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March 10, 2009

Hello, OTNA Members!

Come welcome spring at our next meeting on **Wednesday, March 18th**, upstairs at the Bartlett Center, 1318 Cravens Avenue (next to the Torrance Historical Society & Museum). The meeting begins at **7:30 PM**; come as early as 7:00 to enjoy refreshments and chat with your neighbors. And don't forget to invite your friends—the presentation is free and open to the public.

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Connie Vadheim of California State University, Dominguez Hills. Dr. Vadheim works with Tracy Drake, Manager and Naturalist for Madrona Marsh. She'll talk to us about **landscaping with California native plants**—a great way to create a beautiful garden, conserve water, and protect our environment at the same time!

And while we're talking about being "green," I hope you got a chance to attend the *Celebration of Community* luncheon on Friday, February 27. At this event, which was hosted by the Kiwanis and Rotary clubs, our Old Torrance Neighborhood Association received a **Community Partnership Award** from Mayor Frank Scott. The award recognized our ongoing clean-up efforts, which we initiated in 2006 in response to the Mayor's *Pay It Forward* challenge. Of course, when I say "we," I really mean **Charles Payne**, OTNA's Immediate Past President. The Keep Torrance Clean Initiative was Charles' idea, and he has actively spearheaded the bi-monthly voluntary clean-ups ever since. The next **clean-up** will be on Saturday, March 21. We'll meet at 8:30 AM at the Payne's home at 1318 Engracia Avenue. Come and join us! It's a lot of fun, you can feel proud while you get dirty, and you get a little treat, too. Sign-up at the meeting, or call Charles at (310) 328-7549.

One more green topic: OTNA is planning to reduce paper use by **e-mailing future meeting notices** and President's letters to our members. If you don't have e-mail, or if you prefer to receive your notices and letters by postal mail, that's fine, too. You'll find a renewal form and return envelope in this letter, with a check-box where you can indicate how you wish to receive future notices. Dues are only \$10 per family or business for the calendar year! As a member, you'll be kept up-to-date on current City affairs and community events through meetings and e-mails, and you'll be supporting the neighborhood we all love. The money we collect from dues, donations, and sponsorships is donated right back into our community (less operating expenses, of course).

Note: If you've already paid your dues, thank-you! In that case, you'll see that I've written "\$0" for the amount owed on the form. But, we still need you to **return the form** with your mailing preference checked.

Finally, don't forget to mark your calendar for OTNA's annual **Easter in El Prado Park** on Easter Sunday, April 12. This will be our 28th consecutive year of hosting this event! Mr. & Mrs. Bun will arrive at the park in the Bunny Mobile at 10:00 AM. Mr. Bun will greet the kids, lead them in the Bunny Hop, and then the Easter "egg" (candy) hunt will begin. It's great fun for kids and a great photo opportunity for adults! I hope we'll see you there.

Trish Stewart

OTNA President

PS: Our sponsor this month is **Bank of America**, at 1255 Sartori Avenue—our neighborhood bank! Bank of America generously provides OTNA with a free checking account. In addition, Bank of America is offering a truly terrific "Refer a Friend" deal for OTNA members. If you open a new personal checking account and tell them that you're a member of the Old Torrance Neighborhood Association, Bank of America will deposit **\$25** into your new account—and they'll deposit another \$25 into OTNA's account, too. This really is an awesome deal! (What are you waiting for?)