

Torrance Historian

Published for members, this newsletter is dedicated to the support & preservation of Torrance History – share the history with your family & friends!

April 2000
Kristina Kaur, Editor

Historical Highlights

by Peggy Basile, President

My deadline for submitting this letter to our editor in time for publication was four days ago - and yet she hasn't called me yet to berate me. I can only hope that, like me, she has been so busy that she hasn't noticed how late I am. We've got a Board full of people like that - people with many other commitments and demands on their time, but who are willing to give some of it toward keeping Torrance Historical Society alive. I'd like to thank and commend each of them for their hard work and dedication over this past year.

Speaking of paid members, congratulations to Dolores Sutherland, who won the drawing for Café Luna gift certificate. Dolores, along with many others of you, submitted her 2000 membership dues before Feb. 29th and qualified for the drawing. Thanks to all who participated!

We've got some exciting things planned for this year, including an enjoyable Annual Meeting in June, walking tours of Historic Downtown Torrance, and the Fall Tour of Historic Homes in October. Hope you can join us for all of these wonderful events, now that the weather has turned to spring.

Peggy Basile, THS President

City of Torrance's First Sports Center Opened March 18th

The new Sports Center located in Wilson Park has just opened. The center will host activities such as basketball, aerobics, judo, and gymnastics. The center was designed by John Bates & Associates and built by Universal Construction. Community groups, such as the Special Olympics, and City of Torrance Parks & Recreations activities will be held there.



Museum Receives Torrance News Torch Magazines

Bernice (Cline) Falltrick of Yucca Valley donated over thirty issues of the Torrance News Torch dating from October 1939 to January 1945. Highlights of the publication include announcements for the PTA, Glee Club, new teachers, the Sadie Hawkins Dance, high school sports and not ditching class. What makes the pages special is the war effort. Letters were published from Torrance service members. Ads for War Stamps and Bonds appear in many issues. Citizens killed in action and MIAs including Zamperini are mentioned. They are indeed a treasured piece of Torrance History. Thank you Bernice!

Just the Fax, Ma'am!

The Torrance Historical Society and Museum will soon be the proud owner of a fax machine, donated by Janet and Charles Payne. Thank you for this much needed business tool.



Downtown Torrance Antique Fair



The next Antique Fair is scheduled for Sunday, April 26th, followed by May 28th.

Welcome New Members!



Jeanne Mueller
Kristina Kaur - Life

5 Web Sites of Interest

Torrance High Schools



West High

<http://www.westhigh.com>

North High

<http://www.nhs-saxons.org>

South High

<http://www.tusd.k12.ca.us/shs/>

Shery High

<http://home.inreach.com/tmrj/ktshery>

Bishop Montgomery High

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Meadows/4280/index.htm>

Torrance High

-under construction-

Note: Web sites can be accessed through computers at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

Torrance Memorial Medical Center Celebrates 75 Years

Kicking off with last months celebration, the Torrance Memorial Medical Center will continue it's tradition of care and compassion. Mr. Torrance had a dream of a hospital in his namesake city and left \$100,000 in his will when he died in 1921 to establish one. Since then, the services and technology have expanded transforming the original small hospital into a regional medical center. Two artifacts from the original hospital, built in 1925 on Engracia Avenue (now demolished) remain: the bas relief that was over the front door - mounted on a new wall at the historic site and the cornerstone time capsule - preserved at the museum.

The current facility, located in southern Torrance on Lomita Boulevard is a state-of-the-art medical center. Sub-centers include Endoscopy Center, Cancer Resource Center, Breast Diagnostic Center, Hospice Care, Wound Healing Center, Chemical Dependency Clinic, Emergency Service, Rehabilitation Service, Psychiatric Services, and of course Maternity Care.

From now until December 2000, framed picture boards are on display in the West Wing, First Floor Gallery at the Torrance Memorial Medical Center. The Historical Art Exhibit features major events in the history of the medical center. The images are beautifully presented with many reprints coming from the Torrance Historical Society's collection. It's amazing to see Jared Sidney Torrance's small idea grow into the modern facility which serves thousands of people in Torrance and the surrounding communities.

The Torrance Memorial Medical Center is located at 3330 Lomita Boulevard.

Information courtesy of Janet Payne, and <http://www.torrancememorial.org>

Cafe Luna
Dinner Winner

Membership Contest!!!

Ms. Dolores Sutherland of Torrance is the winner of a \$30 gift certificate to Cafe Luna. Thank you to every member who mailed their membership dues in on time!

The Torrance Historical Society & Museum continues to make history accessible to every resident and encourages learning about our past to further guide our future. Your membership makes this happen each and every day.



