



CARMEL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION NEWS

CELEBRATING 24 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

OCTOBER 2010

California Forward — the best hope for fixing our broken state

If anyone knows the inner workings of our state government, it is Fred Keeley. From 1996 to 2002, he was a member of the California State Assembly, where he represented the Monterey Bay area. During his tenure in the legislature, Keeley served four



Santa Cruz County Treasurer Fred Keeley

years as speaker *pro tem*, under three speakers, making him the highest ranking member of the speaker's leadership team. He authored the Marine Life Management Act, characterized by the Associated Press as the "most significant advancement in ocean policy in fifty years" in California. His leadership during the California energy crisis is credited with stabilizing electricity prices and electricity supply.

Prior to his legislative service, Keeley served on the Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors. He currently is the elected Treasurer of Santa Cruz County, with responsibility for tax collections and management of a \$650 million public sector investment portfolio.

We asked Mr. Keeley to talk about *California Forward*, a bipartisan organization which, he says, "came into existence to deeply examine what is broken in California's systems of governance, and to build support for thoughtful, best-practice

reforms." Keeley is a member of the Leadership Council of this group, which he says was "founded with the support of a hand-full of large California foundations, [including Packard, Hewlett and Irvine], who had grown exasperated by the rapid decline of California's governance capacity.

Among the reforms this group supports are implementation of a two-year budgeting cycle and reform of term limits, the initiative process and campaign financing. According to Keeley, "The clear 600-pound gorilla in the budget reform room is the majority vote. *California Forward* recommends that the existing two-thirds vote to adopt the budget be replaced by a simple majority vote, which would put California in the same place as 47 of the 50 states who have such a provision. This would *not* change the current requirement to obtain a two-thirds vote to raise taxes."

Keeley says that making changes that will provide lasting improvements won't happen overnight—but this just might be our best opportunity to fix our dysfunctional government.

MEETING

Thurs. Oct. 28

**4:45 p.m. Fred Keeley
"California Forward"**

Carpenter Hall, Sunset Center
(SW Mission at 8th)

"Dines Out" at Vino Napoli and Little Napoli
(E side Dolores between Ocean and 7th)

**Wine at 6 p.m.
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.**

Synopsis of sexual harassment documents obtained from city, page 6

"Dines Out" at Vino Napoli Wine Bar and Little Napoli Bistro

Chairs of "Dines Out," Mary Ellen Thomas, and Kathleen and Barry Swift take you on a vespa ride through the Italian campagna at Rich Pepe's Little Napoli. First stop of the evening is Pepe's Vino Napoli. Then, feel like a member of the Rat Pack as you allow Sinatra's voice ringing "that's amore" to beckon you into the restaurant, while you muse on Carmel's unique cultural heritage. In this inviting atmosphere you will enjoy Pepe's menu, featuring handed-down family recipes. Bon appetito!

❖ Bruschetta Pomodora

First course choice of —

❖ Insalata di Gorgonzola; or

❖ Tuscan Bean and Vegetable Soup

Main Course choice of —

❖ Grandma Celia's-style Spaghetti and Meatballs; or

❖ Local Sea Bass Punttanesca con Tagliatelle; or

❖ Chicken Piccata in a lemon/caper butter sauce over Tagliatelle; or

❖ Ravioli della Hoboken—jumbo cheese ravioli with arrabiatta sauce

Continued on page 3

Thanks for the memories!

After innumerable years of editing *CRA News*, it's time to make this my last issue. It's been a great ride!

It is hard to remember when I wasn't doing a newsletter. Clayton and I put together the first four-page publication—columns pasted up on graph paper—in January 1992. Early on David Maradei and the late Bob Campbell took a turn at editing—but mostly I've done it. When desktop publishing came along, my job became a lot easier!

Although I will relish having more leisure time for trips to visit grandchildren, relaxed lunches in Carmel restaurants and walks on the beach with Clayton and our dog Pal, I will miss the intellectual challenge and, most of all, interaction with the CRA Board of Directors. This is far and away the most dedicated group of bright, concerned and vital individuals I have ever known. They not only made my job possible, but pleasurable and fulfilling as well.

