

President's Message

By Donna Dunlap



Summer does not officially start until June 21st, but once Memorial Day ends - in my mind, summer begins! After the weekend celebrations are over, my TSCA mind goes to the anticipation of another exciting student exchange. The departure date for the Torrance students in July is just around the corner. Parents will join the student delegates at the last orientation on June 7th. Their final written reports will be included in future TSCA newsletters for everyone to enjoy.

The 2023 students and their adult leader appreciate all the TSCA members and friends who worked hard at Bunka-Sai to send this delegation to Kashiwa. If you would like to see the fruits of your labor, you can enjoy the barrage of photos sent back daily from Japan. The photos are the next best way to see Japan without leaving the comfort of your home. With the time difference, I wake up to be entertained by the photos of the day's activities. A joyful way to start the day. You do not have to be a parent of an exchange student to enjoy their experiences.

It has been a long four years waiting for the opportunity to host Kashiwa students in Torrance. Torrance Sister City members join me in welcoming the 2023 student delegation from **Kashiwa: Miwa Hashimoto, Yurino Hirata, Shion Horie, Ayumi Itagaki, Haruna Kido,**

Kota Moteki, Mahiro Sawai, Koto Shirota and their **Adult Leader Mr. Hitoshi (Hank) Watanabe**. We wish them all a wonderful and a memorable visit in Torrance in August. The delegation arrives on August 7th. That evening will be the Welcome Reception which is a potluck dinner. All are invited to attend and bring a dish to serve 10 people. Please sign up for this reception, and any other August Activities you are interested in attending, on the form provided in this newsletter or online at torrancesistercity.org

Cara Ihde, the immediate past adult leader, did an excellent job as chair of the Orientation sessions for the Torrance delegation. I appreciate the time and effort she spent to organize the speakers who prepared the students and the adult leader for their "trip of a lifetime". Many thanks to other past adult leaders that took time out of their busy schedules to present diverse topics each week: **Jennifer Hirashiki** gave interesting examples of cultural differences both visual and implied; **David Gelbaum** explained gift giving, being in a host family and some of the responsibilities hosting a Kashiwa delegate. **Steven Ihde** attended nearly every session sharing his decade of experience as past chair of Orientation sessions. **Yuki Tsujii** came each week to help the students with their introductions in Japanese and also led a discussion on typical Japanese food. Once again **Michael George**, from the Torrance Library staff, shared his vast knowledge of the history

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calendar

President's Message

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JUNE 20, 2023

City Council Meeting to introduce Torrance Delegates

JUNE 21, 2023

August Activities Committee (6 pm)
Polly Watts

JULY 10, 2023

Association Meeting (7 pm)
Katy Geissert Library Meeting Room

JULY 11, 2023

Student Exchange
Torrance Students leave for Kashiwa

JULY 12, 2023

Student Exchange
Torrance Students arrive in Kashiwa

AUGUST 1, 2023

Torrance Students leave Kashiwa and arrive in Torrance

AUGUST 7, 2023

Kashiwa Students leave Kashiwa and arrive in Torrance

AUGUST 7, 2023

Welcome Reception (4 pm)
George Nakano Theater

AUGUST 8, 2023

City Council Meeting to introduce Kashiwa Delegates

of Torrance. The delegation practiced the Kashiwa Odori at the end of each session. Between Steven and Cara, the delegation had excellent detailed instructions of the nuances of the dance.

Joining the students this year was the newly selected exchange teacher, **Pedro Abina**. He will start his teaching career in August. He arrives in Kashiwa just after the Torrance delegation leaves at the end of July. Thank you **Stephanie Mikano**, **Amie Campbell**, two former teachers in Kashiwa, and **Lori Chong Eurich** for painting a picture for Pedro of the life he will experience in Kashiwa, his role as a teacher and responsibilities helping KIRA. We all wish you a great experience in and out of the classroom.

Steven Ihde once again offered to chair the August Activities committee. Surprisingly, the calendar of 2023 matched the dates exactly of 2017. Using that as a guide, the committee had a skeleton itinerary immediately. A few changes needed to be done, one by the request of KIRA. The adult delegation in February enjoyed the tour of SoCal ROC and the tall ship sailing cruise that they asked if it could be included in the summer program. We were able to fit both into the schedule. A big thank you to committee members **Yuki Tsujii**, **Stephanie Ewing-Warner** and **Lori Eurich**. Be sure to sign up early for the popular events: Dodger game, Hollywood Bowl, Chili Cook-off/Square Dance and the last good-bye at the Sayonara Banquet. Send in the form in this newsletter to sign up for the August Activities.

