



## President's Message

By Karen Wheeler

Dear friends:

There is something special in the air this July... and it is not just pollen! I think it is anticipation of all the good summer plans that TSCA and KIRA have made for our student ambassadors and members.

*Continued on page 3*



*We proudly present the 2024 Student Ambassador Delegation from Kashiwa, with their Adult Leader.*

### WHAT'S INSIDE:

**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**  
Pages 1 and 3

**2024 KASHIWA DELEGATION**  
Pages 1-2

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
Page 2

**MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS**  
Page 3

**AUGUST ACTIVITIES**  
Page 4

**ENGLISH TEACHER REPORT**  
Pages 5-7

**CONGRADULATIONS AND TOCAPALOOZA**  
Page 8

**KASHIWA CORNER**  
Pages 9-10

**TEACH ENGLISH IN JAPAN APPLICATION**  
Page 11

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
Page 12

# calendar

**JULY 8, 2024. 7:00PM**

Association Meeting  
Katy Geissert Library Meeting Room

**JULY 9, 2024**

Torrance Delegation Leaves for  
Japan

**JULY 30, 2024**

Torrance Delegation Arrives Back in  
Los Angeles

**August 5, 20024**

Kashiwa Delegation Arrives in  
Torrance

**August 5, 2024 5:30PM**

Welcome Potluck Dinner  
George Nakano Theater

**August 21, 2024 5:30PM**

Sayonara Banquet Toyota Meeting  
Hall

**September 9, 2024 7:00 PM**

Association Meeting  
Katy Geissert Library Meeting Room

## Torrance Sister City Association

**PRESIDENT** Karen Wheeler

**VICE PRESIDENT** Werner Willoughby

**SECRETARY** Amie Campbell

**TREASURER** Stephanie Ewing-Warner





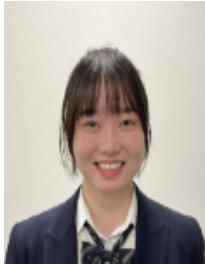


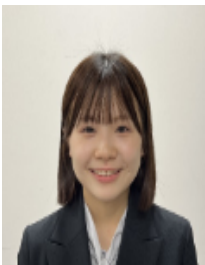

Newsletter Editor Eve Rappoport

Newsletter Distribution Donna Dunlap

### Comments or submissions?

Please send an email to  
[tscanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:tscanewsletter@gmail.com)

## 2024 Kashiwa Delegation

2024 Kashiwa Delegates			
			
name	Yumiko Harasawa	Rento Kobayashi	Ibuki Nishida
gender	F	M	M
grade		11th	11th
school	Adult Leader	Kashiwa Chuo HS	Toyo University Ushiku HS
			
name	Sota Katsuyama	Nagisa Yamamoto	Genki Takahashi
gender	M	F	M
grade	11th	11th	11th
school	Kashiwa Chuo HS	Komagome HS	Higashi Katsushika HS
			
name	Yuya Okabe	Tamaki Kato	Fubuki Kawase
gender	M	F	F
grade	11th	freshman	sophomore
school	Clark Memorial International HS	Chiba University	Kaichi International University

*The Kashiwa Delegation – by the numbers: 5 boys, 3 girls,  
6 high school students and 2 university students.*

## ***President's Message, continued from Page 1***

Our student ambassadors from Torrance were officially commissioned by the Torrance City Council to represent our city in Kashiwa, Japan at the July 2, 2024 City Council Meeting. They depart for Japan on July 9th, and return on July 30th. We look forward to sharing pictures of their adventures with you in the August Newsletter.

We will be gathering our Host Families together for an orientation meeting on July 23rd, in anticipation of the arrival of the Kashiwa student ambassadors in August. When they are here, we will show them the best of Torrance and other Southern California highlights. Our members and host families are welcome to join them on various outings, as space on the bus permits. Check our website on or after July 23rd for details!

Every year the Torrance student delegation is accompanied on their journey by an Adult Leader who has experience with youth and an interest in Japan. We are beginning our search for the Summer 2025 Adult Leader already! The application deadline is July 8, which is already upon us, but we will actually interview in

August. So, if you have a strong interest in leading next year's student delegation, contact us right away through our website, and we will do our best to fit you into the selection process, if possible.

Our program for English teachers will also be going through a selection and recruitment process later this year. There are two positions to teach English in a Kashiwa high school, with overlapping two year terms, so that the new teacher can work with a teacher who has a year of experience. Our next teacher will begin service next year, in August, 2025. See our website for further information, [torrancesistercity.org](http://torrancesistercity.org), if you are interested in applying.

There is more to see in this issue, so I will not detain you further. Just dive in and see what you may find!

As ever, thank you for your continued interest in and support of TSCA.

