

Torrance Historian

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

April 1998
Debbie Hays, Editor

Mrs. Jared Sidney Torrance Hosts Tea

On Sunday, February 22, 1998, the Torrance Historical Society & Museum Board of Directors sponsored a tea honoring Museum docents and friends who volunteer during the week, on special occasions, and on Sunday afternoons.



Tony Kriss & Mary Green

Mrs. Jared Sidney Torrance (a.k.a. Mary Green, longtime Torrance resident), donned her finest afternoon attire (circa 1925) and greeted the over 40 guests who attended the tea.

Hats and gloves were optional, but many of the women wore both. Sylvia Flowers, one of nine guests from the Torrance Woman's Club, won the "most original" hat design. Janet Sandcliff was a close second with her 1930's hat, which she purchased (still in its original box) from a garage sale on Marcelina Street.

Three docents were honored for their many years of volunteering at the Museum:

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Historical Highlights

by Tony Kriss, President

The City of Torrance has enjoyed a "Sister City" relationship with the City of Kashiwa, Japan, that began in 1973 when then Mayor Ken Miller initiated what has become a rewarding cultural and social event.

We were honored to have hosted a visit to the Museum for the delegates from Japan (approximately 34 strong) on February 6th.

Their visit to Torrance was capped by a memorable banquet honoring the 25 years of growing friendship and understanding — many THS board members also attended this special event.

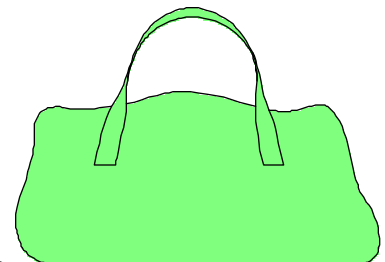
In January's newsletter, we announced that the Torrance Historical Society will have the privilege of hosting the annual state-wide *Conference of California Historical Societies*. Historians from all over will gather in Torrance, June 18th - 21st.


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Current Museum Exhibits

Ladies Toiletries & Vintage Clothing

Stop by the Museum during March and April and see the collection of ladies toiletries and memorabilia that will be on display — including curling irons, vintage clothing,



manicure items and old fashioned bed bonnets. 

Historical Highlights — continued from page 1

Mayor Dee Hardison is pleased to be our Honorary Chair. The weekend will be filled with tours, seminars, workshops, dinners and a special reception at the Museum on Friday, June 19th.

We're also very pleased to announce that Mr. Louis Zamperini, graduate of Torrance High, distinguished Olympic competitor and a prisoner of war survivor, will be the guest of honor at the Saturday night banquet. His life story, as broadcast worldwide by CBS during the closing ceremony of the Olympics, will be presented that evening.

This is an open invitation to those of you who have any memorabilia relating to any facet of Zamperini's life as a Torrance resident, to share with us for a feature display at the museum during the Conference period.

Chair, Janet Payne, has lots of exciting things planned with her committee — so watch your mailbox for details on what promises to be a major event for Society members and the City of Torrance.

In the meantime, please enjoy the changing exhibits and new additions of memorabilia — *the Museum belongs to you!* 🐾

Docents Needed

The Museum needs volunteers in April to docent on Sundays from 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.. Orientation is available. Call Connie at (310) 320-7034. 🐾

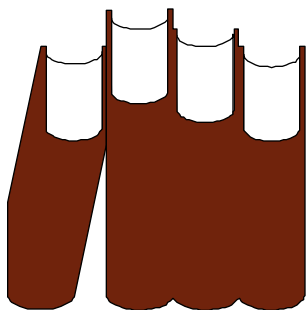
Writers for Readers

To kick-off National Library Week (April 19-25), the Torrance Public Library Commission is sponsoring *A Day with Writers and Readers*, on Sunday, April 19, from 1:00 p.m - 5:00 p.m. at the

Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

Admission is free!

Meet the authors, take a tour with former Mayor Katy Geissert, and learn what your library has to offer. For details, call Judi Gerber at (310) 543-1917. 🐾



The Ramona Pageant Tour

Will you be joining the Torrance Historical Society on a bus trip to the 75th annual Ramona Pageant?

If you haven't already registered (deadline is April 10th), you best do so now as space is limited and filling-up quick! Here are the details:

Date

April 18th, 1998

Time

10:15 AM - 8:00 PM (approximately)

Cost

\$32 per adult THS Member

\$36 per adult Non-Member

\$25 per child ages 6-12

The trip includes transportation via a Deluxe motor coach to Hemet, admission to *The Ramona Pageant*, parking fee, drinks and snacks for the bus ride. You're on your own for lunch.

If you have any questions, please contact the Museum directly at (310) 328-5392. 🐾

And the Winner is . . .

