



the VOICE

OF THE CARMEL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

CELEBRATING 29 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

NOVEMBER ■ DECEMBER 2016

Rounding Out the Centennial

CRA's "Reliving Our History" five-program series, offered to celebrate Carmel's centennial year, will come to a close on November 17, 2016. Les and Rowan Rowntree will present a program honoring their grandmother, entitled "Lester Gertrude Rowntree: Carmel's Free-spirited Native Plant Woman". It will begin at 5:00 P.M. in Carpenter Hall at Sunset Center.

Lester Rowntree was born in England in 1879. Named Gertrude Ellen Lester at birth, she began using "Lester" as her given name as a student in a Quaker boarding school where students were identified by their surnames. She went by "Lester Rowntree" when she married Bernard Rowntree in 1908.

Her family came to America in 1887, first settling in Kansas and later in Southern California. Her interest in plant life began when she was a teenager. She was offered a scholarship to attend the Horticultural College for Women in Pennsylvania, but had to refuse it to remain at home, caring for her aging parents.

She was fifty-three when, without any formal education in horticulture, she began pursuing a career as an independent naturalist. By then she was living in Carmel Highlands, but for the next twenty years, spent several months each year trekking up and down the State of California. She followed the wildflower seasons, beginning in March in the deserts of Southern California, then moving to the coastal foothills and seashore, and ending her tour in July and August in the high Sierra. She described herself as leading a gypsy's life spending nights sleeping on a bedroll under the



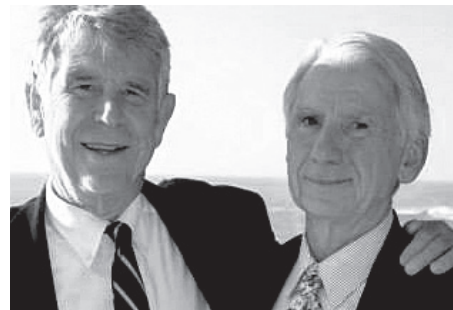
stars. Despite her freedom, she was actually penniless, eking out a hardscrabble existence through writing and lectures.

Lester wrote two books, *Hardy Californians* and *Flowering Shrubs of California* and over 700 articles; published in horticultural journals, newspapers, and prestigious magazines like *The Atlantic*. She packaged seeds and marketed them under her own label. Her hillside garden in Carmel Highlands became world famous, featuring native plants and plants that "behaved like natives". Her life was guided by a no-nonsense philosophy: "If you want to do something, just get up on your hind legs and do it."

She characterized her methodology in *Flowering Shrubs of California*: "I have approached the plants from the gardener's not the scientist's standpoint, hoping that my account will bridge the too-wide gap between botanical manuals and books on gardening. ... In compiling it I have followed the invariable rule of writing only from my own notes, taken on the spot, of the things the plants have told me in personal interviews." She remained active until the end of her life in 1979, five days after her hundredth birthday.

The Lester Rowntree Native Plant Garden (within Carmel's Mission Trail Nature Preserve) was created with the help of the Monterey Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society in 1980.

RELIVING OUR HISTORY WITH THE ROWNTREES



Rowan and Lester Rowntree

Lester's only child Cedric was the father of Les and Rowan, the speakers at our November 17 meeting. They grew up in Carmel. Despite living elsewhere since then, they have remained close to Carmel through numerous family ties. They began their education at Sunset School and eventually earned PhDs, Les at the University of Oregon and Rowan at UC Berkeley. Both spent their careers as university professors, Les at San Jose State, Rowan at Syracuse. Their experiences with their grandmother and their love of the Central Coast nourished careers in the environmental sciences. The Rowntree brothers knew their grandmother well. They have become her personal envoys, continuing her mission of changing the world.

An informal social hour, with wine, will follow the program. The program is free and open to the public.

