

Torrance Memorial Medical Center – Centennial Exhibit

Jared Sidney Torrance bequeathed \$100,000 to build the first hospital in Torrance.

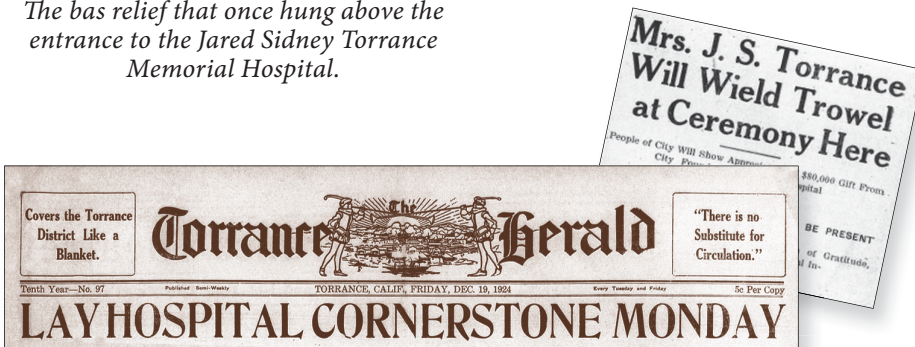


The bas relief that once hung above the entrance to the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial Hospital.

The bas relief, which once graced the entrance to the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial Hospital, marks the original site of the hospital (1425 Engracia Avenue, 1924-1971). The doors to this new hospital opened in May 1925 on the knoll of Engracia Avenue in Old Torrance. During its first year, 521 patients were admitted, and 72 babies were born. In 1971, Torrance Memorial Medical Center, as it's now called, moved to 3330 Lomita Blvd., Torrance.



The cornerstone for the Hospital was laid on December 22nd, 1924. In it, was a time capsule that was to be opened 100 years later. In March, a handful of members of the Torrance Historical Society and Torrance Memorial Medical Center (TMMC) did just that! We knew what the time capsule contained, as its contents were listed in the December 19th, 1924, Torrance Herald Newspaper.

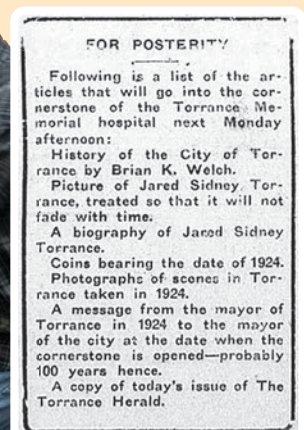


On Thursday, July 17th, the night of Rock Around the Block, you will be able to see the treasures up close and personal when the Museum reopens with the new Torrance Memorial Centennial Exhibit.

Thank you Torrance Memorial for sharing your display with us!

What started as a local non-profit hospital, has grown into a regional leader recognized as one of the top 3% of hospitals in the state! Come to the museum view the timeline of a century of care. This exhibit will run through February 2026.

Danny Hylands carefully removed, and opened, the time capsule that has been tucked inside of the Hospital's cornerstone for over 100 years!



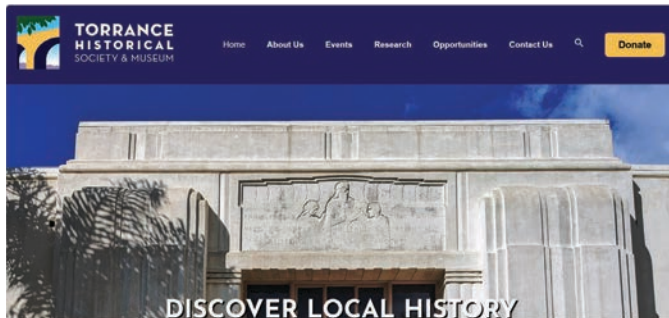
Before/After

Last year, with all the rain, we discovered (the hard way) the Museum roof leaked. YIKES! We teamed with the City to develop a repair schedule, and we're happy to report the roof has been replaced, water damage inside the museum mitigated, office repainted, and more. And, since everything in the office had to be removed for the paint party, files, shelves, and desks are being reorganized. *This is spring cleaning at its best!*



Previous website

The museum rooftop and interior isn't the only thing with a new look. We've also recently revamped our website making it easier to navigate.



New website

We've also, finally, had new lighting installed on the exterior of the building. These new lights were custom designed to depict the look of the era and will patina over time.



*Previous "pole" lights
(50+ years ago when the
building was still in use
as the Main Library)*

*Let there be light –
these lights can be
programmed to
change colors*



*New Downtown Torrance
signage at
Cabrillo/Cravens/Carson.*

New Signage in Old Torrance

It's been a long time coming, but there's new signage in Old Torrance. In 2020, the City embarked on a city-wide Signage and Wayfinding Plan to help improve mobility, safety, and efficiency for all modes of transportation, which also helps enhance the City's identity and sense of place for residents and visitors alike. On Thursday, March 27, 2025, two of the three wayfinding signs to help identify "Downtown Torrance" – the original city footprint, were installed.

