

QUO VADIS CARMEL?

the VOICE

OF THE CARMEL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

CELEBRATING 34 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

MAY ♦ JUNE 2021

What's Old or New – Bad or Good?

There's been a lot of talk in the last few weeks regarding the character of this Village, Carmel-by-the-Sea. When we mention 'character,' what do we actually mean? Many of us would think *preserving* the character of Carmel. The late Barbara Livingston was a leader, perhaps the inventor, of the phrase or idea. But what exactly does that catch phrase mean? We believe that the subject is worth considering in this issue of *The Voice*.

What are we talking about—the character of Carmel? The forest, the beach, the infrastructure, the architecture, the natural beauty of where we live? Or are we talking about the spirit of the people, the residents? All of the above no doubt, depending on who we are and what special interests we may have. It's illusive, we know what we mean but it's not easy to articulate, to be precise. It's a feeling, maybe a personal comfort to be living in a place that brings us a kind of peace with our surroundings and with ourselves.

The forest is vast and present wherever we live in Carmel. It is the signature of our Village along with the sea and our beach. It's always there and doesn't change except through natural evolution and the husbandry of our cherished citizen caretakers, the Friends of Carmel Forest. More organizations include Friends of Mission Trails Nature Preserve, Carmel Cares, Carmel Garden Club and individual neighbors. It and the sea are the reasons that most of us live here.

Architecture. There's the rub, as someone once said. Depending on who you ask, you'll get an opinion, a strong



Carmel's City Hall

opinion—on what architectural design is right for Carmel. Will it be wood shingles, bat and board, stone, stucco, glass; pitched roof, flat, shed; fairy tale, Carmel cute, traditional with Dutch door; modern, mid-century, glass box, faux Wright (or wrong)?

Well, maybe, just maybe, it could be all or everything. Not anything. We have a government; we have, or should have, architectural design oversight. Modern doesn't necessarily mean dreadful or downright wrong. We citizens have our own tastes and we're probably not about to change. There's an old Latin axiom: "In matters of taste there is no dispute." In Carmel that's bunk.

Let's celebrate our good fortune.

Living here is a privilege and most of us know that. With the forest and ocean next door and with our fellow resident friends we can celebrate our good fortune even when we have different ideas regarding the character of where we live.

And when we talk about preserving the character of Carmel let's be ever watchful of the grooming of our streets, parks and public spaces, of any civic neglect that can mar the beauty of the place that we all call home.

Preserving the character of Carmel is in the hands of the people. Speak out, make a call, send an email. And yes, "love thy neighbor" even though we mightn't always agree. What we do agree on is that we're all Carmelites living in paradise. ■

Our Beloved Diverse Neighborhoods

In 1919 Robinson Jeffers, California's poet laureate and icon of the ecology movement hired Carmel developer M. J. Murphy to help him build a stone cottage at Carmel Point. Back when the Village of Carmel-by-the-Sea had fewer than 500



permanent residents, Jeffers built his "Tor House" and "Hawk Tower" from local coastal granite stones. After completion of the house and tower he began the project of planting over 2,000 trees on his estate. Sadly, in his later years he was forced to sell off most of his estate parcel by parcel to pay the property taxes eventually leaving him only the parcel containing the house and tower. By the mid 1970's plans were underway to bulldoze them for a real estate development! But with the creation of the Tor House Foundation in 1978, residents of the Carmel Village demonstrated what they could do to save a historic landmark. Volunteers raised enough money to buy the property and continue to raise funds each year to cover taxes, utilities, insurance and maintenance.

Carmel-by-the-Sea has a wonderful history of residents coming together to protect and enrich its traditional quality of life and to preserve its heritage and natural beauty. The Carmel Residents Association is only one example of many local volunteer organizations.

The Village Preservation Committee (savecarmelscharm@gmail.com) is a newer organization founded by residents Karyl Hall, Neal Kruse, Cari White and Lindamarie Rosier among others. Their Mission Statement: "To safeguard Carmel-by-the-Sea, a quaint Village in the woods, for those who live and visit here, for future generations". They believe Carmel's charm is largely due to

its homes and that charm is threatened by out-of-scale new homes that likely do not follow the Residential Design Guidelines adopted by the Carmel City Council in 2001. These guidelines were created to promote building houses that would be compatible with the design traditions of the community. At the same time, some variety in the details of construction were encouraged as a means of promoting diversity. For many years, there was a conscious intent of creating a Village in the forest setting when building new

homes. Members of the Village Preservation Committee will be meeting the Planning Commission and hope to encourage enforcement and an update of the Residential Design Guidelines. They also hope to find a way to save classic Carmel homes that are not deemed "historic".