THURSDAY MEETING
NOVEMBER 17TH

Time: 5:00 pm
Location: Carpenter Hall
Sunset Center

Free and Open to the Public



Barbara Livingston

"We Can't Have One Without the Other!"

As we come to the close of our centennial celebration, it is worth noting that the year was marked by six collaborative efforts between residents and business people. The Carmel Residents Association stood with business owners to oppose projects that would work against the special character of our unique village in a forest by the sea. The first challenge in the year came early, with the proposed plan for parking kiosks on Ocean Avenue. At public meetings, held by the City Council, CRA Board member Charlotte Townsend and Ken Spillfogel, of Flaherty's, with their group of Carmel-area residents and business people (CARB), helped influence the council to abandon the plan for kiosks.

Mark Watson, representing Inns by the Sea, asked to meet with me and a couple of hoteliers regarding how the residents feel about Carmel visitors. The business people were relieved to understand that Carmel residents much prefer overnight visitors to day-trippers. The hoteliers totally supported CRA opinion that short-term rentals are depriving the hotel owners, and consequently the city, of profits rightfully due to them. In addition, we agreed that Carmel is being deprived of a rental market that formerly attracted young families, retired people and city employees.

The wine tasting room issue brought Jack Galante and his fellow vintners together with Roberta Miller, past president of CRA. A small group met to review and help shape the city's standards for

developing wine tasting rooms in Carmel. The city is now approving no more wine tasting rooms south of Ocean, limiting the number of tasting rooms per year and requiring all tasting rooms to feature only wines from Monterey County.

Possibly the greatest collaboration of business and CRA came when the city introduced an idea to approve a specialty food store in the Service Commercial District instead of the Central Commercial District. This approval would be a "spot zoning", which is not allowed in Carmel's Municipal Code. Full-line restaurants are allowed in the SC district because they are considered more residential and have less impact on the transitional district between the commercial downtown and residential neighborhoods. Owners of restaurants, specialty food shops and markets came together with the CRA to oppose the food court. The proposal never got off the ground and the idea was shelved, only to reappear in a different guise.

A new threat to village character came in the guise of a 10,000-foot food court/hall proposal by a Southern California chain - The Patio Group - owned by American National Investment Co. Opponents argued that Carmel already has bakeries, coffee shops, wine tasting rooms, and delightful small restaurants that offer lovely food to visitors and residents. The mutual campaign, of business and CRA against the proposal, was led by CRA member Mike Brown and business owner Gaston Georis and others. The Planning

Commission carefully considered all testimony and ultimately made the Solomon-like decision--this huge proposal was not a right fit for Carmel-by-the-Sea.

The sixth and perhaps sweetest victory came in the decision of the Carmel Plaza owners to renegotiate their lease with Magdy Ibrahim, owner of Patisserie Boissiere. After months of stress-inducing indecision by the plaza owners, an agreement was signed for Magdy to continue operating his delightful, village-scaled European restaurant/bakery. This is joyous news to CRA members who wrote letters to corporate headquarters of the Carmel Plaza, imploring them to keep Magdy as a tenant. Chief among the letter-writers was CRA member, Ingrid Weckerle. She penned a three-page heartwarming story about Magdy's affection for the town, the villagers deep appreciation of him and his food, and the enormous reputation of his business, not only among Monterey Peninsula residents, but also repeat out-of-town and European travelers.

It is clear, from the above six examples, that residents and businesses must look to each other to make sure that Carmel retains its very special character. We can't have one without the other!

**THANK YOU!
A MEMORIAL DONATION
TO THE CRA
IN MEMORY OF
HARRIET SHANNER**

Introducing Carmel's Second Century

During Carmel's centennial year we have been "reliving our history". It's time to think about Carmel's second century. Here are some ideas that may stimulate discussions about some essential issues:

THE ENVIRONMENT

Of great concern is the health of our urban forest. Because of inadequate maintenance, drought, and infestations, many trees have been lost. Reforestation is essential. A heartening innovation is the increasing cooperation between the City and groups like the Friends of Mission Trail Nature Preserve and the Friends of the Carmel Forest.

