

THE ISLAND

BRIDGE

APRIL-JUNE
2021

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



MUSEUM CELEBRATING LOCAL ARTISTS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Terry Janssen*

It is just as easy to read your **Island Bridge** and set it back on the coffee table cover down. The important thing here is a list of the vendors and merchants that financially support the Balboa Island Improvement Association listed on the back cover. We truly appreciate their support and I ask that you support them when needing their services. I didn't forget the over five hundred families and friends that have already paid their 2021 membership dues in support of their community.

As of my writing Orange and LA counties have entered the ORANGE tier and are soon to be out of that one shortly. Soon I feel we'll be on our way to the new normal (whatever that may be) and that means for us Islanders that we begin resuming fun Island activities. The first scheduled event will take place on July 31st at Ruby Beach. Its our annual **Sand Castle Contest** headed up by Professor **Chris Crosson**. Most of you have seen his skills on the bay front with the many different structures he creates. I'm calling on all kids to get your creative juices flowing and plan to join in the fun.

Remember those concerts during August in the parks. We are planning for at least a couple during March. Many of you have asked about our annual Parade normally the first Sunday in June. We are planning our golf cart parade again (remember what a hit it was last year). For those of you that have electric carts get those creative juices flowing and decorate you cart and plan to enter the parade. If things continue to go well we'll continue concerts in the park and then that Island Favorite the Pancake Breakfast (free to BIIA Members).

One of the biggest comments I hear is "DOG POOP". Several years ago we tested the services of a company by the name of the Pet Butler (that's another name for a company that picks up poop) on the Bay Front. It looks like will test their services again this year during the summer months. Hopefully that will help. Remember last Christmas/Holiday Season Tree Lighting and Golf Cart Parade in December. Over seventy golf carts participated and decorated their vehicles. If you attended I think you'll agree that it was a bigger hit than the normal Snow Day and Tree Lighting. We're seriously considering making that an annual tradition. That's enough for now and have a great 2021 summer!

THE ISLAND BRIDGE

APRIL-JUNE 2021



Photo: Alexis Triepke

Umbrella Installation at the Balboa Island Museum Newport Beach

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We need volunteers to keep Balboa Island clean, SIGN UP!

- Beach Cleanup
- Trash Can Cleaning
- Litter Removal
- Dog Dispenser Cleaning

Contact Jack Callahan:
949.887.7756

BALBOA ISLAND IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION



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Owner, Allison Northrup

BIKINI ALLY is, you guessed it, a new bikini store located at 215 1/2 Marine Ave. and this upscale boutique offers all the latest styles from lines such as Frankie's Bikinis, L Space, Vitamin A, Luli Fama, Bond Eye and many more. You will also find travel bags, flip flops, tees, sweatshirts and cover ups that will take you beach to street on your next adventure. The shop also has great gift ideas such as candles, jewelry, hats and gift cards too.

This family owned and operated bikini business was founded in San Clemente by a mom, Ally, with three teenage daughters who noticed a need for on-trend, quality swim and "San Clemente" apparel. Now the family is delighted to bring the concept to Balboa Island and become part of the wonderful community that makes the island so special.

Thank you for your support Islanders!

WELCOME

New Island Business!



UNDER COVER

By Pete Weitzner –
Co-Producer, “The Golden Age of Newport Harbor”

Tiffany Pepys Hoey hatched the idea a year ago. Then local artists started approaching. “Becomes a domino effect,” Pepys Hoey said.

The idea the Balboa Island Museum Newport Beach executive director sketched out was to feature several local artists in the museum’s gallery, which greets visitors at they enter 210 Marine Avenue. “Celebrating Our Local Artists” went live in mid-March featuring five artists.

“We’ve had other artists individually, never together like this, Pepys Hoey said. It’s the color and style that came together to make it cohesive. Bright. Cheerful.”

Mixed-media specialist **Marie Lavallee** was one of those featured in the past in her own museum exhibit. She helped Tiffany get the ball rolling.

