

SISTER CITY NEWS



Torrance, California



Torrance Sister City Association



Kashiwa, Japan

Newsletter Editor: Mona Wong

December 2010

Newsletter Mailing: Gail Roulette

Vice President's Message

By Gail Roulette



The 38th year of our Torrance/Kashiwa sister city relationship is coming to a close (technically in February). We started 2010 with the annual Alumni Reunion in January. This was an outstanding event, with many alumni returning and sharing memories of their time in TSCA.

In May many volunteers worked hard to put on a successful and enjoyable Bunka-Sai festival. Kudos to the four Torrance exchange students who worked two Bunka-Sai to help earn their way to Kashiwa in July. They reported an amazing experience as guests of our sister city.

In turn, 18 families in Torrance opened their homes to host eight students and their adult leader from Kashiwa for three weeks in August. The activities, from the Welcome Reception to Sayonara Banquet, kept our visitors happily busy each day.

We had many volunteers step forth to keep the machinery running, not the least of these being our skilled editor who put together our newsletter each month. Special mention goes to our two ALTs who regularly contributed very thoughtful and interesting accounts of their teaching experience at Kashiwa Municipal High School.

Now we say Good-bye and Many Thanks to the outgoing board and officers for a job well done (three who have served two years), and Congratulations and Welcome to the new officers. You will learn about them elsewhere in this newsletter. They are a high quality group of experienced leaders and will appreciate the support of us all.

We've had a challenging but satisfying year and look forward to our 39th year, selecting eight new students for the summer exchange program and all the activities that brings. We have a good start, with the Student Selection Committee already at work actively promoting the Japan experience. Applicants and their families will be introduced at the Alumni Reunion on January 15, 2011.

Thank you for the support you have given your officers this year, and Best Wishes to all for the holidays. We'll see you in January!

CALENDAR

- December 6 City Hall Closed
- 13 Budget Committee Meets, 7:00 p.m.
West Annex Upstairs Conference Room
(For Outgoing and Incoming Officers)
- 20 City Hall Closed
- 27 City Hall Closed

COMING UP

Adult Leader Selection Committee Meeting
TBA.

SAVE THE DATES



BUNKA-SAI

IS COMING SOON

APRIL 30 AND MAY 01 2011

*TSCA Cookbooks are
available for
holiday giving.
\$15.00 per book pick-up
from a committee member
or \$20.00 per book
shipped*

*Contact: Teri Kuwahara
t.kuwahara@verizon.net*

Happy Holiday

*No Association Meeting in
December - see you in 2011*

NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Teri Kuwahara is a life-long resident of the South Bay. She was born at Torrance Memorial Hospital in Old Torrance and a graduate of Gardena High School. Her post-secondary education includes a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and East Asian Studies from California State University Long Beach, a Master of Science Degree in Library Science from the University of Southern California and a Certificate in College Counseling with Distinction

from the University of California Los Angeles Extension.

She has been the full-time Director of the College & Career Center at Palos Verdes High School for almost 4 years. Prior to that she was the Program Director at the Go For Broke National Education Center and an active community volunteer.

Married to Gary Kuwahara, former Board member of the Torrance Unified School District, She has two children who graduated from South High School. Her son, Derek, was a TSCA exchange student in 2005.

This is her second round as a TSCA Board member, having been appointed to fill an unexpired term in 2004 and elected to a full term in 2006. She served as TSCA Newsletter Editor under Presidents Ray Roulette, Hazel Taniguchi and Gary Yoshida. In 2009, it was her honor to serve as chairman of the TSCA Cookbook Committee and most recently, leader of the August tour of Little Tokyo for our Kashiwa guests.

Teri was appointed in September to fill a vacancy on the board for the year 2011.



Joe Rust graduated from Rutgers University, moved to California in 1994, and is a partner in a CPA firm. He first learned about TSCA through his daughter Danielle, who was a 2007 student delegate. He and his family found the student program to be a very enriching experience. He has enjoyed his three years as a board member, the last two years as treasurer, and looks forward to another term on the board.



Steven Ihde is a substitute teacher in the PVUSD and enjoys volunteering as an Assistant Scoutmaster with a local Boy Scout troop. He has been involved with TSCA since 1986. He has grown up in the organization, mostly behind the scenes. He has volunteered at Bunka-Sai selling raffle tickets and making dangos, and has participated in many of the activities with the exchange students.



