



Spring, 2017

# Torrance Library Times

*Newsletter of the Friends of the Torrance Library*

## **Spring Book Sale April 28-30**

Friday, April 28, 2 – 6 PM

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

Saturday, April 29, 9 AM – 4 PM

Open to the public.

Sunday, April 30, 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. 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](http://www.friendsofthetorrancelibrary.org/unique-books)

### **2017 Book Sales:**

July 21-22, 2017

October 20-22, 2017

## **Annual Meeting – June 24th**

You are invited to attend the annual meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup>. After a reception, the election of officers will be at 2:00PM, followed by the Artisan Guitar Ensemble at 2:15PM.

## **Thanks To All Of You Who Renewed.**

Of the renewals, about half of you gave us an email address, so the first emailed copy is being sent out with this issue.

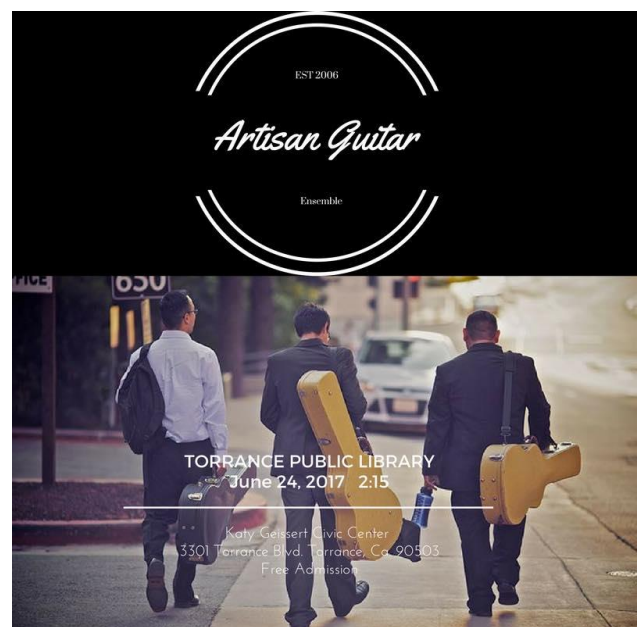
For the rest of you, if you would like to receive only the emailed version, email [news@friendsofthetorrancelibrary.org](mailto:news@friendsofthetorrancelibrary.org) with your name and postal mailing address. Include your email address on the renewal form or renew your membership online.

## **Last Copy For Those Who Haven't Renewed**

For those that haven't renewed their membership, this will be the last copy mailed. There is still time to renew before the next book sale.

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.





## ***Proclamation Honoring the Friends of the Torrance Library as it Celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Presented at April 4 City Council Meeting***

Burton Dobratz, President of the Friends, accepted the proclamation honoring the Friends of the Torrance Library. He then asked the board members and the volunteers to pose for a picture with the Mayor Patrick Furey.

## ***The Beginnings of the Friends of the Torrance Library***

The Friends of the Torrance Library was established in February, 1967, by a group of residents who wished to promote a locally operated library for the community, separate from the County of Los Angeles Library.

The first item was to promote passage of a \$2,350,000 bond measure in April 1967 of that year to support an independent Torrance Library System, provide a new Central Library, services and materials to replace those furnished by Los Angeles County. It was formed "to work toward cultural enrichment and the best services available to the citizens of Torrance", according to the first Friends' president.

The first City Librarian, Russell West, was appointed before the vote, so the city seemed confident of success. After passage of the bond issue and appointment of Russell West as City Librarian and ground-breaking ceremonies for the new Civic Center Library, the Friends solicited books either for use in the new library (1800 books were donated) or to be sold at the first Book Sale February 23-24, 1968 at the Torrance Recreation Center to benefit the Library. (Profit from this first sale was \$400).



## ***Teresa Covey – here from the beginning***

Teresa has served in various capacities since the establishment of the Friends in 1967. Over the years, her positions have included president, secretary, membership chair and publicity chair. She has been there for many book sales, selling memberships and encouraging all of us. She has also worked with the children's books for many years. She said "It's always stimulating to work with books and readers."

## ***We Appreciate Your Support***

Many thanks to the hundreds of book lovers who attended our January sale. Your participation at our sales, and your donations of books, make it possible for the Friends to provide financial support to the library, such as the 2017 Summer Reading and Youth Services programs.

## ***Brush Up Your Skills With Free Online Training at Lynda.com***

New online training is available free from the City of Torrance Library with Lynda.com. It includes basic classes, as well as more advanced programming skills. The classes are available to anyone with a Torrance library card and access to a computer.

The Friends donated partial funding for Lynda.com last year. The first quarter this year has shown steady growth in number of users and courses viewed. While most of the top ten courses have been in coding skills, the second most popular was "Music Theory for Songwriters: The Fundamentals."

If you need to brush up your coding skills or just want to know Excel fundamentals, Lynda.com is a good place to start.

## ***Improved Wireless at all Torrance Libraries***

A project to bring high speed wireless internet to all six Torrance Libraries is almost complete, with five locations up and running. Thanks to support from the State of California, and the Federal e-rate program, the Library was able to upgrade the public wireless connections bringing higher speed and greater coverage to each library. The City Council approved the contract in February 2016, and the project has been rolling out ever since.

As Steve Frame, Senior Librarian for the North Torrance Library, reported to the Library Commission in March:

Staff and patrons noticed the increased network speeds immediately. In the past, simply logging into the network often took five minutes. Now patrons reach the "terms and conditions page" in a second. Here are two examples to demonstrate the benefit of the increase Wi-Fi speed. One patron used to come in every day to check out DVDs. He would leave, go to Starbucks and work on jobs searching. Now he arrives at the Library at 11:00AM and stays most of the day applying for jobs. Another patron is a tutor. She stopped using the North Torrance Library altogether because her students could not log into Wi-Fi to finish their homework on Torrance Unified School District's web site eTUSD. I noticed this patron at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library and told her about the new Wi-Fi connection. She came to North Torrance the following week. Within five minutes of logging into the network, she came to the Circulation Desk to praise the Wi-Fi. She was literally dancing.

Only the Southeast Library remains to be connected, and this improved speed will assist students, families, entrepreneurs, visitors, and anyone who needs reliable, speedy, public wireless access.

National Library Week April 9-15, 2017

**#LibrariesTransform**

[friendsofthetorrancelibrary.org](http://friendsofthetorrancelibrary.org)

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*Friends of the Torrance Library*  
*P.O. Box 4005*  
*Torrance, CA 90510*

Please join us for our book sale  
**Spring Book Sale on April 28-30**

### ***Join the Friends Volunteers***

We meet Tuesday mornings in the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library basement to sort and price books for the book sales. On other days we meet to stock and price books sold daily from our stands located on the main floor of the KGCC Library.

Especially welcome are bookworms who are computer savvy or boast foreign language skills (working knowledge of Korean, Japanese, Chinese or Spanish) as we receive lots of donations in those languages.

Books are stored on shelves by subject. The subject matter experts determine where the books will go. For, example, the foreign books

are separated by language, inspected for condition and age and then boxed for the sales, if appropriate.

We can always use help on our committees: Quarterly Book Sales, Lobby Sales, Internet Sales, Publicity, Newsletter, and Membership.

All those willing and able to join us, please sign on!

Contact Jan Wierzbicki at the Torrance Katy Geissert Civic Center Library to volunteer (310-618-5954 or JWierzbicki@TorranceCA.Gov.)

[friendsofthetorrancelibrary.org](http://friendsofthetorrancelibrary.org)

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