

# BALBOA



# ISLAND LIVING

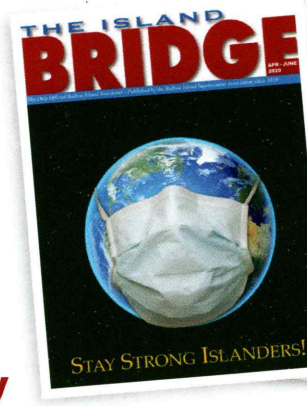
A PRIVATE SOCIAL PUBLICATION EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE RESIDENTS OF BALBOA ISLAND • November 2020

meet  
**Joel Holmberg  
and Cindy Witt!**  
Happy Thanksgiving

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*farville*  
PHOTOGRAPHY





## history

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

# Volunteer OF EVERY YEAR

## *Jon Remy – Lifetime Resident Always Has Hand Up*



Jon Remy's been part of BIIA for 25 years. As an associate, he still can't vote on civic-league matters. Fine with him.

“We try to come up with ideas,” Remy said, “ways to improve and beautify the island ...put on our annual events. Membership and the Home Tour are our main revenue sources – with COVID, it's been a challenge.”

The Balboa Island Improvement Association is steeped in tradition. Remy loves that.

“My first meeting, they blew dust off the Bylaws Journal,” Remy recalled, “Serious. That's why I like doing so much for the Island. I'm so proud of it all ... heritage, people ... all the history.”

The love is mutual. In 2011/2013, the BIIA named Remy its Volunteer of the Year.

Greek philosopher Heraclitus said, “the only constant is change.” He never met Jon Remy.

He's lived his entire adult life in the house his granddad built – a vintage cottage on Collins Avenue.

“Granddad Johnson came on the Red Car from Altadena,” Remy said, “He bought the lot on Balboa Island sight unseen. 1925. Finished the house in 1926.”

“Three-hundred dollars for the lot,” Richard Remy, 97, recalled, “Waterfront was \$500, but the island was eroding quickly before the seawall, so he figured in a few decades he'd have a waterfront lot.”

Jon's dad, Richard, Stanford grad and WW-II Pilot, worked for Hughes Aircraft for 35 years. But Jon ...

“Complete opposite,” Remy, 65, said with trademark smile and humility, “He's had two jobs his whole life. I've had dozens.”

That includes two years as “possibly the oldest page in NBC history.” Remy picked up “Tonight Show” guests at LAX, poured them in a limo and delivered them to the Burbank studio. He'd also zip up Vanna's dress before *Wheel of Fortune* tapings.

He wound up in art direction and publishing. Remy's put out BIIA's quarterly newsletter, “The Bridge,” since 2009.

“Jon Remy took this newsletter from hometown paper to polished publication,” wrote BIIA President Terry Janssen years back.

If there's a big event on the Island, good chance Remy designed its graphics and logos, produced the

brochures, posters and banners – at a hometown discount, often free.

“Love doing the marquee sign, it's fun, but you can't make everyone happy. Last summer a friend asked me to hang ‘Lot Full.’ That drew some ire. Down within the hour.”

His mom's BIYC trophies and 1926 paddleboard – Kadee Remy was an award-winning sailor and Olympic-caliber diver – are at Balboa Island Museum.

Remy's fave is the Annual Balboa Island Parade. You'll find him on setup and tear-down that first June weekend.

“One year we had flyovers ... for a three-block parade! Grassroots thing. What I love about the Island.”

Visit Balboa Island Museum Newport Beach – join the fun and learn about the Island and Newport Harbor's rich history. Thursday, 10am to 5pm, Friday – Sunday, 10am to 6pm. Free general admission. We gladly accept cash donations! Become a member.