

# THE ISLAND BRIDGE

**WINTER  
2016**

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

## **BIIA JANUARY-MARCH 2016 CALENDAR**

**Saturday, February 20**  
**General Membership Meeting**  
**8:30am**

**Wednesday, March 16**  
**Board Meeting**  
**6:00pm**

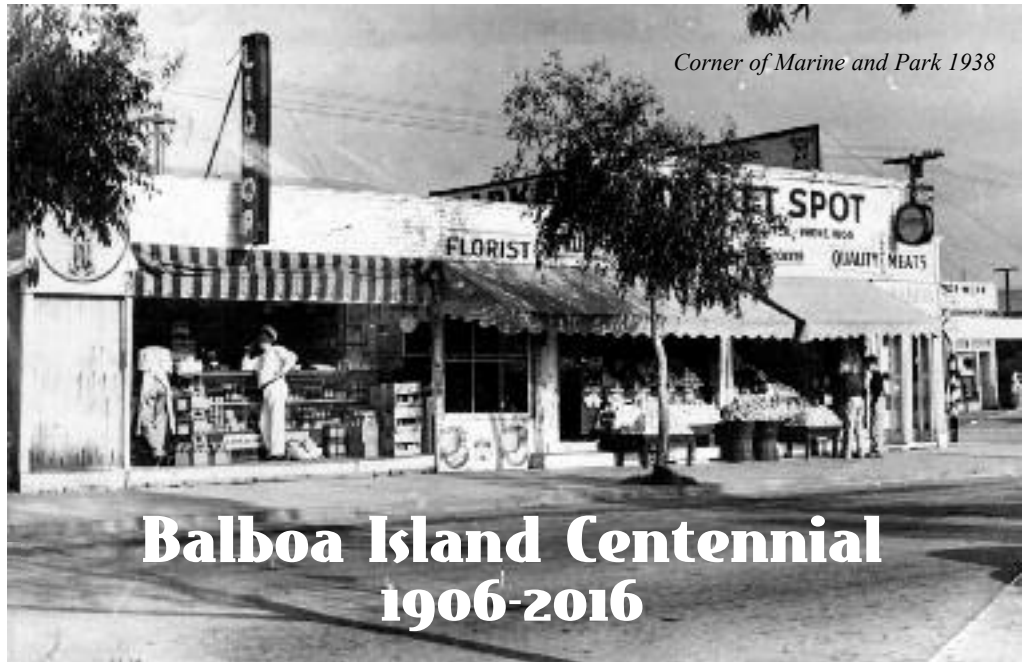


*All General Membership Meetings  
are held at the Fire Station*

**Join BIIA in 2016!**  
**Membership Form**  
**Inside!**

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*Corner of Marine and Park 1938*

## **Balboa Island Centennial 1906-2016**

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*By Lee Pearl*



It's an honor to be the newly-elected President of the Balboa Island Improvement Association. As for this issue of The Bridge, it's the centennial—that's right, it's been 100 years since Balboa Island became a part of the City of Newport Beach.

Honorary Co-chairs **Shirley Pepys** and **Seymour Beek**, and a Centennial Committee are already planning localized events to help us celebrate this historic occasion.

In the past few years, the BIIA has dealt with some interesting challenges, and made sure we have a lot more to celebrate. In order to make sure we, the residents, can make improvements to our property, in 2013 the BIIA helped amend the City building restrictions under FEMA requirements. This change allows owners to make significant improvements to their properties without resorting to tear-

downs. If you tried to remodel before the change, you know just how much of an obstacle those requirements used to be.

A Park Avenue Bridge update is included in this issue. We have held community meetings and invited City officials to make sure you were heard during the design. The construction has many changes from your important input into the process.

Rather than affecting individual homeowners, the proposed height increase of the seawall (remember the rubber markers on the wall at 9 1/2 to 10 feet) would have impacted the island as a whole—particularly our views and access to our beaches. Fortunately, the BIIA teamed up with local engineer and resident **James Dastrup** and formed a committee to provide the City with alternatives that wouldn't interrupt our quality of life. Today, the seawall remains an important safety feature, not a source of irritation.

*Continued on page 2*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - from page 1

And as for my role in all this, with the support of the BIIA, I was able to independently review the FAA plans for the future John Wayne Airport departures with an eye—and ear—toward noise and pollution that affected our island. The outcome of the efforts remains to be seen, but we are hopeful that an improvement is in the works.

If you've ever watched PBS, you probably know where this is going: much as PBS puts on some great programming and can only survive with public donations and sponsorships, the BIIA provides similar great programs and benefits to Balboa Island. We decorate, coordinate, advocate, and communicate.

