

## President's Message

By Donna Dunlap



This month on the fourth, forty-three 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary adult delegates left for Kashiwa to celebrate our sister city relationship between Torrance and Kashiwa. As you read this, some may have already returned to carry on business in the US and others extended

their trip to experience Japan and beyond. This past February, TSCA had the pleasure of hosting forty-six adult delegates from Kashiwa. At that time, we reenacted the signing of the proclamation forming the sister city relationship on February 20, 1973. The March 2023 TSCA News focused on the weekend events. I was fortunate to be a part of both of these celebrations. I have been waiting 40 years as a volunteer in TSCA to experience this milestone and the fabulous celebrations in both Torrance and Kashiwa. Anniversary events only happen every five years.

If photos from the celebration in Kashiwa were sent back in time to publish in this newsletter you can see some of the wonderful things to which we were exposed: a ride on the autonomous Kashiwa city bus (yes with NO driver!), a stroll down the newly named Torrance Street in Kashiwa, the opportunity to make new or to renew ongoing friendships at an outdoor festival in Kitakashiwa Park and enjoy performances from local residents, plant the traditional cherry tree in Furusato Park to commemorate fifty years, listen in awe to the nationally-ranked band at Kashiwa Municipal

High School, gorge ourselves on fabulous food every day and enjoy the city view from Tokyo Tower on a full-day tour of Tokyo to name just a few of the exciting weekend activities while we were in Kashiwa. Photos will also be featured in the November issue of our newsletter. A definite trip of a lifetime with memories that will last forever.

October is the time of year that TSCA starts recruiting Torrance high school students to be our 2024 ambassadors to represent Torrance, California and the United States. These ambassadors will be visiting Kashiwa, Japan for three weeks in July and also welcoming and hosting Kashiwa students visiting Torrance in August. The student exchange committees arrange activities to expose the students and their families to the similarities and differences of these two cultures. All students stay in family homes, in Kashiwa and in Torrance. This creates life changing experiences for the whole family as they learn about foreign country without leaving home. The student exchange program is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year of opening the hearts and expanding the minds of these high school students. If you have a child or a relative or a friend that has an eligible student in 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade, please contact [torrancesistercity.org](http://torrancesistercity.org) for more information. Our website will be updated by November 2023.

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October 9, 2023

Association meeting (7 pm)  
Katy Geissert Library Meeting Room

October 9, 2023

Voting and counting ballots on the 2024 board members and two student board members

October 16, 2023

2024 exchange students' application available

November 13, 2023

Association meeting (7 pm)  
Katy Geissert Library Meeting Room

November 13, 2023

Adult leader applications due date

December 18, 2023

Exchange student applications due date

We are also looking for an adult leader for the 2024 student exchange. This adult has to live or work in Torrance, be at least 26 years old and have a background working with youth in education or an involvement in youth activities to be eligible for this fantastic trip. This too is a trip that will change your life in a positive way and give you memories that will last a lifetime. Contact me at [lhdebat@aol.com](mailto:lhdebat@aol.com) if you are interested in joining the students, that you will help select, in July 2024. Interviews will be in early December 2023.

October is also the time to start thinking about renewing your membership or joining TSCA for 2024. TSCA relies on the support of our members to be able to continue all of our activities, many established fifty years ago. The student exchange program is funded by proceeds from our annual Bunka-Sai festival which will be the weekend of April 19-21, 2024. Please reserve this date on your calendar, attend monthly planning meetings starting on January 17<sup>th</sup> and enjoy the entertainment and the excitement of the festival itself in April. We need and appreciate the hundreds of volunteers that make Bunka-Sai the success it has been to support the student exchange each summer. As we start our planning, we need help scheduling volunteer work schedules, solicit ads for the program booklet, back-up persons to coordinate vendors, performers and run the sound system, or work in the TSCA food booths that weekend. We need everyone to solicit donations for the drawing during the festival. If you can help in any way, please attend the meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the Katy Geissert Library Meeting Room. Come with ideas and any ads or donations you have already collected. We need YOUR help, please get involved.

If you enjoy this beautiful newsletters, TSCA is looking for a new editor to continue the monthly newsletters in 2024. The newsletter is the lifeline to all the members in TSCA. We cannot afford to lose this vital resource of information showcasing all of our monthly activities. It is not too hard to organize the articles written by various people. The current editor is willing to help you during the transition period so future newsletters will look very similar to present ones. Please consider your talents on the computer and email me (address given above) if you are interested.

As you can see TSCA is a busy, thriving organization, with many mutually established programs with Kashiwa. We utilize the team approach to get things done. Please consider joining our team. We have something to fit your talents and expertise, and we supply support to those who offer to take the lead. We just need to know who you are and that you are willing to help in this worthwhile organization.

## Torrance Sister City Association

### PRESIDENT

Donna Dunlap

### VICE PRESIDENT

Stephanie Ewing-Warner

### SECRETARY

Amie Campbell

### TREASURER

Kevin Lobo

### Newsletter Editor

Shoko Matsuda

### Newsletter Distribution

Donna Dunlap

### Comments or submissions?

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



# English Teacher Report

## Ichikashi Bunka-Sai 2: Electric Boogaloo

By Chris Pigao

Time is a flat circle. It was about a year ago that I was writing the phrase “Time works in such mysterious ways” for my first article ever for TSCA. Here I am once again, writing about Bunka-Sai from the comfort of my own desk. This time, however, more memories were made.