## ***Membership List and Donations***

*Compiled by Alyssa Yamauchi,  
Membership Chair*

### ***NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS***

#### ***INDIVIDUAL (\$20)***

***Gianna Solorzano-Kaats***

### ***DONATIONS***

*Nikki Allred*

*Sumi Arnheim*

*May Cambra*

*Tsuiko Kikuchi*

*Franco Lee*

*Frank Marumoto*

*Lori Mizuguchi*

*Alina Nadsady*

*Maureen Ortega*

*Marilyn and Sherwin Rubin*

*May Sakamoto*

*Shirley Tanaka*

*George and Carol Welsch*

*Tanya Welsch*

*Aileen Willoughby*

# *AUGUST Activities*

## **Save the Dates!**

When the Kashiwa Student Delegates are here on August 5, TSCA will be taking them on many exciting adventures. Save the following dates and please plan to join us! The students will be in Torrance until August 22.

- 8/5 Welcome Reception and Potluck 5:30PM
- 8/8 Chili Cookoff and Square Dance 5:00PM
- 8/9 Dodger Game
- 8/16 Ringling Brothers Circus
- 8/18 Tall Ship Sailing excursion
- 8/21 Sayonara Banquet Cost TBD

\*these are all evening events except Tall Ship (afternoon)

Watch for an E-BLAST with information on how to sign-up, and the cost for each event. Note: Some events have limited seats.





## English Teacher Report by Pedro Abina

Greetings, Torrance Community!

As some of you may remember, I first ventured into the Ichikashi exchange program back in 2018 as a student. Now, returning as a teacher, the experience feels doubly significant. As a student, I was so absorbed in my own adventures that I never

considered what our chaperones did in their free time. Little did I know, they were engaging in their own cultural exchanges, often marked by flushed cheeks and post-gathering giggles. Ah, the elusive teacher gatherings, a mystery to us students, now revealed to me as moments of camaraderie and shared laughter. It was a pleasure to join my former teachers, Mr. Barth, Ms. Whorley, and Mrs. Nicholes, for a drink... or six. Conversing with them as peers, albeit with the honorific titles intact, was a poignant reminder of the lasting impact educators like them have on our lives. It's reassuring to see North High School continues to have such exceptional mentors.

Looking back on our eventful week together, filled with a diverse array of activities – from the artistry of calligraphy and the discipline of judo to the flavors of cooking classes and the serenity of traditional tea ceremonies – watching the current students forge their connections evokes a sense of timeless continuity, where each interaction mirrors those of past and future participants. Our escapade to Disneyland added an extra layer of joy to our shared experiences, leaving us with memories to treasure. As we gathered at Haneda Airport on Friday to bid farewell, memories of my own departure from Japan came rushing back. Seeing my students tearfully embrace their newfound friends from Torrance stirred a profound sense of connection within me. I recalled the heaviness in my heart as I left behind dear friends, uncertain of when we would meet again. Yet, here I stand, a witness to the cyclical nature of reunions and farewells.

One student eloquently captured the essence of our bonds in her reflection, articulating how, despite language barriers, our hearts found a common language.

Though I wanted to impart some wisdom as we parted ways, I hesitated, not wanting to interrupt their farewells. Instead, I offer these words to the students of North High and Ichikashi now:





As I sat on my flight back to Torrance in 2018, my mind wandered to the experiences I had just left behind in Japan. It was during those moments of reflection that I found myself pondering the underlying purpose of sister city relationships. What emerged from my thoughts was a realization that transcended mere diplomatic niceties.

You see, it became clear to me that while government-to-government diplomacy serves a function, it often lacks the depth and authenticity needed to foster enduring connections. Instead, it's the personal interactions, the genuine exchanges between individuals, that lay the foundation for true friendship and understanding between cities and countries.

When we engage in these exchanges, two things happen. Firstly, we come face to face with our differences, especially in culture. These differences actually enrich our lives, broadening our perspectives and deepening our appreciation for the diversity of our world. Second, and perhaps even more importantly, through these interactions, we discover just how much we have in common. Despite language barriers and cultural nuances, we find shared values, shared dreams, and shared aspirations that unite us as human beings. It's through our shared experiences, whether it's exploring new cuisines, learning traditional arts, or simply engaging in heartfelt conversations, that we begin to see progress. Progress not just in terms of diplomatic relations, but in our collective journey towards greater empathy, understanding, and unity.



Your participation in this program is more than just a fleeting moment in time; it's another chapter in the enduring friendship between our two cities. Each interaction, each exchange, adds another layer to the rich tapestry of connections that bind Torrance and Kashiwa together.

So, as you embark on the next chapter of your journey, know that you carry with you a piece of this shared history.

Whether you find yourself back in the Land of the Rising Sun or exploring new horizons, remember that you carry with you the bonds of friendship formed during your time here. These bonds, forged in the crucible of shared experiences and heartfelt connections, will serve as a source of strength and support wherever life may lead you. さよなら



North High Students and Teachers Visited Ichikashi in May for a week to experience school life.