Though contentious, we're pleased that preservation of our white-sand beach has become a front-page issue. The devastating effects of wood-fueled fires are being seriously considered and solutions sought.

Carmel must also plan for the effects of climate change. Rising sea levels will take their toll at the shoreline. Lessening summer fogs and reduced annual rainfall may incur ecologic effects that will significantly alter native flora. And providing sufficient water resources will become an ever more important issue.

THE ECONOMY

Like every city, Carmel's economy rises and falls with the national economy. But dependence on tourism compounds the situation. When downturns occur, tourism immediately declines. Furthermore, because foreign visitors are increasingly prevalent, the condition of international economies is significant.

Carmel's business district will likely never again be where most residents shop for their day-to-day needs. The countrywide trend toward shopping at stores located on the outskirts of cities is probably irreversible. Nevertheless, to

remain economically viable, the business district must offer residents of Carmel and nearby communities and longer-than-one-day visitors shops selling quality merchandise and restaurants serving delectable food in friendly and comfortable settings. It must never feature shops selling souvenir t-shirts and trinkets, and fast-food restaurants and food halls, aimed at attracting tour-bus and other in-and-out visitors.

Yet inevitably, Carmel must adapt to changes in habits and preferences. One example is the increasing popularity of on-line shopping. Delivery requirements may encourage development of a better system for locating residences.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Centennial reminiscences highlighted the city's demographic changes. Once a village of families, with neighborhoods filled with children at play, Carmel is now substantially populated by retirees and part-time homeowners. But such demographic characteristics must never be the sole determiners of priorities. To remain vital, Carmel needs a nucleus of families, actively involved in their community. We must continue to invest in our excellent public school system, our library, our playgrounds and our Youth Center, even though the investments are disproportionate to the number of families in residence.

New services like Airbnb offer new challenges to the ban on short-term rentals. Enforcement can only succeed if residents report infractions in their neighborhoods.

THE ARTS

Carmel ostensibly maintains a commitment to the arts. Yet, few painters, sculptors, photographers and craftspeople can afford to maintain studios in the village. Gone are the days

the city offered affordable studio space at Sunset Center and accommodated the Carmel Art Institute in the Flanders Mansion. If Carmel wishes to keep its reputation as a haven for photographers and other visual artists it must offer more venues for financially rewarding representation. Developing better outlets for craftspeople would also be a worthy future objective. Enthusiasts promote reopening a civic art museum, primarily for the display of city-owned art, but the idea is probably financially impractical.

Community theater groups played an important role in Carmel's history. Pac Rep is now probably the most important organization serving that tradition. Nevertheless, a dispassionate scrutiny of the history of Carmel's community theaters inevitably leads to one question: Would their viability have been better served through cooperation, than through competition? Perhaps this should be a goal for the new century. We also hope community theater productions might again receive more attention in the local press.

Carmel continues to support high quality musical organizations. A recent development is particularly remarkable. Chamber Music Monterey Bay, the Bach Festival, and the Monterey Symphony are now commissioning new works by prominent contemporary composers. Nevertheless, two problems plague these organizations: the advancing mean age of patrons and the rising cost of renting the city's performance venues.

The principal challenge of Carmel's second century remains the same as the principal challenge of its first century: adapting to changes in the ways of the world while preserving what makes our village unique.



As we enter the next century what do you foresee in a change of character, if any, in Carmel?

We need to be cognizant of any change. We need to be vigilant, and to some this might seem pro-business but we need to strike a balance between residents and commercial entities. Our future depends on funds created by business and visitors to protect and maintain the character of our village. That's the engine for sustaining the character—the balance.

What about the demographics of the village—singles, older adults, families—we're referring to full time residents.

It's challenging. Why? Because of the values of properties.

