



Summer, 2020

Torrance Library Times

Newsletter of the Friends of the Torrance Library

Message from the Friends President

Hello everyone and we hope you are well and staying safe during this time.

The Friends want to thank our members for their continued support. With your book donations and your purchases, we have been providing funds for the City of Torrance Libraries programs for over 50 years.

The Annual Report has been included.

This year we have provided support for the summer reading program, as well as for adult and youth programming.

We do not know when the Torrance Libraries will reopen, how they will be reconfigured or what programs they will have. As part of their recovery effort the Library is now offering curbside service. Much like restaurant curbside service, your books will be available for pickup after placing items on hold through the online catalog or by calling the local library. Please see the Torrance Library website for instructions.

Currently we are not able to accept book donations. We know you may have been at home cleaning out your bookshelves during this shutdown. But please do not bring them yet. We will let you know as soon as we can resume.

New procedures will need to be put in place before we can accept and process book donations. Our work area will need to be cleaned and altered for physical distancing. The donations received will need to be cleaned before we can process them. Many of our volunteers are age 65 or older and the recommendation continues to be that seniors should remain at home until there is a vaccine.

Your donations are sold three ways: shelves in the library, over the internet and at book sales. We do not anticipate having a book sale this year, but we hope to continue lobby sales once the library has reopened. We will also look at other ways to offer you books for sale.

We have a donation page on our Friends of the Torrance Library website. We have not pushed donations because the success of the book donations has enabled us to raise money via sales.

Thank you for your support of our book sales and we look forward to hosting them again as soon as gatherings are safe.

Everyone- stay safe and we hope to see you soon.

Thank you from the Friends of the Torrance Library

Gayle Saito, President

Message from the City Librarian

I hope this newsletter finds you all healthy and safe. In these challenging times, the Torrance Public Library staff continue to provide service while ensuring the health and safety of our staff and patrons.

On June 1, 2020, the Library began curbside pickup. Many people have expressed how happy they are to see this progress. In addition to waiving fees for placing holds, we continue to waive overdue fines.

We also launched the [Zip Books program](#), which allows patrons to request material and have it delivered directly to their home via Amazon Prime. The State Library provided us with a \$2000 grant to purchase Zip Book materials and have expanded the program for a limited time to include new best sellers. Learn more about this program by visiting the Torrance Public Library Website Zip Books page.

We continue to follow the County Health Officer's direction in the phased reopening of our buildings. Reopening the book drops and providing curbside service are the first steps in that plan.

Yolande Wilburn, Torrance City Librarian

FRIENDS OF THE TORRANCE LIBRARY 2019 - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

ABOUT THE FRIENDS OF THE TORRANCE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Torrance Library is a non-profit 501 c (3) volunteer organization. The purposes of The Friends are to stimulate public awareness of the needs of the Torrance Public Library and its importance to the community; to promote the goodwill and support of citizens; to pursue methods of fund raising; to facilitate and contribute funds to the development of library programs; and for extension and improvement of Torrance Public Library services. The Friends accomplish these purposes by providing financial support for new and on-going library programs.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gayle Saito, President

Marcie Hines, Vice President

Cynthia Page, Secretary

Ronald Kimmel, Treasurer

Kristine Bettinger, Book Sale Chair

Marcie Hines, Lobby Sales Chair

Gayle Saito, Membership Chair

Geneva Martin, Publicity Chair

Burton Dobratz, Internet Chair

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

The closure of the library on March 16, 2020 resulted in suspension of sale of books including the April Book Sale and Internet sales. Closure remains at the end of the fiscal year, May 31, 2020. The Friends do not have access to donations when the library is closed. The table on the next page shows the income decrease from 2018-2019 to 2019-2020.

Maximizing Learning space: matching funds. The library has transformed a not heavily used space into an accessible learning space for the community. This space is on the lower level adjacent to a small office workroom and internet terminals. Retractable dividers and moveable furniture were purchased.

The 5 bucks a bag sales at our quarterly book sales were highly successful. Materials that would be sold to a bulk buyer are available to the public at a low price. The two or three day quarterly sales include both hardback and paperback books and audiovisual materials with members only on Friday afternoon. This year Discover books no longer paid for our surplus books. These book sales will be suspended until large gatherings of people are allowed.

Visit our website friendsofthetorrancelibrary.org.

FUNDRAISING

The Friends primary income sources are book sales, lobby sales, and Internet sales.

	2019-2020	2018-2019
Quarterly Book Sales	\$24,835	\$33,310
Lobby Sales,	\$25,959	\$34,417
Internet Sales.	\$17,944	\$25,246
Special Sales	\$151	\$159
Special Sales Discover		\$1,234
Membership	\$2,335	\$2,995
Donations	\$2,168	\$1,036
Miscellaneous	\$1,426	\$1,291
Total income	\$74,818	\$99,688

VOLUNTEERS

Approximately 50 volunteers contributed in excess of 5,000 hours preparing the books for sale and other sale activities. On Tuesday mornings 15 to 20 volunteers gather in the basement of the Katy Geissert Library to screen donated books for sales value, prepare books for sale in the Main Library Lobby, categorize books for book sales, and list books for sale on the Internet. Some volunteers continue these activities on other days. Stocking the Lobby Sales Shelving and packing and shipping books sold on the Internet are daily activities when the library is open.

EXPENDITURES

Library Youth Programs		
Youth Summer Reading Program	\$23,100	
Youth Activities	\$19,250	
Online Homework Help	\$26,000	
Total Youth		\$68,350
Library Adult Programs		
Adult Programs	\$29,700	
Total Adult		\$29,700
Other Library Programs		
Christmas Trees	\$987	
Total other		\$987
Total grants to library 2019-2020		\$99,037
Cost of operations	\$10,297	

Annual Report Included

2020 Summer Reading Program: Dig Deeper: Read, Investigate, Discover!

Summer Reading Program will continue as planned, using a virtual and curbside model. Participants are encouraged to sign up for the Summer Reading Program remotely via our online webpage.

Once registered, participants select from one of the three programs detailed below based on their individual goals.

- Explorers - are encouraged to complete 24 early literacy activities.
- Voyagers – are encouraged to complete any combination of 10 hours of reading or approved activities.
- Adventurers - are encouraged to complete any combination of 20 hours of reading or approved activities.

Participants download the READsquared application to their smartphone or personal device to their log reading and activities. They can retrieve Curbside Craft Kits, beginning the week of June 15,

and then use social media to view videos with staff demonstrating how to complete the craft.

Participants will get credit for other activities, including exploring our digital resources, downloading an eBook, attending one of our Summer Reading Zoom programs, or watching virtual storytimes! The Library is currently scheduling virtual performances throughout the summer to excite and engage the community while they remain safer at home.

The Torrance Public Library would be unable to offer this wonderful Summer Reading Program without support from the Friends of the Torrance Library. Thank you again for all you do to aid the mission of the Library.

Be well and stay safe while you enjoy your summer.

Yolande Wilburn, Torrance City Librarian