

# Sister City News



Torrance, California



Torrance Sister City Association



Kashiwa, Japan

Newsletter Editor: Teri Kuwahara

January 2008

Newsletter Mailing: Jordan Thompson



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Hazel Taniguchi

Happy new year! I hope that 2008 will be another successful year for the Sister City Program.

2007 was a very good year. Here's a recap of some of the highlights of last year.

\*We had a very successful Alumni Reunion, which is now a four-fold event. It is a reunion, it is a venue for introducing the student applicants and families, it is the event at which we honor the Partnership Award recipient, and it is an installation of new officers and board members as well as honoring outgoing officers and board members.

\*We had a very successful Bunka-Sai and raised more money than we ever did before. This was good news for the Student Cultural Exchange Program, as that program is the beneficiary of Bunka-Sai.

\*We had a very successful student exchange program in the summer. Our students went to Kashiwa, and we hosted the Kashiwa group in August.

\*We had a very successful 35th anniversary celebration in Kashiwa in October, with 29 TSCA members traveling to Kashiwa.

\*We were honored by the Torrance Rose Float Association by having the 2008 rose float dedicated to the Sister City Program.

All our successes and honors are due to the great team effort of our members. We are all volunteers who care deeply about the Sister City Program. Thank you, everyone!

My phone number has not changed. Please call me if you have questions about TSCA---(310) 328-1238.

Thank you!



*Happy  
New  
Year  
2008*

明けましておめでとうございます

## January calendar

January 1	Happy New Year!
1	Rose Parade
4	City Hall Closed
12	Alumni Reunion 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Katy Geissert Civic Center Library
12	Student Selection Committee Meets @ 2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. West Annex Commission Room
14	Association Meeting, 7:00 p.m. West Annex Commission Room
18	City Hall Closed
19	Student Interviews, All Day West Annex Commission Room
21	Historical Committee Meets 9:30 a.m., Coury Residence
26	Possible Student Interviews West Annex Commission Room



# Alumni Reunion & 2008 Installation Luncheon

Don't miss this reunion of all former Exchange Students,  
Adult Leaders & English Teachers,  
TSCA will install their 2008 officers at this annual potluck gathering and introduce  
the 2008 exchange student applicants and their families.

**Saturday, January 12, 2008**

**Katy Geissert Civic Center Library Meeting Room**

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

**Individuals bring a main dish.**

**Families bring a main dish & salad.**

Please bring your own serving utensils - properly identified

Questions to: Hazel Taniguchi @ (310) 328-1238

## CONGRATULATIONS 2008 OFFICERS!



**Hazel Taniguchi, President**

This will be the seventh year that Hazel serves as TSCA President, all these seven years during an anniversary year - the 20th, 25th, half of the 30th and now the 35th. Hazel is a retired teacher. She was an adult leader in 1989 and thus began her many years of participation in TSCA. Hazel firmly believes that programs like the Sister City Program is much needed to foster peace throughout the world through people-to-people contacts.



**Jordan Thompson, Vice President**

Jordan was an exchange student in 2001. This will be his second consecutive term as vice president. He also serves as the co-chairman of the August Activities Committee and the co-chairman of the Host Family Committee. During August, he helped as an activity leader for the Kashiwa students. Jordan has been doing substitute teaching, but hopes to pursue a career in research nursing.



**Tracy Sprague, Secretary**

Tracy was the 2002 adult leader. This will be her second consecutive year as secretary. Tracy has served on several committees, including chairman of the Student Selection Committee. She has helped as an activity leader for the Kashiwa students in August. Tracy is an English teacher at West High School.



**Eric Fisher, Treasurer**

Eric's involvement with TSCA started when his sons were selected as exchange students: Andrew in 1993 and Brian in 1996. He has served on the board before. Eric is a Certified Public Accountant in private practice in Torrance. In his spare time, he and his wife, Doris, enjoy bridge and Scottish dancing.



# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Ron Kimmel, Membership Chairman



**JOIN  
TSCA**

Membership dues are a significant part of financing our student exchange program. Every year we ask that our current and former members renew their TSCA membership in December. A flyer with a membership form has been mailed to current members as a separate reminder.

Your application must be received by March 1st for your name to appear in the directory. If you have already paid your dues for 2008, "08" will appear after your name in the mailing label.

