

Sister City News



Torrance, California



Torrance Sister City Association



Kashiwa, Japan

Newsletter Editor: Teri Kuwahara

April 2006

Newsletter Mailing: Samir Mehta

STUDENT DELEGATION - 2006 EXCHANGE PROGRAM



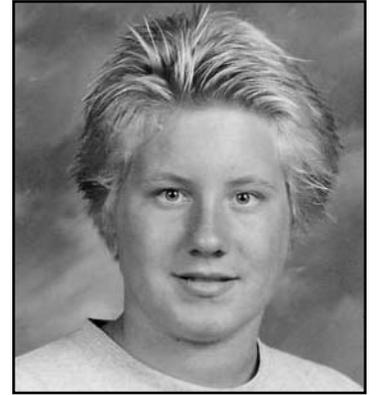
TRACY ABE

Grade 11 - Calif. Academy Math & Science



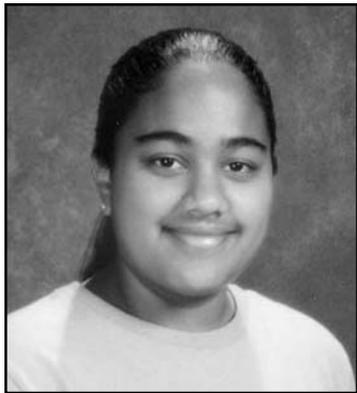
CARA IHDE

Grade 11 - Peninsula High School



MATTHEW MEDLOCK

Grade 11 - South High School



SHUMONI MEHTA

Grade 11 - South High School



DANIKA WOOD

Grade 11 - South High School



MARGARET WONG

Grade 10 - South High School



CRAIG YORIZANE

Grade 11 - North High School



KATIE YOSHIDA

Grade 10 - West High School



MRS. PAM MIIKE

Adult Leader



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Ray Roulette

Bunka-Sai is still the big news for TSCA this month. We expect this newsletter to be in your hands by the first part of April, days before our Bunka-Sai festival Saturday and Sunday, April 8 and 9. Do come out to the Torrance Cultural Arts Center to enjoy this free and entertaining event, have a tasty meal in the plaza, browse among the goods for sale and the beautiful exhibits. Entertainment will be on the stage of the Ken Miller Recreation Center, the building you'll enter to get your program for the day. We'll open at 11 a.m., close at 5 p.m. both days. There will be fun and interesting activities for the children. Invite your friends and neighbors, support our student exchange program, and have a good time for the whole family. There are some great prizes for the raffle ticket drawings.

The other big news this month is featured on our front page, the selection of our eight students who will be sent to Kashiwa, Japan, this July as our 2006 Youth Ambassadors from Torrance. We enthusiastically congratulate them, not only because it will be a

wonderful experience for them, but also because, along with the other applicants who were barely not selected, they persevered with good spirits throughout all the many observational events held for them by the selection committee. We are proud of all the applicants, all of whom would have been good representatives - intelligent, courteous and respectful, excellent character, caring, service-oriented, from good families, and involved in a variety of school and community activities. Take a look at their group picture back in the February issue, and if you know any of them, let them know you're proud of them too. Many of them, definitely including the selected eight, will be at our Bunka-Sai festival, wearing the green hapi coats as they help with that event.

The Student Selection Committee is one of several hard-working groups in TSCA, deserving many thanks. They met monthly starting back in August, planned and attended all the observational events for the applicants - reading all the applications and recommendations, holding the interviews and home visits, dinners, a work party, pizza party and a picnic, all to get to know the students well before making their final group decision, investing much time and intense attention. They are Hazel Taniguchi, Lori Martel, Cheng Leong, 2006 Adult Leader Pam Miiike, and very able students Jenny Tanaka and Alyssa Yamauchi. President RR served as committee chair.

April calendar

April	8-9	BUNKA-SAI TSCA's Annual Festival of Japanese Culture. All members will be needed for this special event. Our major fundraiser of the year!
April	10	Association Meeting 7:00 p.m. West Annex Commission Room
April	18	Orientation Meeting #1 for 2006 Student Delegates Parent attendance required. 7:00-9:00 p.m. West Annex Commission Room
July	11	Torrance Student Delegation departs for Japan
August	4	Kashiwa Student Delegation arrives in Torrance



Student Selection Committee Activities:

Picnic at Walteria Park (above right)

Dinner with families at Mitsuwa (left)

Committee reviews applications (right)



Now our eight Youth Ambassadors must attend nine Tuesday afternoon two-hour Orientation sessions held by TSCA, and be presented to the Torrance City Council for approval, before they are officially cleared to go. Our 2004 and 2005 Adult Leaders, Pam Mallowney and Jill Maroney, will share their experiences as they lead these sessions during April, May and June.

