



Long-time residents Cynthia Houston and Seymour Beek share memories about Bal Week in Newport Beach



Barbara Abbott, Penny Rodheim and Sue Pearl at the Concert After Party



Neighbors gather at the Italian Sunday Supper at the Museum

# Happy First Anniversary to the NEW Balboa Island Museum Newport Beach



**history**  
By Shirley Pepps

Thank you for making 2019 an extraordinary year at the Balboa Island Museum Newport Beach!

What a year it has been. Between moving into our new location, new exhibits, and a growing membership base, 2019 has been the Museum's best year yet. As the only historical museum in Newport Beach, we present the significant stories of our communities including the importance of the Santa Ana River to the development of Newport Beach; the Boy Scout Jamboree in the 1950s; celebrities who have lived and worked in our villages including John Wayne and his family; Newport Elementary School, Corona del Mar High School, and Newport Harbor High School; fishing and sailing in Newport Harbor; the Ferry; prominent families who helped shape our neighborhoods; and so much more.

We have greeted over 70,000 visitors and couldn't have done it without our members, supporters, and volunteers. Special gratitude goes to the City of Newport Beach and George and Julia Argyros for their generous grants to the Museum.

Here are a few of our favorite highlights from the year:

#### Grand Opening at the New Museum

On November 29, 2018, we launched the opening of the New Museum with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony hosted by the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce. This was followed with our Grand Opening Party on November 30th. Guests had rave reviews for the new exhibits, state-of-the-art audio-visual system, and the extraordinary presentations that capture our community's history. The New Museum opened on December 1, 2019.

#### Oral Histories

We are fortunate to have Peter Weitzner, professor at Chapman University, heading up our Legacy Project. His professionalism and expertise have helped to create memorable and lasting accounts of precious stories told by Newport Beach residents. Pete and his Chapman team have completed 20 oral history videos just this year.

#### Speaker Events

Our famous Speaker Events draw standing-room-only crowds! From Vietnam combat artist Ed Bowen's moving tributes, to long-time residents Seymour Beek, Cindy Houston and John Scudder sharing memories about the various happenings during Bal Week, these presentations continue to be educational and enjoyable.



Women's Wisdom Event panel moderated by founder Kim Bates



Opening Night Gala with Wendy Hales, Executive Director of the Argyros Family Foundation, Shirley Pepys and Julia Argyros



John Wayne and guests at Italian Sunday Supper



Norm Pruitt and Matt Leonetti



Former Mayor of Newport Beach Keith Curry, Sally Herdman and Pam Curry

### Sunday Supper at the Museum

These Sunday get-togethers have become a community favorite! Friends and neighbors enjoy gathering for the family-style dinners to enjoy good food, good company and great conversation.

### The WSDM® (Wisdom) for Women Events

We hosted two inspiring speaker events featuring a panel of business and professional women, and moderated by Kim Bates, founder of The WSDM® (Wisdom) for Women.

### Supporting our Veterans

We continue to support our veterans by hosting special events dedicated to them. Bill Stewart, Veterans History Curator, signed the Museum up to be a Commemorative Partner of the Department of Defense Vietnam War Commemoration, and we had a lapel pinning ceremony at the Museum to honor Vietnam War Veterans and their families. Many of these veterans had never been publicly thanked for their service. It is an honor for the Museum to continue to honor our veterans.

### Membership Growth

We welcomed 500 members to our Museum family and those who contributed \$500 or more have become part of our Donor Wall. Members have enjoyed discounted admission to our events,

and members-only receptions, in addition to a discount at the Museum Store.

### A Look Ahead at 2020

2020 is certain to be another fantastic year as we continue to develop and present exciting and informative programming. We will be starting the year off strong with new events, programs and exhibits, as well as launching a live Augmented Reality Experience where viewers can travel back in time and step into old Newport to experience the early 20th century Harbor and surroundings! Our new gallery features works of local artists including John Dunn,

### Get Involved

Become a Member! Attend our events at a discounted price and receive invitations to exclusive, members-only receptions and events.

Support our exhibits and programs with additional contributions. Inquire about opportunities to be a part of our docent/volunteer family. Give the gift of Membership to your friends and family. Share your stories, become a part of our Legacy Project.

**Here's to another great year - cheers to 2020!**