

President's Message Werner Willoughby



I hope that this newsletter finds you and your family in good health.

Saturday, January 11, 2020 was a special day for TSCA, our first event of the new year, the Alumni Reunion. The student applicants attending were hoping to be selected as the 2020 delegation to

Kashiwa. This was a wonderful opportunity for the new student applicants and their families to interact with past student delegations, Adult Leaders, past and present board members and of course TSCA's many supporters. Everyone contributed to an outstanding pot-luck, sharing their favorite food and TSCA experiences in Torrance and Kashiwa. It has always been a fabulous opportunity to kick off the new year with the expectations of another cultural exchange.

Sadly, this was the first and only activity for 2020, as Bunka-Sai and the student exchange program were cancelled. **Cara Ihde** and her wonderful group of newly selected delegates will hopefully be able to experience the "trip of a lifetime" in 2021.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions we have had to cancel the traditionally first annual event for TSCA, the Alumni Reunion which was scheduled for January 9, 2021.

In the June-August issue of the newsletter we had the pleasure to introduce you to our newest English teacher **Deanna Sun**. Because of travel restrictions, Deanna's departure to Kashiwa was delayed. After a long visa process Deanna was able to obtain it Friday October 16, get a Covid-19 test, and catch a flight to Japan. She is under quarantine in Kashiwa, but thrilled to be there and soon to be a member of the staff at Kashiwa Municipal

High School. Here's wishing her a most successful stay. She will be joining **Brandon Matsumoto** in the English department. Brandon has been doing double duty with a tremendous workload. Thank you Brandon for your dedication and commitment to the school.

Many thanks to **Sindy Kang** for all of her time and effort as TSCA Treasurer. We appreciate all of the checks, reports that you wrote and the forms that you submitted to keep TSCA in compliance with the state requirements.

Thanks to **Jen Hirashiki** as Vice President over the past two years, for her technology expertise and support of the orientation process for the student delegates.

Many thanks to **Karen Wheeler** our secretary for her time and effort in documenting our meetings, real or virtual, a lot of detailed work, thanks again Karen.

Welcome aboard to **Donna Dunlap** as Vice President for 2021, thanks for sharing your background for all of our events and activities.

Dates and venues have been reserved for the 2021 TSCA Bunka-Sai and student exchange program activities. Many thanks to **Michael Field**, our liaison with the Torrance Cultural Arts Department, and **Lisa Morales**, Booking Manager of the Torrance Cultural Arts Center, for their help in securing the dates and venues. We are all hopeful that the "trip of a lifetime" becomes a reality!

Thank you to **Rae Ann Carr**, our Newsletter editor, for another year documenting TSCA's activities with such a visually appealing publication. Thanks Rae Ann for all of the enjoyment you have given our membership and the community.

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President's Message (Cont.)

On behalf of TSCA may I extend our condolences to the families of the following members that passed away during 2020; **Ray Roulette, Amy Coury, Joh Sekiguchi, Ellie Ozawa** and **Barry Henson**. TSCA is very grateful for their commitment and support for our programs over so many years.

Thank you to **Lori Chong Eurich** for hosting the Association Meetings via Zoom which included participation of our guests from KIRA and the Torrance Committee especially the Culture Corner presentations by **Akiko Nobusawa** and **Aki-ko Maruta**.

I wish the best of health to our TSCA members, supporters, KIRA and the members of the Torrance Committee. ☸

calendar of Events

NOVEMBER 9

TSCA Association Meeting (7-9 pm)

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

Alumni News



Melanie Nomura, former TSCA Student Delegate, finished a year of teaching English with the JET Program in Akita, Japan. Melanie was able to meet **Mike Arai** from KIRA before returning home.

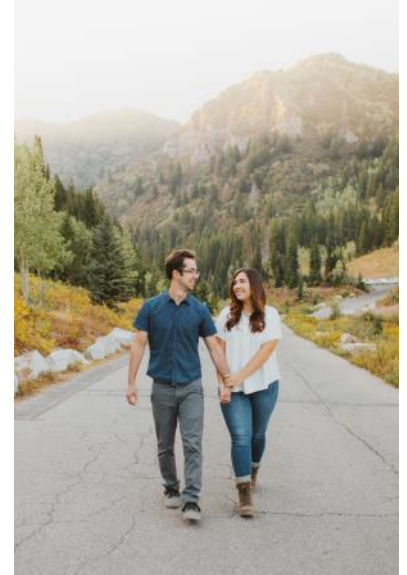


Geoff and Miki Tsudama welcomed a new baby girl, **Reymi**. The new family photo also includes big sister, **Meisa**. Geoff taught at Ichikashi High School for three years.

