

SISTER CITY NEWS



Torrance, California



Torrance Sister City Association



Kashiwa, Japan

Newsletter Editor: Mona Wong

February 2011

Newsletter Mailing: Kerry Cababa

President's Message by Teri Kuwahara

千九百七十三年

Sen Kyu Hyaku Nana Ju San Nen
1000 + 900 + 70 + 3 year



What were you doing in 1973? Those of us old enough to remember may recall:

- Roberta Flack's "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face" and Stevie Wonder's "You Are The Sunshine of My Life" won Grammy Awards.
- A first-class U.S. postage stamp cost 8 cents.
- President Richard Nixon and the Watergate hearings
- The Godfather won the Oscar for Best Picture.
- American Graffiti and The Exorcist were popular movies.
- The average cost of a gallon of gasoline was 48 cents.
- Secretariat won the Kentucky Derby
- Billy Jean King defeated Chris Evert at Wimbledon.

I was attending college, driving a lime green Ford Pinto with a stick shift. My graduating class from Gardena High School was over 1000 students and Cal State Long Beach was still a college, not yet a university. Dress codes had recently lifted allowing girls to wear pants to public school. I was studying Japanese language and history unsuspecting of what turns my life would take and how it would play an important role in laying the foundation of my cultural curiosity.

On February 20, 1973, Torrance Mayor Ken Miller and Kashiwa Mayor Ryotaro Yamazawa signed the agreement to partner our cities, officially making us sister cities. Some of the early memories of the Torrance – Kashiwa Sister City years are highlighted this month by Mark Richardson of the Historical Committee in this newsletter. We commemorate Kashiwa Day annually in February and formally every five years when an adult delegation from Kashiwa visits Torrance.

A large portion of our membership have never visited Japan and may have never stopped to wonder where exactly is Kashiwa located, other than in Japan. Did you know Kashiwa is located in the Chiba Prefecture? A prefecture is comparatively similar to our system of states. There are 36 cities in Chiba Prefecture (*Chiba-ken*), among them are Kashiwa, Chiba (capital), Ichikawa and Narita. Kashiwa has a population of almost 400,000 people and located 30 kilometers (about 19 miles) from Tokyo. Each year, Kashiwa hosts our Torrance students during the Kashiwa Festival in July. Torrance students perform the Kashiwa Odori



FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 11 City Hall Closed
- 14 Association Meeting – West Annex, 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Newsletter Deadline, articles to Mona Wong at tscanewsletter@gmail.com
- 20 Happy 38th Kashiwa Day
- 21 City Hall Closed for President's Day
- 25 City Hall Closed



Happy
Valentines Day

SAVE THE DATES



BUNKA-SAI
IS COMING SOON
APRIL 30 AND MAY 01 2011

Music and dance performances, martial arts demonstrations, tea ceremonies, calligraphy exhibits, and authentic foods are just a sample of the entertainment and activities you will find at this free community festival honoring the traditions and culture of Japan.

(dance) as part of the colorful parade, one of the highlights of their trip.

Our counterpart in Kashiwa is the Kashiwa International Relations Committee (KIRA). They maintain several sister city relationships, among them is Torrance. If you go to their website, <http://www.kira-kira.jp/english/english.html>, you will be pleased to see a photograph of our 2010 Torrance students taken during their visit to Japan and information about Torrance.

Please Become a Host Family

By Vera Little

Please consider hosting a Japanese student in your home for 10 days in August.

Hosting is enriching and fun and it could change your life.

A miracle might even happen!

One did last summer.

Mikko and Barry Henson hosted 18-year-old Sayuri Shinada in their home.

The Hensons had no idea what Sayuri's family background was when she arrived.

They discovered, to their amazement, that Mikko had worked closely with Sayuri's great grandfather, who was the Mayor of Kashiwa, to help create the Sister City relationship between Kashiwa and Torrance in the early 1970s. Mikko gave Sayuri a copy of the Daily Breeze dated February 21, 1973, with a



big photo of Torrance Mayor Ken Miller and Kashiwa Mayor Yamazawa signing the official affiliation paper.

Sayuri knew ahead of time that the Hensons would be her Host Family, but in her humility, never made the connection known to others.