2000 Fall Tour of Historic Homes Coming Oct. 7 & 8

Planning is underway for the upcoming Historical Homes Tour. The Historical Society Board is currently asking for volunteers to serve as docents of the tours, homeowners who would volunteer their homes and volunteers to staff the event. If you are interested in getting involved in this event, contact Janet Payne (310) 328-7549, Janice Plank (310) 320-6229, or Debbie Hays (310) 320-6054.



Walking Tour of Historic Torrance May 28th!

A docent-led tour of the historic landmarks of Downtown Torrance will be held Sunday, May 28th. The tour is an easy, but brisk walk, covering 8 blocks. The tour will depart from the museum at 1:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity for new residents, visitors, children, students and historians alike. Free!

Towers Elementary School Visits Museum for History Lesson and More!

Led by Torrance Councilman Don Lee (THS Pres. 1989-91) and joined by Assemblyman George Nakano, three classes of third graders toured the museum on February 25th. The children were from the classes of Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Noble and Mrs. Winfrey at Towers Middle in Torrance. Our Museum Coordinator, Grace Elgin hosted the students and passed the history of Torrance on to them.



Here Comes the Navy!

The Navy Junior ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) will soon have a detachment at Torrance High School. Currently there is an Army Junior ROTC unit at North High School. Through Junior ROTC programs, high school students have the opportunity to learn about the Armed Forces and participate in color guards, drills and exercises. Through their academic work and dedication, some students will receive college scholarships and go on to become enlisted personnel or officers in the armed forces.

The USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) "Sword of the Fleet" was docked in San Pedro to commemorate this event. Based in San Diego, the USS Bunker Hill features the AEGIS combat system which can track and fire at enemy ships, aircraft, submarines and missiles simultaneously.

Information courtesy of Mr. Tony Kriss (THS Financial Secretary), and <http://www.navy.mil> and <http://www.bunker-hill.navy.mil/info.html>



Calendar

April

23 Easter in El Prado Park

May

28 Walking Tour

June

3 Annual Meeting &
Installation of Officers

October

7 & 8 2000 Fall Tour of
Historic Homes

Docents

Share your memories and the history of Torrance with visitors. Free docent training.

Gene Hassan
(310) 618-8259

Museum Hours

The Torrance Historical Society & Museum is open free to the public:

Tuesday – Thursday & Sunday
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Torrance Historical Society & Museum
1345 Post Avenue
Torrance, CA 90501
(310) 328-5392

Return Service Requested

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For April Issue

NJROTC

-Need info from Tony

Kay Reese

-Need to read newspaper article from Grace

Valentines Tea Made Special By Beth Wilson's Linens

At the Valentines Friendship Tea, Vintage Valentine Hankies were on display courtesy of Beth Wilson, Torrance Historical Society member and Torrance School Board Member. Beth has collected antique linens for years from all over – even the internet! Her favorites are the holiday patterns. Thank you Beth for displaying your treasures for the docents and members!



Easter in El Prado Park

The 18th Annual Easter Celebration will be held, Sunday April 23, 2000 at 10 a.m.. Be sure to show up early and see the EASTER BUNNY arrive. Activities include a hunt for goodies, and doing the bunny hop. Everyone Welcome. El Prado Park is at the intersection of El Prado and Arlington. *Note: the Torrance Historical Society & Museum is not open on Easter.

Leadership Torrance•South Bay 2000 Tours Museum

This year's Leadership Torrance•South Bay class learned about Torrance's past and future on March 10th. Mayor Dee Hardison, City Clerk Sue Herbers (LT '93), and THS 3rd Vice President Janet Payne (LT '93) led the group through the Torrance Historical Society & Museum. The 15 members of the class are comprised of members of the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce. The leadership program is an intensive twenty-one weeks of learning about the local, regional and state communities of which they are a part. Their trip to the Torrance Historical Society & Museum was highlighted by Mayor Hardison spoke about government and modern mayors. The group then departed from the Museum to hear Father Pat at the Dominguez Adobe. This year's Leadership Torrance•South Bay Director is Ted Lieu (THS Life Member) (LT '99), and TACC Chair is Toni Warner (LT '98). For further information on the Leadership Torrance•South Bay program contact the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce at (310) 540-5858.



Save the Date! June 3rd

ANNUAL MEETING
& INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Saturday, June 3, 2000 • 1–4 p.m.
Michael Shafer's Depot • An Urban Grill Room & Bar
1250 Cabrillo Avenue • Torrance • \$27 per person
Program on Irving Gill
Architect of the New City of Torrance 1912
Program Presented by Kristina Kaur

Watch for your Invitation in the Mail