“The museum is such a fun environment to be in, Lavallee said. I hang around with a lot of other women artists. Two of my friends, I thought their work would be a good fit with the museum. And I introduced them to Tiffany.

Those artists were fellow another mixed-media specialist, **Lara Ralston**, and the unique glass weaving artist, **Lynleigh Love**. Meet our artists on the following pages.

Continued on page 4



LYNLEIGH "LYN" LOVE



“Absolutely thrilled, love the other artists, they’re colorful, lively, Love said. The artists are all local, but diverse in art and background.

Take **Love**, who signs her work Lynleigh and transitioned from a 25-year career as a geologist, to work at her hobby fulltime.

“Hung up my hard hat,” Love said.

As a geologist, she’d spend her time drilling and sampling, looking for soil and groundwater contamination. Love fused her two careers.

“There’s a high degree of science in working with woven glass. You have to be fairly precise,” Love said as she fused her two careers.

She’s been perfecting her glass-weaving over the last decade and is quite possibly the only glass sculptor of her kind in the world.

“Might be one or two others who do detailed glass weaving, Love said. Takes a lot of time. It’s quite difficult. I’ve never met anyone who does it quite the way I do...the transitional colors.”

Love has five pieces on the wall and some dishes – “smaller versions of the wall weave.”



Love’s glass-woven sculptures can each take the artist upwards of 50 hours

JAN STEELE



Steele met Hoey when she was a volunteer at the museum’s cottage location just over the bridge. She had moved down to her Little Island beach cottage in 1998 and loves to paint scenes around the bay.

“Paint something you love, and that other people love, Steele said. Here it’s Balboa images.”

The Pavilion, the famous couple on the bench on South Bay Front – Herman and Lois Dorkin, sculpted by another local artist, Miriam Baker – and the sea lions on the pier at the end of Crystal are just some of her favorites.

“A good friend would go around taking photos on the Island, best in morning or evening, Steele said. I painted from those for a long time, sold most of them in the art walks, lot of old boats. Did one of a blue heron.”

Besides being the ultimate local, her art fit perfectly into the gallery theme of “boats, birds and water.”



*“Paint what you love, what has emotional attachment.”
– Little Island Resident Jan Steele*



MARIE LAVALLEE



Lavallee transitioned from a career in jewelry design. “Late bloomer”, the native of Quebec City said. Her hometown, birthplace of Cirque du Soleil, is famous for its devotion to art of all forms.

“I always had it in me, Lavallee said. I said to my husband, ‘once the kids go to college.’”

“My problem is choosing which idea to work on.” She started working with scrabble letters, then coins.

“Now I’m working with stamps. The trick is to distill it in language that is relatable...like working with birds. It’s nature...pleasant for the viewer and brings the sense of wonder, evokes the word wow.”

Lavallee paints “with a lot of gusto and a quirky sense of humor.” She just finished “Mr. Positive,” a bird of dimes and pennies, gazing optimistically while on a sign that says WRONG WAY.

One of her first works was a whale made of scrabble letters, “Balboa is S’Whale sold in a week.

“It’s everything to me. It’s geography. It’s a family together, playing scrabble. It’s fun.”

Her art meshes with Curator Hoey’s eye.

“Very, very receptive. That’s a great quality of Tiffany, she’s looking for stuff that’s different.”

What’s helped this gallery stand out is what hovers above – an installation of colorful umbrellas.

“Ceiling exhibits have become very popular, Pepys Hoey said. Birds, beach balls...March 13 was National Open an Umbrella Indoors Day.”

“Sherman Library & Gardens, features a large umbrella installation just past it’s entrance in Corona del Mar. (The Museum just partnered with Sherman on a joint exhibit. “Elegance Afloat: Yachts from a Bygone Era,” is at Balboa’s museum.)”

The exhibit tells visitors “umbrellas (are a) universal symbol for protections from the storms of life...In ancient cultures of the Far East, Africa, and Europe the umbrella represented royalty and power.”