Mikko said, "I don't know who arranged for Sayuri to stay in our home – maybe God."

Another wonderful event happened to Jean and Otto Strobach who hosted Kashiwa students every year for more than ten years. The Strobachs could not afford to travel to Japan themselves, so the Kashiwa students pooled their money and paid for the Strobach's trip to Kashiwa in 1985. The Kashiwa newspaper headline read, "Sister City Exchange Students Repay Kindness to their American Host Family."

The Kashiwa students will be in Torrance from August 3 to August 23. TSCA members may sign up to host a student for the first 10 days or the last 10 days of their stay here. For more information, you may call Host Family Chairman, Vera Little at 310-533-1810.

Membership News

Membership Chairman:
Ron Kimmel



Ilene Gelbaum will be recruiting new members from the business community.

New and Renewed memberships:

All Nippon Airways (B)
North Torrance Lions Club (S)
Ando, Francis (I)
Ando, Jennifer (I)
Applegate, Bill & Linda (F)
Cababa, Ed & Kerry (S)
Cauble, Lynn (S)
Chan, Anna (I)
Comon, Mark & Sheryl (S)
Eurich, Lori & Dane (F)
Furey, Pat & Terry (B)
Goodrich, Marjorie (I)
Han, Dai Sup & Jill (F)
Hargrove, Eunice, Richard & Linda (F)
Hedges, David (B)
Heidebrecht, Bill & Kathy (F)
Inouye, Kristen & Family (F)
Jenkins, Neeva R. (I)
Johnson, Harold & Lynn (F)
Kilburn, Kathy (I)
Kilburn, Vic (I)
Kircher, Ellen & Bob (B)
Koga, Robert & Yvonne (S)
LaRue, Julie & Dennis (F)
Little, Vera & Bob (F)
Mattox, Verna (I)
Miles, Frank & Lynn (F)

Mitoma, Edwin (I)
Mitsukawa, Hiroshi (I)
Mullowney, Pamela (I)
Nakano, Helen & George (F)
Nowatka, Helen & Paul (S)
Okuma, Mrs Sumi (I)
Pennick, Tiffany (I)
Plank, Janice (I)
Sakamoto Roger & May (F)
Tabata, Lynn (I)
Tanabe, Fred & Janice (F)
Tingey, Richard & Elaine (F)
Todd, Edwin (F)
Toya, George & May (F)
Unger, Lola & Marty (F)
Vinke, Dana (B)
Willoughby, Werner & Aileen (S)

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

Memberships received after February 28 will not be included in the 2011 Directory

Torrance Sister City Association is now on Facebook
Keep up to date with the latest news on TSCA and find old TSCA friends.



Student Selection Committee

TSCA's Student Selection Committee has received fourteen fine student applicants for our summer exchange program with Kashiwa. They and their families were introduced at our Alumni Reunion luncheon on Saturday, Jan. 15. That afternoon the nine members of the Selection Committee met to read all the applications, including recommendations from teachers and others, learning more about each student. On the following two Saturdays, Jan. 22 and Jan. 29, the committee spent all day interviewing each of the applicants. Then in February we will have a work party, a pizza party, and in March hold a picnic for the students. We will also visit each of the homes, and on two Friday evenings join the applicants and their families for a Japanese meal at Mitsuwa Market, all for the purpose of getting to know each of the students and their families better.

By mid-March the committee will then meet to select the eight students who will be our 2011 Youth Ambassadors to travel to Japan in July.

Ray Roulette
Student Selection Committee
310-370-9427



TSCA Alumni Reunion

By: Kerry Cababa

Alumni Reunion Chairperson

I would like to thank my committee and others for their contributions to the success of the 2011 reunion. Shirley Tanaka, Joanne Yoshida, Teresa Wong and Vera Little were the hostesses with the mostest, organizing the tables for the utmost efficiency and setting up and cleaning up with incredible energy. I couldn't ask for a better team for this event. Also helping with setup and clean up were Gary Kuwahara and Bryce Yamauchi and the Student Club, including some of the new applicants. Werner Willoughby picked up the huge cake, Butch Ihde brought the much-needed sound system and Dana Vinke provided the laptop for the slide show. In addition, Steven Ihde lent his muscle and energy to many, many essential tasks. I give you all my heartfelt thanks for your friendship, hard work, and willingness to help wherever help was needed.

