THE ISLAND JAN/FEB 2015

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

BIIA JAN/FEB 2015 CALENDAR

Thursday, January 8 7:00pm Board Meeting

Thursday, February 19
7:00pm
General Membership Meeting
Beek Center

INSIDE THE BRIDGE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Terry Janssen



During our December Board Meeting the 2015 Officers were elected. They are: President Terry Janssen, Vice President Lee Pearl, Treasurer Scott

Sibley and Secretary Mary Pat Earl. What a line up! My wife Patti can't believe that she is now the "First Lady". Her major concern with her new position is that she might have to ride in a car with me in our Parade and not be an MC (which she did such a great job of last year). Now that's something to worry about!

The 2015 line up is a perfect match. Lee Pearl's civic background makes working with the City a natural for him and will be in a efficient and effective manner. Scott Sibley is a retired CFO and has already made his mark in bringing accountability and efficiencies to the Treasurers position. And then there's Mary Pat Earl...no, she has never been a Secretary but she is probably one of the most organized people I know and will do an excellent and accurate job as our board Secretary. Tom Houston was reelected to the Board. He is an invaluable addition to our efforts to make the Balboa Islands the best place on earth in which to live. The Board created a new position called an "Associate Director". The purpose of this position is to designate an individual that has ambitions of being a full board member but, there is no position available. Lee Cassidy has agreed to accept this Her legal background and position. enthusiasm will be tremendous assets to our Association.

In 2009 **Al Gore** won a prize for his movie predicting that the polar caps would disappear by 2014. That didn't happen and neither was he the father of the Internet. So what's the point here? Climate

change is a fact and not some hocus pocus, but, the fact remains that sea levels rise and fall. The BIIA Seawall sub-committee has been working with the City and the Tide Lands Management Committee to reach an agreement on what option should would be best for the repair and/or replacement of the Big Island west end sea wall and the Grand Canal walls which will include a height increase to the walls.

The BIIA Seawall sub-committee requested from the City that the small signs posted several months ago at various locations on the surrounding seawalls also include a 9 foot mark. This has been done. If the predictions are correct, the 9 foot height will get us to about the 2040's.

The Committee's approach is to repair them until 2040 which reduces the City's expense. Just like the accuracy of **Al Gore's** prediction just maybe the sea level will begin to diminish. Lots more on this subject during the year.

We're expanding The Bridge to make it an even more impressive publication. We can thank **Jon Remy** for taking this newsletter from a home town newspaper to polished and professional publication.

You guessed it there's more. I would like to invite those of you that don't regu-BIIA larly attend the General Membership Meetings to attend at least the first one in February. These meetings can be really informative. At our February Meeting both George Murdoch and Mike Pisani from the City of Newport Beach will be attending our meeting. They will be explaining the difference between Public Works and the things they are responsible for like: street lights, tide valves, storm drains, beach maintenance, trash and more. They will

Continued on page 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - from page 1

be first on the agenda so if your time is limited you can hear their presentation and then leave. Of course, I would hope that you would stay for the entire meeting. Please attend; you'll benefit from your attendance.

This subject greatly disappoints me. Carolyn Carr publishes the Coastal Breeze and is the organizer of the All-Island Garage Sale. Last year she scheduled the All-Island Garage Sale on the same day as the city wide Newport Beach CERT exercise, and luckily there were no issues. This year there is the same conflict with the CERT exercise and the Island Garage Sale falling on the same day, and again Carolyn Carr has refused to change her date for the Island Garage Sale saying "people have already booked their plane reservations to attend this event". I'm like most of you and don't want more people on the Island and this event brings people from all over due to her wide spread advertising. Many of us have participated in this garage sale, including me, but when the organizer is asked to change the date because of a conflict with a cityplanned event this is just wrong. What this comes down to is a matter of priorities: selling a few items or risking the safety of our community.

Now what can you expect from your new team? More of the same leadership that Jeff Herdman brought to you over the past five years. There's a lot to do. First of all we want to have fun. Our all island events will be better than ever. Starting with the Pancake Breakfast, then the Parade, and next the Taste of Balboa Island followed by the Christmas events.