The CRA board of directors were delighted to have Brandon Swanson, Carmel's new director of Community Planning and Building speak at our April Zoom board meeting. He shared his first-year action plan goals that included

updating our design guidelines for both the commercial and residential districts. He is also planning to digitize property files all accessible 24/7 from an online Carmel map.

We'd agree, it is time to reconvene the Design Review

Board. This board would review early concept designs with the applicant reinforcing alignment with the current and upcoming revised Design Guidelines. This preliminary step saves time and money for the applicant. The Carmel Residents Association looks forward to supporting Brandon and his team's effort ahead. ■



CRA Annual Meeting – a Survey & a Beach Connection

Our Annual Carmel Residents Association Meeting is traditionally in May, members-only, with a buffet. We introduce new and renewing Board Members, and usually host a panel of our government leaders. We learn, talk about City and CRA endeavors. Last year COVID-19 cancelled our meeting. This year, thank goodness, we are all welcoming the easing restrictions, and we are anxious to meet and reconnect in person. Yet, it is still a bit premature for us to host our traditional gathering.

So, we will go virtual and old-school by postal mailing you the latest on your CRA Board Members....and....a survey. This May Survey will ask for your views on our program offerings and for how we can better serve our membership.

We will also email the same survey packet to members who have email in our records.

PLUS, we are exploring a gathering outside on Carmel Beach for a glass of fermented grapes and mingling with fellow members. Watch your email and the postal survey packet for the date and time details. Please join us if you are vaccinated, masked and comfortable gathering. ■



Cooks Cove at bottom of the 13th Avenue Stairs
(top-down and bottom-up views)

A Life Lived Well In Carmel

The loves throughout her professional life were her horses, dogs, cats, mice, rats and yes, even a duck named Periwinkle. Add to that list is her love of and keen observation of the history of where she has lived and thrived for over seventy years—Carmel-by-the-Sea. She is **Cindy Lloyd**, and she enthusiastically accepted our invitation to talk all things Carmel. A bit overcast grey by the sea this day but bright, with this energetic woman sitting at the ready to share her thoughts with *The Voice*.

You've been a resident of Carmel for years, Cindy. Of course, there have been changes here just as in every city and small enclave. Can you give our readers a brief overview or a personal take on what you see now in the same Village as when you were much younger? What about residential architecture, smaller to bigger?

Most of the early houses were cottages. Brown shingle, bat and board and some stone facades. Murphy, a local, was



a well-known and successful builder, and many of his cottages still exist. There were some larger, grander houses built on two lots for professional people with more money than typical Carmel residents. Much later a well-known public figure was elected mayor and disbanded the Design Review Committee. The upshot was that larger houses were built to the very limits of our small lots. Now we see the results of wild, ambitious oversized houses in a Village not intended for such hubris. One surprise in the early history of our Village is that there were very few gardens. That's not true today; we have some lovely existing gardens that have to be a welcome change.



Ocean Avenue and its blocks North and South were and are the business district of our Village. Certainly, there has been a transformation in the kinds of businesses from the past to the present.

It was a small Village, and it seems to me we knew most of the shopkeepers and their families. We shopped in the markets and the bakeries and the hardware stores. We, as youngsters, even worked in some of the shops. We could buy anything in Carmel from our food to our clothes to our hammers and nails. There was just one exception: we had to travel to Monterey, to JC Penny, to buy children's shoes. Carmel today has become a destination for visitors with money who are looking for fashion, souvenirs, restaurants, special wines, etc. Our tax base is low, we need our tourists. The past may seem romantic,



By Tom Parks

but it was not sustainable. It's just the way it is.

The beach is what it was, is that true?

I remember when the beach was pristine white. You could walk from one end to the other and your feet would squeak in the sand. That changed over many years. With more party fires the charcoal remains became more and more visible until the white was replaced by what looked like speckled beige. Fortunately, in the last years we are beginning to return to white sand now that most sand fires are prohibited. A triumph to some: a disappointment to others.