Most people, families, cannot afford to live in Carmel. My family would love to live here but we can't. A school teacher can't. We don't want just one demographic in Carmel. But it's tough. We need to find a way to attract new citizens. We need to tout our excellent schools, our robust arts movements. We have a youth center. We have excellent fire and ambulance services, full time police department. There's the attraction—let's look for solutions.

Chip Rerig

We're at City Hall. It's early morning. The skies are clear, it'll be in the 70s today. The beach? Later. We're here to talk to Chip Rerig, newly appointed City Administrator. Think we might have gotten lucky.

And then there are the second home folks. Do you see a way to bring them, welcome them, into the life here?

We need to do a better job at engaging them, including them. We need to seriously look at contemporary ways to communicate. Twitter? Face Book? By the way, CRA's "Voice" is a wonderful tool in this respect.

Short term rentals are illegal in Carmel. We know that this law is flouted daily. Is there a way to monitor? Airbnb is surely not helping.

Glad you asked. We've just hired a new secret weapon. It's a firm we've contracted with (at a very reasonable cost) which scrubs the postings on short-term rental sites like Airbnb. We get listings of all the short-term rentals in our village. Look, it's a cat and mouse game—they're renting illegally; we're monitoring and closing down each detectable rental. We'll have our first results shortly.

Is there some way for a citizen to talk directly to you regarding a particular issue without going to the Council or sending an idea or grievance letter to the editor? A face to face civil discourse?

Absolutely. My cell phone number is on my business card, and I welcome the comments, or ideas of our citizens. It's a new era. We can learn so much through civil dialogue. I tell my staff, go visit people. Not just the movers and shakers, but regular citizens. What do they have to tell me or my staff? Reach out—and we're doing it. We're here to provide service. And we're not being effective in Council at one and two in the morning.

We're making great efforts to keep the agenda to a reasonable length so that we can complete our business responsibly in reasonable time.

Arguably your position as City Administrator is the most important in the guidance of this city. You've inherited a city government in flux. In other words you have plenty on your plate.

We've been through a bad patch in the last year or so. Still this is a passionate community. People, the citizens, care about Carmel. We may have different views on any number of issues. And there are many and varied ways of resolving those issues.

Civil discourse, with very few recent exceptions, has been a hallmark of Carmel. Ultimately we come together, not always agreeing, but respecting our neighbor's point of view. Trust that has been lost needs to be regained. That's a major part of my job. It may not happen overnight. But I have confidence that it will happen. I view this time as magical. I jump out of bed every morning with the joy of knowing that I'm going to the office in a place which is in itself magical.

CRA COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Newsletter: Barbara Livingston, Tom Parks, and Richard Flower (Editorial Panel),
Bonny McGowan (Design and Production),
Mary Condry (Proofreader), Christine Rue and Jon Wolfe (Photographer), Carl Iverson and Vicki Kou (Distribution).
Other: Kathy Fredrickson (E-Blast Manager),
Dick Dalsemer (Email Manager),
and Darlene Mosley (Dines Out).

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The Brown Act Comes to Carmel

CITY COUNCILOR CHITWOOD WALKS OUT

John Chitwood, a recently retired Navy Commander, came to Carmel in 1948. He was an Annapolis graduate, described as “a lean, angular, bespectacled man of dignified bearing”. Chitwood was elected to the city council in 1950 and re-elected “by overwhelming margins” in 1954 and in 1958 to a term ending in 1962. He served as mayor from 1957 until 1960. A *Monterey Peninsula Herald* article noted that he “led the council through some of its most controversy-racked years” and that he was “known as a leader solicitous of the rights of others, to make their views heard in the council chamber, and...though slow to anger, could be blunt in expressing himself”. Despite his popularity and devotion “to preserving his adopted home town’s unique charm”, on many occasions he spoke in favor of the unpopular parking meter—“something he had no love for but believed essential in mitigating a parking squeeze”.

