

Sister City News



Torrance, California



Torrance Sister City Association



Kashiwa, Japan

Newsletter Editor: Teri Kuwahara

March 2008

Newsletter Mailing: Jordan Thompson



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Hazel Taniguchi

Last month, we hosted 33 anniversary delegates from Kashiwa, Japan, Torrance's sister city of 35 wonderful years. The delegates were kept busy the entire time that they were here. It was our pleasure to host them, and we hope they had as much fun as we did. TSCA would like to thank Mayor Scotto and the City Council; the various departments of the city that had a part in the celebration, especially the Community Services Department; all the sponsors; the interpreters; and TSCA members who helped in various ways and attended the activities. **A million thanks to Suzie Wand, our liaison from the Community Services Department, who spent so many hours assisting TSCA in a million ways. Suzie is truly one in a million, and we are lucky to have her on our team!** Look for more coverage of the anniversary celebration in the next issue of our newsletter.

Our Student Selection Committee continues its work of evaluating 23 applicants. Formal interviews have been held, home visits have been made, and the dinners at Mitsuwa have been completed. More activities have been planned. The final selection will take place at the end of March.

Next month, we will be presenting our 36th annual Bunka-Sai, or Japanese Cultural Festival. This fundraiser benefits the Student Cultural Exchange Program and will be held on April 26 and 27 at the Cultural Arts Center. Please come!

Again, as I say each month, if you have questions, please call me at (310) 328-1238.

Thank you!

March calendar

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| March | 6 | Pizza Party for Student Applicants |
| | 10 | Association Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
West Annex Commission Room |
| | 14 | City Hall Closed |
| | 15 | Picnic for Student Applicants
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., WALTERIA PARK
Applicants and Committee Members Only |
| | 22 | Rummage Sale at West High School
6:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Student Applicants, Parents, and
Committee Members |
| | 24 | Student Selection Committee Meets
6:30 p.m., West Annex Conference Room |
| | 28 | City Hall Closed |

SAVE THE DATES



BUNKA-SAI

IS COMING SOON

APRIL 26 AND 27



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Ron Kimmel
Membership Chairman

Reminder: Membership applications must be received by March 1 in order to be included in the TSCA Membership Directory.

Thank you, new and renewed members!

ExxonMobil Corporation (B)
 Altenes, Sharon & Lee (F)
 Arsian, Suraya (S)
 Burton, Aaron (F)
 Chan, Anna (I)
 Cohen Family (F)
 Courtney, Elinor (I)
 Chun, Albert & Lisa (S)
 Chun, Lauren (I)
 Diaz, Frank, Patty & Anthony (F)
 Fichtner, Daniel (F)
 Flynn, Janet, John & Daniel (F)
 Hom-Jones, Eleanor & Family (F)
 Ihde, Butch, & Dunlap, Donna (F)
 Imamura Family, George (F)
 Ishikawa, Fujiko (I)
 Kaneshiro, Hiroshi & Myrtle (F)
 Kuwahara, Gary, Teri, Dana & Derek (S)
 Lorenz, Sarah (F)
 Mand, Ryan (F)
 Martel, Kristi (I)
 Mehta, Samir & Jigna (F)
 Miike Family (F)
 Muratsuchi, Al (I)
 Kato, Isao & Mary (F)
 Kilburn, Kathy (I)
 Koga, Robert & Yvonne (S)
 Larue, Julie (F)
 McGee, Carmen & John (F)
 Noguchi, Masako (I)
 Pennick, Tiffany (F)
 Shintani, Mr. & Mrs. Ron (S)
 Sieda, Irene (F)
 Simon, Mitchell (F)
 Smisek, Ann & Dick (B)
 Sprague, Brian & Tracy (F)
 Voigt, Bill & Jerry (F)
 Wilson, Doris Hull (I)
 Yonezaki, Michael (F)
 Yoshida, Gary & Family (F)

Kashiwa's 2008 Adult Leader



KIRA recently announced Mrs. Akiko Nobusawa as their 2008 Adult Leader.

