and served for two terms. In 1970, he was elected Mayor of Torrance and served in that position for two terms.

On February 20, 1973, Mayor Miller and then-Kashiwa Mayor **Ryotaro Yamazawa** signed the affiliation papers establishing a Sister City relationship between Torrance and Kashiwa. The relationship is now in its 47th year and continues successfully through mutually-established programs, dedicated volunteers, and long friendships between the citizens of both cities. The TSCA brochure features a photo of Ken Miller planting a friendship tree in Kashiwa in 1973. Photos of the signing and tree-planting are on display in a Sister City showcase at the West Annex.



*Ryotaro Yamazawa (Mayor of Kashiwa in 1973) and Ken Miller (Mayor of Torrance in 1973) signing the official papers affiliating Torrance and Kashiwa.*



*Kashiwa visitors and then-Mayor Ken Miller planting a tree symbolizing the friendship between the two cities. Shown are Yoshio Uehara, Tsuyoshi Kobayashi, Mr. Noguchi, Sanjo Watanabe, and Mayor Ken Miller.*

The Recreation Center in Torrance is named after Ken Miller. This is the venue where TSCA holds several events: the annual Alumni Reunion, the square dance and chili cook-off, and Bunka-Sai.

In 2008, Ken Miller was honored by TSCA with a Partnership Award, for his many years of participation in the Sister City Program. This award is given to community members who support TSCA’s mission and the relationship with Kashiwa.

In 2008 also, the Torrance Rose Float Association recognized and honored the Sister City Program with the Rose Parade float of that year, “Festival of Flowers.” Riding the float were Hazel Taniguchi, then-president of TSCA, Akemi Kosuge, representing Kashiwa, Mayor Frank Scotto, and Former Mayor Ken Miller, who said he thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

In an interview by CitiCABLE 3, Former Mayor Ken Miller mentioned the Sister City Program and how pleasantly surprised he was that the relationship has “lasted so long.” He also said that the Sister City Program was “a labor of love.”

We will miss Ken Miller. ☘

*Article written by  
Hazel Taniguchi,  
former TSCA President.*



# 47th Annual Bunka-Sai

Japanese Cultural Festival

Saturday & Sunday

April 18 and 19, 2020

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Ken Miller Recreation Center

3341 Torrance Boulevard (At Madrona Avenue)



Enjoy children's games and activities, tasty plate lunches, baked goodies, craft items, and cultural performances



**FREE**  
Admission  
&  
Parking

**\$250**  
Grand  
Prize!

Presented by  
**The Torrance Sister City Association**  
TorranceSisterCity.org

*Proceeds to benefit the student cultural exchange program*

City of Torrance • Community Services Department • 310-618-2930



# Alumni Reunion

Sindy Kang



The more than 80 attendees at the TSCA Alumni Reunion on January 11 were greeted with beautiful pink and white flower centerpieces arranged by **Yuki Tsujii**.

TSCA President **Werner Willoughby** welcomed all the guests, TSCA members and 2020 new student applicants for this year's 47th student exchange program. Council Member **Mike Griffiths** provided a warm welcome on behalf of Torrance Mayor **Patrick Furey**. Werner also thanked the Alumni Reunion committee: **Sindy Kang**, **Donna Dunlap**, **Shirley Tanaka** and **Yuki Tsujii**. **Rebecca Poirier**, City Clerk for the City of Torrance, installed the incoming TSCA officers for 2020, then Council Member Griffiths presented the Certificates of Appreciation to outgoing officers and board members



*Werner Willoughby and Council Member Mike Griffiths present certificates to outgoing officers and board members Gail Roulette, Andrew Kang, and Shirley Tanaka*

**Keiko Clark, Ronald Reeve, Gail Roulette, Shirley Tanaka, Andrew Kang, and Ruchi Shetti.**

After a delicious potluck lunch, **Donna Dunlap** recognized the 2020 Partnership Award recipients, **Mr. Takamitsu Ozawa**, President of Otafuku Foods, Inc., and **Mr. Koji Kawana** of JSL Foods. Otafuku Foods and JSL foods are long-time donors of yakisoba sauce and noodles for the Bunka-Sai Festival.