Beautification and quality of life are our highest priorities. Everything we do is paid for by voluntary memberships and several fundraisers, with the Holiday Home Tour being the largest. Please consider investing in a membership. As PBS always says, we hope you'll give based on the benefit you feel you receive. The BIIA is here to benefit all that live on the island, homeowners and renters alike. We work for everyone on the island!

Your donation supports the efforts of a very impressive 2016 Board of Directors! The Board includes members who have been residents for fifty-plus years, and boasts the skills of a CPA, executives, real estate professionals, financial planners and many other skill sets and also includes three past Presidents: **Tom Houston, Jack Callahan** and **Terry Janssen**. Welcome to our four new directors, Kristin Curry, Tanner Hill, Tom Popplewell, and Josh Yocam.

The Board, myself and everyone else involved in the BIIA have an aggressive plan to make the island a greater place to live, but we can only do it with the support of our residents. Our new 2016 goals are included in this issue totally focused on our Mission Statement.

Make sure you join our fine Museum. They have contributed to this Centennial addition of the Bridge. Thanks for becoming a member, and for allowing me to lead the BIIA in 2016.



By Mark Vukojevic, Deputy Public Works Director/City Engineer

Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration issued the authorizations to proceed with bidding and construction. The construction contract will be brought to City Council in February. The temporary bridge construction is expected to start sometime in March, followed by the closure of the Park Avenue bridge in April. After we receive the bids and select the contractor in February we will have additional dates to share with the Island. In order to capture some of time lost while waiting for Federal action, the contract allows the contractor to work during all possible daylight hours from 7AM to 7PM, Monday through Saturday. This provision was designed to provide the contractor the maximum productivity while reducing the construction duration. [mvukojevic@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:mvukojevic@newportbeachca.gov)

## MEMBERSHIP

By Tanner Hill



Dear Members,  
I would like to introduce myself as the new membership chairman of the BIIA for 2016, and give you a brief background on myself, as well as detail some of the plans I have for membership this year!

I am a third generation resident of Newport Beach and have family roots in Balboa dating back to the early 1950's when my grandfather founded Hill's Boat Service located directly next to the Pavilion, which is still family owned & operated to this day. I have now lived on Balboa Island for nearly 3 years, and I am also involved with the Balboa Island Museum & Historical Society as a board member. It was through the museum I got my start in volunteering here on the Island. Professionally, I have been a residential real estate agent for 5 years, and work for HOM Sotheby's International, a locally based company with an office on Marine Ave. When I am not working or helping with my various roles on the Island you might find me cruising the coastal waters on my family's 1924 antique wooden sport-fisher, Colnett, I have been an avid boater and waterman for my entire life and it remains a passion to this day.

In my role I plan to implement new methods, using technology, to make the

membership process more efficient and eventually entirely automated. The goal is to spend less time processing membership applications so more time can be spent working with the members, addressing needs, and growing the membership base. We will slowly be moving away from the current method of the application inserted in the Bridge to a more direct approach. This year every member will receive a letter to their home as well as an email letter, providing the option to pay with a check by mail, online via a link provided with the email, or directions to payment via the BIIA website. Using this technology, we can reach our members much quicker and with more certainty that the information is delivered. I encourage everyone to give this new method a try, however sending a check by mail along with a completed application is still just as welcome! Please feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions or concerns, and let's make it a great Centennial for our Island!

Sincerely,

Tanner Hill  
BIIA Membership Chairman 2016  
949.433.9563  
[thill@homgroup.com](mailto:thill@homgroup.com)



## BIIA BULLETIN BOARD

**Centennial Art Project**

The September Centennial Celebration is the main event of the Centennial Committee. Several art concepts are being discussed including a bronze sculpture depicting life on the island and a painted wall mural of historic Balboa Island. The City of Newport Beach will co-sponsor a public art project if we can raise matching funds. This is one of the exciting ways we can celebrate our 100 year history. We hope to find a large donor for the sculpture that will receive permanent recognition for their generous support.