Teri Kuwahara, our new president, emceed a meaningful program, beginning with greetings from Mayor Scotto, introduction of guests by Gail Roulette, recognition of outgoing officers by City Councilman Gene Barnett, installation of new officers by City Clerk Sue Herbers, the Partnership Award by Hazel Taniguchi, presentation of the 2011 and 2012 adult leaders, and the presentation of our new applicants by Ray Roulette. Dr. Amy Coury did the roll call, and the program concluded with a slide show by the 2011 students and, as customary, the Kashiwa Odori was the grand finale of the day's program.



Mayor Frank Scotto



Installation of new officers



TSCA 2011 President Teri Kuwahara



Council Member Gene Barnett and Former Vice President Gail Roulette



Sue Herbers, City Clerk



L to R: Vera Little, Joanne Yoshida, Hazel Taniguchi, Suzie Wand

2011 Applicants



2010 Adult Leader Ellen Kircher and 2012 Adult Leader Steven Ihde



Butch Ihde, Kerry Cababa, Teri Kuwahara at the reception table



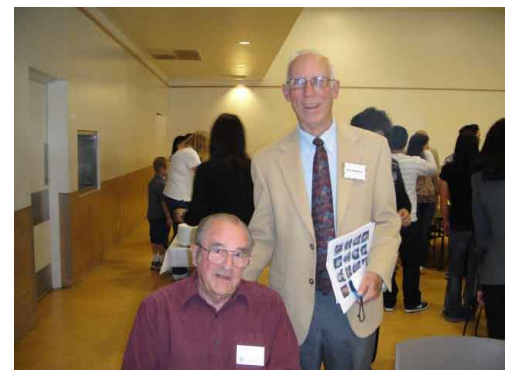
Brianne Heredia, Jeffrey Johnson, Lida Cho 2010 Student Delegate



Hazel Taniguchi helped Amy Coury with her yukata.



City Clerk Sue Herbers and 2006 Exchange Student Cara Ihde at the potluck table



Membership Chairman Ron Kimmel and Student Selection Committee Chairman Ray Roulette

PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Congratulations to the Kawai Sumi-e Club for being selected as the TSCA Partnership Award recipient for 2011!

The club was started in 1960 and has carried on the art of Sumi-e all these years. Sumi-e is Japanese ink painting, using ink, a grinding stone, a brush, and paper.

The club currently has 10 active members of various ages and experiences with the art. They meet every Tuesday at the Ken Nakaoka Center in Gardena from 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Sharon Neff and Nobi Uchio share the leadership role of president and teach the classes. Interested parties are welcome to attend the class sessions. The first lesson is free. Fees are a lifetime membership of \$10 and \$40 a month for the classes.

The Kawai Sumi-e Club has been a strong supporter of Bunka-Sai since the festival was started. The club sets up displays, demonstrates the art, donates paintings for the silent auction, and supports the other vendors.

TSCA looks forward to a long relationship with the Kawai Sumi-e Club. Congratulations again!

Hazel Taniguchi
Partnership Award Chairperson
Lori Chong Eurich
Committee Member



Hazel Taniguchi presented the Partnership Award to Sharon Neff and Nobi Uchio

The Gift Booth Needs Your Help

TSCA needs a volunteer to step up as the chairman of the Gift Booth for Bunka Sai! Several people have volunteered to help work in the Gift Booth, but we need someone to lead the team! This job was done in the past by our dear Ann Smisek, one of the many jobs she so ably coordinated for TSCA. The Gift Booth is always a highlight of Bunka Sai but without help, it might not happen. PLEASE!

Start setting aside your donations for the Gift Booth of NEW items. Hopefully we will have a chairman and a place to bring your donations soon.

Please see the Volunteer Page for other ways you can help with Bunka Sai. It will take EVERYONE to make this event successful!