**Lori Chong Eurich**, TSCA President 2014, recognized the 2019 student exchange delegates and each shared a favorite experience of their student cultural exchange last summer in Kashiwa.

**Jennifer Hirashiki**, TSCA Vice President, introduced the 2020 Adult Leader, **Cara Ihde**, who then called on each of the 2020 applicants to introduce themselves and their families.



*2020 TSCA Student Exchange Applicants*

The annual roll call of members, acknowledging their participation in various roles in the organization, was led by TSCA Vice President 2018, **Cindy Scott**. 2019 student delegates presented a video of their Kashiwa trip made by **Lily Newhart**.

At the conclusion of the program, attendees danced the traditional Kashiwa Odori, led by the 2019 student delegates. Everyone circled the room, smiling and in graceful rhythm, a fitting end to a joyous occasion. ☘





Torrance Sister City Association's

# 5th Annual ANIME DRAWING CONTEST 2020!

**BUNKA-SAI**  
JAPANESE CULTURAL  
FESTIVAL!  
APRIL 18-19



Akari Nakashima, Anime Contest Winner 2019

## DIVISIONS

- Middle School
- High School

Prizes for each Division:

- 1st Prize = \$50
- 2nd Prize = \$25
- 3rd Prize = \$20

All contestants will receive a certificate

## RULES

- Entries must be drawn on 8½" x 11" paper. Digital art is also acceptable.
- Format: Portrait (vertical) or Landscape (horizontal).
- Entries may be in Color OR Black & White.
- Maximum of two entries per person.
- No dark or violent themes, such as death and funerals.
- Entries must include a Release Form and Waiver signed by the artist and parent/guardian (if a minor).

Entries must be submitted IN PERSON on Friday, **APRIL 17, 2020**, 4pm – 6:30pm

Ken Miller Recreation Center (3341 Torrance Blvd)

*Winners will be announced on Saturday, April 18, 2020*

Forms and more info at [www.torrancesistercity.org](http://www.torrancesistercity.org)





# Expand Your Cultural Horizons

## Host a student from Kashiwa, Japan, for 1 week in August

(August 3-10 or August 13-20, 2020)

### Share our American culture with a student from Kashiwa for the experience of a lifetime!



"We really enjoyed hosting Mina and Kana and sharing the American and South Bay cultures with them!" ~ *The Staal Family*

"Hosting is a fun and enriching experience, and each student becomes a part of our family." ~ *The Shetti Family*

The students stay with two host families during their 18-day stay in Torrance. All daytime activities are planned and hosted by the Torrance Sister City Association (TSCA). Host families are responsible for transporting their students to and from the West Annex at City Hall each morning and late afternoon. Some weeknight activities are planned and host families are welcome to join the fun! At all other times, the host families will arrange their own activities and meals with their exchange student in accordance with TSCA guidelines. Each host family will have one weekend to plan their own activities. Kashiwa students are able to communicate in English.

A Host Families orientation will be held in late June or early July.

**QUESTIONS?** Please contact [TSCAHostFamilyProgram@yahoo.com](mailto:TSCAHostFamilyProgram@yahoo.com)



TORRANCE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION, INC.



### HOST FAMILY INTEREST FORM

All first-time applicants will be screened by TSCA

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency/Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

We would prefer to host a Boy \_\_\_\_\_ Girl \_\_\_\_\_ Either \_\_\_\_\_

We would prefer to host a student from August 3-10 \_\_\_\_\_ August 13-20 \_\_\_\_\_ Either week \_\_\_\_\_ Both weeks \_\_\_\_\_

Number in household \_\_\_\_\_ List pets, if any \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

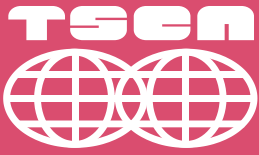
Children \_\_\_\_\_ M / F Age \_\_\_\_\_ M / F Age \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ M / F Age \_\_\_\_\_ M / F Age \_\_\_\_\_

Others \_\_\_\_\_

Our family has participated in these TSCA Activities: Bunka-Sai \_\_\_\_\_ Student Exchange Program \_\_\_\_\_ Host Family Program \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail form to **Torrance Sister City Association, Attn: Host Family Program, 3031 Torrance Blvd, Torrance, CA 90503**



**Torrance Sister City Association**  
 3031 Torrance Blvd | Torrance, CA 90503



## Supporting the Student Cultural Exchange Program

January 2020

Dear Friends of Torrance Sister City Association,

The Torrance Sister City Association will hold its 47th Bunka-Sai Cultural Festival at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center on Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19, 2020.