The role of the Carmel Residents Association, in my opinion, is critically important to the wellbeing of our village. This group has the passion and perseverance to keep track of what is going on in our city, and the courage to speak out on matters important to residents. We constantly hear from members that they don't have time to pay close attention to the city, but appreciate that the CRA does it on their behalf.

CRA News will continue, with board members playing a larger role in its production. Roberta Miller will cover programs. Mary Ellen Thomas and Barry and Kathleen Swift will write about "Dines Out;" Barbara Livingston will continue to write her *President's Message* as well as *Favorite Places* and *Spotlight on Members*; Tom Parks will continue *Village Profiles*; Richard Flower has agreed to resurrect *Old Carmel* on a regular basis; and Greg D'Ambrosio will handle *City Watch*. Rather than ride into the proverbial sunset, I will stay in the saddle and write editorials with Carolyn Hardy, whose skilled collaboration I have relied upon for some time. All articles will be reviewed for content by Betty Dalsemer and Jim Emery, and Mary Condry will continue as proofreader.

Finally, Bonny McGowan will organize this talented team, set deadlines and put the newsletter together. She is an accomplished professional designer, who produced CRA's *A to Z* booklet about Carmel, and has handled publications for Santa Catalina School and the Monterey Institute of International Studies. So you can look forward to some interesting and eye-catching changes.

To ease the transition, the board has decided to reduce the eight issues to five: Sept./Oct.; Nov./Dec.; Jan./Feb.; March/April; and May/June. You are assured the CRA leadership will keep you informed of any important issues that arise between newsletters.

Looking back over the past 20 years, some notable observa-

tions are worth reflection—

The Carmel Residents Association has thrived, with membership growing to around 600. Activities such as "Dines Out," Beach Cleanup, Citizen of the Year and candidates' forums have become Carmel traditions. Planning for a 25th anniversary celebration in 2012 is under way.

The role of the Carmel Residents Association, in my opinion, is critically important to the wellbeing of our village.

We have far fewer full-time residents—a significant change in our neighborhoods. Carmel's natural beauty remains unparalleled, but challenges remain. With far more charcoal from more fires, CRA's beach cleanup efforts have been supplemented by Public Works crews and a tractor beach rake. The Monterey Pine forest didn't succumb to the pitch-canker scourge as feared; but the Forest and Beach Department is being asked to do far more with less support.

Historic preservation efforts resulted in the Sunset Theater renovation rather than demolition, and saved the Burde building and a few smaller cottages. But, the Scout House sits abandoned and the Flanders property remains in limbo.

Today, there is less opportunity for involvement in city government. Over the last 10 years, some commissions have been eliminated and those that remain have been reduced from 7 to 5 members. The Unsung Hero program is gone, as is the annual thank-you party for city volunteers. There are fewer citizen *ad hoc* committees—no town hall meetings were held for a decade until the tradition was recently resurrected by City Councilman Jason Burnett. And, much institutional history is gone with the loss of long-time city employees. A constant refrain on this page has been the lack of a more open city government, but Burnett's presence has definitely begun a shift to more transparency.

Both the business community and the residents now realize that the good health of each is dependent upon the other. Therefore, we constantly remind our members to shop locally.

Thanks to you, the readers, for kind, encouraging words over these many years; to CRA President Barbara Livingston for her fine leadership and energy; to all of the hard-working board members; to Shirley Humann and her committee for years dedicated to mailing the newsletter; and, to city staff members, who have always been helpful. Most of all, thanks to all the Carmel Residents Association members for your support and appreciation of this vital organization. Thanks for the memories!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Barbara Livingston

Who has had the greatest impact on Carmel?



Barbara Livingston

As you have read in this month's editorial, Linda Anderson, after almost two decades of writing, editing and producing the *CRA News* is giving up that job. Who can replace Linda? The truth is—no one. So we are turning to a professional to help us. We are planning for a smooth transition but still realize that no one can replace the heart and soul that Linda poured into the newsletter. What a valuable resource she has been for our organization and for the community at large—producing month after month the best little newsletter in the West. Thank you, Linda!

