

Sister City News



Torrance, California



Torrance Sister City Association



Kashiwa, Japan

Newsletter Editor: Teri Kuwahara

June 2008

Newsletter Mailing: Jordan Thompson



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Hazel Taniguchi

Now that Bunka-Sai is over, we will concentrate on the Student Cultural Exchange Program. Our students will be in Kashiwa from July 8 - 29. The Kashiwa students will be in Torrance from August 1 - 21. Our August Activities Committee is hard at work planning the activities for the Kashiwa group. We hope that many of you will be able to attend the Welcome Reception and the Sayonara Banquet especially. **As for the other planned activities, please see the article elsewhere in this issue for new guidelines.**

Though it seems too early to discuss this next topic, we need to be prepared and plan early enough. Three officers will be termed out at the end of this year---the president, the vice-president, and the secretary. We will need to recruit people who can and are willing to take on these positions. If any TSCA member is interested, please call me ASAP. **Please see the article elsewhere in this issue for more details.**

If you have questions about TSCA, please call me at (310) 328-1238, or, please pick up a brochure at City Hall or at the Katie Geissert Civic Center Library.

Thank you!



CORRECTION

Apologies to Kenji Ueki, 2008 Student Delegate. In the May newsletter, Kenji was listed as a West High School student. Kenji attends TORRANCE High School.

June calendar

- | | |
|--------|---|
| June 3 | Student Orientation #6, 4:30 p.m.
West Annex Commission Room |
| 6 | City Hall Closed |
| 9 | Association Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
West Annex Commission Room |
| 10 | Student Orientation #7, 4:30 p.m.
West Annex Commission Room |
| 17 | Student Orientation #8, 7:00 p.m.
West Annex Commission Room
Parents should attend this last session. |
| 20 | City Hall Closed |
| 30 | Host Family Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
West Annex Commission Room |



Don't Miss

SAVE THE DATES

Welcome Reception
Saturday, August 2, 2008
Ken Miller Recreation Center Auditorium
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Sayonara Banquet
Wednesday August 20, 2008
Toyota Meeting Hall
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

More details in the July newsletter.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Ron Kimmel
Membership Chairman

Thank you, new and renewing members:

Bentor, Aaron (I)
Cambra, Karen & Manuel (F)
Chaves, Itoko & Feliciano (F)
Farkas Family (F)
Fitzgerald, Maria & Randy (F)
Han, Dai Sup & Jill (F)
Loer, Christopher (B)
Matsumoto, Mickey & Frances (F)
Muzik, Neoma (I)
Nash, Renee (F)
Philips, Ginger (I)
Radomski, James (F)
Tressel, Yvonne (I)
Uchima, Ray & Estela (F)
Van Belleham, Edith (I)

AUGUST ACTIVITIES

The August Activities Committee is planning many exciting activities and events for the Kashiwa group coming to Torrance in August. Please be aware of the following new/reinforced guidelines:

These activities are for TSCA members only, not for the general public.

This year, any TSCA member interested in participating on the day bus trips and night activities will have to sign up for that activity. Priority on the bus and for limited tickets for some events will be given to the activity leader, the Kashiwa group, the 2008 Torrance students, and host families of that period.

All participants of the bus trips will be required to fill out and turn in an emergency contact form for the activity leader to have on file.

Little children must be accompanied and supervised by a responsible family member. The activity leader is not a babysitter.

The safety and well-being of participants is a primary concern. TSCA appreciates your cooperation.

If you have questions, please contact:
Stephanie Warner at (310) 530-0354,
Jordan Thompson at (310) 339-5797, or
Hazel Taniguchi at (310) 328-1238.

Thank you!

OFFICERS and BOARD MEMBERS

October and November are election months in TSCA--board members in October and officers in November. Five board positions will be available. Three officers will be termed out at the end of this year. We are starting early to try to fill all vacant positions so that we will have a smooth transition in January 2009.