All proceeds will be used to meet the objectives of our Student Cultural Exchange Program. Each year in July, Torrance sends eight high school students and an adult leader to Kashiwa, Japan, Torrance's sister city. Kashiwa sends a similar group to Torrance in August. Both groups have firsthand cross-cultural experiences that will enhance their knowledge and understanding of each other's culture and form many long-lasting friendships.

**We need prizes for our Bunka-Sai drawings.** We would appreciate a donation from you to be used as a drawing prize. Names of contributors will be listed in our program booklet if your donation is received by **March 27**. Contributors will also be acknowledged at the time of the drawing.

The Torrance Sister City Association is a non-profit organization sponsored by the City of Torrance. All donations to TSCA are tax deductible. Our tax identification numbers are: **Federal #: 95-3079582, State #: 7874400**

Thank you for your consideration in supporting our Student Cultural Exchange Program. A receipt for your donation appears below for your records.

In appreciation,

Werner Willoughby  
 TSCA President  
[www.torrancesistercity.org](http://www.torrancesistercity.org)

### Receipt

Received from: \_\_\_\_\_

Item(s) \_\_\_\_\_

TSCA Member's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## BUNKA-SAI GIFT BOOTH DONATIONS

**Wanted:** Wonderful Japanese Things that you no longer have room for in your home. Our Gift Booth at the Bunka Sai Festival (April 18-19th, 2020) collects your new or gently used Japanese items and we sell them to raise funds for the TSCA student exchange program.

We need: home goods such as dishes, ceramics, chopsticks, figurines, dish towels, books, such as travel books, Japanese/English textbooks, cookbooks, posters, prints, banners, art, dolls, cases, apparel such as t-shirts, yukata, kimono, scarves, accessories, purses, totes, toys, music, stationery/school supplies and other items.

Please know that your donations will be loved by new owners who seek out our treasures every year. Also, we can provide a receipt for your tax purposes. Contact [torrancesistercityinfo@gmail.com](mailto:torrancesistercityinfo@gmail.com) to arrange for drop-off to our coordinator, Karen Wheeler, or contact her directly with any questions you may have ([bobandkaren@earthlink.net](mailto:bobandkaren@earthlink.net), 310-378-1210).



## Religion in Japan

Yuko Wilson

TSCA 2019 Student Delegate



Religious influence throughout Japan's history is brought to life through temples and shrines that preserve ancient culture. In Japan, religions with centuries of history such as Shinto and Buddhism co-exist with relatively newer or foreign religions such as Christianity.

During my stay in Kashiwa, I was fortunate to be able to visit a few places that reflect Japan's current religious climate. On the first free day, my host sister took me to her high school in Tokyo to attend class with her and experience Japanese school life firsthand. Her school is Buddhism-affiliated, and therefore at the start of each school day they set aside a minute for all of the students to practice silent meditation. Sitting at my desk in the back of the classroom, I was astounded to see how the talkative and rowdy students instantly quieted and sat down, heads bowed. Once class ended, my host sister and her friends showed me around their school. The most surprising stop on our tour was the full-sized Buddhist prayer room on the outskirts of the campus. The students led me up the polished stepping stones and through a massive wooden doorway to a dimly lit room furnished only with tatami mats and a lavish golden altar. Being able to experience a school lifestyle so distinctively different from the norm in Torrance was a very thought-provoking and intriguing experience.