By the way there will be a big change to the "Taste of Balboa Island" and I know most of your will appreciate the change. Behind the scenes we'll be working for you. Well be working on things like Sea Walls, Airport Issues, Underground Utilities and more. I would like to hear from you about the issues you would like to be improved on our Island(s). If you have something that you think needs attention then contact me with the solution and tell me how you can be part of the solution.

While I can only be your President for one year I'll give it my all to represent you. Thanks you for letting me to be a part of the journey.

TerryJ@mybiia.com



Equal parts fearless leader and humble survivor, Hanne (pronounced huhnav) Parks is not your average woman. An Austrian born survivor of World War II, the story of Hanne's upbringing is also a far cry from that of the typical Newport Beach resident.

HANNE'S STORY

Born in Modling, Austria in 1926, Hanne was the youngest of two girls. Her father, Hubert, and mother, Mutti, were kind and loving parents that imparted the

importance of hard work to Hanne and her older sister Traute from an early age. Her father, a musician, lived and breathed his work, holding down two jobs, teaching piano at the conservatory and composing his own music. Growing up, Hanne recalls many an evening falling asleep to the sounds of her father on the grand piano or perhaps the viola. Other nights he was accompanied by fellow musicians filling the house with melodies that have now become the soundtrack to Hanne's childhood. Hanne's mother was a gifted green thumb, proudly boasting the prettiest garden in the neighborhood. In the spring and summer months, their flowers would bloom and their fruit trees would hang heavy with an abundance of fruit. And not one apricot or nectarine would go to waste. Mutti would diligently harvest the fruit, spending hours upon hours picking and sorting, utilizing any excess to make jams for later use. For fun, Hanne and big sister Traute pursued activities typical to that of any child, spending their time playing tennis, visiting the local ice skating rink, skiing or riding bikes. Up until the age of thirteen, Hanne had a wonderful, and for the most part, normal childhood.

But in 1938, everything changed



by Kristen Turner

overnight. The Germans invaded Austria resulting in drastic changes for the entire country. The Germans burned the Jewish temple and began seizing Jewish residents from their home. Hanne and her family lived in daily fear that they would be next. Gas, groceries and other necessities became harder to come by... Things like meat, milk, eggs that were plentiful before were now next to impossible to obtain. Like the other Austrian residents, Hanne's family was limited to whatever scraps their ration cards would allow and sometimes even that was not a guarantee. Hanne recalled a time that her mother desperately walked thirteen miles to find a farmer able to provide her with a dozen eggs, hiding them in a baby stroller out of fear they would get confiscated, before making the thirteen mile trek back home. It wasn't only their starving bellies that suffered during this time. Families were only allowed two pairs of shoes per person each year, forcing her parents to wear theirs paper thin to be able to provide their allotment to their growing daughters. And because of limited access to coal and wood, the classrooms at Hanne's school were so cold that they actually graduated the students a year early.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR - from page 2

Upon graduating, like every male and female her age, Hanne was called into the labor service to act as what can best be described as a farmer's aid. The days, which mostly consisted of field work, were long and she did not get to see her family often. After six months, her role transitioned into more of an active military role, prolonging her time away from her family at a time when bombings were occurring on a daily basis. Along with her troop, she proceeded to make her way west with very little to eat or drink, surrounded by wagons filled with hundreds of people and children crying, all fleeing for their lives, surviving off not much more than an unexplainable sense of inner strength.

After completing her service commitment, a kind American officer, Captain Hagland, offered Hanne a position as a phone operator at the nicest hotel in Salzburg. Hanne was grateful for the job which provided her with a small income but, more importantly, a warm meal each day! The position also allowed her to strengthen her English skills (the area was largely populated with American soldiers at this time) a skill which would became instrumental to her.

In the fall, when trains resumes operating, Hanne quit her job to return to

Vienna. It came as a big shock to Hanne that the Russian zone was so much worse than the American zone. Soldiers were everywhere with guns over their shoulders, gas and electricity were shut off and hospitals were struggling to treat patients. Houses were confiscated at will, including Hanne's home where heartless soldiers would parade through, cutting off branches with ripe fruit from her mother's trees and throwing them away with complete disregard for the family whose mouths that fruit fed or whose hands had tended to those trees.

