

THE ISLAND BRIDGE

JULY/AUG
2015

The Only Official Balboa Island Newsletter - Published by the Balboa Island Improvement Association since 1919



Parade Chair, Mary Pat Earl. Thank You!

BIIA JULY/AUG 2015 CALENDAR

Thursday, July 25
9:00am
Town Hall Meeting
Fire Station

Friday, July 31
4:00 - 6:00pm
Brush-Off Contest

Saturday, August 8
9:00 - 10:00am
Sand Castle Contest

Thursday, August 13
Board Meeting
7:00pm

Saturday, September 12
Taste of Balboa Island
5:00-7:00pm

Hooray! Great Parade!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Terry Janssen

INSIDE THE BRIDGE

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Our Parade, Anchors Aweigh, was again a tremendous success. Planning began early in the year with just a handful of participants. Attendance in the planning meeting grew with each meeting until Parade Day when fifty plus volunteers made all of the planning become a

reality. **Mary Pat Earl** and **Jack Callahan**, a.k.a. The Coconut Man, led the charge of the 22nd Annual Balboa Island Parade. **Patti** and I saw the Parade from a different view this year as **Pat Nangel**, who makes up the parade order, seemed to think Patti and I were dignitaries and as the President and First Lady, we were required to ride in the Parade! For weeks before that magical day both Patti and I practiced our parade wave and finally got it right. It's so heart-warming to see the smile on the kids faces as one gives them a parade wave. A HUGE THANK YOU to all the VOLUNTEERS that made this year's parade a success.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - from page 1

In the last edition of The Island Bridge I told you I drove up and down each street and counted the number of new houses under construction. I did it again and took some photos of some unique things that we see on the Island(s). Check out these photos; I'm sure you will get a chuckle.

TerryJ@mybiia.com



At our Annual Pancake Breakfast hosted by Vicki Frank, the Balboa Island Improvement Association awards were presented.



Award Winners!

Winners not pictured:

Vicki Frank, Appreciation Award.

Susan Mills, Appreciation Award.

Sue Olsen, Appreciation Award.

Volunteer of the Year



Mary Pat Earl

President's Award



Scott Sibley

Appreciation Award



Jack Callahan

Appreciation Award



Tina Newman

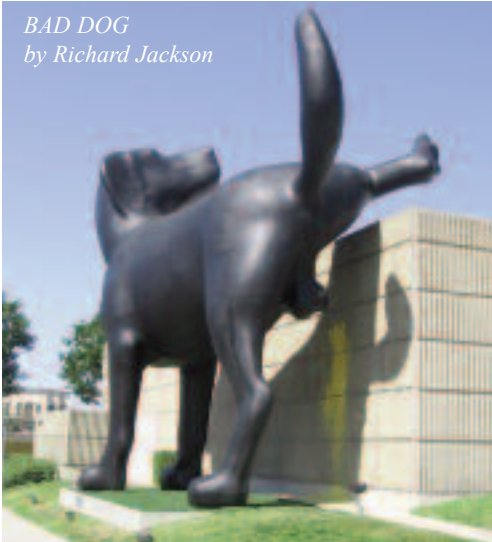
Local Jewels



by Vicki Frank

The Orange County Museum of Art

BAD DOG
by Richard Jackson



Free Fridays?

Who says there is nothing free anymore? One of the best deals is the Free Fridays at our own Orange County Museum of Art in Newport Beach.

Grab your kids, your spouse, or just go by yourself for an hour, or a 15 minute reprieve to view some world class art. The museum is easy to maneuver and offers new exhibits regularly. The last exhibit was the fabulous work of **Fred Tomaselli**. He adapts the New York Times daily

paper cover photos with vibrant and detailed interpretations of the absurdity of our daily lives.

I was at **MOMA** in New York in March when I first viewed one of his pieces. I was so delighted to stumble upon the last exhibit at **OCMA** and view over 20 pieces in a super venue without the crowds and entry fee.

With over 3,000 works of modern and contemporary art in their collection there is always something to see or to revisit. These artists have such interesting messages and forms of expression. I so appreciate the risk and vulnerability artists take. So take a risk and visit the museum for a peaceful escape from the outside world.

The museums latest exhibit, *My Generation: Young Chinese Artists*, opens June 27 and *Selections*; by **Robert Rauschenberg** opens June 28.

OCMA

ocma.net

850 San Clemente Dr
Newport Beach CA 92660
(949) 759-1122

VickiF@mybiia.com

Pots of the Month

by Betty Christy



May

Crystal Ave. & South Bay Front
Thanks Trish Hurley!



June

Balboa Ave. & East Bay Front
Thanks Herb Kostlan!

What's Cooking?