Teri Kuwahara
(310) 850-3782

t.kuwahara@verizon.net

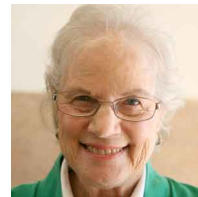
MAIN DRAWING PRIZES NEEDED!!

As we plan ahead for Bunka-Sai, we are looking for quality prizes to be given away in the main drawing raffle. If anyone has connections with a business, or perhaps has something of your own that would be appropriate for our event – and a delight for someone to win – please let me know. I would be glad to pick the item up. All donations are tax deductible; receipts and tax I.D. numbers can be provided.

Commercial donors will have their names listed in our Bunka-Sai program booklet and are identified during the drawing itself at the end of the festival on Sunday.

Thank you for your help!

Gail Roulette
Main Drawing Chairman
310-370-9427
gailroulette@yahoo.com



February 20, 2010 Marks the 38th Anniversary of the Torrance-Kashiwa Anniversary

Messages from the KIRA Torrance Committee

Dear members of TSCA,

February is the special month for us as it's the anniversary of the founding of the sister city relationship between Torrance and Kashiwa

1978 was the first year when my family got involved in the students exchange program as a host family. We hosted the exchange student David Bissiri for a week. It was great experience to be a host family and to learn about a different culture. Since then, I have been involving the Torrance - Kashiwa sister city activities for more than 30 years. However it doesn't seem that long. I have made many memories with all the people I worked with in helping to build the relationships between our 2 sister cities. I often think of these people I have gotten to know over the years. I consider these people to be like my relatives living in Torrance. A few years ago, I had a chance to see David in Japan after losing contact with him. It is another exciting pleasure I have experienced through sister city activities.

As many people know firsthand, the sister city relationships encourage a fruitful and mutual exchange among people in both cities.

They have kept us in their minds like picture album. I would like to express a big thanks to the people who have enhanced this program.

As one of the member of the committee, I hope that our activities will continue smoothly year by year.

February in 2013 will be the 40th anniversary of our sister city relationship.

I am looking forward to seeing many people during this special occasion again.

**By Yoko Nakano
(the 16th adult leader)**



"Host Family", a lifetime experience

My family got involved in this meaningful program in the summer of 1978, like Yoko's family. Dee Ann Tanaka was the first student we hosted and she was a big sister for my children. Since then each student and each leader who stayed with us gave different favorable memories to our family members.

As there were a lot of volunteers for the host family those days, Torrance student had 3 different host families, each for one week. There were also many applicants for this exciting international experiences, there was unwritten code that Kashiwa exchange students cannot host Torrance students. Opportunities had to be shared! The city official thought that being a host family was one opportunity and being an exchange student was another. (It is OK now fortunately.)

Last year, we got one card from Torrance all of a sudden. It was from Dee Ann's mom, saying that one of her students in her lesson recognized my family in her picture album. (I helped this student/lady's marriage in Kashiwa with a former adult leader from Torrance some years ago)

God loves a juggling of happy encounters!! I believe a lot of people have experienced such a heart warming surprise, which gives us lifetime inspiration as well as the joy of long lasting friendship with strong tie with TSCA members through this program.

**by Akemi Kosuge
(the 15th adult leader)**



2008 Rose Float riders included Hazel Taniguchi (second from the left), Former Mayor Ken Miller (third from the left), Mayor Frank Scotto (second from the right), and Kashiwa's Akemi Kosuge (at the right).

Kashiwa Day 2011 Anniversary Article

What's So Special About Kashiwa Day?

By Mark Richardson

TSCA Member Mark Richardson joined the Historical Committee to help document the history of TSCA. When asked to compile an article for Kashiwa Day 2011, Mark set out to interview individuals able to recall the beginnings of the sister city relationship with Kashiwa only to find few or no responses to his inquiries. Through his determination, he wrote the following article piecing together his research. Mark was an exchange student himself (1977) in the early days of TSCA.

Like the spring, the anniversary of Kashiwa Day, February 20th, brings a renewal of expectations for the New Year: Bunka-Sai is just around the corner, and then it's greased rails to the selection of student ambassadors and the summer exchange of delegations between Torrance and Kashiwa.

