



President's Message

By KAREN WHEELER

Hello! I hope everyone is having a pleasant summer, with all the ice-cold Lemonade you need to make warm weather tolerable. Here in Torrance, many of us have lemon trees, so lemonade can be ready any time. For those of us who do not have our own lemon trees, our friends and neighbors often share their extra lemons with us. Sharing good things is something Torrance Sister City Association and Kashiwa International Relations Association have done successfully for over 50 years. This summer's activities, in Kashiwa and in Torrance, are no exception.

Our student ambassadors from Torrance went to Kashiwa for three weeks and returned home on July 30th. I have had the privilege of seeing a beautiful, daily montage of photos, and we are sharing some in this Newsletter. More will be shared on our website, torrancesistercity.org, so be sure to check in over the course of the next few weeks.

We will soon meet the student ambassadors from Kashiwa. They will arrive on August 5th and stay until August 22, 2024. We have a number of great activities lined up. Several of them are open to all our members, and we encourage you to join us if you have the time and interest. To take a look at the options for events, and make the required reservations, check out

[August Activities 2024](#)

Among the most exciting events are an evening sail on a real sailing ship, a night at the circus, a Dodger game, and, of course, the Sayonara Banquet, where we remember the fun we have had with the Kashiwa student ambassador delegation, and bid them a fond farewell. Here are the essential details for these key events – reservations are required:

August 9, 2024 Dodger Game \$30 5 PM Meet Bus at West Annex.
August 16, 2024 Ringling Brothers Circus \$45 5:30 PM Meet Bus at West Annex
August 18, 2024 Tall Ship Cruise from San Pedro Harbor \$30 4:15 PM Berth 84, Foot of 6th Street, in San Pedro

WHAT'S INSIDE:

President's Message
PAGE 1-2

Calendar of Events
PAGE 2

New Memberships and
Donations
PAGE 3

August Activities
PAGE 3

Emergency Contact and
Consent Form
PAGE 4

English Teacher Report
PAGES 5-6

Kashiwa Corner
PAGE 7

Photos from Japan
PAGES 8-10

Teach English in Japan
PAGE 11

TSCA Membership Form
PAGE 12

Calendar of Events

No Monthly Association Meeting in August

August 5, 2024

Welcome Kashiwa Student Ambassadors
Torrance City Hall, about 1 PM

Welcome Reception and Potluck
George Nakano Theater, 5:30 PM

August 8, 2024

Chili Cook-off and Square Dance
Ken Miller Recreation Center, 6 PM

August 9, 2024 *

Dodger Game
Meet bus at West Annex 5:00 PM

August 10-11, 2024

First Host Family Weekend

August 13, 2024

Kashiwa Students go to San Diego

August 15, 2024

Kashiwa Students return to Torrance
Second Host Family stay begins

August 16, 2024 *

Ringling Bros Circus
Meet Bus at West Annex 5:30 PM

August 17-18, 2024

Second Host Family Weekend

August 18, 2024 *

Tall Ship Cruise, San Pedro Harbor
Berth 84, Foot of 6th Street, San Pedro 4:15 PM

August 21, 2024

Sayonara Banquet
Toyota Meeting Hall, 6:30 PM

September 9, 2024

Monthly Association Meeting
McMaster Park meeting rm, 7 PM

- **Reservation required**

President's Message

(CONTINUED)

When September rolls around, I hope the experiences of this summer will still be fresh on your mind. At our September Association Meeting, we will hear the reports from half of our student delegates, and at our October Association Meeting, we will hear the remaining reports. These are among the favorite meetings of our entire year, because, in addition to the informative and entertaining reports, we also get feedback from Kashiwa on what their students valued most from their experience in Torrance. It really is heartwarming when we learn how our program changes and enriches these young people.

September and October are also the months in which the process of electing new Board Members begins. If you would like to know more about participating on our Board, come to our monthly Association Meetings. Any member may attend, and we welcome new faces.

Thank you all for your continued interest in and support of the Torrance Sister City Association. I would like to raise my glass of ice-cold lemonade in a toast to all of you— Kanpai! Cheers!