The Ralph M. Brown Act was enacted by California’s State Legislature in 1953. It applies to all city and county government agencies, boards, and commissions. Its underlying philosophy was stated: “*The people of this State do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created.*” Agencies covered by the act must provide public notice of their meetings, post agendas of the subjects to be discussed, and provide public access to those meetings. Closed meetings are permitted only for discussions of certain personnel issues, pending litigation and some other legal matters,

labor negotiations, and some property negotiations. Carmel, like most cities, very slowly adapted its practices to conform to the Act.

Prior to 1980, Carmel’s mayor was chosen by the city council (in the early days called “city trustees”). Usually, the position went to the councilor receiving the largest number of votes in the previous election, but that was not a hard and fast rule. Traditionally, during the first meeting following an election, after the meeting was called to order and new councilors sworn in, the council immediately adjourned to a closed executive session to discuss in private—and sometimes “fight out”—who was to be mayor. When, in 1960, the time came to elect Chitwood’s successor as mayor, it was finally recognized that this tradition constituted a clear violation of the Brown Act.

Brown Act be damned, in Chitwood’s opinion, such maneuvers should not be displayed for public scrutiny. He refused to participate in the discussion, walked out of the chamber, and waited in an anteroom until the mayor had been elected. Contemporary accounts do not mention whether Chitwood’s previous career influenced his opinions. But obviously the Brown Act’s mandates were antithetical to a Navy Commander’s accustomed *modus operandi*.

In Chitwood’s absence, the remaining councilors, with the meeting open to the public, proceeded to elect the mayor. Eben Whittlesey, the second-highest vote getter in the previous election followed tradition by nominating Frank Putnam, who had received the most votes. Putnam accepted and was elected unanimously. Chitwood returned to the council chamber and the councilors proceeded—



Photo courtesy of Arthur McEwen negative collection, Henry Meade Williams local history room, Harrison Memorial Library.

apparently amicably—to assign various responsibilities. Subsequent accounts of city council meetings do not reveal whether Chitwood encountered further problems in abiding by Brown Act mandates during his remaining two years on the council.

Ultimately, the Brown Act has become a major guide to the way Carmel conducts its business. Most meetings of the city council and commissions are open, strictly adhere to published agenda, and welcome public comment. Councilors and commissioners complete compulsory training about Brown Act provisions. Occasionally they must resist temptations to pursue matters that do not appear on agenda, discuss issues with colleagues away from meetings, or resolve disagreements privately, but caution usually prevails. Furthermore, as shown in the recent past, opinions can differ about what lies within the realm of the public’s right to know. Nevertheless, ostensibly, the goal remains to keep Carmel’s citizens informed so they “*retain control over the instruments they have created*”.

City

NEWS & VIEWS

BUSINESS DISTRICT ZONING

The Planning Commission's review of the City's commercial zoning regulations could result in changing the businesses that qualify for conditional use permits. The City has also been in the process of reviewing its restaurant regulations with the intent of making modifications that allow "more contemporary" restaurant concepts. A subcommittee will present findings to the Planning Commission following a public workshop. Interested residents are advised to remain alert for announcements of that workshop.

DOWNTOWN PARKING

Representatives from Carmel Area Residents and Business (CARB) have held discussions regarding improvement of downtown parking. Employees and business owners continue to park in valuable spaces that should be available to residents and visitors. City staff is developing an information flyer in English and Spanish regarding parking options. Volunteer members of CARB are obtaining parking counts of untimed parking spaces around the commercial core to update the employee parking map. Staff plans to hold a meeting with business owners to help them educate their employees.

COMMERCIAL DISTRICT LANDSCAPING

The City has established a program to encourage commercial property owners to landscape the sidewalk cutouts adjacent to their property. The Community Planning and Building Department has drafted an application allowing commercial property owners to submit landscape proposals to the City free of charge. City staff will assist by providing landscaping recommendations prior to submittal of the application and will approve new landscaping that complies with City guidelines.