And so the cycle turns, as it has annually for over three decades. No one needs to be reminded of how much energy will be required to make the coming year the best ever. The purpose of Kashiwa Day, however, is to commemorate and bring to mind a different kind of energy, the effort that got the Sister City ball rolling in the first place. That's a fine Newtonian image — getting the ball rolling — for the theme of this year's Kashiwa Day anniversary: honoring the founders of our Association, who expended a special kind of energy to bring the Torrance-Kashiwa friendship into existence. Everyone (on both sides of the Pacific) knows that maintaining our Torrance-Kashiwa friendship requires a lot of heroic commitment and hard work, but it's appropriate at this time to recall that the original effort is especially heroic. It's an overcoming of inertia, bringing something out of nothing. After all, it's easier to do nothing than to do something. That's the sad truth of gravity.

So this year we celebrate some of the people who did something extraordinary to bring the friendship relationship between Torrance and Kashiwa into existence. Like the hockey puck sailing across the ice, our Association moves onward over the years because the founders gave it a substantial whack at the beginning.



Fomer Mayor Ken Miller planting the tree in Kashiwa

The story begins with that familiar photo of Mayor Ken Miller, standing poised with a shovelful of dirt, smiling gamely for the camera on what must have been a glorious autumn day in Kashiwa. It's October of 1973, and the formal sister-city relation between the two cities is being consummated by the planting of a tree by Torrance and Kashiwa mayors, Miller and Ryotaro Yamazawa. A business-suited Kashiwa official reaches out to steady the tree.

That image of organized cooperation between diverse cultures had its origin two years earlier in the idealistic imagination of one or two members of the Torrance

Lions Club, one of the many civic organizations that, thirty years ago, spearheaded the cultural life of our communities. The men and women who founded and maintained these organizations had a more vivid recollection of world war than we do, and perhaps carried an instinctive conviction that, unless somebody *does* something, civilizations will wither and collapse. Consider that the end of the war with Japan was a shorter time ago for the founders of TSCA than the founding of TSCA is for us (you might be surprised if you do the math). To me, the beginning of TSCA seems not so long ago. For the founders, it was more like "just yesterday" that we and the Japanese had been implacable adversaries.



Jack Eardley

So it was extraordinary that Jack Eardley, a Torrance Lion and a staunchly patriotic American, fell in love with Japanese things because he believed that Americans could learn very important things from Japan. Behind his business office he fitted out a spare room in Japanese decor, with tatami, futon, and a library of Japanese books. He let me hang out there after I'd returned from my own trip to Kashiwa as an exchange delegate in 1977, and one afternoon there he placed in my hands a copy of Oliver Statler's Japanese Inn and said, "Here you go. Get busy." Jack had been the first to take seriously the idea of a sister friendship between Torrance and Kashiwa. When a Japanese-American friend urged friendship between Torrance and Kashiwa Lions in 1971, Jack packed up his family and embarked for Kashiwa.

Jack's first contact was with Sanjo Watanabe and other officials of the Kashiwa Lions Club. At the beginning, however, there was miscommunication about the nature of the affiliation. On the U.S. side, a sister-city relationship was envisioned. But the Japanese were assuming that only a Lions Club affiliation was proposed. In fact, resistance among the Japanese was based partly on perceptions of the low esteem felt toward Japanese in America — a lingering effect of the Pacific War.



Bill Hashimoto

The developing friendship could easily have gone off course at this point, but someone with a unique personal history became involved at this key juncture. Jack enlisted the help of a friend and fellow Lion, Bill Hashimoto. Bill smoothed the way on the American side by involving both Torrance mayor Ken Miller and Sister Cities International. While in Kashiwa, he no doubt represented the high regard for Japanese in Torrance and in the larger Los Angeles community despite the deep divisions between the races during the war. Considering his wartime experience, he was well suited to play this role. Born in L.A. and raised in Torrance, Bill had accepted relocation to Utah in 1942, enduring police protection from potential hostilities as the caravan of cars and trucks traveled along the exposed route. Nonetheless, Bill became a tireless advocate of friendship between Japanese and Americans. He became a pillar of the civic community after the war and throughout his life until his passing in 2005.

