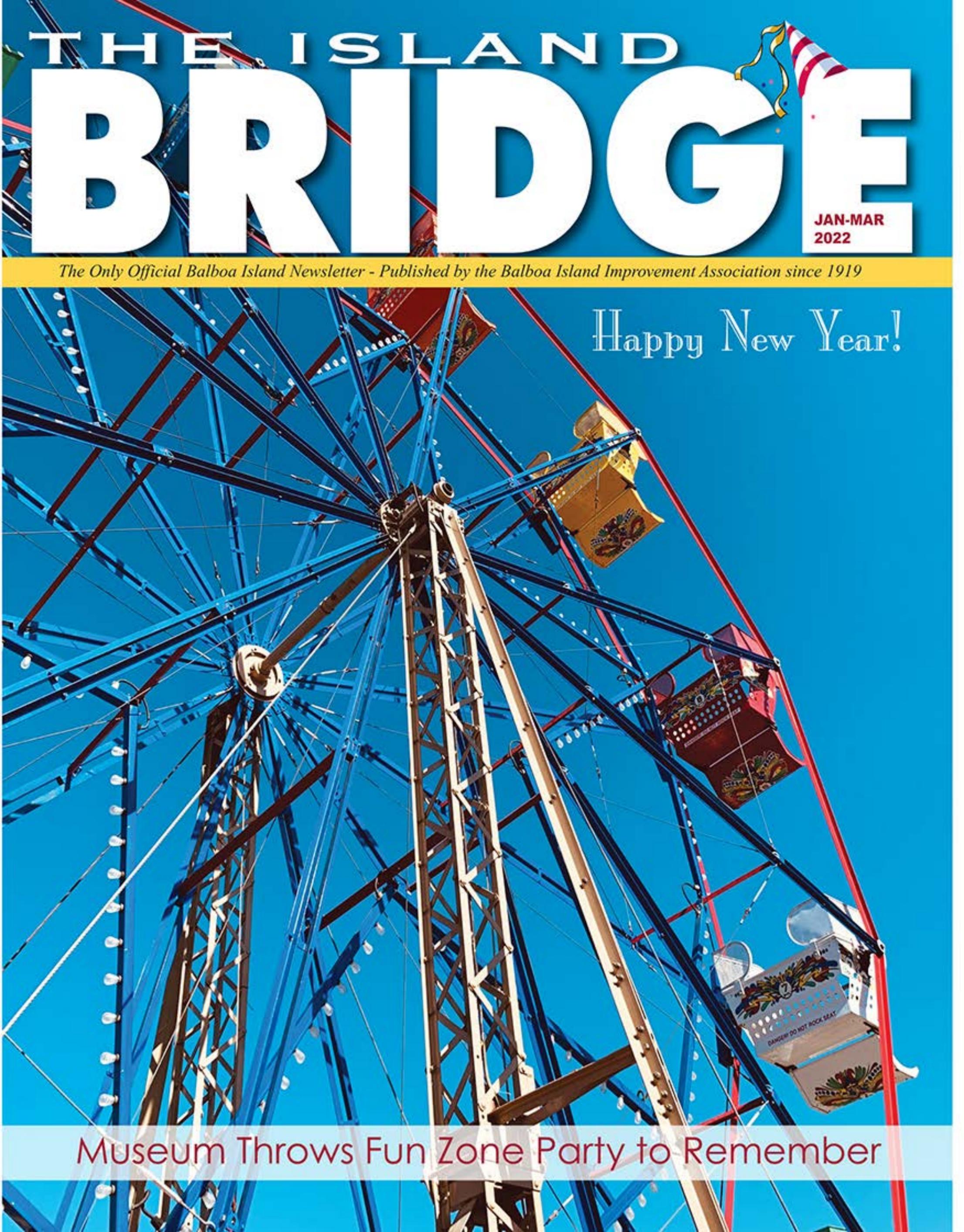


# THE ISLAND BRIDGE



JAN-MAR  
2022

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

Happy New Year!

Museum Throws Fun Zone Party to Remember

# More 2021 Highlights

Sunday night dinners, guest speakers and theatrical events returned to the museum, culminating with the December 9, TINBOX Theatricals' "Celtic Christmas."

Speaking of speakers, Author **Chris Epting's** sold-out talk on the history of rock n' roll in Orange County is still a talker in town. Who knew that "Elvis's marriage dissolved in a cul-de-sac in Huntington Beach?"

There was generosity aplenty. A \$10,000 grant from The Exchange Club of Newport Beach, is helping the museum's education duo, **Celeste Dennerline** and **Tiffany Pepys Hoey** to develop a program to teach the history of Newport Harbor in our local schools.

At the festival, Second District Orange County Supervisor **Katrina Foley** presented the museum with a \$20,000 arts-related grant (see photo), part of California's COVID-19 relief program for small businesses and nonprofits.