And speaking of people invaluable to the community, CRA member Sam Wright casually asked me a few weeks ago to name "those people and institutions which have had the greatest impact or influence on shaping the history, character and environment of Carmel-by-the-Sea. This is an interesting challenge and creates opportunities for personal slants. But, in the final analysis, there are certain bedrock items that are uncontested." OK, here we go:

The beginning—Sebastian Viscaino, Father Junipero Serra and the Carmel Mission

Architects—Olof Dahlstrand, Frank Lloyd Wright and Walter Burde

Artists, painters, photographers—Ansel Adams, Edward Weston, Jo Mora, William Ritschel, Armin Hansen, Arnold Genthe, Arthur Hill Gilbert, Paul Dougherty and Mary de Neale Morgan

Builders—M.J. Murphy, Hugh Comstock

Carmel Bach Festival—Hazel Watrous and Dene Denny

Champions of village character—Jane Mayer, influential in two General Plan revisions; Robert Campbell, "It's what we don't have that makes Carmel different;" Judge Argyll Campbell, who wrote the preamble to Carmel's constitution: "Carmel is primarily, essentially and predominately a residential village;" Lani Fremier, library outreach to homebound; Bill Bates,

poked fun at the foibles of Carmelites in his cartoons.

Cultural institutions—Forest Theater, Herbert Heron; Cherry Center for the Arts, Jeanne d'Orge; Sunset Theater renovation, Nancy and Bill Doolittle; Carmel Art Association; Harrison Memorial Library; Golden Bough Playhouse, Edward Kuster; Children's Experimental Theater, Marcia Hovick; Carmel Foundation; Carmel Chapter of American Red Cross; and Carmel Art Institute, John and Patricia Cunningham

Developers—Frank Powers, Frank Devendorf and Santiago Duckworth.

Environmentalists—Clayton Anderson, Beach Cleanup, Friends of Carmel Forest; Greg D'Ambrosio, Forest and Beach Management Plans, first city forester in California

Health, welfare and safety—the volunteer fire department

Historians—J.S. Holliday and John Hicks. Both wrote passionately of preserving village character.

Hoteliers—Harrison Godwin, Pine Inn and Fred Godwin, La Playa

Politicians—Fred Farr, State Senator and protector of coast; and Perry Newberry, Carmel mayor, "One person *can* make a difference."

Preservationists—Enid Sales, worked with city to develop preservation ordinances and policy; Melanie Billig, preservation of Mission Trail Nature Preserve

Tor House—home of world-renowned poet Robinson Jeffers, saved through intervention of Dr. Remsen Bird, Pres. Emeritus of Occidental College.

As Beth Wright told me, "There are many 'unnamed' who contributed to our quality of life by taking pride in their village, showing daily compassion for others and realizing the ultimate privilege of living in this treasured community."

Readers: Please let me know whom I missed and I will write another column. Send e-mails to: barbaratlivingston@earthlink.net (note the "t" between the two names).

Thanks to contributors Jean Grace, Sam Wright, Bob Kohn, Sue McCloud, Doug Schmitz and Beth Wright.

"Dines Out" at Vino Napoli and Little Napoli

Continued from page 1

Dessert choice of —

- ❖ Tiramisu; or
- ❖ Raspberry Sorbetto—dairy-free raspberry sorbet with seasonal berries and raspberry sauce; or
- ❖ Torta di Cioccolato-chocolate mousse, topped with whipped cream and chocolate shavings
- ❖ Coffee or Tea

House red or white wine will be available at \$6 per glass (tax included), plus tip.

Please send a \$39/person check, payable to CRA, with your entrée choice and your phone number, to arrive no later than Monday, Oct. 25, to Kathleen and Barry Swift, P.O. Box AC, Carmel, CA 93921. The price includes tax and tip.