There are issues in town that will have to be addressed. Governments move very slowly no matter what the issue.

I am genuinely concerned with what are called 'parkletts,' those kiosks where wooden barriers are set up in the streets to accommodate diners. And there are many of them creating in my mind a kind of carnival atmosphere in this beautiful Village by the sea. I understand that restaurants need to stay in business in a time of shutdown. I would hope a proper solution will be found soon to return the town to its much-appreciated charm.

We've been talking about change, Cindy. Inevitable. Our new residents come here to live, many only part-time. But those who are new and full-time neighbors can and very often become part of the very soul of Carmel as you've said.

Yes. And if they want to really be a part of the Village and want to participate in the culture and history and government of Carmel, they can join with the membership of the Carmel Residents Association.

A perfect ending to this conversation, Cindy. Thanks for the pitch. ■



By Doug Schmitz

A Call to C

“The present city council has an opportunity to leave behind it a memento of achievement which will render their names immortal in the annals of Carmel” wrote Perry Newberry in 1936. What was Newberry encouraging the civic leaders to undertake during the Great Depression? His correspondence was titled “FACE-LIFTING NEEDED.”



Carmel has had many council members and citizens advocating for civic beautification. The first mayor A.P. Fraser and future mayor John B. Jordan supervised the “street gardeners” who planted rights-of-way. They asked shop owners to place planters and potted plants at store entrances. Architect Charles Sumner Greene was a member of a collective in 1922 that championed street landscaping.

Clara Kellogg, a council office seeker in 1930, wrote in her candidate statement “Beauty is its own excuse for being, but it also has economic value.” Once elected, Kellogg became the Queen of

Beautification. She retained San Francisco landscape architect Thomas Church to draw plans for the greening of Ocean Avenue and Dolores Street. Kellogg and Mattie Hopper secured donations for the transformation of a tar weed patch to Devendorf Park and presented the completed greenspace to the council in July 1932.

Mayor Herb Heron and his elected colleagues in 1938 ordered the removal of parking in the center of Ocean Avenue and the installation of the landscaped medians so evident today. The council was sued by merchants but refused to abandon its position that downtown beautification was important. Its cardinal tenet prevailed despite the legal challenge. Mayor Sue McCloud spearheaded the rejuvenation and replanting of these medians in 2006.

In 1940, Carmel Cymbal publisher W.K. Bassett proposed the creation of a commercial district design review process where plans for architecturally unsightly/visually unfitting structures would be terminated. Bassett penned in 1941 that a landscaped pedestrian pathway should be built along Scenic Road, separating vehicles from walkers.

Councilors Pat McCreery and Bernard Rowntree established a comprehensive planting program in 1941, a concept carried forth through successive decades by Dr. Ray Taylor, Hugh Smith and Greg D’Ambrosio. Mayor Herb Banks persuaded his council to hire the first city forester. Forest and Beach Commissioners Bruce Crane and Sinclair Kirby-Miller were outspoken advocates for beautifying Carmel. Mayor Barney Laiolo championed the installation of a mini-park that still exists on Dolores south of Ocean Avenue.

In the 1970’s, councilors Howard Brunn and Helen Arnold and members of the Carmel Garden Club advanced the municipal pur-



Citizens



chase of Piccadilly Nursery, creating what Arnold called “an oasis of green” on Dolores Street. Mayor Charlotte Townsend appointed the Beach Task Force in 1983 whose recommendations led to the design and construction of the landscaped Scenic Road Pathway first advocated by Bassett 50-years prior. Mayor Clint Eastwood continued the work of this task force that was led by chairpersons Bobbie Weisner, Jon Raggett and future mayor Jean Grace.

Grace was mayor in 1990 when preservationists sought to relocate the First Murphy House, saving it from demolition. Her council offered the city-owned land at Lincoln and Sixth Avenues as a site, concurrent with the development of a new downtown open space, First Murphy Park.

Who is the Fraser or Jordan of 2021? Who is the next Heron, the new Kellogg, the Jean Grace for our time? These public servants from Carmel’s past advocated, persuaded, and cajoled for more beautiful public ways, civic lands and sterling architecture for private buildings. They set high standards for the appearance of Carmel-by-the-Sea. Who are this era’s missionaries spreading the gospel of beautification for public properties and preeminent structural design?