Our Student Activities Committee, under the leadership of Stephanie Ewing-Warner, is also hard at work, busy honing the plans for the August activities when we host the Kashiwa students. They are Teri Kuwahara, Jill Maroney, Lori Martel, Butch Ihde, Nancy Canzone-Broun, and student Jenny Tanaka. You will be hearing more about this work later.

We are still looking for more translators for these August activities, to spend a day on tour with the Kashiwa students, translating presentations into Japanese for the students. The students do know some English, but most are not yet at a point where they can readily understand. Please contact me at 370-9427 if you can help in this way.

Adults who can teach English as a second language are still encouraged to apply for our program to help teach English in Kashiwa High School in Japan. Contact Dr. Dan Fichtner at 310-316-6092 or Ray Roulette at 310-370-9427 ASAP.

Many thanks to all of you who continue to support the TSCA in a variety of ways. If you are not yet a member, please do consider joining.



Memberships

2006 New Members & Renewals
Ron Kimmel
Membership Chairman

New Members and Renewals:

Birnbaum, Morris (I)
Deloyd, Tom & Aki (F)
Goodrich, Marjorie (I)
Kobayashi, Tetsuo (I)
Lorenz, Larry, Sarah & Megan (F)
Miziguchi, Lori (S)
Ozima, Ellen & Josh (F)
Scott, Jim & Judy (F)
Shiozaki, Ronald & Leah (F)
Tingey, Richard & Elaine (F)
Tsurukame, Akira (F)
Warner, Steve & Stephanie Ewing-Warner (F)

Former Student Ambassadors

KENNY MIIKE, student ambassador in 2002, attended the Alumni Reunion in January. Kenny is a junior at UC Riverside with a major in Electrical Engineering.



RACHEL MARONEY, student ambassador in 2001, is spending a semester in Sienna, Italy, in a cultural immersion program through UC Santa Barbara. Rachel is a Communications major, studying Italian in the mornings, doing wine tasting and other learning experiences, and taking field trips to places like Rome! She is staying with a family where she has 3 little brothers (ages 10,7 and 4) and a mom who is a really good cook.



Rachel and her friend, Priya, in Venice

LAURA VALLENI, student ambassador in 1987.

A recent report from Pamela Valleni, Laura's mom, says:

"Laura had a marvelous experience in Kashiwa and stays in touch with some people she met in Japan. Several have visited her, and the exchange student we had in our home has been back here for one visit. Laura is now a doctor in neonatology and lives in Charleston, South Carolina. She has made two trips to China and Tibet to teach infant resuscitation. So her interest in travel to faraway places and interactions with other cultures continues."



News from Japan

by Dave Brown
English Teacher in Kashiwa

Samui! [cold] It has been the coldest winter in recent memory according to the people living in Kashiwa. As [I write this (3/10/06)], the temperatures have been averaging between 30-45 degrees fahrenheit. The heater in my bedroom has been working a lot of overtime these last few months. Having been raised in the South Bay my entire life, I always thought of cold weather as something that people on the east coast experienced.

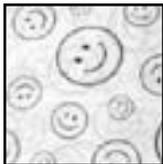
The good news though is that *sakura* [cherry blossom] season is fast approaching. The experts are claiming that the cherry blossoms should be in bloom at the end of March to the beginning of April. With the cold weather and constant cloudiness, *sakura* season is going to be



welcomed with open arms. Everyone in the English Department here at Kashiwa Municipal High School have their own take on which spot is the best to view the cherry blossoms. Some say Kansai-plain (Kobe, Osaka, Kyoto) is the best area to watch the cherry blossoms, while others say Kanto-plain (Tokyo, Yokohama, Chiba) is the best. Last year I visited Ueno Park in Tokyo during *sakura*. Dozens of beautifully formed cherry trees in full bloom could be seen in and around the park. People from Tokyo and the surrounding area convene at Ueno Park and have a "*hanami*" party. A *hanami* party consists of blankets, beverages, friends, and relaxing under a cherry tree. One has to arrive at the park early to ensure a nice spot; showing up after 11 a.m. will almost guarantee you a spot far from the action.

This year I will be in Sendai (Northern Japan) during *sakura* season. From what I've read and heard from colleagues, *sakura* is supposed to be beautiful there, too. I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

[Editor's note: We're keeping our fingers crossed for a great photo of *sakura* from Dave, too!]



Student Club News

Keri Namimoto, President
Jill Maroney, Advisor
Cara Ihde, Newsletter Reporter

Thank you to Brad and the Hayata Family for hosting our Movie Night Social on March 3rd. There was a great turn-out and was a lot of fun!

T-Shirts for 2006 are being made. Please purchase them and support the Student Club. They will be sold at BUNKA SAI or contact Keri Namimoto.

Everyone in Student Club is expected to work shifts at BUNKA SAI. Please contact Keri Namimoto to make arrangements.