You will be notified if you have been placed on the waiting list. If you reserve space and must cancel, please call Kathleen or Barry at 625-1426 so your place can be given to someone else.

Celebrating art and iconic Carmel trees

Friends of Carmel Forest and the Carmel Forest and Beach Commission will cosponsor the city's annual Arbor Day program on Sunday, Oct. 17, from 2 to 4 p.m. in Sunset Center's Carpenter Hall, Mission and 8th. The event started in 2006 as a way to provide information and foster discussion on issues related to living within Carmel's native forest.

Admission is free to the public, and complimentary parking is available at Sunset Center's San Carlos and 10th Avenue lots.

The program will showcase paintings and photographs depicting Carmel's iconic Monterey Pine and Monterey Cypress trees. Judged by the Center for Photographic Art and the Carmel Art Association, first place winners in each category (painting and photograph) will be awarded \$250.00. Art will be displayed during the event.

Jim Rieser, owner of **J. Rieser Fine Art Gallery**, will give the keynote address entitled *The Iconic Trees of Carmel—Monterey Pine and Monterey Cypress*. Refreshments will be served.

Postscript to last month's CRA barbecue photos

by Susie Carr

¡Ole! What a wonderful evening we all enjoyed at the annual CRA August barbecue, a festive gathering!

Sombreros off to **Tony and Jane Diamond** for another "BBQ Fiesta Fabulosa!" The Diamonds recruited so many wonderful volunteers that friendships were made and renewed even before the event. A special *gracias* to **Dick and Barbara Stiles**, who did the picnic shopping.

Chef hats off to **Pierre and Carol Prodis** again this year for "doing" the chicken—shopping, preparing, cooking and serving; and **John Ruskell**, who helped barbecue.

Aprons off to **Kathy and Ron Fredrickson**, who supervised the kitchen, and to the Mexican rice cooks, who bring their baked entrées with smiles on their faces: **Doug and Annette Halleen**, **Helene Jaye**, **Ovilee Kennedy** and **Sherry Shollenbarger**. **Adam Moniz**, prepared all the salad fixings.

Hard hats off to the guys who did all the set-up: **Greg D'Ambrosio**, **Don Carr**, **Tony Diamond**, **Doug Halleen**, **Gene McFarland**, **David Shollenbarger**, and the boss, **Jane Diamond**.

Beach hats off to all of you Carmelites who always pitch in. *¡Fantastico!*

City Birthday—Oct. 30

You are invited by the City of Carmel and the Carmel Celebrates Community Committee to enjoy the city's 94th birthday on Saturday, Oct. 30. We thank helpful city staff member **Cindi Lopez** for providing us with this information.

The parade begins at 11 a.m., winding its way down and back up Ocean Avenue, ending at Sunset Center, where a delicious lunch will be served from noon to 1 p.m. For the bargain price of \$5 per person, participants will receive a hot dog, chili, chips, soda and birthday cake. Tickets are available at City Hall or at the event.

Entertainment will be provided by the Carmel Rotary Blues Band.

For more information, call 620-2020.

BEACH CLEANUP

Saturday, Oct. 23
10 a.m. - noon

- Meet at foot of Ocean Ave.
- Please bring gloves
- Coffee and cookies served courtesy of **Carmel Coffee House** and **Safeway Stores, Carmel**
- Thanks to the *Pine Cone* for the ad donated each month!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Iconic Trees of Carmel—Monterey Pine, Monterey Cypress
Arbor Day Program

Sun., Oct. 17, 2 to 4 p.m.
Carpenter Hall, Sunset Center
(Details this page)

Beach Cleanup
Sat., Oct. 23, 10 a.m.
Foot of Ocean Avenue

CRA General Meeting
Thurs., Oct. 28, 4:45 p.m.
Fred Keeley

"California Forward"
Carpenter Hall, Sunset Center
(SW Mission at 8th)

"Dines Out" at Little Napoli
6 p.m. wine; 6:30 p.m. dinner
(E side Dolores between Ocean and 7th)
(Details page 1)

Halloween parade and city birthday
Sat., Oct. 30, 10 a.m.
Parade, 11 a.m.; lunch at noon
Sunset Center
(Details this page)

City Council Meeting
Tues., Nov. 2, 4:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Ongoing city meeting dates
All held in City Council Chambers.
Check with City Hall for updates.
City Council, 1st Tues., 4:30 p.m.