On September 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, Ichikashi had their annual Bunka-Sai / Cultural Festival for the 2023 school year. As I mentioned a year prior, the school was able to have their first Bunka-Sai festival after the COVID-19 pandemic. However, I failed to mention that it was a closed-campus event. This year, we had the pleasure of being open to the general public. Needless to say that it truly made a difference from last year's festivities.

Starting off with the 1<sup>st</sup> day of festivities, the opening ceremonies commenced with the opening words from our principal - Endo-sensei. The best part about the opening ceremonies is that it serves as a commercial for each class's attraction. Some of them gave a funny skit in outrageous costumes while others managed to perform a quick dance or song snippet. A lot of classes did arcade games, haunted houses, or riddle games. With the ease-of-restrictions, the haunted houses allowed the students to scare their friends, family members, and their own teacher to exact revenge on. Most of them stuck to their winning formulas by doing a snack cafe or an ice cream parlor.

I try not to be biased in situations like these, but I really thought that our international classes had very unique attractions this Bunka-Sai. Our 3A class brought back the game show activities to this year's festivities. They did Bingo Games - having a few sessions throughout the day. What made their games unique was that they would play these pre-recorded videos on the screen projector, asking teachers and students what their favorite number was.

This was all randomized and when patrons held out their “BINGO” sign, they were able to get a prize.

Our 2nd year 2A class hit the creativity mark - running an arts-and-crafts boutique in their classroom.

It was nice to just sit back and create key chains, charms, and bracelets amidst the busy event. Luckily, the students were there to assist you in creating your own customized item. I was able to get my name and pick out some of my favorite colors for my personalized keychain. What was really nice about their classroom was it was sequenced in pink and purple-ish streamers that made you feel like you were in a 50's style Las Vegas Resort. Their classroom was so vibrant and elegant - having smooth Japanese pop music playing throughout the day.



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# English Teacher Report

*Continued*

Speaking of music, the 1A class tore the classroom down with their event! They held a Disco-style dance room. What was very amazing about this was that the students would take turns DJ-ing their favorite songs. Almost everyone would come in-and-out of their room. I got to say that I began dancing along with glow sticks that the class provided. Not only did they have dancing involved, there were Karaoke sessions in-between. Students, teachers, and guests would have their moment singing songs as if they were on NHK's Nodo Jiman.

One of the biggest surprises was running into my former student and former ASB President, Hiroka, in the 1A classroom. She asked me if I remembered her and I said, "OF COURSE! You were the first student that welcomed me

to this school. I can never forget you!" What made this year's event special was seeing all of the recent 2023 graduates return back to visit their school. I asked a lot of them what they were doing or studying.

I was met with joy because I saw how mature they have gotten over the past few months. It truly felt like a homecoming for them, and it's a constant reminder that you can always find your way back home.

To echo back to last year's article, "It's the **beauty** and **charm** of Bunka-Sai that makes this asset of school culture here so fascinating. There is this sense of **camaraderie** and **unity** that makes it feel so special."

To me, that sentiment still stands. The Bunka-sai cultural festival is truly the moments that we all share at our school. We can have fun with our ever-so-busy life.

## Membership List

Compiled by Alyssa Yamauchi, Membership Chair

### FAMILY (\$40)

Shields, Perry and Cindy

### INDIVIDUAL (\$20)

Poirier, Rebecca

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](https://torrancesistercity.org/membership_join.html)

*Thank you for your support!*

# KASHIWA DELEGATES IN TORRANCE

Bonus Pictorial



# EXPERIENCE JAPAN



## **Torrance Sister City Association**

is looking for highly motivated Torrance residents who are high-school sophomores through seniors, 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.

2024 applications will be available in November on our website:

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

To submit your application or if you have any questions, please 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 18, 2023** ▪ [TorranceSisterCity.org](http://TorranceSisterCity.org)

# ADULT LEADER NEEDED FOR STUDENT CULTURAL EXCHANGE



## TORRANCE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

### *Have You Considered Being an Adult Leader for the TSCA Student Cultural Exchange Program?*

- Accompany up to eight high school students to Torrance's sister city, Kashiwa, Japan in July 2024
- Learn about the Student Cultural Exchange program and Japanese Culture
- Spend up to three exciting weeks in Japan as an Ambassador of Goodwill

#### **Qualifications:**

- Be at least 26 years of age at the time of the trip
- Reside or work in Torrance
- Have a background working with youth in at least one of the following areas:
  - ▶ Education, counseling, behavioral sciences, or
  - ▶ Youth Activities, chaperone for school trips

## INTERESTED?

**Contact:** Donna Dunlap, TSCA president at [lhdebat@aol.com](mailto:lhdebat@aol.com). Send application, resume, cover letter and two signed reference letters by November 13, 2023. Qualified applicants will be called for a panel interview with the Adult Leader Selection Committee.



**Please see website for more details at [www.torrancesistercity.org](http://www.torrancesistercity.org)**

**Mail all material to:**

Torrance Sister City Association  
c/o Cultural Services Division  
3031 Torrance Blvd. • Torrance, CA 90503  
Attention: Adult Leader Program

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

TSCA meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 7-9 pm  
(No meetings in August or December)

Postmark deadline to be included in the printed  
TSCA Membership Directory is 2/16/23

### 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**

*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