After a week in Vienna, Hanne wanted to enroll at the University but fate had another idea. As she was crossing the street one day, an American jeep stopped. It was Captain Hagland who recognized Hanne from Salzburg. The Signal Battalion had been transferred to Vienna to take over all communications in Austria and he offered her another opportunity to work as a translator for him, facilitating communication between the American soldiers and Austrian authorities. Captain Hagland also offered her payment in the form of three meals a day and a place to stay in a beautiful home where the other American soldiers, all male, were living.

As one could imagine, being the only

female surrounded by male soldiers, Hanne experienced more than her fair share of romantic advances which she consistently turned down. But when a kind, handsome officer, Lt. Robert J. Parks, asked her to an officers dance, she, albeit hesitantly, accepted. One dance turned into a date, and then another, and yet another, until eventually Bob and Hanne were spending all of their time together. In just a few short weeks, they fell madly in love and Bob, with permission from Hanne's father, asked her to marry him. Bob, wanting to return to his Balboa Island roots, and Hanne unwaveringly trusting her new husband, the pair, with a lot of paperwork and even more patience, were able to make their way to the U.S.

Today, Hanne, 88 years old, lives on the South Bay Front of the Little Island in that same home that Bob grew up in. Though Bob has now passed, Hanne is kept in good company by their children and grandchildren. And, of course, all the neighbors that pass by her bay front home.

From the time she was born up until present day, Hanne's story is deeply rooted with history and has given her a truly unique perspective on life worthy of documenting for future generations to follow.



BIIA Membership

HAPPY NEW YEAR! The year 2014 was an extremely successful one in terms of the BIIA Membership. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who answered the call, and stepped to the plate, and responded to the 2200 letters I sent out encouraging membership. Your money was well spent as evidenced by the Parade, the Taste of Balboa, the Christmas decorations and the Holiday home tour, just to name a few. As we now enter into 2015 I once again

encourage each resident of our beautiful islands to join the BIIA as soon as possible. There is no membership roster included in the edition of The Bridge because Membership commences with each calendar year so NOW is the time to join to insure our budget for all those events and amenities afforded you by these funds. Again, thank you very much for making me look so good.

KristineT@mybiia.com

Please use the enclosed 2015 Membership form to join the BIIA today!

Time to renew for 2015! - Join Today!



What's Blooming.

November Garden 116 Emerald

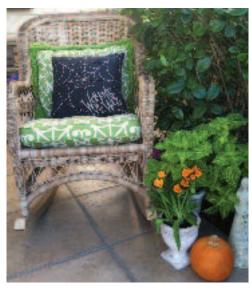


The month of November took us to the Garden of **Lynda Lamberti** at 116 Emerald. Lynda has lived in her home for three years and her love of gardening is evident. Australian willows blow in the breeze at each end of her front patio. I am not sure which loves weaving its way through their branches more: the breezes or the hummingbirds.



Lynda and Tiffany proud winners of the November 2014 Garden of the month.

The next thing you might notice are the hearty roses, and two of Lynda's favorites are "Fame" and "Barbara Streisand". Lynda has always loved gardening and it's design, but due to some physical setbacks, she has enlisted the help of her friend Tiffany of Tiffany Valentine Designs. Lynda does the designing, and Tiffany does the planting. Please stop by and notice how well-placed everything is: by size, by color, and even by fragrance. If you should visit in spring, you will be met by the fragrances of roses, jasmine and gardenias....each planted to greet you as you walk to Lynda's front door. Well done, Lynda!

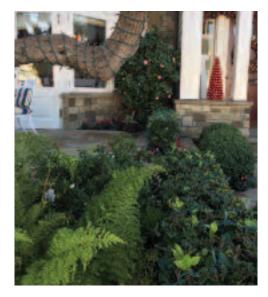


December Garden 35 I East Bay Front

December is such a special time on Balboa and so a garden was chosen that reflects the unique beauty of the holiday season. As you head on to the island over the bridge in the evening, just look to your left and you will see the spectacular lights so beautifully placed at 351 E. Bayfront on the Little Island.

Situated on a corner, the front of the home displays two gorgeous mature olive trees that frame the front of the property.





Camellia bushes surround the atrium and you are greeted by perfectly groomed hedges, bushes and a lawn....all strung with lights for the Christmas season.

As you turn the corner onto the Grand Canal, you notice that this side of the property is fringed by birch trees and a formal rose garden that wraps it's way around around from the front of the property. This home so lovingly displays the wonder of Christmas.

Great Job!