On the second free day, my host family took me to attend Sunday service at a local Christian church called Nihon Baptist Kashiwa Kyokai. This church was very unique because they were known and appreciated by the



Attending class at a Buddhism-affiliated high school in Tokyo

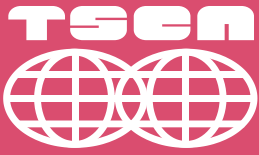


Attending Sunday service at a local church in Kashiwa.

community for the Christian preschool they run. On Sunday, parents of the preschool children and other Christians in the neighborhood gathered in a chapel above the school for Sunday service. After we sang a few Japanese hymns, the pastor shared a very in-depth and structured message about the 12 disciples. Following the Sunday service, the pastor was kind enough to answer some questions I had about the coexistence of Buddhism, Shinto, and Christianity in modern Japanese society. He touched on various aspects of religious thought in Japan, including *sakoku* (a 200-year period in which Japan closed itself off from all foreign religious influence), and Japan's collectivistic culture, which emphasizes group goals, tradition, and conformity. He accredited *sakoku* and the collectivistic culture to the preservation of ancient Buddhist and Shinto traditions throughout generations, and hypothesized that they might also be a reason as to why foreign religions such as Christianity have believers in less than 1% of the Japanese population.

Being able to observe Buddhist practices at the high school and discuss Japan's current religious climate at the Christian church was a highlight of my trip to Kashiwa. Not only did it deepen my understanding of cultural traditions in Japan, I had a lot of fun talking with students at the high school about their experiences attending a school so different from mine, and talking with the pastor and other church members about the various programs and events that their church organizes for the community in Kashiwa. I'm so thankful for my experiences with the TSCA exchange program, and I can't wait to go to Japan again! ☩

First part in a series of reports  
from TSCA's 2019 Student Delegation



Torrance Sister City Association  
3031 Torrance Blvd | Torrance, CA 90503



# Advertising Form

## TSCA's Bunka-Sai 2020 Program Booklet

*Supporting the Student Cultural Exchange Program*

The TSCA Student Cultural Exchange program takes place every year in July and August. Since 1974, Torrance sends at most eight student delegates and an adult leader to Kashiwa, Japan for three weeks. In August, Kashiwa sends a delegation to Torrance to learn about American culture.

Please help us by placing an ad in our Bunka-Sai Festival program booklet. It will reach more than 2,000 visitors over the festival weekend. Your ad will promote your company/business and support the Student Cultural Exchange Program. Personal ads celebrating special occasions are also welcome.

### Dates

Saturday April 18 and Sunday April 19

### Where

Ken Miller Recreation Center, Toyota Meeting Hall, and Torino Plaza  
3330 Civic Center Drive, Torrance

### Objectives of Bunka-Sai

- Help the community learn about the Japanese culture
- Raise funds for the Student Cultural Exchange Program

### Ad Specifics

- No larger than 8.5 x 11 inches
- **Camera ready**
- Submit ad, form, and check by **March 6, 2020**

*Thank you for your support!*

**Complete and return the section below by March 6, 2020**

<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
Total Enclosed \$ _____	
Make your <b>check</b> payable to <b>TSCA</b>	

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail your check, ad, and this form to:**  
Torrance Sister City Association  
c/o Cultural Services Department  
3031 Torrance Blvd.  
Torrance, CA 90503

### Ad Information:

- New     Use last year's ad     Camera-ready copy enclosed

### Specific Instructions:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Questions?*  
Please email  
[TSCAads@gmail.com](mailto:TSCAads@gmail.com)

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



## Rare Japanese Goldfish

Keiichiro Itou



Do you know the Pokémon called Goldeen? Goldeen is inspired by a Japanese goldfish. It is a goldfish called “*tosakin*.” It is a one-of-a-kind goldfish which I like. I will introduce *tosakin* because they have a lot of attractive features.

A feature of the *tosakin* is that they have a tail which curls to their side. It may be described as “an underwater ballerina” or “the queen of the goldfish” because of its beautiful tail. *Tosakin* was created through selective breeding in 1845 by a man named Suga. Back in the day, many people called Kochi prefecture, Tosa. It is difficult to create the beautiful tail of the *Tosakin*. The probability is one out of tens of thousands of goldfish.

I think you can learn a lot of things about *tosakin*. There is not only *tosakin*, but also many kinds of goldfish in Japan. If you are interested in Japanese goldfish, would you like to look up Japanese goldfish? ☘



## Japanese Monsters

Takumi Yuzawa



There are various monsters called *Yokai* in Japan. They are many kinds and have various habits. First of all, I will introduce you to a famous monster. The name of the monster is *Kyuubi*. She is a fox with nine tails. She has a high rank among monsters, and is strong and beautiful. *Kyuubi* takes the shape of a woman, then

approaches powerful people, and destroys the country.