The remarkable thing about Bill was his refusal to regard himself as a passive victim of what he described as "difficult times" during the war. Instead he became a champion of "good communication" when that was crucially needed during the early formation of TSCA.

We can say, then, that the success of the negotiations owed a lot to the character and civic pride of Lions members on both sides. An irony of the negotiations had been the degree

Continued on Page

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of Lions spirit, which created an expectation of an exclusively sister club relationship between Torrance and Kashiwa Lions. With clarification, however, came another kind of opposition: members of the Kashiwa Assembly resisted an official city relationship with Torrance, a locus of the arms industry and a symbol of hostility to the new China of Mao Zedong. There was a desire for a sister relationship with a city in China rather than in America. Under these conditions, Mayor Yamazawa felt unable to accept official recognition of Torrance without a unanimous vote of the Assembly, which seemed to doom the Kashiwa-Torrance alliance before it was born.

In an effort to find out the truth of this complex situation in Kashiwa, a delegate from Torrance was commissioned in 1972 to represent the interests of Torrance from the perspective of a Japanese native. Mikko Haggot, a naturalized U.S. citizen and wife of Torrance developer Ben Haggot, had been born Misako Arimoto in Tokyo.



Mikko Haggot

As the daughter of the founder of the Kashiwa branch of the Shibaura Institute of Technology, she had standing among Kashiwa leaders. But being Japanese no doubt counted a great deal in itself, given the political issues surrounding the sister-city negotiations. Mikko herself has recalled her home being destroyed by American bombs. She adds: "We sharpened bamboo sticks, to defend ourselves against the Americans, whom our propaganda said were coming to rape and murder us. We were pleased to find most Americans nice [during the occupation], and discovered they too had heard similar frightening tales about us." As a result of Mikko's mediation, Mayor Yamazawa overrode the minority objections of the Assembly and by the year's end agreed to establish formal sister-city relations between Kashiwa and Torrance. A formal signing of affiliation papers was proposed for February 20th of 1973, the original Kashiwa Day.

What we commemorate on this day is, of course, the close friendship between our cities for over thirty years. But we should also commemorate how close we came to not having any relationship at all. Someone had to envision the idea and to push to make it real. Others had to rescue it each time it seemed about to drive off a cliff. Even the day we commemorate was an occasion for potential catastrophe. On the Torrance side, city officials regarded the February date as hasty, even offensively abrupt ("Only two months notice!?")--perhaps not recognizing the need for swift action on the Kashiwa side. Again, another miscommunication to smooth over.

Many others could be mentioned as heroes who made TSCA happen. But here are an American-American, a Japanese-American, and a Japanese-Japanese who filled crucial roles that each was uniquely suited for. Without their contributions, the founding of TSCA could easily have been a near-miss. Each moved TSCA forward and set it on course by doing something when they could easily have done nothing. More than thirty years later, the puck is still shooting across the ice.

KIRA Members attend Kohrogi Art Show in Tokyo

Members of the KIRA Torrance Committee attended the one-man gallery show of Mr. Shunichirou Kohrogi in Tokyo. Akiko Maruta and Makiyo Doi attended on December 21 followed by Hiroko Miyazaki, Yoko Nakano and Masako Fujiwara on the 22nd. The theme of the show was Imagine Project "Global Citizen". The committee members enjoyed his beautiful artwork and were pleased to see Mr. Kohrogi and his family at the show.

Mr. Kohrogi helps the Torrance Committee with their annual list and kindly shows them how to write the delegates names in Japanese letters.



Shun Kohrogi and his family with Akiko Maruta and Makiyo Doi of the Torrance Committee

Taichi Saotome and His Obaachan Posse



By Geoff Tsudama
Assistant Language Teacher in Kashiwa

Before my friend, Emiko, left for a job in Florida, I promised her that I would go with her to her favorite stage actor's show. Saotome Taichi is 19 years old and part of a family of stage performers. The family troupe travels around Japan performing a variety of things like taishuu engeki (a traditional theater performance related to kabuki), traditional and modern mixed dance performances, and Taichi's specialty: onnagata. "What is onnagata?" you might ask. Emiko told me that it's very beautiful, graceful, and prestigious, but what it really boils down to is that he portrays women on the stage. (Onnagata uses the kanjis 女 and 方 which mean 'woman' and 'how to'/'way of'/'person.')