Mrs. Nobusawa is married and has two daughters and a son. Her home currently consists of her retired husband, the younger daughter, and a 17-year-old dog. She is a charter member of ITC (International Training in Communication) Kashiwa Club and has been teaching English to students and adults for 30 years.

Mrs. Nobusawa's hobbies are playing tennis, singing songs, and traveling. She has traveled to over 15 countries so far. Every summer, she takes Japanese students to England as a group leader for Japan Travel Bureau on a home-stay program.

During the Torrance anniversary delegates' trip to Kashiwa in October 2007, Mrs. Nobusawa participated as a narrator at the Noh Theater and accompanied the Torrance group on the Tokyo tour.

Mrs. Nobusawa is looking forward to coming to Torrance this August.

John Jones is named Community Services Director

John started out as a Day Camp Volunteer in 1975 with the City of Torrance and worked his way through the part-time ranks while attending college. He graduated in June 1980 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in



Recreation & Leisure Studies with a minor in Business Administration.

John was hired by the City of Torrance in November 1980, as a Recreation Coordinator in the Parks and Recreation Department, was promoted to Recreation Supervisor in 1985, and then promoted again to Recreation Services Manager in 1990, and appointed Community Services Director in January 2008.

As the new director, John manages a department of 275 staff members and responsible for organizing, planning and directing a broad range of leisure and educational services and programs that enrich the lives of the diverse Torrance community.

During his twenty-eight years as a valued member of the department, John was instrumental in the development of the department's volunteer program and provided leadership and assistance in the development of many significant community projects, including the Torrance Cultural Arts Center, Greenwood, Discovery and Lago Seco Parks, the Wilson Park Sports Center, the Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center, the ATTIC Teen Center, and renovation of the Benstead Plunge.

Throughout his tenure with the City, John has distinguished himself by his enthusiasm and passion for public service, his professionalism and his commitment to enriching the community and improving the quality of life for the residents of Torrance.

Your help is needed for Bunka-Sai - April 26-27

Our dedicated volunteer chairmen are hard at work planning the drawings, prizes, food and TSCA booths for Bunka-Sai. Please take a look at the ways you can help support our biggest fundraiser of the year!



WANTED: ITEMS FOR THE GIFT BOOTH

We need new or unused items. Japanese items are desirable but anything you wish to donate will be appreciated.

Please call Ann Smisek at 540-4240 if you have items or can help at the booth. Items may be dropped off at Ann's house or brought to the next TSCA meeting.



Sell your tickets !

SELL YOUR OPPORTUNITY DRAWING TICKETS

All TSCA members are asked to support Bunka-Sai by selling opportunity drawing tickets (10 plus two free tickets for you, to be bought or sold at \$1 each) to be mailed soon. Once again there will be many prizes with a grand prize of \$250. Many of you have sent in your money and stubs already. Please call Nancy Broun at (310) 719-1562 if you need more tickets or have any questions.



DRAWING PRIZES NEEDED

Many fine local restaurants and businesses have already given us certificates and prizes for our Opportunity Drawing (Gail Roulette, Chairperson) and Hourly Drawing (Donna Dunlap, Chairperson). No prize is too large or too small!

MORE PRIZES ARE NEEDED FOR BOTH DRAWINGS: If you have business contacts or can secure a donation of any size, please contact:
Gail Roulette @ 370-9427 or Donna Dunlap @ 310-540-9646



FOOD BOOTH HELP NEEDED

Calling all alumni, parents and members of TSCA... WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!

TERIYAKI returns this year and we will need help preparing and cooking food! We also need donations of desserts and canned sodas. If you would like to help with teriyaki plate lunch preparation, donate items, bake desserts, loan us your rice cooker, or have any questions, please call Cheng Leong Moriwaki at (310) 782-9404

or email at: mmoriwaki@earthlink.net



BUNKA-SAI PROGRAM BOOK ADVERTISERS NEEDED

Full page (\$200), Half page (\$100), Quarter page (\$50) and Business Card (\$25) ads are needed for the festival program booklet. Camera ready art no larger than 8 1/2 x 11" accepted. Please call Hazel Taniguchi at (310) 328-1238. Deadline is March 16th.