**Centennial Celebration  
Hold The Date**

One hundred years needs to be celebrated! Hold the date, April 16th in the evening for the Centennial kickoff celebration at Harborside Pavilion. The bands you love will be featured and we will honor some of the families that have made the island their homes for almost a century. Proceeds will help fund the art project with many opportunities for sponsorship. For more information contact Alex @ Poshevents.net

**2016 Centennial Classic Concert Series**

As a part of Balboa Island Centennial Celebration, the BIIA, The City and St. Vianney Chapel thanks to the gracious cooperation of Monsignor Beard will continue to host a series of concerts. We also expect the Downtown Business Association may also continue to participate in the events. Save March 16th and May 4th for the first two concerts of the year. Other possible concerts are being planned along with a free event at the park or bayfront area. Tickets are \$10 and will be available after February 15th at Island Home on Marine Avenue. Special thanks to Ralph and Penny Rodheim for spearheading these great new cultural activities for our residents! Contact Ralph at [ralph@boats4rent.com](mailto:ralph@boats4rent.com) to help plan and/or underwrite these events.

# 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 soon. We will announce the arrival on the bridge marquee and via Constant Contact.



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH BELGIUM BRISKET

1 (4lb) brisket  
1 bottle Heinz chili sauce  
1 bottle of beer  
1 package Lipton onion soup mix

Place brisket in a covered roasting pan. Mix chili sauce, beer and dry soup mix; pour over brisket. Bake covered at 350 degrees for about 3 hours. Slice and serve with the delicious sauce. Great served with rice or pasta.

*Balboa Island resident Mary Anne Hunt*



by Leigh Kelly

# What's Blooming!

## December Garden 114 Crystal Avenue



Photos: Leigh Kelly

The Brown family: Scott, Maggie, Casey, Chris, and golden retriever Kai.

As 2015 comes to a close, I bring you a home and garden with a rich history: 114 Crystal Ave. The **Brown** family has lived on this property since 1978.

growing family: **Molly** born first, and twins **Casey** and **Chris** arriving later.

Maggie was able to show me, rather than tell me, where her love of gardening began. It began just two doors down--in a vegetable victory garden her grandfather planted during WWII. It is still there, next to a paddle court. Maggie Brown is a third-generation islander, and her husband Scott, a second-generation islander. Just as their house has transformed, so has their garden. Originally, the garden depicted a traditional Americana look. A little over a year ago, though, Maggie started transitioning the outside to have it feel more like the British West Indies (aka the Tommy Bahama look). Come by and admire her work and see if you can spot the transition. Stay for a minute and admire the tree house moved to the front from her grandparents' property (the kids' favorite place to hang out). Well done, Brown family. We love it all!

## January Garden 104 Onyx Avenue



Joan in front of her flowerbed



Originally, **Scott** and **Maggie** purchased a "shack" here--and loved the fact that it was just a few houses down from Maggie's grandparents' home. The home you see now is the third one built by the Browns in order to accommodate their

of anything growing, Joan put her green thumb to work. She has learned her gardening craft from a gardener she had when she lived in Mission Viejo. A man by the name of **John Wollfeil** taught her how, and what, to plant...and if her gar-



Grandchildren making gingerbread houses next to the jasmine vine's lights.

dening style looks familiar, just head on over to Rogers Gardens and you can see the same style. John Wollfeil worked there, as well. Joan tells me that her tiny garden is perfect for the style she calls "knowing what to plant and smooshing it all into a small space". (Think Rogers Gardens' potted arrangements on a larger scale.)

The Rootens' outdoor living area is their side patio. One wall is covered by a jasmine vine with teeny tiny twinkle lights woven into it. The rest of their patio is well-planted garden boxes with mother fern, boxwoods, coleus, spring flowers and even a healthy vegetable garden. Joan's front "smooshed" flowerbeds and window box are a perfectly planted mix of succulents, cabbages, and spring flowers that highlight Iceland poppies (her favorite). She hand waters everything so that the succulents don't get too much water. Well done, Joan! You do great things in small spaces. John would be proud of all you have learned.



# Balboa Island 1906-2016



## Balboa Island...In the Beginning

Balboa Island was literally lifted from the sea due to the efforts of **William Steppe Collins**. In 1906, Collins began dredging around a two-acre mud flat at in Newport Bay, and within a few years he had created the 160 acre residential island that exists today.



William Steppe Collins

Collins spent years taking risks and accumulating capital, eventually gambling most of it on Balboa Island. His friends laughed when he spent \$50,000 in 1902 on an 880-acre sliver of Newport Beach land that included discarded sand bars. When he petitioned Congress to declare the area a swampland, he was awarded 1,100 acres, 220 more than he requested. He subdivided his holdings into 10,000 lots and put them up for sale.

From 1902 - 05, Collins promoted and developed the Peninsula, and in 1906, he turned his attention to the construction of Balboa Island. He continued to dredge Balboa Island from 1907-08 and carved out his own private island at the west end where he built an elegant home named Collins' Castle.