And the umbrellas work.

“More engagement from this exhibit than any other,” Hoey said. People are enthralled. They stand there. They’re amazed.”

All the artists credit Pepys Hoey’s vision, her and design and curating expertise.

“It’s a fabulous exhibit, Steele said. Tiffany’s done a great job of connecting them, of pulling up that theme. Plus, it’s near the front of that museum. it’s a privilege to be part of it.”

The local-artists exhibit succeeds a collection from Wyland, the world-renowned marine-life artist.

This gallery will be around through spring. All the artists have several pieces, and no small thing, they’re all selling. Come summer, Pepys Hoey wants to continue the new tradition, anew.

“People, artists want to be in here,” she said.

It’s just such an honor. It’s a dream,” Love said.

Also new and greeting visitors before they reach the “umbrella exhibit,” are the Bathing Beauties, which back in the 20s attracted lot buyers to the island. The pieces of art are on display in the museum window.

May brings another new exhibit, “Boats on the Bay,” courtesy of Duffy-boat inventor, Marshall “Duffy” Duffield.

Visit Balboa Island Museum Newport Beach – enjoy the local artists gallery and discover Newport Harbor’s rich history. Monday – Thursday 10am to 4pm, Friday – Sunday 10am to 5pm. Free general admission. Become a member. balboaislandmuseum.org/become-a-member/

LOCAL ARTIST LINEUP:

Marie Lavallee

Costa Mesa, mixed media

Jan Steele

Little Island, oil painting

Lynleigh “Lyn” Love

North Tustin, glass weaving

Lara Ralston

Irvine, mixed media

Fred Zolan

Pacific Palisades, photography

Senior Buzz



by Diane Mondini, *Caring Companions At Home*

Cleaning Tips to Help You Spring Into Action

Spring Cleaning is a great way to usher in the new season. A “good tidying up” has many positive benefits. A clean home reduces allergies and improves concentration. If you happen to be one of the 77% of Americans who suffer from stress, you might just find cleaning helpful in relieving anxiety and stress.

While stress and overwhelming emotions are among the day-to-day realities we face during the pandemic, we must remember that, for older adults, long periods of isolation can be even more traumatic. Lack of cognitive stimulation, according to the American Geriatrics Society, can exacerbate the need to stockpile and accumulate things, making spring cleaning and regular decluttering a necessity for seniors and families who wish to help their seniors stay safe at home. From simple justifications to sentimental reasons, things can accumulate fast. The emotional need to make a purchase or take items home simply because it is free, contributes to the clutter cycle that ends up draining seniors emotionally, financially, and physically.

Helping older adults need not be overwhelming. Here are some helpful tips that may make the process a little easier this year:

A Little Goes A Long Way

Cleaning can quickly become overwhelming without a strategy. Start with a Spring Clean Plan and a Checklist. Take your time and tackle one or two tasks each day will make sorting and cleaning feel more manageable. The results from the tasks you complete each day will help motivate you and keep you focused on the next task on your list. Enlist the help of family members and professional caregivers who can make sure to keep the experience positive. Cleaning out the refrigerator, pantry and medicine cabinet are important items to include in your list. Checking smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and changing batteries each season are good practices to adopt.

Work Smart

While creating a safer environment is the goal, follow general safety precautions while getting the spring clean-

ing done. Avoid possible falls by using dusters that have an “extender” to help clean the spots that are difficult to reach. Refrain from climbing ladders and stools. Other useful tools include a cordless vacuum, an appropriately sized broom, and a standing dustpan. Make it a fun “family” event and schedule different family members to take turns helping with each area. If enlisting the help of family members and close friends is not an option, a professional caregiver, even with 3 to 4 hours each week, can do wonders to lighten the load of spring cleaning and decluttering. They would also be able to help in other areas of your loved one’s daily activities, such as safety supervision, healthy meal planning and preparation and household chores like linen change and laundry.