Taichi, and other onnagata like him, has been trained in the art of wearing makeup, dancing in kimonos, and looking/acting just like a woman (in a similar style to the old-fashioned ukiyo-e pictures). And I'll have to admit, there were a few times during the performance that I forgot I was watching a male in a female role because he looked exactly like a woman. The makeup and the dancing were really well done.

The most entertaining part of the show, though, had nothing to do with the actual performance. It was Taichi's obaachan (grandma) fanbase. I was probably one of 15 men in the 1000-seat theater, and of all the women in the audience, I would say the average age was above 40.

Every time Taichi came onto the stage, a majority



of the crowd would shout and wave their arms, "TAICHI-KUN, GANBATTE!" ("Good luck, Taichi!") "TAICHI-KUN, DAI-SUKI!" ("I love you, Taichi!") I mean, these were 40, 50, 60, 70, 80 year old women.

I told Emiko that she and all his fans were just creepy. Imagine if me and a bunch of old men were to religiously follow a girl/group of young girls, go to concerts/performance, scream out at them while they perform, and—wait! That's exactly what fans of pop group AKB48 do, and those guys are called OTAKUS!

In the end, I enjoyed the questionable acting during the play portion of the performance and the strangeness of forgetting that I was watching a man dance instead of a woman. It was something that I may not want to do again but was a good enough experience to try once. Also, now I know that Emiko is a girl version of an otaku. Awesome. OBAACHAN POSSE, OUT!



President's Message *continued from Page 1:*

We have come a long way in 38 years. Generations of friendships have been formed. Families have watched each other grow. The lifelong relationships and memories are irreplaceable. As we move toward our 40th year, I strongly encourage all of our members to be involved.

- Consider being a host family in August and begin a lasting friendship.
- Participate in our events and learn more about Japanese culture.
- Support our mission to "promote friendship, goodwill and understanding between the City of Torrance and the City of Kashiwa" by volunteering at Bunka Sai in April.
- Ask a friend to join TSCA.

We are a village, and it takes a village to maintain a strong sister city relationship. Our summer program depends on the support of our membership. Bunka Sai is our major fundraiser and is coming up April 30 – May 1. We need volunteers. As

President, I need your help and support.

All of us on the Executive Board are full-time professionals who depend on collaboration and delegation to make all of our activities successful. Please take a moment to fill out the Volunteer Form in this newsletter. Any amount of time, large or small, is welcome. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Happy Kashiwa Day,

Teri Kuwahara
t.kuwahara@verizon.net
(310) 850-3782



Teach English in Kashiwa, Japan

The Torrance Sister City Association seeks qualified applicants for one high school English teacher in Kashiwa, Japan, the Sister City of Torrance. A minimum one-year contract runs from August 1, 2011 to July 31, 2012. The contract is renewable for a maximum three-year assignment.

Duties: Conduct and assist in a variety of English conversation classes, assist with coordinating campus visits by parents, administrators and junior high students, and extra curricular activities as specified by the principal which may include: judging and assisting with speech contests, serving as advisor to the English Conversation Club, business trips and coaching students for college interviews. Volunteer work with KIRA (Kashiwa International Relations Association) and other city groups may also be required.

Qualifications

Applicants must:

1. live or work in Torrance
2. be fluent in written and spoken English
3. hold a Bachelor's degree plus a teaching credential or have demonstrated teaching experience
4. possess a keen interest in the Japanese language and culture and
5. represent the Torrance Sister City Association and foster the goals and objectives of the English Teacher Exchange Program

Compensation

1. annual salary of approximately 4,800,000 Japanese yen
2. one-way airfare from Los Angeles to Japan
3. national health insurance (deducted from monthly salary)
4. subsidized housing and transportation allowance
5. paid Japanese holidays and personal days

Please send resume, cover letter, and two letters of recommendation by U.S. mail only postmarked by April 4, 2011 and received by April 14, 2011 to:

Lori Chong Eurich, Chair
TSCA English Teacher Selection Committee
Attn: Community Services Dept.
c/o 3031 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90503

Qualified applicants will be scheduled for panel interviews held at Torrance City Hall, West Annex in May. For further information call: Lori Eurich at (310) 373-6146 or Dan Fichtner at (310) 316-6092.