Adam Jordan, completed one year of teaching English in Tokyo on the JET Program and returned to the US in the summer. He plans to apply to graduate school at Waseda University in economics. Adam is a graduate of UCLA and a former student delegate.

Stephanie Mikamo returned to Torrance in the spring after teaching English in Tokyo following her three-year stay at Ichikashi. She is applying for graduate school now.

Chris Hsiao graduated from New York University with a BS in Nursing. He is a registered nurse at NYU Langone Hospital in New York City.



Erika Clark, former TSCA Student Delegate, got engaged to **Samuel Henderson**. Erika and Samuel plan to get married in December.



Tiffany (Yoshida) Yonemoto, former TSCA Student Delegate, had a son on April 27th. Aiden Daichi Yonemoto was 7 pounds 10 ounces and 20 inches long. Aiden is pictured with his big sister, Peyton.

English Teacher Report

A Unique Bunkasai

Brandon Matsumoto



Bunkasai at Ichikashi had always been one of the most anticipated events of the year. For two days, the school is full of excitement, activities, and performances. Each classroom is decorated with a different theme. Some classes create a game room full of carnival games and prizes. I always look forward to the rooms decorated like little cafes that sell tapioca. The brass band performs their most popular songs and the Light Music Club rocks out on their guitars. Visitors from other schools who are invited, always leave with laughter and smiles on their faces.



However this year, like everywhere else in this world, COVID-19 put a damper on our students' most popular event. We were not allowed to have guests, sell food, or visit other classrooms. The students were absolutely crushed. The seniors took the news the hardest. The teachers at Ichikashi worked hard to think of a fun replacement instead. They hoped to keep the students happy but also create unity among them. This led to Ichikashi hosting its first ever class video bunkasai competition.

Here were the rules. Each class created a video that was judged on creativity and humor. Next, each class watched the video of other classes in their own classroom and picked their favorites. The video attached below was put together by the 3A international class. This class had the opportunity to visit Torrance last year in November and



absolutely had a blast. They did a spoof of a popular movie that just came out called, "Kyou Kara Ore Wa." In English this translates to, "From today, it's my turn." They acted well and they made spectacular costumes that were almost identical to the movie! I have gotten permission from the parents and students to reveal this video exclusively in the TSCA newsletter. I hope you laugh as much as I did.



Video made by **Noriko Fujiyama**

<https://youtu.be/xdZH8bw36hw> ☞

Noriko Fujiyama

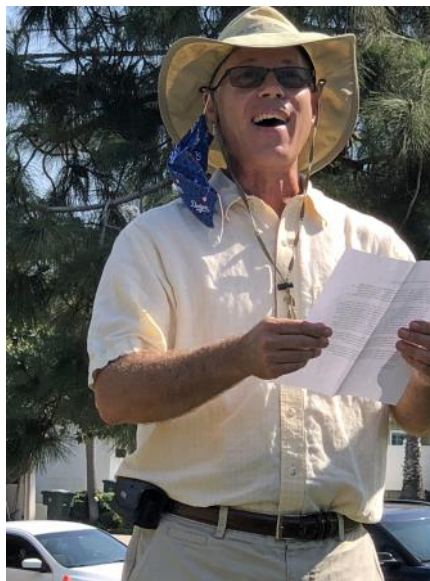


**Ray Shugers
Roulette**
1932—2020

In Loving Memory



Gail receives a certificate from Dave Wallace



*Mark Roulette,
Ray's son, reads
a message from
his mother, Gail.*



A small group celebrates Ray's life



*(L-R) Mark and Gail Roulette, Diane
(Roulette) Ortega, Ilene and
Mark Gelbaum*

Memories of Ray Roulette



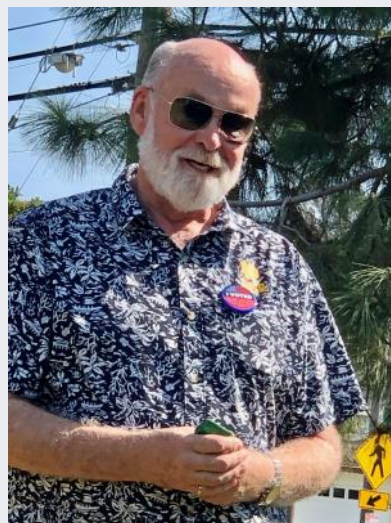
Gail Roulette adds soil to the newly planted Chinese Pistache tree in remembrance of her husband, Ray.



