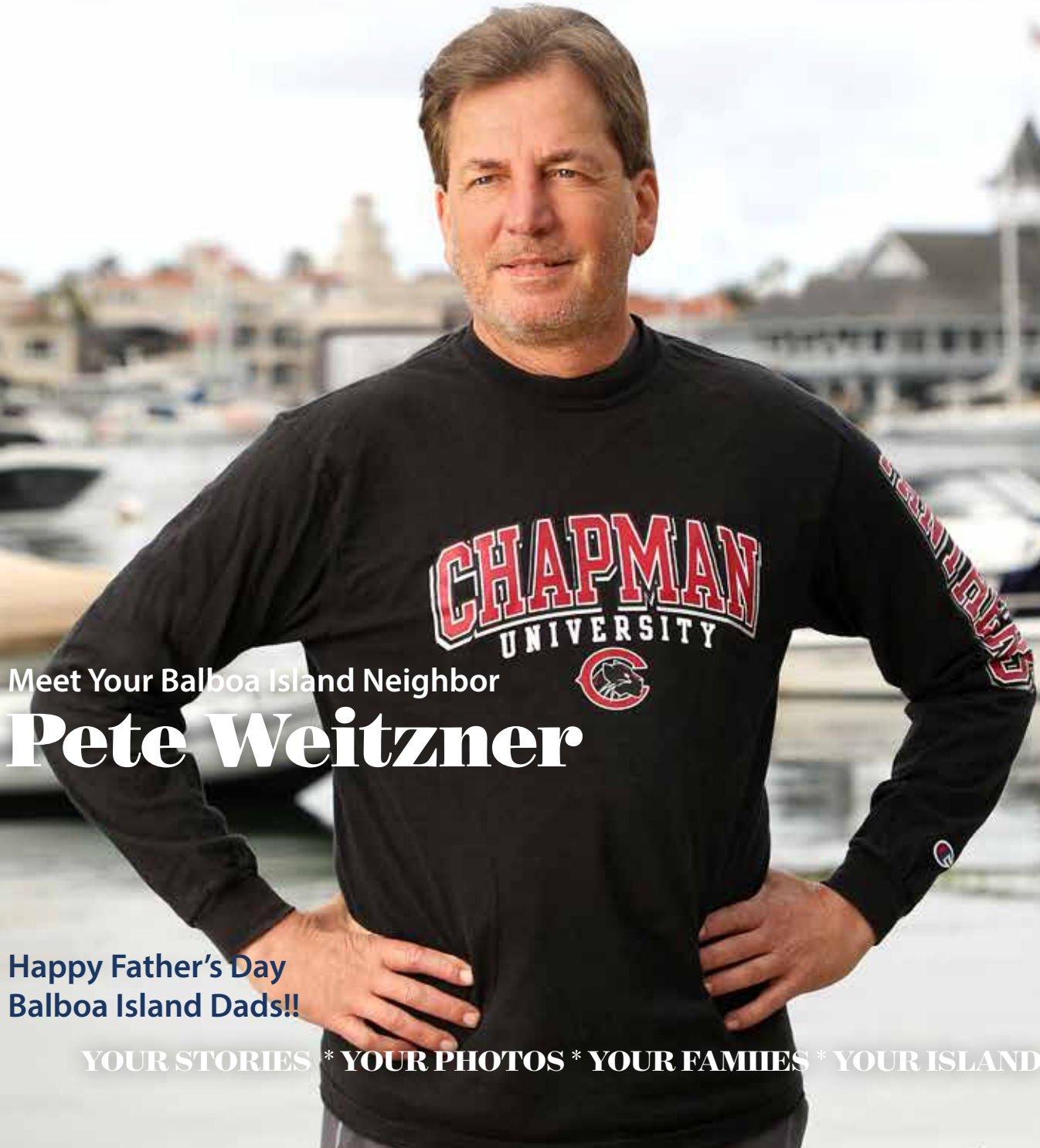


# BALBOA ISLAND LIVING



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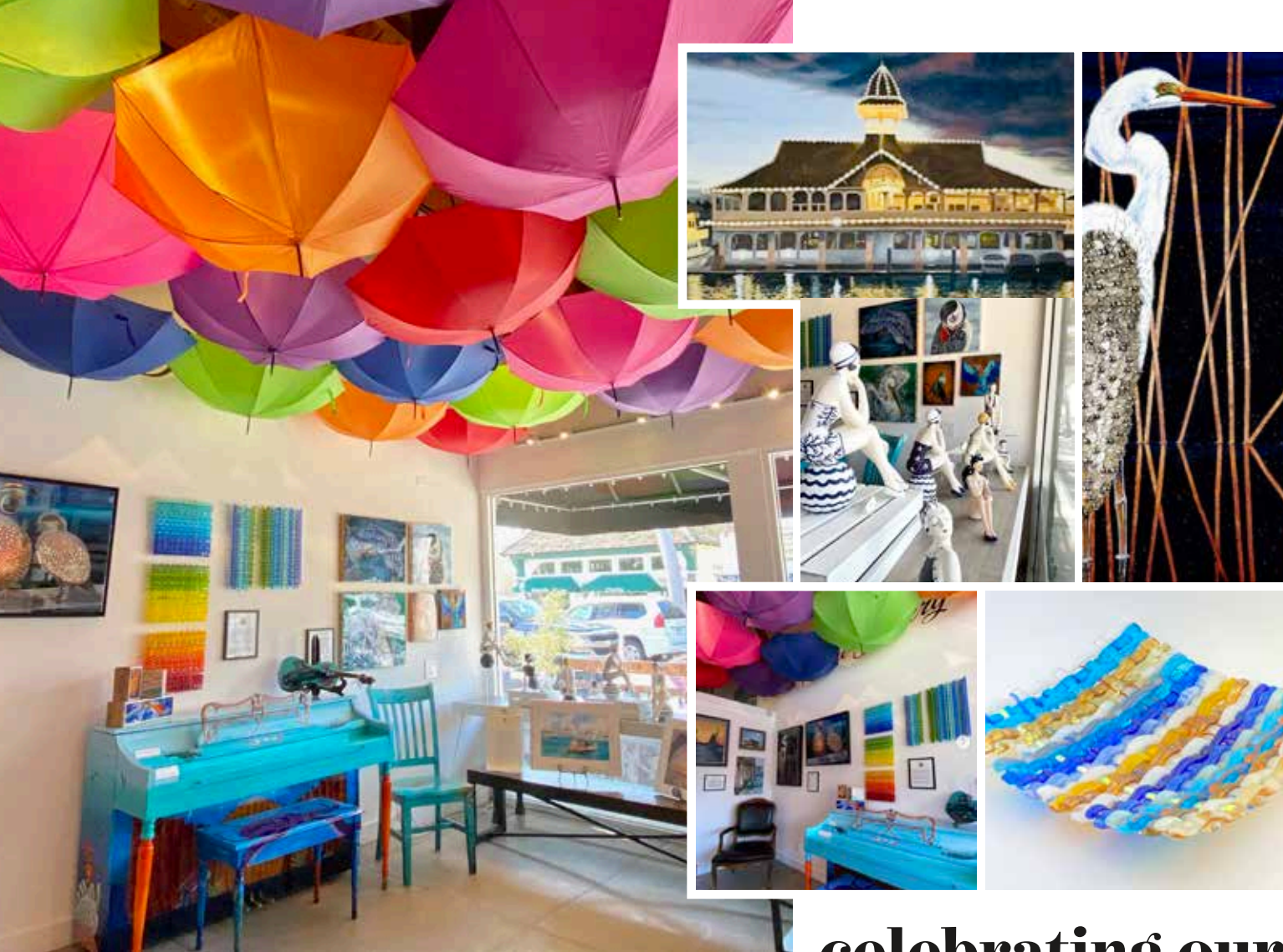


Meet Your Balboa Island Neighbor

## Pete Weitzner

Happy Father's Day  
Balboa Island Dads!!

YOUR STORIES \* YOUR PHOTOS \* YOUR FAMILIES \* YOUR ISLAND



# celebrating our LOCAL ARTISTS

SPRING GALLERY FEATURES FIVE UNDER COLORFUL UMBRELLAS



## history

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

She hatched the idea a year ago. Then artists began approaching.

“Domino effect,” Tiffany Pepys Hoey said.

The idea was to feature several local artists in the museum’s gallery, which greets visitors as they enter 210 Marine.

“Celebrating Our Local Artists” went live in mid-March featuring five artists.

“We’ve had artists individually, never together like this,” Executive Director Pepys Hoey said. “It’s the color and style that make it cohesive — mainly the colors. Bright. Cheerful.”

Mixed-media specialist Marie Lavallee helped Tiffany get the ball rolling.

“The museum is such a fun environment,” 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. I introduced them to Tiffany.”

Those artists were fellow mixed-media specialist, Lara Ralston, and glass-weaving artist, Lynleigh Love.

“Absolutely thrilled, love the other artists, they’re colorful, lively,” Love said.

The artists are local, but diverse in art and back story. Take Love, who signs her work Lynleigh and transitioned from a 25-year career as a geologist, to work her glass-art hobby full-time.

“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.

“High degree of science in working with woven glass. You have to be precise.”

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

## Here’s the local 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

Lavallee switched from a career in jewelry design. 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, she said. It’s geography, a family together, playing scrabble. It’s fun.”

Her art meshes with curator Hoey’s eye.

“Very receptive. Great quality of Tiffany, she’s looking for stuff that’s different.”

What’s helps the new gallery stand out is what hovers above – an installation of colorful umbrellas.

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

And they draw attention.

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

The theme, beyond localism, is boats, birds, and water.

“Fabulous exhibit,” Little Island Realist Jan Steele said. “Tiffany’s done a great job of connecting them, pulling up that theme.”

This gallery’s here through spring. Come summer, Pepys Hoey will continue the new tradition.

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

“It’s an honor,” Love said.

*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](http://balboaislandmuseum.org/become-a-member).*



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