## New Memberships and Renewals:

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| All Nippon Airways (B)                   | Mizuguchi, Toshiko (S)               |
| Ando, Francis & Kenji (F)                | Nowatka, M/M Paul (F)                |
| Ando, Jennifer (I)                       | Okuma, Mrs. Sumi (I)                 |
| Broun, Paul, Nancy, David & Michelle (F) | Ozawa, Paul & Eleanor (B)            |
| Cababa, Kerry (S)                        | Plank, Janice (I)                    |
| Deloyd, Tom & Aki (F)                    | Ragins, Terry (F)                    |
| Drevno, Gene (F)                         | Richardson, Mark (I)                 |
| Fisher, Eric & Doris (F)                 | Roulette, Ray & Gail (B)             |
| Fuller, Jeannie & Steve (F)              | Rust, Joseph & Carol (B)             |
| Gamble-Cevallos, Thomas (I)              | Sacamoto, Roger & May (F)            |
| Goodrich, Marjorie (I)                   | Sargent, Dave & Toni (F)             |
| Harter, Irene (I)                        | Scotto, Frank & Cindy (F)            |
| Hedges, David (B)                        | Taniguchi, Eisei & Hazel (B)         |
| Ichikawa, Robert & Christie (S)          | Tanaka, Keith, Shirley & Jenny (F)   |
| Imahori, Marie (I)                       | Thompson, Bruce L. (F)               |
| Jacobs, Ernest & Gloria (F)              | Ueki, Masaki & Sumi (S)              |
| Jensen, Kathleen (F)                     | Ujimori, Kay (F)                     |
| Kimmel, Gudy & Ron (F)                   | Voigt, Mike (F)                      |
| Lung, Bessie (F)                         | Wand, Tom, Suzie, Katie, Kristi (F)  |
| Maeda, Cindy Sumi (I)                    | Wasserman, Linda & Gavin Hachiya (F) |
| Maroney, Rachel (I)                      | Weideman, Kurt (I)                   |
| Martel, Louis & Lorraine (S)             | Wilder, Jean (I)                     |
| Mattox, Verna (I)                        | Willoughby, Werner & Aileen (S)      |
| Mitoma, Eiko & Edwin (F)                 | Yogi, Mary (I)                       |
|  | Yorizane, Eddie & Eileen (F)         |

## TSCA Committees

TSCA has many committees that could use some help. You do not have to be a board member to serve on a committee, only a member of TSCA. Serving on a committee or two will help you get to know the Sister City Program. You will also meet and work with wonderful people.

TSCA members are needed to help with:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Japanese Cultural Festival (Bunka Sai) | The Alumni Reunion                                    |
| The Student Exchange Program           | Hospitality   |
| The Library Committee                  | Sister Schools (Torrance and Kashiwa partner schools) |
| The Adult Leader Program               | Membership  |
| By-Laws Committee                      | Activities for Kashiwa students in the summer         |
| The Partnership Award Committee        |   |

Interested???? Call Hazel Taniguchi at (310) 328-1238 or email: HazNT@aol.com for more information or to volunteer.

# 35th Anniversary Delegates from Kashiwa

The following Kashiwa residents will be coming to Torrance in February to celebrate the second half of the 35th anniversary:

1. Hideo Noguchi, president of KIRA
2. Keiko Noguchi, wife of Hideo Noguchi
3. Masako Noguchi, daughter of Hideo Noguchi, 1974 Kashiwa exchange student
4. Rikuro Nakayama, vice president of KIRA, member of the Camden Committee
5. Atsuko Ono, treasurer of KIRA, member of the Camden Committee
6. Akemi Kosuge, vice president of KIRA, member of the Torrance Committee, 1988 adult leader, mother of an exchange student
7. Fujie Kosuge, sister-in-law of Akemi Kosuge
8. Yasuo Yanagawa, secretary general of KIRA
9. Yoko Nakano, chair of the Torrance committee, 1989 adult leader
10. Makiyo Doi, member of the Torrance Committee, 2002 adult leader, mother of exchange students
11. Kiyomi Miura, treasurer of the Torrance Committee, host mother for Torrance students
12. Tsunenori Miura, husband of Kiyomi Miura
13. Hirono Takahashi, owner of Suzume-an Soba Restaurant, 2007 host father
14. Mitsuo Katsuki, member of the Torrance Committee
15. Etsuko Kawamura, member of the Torrance and Camden Committees
16. Hidetake Komatsuzaki, member of the Torrance Committee, former staff member of Kashiwa City Hall, 30th anniversary delegate
17. Masako Komatsuzaki, wife of Hidetake Komatsuzaki
18. Yukiko Ishigaki, member of the Torrance Committee, 2007 host mother
19. Takafumi Ishigaki, husband of Yukiko Ishigaki
20. Shinshi Hirano, member of the Camden Committee
21. Yousuke Baba, member of the Camden Committee
22. Hiroko Kato, member of the Camden Committee
23. Kazuko Maeda, member of the Camden and Chengde Committees
24. Yoshie Yuchida, member of the Chengde Committee
25. Suzuko Okada, member of the Chengde Committee
26. Sachiko Okumura, member of the Chengde Committee
27. Nobuko Yamamoto, member of the Chengde Committee
28. Katsumi Ota, member of the Chengde Committee, father of an exchange student
29. Nobuhiro Goto, owner of the KIRA office, 30th anniversary delegate
30. Fumiko Takahashi, teacher of tea ceremony for Torrance students
31. Toshiko Yasu, teacher of tea ceremony for Torrance students
32. Kenji Higuchi, member of KIRA
33. Yuchi Yamamoto, member of KIRA
34. Yasue Uchida, member of KIRA
35. Akira Tanaka, tour conductor