Fran Fulton, Economic Development Manager for the City of Torrance, and head of the Signage and Wayfinding Plan, exclaimed, "I'm thrilled to see two of the three gateway signs installed in Downtown Torrance! The third sign will be an arch over Sartori at Torrance Blvd. and will be coming soon. These signs are elements of the City Council-approved Citywide Wayfinding and Signage Plan as well as the Downtown Revitalization and Connectivity Plan. The project has involved multiple City departments as well as the community, including the Downtown Torrance Association and the Torrance Historical Society. Public input was vital in ensuring the design for the signs brought a fresh look but that it also included a nod to the past. This can be seen in the arch motif, also reflected in gateway signs around the city, that pays tribute to the Pacific Electric Railway – El Prado Bridge."



Torrance Historian

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Coordination: Janet Payne & Debbie Hays

Graphics: Denise Montgomery



Rock Around the Block

Are you ready to Rock?

Put on your pedal pushers, poodle skirts or Pendleton's, and cruise on down to the Torrance Historical Society & Museum, and together, we'll rock around the block at the

FREE family-fun

18th Annual Rock Around the Block event!

Thursday, July 17th, from 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

The Sares Regis Group and the Torrance Historical Society are hosting a 1950s-style family summer event in celebration of Torrance's All-America City Award — one of America's original and most prestigious community recognition awards.

This event is open to the public and held in front of the Torrance Historical Society & Museum (1345 Post Avenue). Post Avenue will be blocked off from Cravens to Sartori, so guests can . . .

- **View** vintage cars courtesy of local car owners
- **Bop** to 50s music by DJ Ozzie
- **Munch** on Malasada Donuts
- **Scream** for Creamy Boys Ice Cream
- **Watch** Re5ilience Academy's special 50's dance performance
- **See** special exhibits featuring the original All-America City congratulatory telegram from President Eisenhower, along with the All-America City button & logo
- **Hear** Marilyn Monroe sing on stage
- **Capture** a "Kodak Moment" with Jared Sidney Torrance
- **Check-out** high school yearbooks — the Torrance Historical Society has the largest collection in the City
- **Play** retro games like Dime Toss or paint a pet rock
- **Enter** the hula hoop, bubble gum blowin', Torrance Bakery cake walk and pie eating contests — there are prizes!

The Bartlett Senior Center will also be hosting B-I-N-G-O upstairs! **The Torrance Woman's Club** will have their 1950s Club scrapbook available for viewing! And . . . the **Torrelle's** — a group of City employees who sing 50s and 60s songs in a cappella, will entertain guests while strolling through the crowd.

Alex Hattori, world-renowned yo-yo champ, will also be on stage amazing the crowd with his award winning tricks and will do a live demo for those who want to learn the skill of yo-yo-ing!

Guests will also have the opportunity to learn **hands-on CPR** from the Torrance Fire Dept. to the Bee Gee's song of "Stayin' Alive."

Be there, or be square!

Third Graders – Learning Torrance History

On-and-off, for the last 10 years, Mrs. Juanita Evans, a third-grade teacher from Torrance Elementary, has been immersing her students in local Torrance history. In the classroom, she has lesson plans to educate them on how our city came to be. She infuses life into what they have studied with a walking field trip for the students to see what learned about their town, firsthand.

Mrs. Evans noted, “My students love learning about our city, and the fact that it is all places they are familiar with. We love starting at the Ted Tanouye Memorial in front of Torrance High School, then walking down the streets to learn about the historic homes, and ending at the Museum for a tour. They love the stories Debbie and Janet tell with such enthusiasm. Personally, I enjoy hearing the kids share back information that they’ve already learned in class because now it’s real!”

These interactive activities have inspired the students to bring their parents to Old Torrance and share their newfound knowledge of the city’s past. They can now walk-the-walk and talk-the-talk!



*Mrs. Evans' Torrance Elementary Third Grade Class
– about to enter through the doors of the history.*

Stayin' Alive!

Recently, the Board of Directors and Museum Volunteers were trained by the Torrance Fire Department (TFD) on how to properly use a fire extinguisher to snuff out a fire. They were also taught how to administer hands-on CPR (to the beat of the Bee Gees song, Stayin' Alive). In case of an emergency, the Museum Team is prepared – thank you TFD!

*Torrance Fire Prevention Specialist,
Daniel Singleton, demonstrating how
to administer CPR.*



*Left to Right: Lily Yu, Debbie Hays,
Lily's Travel Partner – Daniel,
Janet Payne*

Deaf Journey

Discover Torrance, our city's visitors bureau, recently invited Travel Content Creator,

Lily Yu, of Deaf Journey

www.deafjourneymedia.com

to come and discover Torrance.