Celebrated landscape architect

Lawrence Halprin wrote there is “great economic value” in quality and beautification; landscaping is an important strategic and critical component that contributes to the economic engine of a community. Clara Kellogg made the connection of civic beauty and good economics ninety-years ago.

We should respond to Perry Newberry’s 1936 challenge...another “FACE-LIFTING NEEDED”! ■



Signpost with bag covering



Signpost with no sign

The Generations of our Carmel Youth Center

As you may be familiar, our Carmel Youth Center was founded by Bing Crosby in 1949. In following years, over 200 private non-profit youth centers were created nationwide; today now only our local Center remains. This phenomenal local legacy continues to adhere to its mission to nurture, educate, and encourage kids to be responsible, civically engaged and prepared for the future.

In this pandemic-challenged year, Director Jessica Faddis shut down the Center to the dismay of Carmel's parents and children. In this unplanned time, she volunteered at regional non-profits critically supporting those in need and found this sabbatical of sorts was a great learning opportunity as well. As the vaccinations roll out more broadly and the gathering constraints loosen, she has crafted an amazing summer program with an outdoor focus and looks forward to rolling these out to

familiar faces and new ones too.

Recently, the Center was honored with a memorial scholarship fund in the name of recently deceased Nancie Sutton. As a local child, Merv Sutton, Nancie's husband, enjoyed many years of programs at the Center. Nancie's scholarship fund will extend program access to families financially impacted during this pandemic. The lifetime memories created by the past and current generations at the Carmel Youth Center are indeed priceless. And your dollars will keep these great programs and new memories going for future generations. www.carmelyouth.org

By Nancy Twomey



This is Your Village's Fiscal Budget Planning Month

Yes, these are your tax dollars at work, all with the difficult oversight of your Carmel City Council. As Mayor Potter reinforces "we can't print money like the Federal Government". Please keep plugged into the various meetings during May and the previews provided in April (by viewing videos or reading the email News You Can Use from mid-April in

The Voice Archives on our website). We will keep you informed through email updates – but YOUR voice is needed too. Trade-offs and decisions on where to invest are not easy. View meetings live or the recordings later. Email the City Clerk (cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us) in advance of meetings to formalize your views for the official record. Also reach out to your City Council members, they want to hear from you.



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- May 3rd & 4th: Council Meeting (Preliminary FY 21/22 Budget presented)
- May 12th: City Council Retreat
- May 18th, 4:30 PM: Council Budget Workshop

Please take the few minutes to complete this

important Village Survey when it comes your way. As you may know, today's public space outdoor seating program is temporary. The next steps are to explore a possible permanent program for our Village businesses. Carmel City leadership needs YOUR views on the use of public space for outdoor seating. We will email the survey link to

May Outdoor Seating Survey

Yes, ANOTHER SURVEY

our membership, but it will also be found on the City website and in

The Friday Letter in early May in case you missed it.

Our Carmel was not built with wide boulevard sidewalks, like much of Paris. However, there are possibilities. Reminder – there are over 30 of our Village restaurants, pre-COVID, that offer some private outdoor seating choices for their patrons.

Connecting Carmel Neighbors

Carmel Neighbors was formed in April 2020, by Carmel City Council members Jan Reimers and Jeff Baron as the pandemic began to make sure residents received any help they needed. This initial effort has expanded into the Neighbors for Neighbors program. This program helps residents to exchange contact information with their trusted neighbors in the same block or neigh-

borhood, to keep connected for socializing, sharing, or helping with any unforeseen need. Neighbors for Neighbors is looking for leaders who can coordinate their neighborhoods. Plus, there is a starter kit. Visit carmelneighbors.org and click the "Neighbors for Neighbors" link to learn more or give Chris Campbell a call at 831-626-8833.

CRA Board Updates

We are pleased to report that we have 2 new members! Sherry Williams has been appointed to complete the remaining year of Dick Stiles' term; and Cindy Lloyd was elected to a new 3-year term! We bid adieu to both Dick and Ann Pendleton. Ann's term expired this month and she decided to forgo running again... you will be missed.