**We look forward to hosting all of you in February!**



## 2008 PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Former Torrance Mayor Ken Miller is TSCA's recipient of the 2008 Partnership Award.

Ken Miller, a resident of Torrance all his life, earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Occidental College after serving for three years in the Army Air Corps during WWII. He attended USC for two years after the B.A. degree and was awarded his teaching credential.

Ken started his political career as a member of the Planning Commission. He then served eight years on the City Council and two terms as mayor. While on the City Council, Ken led Torrance and the South Bay in establishing effective land use controls, in developing lower unit per acre density for multiple residential areas, and in establishing and maintaining needs of the community. He was part of the negotiating team that acquired Wilson Park from the Navy Department. He initiated the action to place on the ballot the two-term limit for the mayor's seat.

In 1973, Ken went to Kashiwa to sign the agreement that started the sister city relationship with Kashiwa. He and then-Kashiwa mayor, Ryutaro Yamazawa, signed the official documents and planted a tree of friendship. The tree-planting photo is on the front cover of the TSCA brochure.

Ken owned a realty firm here in Torrance and is a past president of the Lomita-Carson Board of Realtors. He has also been active in many other community organizations, including the Elks Lodge, American Legion, Torrance Kiwanis, the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, Torrance Memorial Hospital Trustees, Switzer Center, Little Company of Mary Hospital Advisory Board, and the YWCA. In 1981, he along with several local businessmen started the South Bay Bank, and Ken has served as Chairman of the Board since the bank's inception.

In 1990, Ken received the very prestigious Jared Sydney Torrance Award from the City of Torrance.

Thank you for starting the sister city relationship, now 35 years old. **Congratulations, Former Mayor Ken Miller!**

## 2009 Adult Leader

TSCA is seeking applicants for the 2009 adult leader position. Adult leaders accompany the students selected for the cultural exchange trip to Kashiwa in July and are selected a year and a half in advance.

Qualifications are as follows:

- \*Lives or works in Torrance
- \*Has a background in education, counseling, youth activities, and/or behavioral science
- \*Has a keen interest in and a strong desire to learn about Japan
- \*Is at least 26 years old at the time of the trip

Responsibilities include the following:

- \*Participate in the Student Selection Committee
- \*Serve as a good role model for the students
- \*Take photos of the trip, showing typical activities
- \*Participate in leading orientation sessions after the trip, for two years

If you're interested, please call Gary Yoshida, chairperson of the Adult Leader Selection Committee at (310) 739-3154 or e-mail Gary at [GYOSHIDA@Socal.rr.com](mailto:GYOSHIDA@Socal.rr.com)



# Let's Talk Trash

by Yoko Kobayashi

Assistant Language Teacher in Kashiwa

Every morning as I walk out the door, one might guess that I am thinking about upcoming lessons with my students or planning after-school activities. Wrong! I am thinking about trash. Is today the day for combustible trash or containers and plastics? Or maybe it is the 1st or 3rd Friday of the month which means I need to put out recyclables. I have quickly come to learn that the Japanese are really serious about their trash.

In an effort to control the amount of waste and improve recycling, Japan has adopted a stringent trash disposal system. Each city has its own guidelines and trash pick-up schedule. In Kashiwa, trash is divided into 4 categories: Combustibles, Containers and Plastics, Recyclables, and Non-Combustibles.



