## BALBOA ISLAND LIVING

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## Meet Your Balboa Island Neighbors

Jim & Marilyn Padova

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turville





history

By **Pete Weitzner** – Balboa Island Resident and Co-Producer, "The Golden Age of Newport Harbor" The museum has become an important addition to Marine Avenue on Balboa Island. Visitors enjoy learning local history and shopping in the Museum Store.

Museum stores are more than retail therapy.

They're a key revenue stream, help sustain dayto-day operations, and growth and development.

Museum stores engage visitors and provide them
with local and cultural enrichment. Visitors find
unique items, from artwork to books to home
décor to puzzles to children's products – something for everyone.

The Balboa Island Museum store serves as an extension to the museum itself. Merchandise

carried in the store is selected with the same attention as the items in the exhibits, reflecting the mission of the museum and the importance of preserving community history. Purchases made at the museum store promote and enrich the visitors' and local shoppers' experience at the museum and create prolonged memories of the visit.

With the holidays approaching, the Museum Store is featuring the **Mark Roberts** Christmas Gallery with a selection of a limited collection of fairies, Santas, Ferris wheel, carousel, and more. These collectibles will add whimsical fun to any holiday décor. Each piece comes with a registration card and certificate of authenticity. Artwork continues



Evolution of a digital watercolor by Karen Dickel (start to finish)

to be the most popular merchandise in the store, and holiday art by local artists **Steve Simon, Ruth Hynds**, **Alexa** and **Karen Dickel** is being showcased in the Museum Gallery.

Dickel, an inveterate photographer since childhood, owned a small gift shop on Marine Avenue for many years. In the last five years Dickel "discovered the digital watercolor technique and since put my spin on it." (See photo, "Evolution of a Digital Watercolor.")

Other Museum Store items in high demand are the Bathing Beauties, classic figurines depicting a vintage look from the 1920s. These keepsakes are reminiscent of the Balboa beauty contests, orchestrated to attract lot buyers. Museum Executive Director, Tiffany Pepys Hoey, said, "The Bathing Beauties are one of our most popular items. They sell like crazy!"

Pepys Hoey said that "visitors really like the exclusive items we carry," pointing out puzzle versions of local scenes such as the Pavilion, a map of Balboa Island, and the Boat Parade. The store also has a full array of books, puzzles, note cards, and home décor.

Gifts for kids include vintage-inspired toys, books, games, puzzles, and Pop Its, the latest national phenomenon. These colorful fidget toys mimic the sound of popping bubble wrap —great fun for the young at heart, no matter what age!

Be sure to visit the store at the Balboa Island Museum Newport Beach. You can shop online balboaislandmuseum-shop.square.site.

Just as the museum serves and inspires the community by preserving its rich history, the Museum Store promotes the experience beyond the physical building and into the homes of visitors and friends. What an amazing gift!

Visit the Balboa Island Museum Newport Beach—discover the history of the Fun Zone and much more. Open daily. Free general admission. Become a member: balboaislandmuseum.org/become-a-member









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