The Balboa island Cookbook was such a success that we are cooking up another batch that will come out of the oven in July. We will announce their arrival on the bridge marquee and via Constant Contact.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

TACO SOUP

Submitted by Pat Hagemeyer

- 1 lb. hamburger
- 1 chopped onion
- 1 pkg. taco seasoning
- 1 can pinto beans with juice
- 1 (15-oz.) can tomato sauce
- 2 cans chopped tomatoes with juice
- 1 sm. can chopped green chilies
- 1 can corn with juice

Cook the hamburger and onion together; drain. Add taco seasoning and mix well. Stir in the remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 15 minutes or until heated through, stirring occasionally. Sprinkle broken corn chips over soup before serving. **YUM!!**



by Leigh Kelly

What's

May Garden - 107 Jade Avenue



Jane and Mark on their front patio.

In 1984, **Mark and Jane Wakeman** traveled to Europe to purchase a BMW. After their purchase, and before the car was shipped home, they spent 6 months traveling Europe. On this trip, Mark noticed the beauty of bright flowers against the backdrop of the older cottages in the countries they visited. He was anxious to get home...to implement what he had seen at their home located at 107 Jade Ave., on the Little Island. This home caught my eye because it reminded me of a trip to the Netherlands, Mark and I took.

Jane has owned this home since 1969 and she and Mark have called it home for 30 plus years after they were married. The home is surrounded by a hedge for privacy, but take a peek behind the hedge and you will see flowers of every variety. Mark has two qualifications for the flow-



Flowers of all varieties--all in containers

ers he picks: are they beautiful and are they bright? Because Mark spends many hours working in front of a computer screen, he finds the beauty of bright flowers and working outside to be a welcome break.

A basket of impatiens hang next to the Wakeman's front door and pots of marguerites bank the entrance to their period cottage. Colorful flowers of every kind

Photos: Leigh Kelly



Marguerite bushes and a basket of impatiens by the front door.

back against the hedge that encloses their patio. Nasturtiums grow in abundance under a side birch tree.

As with so many homes on Balboa Island, there is a private area where much is done with little space. Behind their cottage is a peaceful and secluded patio where the two enjoy dining. Their patio is surrounded by a flowering plum, palm and Ficus trees with honeysuckle growing among the branches.

What a beautiful, peaceful cottage. What nice people. What a little slice of Europe just steps away....**Well done, Mark and Jane!**



The shaded, private patio surrounded by various trees

Blooming!

June Garden - 202 Collins Avenue



Photos: Leigh Kelly

*Julie, Lisa, Mike and Sue O'Neill
in front of their fantastic garden*

It is the beginning of summer on Balboa Island and everything is in full bloom. The **O'Neill** family is certainly no exception to this with their beautiful home and garden at 202 Collins Ave.

Mike and **Sue O'Neill** moved from the "Port" streets in Newport to Balboa Island after their triplets (**Lisa**, **Julie**, and **Christopher**) went away to college.

Their home was newly built and Sue was able to pick out some of the landscaping....specifically, the roses blooming in their front yard. Since that move two years ago, Sue has spent much of her time replacing what came with the home to just the right mix of flowers and plants.

Gorgeous roses are the main attraction along the front sidewalk. Sue sprays Neem Oil (organic, non toxic) in order to produce these healthy, beautiful roses. Varieties like the Barbara Streisand, the Ingrid Bergman, Peace, and the Pink Cancer Rose (benefits breast cancer research), as well as others, grow next to the sidewalk.



Pink Cancer Rose (benefits breast cancer research).



Winner sign among the roses and Duranta Tree

Flowers of all different colors and varieties grow under, around, and behind the roses. Mexican heather, salvia, alyssum, redbecca, violas, and Black-eyed Susans are in full bloom amidst small bushes with variegated leaves. The front patio was poured with two-inch gaps between slabs and that gap is planted with a perfect little variegated grass. Sue keeps it perfect...down to a flower poking its head up here and there. At the edge of the patio is a blooming Duranta Tree.

The move to the Island turned out to be such a good one that, after college, two of the three in this group of triplets moved back home. When asked, "what do you love about the island" they all agreed that it is a friendly, happy place. I, for one, am happy to have met such a charming family. **Well done, O'Neill family!**

Meet Your Neighbors

MEET JENNIFER JOHNSTON



"Jill, have you seen the mermaid with the purple hair?"

she calls out over the "bloop"ing sound of the store front's infamous stomp rocket followed by a series of delighted, high-pitched squeals from the on-looking crowd. Crouched in front of a shelf at least twenty Barbie's wide and a dozen Bruder trucks deep, on a mission to find the requested item for her four-foot tall, front-toothless customer, **Jennifer Johnston** takes her treasure hunt seriously and today's mission is approached with as much energy and enthusiasm as the day she first opened her business in 1973. As the proud owner of the iconic Our Gang's General Store on Marine Avenue, Jennifer has been committed to finding the perfect toy for the children of Balboa Island for over 40 years.

But before she planted her roots on Balboa Island, Jennifer was a bit of a gypsy. Born and raised in New Zealand, it wasn't long before Jennifer discovered a

yearning sense of wanderlust and ditched her Kiwi roots to travel the world. After leaving high school at age 16, Jennifer packed a single backpack, grabbed her best friend and headed to Australia where she would spend the next four years. It was with this same zest for life, and utter lack of fear, that Jennifer and her comrade would spend their days hitching rides, befriending locals and generally living their lives like an endless spring break.