Forest and Beach Commission, 1st
Thurs., 1:30 p.m.

Planning Commission, 2nd Wed.,
4 p.m.

Community Activities and Cultural
Commission, 2nd Tues., 9:30 a.m.

Historic Resources Board, 3rd Mon.,
4 p.m.

Library Board of Trustees, 4th Wed.,
9 a.m.

Please see the CRA's website for the year's schedule of meetings and events.

www.carmelresidents.org

Council meeting broadcast Sunday after meeting, 8 a.m. - noon, Channel 26.

A talented young couple—making a good life in Carmel

Dr. Kristy Downing and Dr. Roxby Hartley share an office in Monterey. We met one bright Tuesday afternoon. We had met earlier, under more casual circumstances at the CRA picnic in August. They were both welcoming and forthcoming. Partners in both life and work, they have been Carmel residents for five years.

There is no doubt that your odyssey to this little village will be intriguing to our readers. Let's see, Kristy—from UC Berkeley; a British Marshall scholarship to Oxford University; a PhD in Biochemistry; faculty member, lecturer, interior designer, and currently a financial advisor on the Peninsula. Quite a mix. Have we left something out?

Kristy: I have to say that my knowing Carmel from the time I was a schoolgirl has a great deal to do with our being here today. Roxby and I were both very involved in university work and we had children. We hired a nanny and that worked well in the beginning but I felt I wanted to be more of a mother and so goodbye to nanny and hello to Carmel. It wasn't that simple, but the important thing is that we're here now.

And Roxby. A Yorkshire lad who obviously rushed through grade and high schools, and who ultimately won his PhD from Oxford, not unlike his wife, Kristy. The software industry followed and you became a top engineer in the computer games field. Now you and your wife work together as financial advisor partners.

Roxby: I was the first person in my family to attend college. My grandfather, a high school graduate, became a bank manager. As a student I had many interests, including geology, in which I hold a bachelors and graduate degree. Meeting Kristy was sheer serendipity. We were on the same rowing team at University. It was a regatta. She was the coxswain; I was on the rowing crew. I made an error and she corrected me. One could say that was "the meet." I'm happy to say that nine days later we were engaged. And, by the way, she's been correcting me ever since. (A chuckle.)

How long have you lived in Carmel?

Kristy: We've been here five years. My

parents had a house here when I was a young girl. They loved being here but were at one time considering a second home in Tahoe. This was not what I had in mind at all. I must have convinced them to get the one here instead. After my marriage, with Roxby and our children, it wasn't a difficult decision to settle here. We all love the village and the Peninsula.

Are the village and the Peninsula in general



Kristy Downing and Roxby Hartley

satisfying creatively and intellectually after so many years in high profile, demanding careers?

Roxby: Carmel, in our opinion, strikes the best balance for our needs in living. We love the history, the culture, the beauty and the people. We've met some wonderful citizens; sophisticated, well educated people who celebrate a sense of community and who participate in local activities. Like them, we care about Carmel.

You have three children enrolled in our schools. What do you think of the educational experience in Carmel?

Kristy: I can't think of a better place to

educate children. We have some wonderful teachers. I should know, I'm the President of FOCUS, Friends of Carmel Unified Schools, a non-profit organization. By the way, we're having a fund raiser at La Playa Hotel on November sixth—I can't resist making the pitch!

In terms of governance, politics and current issues, how is local authority performing in a time of economic turndown?

Roxby: Along with preservation, a rich history and current challenges I think our local government is doing quite well. As to the challenges, there are many: water management is a major consideration. And the pension issue looms large for the City Council.

You are both very involved in this community. As good citizens You're making contributions to your community. In what areas do you interests lie?