Clear Out The Clutter

Create an activity out of sorting. Sort items by using bins or boxes that are pre-labeled “to keep” or “for donation.” Keep the mood positive with your senior loved one. There is no need to make them feel bad about having accumulated “things” throughout the years. Encourage them to talk about the items and allow them to tell the stories that are associated with the memories. You just might learn more history and fun facts about your senior. By planning it out, using bins and sorting the clutter, you will start to distinguish what you truly need versus the things that can be donated or given away. Bins that hold items that are needed often, should be easily accessible by the senior. Some craft supplies, holiday decorations and gardening items may be stored on the higher shelf. Make sure to keep pathways clear of too many items. Area rugs are huge safety hazards for seniors and needs to be removed altogether or secured to the floor.

When You Can’t Decide

If you or your senior loved one find yourselves with a box of miscellaneous items and you simply can’t decide what to do with it, shut the box and put it aside. Set a 3-month deadline and mark your calendar. Keep the box closed and donate it to your local charity without looking. Feel free to apply this to reading materials, toys, and clothes that you swear you would wear or fit in to someday.

Grand Canal to Add Parking Structure



by Ken Yonkers

The City's longtime challenge to make Grand Canal "Grand" has finally come to an end. The seawall is near the end of its useful life and the City's Public Work Department came to an agreement with the California Coastal Commission, the County, and Federal officials. Starting in September, the seawalls will be replaced. However, they will be the support of a one story parking structure on both sides of the bridge over Grand Canal. Forty four (44) parking spaces will be added. The south side of the structure will be able to accommodate small concerts and City fire work displays.

We asked Public Works Director, **Dave Webster**, "Why did the residents not get an opportunity to weigh in?" He stated; "Since it involves the bridge, it is not only a City project. This involves other agencies such as the Federal Highway Administration, the State, the County, and the California Coastal Commission. We tried for years to properly dredge the Canal. It repeatedly needs maintenance. The new seawall and parking structure support will be built so dredging and maintenance is no longer necessary. This will save the City millions of dollars over several years. The new structure will also provide much needed shelter and protection of endangered species including the delicate Eel Grass."

The Marine Avenue Merchant Association is elated. We asked new President **Cynthia Shaferson** what she thought. "This will enable many more people to come to our beautiful Island, park, enjoy, and patronize the local shops. This is a big win for the Island and Marine Avenue."

Current District 5 Councilman **Noah Bloomer** added, "I wanted to build a structure at the location where

Union Banks resides. This is the next best thing and this can be built in 9 months!" Noah added, "The Canal was "dirty" and the sea wall is currently compromised. This allows for a beautiful concrete structure to be built and expand much needed parking and facilitate community events."

A portion of each side of the Park Avenue Bridge (Little Island) will be altered to allow traffic to flow to each side of the bridge to the new structure. The construction is anticipated to have occasional delays getting on and off Little Island of up to 45 minutes.

One Balboa Island resident was not happy. "This is probably a conspiracy project from a former Councilman. I will get to the bottom of it and distribute a flyer to attempt to halt the project!"

Councilman **Will O'Neily**, quipped, "I can't help think of the song, They Paved Paradise and Put up a Parking Lot." The south side of the structure will have stadium lights built to host concerts and City events. Permits allow amplified music on the structure only until midnight on summer months.

The new structure will feature added stairs and enable much easier access to both sides of the canal. Boating will no longer be possible through the canal. The County will be exercising eminent domain and compensating the mooring holders with payment of up to \$20,000 per mooring.

Editor's Note: This is the spring edition and this article was written on April 1. **Please re-read Editor's note.**



by Kristine Taft

Wanted! BLOCK CAPTAINS!

The Neighborhood Watch Program is being revamped under my direction. We are looking for Block Captains to volunteer their time to add valuable eyes and ears for the Newport Beach Police Department (NBPD). This involves neighbors getting to know each other and working together in a program of mutual assistance. Residents should be made aware of how to recognize and report suspicious activities on our islands. Block Captain

duties would involve distributing information from the NBPD, maintaining a contact list of neighbors, engage new residents, periodically hold Block Meetings and encourage neighbors to use available safety strategies.