Lots were advertised for \$300, yet the island was only accessible by boat and a narrow foot bridge. Promises of a luxury resort, central park, auto racetrack, and

Camp Tucker on what is now called Little Balboa Island.



highway link between Long Beach and Corona Del Mar only existed in Collins' imagination.

In reality, fleas were plentiful and buried sewage washed up at high tide. To make the former sand bar inhabitable, Collins laid sidewalks around the perimeter, brought in water and electric power, and started constructing protective bulwark, which was completed by the City after Collins departed in 1916.

In 1914, when Newport Harbor booster groups discouraged Collins' plans for a luxury gambling resort on the east end of the island, Collins donated 28 lots to the Covina Masonic Home for orphans to use as a summer camp. For over 25 years, the Home Kids gleefully anticipated their memorable summers at

*Excerpts from a compilation by Bob Lambert from the archives of the Los Angeles Times and Los Angeles Herald Examiner*

*History and archive photos provided by*  
**The Balboa Island Museum**



**info@balboaislandmuseum.org**  
**949-675-3952**  
**www.balboaislandmuseum.org**

# Meet Your Neighbors



by Kristen Turner

## Meet the Longfields



Bill & Cynthia in cruising by their "Boat House"

Meet **Bill and Cynthia Longfield**, a Collins Avenue couple as cheery and bright as a summer day on Balboa Island. Residents of the historic "Boathouse" on the corner of Collins and Topaz built in 1929, the Longfield's illustrious residence was rumored to have once been a party house for the the **Lord & Taylor** clan during the prohibition era. With deeply rooted history beneath their feet and an active hand in the community for over 15 years, the Longfields are, literally and figuratively, a masthead for Balboa Island.

Bill, a Southern California native, was born and raised in Orange County along with his two siblings. After attending university at California State University of Long Beach where he earned his degree in Marketing, Bill literally had a wakeup-and-smell-the-coffee experience upon entering the workforce and took a job selling coffee. A few years and countless cappuccino sales later, Bill was hooked on the buzz of outside sales (or was that the espresso?). In either case, Bill's expertise in the niche craft roasted coffee market ultimately landed him at his current role with **Peerless Coffee** with the highly competitive Southern California territory. Today, Pelican Hill Resort,

Bluewater Grill and Balboa Bay Club, along with most of the other yacht clubs in Newport Beach, are included amongst his long list of customers.

Born into a big family including seven siblings, Cynthia grew up in Northern California. Her parents, competitive dancers, not only introducing her to the love of dance but also an appreciation for exploring the world. Cynthia followed in their footsteps, pun intended, and studied abroad in Mexico City where she picked up various forms of dance including ballet, flamenco, and jazz to name a few. Her extensive knowledge of dance and passion for physical health led her to pursue an education in dance, becoming the first to receive the Pilates and Dance Conditioning Certification through Orange Coast College. She was also the recipient of a dance scholarship with great recognition from Director of Dance Karen Shanley in 2001 and continued her education by receiving certification in the Gyrotonic® method, offering similar benefits to those found through yoga, dance, gymnastics, swimming and tai chi.

Bill and Cynthia were set up by mutual friends and met on a blind date. Yes, that thing that people did before the days of Match.com and E-Harmony. Turns out their friends made pretty good matchmakers (after all, few things in life go together as perfectly as a strong cuppa-joe and a killer workout) and it wasn't long before Bill and Cynthia were married. It has been 25 years since tying the knot and 15 years since they moved to Balboa Island, a place where they have made their selves at home with the culture and the community.

Today, Cynthia is the owner and operator of Pilates by the Sea where she offers primarily private lessons for an elite group of time-crunched clientele seeking an effective yet sustainable exercise to support their fitness goals, extracurricular activities from surfing to skiing, and fit into their demanding schedules. Bill became involved with the Balboa Island

Improvement Association and in his time as a director, has overseen many of the Island's most celebrated events. Bill is also the mastermind behind the Taste of Balboa Island which he spearheaded in 2012, bringing together the Island's restauranteers and residents. Bill isn't the only Longfield with a taste for good food and good company. Cynthia enjoys cooking, primarily raw and vegan options to fuel her active lifestyle, but according to her sous chef hubbie, she can also whip up mean Paella.

When the Longfields are not on the island, French-pressing Sumatra or toning tuchuses, they can typically be found in Mexico or at their vacation home in La Quinta, hiking, playing tennis or lounging poolside. Bill also has plans to update his private pilot license promising many more exciting travels for the Longfields in the years to come. But despite a wanderlust spirit, there is still no place like home to the Longfields.