Lori Chong Eurich and Bryce Yamauchi



Werner Willoughby



Mayor Patrick J. Furey

If you never got a chance to meet **Ray Roulette**, you really missed someone special. A 50-year resident of Torrance with his grade school sweetheart **Gail**, Ray's hearty laugh and broad smile would light up a room. He was a kind and caring human being and, most of all, positive. A man of many varied interests, Ray was an educator and quintessential volunteer. He enjoyed singing, writing memoirs and was the best grandfather. His commitment, especially to TSCA where we got to know him, made Ray a mentor to many and a great friend to the rest of us. Over the years, Ray served on the TSCA Board, on the student, adult and teacher selection committees and was President for three terms. He will be missed by everyone in Torrance and Kashiwa who got to know and work with him.

On Saturday, October 17, 2020, the Roulette family and many TSCA friends attended a tree planting and dedication ceremony at Victor Park in honor of Ray. Victor Park, a family favorite, and the tree, a Chinese Pistache, were chosen by Gail. Our city arborist, **Dave Wallace**, explained that this tree, a relative of the California pistachio tree, has a spread of beautiful gold, orange and red leaves each fall. Gail hopes this amazing tree will light up the park and represent Ray's joyful personality for generations to come.

The tree is planted in the center of the big grassy lawn between the children's playground and Henderson Library in a perfect sunny location. Anyone walking or driving down Emerald Street will be able to see it. The ceremony was moving and truly honored Ray in a way befitting the wonderful person that he was. Ray's son **Mark, Mayor Furey, Werner** and other TSCA friends spoke fondly and eloquently of Ray. The certificate, presented to Gail by the City of Torrance Park Services as a memory of the tree dedication ceremony, reads:

"From your friends in Torrance Sister City Association, in honor of a gentle great man. There will only ever be one Ray Roulette."

Ilene and Mark Gelbaum



To Our Friends in TSCA,

The family of Ray Roulette is truly grateful for the wonderful Living Memorial Tree planted in Victor Park as a tribute to Ray. Special thanks to Ilene and Mark Gelbaum and Werner Willoughby for making all the arrangements with the city staff, and to those who attended the dedication ceremony and those who spoke of Ray's positive influence in their lives. Generations will watch "our" tree grow in loving memory!

Gail Roulette

Ichikashi Student Report

My High School Life

Sota Ochi



Hello! My name is Sota Ochi. I am a third year student at Kashiwa Municipal High School. It was built 42 years ago. We are called Ichikashi. Ichikashi is the most interesting school in Japan. Ichikashi has two good points. First, every year we welcome American students and Chinese students. Ichikashi promotes

cultural exchange between three countries. Second, almost all the students belong to a club activity. It's about 95% of students. I belong to the soccer club. It's a very interesting club. The club goes to training camp every year. Now, the club is growing. So Ichikashi Soccer Club is now the focus of public attention. This club doesn't force students to go to morning training.

I wake up at 7:30 a.m. It's later than other Ichikashi students because my house is near Ichikashi. It's another reason why I wake up later. It is essential for me to listen to music before I go to school. It makes me excited. It's my morning routine. Next I will introduce my daily routine.



I go to school about 8:30 a.m. every morning and I take six hours of class. I like modern literature class because it teaches me a lot about thoughts. After six hours of class, I go to club activities. The club activities usually take about two hours. The training is very hard for me. But it is interesting. I think that's because it's fun to train with many wonderful friends. This is why I love this time with them. ☘

Important Dates 2021

Association Meetings: 2nd Monday of each Month from 7:00—9:00 p.m.

January 11	February 8	March 8	April 12
May 10	June 14	July 12	No meeting in August
September 13	October 11	November 8	

Bunka-Sai Meetings:

January 27	February 17	March 1	April 7
April 16 (Set Up)	April 17-18 (Bunka Sai)	April 21 (Evaluation)	

Student Orientation:

May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25
June 1	June 8	June 15	June 29—July 20 TSCA in Kashiwa

August Activities Committee:

March 3	March 31	April 28	May 26
August 2—20 KIRA in Torrance			

All dates are subject to change.

More dates and details
forthcoming in the
January Newsletter



**Torrance Sister City
Association**

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