Our CRA Beach Clean Up



Chair Daniel Cardenas (831-620-2117) is "knocking the ball out of the park" again! About 40 people volunteered in both March and April with tremendous enthusiasm! Please join us on May 15th, June 19th...and the following 3rd Saturday of each month through October. We meet at 9 AM at the foot of Ocean Avenue. We finish at Noon and don't forget your gloves and masks please.

View Our Last General Meeting

Check out "My Grandfather, Sam Morse, with Charles Osborne" our recent online program. Charles delivered great insights on the origins of our neighboring community Pebble Beach and its founder, his Grandfather, S.F.B. Morse – a conservationist, athlete, artist, and entrepreneur. The video link is posted on our website home page.

Feast in the Forest Raffle

Please consider donating auction and raffle items for this annual event at Indian Village in Pebble Beach. More information to come and the funds raised on September 18th will be applied to our community outreach endeavors. Please contact President Fred Bologna at 831-625-3408 with your donation ideas.

Livingston Family Memorial Video



This is must viewing, for those who knew Barbara and missed it live. Barbara's family hosted an amazing online Memorial on Sunday March 23rd. This was rich with warm stories from her family of children, grandchildren and neighbors, plus personal insights from familiar local Carmel friends, mingled with unseen photos and videos. We have a web page showing Barbara's contributions, memories, and this video link at www.carmelresidents.org/barbara

VIP Program Updates



Please remember to visit the CRA website to learn all the businesses offering discounts when you show your card. A new offer of 15% off your first order comes from Savor the Local that delivers fresh farmers market items to your door. Welcome!



Please Say Hello

On the last Thursday each month when the CRA hosts the community table at the farmers market.



Barbara's Bench Memorial

For those wishing to further extend their wishes in honor of the February passing of our Barbara Livingston – we welcome and thank you for your contributions to this fund. We are working with the Carmel-by-the-Sea staff to pin down a worthy location for a bench in her name. To contribute go to www.gofundme.com and search for "Barbara's Bench".

Memoria for Barbara Livingston

Michael Wilson, Charles Elliott, Mary McDougall, Nancy Collins, Douglas Logan-Kuhs, Andrew & Bobbie Wright, Paul & Jonnie Webb, Don Hanson, Tim & Trudy Foster, Sherry Williams, Linda Anderson, Lei Lei Bates, Karyl Hall, Dianne Terrell, Bill & Nancy Doolittle, Ann Pendleton Simpson, Tim & Nancy Twomey.

These dollars, via checks and GoFundMe, are going to Barbara's Memorial Bench.



Place
Stamp
Here

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CRA Board of Directors

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Janine Chicourrat, Frankie Laney, Cindy Lloyd,
Ann Nelson, Tom Parks, Graeme Robertson,
Nancy Twomey, Ken White, Sherry Williams, Jon Wolfe

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.

The CRA does not sell, trade, lend or in any other way share our members' information with any organization or company.

👍 CHEERS & CHIDES 👎

👍 **CHEERS** Carmelites keeping distance, wearing masks and not complaining (not much, anyway).

👍 **CHEERS** Smiles to the Carmel Woman's Club holiday decorations – from Halloween, Christmas, St Paddy's Day to Easter. What is next?



👎 **CHIDES** Isn't it past time to consider a four way stop at 5th Avenue and San Carlos? Traffic accidents waiting to happen.

👍 **CHEERS** A great feeling booking a restaurant for a table INSIDE after over a year sitting on the sidewalk in our ski outfits.

👍 **CHEERS** Forest Theater Management Request for Proposals due in May.

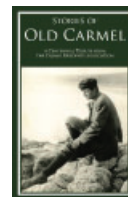


👎 **CHIDES** Signs created by residents in front of homes on public property are not OK.

👍 **CHEERS** Public Works' 50 stump removal project underway – announced 4/9/2021.

👍 **CHEERS** And thumbs up to the great work of the Carmel Climate Committee.

👍 **CHEERS** Our book "Stories of Old Carmel" is still available at River Books, Pilgrim's Way, Carmel Bay Company and Carmel Drug Store.



👎 **CHIDES** We can visit the barber or stylist, have our nails done, take a walk on the gym treadmill, get inked at a tattoo parlor, see a movie in a cinema--but we can't browse in our library?

👍 **CHEERS** Word on the streets that City Hall is reopening again.

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