Board members are expected to:

- * Attend the monthly meetings
- * Make budget and financial decisions
- * Serve on one or more committees
- * Attend TSCA functions
- * Provide refreshments for one monthly meeting

The officer positions that will become available are the following:

President: conducts association meetings, is the liaison to Kashiwa, is the overall chair of Bunka-Sai, is the official representative of TSCA in the community, plus many other duties as they arise.

Vice President: assumes the president's duties if the need arises, is chair of the Publicity Committee, is in charge of newsletter mailings.

Secretary: records the minutes of each association meeting.

All officers are elected from the board.

If you are interested in serving on the board or as an officer, please call Hazel Taniguchi at (310) 328-1238.



Roommates Cara Ihde (2006) and Alyssa Yamauchi (2005) were inducted to the California Lutheran University Scholar-Athlete Society, recognized as athletes with a GPA of 3.4 or greater.



TSCA President Hazel Taniguchi was honored by the Downtown Los Angeles Chapter of the JACL and the Japanese Women's Society of Southern California as one of their 2008 Women of the Year. This 46th Annual luncheon was held at the Kyoto Grand Hotel and Gardens on Sunday, May 4th. She was joined by a group of TSCA supporters and her daughter, Joy.



Welcome to English Club

by Karl Takauye

Assistant Language Teacher in Kashiwa

As Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) at Kashiwa Municipal High School, Yoko Kobayashi and I teach several classes a day, usually working as a "team" with Japanese English teaching staff. Generally, our role is to support our Japanese counterparts in class and to provide lesson ideas and materials. As such, there's a collaborative atmosphere to most of our duties. But if there is one school activity that we can claim as our own, it would have to be "English Club." This weekly meeting is held each Friday from 4 in the afternoon, and runs for about an hour.

The primary goal of English Club is to provide students with a chance to practice their English, both spoken and written, in a relaxed environment without the pressures that come with tests, grades or homework. Because the club is completely voluntary, it generally attracts students with higher levels of English skill and motivation, which makes the experience all the more enjoyable for Yoko and I. This year's newest batch of English Club members is proving to be especially enthusiastic and we're looking forward to a great year of English activities.



English Club members are hard at work preparing welcome signs for visiting North Torrance High School students.

Because the overriding goal of English Club is to have fun with the English language, there really is no such thing as a typical meeting. Any activity that encourages students to use their English is considered, and our students are usually game to try anything. Yoko and I try to use little or no Japanese during English Club. But unlike many of our other classes, members seem to prefer it that way. In fact, they will often pretend we didn't say something in Japanese and reply in English no matter what. And because the environment is more like a social club than a class, members are much less reluctant to try their English. In regular English classes, the fear of making a mistake in front of their peers can almost paralyze some students when they are called upon to answer a question.

Our latest English Club activity was directly related to the Torrance/Kashiwa Sister City program. At the end May, students from Torrance North High School visited Kashiwa for the annual sister school exchange. When they arrived at Kashiwa Municipal High School to meet with their home stay families, their bus was greeted by several large brightly-colored signs...all hand-made by members of Ichikashi's English Club. Club members also made the farewell signs for the farewell party held on the last night of the Torrance students' stay.

In addition to practicing English conversation, English Club is also an opportunity to introduce students to aspects of western (and more specifically American) culture that we just don't have time to cover in our regular classes. The upside is that club members can look forward to special occasions like Valentine's Day, July 4th, Halloween and Christmas, knowing that Yoko and Karl probably have some kind of celebration or party involved. In fact, some of our students keep closer track of western holidays than we do.

Among the activities planned for this year are possible field trips to places where students can practice their English in "real world" situations, such as Narita International Airport. Students are looking forward to it, especially since some of them are interested in careers in the travel or airline industries.



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**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: _____

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual..... | \$10.00 per year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family..... | \$20.00 per year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Supporting..... | \$50.00+ per year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Benefactor..... | \$100.00+ per year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 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.