Combustibles include paper, biodegradables, and organic materials like kitchen waste, and are collected twice a week. Containers and Plastics include plastic bags, trays, cups, and styrofoam, and are collected once per week. Cans, paper cartons, plastic containers, small bundles of newspaper or cardboard are all in the Recyclable category which is only collected twice a month. Non-combustible garbage includes small furniture, glass and large plastic products and is only collected every other Thursday.

Trust me. I didn't memorize all of this. As I am typing, I am looking at my detailed trash chart for the city of Kashiwa which was handed to me upon arrival at my apartment at Kyoinjutaku (teacher's apartment complex). At that moment, I should have realized that trash would become the bane of my existence.

Oh, and I forgot to mention the bags. Trash cannot simply be put in any old bags. There are official bags which need to be purchased. These are available at most local supermarkets and stores. The pink bags are for Combustibles and yellow bags are for Containers and Plastics. Cardboard, styrofoam, newspapers and old clothing must be bundled with string prior to pick-up. Plastic and glass bottles are placed in a separate bin. All trash is to be placed at the front of the Kyoinjutaku and only on its scheduled pick-up day. Otherwise, a scolding by a neighbor might be in your future. In some neighborhoods, residents actually take turns being "trash monitors" for their area.

After several months here in Japan, I have grown somewhat accustomed to the trash schedule. While it is at times maddening, I understand its importance and do my best to adhere to the trash protocol. I have learned that some things may seem strange when you are living in a foreign country. However, if you show respect for the culture, you will be treated with respect in return.



# Memories of Japan

The third in a mini-series of reports from the 2007 Kashiwa Ambassadors  
compiled by Gail Roulette

Each summer TSCA sends a student delegation to our sister city Kashiwa. Before they go, we give them nine two-hour orientation sessions to prepare them for the trip. Each of these high-school-age student ambassadors and their adult leader select 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.

## Modes of Transportation - by Emily La Rue

From the moment we walked outside the Narita Airport with our arms full of luggage, I immediately noticed a difference in the modes of transportation between Torrance and Kashiwa. Not only were the compact cars extremely small and parked with their noses facing out, but their steering wheels were on the wrong side of the car! When it was time to travel to meet our host families in a bus, I was scared as we were driving on the left hand side of the road instead of the right, and the crazy drivers were whizzing by on the awfully narrow streets. I was surprised to learn that you can't get a driver's license until the age of 18, and most families shared one car for the entire family.

My host mothers kept the car during the work day while my host fathers used the highly punctual and convenient monorail or the Shinkansen as their daily form of transportation. Traveling on the monorail and Shinkansen on our slightly longer trips was definitely a new experience for all the Torrance students. The monorails were packed with an astronomical number of people who were shoved shoulder to shoulder at the busiest times of the day.



For inexpensive, around-town travel, many school children and mothers rode their bicycles through the crowded streets. It was good to see so many people getting exercise and using a method of transportation with no immediate harm to the environment, unlike the majority of our fellow Americans. Also, the Japanese did not wear helmets for their safety nor did they have to lock their bikes to go into a store or school.

## Kabuki - by Kevin Willoughby

My first host family, the Tabatas, generously took me to see a Kabuki performance after discovering about my hope to see Kabuki in Japan. The National Theater of Japan is in Tokyo, 40 minutes away from Kashiwa by subway. The building is not only tall, but very wide. We first went to a small museum behind the main building to see an exhibit describing scenery and props in Kabuki, and the importance of the visual to the audience. For instance, snow settings are frequently used to reflect the character's sadness and pain. The "snow" is white squared cut paper, shaken from a basket above the stage to create falling snow. Paper sakura flower petals and hanging flowers are also used to add more beauty and charm to a performance.

In the theater, my host family rented an English earphone guide to explain the story to me as it unfolded. Also inside the theater, I could see the "hanamichi," the musician's performing box behind a façade that looked like part of a building. The program started with a narrator teaching the basics of Kabuki. He explained the parts inside the theater, including 17 "trap door" mechanisms; showed where the musicians were stationed behind straw screens; and demonstrated how sound effects are created. The traditional Kabuki curtain has colors of red, green, and black.



The main performance was entitled "Shinpan Utazaimon," taking place in a wooded area. The scenery was beautiful with a country house, trees, hills, and forest. My host family explained that the lyrics of the songs were almost archaic and can't be understood easily. The costumes were elaborate, and all roles, including female ones, were acted by men - as is the tradition. Toward the end of the play, the scenery dramatically changed as the center stage rotated around.