Cans are needed! Please bring a grocery bag full of cans to our next meeting. One bag of cans if they are crushed or two bags if they are not crushed.

Important Dates

- April 2 Student Club Meeting - bring cans!
- April 8-9 BUNKA SAI
- April 29 Social: Bonfire
Meet at Keri's house, 2:00 p.m.
Carpool to the beach for bonfire & games
(Student Club Alumni welcome!)
- June 30 Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation Gala
Student Club volunteers needed to help their decorating committee

SoCal Sister Cities Board of Directors Meeting Report

by Mariko and Keri Namimoto

The SoCal Sister Cities meeting was held on February 18th. Current President, Gene Clark, will finish his term and Estelle Feurer from Los Angeles Sister City was appointed to be the next president.

The 2006 SoCal Regional Conference will be held in Los Angeles. The guest speaker for the day from the USC Marshall School of Policy has offered USC as a possible site for the next conference.

USC is currently conducting a study on the International Student Exchange Program focusing on establishing business relationships with countries, a different approach from the exchange programs found in Sister City.

Business items for the day included:

1. Rewriting the bylaws.
2. City of Santa Barbara hosting a U.S.-China Sister City Conference on April 5, 2006.
3. Request to ask Torrance to host the next board meeting on Saturday, May 6, 2006.
4. Sister Cities International 50th Anniversary Celebration Conference will be held in Washington, D.C. this year, July 13-15th. Theme: "A Historic Event for the Future of Citizen Diplomacy". This program is being sponsored by Hewlett Packard. See Mariko or Keri for brochure.

Rummage Sale a Success!

Pam Miike, 2006 Adult Leader, reported the Rummage Sale held on Saturday, February 25th, was a big success!

The candidates for 2006 Ambassadors turned out to sell their treasures at the West High Parking lot. After all the change was counted, the grand total amounted to \$438.75!

"Everyone should pat themselves on the shoulder for a job well done," said Pam. "Thanks to all of you for all your hard work and supporting our sale. Even the smallest effort made a big difference."





Focus on a TSCA Member

by Gail Roulette



Makiyo Doi

Our focus this month is on a very important person in Kashiwa: Makiyo Doi. Kashiwa International Relations Association, known as KIRA, is comprised of 14 committees to oversee four sister cities. These are Torrance and Guam, U.S.A.; Camden, Australia; and Chengde,

China. Makiyo is chair of the Torrance Committee, which is the largest and has the longest history of the four. She will serve from April 2005 to March 2007.

Makiyo was born and raised in Osaka and graduated from Tezukayama Gakuin High School in that city. In 1971 she graduated from Kobe City University of Foreign Studies, majoring in English. She earned a Bachelor's degree in English and a teaching credential.

Makiyo worked for ITOCHU Corporation Osaka, one of Japan's general trading companies, for two years. She worked as a corresponding secretary, sending messages by telex or writing letters by electric typewriter (no PCs in those days). After marriage, she quit working and moved to Kashiwa. There she has been teaching Japanese language to foreigners for 20 years.

For 18 years Makiyo has been involved in the sister city program. Her family hosted a girl named Mary Yogi from Torrance for the first time when their sons were 12 and 6 years old. Later the sons visited Torrance as members of the 18th and 27th delegations. Makiyo was the adult leader of the 29th delegation in 2002 and has unforgettable memories of her stay in Torrance and visits from TSCA members.

The ITC Kashiwa Club has been fortunate to have Makiyo as a member for 20 years. ITC was founded in 1938 in San Francisco under the name International Toastmistress Clubs. It started primarily for women, but is now open to both men and women. In 1985 the organization's name was changed to International Training in Communication. Makiyo learned communication and leadership skills in ITC that have helped her serve as chair of the Torrance Committee now. Several of her good friends in the club are also active members of the Torrance Committee.

Dancing is a hobby of Makiyo's - particularly world folk dance, square or round dance. This activity keeps her healthy and, she says, is a good exercise for the brain.

Makiyo lives with her husband, Hiromichi, who works in Tokyo. They have two sons: Kenichiro (30), who is married with an 8-month-old boy, and Hiroaki (24) who enjoys living alone 30 minutes' drive from his parents. Both sons are office workers. The Dois enjoy walking the neighborhood on Sundays, traveling abroad when time permits, and visiting their grandson, Rikuto, who lives 90 minutes away.

It is a true pleasure to know and work with Makiyo Doi.

What's New?

In an e-mail to Ray Roulette, Liane wrote:

"Greetings from Japan! This is Liane Nishioka, do you remember me? I'm doing well. I moved to Ichikawa City after my contract ended with TSCA-KIRA..."

This May, I will be marrying my sweetheart of 4 years (he's Japanese). We are currently watching our house being constructed... I'll be here (in Japan) for a long time..."