Last month, in an effort to promote a more timely response in THS membership renewals, the Historical Society announced that a drawing would be made from all of the new THS memberships and membership renewals that were received by February 13th. *What a response we had!*

The grand prize was a certificate for dinner at *Cafe Luna*, a local Italian restaurant. Bonnie Beckerson is the lucky winner. *Bonjourno!* 🐾

Original Blueprints Donated to Museum

In March, Arnold Plank, TUSD Superintendent, presented THS with the *original* blueprints of Torrance High School! The blueprints will be framed & displayed in the Museum. *Thank you!* 🐾

Did You Know Torrance Has a City Flower?

The City of Torrance has its own City Flower — it's the *Hybrid Delphinium (Ajacis)*.

Sue Herbers, City Clerk and Parliamentarian for THS, contributed this background information to the newsletter on how Torrance chose its flower:

Accepted officially as the City flower by motion of the City Council at a regular meeting held February 18, 1964, upon recommendation of the Torrance Beautiful Commission.

The Hybrid Delphinium was grown on the present site of the Torrance Civic Center by M.T. Muto in 1928.

The flowers grew so abundantly and so beautifully that they attracted buyers from the firms of the New York Flower Market and soon arrangements were made for shipping.

Delphiniums grown here on the Civic Center site were the first to be shipped anywhere. They kept their appearance longer and withstood the long days and weeks of transportation better than others grown elsewhere. This put Torrance on the Eastern market, then New York City.

There you have it — thank you, Sue! 🐿

History for Sale

Want to learn about the history of the Hollywood Riviera section of Torrance? For a small fee of \$8, you can read all about it.

The THS Museum is now selling the book, *History of the Early Hollywood Riviera* by Marshall E. Stewart.



This interesting book documents life in the early Hollywood Riviera, wildlife, the “castles”, the Beach Club, World War II years and much more. It also includes numerous black and white photos.

Stop by the Museum today and pick up your copy! 🐿

Afternoon Docent Tea — continued from page 1

Rose King • Lucille McCommas • Maxine Reynolds

These women have helped Grace Elgin, Museum Coordinator, with the many “extras” that need to be done.

A special thanks goes to Connie Hodgson, Chair, and Janet Payne, Co-chair, for organizing the tea, to Debbie Hays for the custom invitations and to *all* of the ladies who made this delightful afternoon come to life. Your sandwiches, teapot favors, time and clean-up efforts are greatly appreciated — *thank you!* 🐿

How to Keep Your Silver Shiny

Tips on Keeping Silver Tarnish Free

Perhaps it's a wedding gift of a silver serving platter, a treasured tea set or antique silverware that you have tucked away in your sideboard or hutch — but somewhere, surely, you have silver.

Here are a few tips on how to keep your silver shiny from the Reader's Digest book, “*How to do Just About Anything*” :

“The best way to clean silver and silver plate is by hand rubbing it with commercial polish or a paste of baking soda and water. Wear rubber gloves to protect your hands. Wash and dry dusty pieces beforehand. Apply the polish with a soft, dry cloth, rubbing lengthwise, not crosswise or in circles. Use a small, soft brush to clean crevices. Coat a string with paste and rub it between tarnished fork tines. Wash the silver, rinse it, and buff with a soft cloth or chamois.

Two other polishing methods, dip polishes and the electrolytic process, are easier, but can dull or whiten the silver. They are not recommended.

To retard tarnishing, store silver in a specially lined chest or drawer, or wrap it in tarnishing-inhibiting fabric. Do not use plastic wrap; it can cause hard-to-remove spots. Also rubber bands can stain silver, even through layers of wrapping.” 🐿



Easter in El Prado Park

This year marks the 17th year

since Mr. & Mrs. Bunny have been dancin' and singin' to the Bunny Hop and handing out candy to the children of Downtown Torrance in El Prado Park on Easter Sunday.

This fun-filled event was started by the Old Torrance Neighborhood Association (OTNA) in 1981 as a way for the Downtown Torrance residents to get to know one another. *Thank you* OTNA for your continued support of this annual, fun-filled event! 🐰

Mobil Memorabilia

Together, THS and Mobil, are researching the local history of Mobil's presence in Torrance. There will be a special display in the Museum — if you have any **Mobil** pictures or memorabilia you'd like to share, please contact the Museum. 🐰

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

Return Services Requested

Inside

- ◆ Mrs. Jared Sidney
Torrance Hosts Tea
- ◆ Ramona Pageant Tour
- ◆ Original Torrance High
Blueprints on Display
- ◆ History of Hollywood
Riviera for Sale

Annual Meeting

You're invited to the Annual Meeting and election of officers Sunday, May 17th, from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the Museum.

This year we will have an open house with cake and coffee, and . . . you'll get a special preview of the many new displays being set-up for the state-wide *Conference of California Historical Societies*.

Your "official" invitation, and the slate of officers will be mailed to you in April. 🐰



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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