Bunka-Sai is our annual Japanese Cultural Festival and our big money-raising event supporting the Torrance exchange program with Kashiwa, Japan. All funds raised help us send Torrance students to Kashiwa and host students from Kashiwa.

Please support us with your donations of goods, food and time to make this event a success.



New Uniforms for Ichikashi

by Yoko Kobayashi

Assistant Language Teacher in Kashiwa

Whether I am waiting at the train station, shopping for groceries at the supermarket, or out running errands in Kashiwa, I can always spot students from my school, Kashiwa Municipal High School (or 'Ichikashi' as we like to call it), from a far distance. Our students' uniforms are quite distinct: navy blue blazer, grey sweater, white button-down shirt, red tie and hounds tooth print slacks for boys or skirt for girls.

Since the founding of Ichikashi 30 years ago, our students have worn slight variations of the same uniform. It is amusing to look at old photos of students. Except for the hairstyles, you can't tell if a picture had been taken only 1 year ago or 30 years ago. However, beginning in the next school year, Ichikashi students will don a new and more modern uniform. As you can imagine, this will mark quite a momentous event around here.



柏市立柏高等学校

平成20年度より
制服がリニューアル

In Japan, schools begin their year in April and end in March. This upcoming school year will involve many exciting changes at Ichikashi. A new curriculum will be introduced which will allow for many new electives to be offered. Whereas our students currently follow a structured course pattern, the new curriculum will allow them to have more choices in course selection. In conjunction with this new curriculum, the new school uniform will be introduced.

Prior to the selection of the new uniform, a questionnaire was given to all students and staff. A committee made up of Ichikashi staff members took this feedback from the students and teachers into account before making a decision on the new attire.

Unlike the United States, wearing uniforms in public and private schools are the norm here in Japan. Students are expected to pay for their own uniforms. Prices are higher than one might expect; Ichikashi's new uniform will cost about \$700 per set. Nevertheless, students expect to wear them throughout their high school years. Thus, many feel that it is more cost effective in the long run. And surprisingly, I find that many students in Japan like wearing uniforms. They seem to enjoy being identified as part of a group and not being burdened with the daily task of deciding on an outfit for the day. In fact, there is one school in our area which does not require uniforms yet there are students at that school who wear uniforms anyway.

Starting in April, I suppose all of us here at Ichikashi will have to get used to the new changes. I am sure that it will not take too long for me to recognize students again while out and about in Kashiwa.

new uniforms

Teach English in Kashiwa, Japan

The Torrance Sister City Association seeks qualified applicants for one high school English teacher position in Kashiwa, Japan, the Sister City of Torrance. A minimum one-year contract runs from August 1, 2008 to July 31, 2009. It is renewable for a maximum 3-year assignment.

Duties: to 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 including judging and assisting with speech contests, serving as advisor to the English Conversation Club, business trips and coaching students for college interviews.

Qualifications:

Applicants must:

1. live or work in Torrance,
2. be fluent in written and spoken English,
3. hold a Bachelor's degree and 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:

The English Teacher will receive:

1. an annual salary of 4,800,000 Japanese yen,
2. roundtrip airfare from Los Angeles to Japan,
3. national health insurance (automatically deducted from monthly salary),
4. subsidized housing and car, and
5. paid Japanese holidays and personal days.

Resume, cover letter and two letters of recommendation

must be mailed by United States Postal Service and be postmarked on or before April 2, 2008, and be received by April 16, 2008.

Send the requested documents by USPS to:

Torrance Sister City Association
c/o Community Services Department
3031 Torrance Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503
Attention: Hazel Taniguchi for Dan Fichtner, Chairman
English Teacher Selection Committee

Qualified applicants will be scheduled for panel interviews held at Torrance City Hall, West Annex Building.

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

Depending on need, interviews will be scheduled on Wednesday, May 14, 2008 in the evening and/or Saturday, May 17, 2008 in the afternoon.



**TORRANCE
SISTER CITY
ASSOCIATION**

3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503

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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: _____

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.