Jennifer has owned the iconic Our Gang's General Store on Marine Avenue since 1973.

Once she had sufficiently exhausted the adventures to be had in the land down under, she headed to Europe starting in England and eventually making her way to Italy followed by Spain, discovering towns and beaches along the way so far off the grid that virtually no GPS would be able to rightly identify them, while immersing herself in the art of doing nothing. Well, almost nothing. To support herself, she took on whatever odd jobs crossed her path: working the front desk at a car dealership, nannying for a family of three children, even serving as a nurse-aid at one point.

With her free-spirited, "go where the wind takes me" approach, it comes as no surprise that Jennifer's decision to come to the U.S. was on a whim. She had bumped into an American man whom she had met during one of her previous travels who convinced her to come to California with him. It wasn't long before the two got married, settle down into a life in Orange County and devised a plan to open a small store on Balboa Island.



by Kristen Turner

At the time of its inception, the **Our Gang General Store** was a pottery business of sorts. But not one to be put in a box or stay stagnant in one place, Jennifer evolved the store by adding new merchandise and filling the shelves with household items, gifts, decor...you name it. Though Jennifer and her then-husband split a few years after opening the store, the business continued to flourish despite a clear lack of direction. It wasn't until several years later that Jennifer made the realization that what Balboa Island was truly lacking was a toy store and she decided to hone in on that industry.

Eventually Jennifer became the sole proprietor of the business, adding longtime store employee **Jill**, but keeping the name and the location in an effort to preserve the charm and sense of nostalgia that her customers look forward to when visiting the island. Her business model proved successful and today, the Our Gang store has a clientele that spans up to three generations with young parents bringing in their first-borns seeking the perfect toy, following in the footsteps of a special tradition imparted by their parents and grandparents.

Perhaps the happiest place on the island, the Our Gang Store welcomes guests young and old so next time you find yourself strolling down Marine, be sure to stop by to say hi to Jennifer and Jill. I promise you will leave with a smile on your face!



Jennifer and Jill, a long-time Our Gang's General Store employee



NEWS AND NOTES

By Sue & Ed Siebel

The Balboa Island Parade is a special start to the Island summer every year – and, this year was no exception. It was a bright and happy occasion, with so many people participating and viewing. The Island CERT Comms were very much involved.

Once again, the CERTs were helping the community. For the Parade, they provided the radio group that helped keep communications going, both by getting the Parade entries into marching order and parking issues resolved on Bayside Drive, and by checking security and answering many and varied questions on Marine Avenue. The CERT information tent was on the corner by the Fire Station, sharing emergency information and interacting with residents and tourists alike.

Thank you Island CERT Comms **Dale Carter**, **Doak Hefner**, **Gerry Kelleher**, **Ellis Marcos**, and from off-Island **Albert Gonzales** from Irvine Terrace, and **Pam Spears** from Granville. And, too, **Marilyn Broughton** and **Evalie DuMars** from Corona del Mar who organized and operated the CERT tent!



CERT members Albert Gonzales, Doak Hefner, Pam Spears, Dale Carter, Ed Siebel



Sue Siebel helping a short visitor



Jerry Kelleher making a report



Sue and Ed Siebel - CERT Coordinators

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Pet of the Month



Owner: Jon Remy

Favorite Pastime: Disrespecting owner



By Sue Olsen

Greefings Islanders

The Summer season is upon us. As excited as we all are for sun, BBQ and vacation, we all need to be cautious in a time of extra foot traffic. Whether you are visiting Balboa Island or call the Island your home, the NBPD have a few suggestions to help your day and avoid the loss of personal property:

1. Don't leave valuables in your car, hide charging cords from view
2. Always close your car windows, lock the doors and activate your alarm. Close your garage!
3. When dining, don't hang your purse or backpack on the back of a chair
4. Backpacks and beach bags should never be left unattended on the beach.

Have a safe Summer!



Let us recognize your historic home with a beautiful bronze plaque.

(Homes built prior to 1953)

Please note that this plaque designates year of construction only and does not place any restriction on property.

**GREAT GIFT FOR THE
HISTORIC HOMEOWNER**

Please contact:
Robert Lambert
949.675.7985

What Is It?

By Jon Remy



In mid-June, beaches up and down the coast from San Diego to North Orange County were covered by thousands of *Pelagic Red*, or Tuna Crabs. At their densest, the tuna crabs on local beaches number about 50 per square foot. They are lured further North than usual by the warmer water current coming up from Baja Mexico. The last time this occurred was in 1997 and was our last El Nino year.

Experts predict a 90% chance that we will experience an El Nino this year, which could provide much warmer water this Summer and more precipitation this Winter. *p.s. before you get some lemons and drawn butter, these little guys don't have much meat on them...and they stink!*