Roxby: We were invited to join the Carmel Residents Association and have happily done so. I coach a soccer team of youngsters.

Kristy: There is FOCUS. I sit on the Arts and Literary Committee at the Carmel Public Library Foundation (CPLF); We are involved with KOHR, our local swim team. And then we love to entertain our local friends. We stay very busy!

If you were asked to describe a typical Carmelite (or is there a typical Carmelite?), what would your response be?

Both: The people of Carmel have a love and respect for their community, its heritage, beauty, sensibility, charm. They are not shy at being vocal on issues that affect their village. Most of all they are open and welcoming.

Thank you for taking the time to talk with us. And thanks too for being active members of the Carmel Residents Association.

by Tom Parks

[Tom is a CRA Board member and a well-known writer, actor and producer.]

Sexual harassment documents reveal poor handling of case by city

In the wake of Human Resources Manager Jane Miller's lawsuit against the city, alleging harassment by city administrator Rich Guillen, most officials are not talking. Because they refuse to answer our members' questions, a CRA board committee requested documents to uncover evidence as to Guillen's misconduct and the city's handling of the complaint. Carmel's attorneys refused to provide some documents and heavily redacted others, claiming confidentiality to protect employee privacy and attorney/client privilege. Nevertheless, available information is significant.

With clear disregard for the employee's complaint and ignoring the ongoing investigation into alleged misconduct of Guillen, on October 7, 2008, the City Council approved a substantial retroactive pay raise for him.

It is evident the city was slow to take the harassment complaint seriously and respond properly. Miller's attorney first notified the mayor and City Council by a May 20, 2008, letter citing her complaints. Because she was the personnel manager, many city procedures for managing such complaints didn't apply. In atypical instances, complaints should be directed to the City Council's personnel committee. But no such committee exists.

The city administrator (the alleged harasser) proceeded to respond directly to Miller (rather than to her attorney). In a May 23 retaliatory letter, Guillen ordered her to return to work, when she was out on medical leave, clearly in violation of the harassment policy which states, "Retaliation will be considered a serious act of misconduct."

The mayor and City Council also violated the city's policy which requires listening "to the complainant's allegations" and treating "the allegations with discretion, sensitivity, and due concern for the dignity of everyone involved." From May 20 to August 20, city records show no

council closed sessions were held to discuss any claim.

Former councilman Gerard Rose claimed (*Herald* commentary, Sept. 5, 2010), "On May 23, 2008, the city retained an outside law firm specializing in personnel matters to investigate the allegations." Actually, more than a month elapsed. It was on June 24 when the outside law firm of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore (LCW) received Miller's complaint letter.

Six weeks later, on August 7, LCW retained attorney Karen Kramer to investigate. Concerns about delays are evident in a LCW letter to Kramer: "Ideally we would like to get things underway as soon as possible, as some time has passed since the letter was sent to the city." Five months after Miller's initial complaint, Kramer's first of twelve investigative interviews finally began on October 30. Her final report wasn't completed until January 16, 2009, eight months later.

With clear disregard for the employee's complaint and ignoring the ongoing investigation into alleged misconduct of Guillen, on October 7, 2008, the City Council approved a substantial retroactive pay raise for him.

Kramer's deposition testimony reveals shortcomings in her investigation. During her investigation, she never saw the e-mails from Guillen to Miller. She did not believe that inability to interview Miller "mattered for purposes of fact-finding." She interviewed only one former employee but none of the employees who had been forced from their jobs. Witnesses identified by Miller were inexplicably avoided, despite the harassment policy which requires all potential witnesses be contacted and interviewed during the course of the investigation. LCW narrowly limited the scope of investigation. It was one-sided at best, with key witnesses left out.

In his numerous e-mails to Jane Miller, Guillen repeatedly referred to her as a "blonde hottie," "beautiful" and "his girlfriend." He called himself a "secret admirer" and said he "completely adores" her. He knew his statements caused her discomfort, saying in his e-mails, "I know it embarrasses you to know this, but I liked you from the day I met you," and "I know you don't like compliments, but get

use (sic) to them because you will always get them from me whether I'm your boss or your pal (especially your pal after we retire)." The e-mails alone meet the city's definition of sexual harassment, "verbal conduct of a sexual nature which ... creates an offensive work environment."