Torrance Sister City Association

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Karen Wheeler

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Werner Willoughby

SECRETARY

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Stephanie Ewing-Warner

Newsletter Editor

Eve Rappoport

Newsletter Distribution

Donna Dunlap

Comments or submissions?

Please send an email to
tscanewsletter@gmail.com

Membership List and Donations

Compiled by Alyssa Yamauchi, Membership Chair

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS

INDIVIDUAL (\$20)

Jadelyn Chen-Ingram

FAMILY (\$40)

Mary Lou and Jack Maranian,
Katie Schenkelberg Family

DONATIONS

\$10 Mary Lou and Jack Maranian

AUGUST ACTIVITIES

Hello TSCA Members,

We invite all TSCA members to participate in the summer activities with our visiting Kashiwa students and their adult leader. Some events are free, but we need a head count for planning purposes. Some events require TSCA members to purchase a ticket.

Please use this link to sign up for the upcoming events:
[August Activities 2024 - Sign Up Link](#)

To view the full calendar of August Activities, visit:
[2024 August Activities Calendar](#)

For all participants in any of the August Activities, please be sure to complete and return the 2024 Emergency Contact and Consent Form included in this newsletter.

Completion of the form on Page 4 is required for participation.

For questions related to any of the August Activities, please contact August Activities Chairperson, Stephanie Ewing-Warner, at sewingwarn@aol.com.

EMERGENCY CONTACT AND CONSENT FORM

AUGUST ACTIVITIES – 2024



Please note: If you, a family member or guest is/are a participant in any of the activities during August 2024, this form must be completed and returned to TSCA. **DUE: Monday, August 5, 2024**

Family Name: _____ **Phone #:** _____

Address: _____

Please supply as much of the following information as applicable. If you have a guest, please copy this form and complete a separate form for your guest. If your guest is a minor, include his/her parents as the primary and secondary contacts and have one of the parents sign the release at the bottom.

	Name	Cell phone #	Work phone #	Relation in Family
1.	_____ Primary Contact / Participant	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____ Secondary Contact / Participant	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____ Participant	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____ Participant	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____ Participant	_____	_____	_____

Specific health information you may wish to provide regarding any of the above mentioned participants:

In the event any of the above individuals need **IMMEDIATE** medical attention, I give my permission to TSCA's assigned activity leader(s) to obtain the necessary medical aid or assistance for **IMMEDIATE** care.

Signature of Primary Contact:

Date:

Submit this form using **one** of the following methods:

1) Mail to:
Torrance Sister City Association
Attn: August Activities
c/o Community Services Department
3031 Torrance Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503

2) Email a PDF of this completed form to:
tscaactivities@gmail.com

3) Submit in person at the TSCA Welcome Reception
on Mon., Aug. 5 at 5:30 p.m. at the Nakano Theater

DUE: Monday, August 5, 2024



English Teacher Report

Great Teacher....Pigaochan?

By Chris Pigao

The Television Drama “Great Teacher Onizuka” aired a new TV special, 26 years after its original airing. The special was produced in lieu of Fuji TV’s 65th anniversary and saw Takashi Sorimachi once again portraying Japan’s #1 Sensei.

For those who are not familiar with the story, the 1998 drama was adapted from the manga written by Tooru Fujisawa and has been made into an anime, feature full-length film, and another rebooted series in 2011. It is about a 22-year-old teacher, Eikichi Onizuka, who was a former bike gang delinquent in his youth. He gets put in charge of a homeroom class full of troubled students. As the story progresses, he slowly gains the trust and respect of the students - teaching them value life lessons...albeit through unconventional means. The new special sees Onizuka-Sensei face a new generation of troubled students dealing with issues still faced today: neglect, academic pressures, and fitting into the popular crowd. To see Onizuka-Sensei back on our screens for one night made fans of the original very happy and introduced new viewers to how “Great” GTO really is.