A very important part of the student exchange is the opportunity for the delegates to experience daily life with their host families both here and in Japan. **Please consider being a host family, it is a rewarding experience for your entire family.** Fill out and send in the host family application as soon as possible. We tell the Japanese delegates who they will be staying with when our delegation visits Kashiwa in July. There will be a host family orientation in July. The memories of hosting a Kashiwa delegates will be a family treasure for the rest of your lives, a very rewarding and memorable experience to share.

Torrance Sister City Association

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Donna Dunlap

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SECRETARY

Amie Campbell

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Newsletter Editor

Shoko Matsuda

Newsletter Distribution

Donna Dunlap

Comments or submissions?

Please send an email to
tscanewsletter@gmail.com

Membership List

Compiled by Alyssa Yamauchi, Membership Chair

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

LIFE (\$2,000+)

Kaji & Associates

FAMILY (\$40)

Reynolds Family, Elisa

If you haven't paid your 2023 membership dues yet, it's not too late!

See the Membership form in this newsletter or pay online at

https://torrancesistercity.org/membership_join.html

Thank you for your support!

New Community Service Director



Monica Harte has a lifelong background in music, theater, dance and education. She was an established voice teacher in New York where she taught at Manhattan School of Music and the Conservatory of Music at Brooklyn College. She also co-founded Remarkable Theatre Brigade, which she ran for fourteen years, producing OPERA SHORTS at Carnegie Hall. She also produced full-length operas, ballets and musicals with children's versions that toured facilities catering to critically ill, special-needs and at-risk children. Monica presented some of our most beloved modern classical composers, including Seymour Barab, Carlisle Floyd, John Corigliano, Tanya Leon, William Bolcom, and jazz composer Anne Dismore Philips.

The Success of Remarkable Theater Brigade let to a position as interim General Director for Nevada Opera. In her two years with the company, Monica launched new community programs, corporate sponsorships, and audience-building programming that grew the company's budget and ticket sales by eighty percent. When she returned to New York full-time to conclude her doctoral studies, she accepted the role of Director for the Preparatory Center for Performing Arts at Brooklyn College, where she launched both musical theater and rock music programs.

Upon moving to Southern California, Monica became Managing Director of The Actor's Gang – an award-winning professional theater company in Culver City, CA. She produced their touring, on-line, and local productions, including Free Shakespeare in the Park for Families and the 40th Anniversary Celebration featuring Grammy Award winning artists Jackson Browne and Madison Cunningham.

Monica is thrilled and honored to be working for the City of Torrance in the Community Services Department as the Cultural Services Manager. The 50th Anniversary Celebration was her first event with Torrance and the Torrance Sister City Association. Her work with TSCA has been both fulfilling and fun and she looks forward to many future events with TSCA.

ConGRADulations

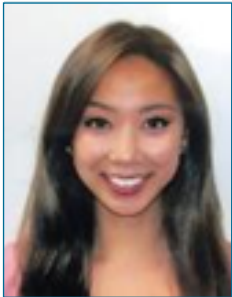


Ann Lobo, MSN

*Johns Hopkins University: School of Nursing
Ann is a registered nurse at
Duke University Hospital*

*Daniel Diederich, B.S. Mathematics
University of San Diego
Magna Cum Laude
Looking forward to starting a
new job*





English Teacher Report

30 Years of Friendship

By Deanna Sun

Konnichiwa TSCA! The past few days have been an absolute whirlwind. For the first time in my three years here at Ichikashi, we have finally brought back the Kashiwa and North High School Exchange program! As I'm sitting here at my desk, there are 15 North students wearing our school uniforms and attending classes with their homestay partner. Yesterday was our first full day together, and it was one of the most memorable days I've had in Japan. Our brass band, which is the number ONE high school brass band in all of Japan, performed for the Torrance students, and when they did the American national anthem, I was moved to tears. Something about being at a Japanese high school for several years, and then suddenly hearing them play a song from my home country really touched me and many of our guests. Living here has definitely provided a newfound appreciation for not only Japan, but my home as well.

I almost can't believe I'm saying this, but I have just two months here in Japan. It hasn't sunk in just yet due to the busy schedule we've had, but my priority these next few months is to do the best job I can do here at Ichikashi, to really connect to my students, and spend as much quality time as possible with my friends and coworkers I've made.

I made a short vlog about a roadtrip I did with my fiancé and dog this past winter break, so I hope you enjoy! Part 2 will be out in the next month or so. Wishing everyone in Torrance a wonderful summer, and Happy 30th anniversary to Kashiwa Municipal High School and North High!



