

SISTER CITY NEWS



Torrance, California



Torrance Sister City Association



Kashiwa, Japan

Newsletter Editor: Mona Wong

October 2010

Newsletter Mailing: Gail Roulette

President's Message

By Jordan Thompson



This year of Torrance Sister City Association activities is approaching the end. However, there are still many very important things that are coming up!

First, we are looking for more wonderful students from Torrance who are willing and interested in becoming 38th group of exchange students to Kashiwa, Japan for Summer 2011. Additional information is

located on a flier later in the newsletter.

Second, we are also looking for a highly motivated and patient adult leader to lead the 39th exchange group to Kashiwa, Japan during Summer 2012. Again, additional information is located on a flier later in the newsletter.

These are two fantastic opportunities to not only get involved with TSCA, but to make a difference in the world by spreading peace through people to people relationships. You will meet many great people, see incredible sights, experience real life in a foreign country (not simply as a tourist), and make friendships that will last a lifetime. If this is something that interests you, please apply!

Additionally, we will also soon be electing board members and officers for the 2011 TSCA Board. In fact, the ballots for next year's board members are due before the October Board Meeting. All officers must already be on the TSCA Board. Our nominating committee chairperson, Vera Little, is hard at work finding people that are willing to serve.

I look forward to seeing you and working with you soon. If you have any questions, concerns, or if you just want to say hello, please feel free to contact me at (310) 339-5797 or via email at torrancesistercity@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Ron Kimmel

Membership Chairman

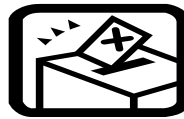
Membership Renewals for newsletter:

Jensen, Kathleen & Davis (S)

Lee, Alicia (I)

Tigerman, Peggy (I)

Yamaguchi, Tetsuo (I)



VOTE!

This month, all TSCA members will receive ballots to elect five board members. Please exercise your privilege, VOTE, and send back your marked ballot by the due date.

Thank you!

CALENDAR

October	8	City Hall Closed
	11	Association Meeting 7:00 p.m. West Annex Commission Room
	13	Student Selection Committee meeting
	15	Adult Leader 2012 Letters of Intent Due
	22	City Hall Closed



Ellen has a sushi roll. Brianne wears a white and brown shirt.. Kelly wears a stripe shirt. Lisa has two little dolls. Jeffrey wears glasses.

The rabbit family.

Don't you think they are pretty? They are handmade dolls named Ellen, Lisa, Brianne, Kelly and Jeffrey (from the left).

One of the KIRA active members, Mrs. Sanae Azuma made them for the students and gave them when they left here. Each of the rabbits wears the same shirt as they wore in Kashiwa. Ellen has a sushi roll. Sanae says she enjoyed making them and she is happy the rabbits are in Torrance with the students. Sanae went to Kyoto/Hiroshima with the group and had a good time with them.

Student Board Members:

Thank you to outgoing Student Board Members, Janey Hayashi and Nicole Mattson, for serving on the board from September 2009 — September 2010! All of us appreciate your hard work, dedication, input, and ideas.

Thank you to incoming Student Board Members Jeffrey Johnson and Lisa Cho for agreeing to serve on the board from September 2010 — September 2011! We look forward to your energy, enthusiasm, input and ideas.

Square Dance and Chili Cook-Off

By Mark Richardson

For the entertainment of our Kashiwa delegation, this year's combo of square dance and chili cook-off at the Ken Miller Recreation Center furnished a piquant blend of tastes and personalities.

TSCA members supplied an abundance of chili, with cornbread, salads, and pie to round out the menu. Competition for the title of best chili was intense, so we turned to our Kashiwa guests for an impartial verdict. Judgment was tough but fair. The following winners received embroidered commemorative aprons:

TSCA veteran Donna Dunlap garnered first place (Steven Ihde accepting for his mom).

To her own surprise Pam ("I've Never Made Chili Before!") Valleni achieved second place, ably assisted by grandson Warren Matteson.

Third place went to first-time host mom Pat Norton.

For an easy transition to the dance segment, master caller Dave Donaldson had the experienced members of Boots and Bows Square Dance Club demonstrate a set of high-tempo steps. Then all were called to the floor for Dave's quick and dirty lesson in basic moves. With the help of the experienced dancers, everyone caught on fast. And in the country-western dresses they'd picked out earlier that day, the Kashiwa girls blended right in.

By the end of the evening, this diverse group — Club experts, American rookies, and Kashiwa guests — had begun to perform like a single body, almost a well-oiled machine, a reminder of sorts of what our cultural exchange is aiming at. But the main thing is that everyone was having a great time, so that we had to wrap up the event with everyone wanting more. Next year will be here before we know it, so now is the time to start shaping up those chili recipes...