Ann Smisek is a retired educator and life-long volunteer. She holds a counseling credential as well as certificates in management, computer science, nonprofit fund-raising, grant writing, ethics and city commissions. She played a leading role in professional organization at local and state levels Volunteering included PTA, AYSO, Catholic Workers and TCACF. She recently completed serving on the Torrance Cultural Arts Commission

and currently serves as a Trustee for Switzer Learning Center, Special Event Chair for Torrance Historical Society and Founding Director of Friends of Torrance Theater Company. Interest in TSCA began in 2001 when granddaughter, Rachel Maroney, became 2001 Student Delegate, Daughter, Jill Maroney, served as Adult Leader in 2005 and Adrian Maroney was 2007 Student Delegate. The Smiseks have repeated hosting. Ann helped at Bunka-Sai and chaired the Gift Booth the last three years. She visited Kashiwa in 2009 and hopes to return again for the anniversary celebration.

**We learned as this was going to press that Ann had passed away as the result of a tragic car accident.*



Tiffany Yoshida was a Student Exchange Delegate in 2004 and served as a student member of the TSCA board in 2004-2005. She will graduate from CSULB in the spring. She has been involved with TSCA for ten years hosting Kashiwa students and working at Bunka-Sai. Her parents were exchange students in 1974 and 1979.



Mona Wong works as an Data Entry in Macy's Department Store. Her Daughter, Margaret, was 2006 Student Exchange Delegate. She has enjoyed her three years as a board member, the last two years as Newsletter Editor, and looks forward to another term on the board.

Congratulations 2010 OFFICERS



Teri Kuwahara
PRESIDENT

The president is the official leader of the organization and the only liaison to Kashiwa



Ann Smisek
VICE PRESIDENT

The vice president performs the duties of the president in the absence of the president and is in charge of publicity and newsletter mailings.

*We learned as this was going to press that Ann had passed away as the result of a tragic car accident.



SECRETARY

The secretary records the minutes of each association meeting, keeps a file of all agendas and minutes, and performs other secretarial duties as assigned by the president.



Cheryl Yamauchi
TREASURER

The treasurer handles all the financial matters of the organization, reports to the board each month, and maintains records of all transactions for audit.



We appreciate your service on the board and look forward to your continuing participation!

Many thanks to the following outgoing officers:

- Jordan Thompson, president
- Gail Roulette, vice president
- Vera Little, secretary
- Joe Rust, treasurer

We appreciate your service on the Executive Committee and look forward to your continuing participation!



Left to Right: Vera Little, Joe Rust and Gail Roulette

WHO'S NEWS?

If you have any news of TSCA members that you would like to include in the newsletter, please e-mail to

Jordan Thompson: torrancesistercity@gmail.com or

Mona Wong :tscanewsletter@gmail.com.

The deadline for each Issue is second Monday of each month.

Memories of Japan

The Third in a mini-series of reports from the 2010 Kashiwa exchange group
Compiled by Gail Roulette

Each summer TSCA sends a student delegation to our sister city Kashiwa. Before they go, we give them eight two-hour orientation sessions to prepare them for the trip. Each of these students, usually high-school age, and their adult leader selects a particular topic to research. They write their findings prior to going, then write a report after the trip describing what they have learned. For the next few issues we will present excerpts from their experiences based on their post-trip reports.

Holidays in Japan – by Kelley Yonezaki

In Japan I got to experience Umi No Hi, also known as “Sea Day.” This holiday is celebrated on the third Monday in July every year and on this holiday many people go to the beach or ocean and celebrate the ocean...they go with their family friends and wear the color blue. This holiday is to say thanks for the past blessings and future blessings from the ocean. They also hope for more luck and prosperity from the sea.

“Sea Day” is a relatively new national holiday, established in 1995. It was originally known as Maritime Holiday and celebrated on July 20. The original holiday was created in 1876 when Emperor Meiji returned to the Yokohama Port on his ship, the Meiji Maru, and went on a tour of inspection of Hokkaido and Northeastern Japan.