Island Real Estate: 2014 in Review

by Ryan Gunderson

Members of our Island Association and my own clients frequently ask me what our Island real estate market is like. Given that the primary goal of the Association is to continually maintain and help enhance the Island, as well as Island home values, I will be writing updates throughout the year about our Island sales activity. There have been 35 sales reported in the MLS for 2014 as of early December. This number is down from the 41 sales in 2013 and is the lowest since 2009 (there were 50 sales in 2012 and 44 in 2011). The good news is that prices in 2014 remained fairly

steady coming off a robust 2013 market, one in which we saw sizeable increases in value for many Island properties. Demand, while down slightly, is still evident, and inventory continues to remain low which is a good sign for sellers of Island property. There are 16 Island homes for sale as of this writing. Prices this year ranged from \$860,000 for a small, charming cottage to \$7,200,000 for a newer home on South Bayfront. We are hopeful 2015 will be another vibrant year for our Island market!

Ryan G@mybiia.com



BIIA SEAWALL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Jim Dastur



The BIIA Seawall Committee has been fairly active since its formulation on October 9, 2014. Three lengthy meetings of the Committee were held in October and November. After due deliberation, presentations were made on behalf of BIIA to (1) The full City Council, to (2) The Tidelands Management Committee, and to (3) The Harbor Commission at their respective regularly scheduled meetings. They seem to have been well received. The goal is to maintain a line of communication with the City Staff and

with the City Council wherein the views of a large majority of property owners of Balboa Island are reflected in the decision making involving tens of millions of taxpayer dollars.

The message we are conveying to the City at this time is quite basic and seeks the following end result.

- **1.**Provide a structurally sound seawall for Balboa Island for now and for the future.
- 2. Provide a seawall (buttressed with adequate pumping capacity) that protects the Island properties against flooding from a probable combination of king tides, ocean surge, heavy rain fall and other contributory events, now and in the future, recognizing the currently available science and the proposed statutory requirements on rising ocean levels.
- 3. The proposed seawall, whether new or an addition to the current wall, needs to recognize the unique culture and lifestyle associated with Balboa Island along with continued interface with the public at-large and access to its beach es; the solutions under consideration need to preserve property values.
- **4.**The Seawall should be paid out of City funds, recognizing the City's sole responsibility on this issue.

In discussions by Committee members with their friends and neighbors on the Island as well as with local Realtors, the message we get is that the above four stipulations are broadly acceptable. However, everyone knows that the devil is in the details. As more details start to surface BIIA plans to have open meetings with property owners and get feedback on proposed solutions. The Committee will continue to act as a conduit between property owners and the City in finding an end result that is acceptable to a vast majority.

Your thoughts, comments, suggestions are most welcome. They may be addressed to the Committee Chair at jhdastur@aol.com or to any of the other Committee members. The Committee members are John Corrough, Jeff Herdman, Tom Houston (BIIA Board Member), Terry Janssen (BIIA Board President), Dan Mariscal, Lee Pearl (BIIA Board Vice President), and Ken Yonkers (BIIA Board Member & LIBOA President). John Corrough, Dan Mariscal and I also serve on the Citizen's Advisory Panel to the Tidelands Management Committee.

Jamshed Dastur, Chairman BIIA Seawalls Committee

THE ISLAND BRIDGE

Report by Lee Pea

As the new Vice President of the BIIA, I am looking forward to a great year. My wife, **Sue** and I moved to Balboa Island in 2012.

When we purchased our home, I quickly discovered a FEMA flood insurance issue. The interpretation of the FEMA requirements by the City of Newport Beach was forcing Island property owners to tear down their homes rather than to be remodeled.

After bringing it to the attention of some key people that problem was resolved. You can now remodel your home without worry of reaching an unreasonable limit that will force the home to be torn down and the foundation raised. This has allowed new reinvestment in remodeling on the island and has contributed to keeping our cottages as part of the unique character of Balboa Island.

As a member of the BIIA Board I am interested only in what is best for the island. There is an important and delicate

balance that must be maintained between the old and new residents. Recently, I was part of a committee that surveyed the members of the BIIA regarding their opinions and priorities. We will use the information gathered through this survey to sit down as a board and set our goals for the coming year.