[Special note: Boots and Bows has provided square dance entertainment, instruction, and refreshment for this TSCA event for several years. To help them preserve this American tradition, give square dancing a try. A New Dancer Program begins from 9/15. Call Rosemary Walters (310.372.9263).]



Donna Dunlap
First place



Pat Norton
Third Place



Warren Matteson.
Second Place



Memories of Japan

The first 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.

Entertainment and the Arts of Japan – by Jeffrey Johnson

One of the things I saw was an unbelievable, breathtaking performance from the high school brass band. We were led into a giant gymnasium with a select number of folding seats, and in front of us a huge amount of students sitting in chairs grasping their instruments...they were going to perform a song from Michael Jackson, *Thriller*. From the very first note they were up dancing with their instruments and acting like zombies and doing Michael Jackson moves and spinning and moving their head like Michael...it was the most amazing thing I've ever seen in my life....

Then we had a performance from the Kashiwa girls. *Ayakatta* was the name of their song, and from the minute I heard it I couldn't get the dang thing out of my head the whole trip in Japan and the whole Torrance trip. But I loved it...

I wanted to go up there and dance with them...The thing that surprised me was that they had these really short school skirts on and going back to orientation

(our girls) were told they could not wear skirts because none of the girls in Japan wear them....

In Tokyo we had to make traditional Japanese candy...We were trying to make a rabbit, but all of our first designs looked mutated and awkward, but once we got the hang of it, it was really fun....

We went to the traditional tea ceremony and played the koto....It was an experience I'll never forget.

At the Lion's Club dinner we were given a mini performance of traditional geisha dancing with a shamisen, which is an instrument in the form of a guitar. It was elegant and beautiful.

All in all we had an amazing trip, one I will never forget. My favorite part would have to be spending every day with Brianne, Kelley and Lisa, because they made every situation a fun one, getting to know them was just as amazing to me as the brass band....



Welcome Reception — Kudos and Kudos

By Shirley Tanaka

Welcome Reception Chair

On August 5th, over 110 TSCA members and friends gathered at the Nakano Theater to welcome the nine wonderful women in the 2010 Kashiwa delegation. This was the first time the Welcome Reception was a dinner, and the food was abundant and most delicious. I would like to thank the generous host families and friends who brought the many tasty dishes. Thanks to everyone who helped make the reception a success, especially to two exceptional members who helped steadfastly throughout the night - Ann Smisek and Pam Miike. I couldn't have lasted the evening without them!

The gift bags were offered to our Kashiwa friends during the reception. Many thanks go to Torrance city departments, Farmers Market, Sequim Lavender Farm, and TSCA members for their generosity and wonderful donations. TSCA provided each student and adult leader with a blue duffel bag and a matching string-drawn backpack, both embroidered with the TSCA logo, the year 2010, and their last name. I would like to give a big

thanks to Cheryl Yamauchi for all her efforts in ordering the bags, Christine Osako for organizing the goody bags, and to Suzie Wand for coordinating the city donations.

Thanks to all for a successful welcome to our Kashiwa friends.



The gift bags we gave to the Kashiwa folks.



STUDENTS SOUGHT FOR 2011 EXCHANGE PROGRAM

IT'S RECRUITMENT TIME!

Our annual student exchange program with our sister city of Kashiwa, Japan, will take place once again in the summer of 2011. We are looking for outstanding students who will serve as fine representatives of the city of Torrance for this program. Flyers are being printed and will soon be distributed to our high schools to advertise this life-enriching experience. Applications will be available in the school's counselors office, in the Community Services Offices of Torrance City Hall, and in the main Torrance City Library.

Students selected will be given extensive orientation, participate in our annual weekend festival of Japanese culture, BunkaSai, spend 3 weeks in July living with two families in Japan as they are taken to see many places and sights there, and join Kashiwa students visiting Torrance in August for 3 weeks as we show them the sights and fun activities of Torrance and the Los Angeles area.

Students who apply must be in the 10th grade or higher, and must be Torrance residents. The applicant must not have reached the 19th birthday by the time the group leaves for Japan in early July. Families of the eight students selected will also be asked to host a Kashiwa student for 10 days in August.

If you know any qualified young people whom you think may be interested in this enriching experience, please encourage them to apply. Deadline for the applications is December 20, 2010. Call Ray Roulette, TSCA Student Selection Committee chair, 310-370-9427, if you have further questions.

RECIPE CORRECTION

by Hazel Taniguchi

The recipe on page 109 in the TSCA cookbook, *TSUBUSHIAN (RED BEAN) SHORTBREAD*, needs a couple of corrections.