My host family did not celebrate this particular holiday, but I know that other host families celebrated the holiday by taking their children to the beach and wearing blue. Others often go to the Tokyo Disney Sea, which is a theme park where all rides, attractions and shows are about the ocean and includes bodies of water throughout the park. The Japanese thank and recognize the blessings that the ocean has provided for their society.



Women in Japan – by Ellen Kircher, Adult Leader

Women in Japan, like women in many other countries, still have a problem with equality although it is getting somewhat better as more women attend college, work outside the home and travel to other countries. In fact, circumstances have changed so much that during the last election, which was held during our visit, several young women were elected to public office, even though they have young children. This is very unusual.

Many women in their 60's and 70's had very few choices besides marriage open to them when they were young, while women in their 30's, 40's, and 50's often gave up their careers once they married and had children. However, self-employed women and teachers were more likely to continue their careers even after their children were born.

The young women students we met in Japan are much like young women all over the world. As global communications spread and the world grows smaller, their perspective widens. They now have a diverse choice of careers open to them, and all the students we met were eager to work and travel once they graduated from school.

The women I met through KIRA, no matter what their age, were mostly satisfied with their lives. As one of them put it, “now that our children are grown, it is our time to travel and have fun.”

Ichikashi Earthquake Drill

By Geoff Tsudama

Assistant Language Teacher in Kashiwa



Because earthquakes have a history of devastation and destruction in the nation of Japan, schools across the country have periodic earthquake drills. In the case that the next big one hits Kashiwa, the Ichikashi recently held an earthquake drill. The thing that makes emergency drills in Japan interesting is the fact that they're pretty interactive.

Before we get to that, I want to mention Ichikashi's emergency alarm. I hadn't known that we were having a drill that day so when the alarm went off, I thought something was seriously wrong. Were we under attack? Why were we having an air raid at our humble little high school? The answer to both questions was no. What sounded like an air raid siren to me was actually our regular emergency alarm.

All of our students filed out of the building and onto the soccer field without even removing their inside shoes. Our students ALWAYS change their shoes when leaving the building but for emergency drill accuracy, the students didn't. It doesn't seem like a huge deal but students HATE cleaning time on drill days because the halls are covered in dirt.

Aside from quickly and safely exiting the building, some students got to participate in the drill's festivities: a simulated earthquake in the EARTHQUAKE TRUCK! The city of Kashiwa owns an earthquake truck that they send around to educate students about proper procedures during an earthquake. Our truck was programmed to simulate two different earthquake strengths, 4.0 and 8.0. The students seemed to have a lot of fun both riding in the truck and watching their classmates riding in the truck. Of course the one student that decided to ham it up and try to hide under the tiny table during the 8.0 quake was one of my kids.

Besides the earthquake truck, last year we had a fire drill where groups of students got to take turns aiming a fully-functional firehose at a target. If for no other reason than to keep the students' attention, Japanese emergency drills are much more interactive and entertaining than American ones. I just wish I had volunteered to ride the truck.



Membership News

By Ron Kimmel

Membership Chairman



Have you renewed your membership for 2011? Please use the form on the back of the newsletter.

We thank the following members who have renewed or joined early:

- Coury, Amy & George (F)
- Deloyd, Tom & Aki (F)
- Gallagher, Ann (I)
- Gibson, Judy (I)
- Johnson, Tammy, Jeffrey, & Zachary (F)
- Kaneshiro, Myrtle (I)
- Martel, Kristi (I)
- Martel, Louis & Lorraine (S)
- Mizuguchi, Toshiko (S)
- Peitzman, Fred & Ann (F)
- Fichtner, Dan & Rand, Ray (F)
- Roulette, Ray & Gail (S)
- Suzuki, Stanley & Agnes (F)
- Rust, Joe, Carol, Danielle & Joey (B)
- Taniguchi, Eisei & Hazel (S)
- Cornwell, Rich (I)
- Valleni, Pamela & Warren Matteson (F)
- Wand, Tom, Suzie, Katie & Kristi (F)
- Yoshida, Joanne & Tiffany (F)

Please update your directory:

- Hayashi, Dan, Ann, Chasen, Janey
- 20709 Mansel Ave, Torrance CA 90503
- Dana Vinke address change 5805 to 5808

If you have any questions, call Ron Kimmel at (310) 530-2382.





