

Sister City News



Torrance, California



Torrance Sister City Association



Kashiwa, Japan

Newsletter Editor: Teri Kuwahara

July 2008

Newsletter Mailing: Jordan Thompson



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Hazel Taniguchi

Bon voyage to the 2008 exchange students and adult leader! They will be leaving on July 8 for three exciting weeks in Kashiwa.. They survived eight weeks of orientation, ably led by **Pam Miike, 2006 adult leader and Eileen Yorizane, 2007 adult leader**, covering various topics to help prepare them for their visit to Kashiwa and Japan. We wish them good health and memorable days as our 2008 representatives. We look forward to hearing about their trip.

We are busy planning the activities for the Kashiwa group who will be coming to Torrance on August 1. Many thanks to **Stephanie Warner, Jordan Thompson, Cheryl Yamauchi, Lori Eurich, and Calvin Lung** for taking on this task. As was mentioned in the June newsletter, this year, we will need to have all TSCA members sign up for each day's activity and also turn in an emergency contact/consent form. The emergency form and a ticket order form is included in this issue. Additionally, there will be sign-up sheets available at the Welcome Reception. TSCA members must sign up to participate in the August activities.

The Nominating Committee is busy getting a slate of board candidates ready for the election in September/October. The hard-working members of this committee are **Amy Coury, Stephanie Warner, and Lori Eurich**.

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!

July calendar

July 4	City Hall Closed
8	2008 Students Leave for Kashiwa ANA Flight #5, Departing LAX at 12:55 p.m.
14	Association Meeting, 7:00 p.m. West Annex Commission Room
18	City Hall Closed
23	Activity Leaders to Meet, 7:00 p.m. West Annex Commission Room
29	Torrance Students Return from Kashiwa ANA Flight #6, Arriving at LAX at 11:10 a.m.

Bon Voyage to the 2008 Torrance Exchange Students and Adult Leader Kay Ujimori



*Aaron Burton, Daniëlle Gimian,
Chasen Hayashi, Derek Namimoto,
Melissa Shintani, Kenji Ueki,
Blaine Yamauchi and Jaime Yoshida.*

Geoff Tsudama Chosen to Go to Kashiwa Municipal High School

Thirty-five years has passed and much cross-cultural understanding between Kashiwa, Japan and Torrance, California has occurred since our first teacher exchange in 1979, and we hope that it continues into the far future. The world needs such cross-cultural activities in this global world.

The Teacher Selection Committee has finished interviewing for a replacement Assistant Language Teacher [ALT] for Yoko Kobayashi who is returning to the states after her service at Kashiwa Municipal High School. We have decided on the replacement ALT for Yoko. His name is Geoffrey Hideji Tsudama, an American yonsei. He is able to take over ALT duties on August 1, 2008. [He mentioned that he hopes to continue the position for two or possibly three years.]



His experience will definitely make him a great representative of Torrance: he has done much in the way of teaching and coaching youngsters, and is also extremely interested in sports. Lori Eurich, Ray Rand and I are sure that he is a good match for Kashiwa Municipal High School. He has high energy and is quite involved in Japanese American affairs, working in the Little Tokyo Service Center of Los Angeles. He will be thoroughly enjoyed by those in Kashiwa for his joy for life and learning. The Kashiwa Municipal High School staff will most definitely take pleasure in meeting him and learning about his talents. As a matter of fact, all of Kashiwa will be glad he is visiting and living among them.

We have met with him before his departure and have hopefully explained the "ins and outs" of the ALT position. Karl Takauye, the remaining ALT in Kashiwa, has begun and will continue, as he has in the past, to help ease Geoffrey into the position and afford him a "sympathetic ear." We appreciate Karl and his wife's interest in continuing our ALT program.

We at TSCA wish KIRA in Kashiwa, Japan the best in health and happiness. We know that Geoffrey will do a great job in representing Torrance to the citizens of Kashiwa and in teaching English to the students of Kashiwa Municipal High School and about our beautiful region of America.

We wish Geoff all the best in his new adventure, in health, happiness and learning.