The most damning evidence came from Kramer's interview with Guillen. Armed with the phrases and pet names cited in Jane Miller's October 2008 letter, Kramer inquired if Guillen ever said those to Miller. In her May 20, 2010 deposition, Kramer said Guillen unequivocally denied he ever made such statements. And when Kramer was shown the contradicting e-mail evidence, she acknowledged, "That would cause me to believe that he was not truthful."

After LCW's failed attempt to get Miller's attorney disqualified from representing her, the city changed to a law firm which properly evaluated the claim. The city settled for \$600,000, avoiding the potential of a much larger jury verdict and plaintiff's recovery of attorney's fees. Mayor McCloud signed the settlement agreement on June 17 and settlement was announced on July 13. Legal fees for handling this case have mounted to \$226,447 by mid-August.

"That would cause me to believe that he [Guillen] was not truthful."

Attorney Karen Kramer, hired to investigate Jane Miller's allegations

Two years and four months after Jane Miller's initial complaint, the City Council still cannot come to grips with solving the problems that have created this crisis. As of September 23, 2010, after three lengthy closed session meetings, the mayor and the majority of the council appeared unwilling to take the essential next step: terminating the city administrator's employment agreement.

[A more extensive report is in preparation. Copies will be available online at www.carmesidents.org. Hard copies will be sent on request to carmelresidents@gmail.com or to CRA, PO Box 13, Carmel 93921.]

CRA board nominating process

by Dick Stiles, member CRA Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Carmel Residents Association is made up of 15 current regular members. Occasionally we are asked ... "How are these directors chosen?" The following should answer most of your questions.

Any CRA member in good standing for a minimum of six months may serve as a director. There are three ways: A nominating committee is chosen by the president at least 60 days before a scheduled election. This committee solicits suggestions for possible directors from current and past board members, regular members and others in the community. The suggestions are vetted for their willingness to serve, attend meetings and otherwise bring needed skills to the board. The nominees, selected by the nominating committee, are voted on by the regular members in good standing by way of a written ballot. All who receive a majority of votes cast become members of the board.

The second way to become a director is by way of petition. If 10% of the regular members sign a petition putting your name in nomination, you will also be placed on the above written ballot, where you must receive a majority of votes cast.

The third way is by death or resignation that creates a vacancy on the board. In this case the existing board selects a person to serve out the term vacated.

Length of service is three years with no more than two successive terms. After two terms, a one-year layoff is required before a member can again join the board.



From left, Ann Bell, Kay Kuffner, Roy Thomas and Mary Ellen Thomas enjoyed dinner at Fresh Cream following CRA's Sept. general meeting. Mary Ellen is chair of "Dines Out," along with Kathleen and Barry Swift.

Photo by Kathy Fredrickson

IN MEMORIAM

**William Frost
Margery Mann
Lou Ungaretti**

Sunset Cultural Center, Inc. (SCC) Reports Operating Results and Increased Use

by Jim Price, Chair

The mission of Sunset Center and SCC, Inc. is to provide the citizens of Carmel and the region with a world-class facility in which to enjoy the full range of performing arts, gather for meetings, educational opportunities and celebrations as well as to provide a home to significant arts organizations of the region. We are also charged with attracting multi-day events to the City of Carmel. The SCC Board of Trustees exercises careful oversight and control of the Center to assure that this takes place. The city budget article in the September CRA newsletter cited issues related to the Sunset Center that deserve comment. The assertions that Sunset is under-used and that many tickets are going unsold are not accurate.

* Sunset Center's 2009-2010 fiscal year had total income of \$1,840,071 and expenses of \$1,827,268. The city's \$680,000 allocation was 37% of total revenue. Sunset operations generated 63%, showing substantial revenues from rentals, SCC shows, grants and donations.