[EPIC JAPAN ROADTRIP Pt. 1 | 5-Day Itinerary | Snowboarding with my dog | Amazing Food and Airbnbs](https://youtu.be/ajV_drFnIDo)
https://youtu.be/ajV_drFnIDo



Our current English teachers Deanna and Chris along with former teacher, Brandon celebrate their students' graduation from Ichikashi.

Thank You Deanna Sensei!

By Amie Campbell



In the summer of 2020, amidst home lockdowns, masks and much uncertainty of the future, we met the bright and ambitious Deanna Sun. The virtual interview could not dim her smile, nor her love for teaching, dancing, adventuring and Japan. We knew she would be a great representative of the city of Torrance so it was an easy choice for TSCA to select her as the 44th Foreign language teacher to be sent from Torrance to Kashiwa. Fast forward to 2023 and Deanna is wrapping up her time at Kashiwa Municipal High School AKA “Ichikashi” and preparing for her next move. What incredibly big shoes she will leave behind her.

Thank you Deanna for three magnificent years at Ichikashi. You bravely took on this role in the midst of a global pandemic and have carved a path forward more amazing than we could have imagined. Your bright and vivacious personality radiated through the hallways at school and changed every student and teachers life for the better. Beyond your job as a teacher you truly cared for these students and their futures, creating safe spaces for them to express themselves and find a place of belonging at school. You embody what it means to be a cultural ambassador and a wonderful educator. All of the members of TSCA are so proud of what you accomplished during your time in Japan and we want to thank you for being an incredible leader and representative of global friendship. Thank you Deanna!

Member News

Congratulations to Kathi Matsubara of Riviera Elementary School!

Helpful Honda surprised Ms. Matsubara, a fifth-grade teacher at Riviera, with \$5,000 worth of educational supplies during the school’s flag assembly on May 10th, 2023. Ms. Matsubara’s gifts included a Chromebook cart, Cricut Maker 3 cutting machine, new classroom furniture, and books.

Helpful Honda is an initiative through SoCal Honda Dealers to extend random acts of kindness to deserving individuals. Riviera’s principal nominated Ms. Matsubara for this surprise in recognition of her decades of wonderful service and all the ways she goes above and beyond to serve our students.

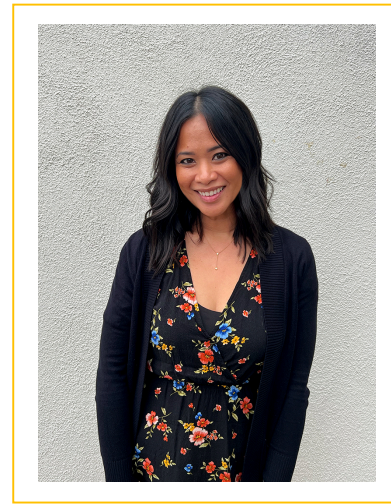
We are so grateful to Helpful Honda for supporting our community, and helping us celebrate California Day of the Teacher!



Torrance Student Delegates and Adult Leader

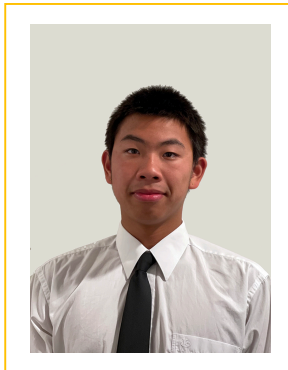


Maureen Ortega



Adult Leader

Franco Lee



Junior
Palos Verdes Peninsula High

Gianna Solorzano-Kaats



Sophomore
Bishop Montgomery High

Jadelyn Chen-Ingram



Junior
North High

Jasmine Villarie



Junior
Torrance High

Kimiko Evans



Junior
North High

Martin Grahmann



Junior
West High

Maya Chou



Senior
West High

Victoria Arreygue



Junior
North High



Expand Your Cultural Horizons

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

August 7–15 or August 17–24, 2023

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



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 7-15 _____ August 17-24 _____ 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**

2023 TSCA Membership Application Form

Mail your check and this form to: Torrance Sister City Association, c/o Community Services Dept, 3031 Torrance Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503



**TORRANCE
SISTER CITY
ASSOCIATION**

3031 Torrance Boulevard • Torrance, California 90503

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

- \$20 Individual \$40 Family \$75+ Supporting \$125+ Benefactor
 \$200+ Corporate \$2,000+ Lifetime Membership*

Donation to TSCA (in addition to annual dues): \$ _____

I am Interested in TSCA activities, specifically: _____

For the TSCA Directory, only include my: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Member Information

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Additional Contact Info

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

Email**: _____

Phone: _____

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



**Torrance Sister City
Association**

3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503