I'm semi-active with KIRA events and am now teaching advanced English (brush-up English) to Mrs. Kosuge, Mrs. Nakano and some other ladies... I don't get to see Ryan and Dave very often, but I'm around and still willing to help/orientate the in-coming people when they arrive. I hope you are doing well. I see the TSCA newsletters down at the KIRA office.

Please say Hello to everyone for me."



2005 Adult Leader, Hiroyo Yamanaka, recently met with the girls from her 2005 student group and snapped this photo.

"They all said to say hello!"

Top (l-r): Yukiko, Misa & Saku
Front (l-r) Saeka, Ayako, Wakiko



Memories of Japan

The third in a mini-series of reports from the 2005 Kashiwa Ambassadors
compiled by Gail Roulette

Comparison of the Life of a Teenager Between Japan and the U.S.

by Alyssa Yamauchi



From my stay in Japan, I learned that in school, students are now the ones who move from room to room, rather than the teachers, similar to that of the schools in America...Some students usually spend a lot of their time studying or with their school clubs. Much like students in America, you can find many young people shopping or at the mall.

During the summertime, there are many different matusris, or festivals in the different cities each weekend. The streets are blocked off and very crowded...young people wear a yukata, a summer kimono, to the matsuri. On Friday nights...karaoke bars are very crowded. Another popular thing is the purikura, the sticker pictures. Most teens have

whole pages full of their friends and their friends' purikura....Students often wear their school uniforms on the weekends or school breaks...it acts as a symbol of their youth.

I really enjoyed my trip to Japan and will never forget the memories nor the kindness everyone had showered us with.

Buddhism

by Mark Tomaier

I pick up the wooden ladle with my right hand and let half of the ladle's water stream down my left hand. Switching to my left, I pour nearly the rest of the water on my right hand. I finally use the rest to let the water trickle down the ladle's handle and set it down back onto the gray stone that houses the water. I am cleansed spiritually and I can progress into the temple. This is one tradition I learned in Japan that must be done before entering a Buddhist temple.



Ironically, neither of my [host] families was Buddhist. In fact, my second family believed in Christianity....I learned that because we have such a small world, religions can flourish in any part of the world.

The people of Japan seemed very calm and welcoming. Seeing as that calmness and being content are values of Buddhism, and that Buddhism had been the primary religion for years in Japan, I deduced that their everyday lives had been affected by the Buddhist culture.



Memories of Japan

continued...

FAVORITE ACTIVITIES IN KASHIWA - Lions Clubs' Activities



The Lions Club has been a great group of people. They are very generous and I am grateful for all their hard work to sponsor many of our events. I especially enjoyed the Lions Club banquet...It was an extravagant event with tons of food, drinks and excitement.

I remember competing with Mark over who could eat more of the delicious food.
-- **Derek Kuwahara**

After eating at the Lions Club dinner, we participated in a fishing game contest. We were competing with a couple of other groups to try to catch the most fish using a delicate paper net. We won that game with a total of nineteen points! -- **Jenny Tanaka**



The Kashiwa Lions Club General Meeting was very interesting. All of the members and their families were there. The children looked very cute dressed in their traditional clothing...We were presented with beautiful hapi coats and wore them while dancing the odori. -- **Jill Maroney**

I am especially surprised and honored by the kindness and generosity shown to us by the Kashiwa (Oak) Lions Club. They sponsored our trip to Hakkeijima, which is very similar to Sea World in California [but] has more rides. My favorite ride at Hakkeijima was



one that takes you slowly up to a dizzying height and drops you.
-- **Alisha Chan**



[Editor's note: There were three Lions Clubs in Kashiwa which sponsored special trips or activities for our 2005 ambassadors. The Kashiwa Oak Lions Club sponsored a bus tour to Hakkeijima Sea Paradise. The Kashiwa Lions Club invited our ambassadors to their general meeting and a dinner with karaoke. The Kashiwa Chuo Lions Club sponsored a bus trip to Nikko, pictured at left]



**TORRANCE
SISTER CITY
ASSOCIATION**

3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Torrance, CA
Permit No. 78**



**TORRANCE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION
2006 Membership Application**

Except for Life Membership, all annual memberships are in effect from January 1st to December 31st.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Telephone (____) _____ E-mail: _____

My membership is: NEW _____ RENEWAL _____ I do not want to be listed in the TSCA Directory _____

Directory Update: New address _____ New telephone number _____ New E-mail address _____

I am interested in participating in TSCA activities: _____

Enclosed is a donation to TSCA (in addition to my annual dues) in the amount \$ _____.

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Make your check payable to **TSCA and mail with this form to:** The Torrance Sister City Association
c/o The Community Services Department
3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503

TSCA meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, except in August and December, at the Civic Center West Annex Commission Room, 7:00 p.m.