

Torrance Historian

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

December 2000
Kristina Kaur, Editor

Historical Highlights

Letter from the President
(who was elected fair and square)

Thanks to a good many people who put in much time and effort, our 2000 “Home Sweet Home” tour was perhaps our most successful. From the homeowners who graciously allowed us to “borrow” their homes for the weekend, to the sponsors who helped with expenses, to those who lent out their heirloom silver for the museum displays, to the Girl Scouts Troop #838 who dispensed lemonade and cookies, to all the docents who gave their time so willingly, and to the many others who gave of time and talents – bravo! A special thanks to tour co-chairs Janice Plank and Janet Payne, who put in countless hours arranging everything. THS was pleased to host many of you who were involved at our “Thanks for Giving” tea on Nov. 19th.

THS was also proud to award Willie Tokishi, outgoing President of Honda Motor Corp., with an honorary Lifetime Membership in recognition of his strong support of our activities. Best wishes to Willie as he enters a well-deserved retirement! Best wishes to you all, too, in this busy holiday season – may you and your families experience peace and joy as we look forward to the year 2001 (the *real* new millenium!).

Peggy Basile, THS President

Welcome New Members

Hilton Beiro
Barbara Tolliver
Jo Derrickson
Fred & Keri Gilbert
Kathy Nelson
Pamela & James Tate
Carol De Vore
Patricia Gaugh
Tina Boyd
Kirtlyn Barto
Willie Tokishi - Honorary Life

Garden Basket Winner!

Joanne McCarthy, Winner

Thank you to all the people who bought opportunity tickets to win the Garden Basket. Special Thanks goes to Jeanette Donaher, a local artist who donated a hand-painted watering can.



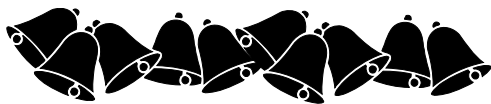
Exhibit Honors Katy Geissert

If you haven't seen the exhibit about former Torrance mayor, Katy Geissert, take one last glimpse of the collection of photos and other interesting materials. After January 15th, a file will continue to be available for research and photo reprints can be ordered through the museum.

Wash Day Exhibit Extended Through January!

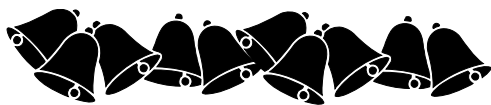
Do you remember the mornings when Mom would carry the basket of wet clothes to the back yard? She always knew how many clothespins each piece of clothing needed, and which clothespins were old. If you had multiple lines as a kid, boy was it fun to hide between the layers of sheets and towels. Today you can buy Downy's sunlight fresh, but there's nothing close to fresh, clean clothes off the line.

So, for those of you who had or still have "solar dryers" come to the museum this month for our Wash Day Exhibit. Reminisce as you look at the "laundry" hanging on clotheslines with wooden clothespins, washboards and tubs.



Silver Display Closes Soon!

The beautiful silver display that so many of you loved is closing soon. Each story was interesting to read. The display was viewed by hundreds of people who visited the Museum to buy their Historic Homes Tour tickets. Thank you to all who made the display possible. We enjoyed seeing your spoons, straws, cups, jewelry and coins.



January Walking Tour!!! Free!

The Walking Tours will resume the fourth Sunday in January. If you have eaten your share of Christmas ham-I know I will have- then join us for a walk around Historic Downtown Torrance. Brisk walk! Wear Comfortable Shoes. Meet at the Museum.

Volunteer with a Friend! No Experience Necessary!

Docents-always needed!

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 have a leading role in the Historic Home Tour, not to mention the day-to-day operation of the Museum. No experience is necessary - just a willingness to greet people and make them feel welcome.

Benefits of docenting include:

- A sense of contributing to the success of the Museum
- Being part of exciting events
- Research time in the Museum
- Greeting long-time acquaintances and meeting new friends

Team up with a family member if you choose! Call Grace at the Museum 328-5392 if you are interested in becoming part of the legacy of our Museum.

Celebration for Willie Tokishi

A gala celebration was held Saturday, October 30th, to honor the contributions of Willie Tokishi of American Honda Motor Corp. Our very own THS President Peggy Basile and board members Debbie Hays, Janet Payne, Tony & Gussie Kriss and Janice Plank, attended the event to thank Mr. Tokishi for all that he contributed to the Torrance Historical Society - directly and indirectly. Mr. Tokishi was directly responsible for a \$10,000 grant to the Museum. His generosity extended across many organizations which was apparent by the capacity crowd at the celebration. Best Wishes in Retirement, Willie!

2000

2000 Fall Tour of Historic Homes

Torrance Historical Society's

A special thank you goes out to the following homeowners, businesses and individuals who supported the Torrance Historical Society & Museum in hosting the bi-annual Fall Tour of Historic Homes. The financial success of the Home Tour is vital to the Society's existence. The sponsorships, combined with the \$15 donation of each Home Tour attendee, is what helps maintain the Society's ever-growing collection of photos, documents, books, artifacts and other material relevant to the City's past.

Homeowners

Leslie and Brett Fletcher
Kathleen McCarthy & Kenneth Gaugh
Shari and Larry Isom
Alice and Richard Kuhns
Janice and Arnold Plank
Vinese Torres

Home Sponsors

Joey Ikemoto Photography, Inc.
Janet and Charles Payne
Janice Plank, Broker Associate -
Prudential California Realty
Torrance Bakery
Torrance Memorial Medical Center
Torrance Woman's Club

2000 Home Tour Committee

**Janice Plank & Janet Payne,
Chairpersons**

Peggy Basile • Kristina Kaur • Debbie Hays
Sue Herbers • Lucille McComas • Grace Elgin

Silver Display Contributors

Bob & Marianne Kelchner • Kristina Kaur
Marianne Strehler • The Payne Family
Gussie Kriss • Audrey Davies
• Patricia Weimer • Maureen O'Donnell •
Debbie Hays • Grace Elgin

Docents

More than 75 people including docents, were honored at the "Thanks for Giving" Tea in November.

Refreshment Sponsors

Eat at Rudy's • Torrance Bakery

Antique Cars

Dick Valote and friends

Refreshment Garden

South Torrance Girl Scout Troop #838

Print Media

Daily Breeze • Easy Reader
LA Times-South Bay Edition

Ticket Sales

Carl Kaemerle • Tony Kriss
Lucille McComas • Jim Stadler • Sue Herbers



Your 2000-2001 THS Board

Peggy Basile	President
Janice Plank	1st Vice President
Debbie Hays	2nd Vice President
Janet Payne	3rd Vice President
Kristina Kaur	4th Vice President
Carl Kaemerle	Secretary
Jim Stadler	Treasurer
Diane Caseltine	Historian
Gene Hassan	Special Events
Tony Kriss	Financial Secretary
Gussie Kriss	Museum Volunteers
-To Be Appointed-	Parliamentarian
Sue Herbers	Member at Large

President's Advisory Council

Arnold Woo - Legal Council
Maureen O' Donnell - Government Affairs
Richard Meyer - Red Car / Transmachine

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

Return Service Requested

Holiday Hours

The museum will be closed through January 1st so that our volunteers may spend the holidays with their family. The Museum reopens January 2, 2001.

Docents

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

Grace Elgin, Museum Co-ordinator
(310) 328-5392



Museum Hours

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

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
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Torrance, CA
Permit No. 27

Happy Holidays & Best Wishes for the New Year!

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