Of course, the trip would not be complete without a stop at the Torrance Historical Society & Museum. The current exhibit of *Floating Through the Decades* – a rare look at a collection of 60+ framed photos of Torrance Rose Parade entries, speaks for itself. Lily was also intrigued by the Louis Zamperini display, which inspired her to visit the Zamperini mural (The Torrance Building – 21250 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance) and to watch the movie *Unbroken*, when she returned home. Lily loved Torrance so much, she came back the following weekend to shop the Antique Street Faire, and visit the Museum, again!

Driven by wanderlust, Lily seeks must-see destinations and hidden gems (can you say, “Torrance”). She explores the world to prove that deaf people can travel and overcome barriers without relying on hearing sounds.

Names on the Wall Project Update

Kurt Weideman and Dennis Piotrowski have been busy with the Names on the Wall Project, which gathers, preserves, and shares the stories and legacies of the 151 Torrance military personnel who gave their lives in service to our country during war-time, and whose names are inscribed on the Torrance Veterans Memorial Wall. Kurt and Dennis have been diligently writing and posting the biographies of the 151 heroes on the Torrance Historical Society's new website. They were recently interviewed by Nicole Nash from Torrance CitiCABLE where they discussed the story of Private First Class Herman Jones, a 1943 Torrance High School graduate and U.S. Marine who was killed 80 years ago during the battle of Iwo Jima. To date, about 56 biographies have been completed and posted on the THS website, including that of PFC Jones.



*Herman Jones,
Torrance High School
Yearbook, 1943
Died During
the Battle of Iwo Jima,
World War II,
March 2, 1945*

7,000 Marines lost their lives during the brutal fighting, with another 20,000 wounded. One of the Marines who was lost his life on Iwo Jima was Private First Class Herman Walker Jones of Torrance.

PFC Jones was a member of the First Christian Church of Torrance and graduated from Torrance High School in June 1943. Shortly thereafter, he enlisted in the Marine Corps at age 17. Jones said the Marines were the “out-standing branch of the service” and he wanted to go along with the “fightingest men in the world.” He served with Company E, 2d Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division. PFC Jones was sent overseas and on March 2, 1945, he died of wounds received in action during the Battle of Iwo Jima. He was just 18 years old.

The Torrance Historical Society and its Names on the Wall Project, initiated by the late Jerry Ronan, World War II veteran and long-

The months of February and March 2025 mark the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima, one of the bloodiest battles in U.S. Marine Corps history. From February 19 until March 26, 1945, approximately 70,000 Marines fought against a tenacious, well-entrenched enemy to wrest control of a strategically important eight-mile square island made up of volcanic rock and sand. Nearly

time local teacher, preserves and shares the legacy of selfless sacrifice of PFC Herman Jones and the 150 other Torrance service members who gave their lives in service to our country during wartime. To learn more about PFC Jones and the others, or if you're interested in researching one of the names on the wall, please visit the Torrance Historical Society website: www.TorranceHistoricalSociety.org.

Bert S. Crossland — Lost but not Forgotten



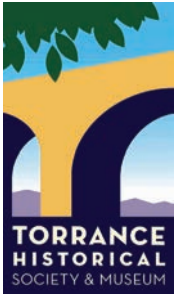
*Bert S. Crossland,
U.S. Army,
Killed in action
in World War I*

One of the goals of the Torrance Historical Society's (THS) Names on the Wall Project is to post the biographies on the new THS website in order to reach a world-wide audience to share and obtain more information on the 151 Names on the Wall. Kurt Weideman and Dennis Piotrowski are happy to report that this is already occurring! Recently, an Interpretive Guide from the American Battle Monuments Commission, Flanders Field American Cemetery in Belgium, saw the biography of Bert Sidney Crossland on our website, contacted us, and shared some important details about Bert Crossland. Crossland, whose family was from Torrance, was in the U.S. Army and was killed in action in Belgium in 1918 and is buried at this cemetery. He is the only one of the 151 Names on the Wall who died during World War I. In turn, the THS was pleased to provide photographs of Bert Crossland to the cemetery that it will use and share with visitors to help tell his story. The Torrance American Legion Hall – Post No. 170 – is named after Bert S. Crossland. If you'd like to learn more about Bert, visit the THS website: www.TorranceHistoricalSociety.org

*Flanders Field
American Cemetery,
Waregem, Belgium
Burial site of
Bert Crossland of Torrance*



U.S. Embassy in Belgium photo



Torrance Historical Society & Museum

1345 Post Avenue
Torrance, CA 90501

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Torrance, CA 90501

Permit No. 27



The Gift

Maureen B. O'Donnell,

Life Member, lover of tea, silver, proper manners, and all things history, bequeathed the Torrance Historical Society & Museum \$25,000. Her wish was for the Board to use this generous donation toward supporting the Museum's continuous endeavors to preserve and promote history.

Torrance Historical Society & Museum

1345 Post Avenue
(at Cravens)

310.328.5392

Hours:

Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

www.TorranceHistoricalSociety.org

Reminder:

*Memberships make great gifts . . . perfect for the person who has everything!
If you purchase a Membership as a gift, upon request, the Torrance Historical Society
will mail the recipient a special certificate of notification.*

www.TorranceHistoricalSociety.org