



## Photographer Gale Wrausmann

### ZOOMING IN ON THE ESSENCE OF CARMEL



© Gale Wrausmann

Whether you know almost everything or almost nothing about photography, you won't want to miss photographer Gale Wrausmann's artistically crafted slide presentation, "Zooming in on the Essence of Carmel." Come and experience the "WOW" factor as you view her captivating photographs of Carmel. Unless you are lucky enough to have a photographic memory, jot down this date: Thursday, May 26th at 4:45 pm, Vista Lobos Meeting Room.

Gale Wrausmann is a woman with an extraordinary list of accomplishments, talents and interests. She has a BA in math as well as an MBA from the University of California at Berkeley. She is a former corporate executive, world traveler, classical pianist, and avid golfer. Not one to rest on her laurels, she is now working on a book that will add author to her resume.

After spending many years visiting Carmel, experiencing its lifestyle, and photographing its wondrous natural beauty and architectural diversity, she surrendered to its lure as a unique place and a muse for her passion, photography. Wrausmann, in her own biography printed in the CRA Newsletter on January 2008, recalled, "When I saw photographs of early Carmel, I had an instant affinity with the spirit that created such a unique place. I saw Carmel as a haven for creativity and spirituality."

Notably, Wrausmann's photographic works of art have won international awards. She has exhibited her photographs in museums and galleries in New York, Los Angeles, Santa Fe, and San Francisco.



Now in its 15th year, Gale is still conducting her Carmel Walks for visitors and residents alike. A walk to discover a sense of place; to learn about

Carmel's historic and cultural heritage; and to explore secluded passageways, courtyards, and gardens that seem to lie in wait just to be found. And always on display is Carmel's immense charm – not to mention the sensibilities of its inhabitants, who want to preserve this far-from-ordinary place. Honing her skills as a storyteller, Wrausmann weaves her tales and methodically unravels the secrets that create the essence of Carmel.

Come and enjoy a pleasurable evening that is guaranteed to make you smile. Gale's eye-catching photographs of all things Carmel, intertwined with colorful tales depicting Carmel's bohemian roots, will create a visual tapestry of texture and imagery. Perhaps, one might even experience a magical moment of Zen.

## Meeting

**THURSDAY • MAY 26**

**Speaker:** Gale Wrausmann  
**Time:** 4:45 pm  
**Location:** Vista Lobos Meeting Room

(on Torres between 3rd and 4th)

"Zooming in on the Essence of Carmel"

No-host Social at Anton and Michel's following the meeting.





Barbara Livingston



“In the meantime,  
in between time,  
ain't we got fun!”

This issue of the CRA NEWS reveals the many ways that members of the Carmel Residents Association can relax and have fun throughout the year. Despite our earnest and successful efforts to weigh in on issues important to the village, it is not all hard work and no play for the CRA. The photos included in this issue document how our members enjoy each others' company and our community through our member gatherings and our Citizen of the Year event, which is free and open to the public.

#### **CELEBRATING CITIZENSHIP**

Approximately 175 people showed up on March 27th to honor Greg D'Ambrosio as the 25th Carmel Citizen of the Year. Guests at the Carmel Woman's Club enjoyed a catered reception organized by co-chairs Kristy Downing and Ovide Kennedy. Greg received certificates from the City of Carmel (presented by Councilman Ken Talmage), Monterey County (presented by Supervisor Dave Potter), the State Assembly, and the U.S. Congress. Carmel City Councilman Jason Burnett gave an inspiring keynote speech.

#### **INFORMATIVE PROGRAMS**

Program chair, Roberta Miller, treats us to great programs in January, May, September, and November. For May, Roberta has planned an intimate look at Carmel through the lens of Gale Wrausmann, as noted in our cover story. After the meetings we gather to socialize at various local watering holes.

#### **DINING OUT IN STYLE**

The Carmel Residents Association Dines Out at fine restaurants downtown, at the Crossroads and the Barnyard in February, April, and October. These culinary adventures are planned by Mary Ellen Thomas and Barry and Kathleen Swift, who work with the chefs and catering managers to come up with exciting menus for our dining pleasure.

In February we had a delectable experience at Casanova under the watchful eye of owner Gaston Georis. We presented Gaston with a Certificate of Appreciation for providing our village with original dining experiences at the Georis family's charmingly unique restaurants. In April, we took over the new party room at the Rio Grill in the Crossroads. The always-popular Rio is sporting a new look, and it was exciting for the Carmel Residents Association to be among the first to enjoy it.

#### **KEEPING THE BEACHES CLEAN**

CRA Beach Cleanup is an ongoing activity that helps the city rid its prime real estate of the charcoal and debris that sully the pristine whiteness of our famed Carmel Beach. Now in its 18th year, Beach Cleanup volunteers gather on certain Saturday mornings under the direction of Helen and Mark D'Oliveira. To start everyone off in a happy mood, coffee from the Carmel Coffee House and cookies from Safeway are served to the volunteers. Come on down one Saturday morning to the foot of Ocean Avenue and see the men and women dressed in their orange safety vests working with special cleaning implements designed by CRA members.

#### **THE FIESTA IN THE FOREST**

This popular Carmel tradition, held in August at Indian Village in the Del Monte Forest, is open only to members. The barbecue is presided over by chefs Pierre Prodis and Dick Laney, who cook up sausages for appetizers and chicken basted with their secret sauce. Jane and Tony Diamond have run this show for several years, taking it over from Don and Susie Carr. Members dress casually or in Mexican-inspired clothing and eat wonderfully well on shrimp, sausage, chicken, salad, frijoles, garlic bread, and the secretly guarded recipe of rice, cheese, and green chilies. ¡Ole!