I first saw the series with its Anime adaptation before I came to Kashiwa. During my down time while substitute teaching at TUSD, I would binge watch the series and I found myself dying of laughter. But when I watched the 1998 TV drama version, I instantly valued and appreciated it more. I thought Soramachi’s portrayal of Onizuka exceeded expectations, putting a humanistic spin on otherwise fictional person. My general interpretation is that although schools have a curriculum to abide by, we also have to teach our students how to be better people, both within themselves and the world around them. When I first arrived at Ichikashi, I jokingly called myself “Great Teacher Pigaochan” and our English department instantly knew what I was talking about. They would say “GTO?! Have you seen the show?” and I would tell them yes. Whenever I commute to school via Honda Super Cub, I hear murmurs from students who iterate words like “Sugoi” and “Kakkoii”. Even our very own English teacher, Tamaoki-Sensei, performed the opening song “Poison” for the last Keion live, which is the graduation concert for our 3rd year band club members. I recall him saying he was part of the “GTO” generation of teachers.

Continued on page 6

English Teacher Report

continued

If you think about American movies and Television shows, we have these great portrayals of teachers like Mr. Keating (Robin Williams) or Mr. Feeney (William Daniels) - someone who on-screen teaches us important lessons and makes us wish that we had them in our classes. Onizuka's reputation exceeds it. Whenever I speak to other teachers who teach at other schools around Kashiwa, I can always reference GTO and they understand the references. Some of those said the teacher even went into the profession because of the

show. At other times when I feel that teacher burnout after a busy day or week, I tend to rewatch an episode or two to get inspired once again. Great Teacher Onizuka is there to remind me that being a "great" teacher is not measured by knowledge, metrics, or results. It's by holistically being yourself and unconditionally compassionate to all students no matter what.





KASHIWA CORNER BY AKIKO NOBUSAWA *Akiko is a former adult leader.*

It was so nice!" "It was so cool" I hear these words so often from foreign visitors. I'm a guide for foreign tourists in the Tokyo area using public transportation. Almost all guests are from America, England, Australia and so on.

I got the official guide certificate in 2016 and started working as an English guide. For the first few years I just had a hard time getting used to the job, however, when I gradually got used it, suddenly the Corona virus hit all over the world. After several hard years, now I'm happy to work again as a tour guide.

I usually take public transportation for guiding to the popular sightseeing spots, such as Asakusa, Meiji Shrine, Akihabara, Shibuya Crossing and so on.. Tokyo has a highly efficient and extensive public transportation system, which is one of the best in the world such as JR Yamanote Line which circles central Tokyo and connects two subway networks.

Various travel passes are available for tourists, offering unlimited travel for a set period. The trains in Tokyo are known for their punctuality. Even if the train comes to the station one or two minutes behind, the conductor announces an apology for its delay.

Regarding the tour itinerary I often introduce the Tsukiji outer fish market for lunch. In 2018, the inner market operation was relocated to the nearby Toyosu. However, outer market remains a popular destination with many of the original shops and restaurants offering fresh seafood such as Sushi and culinary delights. Many tourists are often seen walking along the narrow streets, eating fish and shellfish on skewers.

For those who would like to do something new, I introduce the most popular sightseeing spot in Tokyo now. "Team Lab" It is known for its innovative and interactive digital art installations that combine technology and art to create immersive experiences for visitors. Once you enter a dark room, you feel like as if you were surrounded with thousands of flowers sitting in the center of flower parks.

When I think about why I became a guide, I cannot think of a better way to do so than through this Torrance and Kashiwa Sister City Exchanges Program. If I had not found this program 18 years ago, I would not be a guide today.

I hope this program will be passed on to the next generation and last forever.

Tsukiji Open Fish Market



Team Lab



Photographs from Japan



HIROSHIMA

DISNEYLAND





Archery



Tokyo Fire Department



Soccer Game



Kashiwa Open Innovation Lab



Waterfall



Temple Kyra Jordan



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

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

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

Member Information

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

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

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	

*If you have
any questions
about your membership,
please email Alyssa Yamauchi at
tscamembership@gmail.com*

www.torrancesistercity.org

TSCA SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION
3031 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA. 90503