

# Torrance Historian

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

September 1998  
Debbie Hays, Editor

## Historical Home Tour

### *The \$15 Bargain of the Month*

Do you have October 10th & 11th reserved on your calendar for the Historical Home Tour? *We hope so, as it's an event that you won't want to miss!*

For just \$15, you'll have the privilege of touring seven historical homes in Downtown Torrance. How many times have you driven by these old homes, and wished you that could take a peak inside?

*Now's your opportunity!*

See how others have renovated and updated their homes to accommodate a 90's life-style, yet managed to preserve the charming architecture and characteristics that separate these old homes from today's "cookie cutter" houses. Now that's a bargain you cannot pass up!

The homes on the tour range from large to small, from Craftsman to Tudor to Spanish. The tour is particularly exciting this year, as we have a few of the long-time favorites, a couple "never-been-seen-before" homes, and even some where filming has taken place for a certain teenage vampire TV series.

Along the way, you'll be able to rest beneath a white arbor, surrounded by a newly planted garden, chat about the homes while enjoying

cookies (compliments of Torrance Bakery) and sipping cold lemonade.

To add a sense of days-gone-by, antique cars will be parked in front of each house, and a display of heirloom china and glassware will compliment a dining room table or kitchen counter in each home. There will also be an exhibit of the heirloom china at the Museum.

All seven homes are located within a four block radius of the Museum, where the tour begins. The Museum will open its doors at 10:30 a.m. for registration, both days. The tour runs from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 10th & 11th. No advanced purchase is necessary.

The financial success of the bi-annual Historical

Home Tour is vital to the Society and its very existence. Your \$15, combined with everyone else's, is what helps maintain the Society's ever-growing collection of photos, documents, books, artifacts and other material relevant to the City's past.

This fund-raiser, and your generous donations, together with the support of the City, local sponsors, the Board of Directors, volunteers, and committed corporate contributors, is what keeps the Museum growing! ☺



**The \$15 Bargain**



## We Need You!

### *Docents Are What Make the Home Tour*

Docents play one of the most important roles in the life of the Museum. They are there to greet you with a friendly “Hello!”, answer your questions, and guide you through the Museum.

Docents also have a leading role in the Historic Home Tour. They help set up the displays in the Museum, greet the hundreds of guests who join us for this tour, and give a brief historical background of the home.

We need **you** to volunteer to act as a docent in one, or several, of the homes on the tour. No experience is necessary — just a willingness to greet people and make them feel welcome.

There are many benefits to docenting on the Home Tour, including:

- A sense of contributing to the success of the Museum’s biggest fund-raiser
- Being a part of an exciting event
- A \$5 discount on tickets, as a good will gesture
- Greet long-time acquaintances and meet new friends

These are just a few of the benefits you’ll receive by docenting for the bi-annual Historical Home Tour.

The shifts are just two hours and 45 minutes on Saturday or Sunday — you pick which day works best for you. Shifts run from 10:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. or 1:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. Maybe you’d like to volunteer both days. *That would be great too!*

If you would like to sign-up as a docent, please contact the Museum directly at (310) 328-5392. Team up with a friend, relative or neighbor and make the day even more special. *Remember, docents are what make the Home Tour!* ☺

## Heirloom China Exhibit



Would you like to see your heirloom china on display at our Museum during the Home Tour?

Perhaps you have a . . .

- favorite china pattern, (just a place setting will do)
- or a serving piece
- a one-of-a-kind cup
- a plate
- your grandmother’s spooner
- a treasured teapot
- pitcher, bowl or creamer . . .

that you would like to share with everyone who will be taking the Home Tour. Our Museum display cases have room for *many* pieces.

Every heirloom holds a special meaning for those who own such a treasure. We’d love to know a lil’ about what you hold dear.

If you’re interested in sharing a piece of your heritage with others, please contact Gussie Kriss (310) 323-7959, Janet Payne (310) 328-7549 or the Museum at (310) 328-5392. ☺

## Make a Day of It

Why not make a day of the Home Tour? There’s lots to do:

- \* Stroll tree lined streets
- \* Tour the interiors of more than a half dozen historical homes
- \* Ooh & awe over antique automobiles
- \* Enjoy complimentary refreshments
- \* View heirloom china and glassware in homes and at the Museum
- \* Dine at one of the many local Downtown restaurants
- \* Shop for collectibles at the Antique Fair

## Home Tour Rules

Over a half dozen homes will be on display during the two-day Historic Home Tour. Out of respect and appreciation to the generous people who are allowing us to view the interiors of their homes, there are a few basic rules which need to be followed:

- #1 Flat shoes only
- #2 No photography in any of the homes
- #3 Baby carriers, strollers and backpacks are not allowed in any of the homes

Thank you in advance for your consideration. ☺

## Win a Garden Basket

A Garden Basket will be on display in the Museum — where the Home Tour begins. You'll be invited to purchase a raffle ticket (or two) in order to win this delightful basket. It will be brimming over with garden trinkets, such as seeds, gloves, shiny garden tools, and a hand-painted watering can. All proceeds benefit the Museum.☺

## Torrance Historical Society & Museum

1345 Post Avenue  
Torrance, CA 90501  
(310) 328-5392

*Return Services Requested*

## Inside

- ◆ Historic Home Tour
- ◆ Docents Needed
- ◆ Antique Automobiles
- ◆ Heirloom China & Glassware Exhibit
- ◆ Antique Street Fair

## Antique Street Fair

On Sunday, Oct. 11th, from 8:00 a.m - 3:00 p.m., the Downtown Torrance Association is sponsoring the first of a regular monthly Antique Street Fair. *This will coincide nicely with the Home Tour.*

Dealers from all over southern California will be offering a wide variety of antiques and collectibles, such as furniture, lamps, pottery, art, vintage clothing, jewelry, glassware, toys and other memorabilia.

The streets of Downtown will be alive with food, fun, wonderful entertainment and hours of great bargain hunting. ☺

## Museum Hours

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

Tuesday - Thursday & Sunday  
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

*Special hours can be arranged for private tours or research. Please contact the Museum directly at (310) 328-5392. ☺*

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