My primary goal for 2015 is to enjoy volunteering my time as I work on a personal project to change the departure flight pattern from John Wayne airport and improve our quality of life on the island. I believe there is no logical reason to have 100% of the jet departures flying over the same residents. A fan flight departure pattern would reduce the environmental impacts of noise and pollution on just a small group of residents which includes Balboa Island, Promontory Point and Peninsula Point. This is a major project which will require the support of all our members, the City and other neighborhoods.

We have four new City Council members and our Councilmember **Ed Selich** has been selected as the Mayor. Congratulations to the new City Council.

Terry Janssen and I will be meeting with the City to discuss next year's goals. Some of the items on our list are street



Boats on docks and shore moorings around Balboa Island suffer the same fate at low tide without dredging...no boating today!

condition, sea wall, traffic congestion, beach sand, underground utilities and eel grass (dock dredging). The City has been replacing signs, painting the poles on the street lights and doing other cosmetic work. When you see the City staff working on our island, be sure to thank them for their efforts. They are helping the island maintain it's unique beauty. Please feel free to email me anytime with your thoughts.

NEIGHBORHOOD®WATCH

Newport Beach Police Department asked us to once again distribute the "Tis the season for Thievin" holiday door hangers designed to alert us all on how to take care and be aware!

A major shout out to Will Valdes and Ruby Trestik, Sally and Jeff Herdman's grandchildren, who volunteered to distribute the hangers to both islands! They recruited and were assisted by Avery Allemann, Peyton Kassouf, Peyton Cagle and Tommy Kennedy. These hard working and community minded kids are all students at Ensign Middle School. They earned points toward a total of 30 Community Service points that every student needs to earn during the school year.

A special thanks to **Sally Herdman** who worked very hard to support their efforts!!

I also want to thank **Kristine Taft**, **Dave Mansour** and **Lee & Sue Pearl** for tackling the streets that were not covered by the students.

Well Done All!

Wishing you all a safe and prosperous 2015!



Lynn Winfield

If you would like to get involved in the Neighborhood Watch program, contact Lynn at: lynndixiewinfield@gmail.com

SAFETY TIP: IDENTITY THEFT

- Use only ONE credit card to make all on-line purchases. It is important to make your financial transactions on a secure site which either has an "s" at the end of the "http" or a closed padlock icon in the browser bar. If the padlock is open, it is pretty safe to assume it is not a secure website. You may not see these secure landmarks until you are on the order page. Do not give more information than is absolutely necessary to place the order. Monitor receipts and statements closely. Immediately report suspicious or unusual statement activity. DO NOT use an ATM card to make on-line purchases. It is your financial life.
- Do not place anything with personal information in the trash. Crosscut shred all mail correspondence, bills, and credit card offers, anything that can be used to obtain your personal information.
- Clean out your wallet or purse. Remove any unnecessary credit cards, debit cards, your Social Security card, and other unneeded documents that could compromise your identity if lost or stolen. Place them in a secure location. The more documents you have on you, the more difficult and time-consuming it will be to report and recover from your loss if they are stolen.



As 2015 begins, it's the time for resolutions! How about adding these to your list?

(1) Think safety. (2) Prepare to help yourself, your family and your neighbors in an emergency – with water, food, supplies and information. (3) If you are not already a CERT, take the CERT training.

The Spring Series of CERT classes begins February 24th for the Tuesday-Thursday evening (7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.) series, February 26th for the Thursday day (9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.) series and February 28th for the Saturday all day (8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.) series.

Classes will be held at Newport Beach Fire Station #7 (20401 Acacia), at the top of the Back Bay, and are FREE for Newport Beach residents!

To register, you must complete a CERT program application. Applications are available at: www.nbcert.org or call (949) 644-3112. You will need to register to attend one of the series, but may make up missed classes from any of them. The classes are informative, helpful, and they are interesting!

By Sue & Ed Siebel

(4) If you are already a CERT.:

· Get one of the new badges! Watch your e-mail for announcements of badging events, which will be held a number of times in the Spring.



- Renew and refresh your training. The "Drill the Skills" will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00. Check out all 8 stations, and have a free pizza lunch!
- Consider becoming a CERT Communicator (CERTComm). The 7th annual Newport Beach CERT HAM radio technician class will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 (6:30 to 9:00 p.m.), Thursday, February 5, 2015 (6:30 to 9:00 p.m.), and Saturday February 7, 2015 (8:00 am-5:00 pm). It will meet at Fire

Station #7, (20401 Acacia) at the top of the Back Bay.