* The current year city subsidy was reduced to \$650,000, which is about 33% of this year's SCC budget.

* Facility use increased in each of the last three years for rentals and free community use of the meeting rooms, the theater and other spaces. In F/Y 2007-2008 there were 764 individual events.

* That increased to 985 in 2008-2009 and 1,017 in 2009-2010.

* The total for this past year includes 43 free uses by the city and 159 free uses by Carmel support groups. Those free uses

are worth \$37,434 if regular rents were paid.

* All other nonprofits are charged one-half of the "retail rate" for Sunset rooms.

* Total use figures include 111 theater bookings plus 23 performances by the Bach Festival and 12 load-in/load-out days.

* Most shows sold well, and total paid attendance at theater events last year was 35,522 persons.

* SCC tracks individual visits to Sunset through ticket sales and room counts for other events. In 2007-08 the total was 92,785. In 2008-09 it was 100,725. In 2009-10 it was 106,660.

* Last year there were 49 classical music events, 85 entertainment performances.

In addition, SCC is focusing this year on marketing Sunset to small and medium-sized groups for conferences and other multi-day uses, which bring visitors and additional revenues to the city through hotel fees (TOT) and sales taxes. SCC, Inc. wants to be responsive to City and citizen needs, ideas and requests. Costs are rising as the enabling grant from the city has decreased and the historic presenting partners are facing their own financial challenges. We actively seek grants, sponsors and donors to underwrite Sunset operations. Significant further reductions in the enabling grant would make it difficult to maintain the expected high standard of facility maintenance and the quality of Sunset programming. We welcome your support and suggestions.

OUR FAVORITE PLACES

Suzanne Paboojian writes, "Here is why I enjoy shopping at **Nielsen Bros. Market**, owned by **Tigran** and **Azniv Amirkhanian**, with help from their daughter **Michelle**.

"First, I love the produce which is competitively priced—\$.69 cents a pound for russets, \$.99 for romaine and \$1.29 for avocados, both great tasting, as well as seasonal stone fruit.

"I love to stop in for my coffee and breakfast sandwich—only \$2.99 at the deli—after my morning walk."The Russian tea

cookies with afternoon tea, which owner **Azneev** carries in the container or which you can purchase singly back at the deli, are spectacular!

"Get the thick cut lamb chops to grill; or **Tigran's** already-cooked kebabs, which are yummy.

"And finally, it's the only place around that carries Boodles gin for great martinis, as well as other difficult-to-find spirits.

"I'm always finding new and wonderful culinary treats."

Wanted: digital photographer to take photos for CRA News

Contact Barbara Livingston, 626-1610, or barbaratlivingston@earthlink.net

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants."

Supreme Court Justice Lewis Brandeis

The CRA Board wishes to assure our members that we do not sell, trade, lend or in any other way share our mailing list with any organization or company. This list is held in the strictest confidence for our organization's use only.

Spotlight on Members

A random act of kindness

CRA member and artist **Frankie Laney** diligently cleans the patio and front sidewalk of the Carmel Art Association each and every week! Last summer when she took her then eight-year old grandson Calvin with her to help, they were the recipients of a most pleasant surprise. Frankie writes—

"Calvin and I were finished, in the car ready to drive home, when an attractive blond woman came up to us and said, 'I thought it was so beautiful seeing you and your grandson working together that I bought you breakfast. Just go over to **Em Le's** and pick it up.' After thanking her profusely, we did just that and came home and ate our absolutely best waffles ever on the deck. Covered in fresh blueberries, blackberries and strawberries, with wonderful syrup, the meal was tied with gorgeous gold ribbons! Now how's that for a beautiful story to start your day? It sure made mine! By the way, **Janet** at **Em Le's** told me that this kind lady was a visitor, not a local."

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What is CRA all about?

The Carmel Residents Association is committed to the protection and enrichment of the traditional quality of life in Carmel-by-the-Sea and the preservation of its heritage and natural beauty through education, community activities and advocacy.