Collections scored. The museum received The Scroll from the 2006 Newport Beach Centennial, a 16-foot, beautiful wooden boat, and a painting of WW II bombers over Newport Pier now on display, along with an original WW II Waves uniform and the buckle of the First Commodore of Balboa Yacht Club, **Robert L. Griffin**. "His kids walked in, saw it, couldn't believe it," Pepys Hoey said.

Other military and Veteran's commemorations returned including the Veteran's Day BBQ at Balboa Park. WW II Vet **Bill Stewart** hopes to resume his tireless efforts to recognize every Island vet, the registry of close to 200 can be found here on the museum's website: [balboaislandmuseum.org/veterans](http://balboaislandmuseum.org/veterans) The museum's upfront artist gallery moved into quarterly rotation, replete with installation art above. The all-local artists featured in the summer garnered great attention and praise.

Tours resumed at a brisk pace, "most Girl Scout and Boy Scout tours we've ever had," Pepys Hoey said.

The Museum's collection of some 50 Legacy Videos and Oral Histories can now be enjoyed on NBTV Channel 3.

"2022 is going to be even better. And we all hope, it'll include a full schedule of events, exhibits at the museum, around Newport," Pepys Hoey said.

First Sunday Supper of 2022 is February 20, Vietnam Veterans Day is March 29. **See you at The Museum!**



Author, Chris Epting's sold-out event



Katrina Foley presents \$20k COVID Grant to the Balboa Island Museum



Amazing treasures collected



Veteran Bill Stewart with Dennis Bress



Island Sandcastle King Chris Crosson



Tours and Scavenger Hunts remain brisk



Celeste Dennerline's 10-Minute Talks



Quarterly Installation Art



210 Marine Ave., Balboa Island  
Open daily - Free general admission.

Become a member.

For more information:  
visit <https://balboaislandmuseum.org>.

# BACK *into the swing of things*



Lisa Skelly joins Reflexx's lead singer on "Don't You Want Me Baby"



The best event, at the best time



Shirley Pepys, Julia Argyros, Katrina Foley, Wendy Hales



Walkie & Janet Ray



Laurie Sloan

## FUN ZONE FEST CAPS YEAR THREE FOR NEW MUSEUM

By **PETE WEITZNER**,  
Producer, "Golden Age of Newport Harbor"

It would be hard for the Balboa Island Museum Newport Beach to top how it ended 2021 -- the first-ever Fun Zone Festival. The amusement-park themed evening propelled the museum well past its fall-fundraising goal of \$100,000 to \$125,000. And if it seemed you knew everyone there, it's because you did.

"The Pyle Family, new owners of the Fun Zone generously made it possible for the Balboa Island Museum Newport Beach to host our first major event," Museum President Emeritus, Shirley Pepys said.

On a wondrously, balmy late-November Friday, we came, we won outsize gifts knocking over once-mighty, milk jugs, ate delicious local food, bought terrific local wares, and danced the night away to popular local 80s cover band, Reflexx. Just ask Board Member Dennis Bress, aka Fred Astaire.

As the event's tagline promised, "It's Fun to Be a Kid Again." "Wonderful, fun and exciting evening, Island Marine Fuel General Manager David Beek said.

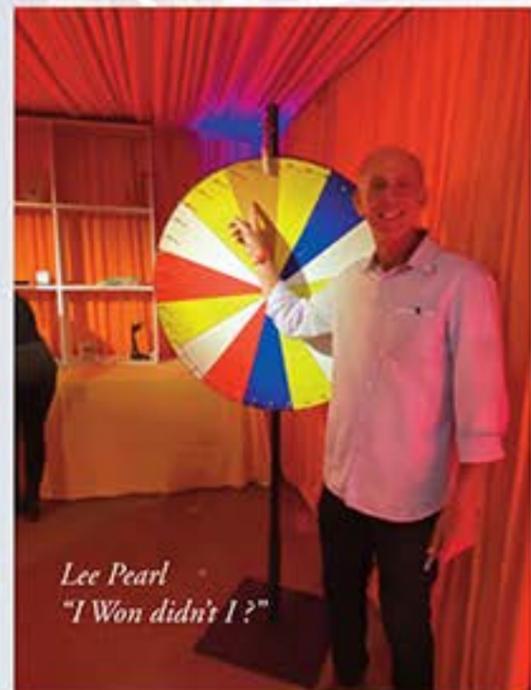
Linda Young and her company, Newport-based Elite OC Productions staged the memorable evening -- a perfect capper to Year Three of the new Balboa Island Museum Newport Beach at its new location at 210 Marine Avenue. It was a year where "we got back into the swing of things," Executive Director Tiffany Pepys Hoey said.



Jack Callahan, Gerda Egul, Cynthia Shafer



A Conga Line breaks out



Lee Pearl  
"I Won didn't I?"