Dan Fichtner
Chair ALT Selection Committee



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Ron Kimmel
Membership Chairman

Thank you, new and renewing members:

Badakhasian Family (S)
Drevno, Gene (S)
Griffith, Dr. Owen & Irene (S)
Lai, Lincoln & Irene (F)

Editor's Note:

This newsletter will be my last as editor for TSCA. As of July, I am stepping down and turning the newsletter over to the capable hands of Mona Wong. Mona is also a Board Member and mother of 2006 exchange student Margaret Wong.

It has been an honor serving as newsletter editor to three TSCA Presidents: Gary Yoshida, Ray Roulette and Hazel Taniguchi.

Teri Kuwahara



“Ja Mata Ne”

by Yoko Kobayashi, Assistant Language Teacher in Kashiwa

A few months ago, Karl and I were asked by Mr. Suda, the Assistant Principal at Ichikashi, if we would be interested in teaching some English classes on our own. Until this point in time, the ALT's (Assistant Language Teachers) have supported the English teachers in various degrees of the planning and execution of lessons for classes. However, this would be the first time ALT's at Ichikashi would plan and teach lessons independently. Karl and I agreed to it. To make legal in time for the new school term, we immediately had to submit paperwork for a special teaching credential.

I was excited to have my own classes, but wondered how it might play out. My Japanese language ability is minimal, which made teaching classes all by myself seem a bit frightening. Will the students understand what I was trying to teach? Will the students enjoy a class taught solely by a foreigner? Will the students even listen to what I am saying? All of these questions raced through my mind.

It has now been two months since we started teaching on our own. I am so glad we decided to do it. The experience of having my own classes has been wonderful. I have forged a much closer bond with my students. They have successfully completed various creative lessons and projects. Most recently, the students did presentations on Japanese culture for the visiting North High exchange students and created a school video (in English of course!) The students have been extremely patient with my limited Japanese ability. The situation has forced them to use their English to communicate with me more than they would with a native Japanese-speaking teacher. I hope they will come away with as much of a valuable and memorable experience as I have. The only regret I have is that I won't be able to see my classes through to the end of the current school year.

As I look at the calendar, it is difficult to believe that my time here at Ichikashi is coming to a close. I will move back to the South Bay to resume my position at West High as a counselor at the end of July. I am looking forward to moving home, but I will no doubt be a different person than the one that left a year ago. I am grateful for my time spent in Kashiwa, the work I have done at Ichikashi and all I have learned about Japan. What I will miss most are all of the friends I met here and the students I worked with. I would like to thank the people at KIRA (Kashiwa International Relations Association), TSCA (Torrance Sister City Association), the staff at Ichikashi, and Karl and Sharleen Takaye for making this experience possible for me. I cannot express how much I appreciate all their efforts. I have been treated like family ever since I stepped off the plane at Narita Airport one year ago. I will return with an abundance of knowledge, great stories, impressive photos and fun memories. I refuse to say goodbye. Instead, I will say, 'Ja mata ne' which means, 'See you again!'



Kashiwa Student Activities - August 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Kashiwa Students Arrive Singapore Airlines #12 12:55 p.m.	2 Welcome Reception at Ken Miller Recreation Center 10:45 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.
3 Beach Party	4 Long Beach Tour 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Mayor's Home 7:00-9:00 p.m.	5 Torrance Tour Part I 8:45 a.m.-4:00 p.m. City Council 6:50-7:30 p.m. Ice Cream Social 7:30-9:00 p.m.	6 Torrance Tour Part II 9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Square Dancing 7:00-9:00 p.m.	8 Little Tokyo JANM and Go For Broke Monument Los Angeles 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	9 Universal Studios 8:30 a.m.-10:00 p.m.	Free Host Family Weekend
10 Free Host Family Weekend	11 San Diego Trip Depart 7:00 a.m. from West Annex	12 San Diego Trip Arrive 5:30 p.m at West Annex Switch Host Families	13 IMAX, Natural History Museum, and USC 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Dodger Game 5:00-11:00 p.m.	14 Cookie Exchange 9:00-12:00 p.m. YMCA Sports Day 12:00-3:00 p.m.	15 Disneyland and California Adventure 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.	16 Free Host Family Weekend
17 Free Host Family Weekend	18 Hollywood, LACMA, UCLA and Third Street 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.	19 Torrance Bakery 9:00a.m.-11:30 a.m Pool Party p.m 4:00 - 12:00	20 Breakfast and Shopping at Shops at PV 8:30a.m.-3:00 p.m. Sayonara Banquet 6:00-9:00 p.m. Toyota Meeting Hall	21 Kashiwa Students Leave Singapore Airlines #11 2:40 p.m.	22	23



