

Ann and Bob Nelson



The fog was so thick – it's August, what else? The fog was so thick that we had to move inside the coffee house for our meeting. We were here to meet Ann and Bob Nelson, new CRA members who have become two of our most ardent volunteers, an attractive couple delighted to be a part of the life and energy and culture of Carmel.

The truth is that most of us who live in this storied village have come from someplace else. And we're here because we're fulfilling a dream of one day being a part of this small community. Now that you are full-time residents, Ann and Bob Nelson, please tell us where you came from.

BOB: We bought our little house in 1992 with plans to eventually retire to Carmel. And that's exactly what we did two years ago. We came from Berkeley, a city we still have great affection for.

ANN: I taught high school English and Bob was a lawyer. Before Berkeley we lived and worked in Sacramento. Bob continued to practice law and I became a travel agent.

You've been here permanently for just two years. What brought you to the CRA?

ANN: We knew very few people – we were new to the village. Our newfound neighbors stopped by one day with an application for membership. We joined and we've been active in CRA [members] ever since.

BOB: It didn't take long to discover that the Carmel Residents Association has as its priority the interest of the community at heart. It's committed to preserve and enhance what drew so many of us here

in the first place. We couldn't be more pleased with our decision to be a part of this organization.

Even before our meeting today we had heard of your generous participation in all kinds of CRA activities.

ANN: Well, it just seemed to happen – and continues to happen. We've helped out at the beach parties, the beach cleanup, the Fourth of July celebration, the wonderful Fiesta – our first last year and again this year.

BOB: Add to that, Ann and I are big fans of "CRA Dines Out." We meet new people every time we sit down to feast in some special Carmel restaurant.

You're both retired. Besides all you do for CRA, what other interests do you pursue?

ANN: I volunteer at the Joining Hands shop in Carmel Rancho. Bob and I both love our library. I help out at the Carmel Foundation. To us it's more than just being residents, we want to participate and contribute to the place we now call home.

What do you think of our new city government?

BOB: We were thrilled to be able to vote for the very first time in this last election.

We followed the issues, we attended meetings and we cast our votes. And we're delighted to say we were part of voting for the current administration.

Besides art galleries, jewelry stores and restaurants, what businesses would you like to see in the commercial district?

ANN: Well, you know when we first came here, even before we became full-time residents, we didn't want anything to change. We could find nothing that displeased us about this little village.

BOB: We feel the same today. I like coffee houses; could always use another one or two. It would be nice to have a traditional bookstore but then we have a terrific one in the Crossroads. Is there a barber in Carmel?

ANN: I think we're both saying that we have no complaints.

BOB: We're just very happy to live here.

And the CRA is happy that you do. Add to that our thanks for all you do for the organization! We'll meet often, if not at a CRA dinner then on the beach or at City Hall listening and/or participating in issues that affect the quality of life in this tiny, beautiful village on the California coast.