Torrance Sister City Association

Bunka-Sai (Japanese Cultural Festival)

Supporting the Student Cultural Exchange program

When: Saturday, April 30, 2011 and Sunday, May 1, 2011
 Where: The Ken Miller Recreation Center, the Toyota Meeting Hall, and the Torino Plaza
 Objectives: To help the community learn about the Japanese culture
To raise funds for the Student Cultural Exchange Program

The Student Cultural Exchange Program is.....

a cultural exchange program that takes place each year in July and August. It was started in 1974. Torrance sends a maximum of eight students and their adult leader to Kashiwa, Japan, for 3 weeks in July. Kashiwa sends a similar group to Torrance in August. This program is often referred to as "the gem" of the Sister City Program.

Please help us by placing an ad in our festival program booklet

Objectives: **To support the Student Cultural Exchange Program**
To advertise your company

Cost (no changes in years): Full-page ad.....\$200
 Half-page ad.....\$100
 One-fourth page ad.....\$50
 Business card size ad.....\$25

Specifics: Must be no larger than 8 1/2 " x 11". **Must be camera ready.**
Deadline: March 31, 2011, in order to meet the printing deadline
 Checks made out to: The Torrance Sister City Association or TSCA

Questions? Please call Shirley Tanaka at (310) 293-8600 or e-mail her at TSCA2011Ads@gmail.com .

***** *Complete and return the section below* *****

Company Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Contact Person _____ Phone # _____ E-Mail _____

Ad information: Size _____ Cost _____ Last year's ad? _____

New? _____ Camera ready copy enclosed? _____

Specific instructions _____

Mail this portion, your ad if it's new, and your check to: **Torrance Sister City Association**
3031 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90503

Thank you!



TSCA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

If every member will pitch in and help, I won't have to beg. So even if you only volunteer for one thing this year, your support and effort would be appreciated

Funds from membership and Bunka Sai are essential to our operating budget this year. With rising cost of travel and the declining value of the U.S. dollar against the Japanese yen, our expenses are on the rise.

Be involved! It would be nice to have your help and see you at TSCA activities.

SISTER SCHOOLS CHAIRMAN: Would you help revive the Elementary Schools Sister Schools Program? Contact our local sister schools (Adams, Arnold, and Arlington Elementary) to reestablish contact with their sister schools in Kashiwa?

STUDENTS are having a Parking Lot Sale on Saturday, February 26 at West High. Can you donate items to sell?

BUNKA SAI is coming April 30 and May 1. Can you volunteer to help in the Dango, Yakisoba, Dessert, Curry Rice or Teriyaki Food Booths? Donate a prize for the opportunity drawing or help solicit donations? Help sell program ads to businesses? Help with Set up on Friday April 29 or Clean up on May 1? Set up a schedule of entertainers from our annual list of performers? Call our craft vendors? Help with publicity?

SUMMER STUDENT ACTIVITIES (August): Can you help with the Welcome Banquet? Or the Sayonara Banquet? Volunteer to host a student from Kashiwa? Do you speak Japanese and can help as a tour translator? Would you like to be a tour guide and chaperone a daily excursion?

Check where you can help :

Bunka Sai

- Food Booth Volunteer
- Program Ads
- Prize Donations
- Set Up
- Clean Up
- Entertainment
- Craft Vendors
- Publicity
- Sister School Committee Chairman
- Help with Welcome Banquet
- Help with the Sayonara Banquet
- Be a Host Family
- Donate items for the Parking Lot Sale
- Summer Activities Tour Guide
- Summer Activities Japanese Translator
- OTHER:

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS:

Name:

Phone:

Email address:

Mail to: Torrance Sister City Association
3031 Torrance Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503
Attention: Teri Kuwahara

or email: t.kuwahara@verizon.net



TORRANCE
SISTER CITY
ASSOCIATION
3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503

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ORG.
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Torrance, CA
Permit No. 78

Return Service Requested



**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.