Next, I will introduce the strongest demon at the top level among monsters. His name is *Syutendouji*. He is the demon boss and the strongest demon. Its strength is so frightening, the Japanese emperor is afraid of him and dispatches a subjugation squad. The soldiers poisoned

him and fought, but it was still a close victory. He bit a soldier's head off.

Finally, I will introduce a funny monster. His name is *Makuragaeshi*. *Makura* is pillow. He comes at night and turns over the sleeping person's pillow. Other than that, it does not harm people. Will the person notice that the pillow is turned over when they get up in the morning? Maybe, he has gone to your bedroom at night.

In conclusion, being a monster doesn't mean they are scary. Sometimes they apply to people and sometimes they behave strangely. I think that monsters are a symbol of the human inner-self. Perhaps, you may have encountered monsters without noticing. ☘

The guest writers,  
Keiichiro and Takumi, are third year  
students at Ichikashi High School.



# 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.*



## Little Changes

Alison Abraham



Only by a little, the days are changing. Only by a little but still noticeable enough. When I leave my apartment in the early morning, the sun has already begun to rise. When I leave Ichikashi at the end of the day, the sun is setting but there's still a little light out. Two and a half years ago, I wasn't sure if I'd be able to handle the changing seasons in

Japan. Now, I relish them. All the trees and flowers that bloom around me can be so lush thanks to the cold dryness of winter, and, maybe, that's how people are, too.



**KIRA Shinnenkai**

KIRA helped me welcome 2020 with the Torrance Committee's *shinnenkai*, or New Year's Party. As part of our entertainment, I made a *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*-esque quiz game for everyone to enjoy. We also spent a wonderful time enjoying bingo and a *janken* (rock-paper-scissors) tournament. Greeting the beginning of the year with familiar faces, such as my first host father Niwa-san and 2011 KIRA Adult Leader Shibata-san among many others, brought a warmth to me that nestled nicely in my chest. The laughter that filled the room that January night was definitely an auspicious start to the new year and the new decade.

As for school life, after returning from winter break, the students at Ichikashi seem more refreshed and lively. They've come out of hibernation, and they're ready for the end of the year. For the third year students - equivalent to seniors in US high schools - that ending will come sooner for them than the rest of their underclassmen. Their classes quickly draw to a close only one month into the new term, and they've got the rest of February off to



**Ichikashi 3A Class Photo**

prepare for their coming university life. I won't see them again until they return for graduation at the beginning of March. So, of course, as I was met with the last day of classes, I was filled with a bittersweet feeling.

These students were first years when I, too, could be considered a first year at Ichikashi. Now, with their graduation just around the corner, I'm made more aware of my own "graduation" later this year. I notice the changes in them, the growth and improvements they've made in the past three years, and I hope that I, too, have made a similarly positive transformation.

January always comes in with a rush, but time finds a way to slow down as it ushers in the next month. I just hope that the rest of this year goes by slowly, though I know that's rarely the case when you're having as much fun as I am every day. ☘



**Ichikashi 3H Class Photo**

Except for the Lifetime Membership\*  
all dues are in effect from  
January 1 to  
December 31

## Member Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

- My membership is:       New                                       Renewal
- TSCA Directory Update:
- New Address               New Telephone Number       New Email Address
- I do not want to be listed in the TSCA Directory
- TSCA Activities:
- I am interested in participating in TSCA activities

### Mail your check and this form to:

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$75+
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$125+
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$200+
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership*	\$2,000+

Enclosed is a donation to  
TSCA (in addition to \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
annual dues)

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make your **check** payable to **TSCA**

TSCA meetings are held on the second Monday  
of each month at the Civic Center West Annex  
Commission Room 7-9 pm  
(No meetings in August or December)

*If you have  
any questions  
about your membership,  
please email Alyssa Yamauchi at  
tscamembership@gmail.com*

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



**Torrance Sister City  
Association**

3031 Torrance Boulevard  
Torrance, CA 90503