TORRANCE SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION, INC.
 3031 Torrance Boulevard
 Torrance, CA 90503



AUGUST ACTIVITIES EMERGENCY CONTACT and CONSENT FORM

Instructions: TSCA members who are interested in participating in any of the organized August activities for the Kashiwa exchange students **MUST complete this form and return it as soon as possible and no later than August 2, 2008** to: Torrance Sister City Association
 c/o Community Services Department
 3031 Torrance Boulevard
 Torrance, CA 90503

Name _____ Age, if minor _____

Address _____

Home phone number _____

Cell phone number _____

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Primary Contact

Secondary Contact

Name of person to contact _____

Relationship to participant _____

Home phone number _____

Work phone number _____

Cell phone number _____

SPECIFIC HEALTH INFORMATION YOU MAY WISH TO PROVIDE

In the event that I need **immediate** medical attention, I give permission to TSCA's assigned activity leader(s) to obtain necessary medical aid or assistance for **immediate** care.

Signature of participant _____ Date _____

Parent's signature _____ Date _____
 (if participant is under the age of 18)

**2008 Torrance Sister City Association
Summer Exchange Program**

Order Form

Please order your tickets in advance and mail this form and your check by July 26, 2008. The number of tickets to each event is limited. Tickets are available on a first come, first served basis. If you are a 2008 Torrance Student, please indicate on the order form which events you will be attending.

Date	Event	Cost	Leader
Thursday, August 7	Japanese American National Museum	\$8.00 (Adult) \$4.00 (Under 18)	Cheng Leong
Friday, August 8	Universal Studios	\$49.00	Gary Yoshida
Wednesday, August 13	IMAX and Natural History Museum	\$6.50 (Adult) \$4.50 (Under 18)	Kay Ujimori
Wednesday August 13	Dodgers Baseball	\$10.00 (includes bus)	Jordan Thompson
Friday, August 15	Disneyland & CA Adventure	\$70.00 1 Day Park Hopper	Cheryl Yamauchi
Monday, August 18	LACMA	\$12.00 (Adult) Free (Under 18)	Jordan Thompson
Wednesday August 20	Sayonara Banquet	\$21.00 (Adult) \$10.00 (Child 9 and under)	Gary & Joanne Yoshida

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Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Event	Ticket Type	Quantity	Cost Per Ticket	Total Amount
Japanese American National Museum	Adult		\$8.00	
	Child		\$4.00	\$
	2008 Torrance Exchange Student		No Charge	-----
Universal Studios	Adult/Child		\$49.00	\$
	2008 Torrance Exchange Student		No Charge	-----
IMAX & Natural History Museum	Adult		\$6.50	
	Child (Under 18)		\$4.40	
	2008 Torrance Exchange Student		No Charge	-----
Dodgers Baseball	Adult/Child		\$10.00	\$
	2008 Torrance Exchange Student		No Charge	-----
Disneyland & California Adventure	Adult/Child		\$70.00	\$
	2008 Torrance Exchange Student		No Charge	-----
LACMA	Adult (Children under 18 free)		\$12.00	
	2008 Torrance Exchange Student		No Charge	-----
Sayonara Banquet	Adult		\$21.00	
	Child (9 and under)		\$10.00	\$
	2008 Torrance Exchange Student		No Charge	-----
	Host Parents		No Charge	-----
Mail Orders Must Be Postmarked by 7/26/08	Remaining Tickets Sold At The Welcome Reception - 8/02/08		Total Enclosed	\$

Please make your check payable to:

Torrance Sister City Association
3031 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90503



**TORRANCE
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ASSOCIATION**

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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.