TAX REVENUE

For the seventh year in a row, Transient Occupancy Tax revenues have increased over the previous year—by over 5%. However, average occupancy actually declined by 1.5%; but that decline was offset by average daily room rate increasing over 8% (to \$229.26). During the first quarter of 2016, sales tax returns declined by 4% from the returns during the same quarter last year; but because of the voter approved Measure D user tax, total revenue increased by 2.2%.

CHIEF MICHAEL CALHOUN RETIRING

After a thirty-two-year career in public safety for the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, Chief Calhoun will retire on December 31, 2016. His dedicated service to the residents of Carmel—not only as Police Chief but also as interim City Administrator—has been exemplary and his friendly presence in the village will be sorely missed.

MAINTENANCE ISSUES

This item is best quoted verbatim from City Administrator Chip Rerig's Friday letters: "City staff are always on the lookout for maintenance issues around the City, and we need your help. If you ever identify a maintenance issue that we should address, please contact our Public Works Administrator Yvette Oblander at 620-2072 or yhoblander@ci.carmel.ca.us. You can text or email a note or photograph (please insure you include a good description of the location of the issue). We'll track the issue using a database, investigate and address the issue, and provide you the outcome. Remember: We are all Carmel-by-the-Sea."

MISSION TRAILS NATURE PRESERVE

It is reassuring during this year's devastating fire season to note the City has completed a project to reduce the fuel load in Mission Trails Nature Preserve—removing dead and downed trees and broken limbs adjacent to the Serra Trail. Work is also proceeding on the restoration of the Forest Avenue entrance to the Preserve.

DISPATCH CENTER UPGRADES

Carmel has received \$216,000 from the state to pay for an upgrade to the 911 call center at the Police Department. These funds are generated by a portion of every home phone bill.

HAPPY TOWN

Coastal Living named Carmel as one of its top ten "America's Happiest Seaside Towns" and instituted voting for the selection of number one. They will report the winner of "The Happiest Seaside Town in America" in January.

DAILY BEACH FIRE CHECKLIST

City staff has developed a checklist to track the use and conditions at the six beach fire vessels. They will document whether trash and/or hot coals are present, and the general state of the surrounding beach area. This information will serve to document the amount of effort required to support the beach fire pilot program.



**HARRIET SHANNER
PHYLLIS KELLEY
PAULA WEBER**

CRA

NEWS & VIEWS

CARMEL TREASURES SALE

Treasures are piling up at Barbara Livingston's for CRA's second annual Carmel Treasures Sale on Saturday, November 19, from 9:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. They will be on sale in Barbara's garden, on the NW corner of 13th Avenue and San Carlos. Donations are still needed. Scour your garage, closets, cabinets and garden for underused items that others will find they cannot live without. Deliver them to Barbara's house and leave them on the front porch or call in advance 626-1610. The more donations, the more support for our community projects such as our scholarship for a CHS student, master classes at Carmel schools for music students, reading rewards for children at the Carmel library, etc.

PAC-REP "BOHEMIAN OF THE YEAR"

In celebration of Carmel's Centennial Year, Pacific Repertory Theatre is honoring CRA President and longtime Carmel resident Barbara Livingston with the inaugural "Bohemian of the Year Award", noting that she has spent decades fighting to keep Carmel, "Carmel". The award will be made at a celebration at the Golden Bough Playhouse, on Monte Verde between Eighth and Ninth, November 6, 2016, from 7:00 until 8:30 P.M. Wine and light hors d'oeuvres will be served in the lobby before the ceremony. A dessert reception will follow. The event will include auctioning an historically significant item with proceeds going to a charity of Barbara's choice—CRA. Tickets at \$25 each are available at the Golden Bough box office, Tuesday through Saturday, from 11:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M., or by phone at 622-0100. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

CRA STAR AWARD

The November 17th CRA meeting will include the presentation of a CRA Star Award to Karen Ferlito acknowledging her indefatigable efforts in preserving Carmel's special character through the protection and enhancement of our urbanized forest. Long a member of the Forest and Beach Commission, Karen has also served on the boards of the Friends of Carmel Forest and the Friends of Mission Trail Nature Preserve.