If you would be interested in becoming a Block Captain and actively participate in keeping our Islands safe, please contact me by email: ktaft1018@yahoo.com

CROSSON'S Sandbox



Thanks Chris for putting a hop in our step this Easter!

Featured Pot



photo:
Betty Christy

SUE O'NEILL
Collins Avenue and South Bayfront

THANK YOU SUE!

Featured Pets



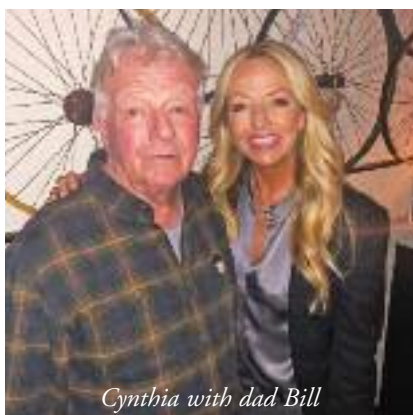
Maggie 6 months old, Charlie 4 1/2 years old, owned by Geoff and Marilyn Groves of little island

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR!

Cynthia Shafer



My love for the Island began in 1980 when my family rented a house on South Bayfront on little Island and we visited from our home in Connecticut where I grew up. We stayed in an adorable cottage on little Island on South Bayfront, spent our days on the beach and evenings roller skating to **Sugar n' Spice** to get ice cream and I never wanted to leave. My whole family vowed to get back here as soon as possible and 10 years later my dad packed up and moved out west, once my sisters and I we were all off to college on the West Coast as well. He has owned various houses on the island throughout the years and still hangs out with his "guys" on the bench across from the old **Starbucks** or sipping a beer at **The VI**, and insists on keeping a P.O. box at our little post office as he loves to visit and pick up his mail.



Cynthia with dad Bill

I moved to Europe after college in Colorado and lived in Germany and Switzerland for 17 years. My three kids and I would come back at least a month a year, rent a place on the island, spend time with my parents and enjoy the sun and all the island offers. My parents would take the kids to the Balboa Island Parade in June and to see the Boat Parade at Christmas, participate in the Sandcastle contest and join the pancake breakfast in the park. My kids and I were in awe of this magical place. We would go to family dinners at the old **Georgio's** and breakfasts at **Wilma's** which made us feel like locals, and I dreamed of being a part of this special community. We always left with a suntan and a heavy heart. I kept a picture of the **Balboa Pavilion** on my fridge in Germany and knew I would live back here one day.

Fast forward to today and I now live on the Island in an adorable house on Coral surrounded by great friends and neighbors and a 4 minute walk to work where I run **The Royal Hen**. After years in the food and hotel industry in Europe, I love providing great quality food in a fun inviting setting for our locals and visitors here on the Island. I was recently voted president of **The Balboa Island Merchants Association Inc.**, which is a nonprofit corporation founded in 2013 whose mission statement is:

"To promote business, solve common problems, and support goodwill among the merchants, owners, visitors and residents, while attracting quality businesses and customers to Balboa Island"

I am so excited to work with our merchants, **BIIA**, the City and the community with exactly these objectives in mind. My goal is to create annual events, such as the Easter Scavenger Hunt, to bring people to our stores and fun and benefit for our merchants and residents. I would like to work with the BIIA to tie in with their events such as the golf cart parade in June and **Lisa Skelly** for her Plein Air event in August, just to mention a few. A list of upcoming events will be posted as they firm up. I am very interested to bring other quality merchants to the Island by providing them support and guidance to prosper as well. This is a special magical place and I feel grateful to be able to work and live here and make it an even better place for us all to live and work in the years to come.



*Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt & Raffle was a great success!
Big thanks to Easter Bunny Jack Rabbit Callahan, and Fiona Zachary!*

Balboa Island Improvement Association

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