I am truly grateful for TSCA for allowing me to go on this once-in-a-lifetime experience, and the Tabatas, who took me to see a real Kabuki at the Japan National Theater. From this experience, I learned that Kabuki is truly a dying form of art. Neither of my host families had ever seen a Kabuki before, and they both said it's not very popular these days. For me, though, the experience left me "amazed and in utter astonishment." I hope to see another Kabuki play in the future.

## Watch for the Torrance Float in the Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year's Day



Here is a last look at the beautiful rose float that was dedicated to the Sister City Program. Several of our TSCA members were able to help decorate the float in December. Of the six riders, four were TSCA members: Mayor Frank Scotto, current mayor; Former Mayor Ken Miller, the mayor who signed the agreement with Kashiwa to become sister cities; Akemi Kosuge, vice president of the Kashiwa International Relations Association, who rode in place of Mayor Akira Honda of Kashiwa who was not able to come to Torrance; and Hazel Taniguchi, president of TSCA.

Thank you again, Torrance Rose Float Association, for this great honor!

## Films to screen at the Armstrong Theater

The Japanese Traditional Performing Arts Organization will present two movies on Sunday, February 3, 2008 at the James Armstrong Theater here in Torrance.



The first movie is titled "Thank you, Daddy Ishii" and is a true story of a man who became father to 3000 orphans 100 years ago in Japan. This movie will show at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$10.00 general admission, \$5.00 children under 13.



The second movie is titled "Fudeko & The Angel's Piano" and is a true story about a woman who dedicated her life to establishing care and education for children with developmental disabilities in Japan 100 years ago. This movie will show at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15.00 general admission, \$10.00 child and student discount.

For tickets, please call the theater box office at (310) 781-7171.

Proceeds will benefit the Switzer Learning Center.

For more information, please call Mikko at (310) 378-3550 or Hiromi at (310) 377-4238.



# STUDENT CLUB NEWS

BY ADRIAN MARONEY

The Student Club helped sponsor a needy family from the Switzer Center for the holidays. Ann Smisek coordinated the collection of donations, and nearly everything on their wish list was collected or purchased using donated funds. With the family consisting of a grandmother and six children, this was quite a wish list! They will receive toys, clothes, grocery store gift certificates, gasoline gift certificates, toiletries, etc.

Thanks to the Rusts and Mattsons for hosting the October and November meetings, respectively, and the LaRue family for hosting the December meeting/Holiday Social. We had a gift exchange complete with playing the gift exchange game.

TSCA Student Club will be joining the Torrance Rose Float Association. and some of the members will be helping decorate the Torrance Rose Float.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

David Gelbaum (1993 student) and his wife Randi welcomed a daughter on November 21, 2007. Skylar Miriam weighed in at 5 pounds, 15 ounces, and 17 inches. She shares a birthdate (November 21) with her brother Dylan. Her grandparents are Mark and Ilene Gelbaum



Congratulations to the Gelbaum family!

## KASHIWA DELEGATES' SCHEDULE

The following is the schedule in effect at the time of this printing. Changes may be made as necessary.

Thursday, February 21, 2008

- \*Arrive in Torrance---Marriott Hotel
- \*Welcome Reception sponsored by ExxonMobil (invitation only)

Friday, February 22, 2008

- \*Welcome at City Hall
- \*Plant another cherry tree
- \*Visit an elementary school
- \*Visit Toyota Automobile Museum, have lunch there
- \*Free afternoon
- \*Attend a 1950's event sponsored by Oriental Motor USA Corporation (invitation only)

Saturday, February 23, 2008

- \*Visit Torrance Beach
- \*Visit Farmers' Market
- \*Home visits
- \*Mayor's dinner (invitation only)

Sunday, February 24, 2008

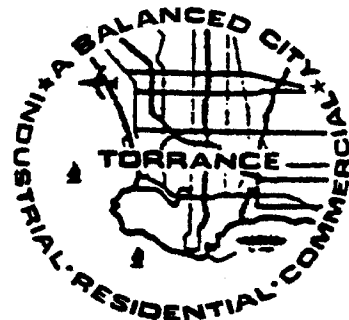
- \*Visit Getty Center, have lunch
- \*Tour selected Hollywood areas
- \*Free afternoon
- \*Farewell banquet at the Marriott Hotel (reservations required)

Monday, February 25, 2008

- \*Leave Torrance

For more information, please call Hazel Taniguchi at (310) 328-1238.

We are looking forward to hosting the Kashiwa delegates, many who will be first-time visitors to Torrance.





**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  
2008 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.