The instructor for the class is Gordon West, one of the leading experts on HAM radio in the United States. To register for the class, print out the flyer, follow the registration directions and mail a check directly to Gordon West Radio School. (You cannot register for this class through Newport Beach CERT.)

The cost is a \$60 materials fee, and a \$15 FCC license fee. The class is only offered once a year and fills up quickly, so register soon.

(5) Enjoy our delightful Island! Happy New Year from Balboa Island C.E.R.T.!





Sue and Ed Siebel - CERT Coordinators

BALBOA ISLAND COOKBOOK

The New Balboa Island Cookbook is now available with a diverse collection of over 130 tasty Balboa Island family recipes never before released. It is available at BIIA events, Balboa Island Hotel, Balboa Island Museum, Hershey's Market, or by mail.

To order by mail, send a check for \$15.00/ea. payable to the Balboa Island Improvement Assocation to: BIIA PO Box 64 Balboa Island CA 92662 and indicate the address to which you would like the book(s) delivered.

Proceeds go to the Balboa Island Improvement Association who provide all the wonderful yearly events including island beautification. Please join the BIIA for 2015 so



JON REMY - 714,504,9437 @ 2015 DESIGN & PRODUCTION BY Published by the Balboa Island Improvement association

BALBOA ISLAND IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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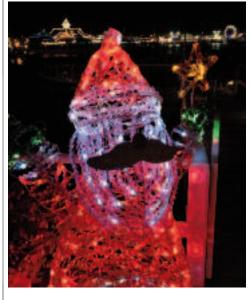


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ne Decoration

By Bill Longfield BillL@mybiia.com



2014 Winners

109 N. Bayfront 335 E. Bayfront **127 Abalone** 129 Agate **308 Amethyst 200 Apolena** 215 Apolena **110 Collins** 308 Collins 202 Coral

204 Coral **202 Grand Canal 220 Grand Canal 300 Grand Canal 106 Garnet 307 Onvx 120 Onal** 316 Sapphire **224 1/2 Rubv**

Annual Winners

309 E. Bayfront 351 E. Bayfront 201 N. Bayfront 209 N. Bayfront 140 S. Bayfront 304 S. Bayfront

526 S. Bayfront 538 S. Bayfront 710 S. Bayfront 802 S. Bayfront 216 Coral 119 Crystal

200 Crystal 215 Crystal 201 Emerald **311 Onvx** 117 Ruby 118 Sapphire **125 Turquoise 131 Turquoise 133 Turquoise**

Commercial Winners

Le Petit Jardin

Amelia's

Wilma's Patio

Jon Remy

Volunteer Judges

Julie Prouty

Bill & Cynthia Longfield (Event Chairman)

> Lee Cassidy (Co-Chairman)

Lee & Sue Pearl Ken & Irene Yonkers

Terry & Patti Janssen Ralph & Penny Rodheim

Steve & Ronnie Bromberg Chuck Cencibaugh

Jim & Holly Farason Alice Dear Paul & Michele Meyer

Mary Pat Earl Anita Rovsek

Casey Brazeel Stephanie & Carah Reddin Kristen & Riley Ridge Kristin Currey

Bridgette Campbell Nina Hemingway

Lawrence Hemingway Michelle Terrill Lou & Colleen DeSandro Steve & Deborah Epstein Gary & Leslie Marshall Mimi Toberman Vicki Frank Gina and Eric Bryant Brittany and Luke Hamer Lexi Khandjian Lora and Mark Khandjian Cheryl Heyman Marcy Fowler Angela Glaser & Roger Gail Vasterling Sue Podany Bob De Nunzo

Michelle Loven

Jeanne Curry

Cathy Saari

Suzanne Goldstein Jean Wesokowski Mark Montebano Tim & Jackie Dollander Gilbert Luna Eric Bozza Marlo Bozza Melisa Bozza Leeann Tuevo Charlotte Sheppard Ed and Georgett Ariole Shelly Allard Jean Ruston Don and Tanya Larsen Suzy McLaughlin Jill Adams Marialena & Angelo Puertas **Bob Hogue** Gayle Garseau Becky Cooper