**ConGradulations!**



*Andrew Kang, former student ambassador graduated from UCLA with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. He will move to Texas for a new job. His parents are pictured here.*

**TSCA at TOCAPALOOZA!**

*TOCApalooza music festival on June 22, 2024 at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center was a great opportunity for us to meet the public and enjoy live music, food and shopping. Pam Miike shared her origami skills with children as they came by. Pictured left to right: Pam Miike, Donna Dunlap, Butch Ihde (in the back), Mallory Beard, Aileen and Werner Willoughby.*







## *Masaaki Fumoto, Torrance Committee*

Last month, I received the “Long Term voluntary award” from the Kashiwa International Relations Association (KIRA) for my 20 years contribution as a volunteer. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all my friends in Torrance and Kashiwa for having me in the program that has been so rewarding and inspirational. Torrance and Kashiwa celebrated their 50-year sister city relationship last year, and I am extremely honored to have been part of the program that develops the ties between the two cities.

After my retirement, I was delighted to come across KIRA as I had a special attachment to Torrance. I used to work in a shipping company for over 40 years, and from 1988 to 2000, I was posted to Port of Long Beach, California, where I managed a container terminal company. Long Beach is just an hour drive from Torrance, and I used to go there quite frequently to meet people and to eat at restaurants. I knew that Torrance is a sister city of Kashiwa, my hometown, so I always had a friendly feeling towards the city.

KIRA has been like a breath of fresh air for me. As I was a busy ‘salary-man’ for most of my adult life, I never had the chance to get to know the community I live in. KIRA gave me the opportunity to collaborate with people outside work for the first time, which was truly enlightening and enjoyable. What impressed me most was the enthusiasm of my fellow volunteers, and their dedication and commitment to providing the best possible experience for students.



# *Kashiwa Corner, con't*

**20 YEARS WITH KIRA!**

One of my roles at KIRA was to take photographs at various events. It was a great pleasure as photography has been one of my hobbies since my youth. The only problem was that I had no idea how to use a computer when I joined KIRA. In my days, we took photos and got film developed at camera stores: we shared photos with others by making copies and putting them in an envelope with hand-written letters. You can imagine how difficult it has been for me to learn how to attach a photo to an email, or share photos online. I had to ask for help from my family and friends countless times. I really appreciate their patience and unfailing support. I am now 89 years old, and I thought I am finished with learning, but I was wrong.

I sincerely hope that the sister city relationships between Torrance and Kashiwa will continue to prosper, and that the international friendship and goodwill between the two cities will grow even stronger. Thanks again for the Long-term voluntary award. I will be happy if I can serve as a volunteer to this important program for years to come.





# 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, 2025, to July 31, 2026. 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 assist with extracurricular activities, which may include judging and assisting with speech contests, serving as adviser to the English Conversation Club and 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:

- Live or work in Torrance
- Be fluent in written and spoken English
- Hold a Bachelor's degree plus a teaching credential or have demonstrated teaching experience
- Possess a keen interest in the Japanese language and culture
- Represent the Torrance Sister City Association and foster the goals and objectives of the English Teacher Exchange Program.

## Compensation

- Annual salary of approximately 4,800,000 Japanese yen
- One-way airfare from Los Angeles to Japan
- National health insurance (deducted from monthly salary)
- Subsidized housing and transportation allowance
- Paid Japanese holidays and personal days

## To Apply

Please email your resume and cover letter to Lori Chong Eurich (Chair, English Teacher Selection Committee) at [torrancesistercityinfo@gmail.com](mailto:torrancesistercityinfo@gmail.com)

Also, two recent letters of recommendation from people not related to the applicant must be emailed directly to the Chair.

Deadline to apply is  
**March 20, 2025**

Qualified applicants will be scheduled for panel interviews in mid-April 2025.

Questions? Send an email to [torrancesistercityinfo@gmail.com](mailto:torrancesistercityinfo@gmail.com)

# Torrance Sister City Association

## 2024 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### Member Information

Except for the Lifetime Membership\*  
all dues are in effect from  
January 1 to  
December 31

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

My membership is:

☐ New

☐ Renewal

TSCA Directory Update:

☐ New Address

☐ New Telephone Number

☐ New Email Address

☐ I do not want to be listed in the TSCA Directory

TSCA Activities:

☐ I am interested in participating in TSCA activities

**Mail your check and  
this form to:**

Torrance Sister City Association  
c/o Community Services Department  
3031 Torrance Blvd.  
Torrance, CA 90503

- |                                               |          |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual           | \$20     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family               | \$40     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting           | \$75+    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor           | \$125+   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate            | \$200+   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership* | \$2,000+ |

Enclosed is a donation to  
TSCA (in addition to \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
annual dues)

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to TSCA

TSCA meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, except in August  
and December, at the Civic center West Annex Commission from 7:00 p.m.  
[TorranceSisterCity.org](http://TorranceSisterCity.org)

*If you have  
any questions  
about your membership,  
please email Alyssa Yamauchi at  
[tscamembership@gmail.com](mailto:tscamembership@gmail.com)*

[www.torrancesistercity.org](http://www.torrancesistercity.org)



**Torrance Sister City  
Association**

3031 Torrance Boulevard  
Torrance, CA 90503