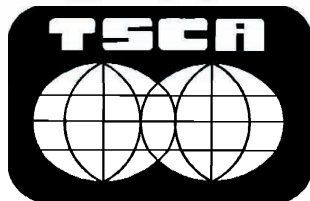
1. The temperature was omitted. It should be 350 degrees.
2. In the fourth line, the sentence starting with the word "Pour," should read "Pour over baked crust and.....", not baking crust.

Please try this recipe. I think you will like the shortbread as much as I do. If you need help getting the tsubushian, please call me.

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**

TORRANCE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

**3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503**

Have You Considered Being an Adult Leader for the Torrance Student Exchange Program?

- **Accompany up to eight high school students to Torrance's sister city, Kashiwa, Japan in July 2012.**
- **Learn about the Student Cultural Exchange Program and Japanese Culture.**
- **Spend three exciting weeks in Japan as an Ambassador of goodwill.**

Here are the qualifications:

- **Be at least 26 years of age at the time of the trip.**
- **Reside or work in Torrance.**
- **Have a background working with youth in at least one of the following areas:**
 - **Education, counseling, behavioral sciences, or**
 - **Youth activities**

Interested?

- **Contact Mark Richardson, Committee Chair: mark@lafn.org [(310) 328-9126].**
- **By Monday, November 1, e-mail to mark@lafn.org or mail a brief letter of intent to apply for the position, giving TSCA a brief personal background and a request for an application packet.**
- **By deadline, Friday, November 12, 2010, mail your completed application for review by the Adult Leader Selection Committee.**

Mail all material to:

**Torrance Sister-City Association
3031 Torrance Blvd.,
Torrance, CA 90503
Attention: Adult Leader Program**

Don't Let the Cuteness Fool You

By Geoff Tsudama

Assistant Language Teacher in Kashiwa



Nara is known for having deer and a big Buddha. Everyone I talked to about my upcoming trip asked if I was going to see the Buddha and told me I'd see a lot of deer. Nara is so famous for these things that when the city held a contest to decide their mascot, the winning entry was a baby Buddha look-alike with deer antlers named Sento-kun. I had dreams of

frollicking through fields with Buddha holding my left hand and Bambi on my right, hoof-in-hand. Boy was I wrong. More on that soon.

Upon arriving in Nara, I was quickly able to see that it was a tourist destination featuring aforementioned iconic attractions. Vendors lined the streets, selling deer-themed memorabilia, Buddha-shaped trinkets, and other assorted items like "omamori" which you can buy to protect you or give you luck in various aspects of your life. The omamoris' protection never expires but many of the protections are so specific (safety in child-birth, luck for exams, etc.) That most people travel to shrines to pray for good luck and buy omamoris for each upcoming occasion.



Besides the vendors, deer freely roamed the streets. There were parks and other nature-filled areas but the deer really wandered wherever they wanted: sidewalks, random patches of grass, walkways, on the steps leading up to the shrine, etc. It's hard to be mad at them, though. They were so cute. The deer would walk up to people on the path, nuzzle up to their legs, look up at them affectionately, and then BITE THEM UNTIL THEY GAVE UP SOME FOOD!



I was one such victim, happily trying to feed the deer "deer senbei" (which I think was actually just ground up tree branches in disc form). As soon as I paid my money and received the little bunch of discs, a large

group of deer began to follow me. I thought this was endearing for all of five seconds until I felt a small nip on my butt. Thinking it was my imagination, I continued to believe in my illusion that I was prancing with my forest friends, while trying to open the deer senbei package. All of a sudden, I felt a barrage of nips and bites from every which direction. My backpack was pulled, my shirt was yanked, my shorts were

drooled on, and my pride was broken. The assault continued until my hands were empty, at which time the deer pretended like I no longer existed.

Those deer really are aggressive when it comes to getting food but, fortunately, they were very tame and even posed for pictures when food wasn't part of the equation. In the end, I got some great pictures, a couple videos, and learned a lifelong lesson: fear the deer.



Culture Watch

Under her stage name of Kikusa Katada, founding TSCA member and past president Mikko Haggot-Henson continues to popularize the traditional Japanese performing arts in Southern California. On Friday, September 10, the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena hosted "Music and Dance of Edo," a concert of traditional Japanese music and dance in a Japanese theater setting, performed by the Japanese Traditional Performing Arts Organization. As founding president of JTPAO, Mikko has been introducing high-quality Japanese arts to local communities for twenty years.



Mikko is "front row center"

Friday's concert included musical pieces for nagauta, the ensemble that accompanies kabuki theater performances, and for koto. Mikko herself performed on the ko-tsuzumi (hand-held drum). The occasion was a great success, and the group received a standing ovation from the 300-member audience. Omedeto gozaimasu, Mikko-san.



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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.