Alumni Reunion & 2011 Installation Luncheon

Don't miss this reunion of all former Student Delegates, Adult Leaders & English Teachers. TSCA will install the 2011 Officers at this annual potluck gathering and introduce the 2011 Student Delegate applicants and their families as well as presenting the Partnership Award.

Saturday, January 15, 2011

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Ken Miller Recreation Center
3330 Civic Center Drive,
Torrance Cultural Arts Center**

Individuals and groups of 2 bring a dessert or vegetable
Families bring a main dish and a salad

Please bring your own serving utensils, properly marked.

To volunteer to help or for more information, please call Kerry Cababa. 310 532-7562

New TSCA Archive for Photo Bugs!

Do you have digital photos of TSCA events? Some personal-interest shots from the Kashiwa exchange or Bunka-Sai? Maybe hard-copies of classic moments in TSCA history that you can convert to digital by scanning? If so, you can now archive them at our dedicated location for digital photos: tscapix@gmail.com.

The purpose is for members to have an easy location to send pictures to when they seem personally noteworthy or historically interesting. The process is simple: Just attach your digital photo to an email explaining briefly what the photo is about and send it off to the gmail address.

As the photos accumulate, we'll use them to post occasionally on our new website and to create a visual archive of TSCA history. Feel free to try this out by sending a picture you'd like to share with others or see preserved. For getting the best result in scanning old pictures, be sure to scan at the highest possible resolution (200-300 dpi).

If you have questions or comments, contact Mark Richardson (mark@lafn.org).

SUMMER 2011 STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

APPLY NOW!

Would you like to travel to Japan for 3 weeks in July? Be one of eight youth ambassadors representing the city of Torrance to our sister city, Kashiwa. Live with a family there, enjoy interesting and fun activities every day. Take the "bullet train", see Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, Hiroshima, and more. Must be a Torrance resident, and in the 10th grade or above (but not older than 19 when the delegation departs in July.)

Applications are available in the Counselors' office of each high school, in the Torrance Main Library, and in the Community Services office of Torrance City Hall. Deadline for submitting applications is December 20.

The eight students selected will receive extensive orientation, participate in our annual weekend Bunka-Sai festival in April, and be designated by the city of Torrance as Youth Ambassadors, recognized officially by the mayor and City Council. An adult leader from Torrance will accompany the group.

In August, the families of Torrance students will host a student from Kashiwa for 10 days, with our Torrance students joining the Kashiwa students during the 3 weeks we show them the sights and fun activities of Torrance and the Los Angeles area.

Ray Roulette
Student Selection Committee
310-370-9427



ALUMNI NEWS

By Gail Roulette

Jonathan Tingey (student to Kashiwa in 2000) and Brittany Whited were married August 14, 2010, in Utah. Jonathan is a sophomore at Utah Valley University in Provo, where he met his wife. He is majoring in Secondary Education, aspiring to be an English teacher. Brittany is an Illustration major at Brigham Young University, and will graduate next year. After his experience in Kashiwa, Jonathan went on a two-year LDS mission. He was thrilled to hear his location was to be Sapporo, Japan.

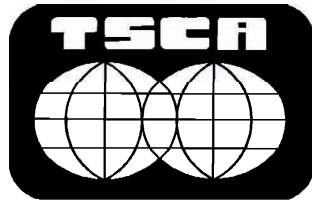
Very Best Wishes to the new Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Tingey.



experience Japan!



**Become
a Cultural
Ambassador
& have the
adventure
of a lifetime!**



Torrance Sister City Association (TSCA)

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

Pick up an application in your school's Counseling Office or call the Torrance Community Services Department at 310/618-2930.

- ◆ Here's your chance to represent the best of Torrance youth
- ◆ 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 & daily life
- ◆ Participate in an authentic tea ceremony
- ◆ Experience Hiroshima
- ◆ Make lifelong friends and much, much more!



**APPLICATION MUST
BE POSTMARKED BY
MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2010**



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ASSOCIATION
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Torrance, CA 90503

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**TORRANCE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION
2011 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: _____

- Individual.....\$10.00 per year
- Family.....\$20.00 per year
- Supporting.....\$50.00+ per year
- Benefactor.....\$100.00+ per year
- Life Member.....\$2000.00+ one time donation

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.