When asked what makes Balboa Island so special, their answer is simple: the people. So next time you find yourself strolling the Island, be sure to stop by and say hi to your neighbors!



## COMING SOON!

Pilates by the Sea is now offering small group classes for those seeking a challenging workout in a friendly environment. For full schedule, along with a list of upcoming classes, special events and workshops, please visit [pilatesbythesea.com](http://pilatesbythesea.com).





# NEWS AND NOTES

By Sue & Ed Siebel

## Rain and Resolutions!



The Island came through our first set of El Nino storms at the end of December and early January in good shape. There was only a bit of curb overflow and a few good “stomp-in-‘em” puddles for the rain booted kids. We were lucky that the rains didn’t occur at a time of extra high king tides and/or on-shore winds.

However, there are more storm sets predicted for the months until April. Next time(s) we might not be so lucky. That’s where resolutions for the New Year come in!

### Resolve to (soon!):

1. Check your roof for any leaks that need to be repaired, and get them fixed, before the upcoming rains.

2. Check any gutters that you have to be sure they are cleaned out and runoff goes to a good draining spot.

3. Consider a rain barrel under a gutter spout to collect rain to water your garden, wash the car or some other future use.

4. Look over your doors, garage door, any other openings to your house (dog doors?!) to see if they should be sand-bagged to prevent “run-in” water.

Note: Ten (10) sand bags are available without cost to Island residents, with residential identification, at The City Yard,



592 Superior Ave. 949-644-3055. Mondays through Fridays, 7:00 a.m. to 3:30pm. [www.newportbeachca.gov/government/departments/municipal-operations/storm-drains/flooding-and-sandbag-information](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/government/departments/municipal-operations/storm-drains/flooding-and-sandbag-information)>.

5. Stock up on food and water supplies so



that you do not have to make extra trips out in the rain and slippery streets.

6. And, speaking of going out, plan to be extra careful if you do have to drive in the rain!!

7. Prepare for a cozy day, indoors on the couch, with a warm throw, a good book, a cup of something hot to drink, and soup for dinner cooking on the stove. ☺

*A safe and happy winter to all Islanders*



Sue and Ed Siebel - CERT Coordinators



## CORNER



## Associate Director Program

Our Association is all volunteers and last year, BIIA Board Member Scott Sibley introduced an Associate Director Program. It is a way for you to try us out before you fully commit your time to the Board. Please consider joining us as an Associate Director. You will be as involved as you like and can be a part our efforts to make life great for our residents. Please contact **Kristine Taft** at [kristineT@mybiia.com](mailto:kristineT@mybiia.com)



## Volunteers Needed!

We are expanding our volunteer base. From planting flowers in our public areas to docents at the home tour, volunteers for the parade we love our volunteers. Please contact **Sue Sibley** at [sueS@mybiia.com](mailto:sueS@mybiia.com)

## BALBOA ISLAND IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

### 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### PRESIDENT

**Lee Pearl**

LeeP@mybiia.com

#### VICE PRESIDENTS

**Jack Callahan**

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**Kristine Taft**

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**Tanner Hill**

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**Phone: 949-675-1773**

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### Balboa Island Improvement Association Mission Statement and Goals for 2016

#### BIIA Mission Statement:

*To promote a sense of community while enhancing our island's beauty, safety and livability while preserving our unique culture.*

**Goal:** Increase BIIA membership.

**Goal:** Use technology to increase efficiency, communication and streamline the member billing process.

**Goal:** Encourage Board members to broaden their overall knowledge of local issues and concerns.

**Goal:** Participate in and distribute information related to infrastructure projects and programs on the island.

**Goal:** Increase participation at our meetings by holding all general meetings at the fire station.

**Goal:** Continue to look for ways to reduce expenses.

**Goal:** Determine methods to deal with animal sanitation issues on the sidewalk.

**Goal:** Continue to be active and informed on local and regional issues.

**Goal:** Promote the Associate Director Program.

**Goal:** Maintain or expand the beautification effort on the island.

**Goal:** Maintain or expand efforts in providing activities for residents.

**Goal:** Fund-raise as appropriate to meet the goals and mission of the BIIA.

**Goal:** Re-evaluate the parade to insure it is consistent with the BIIA mission.

**Goal:** Support CERT efforts to help prepare island residents for emergencies and natural disasters.

**Goal:** Support efforts of the Balboa Island Museum.



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**

### Doggie Bag Dispenser Sponsorship



There are several prime locations to display your year-long ad or message.

Help the BIIA offset the \$3,000 cost of purchasing doggie bags and help keep your island clean.

**For more info contact:  
Jon Remy – jtremy@yahoo.com**