City Council members left to right: Carolyn Hardy, Carrie Theis, and Bobby Richards at CRA's Fiesta in the Forest.

FIESTA IN THE FOREST RAFFLE

A spectacular raffle was featured at the Fiesta in the Forest, with proceeds going to the CRA Community Projects Fund. The lucky winners shared: a ten-day stay in a beach condo at Puerto Vallarta; a dinner co-hosted by Chris and Tom Gaspich and Darlene and Dave Mosley; a bocce ball and dinner party for eight at Ann Pendleton's; tickets for the Blind Boys of Alabama, a magic show at Sunset and a Chamber Music Monterey Bay concert; a children's quilt handmade by Ann Nelson; an Adventures-by-the-Sea kayak tour on Monterey Bay; a historic walking tour of downtown Carmel with Mary Condry; four classic Carmel books; and a three liter bottle of Chalk Hill Chardonnay and a jug of Pusser's Rum, served to the British Royal Navy since the days of Henry VIII.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

It's time to nominate candidates for CRA's 2017 Citizen of the Year award—someone who has volunteered to make our village a better place. The award will be presented on Sunday, February 12, 2017 at 3:00 P.M. at the Carmel Woman's Club. That celebration will also feature "Welcome Home, Sam!" honoring Sam Farr, our long-serving Congressman, retiring at the beginning of next year. Nominations for Citizen of the Year should be sent to CRA, Box 13, Carmel, CA 93921 before December 1, 2016.



*'Tis the
Season
to be Jolly!*

Don't miss it this year!

CRA Holiday Party

**Enjoy a sumptuous buffet
including carving station,
seafood, cheeses, dessert,
wines and spirits.**

**December 10, 2016
6:00 – 9:00 P.M.**

The Carmel Art Association

*Come celebrate with
your CRA friends!*

*This year promises to be the
best Holiday Party the CRA
has ever presented!*

**Reserve Now
Darlene Mosley
PO Box 1135
Carmel 93921**

**\$50 per person
Check Payable to CRA**

CARMEL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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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.

Campaign for New Members

CRA is launching a campaign to recruit new members. We urge current members to look for potential members among their friends and neighbors. We're proud that our membership now includes around 600 Carmel residents, but considering there are 4,500 property owners, of whom some 1,800 are permanent residents, we should have a much larger membership.

CRA vigorously represents the interests and concerns of the city's residents against efforts to exclusively promote the interests of tourist-centered businesses. Toward that end, CRA representatives frequently appear before meetings of the city council and boards and commissions. CRA keeps members informed of important issues with its meetings and with the CRA newsletter *The Voice*.

The CRA book *Carmel A to Z*, available at no charge, offers helpful information about community resources. Its community service projects--such as the annual scholarship awarded to a CHS graduate, programs to support music education in Carmel schools, awards for the library's children's summer reading program, forums for candidates and important ballot measures in city elections, etc.--make CRA an important and visible community resource.

Unquestionably, CRA surpassed any other organization in its contribution to the celebration of Carmel's centennial. Thus far each of the programs in our "Reliving Our History" series has filled Sunset Center's Carpenter Hall; the fifth and final program promises to do the

same. The CRA's centennial book, *Stories of Old Carmel*, is in its third printing with a continually gratifying number of sales at local bookstores.

CRA also provides social opportunities for residents—particularly new residents—to meet new people and renew acquaintanceships. Informal wine and snack hours following each meeting, its semi-monthly Dines Out! at notable Carmel restaurants, the annual summertime Fiesta in the Forest, the December Holiday Party, and other special events offer such opportunities. As an incentive, until further notice, each new member will be invited to attend the next Dines Out as a guest of the Association.