



Winter, 2017

Torrance Library Times

Newsletter of the Friends of the Torrance Library

Winter Book Sale January 27-29

Friday, January 27, 2 – 6 PM

Members only preview. (Memberships from \$5 sold at the door from 1 PM.)

Saturday, January 28, 9 AM – 4 PM

Open to the public.

Sunday, January 29, 1 – 4 PM

Fill a paper grocery bag with a combination of books, CDs, DVDs, or tapes for only \$5.

Open to the public.

We have just about every category of books, including textbooks and comics. In addition to games and puzzles, we also have DVDs, CDs, records and videotapes.

All books are sorted by category. Our hardback fiction, sci-fi and mystery books are alphabetized by author.

Our Unique Tables feature many beautiful, high quality books, along with unusual items. A sampling of the unique books will be posted on our website at

www.friendsofthetorrancelibrary.org/unique-books

There is also a rummage table with non-book items that have been donated.

2017 Book Sales:

April 28-30, 2017

July 21-22, 2017

October 20-22, 2017

Save a Stamp – Renew Online

As announced in the fall newsletter, the Friends now have a new website. As we work to move to a digital newsletter, you can now sign up for our digital newsletter and renew your membership online.

Newsletter Emailed Only?

If you would like to receive only the emailed version, send an email to news@friendsofthetorrancelibrary.org with your name and postal mailing address. Include your email address on the renewal form or renew your membership online.

In order to include renewal envelopes, we are still sending mailed copies of this issue, but hope to start the emailed copies with the spring issue.

Renew Your Membership

All memberships will expire at the end of the year with the exception of life members and those who joined in October, so please take time now to renew. Check your information on the membership envelope included with this newsletter, correct if needed, and mail with a check for \$5 for an individual, \$10 for a family or \$100 for a life membership. Please add your email address if you would like to receive emailed newsletters. You may mark mailed copy on the renewal envelope.

Your membership includes four Friends newsletters per year with advance notices about upcoming book sales.

Now that all the book sales have a members only preview on Friday, the biggest perk of membership is admission to Friday "Friends Only" days for our book sales.

New membership cards will be mailed at the end of February. Membership cards will be available at the January sale if there isn't time to mail.

Adult Programming Sponsored By the Friends

The Friends of the Torrance Library sponsors adult programs at each of the library locations. Each site usually does one program a quarter. However, the Friends have been responsive to requests for additional programs.

Gail Van Vranken, Senior Librarian at Henderson, enjoys presenting these outreach programs and has taken advantage of the Friends' support to offer programs more often. Craft programs are also popular and, in a way, self-perpetuating, as previous participants recommend new activities. The weekly Craft Delight program was requested by the attendees. It is a place to learn new skills, seek help on projects or give help.



Quote from attendee: "I find these crafting classes and the programs you offer through the library to be excellent and so enriching to my life. Please, please, please continue to fund these programs. It is a wonderful way to socialize, meet new people, enjoy the library environment, and I learned so much. Thank you, Friends of the Library."

In the first quarter of 2017:

Celebrate the Chinese New Year

Saturday, January 28, 10:00 AM
Create a Chinese lantern using New Year envelopes.

Crochet 101

Saturday, February 25, 10:00 AM
Learn the basic techniques of crocheting while creating a Granny Square washcloth.

Easter project

Saturday, March 25, 10:00 AM
Make a cute egg carton gift box with Judy Kubota of Stampin' Up.

Registration opens 30 days before the above three programs.
To register, call (310) 371-2075.
Space is limited.

Ongoing:

Craft Delight

Wednesdays, 12:00-1:30 PM
Calling all crafters! Share, learn and be inspired. Bring your current portable project and a sack lunch and spend time with fellow crafters.
For more information, call (310) 371-2075

Henderson also hosts two book discussion groups:

Mayhem in the A.M. on the 2nd
Thursday from 10-11 AM
Discusses a specific book each month.
List is available at the library website.

Romance in the Stacks on the 1st
Wednesday from 10-11 AM
Discusses whatever romance novels participants have read lately.

Gail retired at the end of December. Her patrons will miss her.

Remembering Helen Ball

Helen Ball, past President of the Friends of the Torrance Library and long-time volunteer, has passed away. Helen was a dynamic, driving force for the Friends – and until recently in the Library every single day, putting hours into the book sales, organizing the volunteers, and serving on the Board.

It was my pleasure to work with Helen for many years, and in many ways. At the City of Torrance volunteer recognition dinners, she would charge in and ensure that all her Friends had prime seats – both for recognition by the City Council, and for access to the buffet line. She got up before Council when they began formally accepting donations, always praising the work of the volunteers, and reminding all in attendance when the next book sale was happening!



She also jumped into new adventures with us. When I was working on the Frankenstein traveling exhibit, and lots of related programming, my colleague and I wanted a truly wonderful opening reception. The Friends had paid for public programs, and were already funding many for this exhibition period, but this was something new. They gave us the funds for an opening reception that included a presentation from the daughter of Boris Karloff, and a visit by Frankenstein's monster – carrying his library card. Helen also championed the funding of our Centennial Celebration in 2013, ongoing adult programs, and our ever growing list of magnificent things we now do as routine, and our community has come to expect.

Helen truly knew human nature, and I would be reminded of her background in social work when I saw her interact with people. She could be a boss's boss, and would tell you when she did not like an answer, but she also was not going to ask anyone to do anything she hadn't done herself, and often would do the job right beside you.

Helen was a dynamic volunteer leader, true champion of the Torrance Library, and a wonderful people person. She was also just supremely nice, supportive, and a leader by example. She will be sorely missed, and her wonderful legacy lives on in the Friends of the Torrance Library.

Hillary Theyer, City Librarian

Some Other Things about Helen

At 75, Helen spent six months with her late husband's nephew sailing from Hawaii to Tahiti and back on a 38 foot ketch. Storms on the return trip kept them from reaching Honolulu for several weeks.

"I look back at it," she said "and think it was the most life-changing thing I've ever done. . . . You learn that nature is so strong. You can't win; you have to go with it. I think of the power of the waves, of being out there with a little, tiny boat, just bobbing around."

Daily Breeze, December 26, 2003

Helen's husband Howard was the sculptor who created the 13-foot high, 25-foot-long, fiberglass imperial mammoth that is still in the La Brea Tar Pits. Pictures in the LA Times and Life magazine in 1967 show Howard and son towing the mammoth behind their 1958 Volkswagen.

Friends of the Torrance Library
P.O. Box 4005
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Please join us for our first book sale of 2017!
Winter Book Sale on January 27-29

A Note About Paying Online:

The Friends web site, <http://www.friendsofthetorrancelibrary.org/>, allows you to renew your membership or make a donation online. The Board has explored a variety of options for online payments. By far the least expensive at this time is PayPal. You do not need a PayPal account to use that payment service. You may pay with any major credit or debit card.

Here's how it works: When you click on "Pay," you will be taken to a PayPal page. The option to use a credit or debit card appears below the option to use a PayPal account, and you may have to scroll down to see that option. There is no need to create a PayPal account or to log in to pay with a credit or debit card! Of course,

you may use the regular mail to renew your membership or make a donation.

We Appreciate Your Support

Many thanks to the hundreds of book lovers who attended our October sale. Your participation at our sales, and your donations of books, make it possible for the Friends to provide financial support to the library.

2017 is 50th Year for Friends

The Friends began in February of 1967. Teresa Covey, who was there at the beginning, is still coming in to help.

Check out the Friends' Website