#### **CELEBRATING THE SEASON**

We cool down by December when the Carmel Residents Association puts on its Holiday Gala at the historic and venerable La Playa Hotel. Chef Bunyan Fortune prepares a fine meal with input from the Swifts and Mary Ellen Thomas. This is a dressy occasion and gives members an opportunity to see each other out of our casual day clothes. (*Who is that? — we might ask — not recognizing someone wearing a gorgeous outfit, hair done up and in heels!*) Drinks on the terrace, sit-down dinner in the Poseidon Room, and professional carolers entertain us — it is always a lovely end to a wonderful year.

We hope you will join us for the activities and events that we have planned for the rest of this year. We'll be back in the Fall with our September/October issue of CRA NEWS. **In the meantime, in between time, have a happy, sunny summer!**

# A stroll through an amazing place

*Jason Burnett's reflections capture the essence of Carmel and the spirit of Carmel citizenship.*

The following is, in part, the talk given by City Councilman Jason Burnett as master of ceremonies at the March 27th Carmel Residents Association's Citizen of the Year Celebration. He has done a splendid job of capturing the essence of Carmel.

"I hope that all of you have had a chance to enjoy this sun, to have gone for a hike, a walk or at least a stroll. A chance to get outside and appreciate the new Spring growth, the raindrops on spider webs, the hummingbirds seeking out Castalla flowers, sparrows engaged in their spring mating dance. Maybe you took time to walk down some of our village pathways, walked along Scenic watching the surf, or cut through an alley while shopping downtown and discovered a little surprise view that you haven't seen recently. Carmel is unique because of its natural beauty, because of the attention to detail, because it is human-scale, because the best...no, the only way... to truly experience our village is on foot.

"What a beautiful day to appreciate the amazing place where we live. I'm going to take you on a little 'walk' around Carmel today, but first we should recognize that Carmel was not created by accident. We are here today to celebrate someone (Greg D'Ambrosio) who had a very large hand in shaping our community, in fighting to protect its natural beauty. Before we do, it is appropriate to remind ourselves of some of the past leaders who fought for the same.

"Frank Devendorf, co-founder of Carmel, didn't fit the stereotype of a land developer. I quote, 'after all, though I'm a businessman, I'm glad to see one town refuse to be bossed by the business

elements...I'm glad I sold the land cheap to poets and painters who were glad to plant my trees. I didn't know Carmel was going to be quite like this, but I'm glad it is, and I'm rooting for the poets against the businessmen to keep it so.'

"And when you read the poets of Carmel, they write about the natural beauty (and the efforts to protect mother nature). Robinson Jeffers, writing about Carmel Point, said:

*The extraordinary patience of things!  
This beautiful place defaced with a crop of  
suburban houses—  
How beautiful when we first beheld it,  
Unbroken field of poppy and lupin walled  
with clean cliffs;  
No intrusion but two or three horses  
pasturing,  
Or a few milch cows rubbing their flanks  
on the outcrop rock-heads—  
Now the spoiler has come: does it care?  
Not faintly. It has all time.  
It knows the people are a tide  
That swells and in time will ebb, and all  
Their works dissolve. Meanwhile the  
image of the pristine beauty  
Lives in the very grain of the granite,  
Safe as the endless ocean that climbs  
our cliff. — As for us:  
We must uncenter our minds from ourselves;  
We must unhumanize our views a little,  
and become confident  
As the rock and ocean that we were  
made from.*

"Through the years we have had many, many citizens fight for Carmel's slow pace and natural esthetic. The 'Don't Vote for Perry Newberry' movement; Gunnar Norberg and his creation of the Forestry Commission; Mayor Charlotte Townsend's efforts to contain

the commercial district and have more resident-oriented businesses; the fight against paving over Hatton Canyon.

"The group that most effectively carries on this tradition is the Carmel Residents Association. Promoting the residential character is not just one special interest alongside commercial interests and other interests.

"Let's remind ourselves of our village charter: 'The City of Carmel-by-the-Sea is hereby determined to be primarily, essentially, and predominantly a residential city wherein business and commerce have in the past, are now, and are proposed to be in the future subordinated to its residential character.'

"In other words, Carmel does not want to become like so many seaside resort communities where residents are pushed aside to accommodate an increasingly large commercial footprint.

"This language is prominently displayed in the Council Chambers but just saying it doesn't make it so.

"Concerned, engaged, and educated citizens make it so. The Carmel Residents Association makes it so. The CRA keeps a close eye on the City Council and is never shy about making the case to preserve our town's natural beauty and enhance our village for us residents. It is this vigilance to the original vision for our community that keeps Carmel...Carmel."



# Christine Sandin

## Keeping Sunset Center humming with song, dance, and performing arts



*We met in Ms. Sandin's office at the Sunset Center. She's an open, friendly and well-informed person. She's been a Carmel resident for two years, and is married with two children. Ms. Sandin makes plenty of time for us even to the point of a short walkabout the complex. She has an answer for every question and she's ready with a smile.*

*As to the theatre, the entertainment wing of the Sunset, do you work with booking agents and managers? Are there many resources for finding entertainers, musicians, actors, personalities?*

Yes, of course. But we just as often use our own resources. We've been doing this long enough to know what our audiences want. Our job is to book acts that we believe will be popular with the public and will sell tickets. There is always negotiation in terms of fees, dates, and availability. Many shows that we might like to present are too expensive; their fees are often more than we can justify to show a profit at the box office. The theatre has to date produced 31% of our income revenue.

*How's business?  
(You must have anticipated this question!)*

The theatre is what most people, locals and visitors, think about when they consider the Sunset. In the 2009-2010 season, there were 146 performances attended by 73,000 people.

We have other spaces such as Carpenter Hall, Babcock, Bingham, and Chapman rooms. We have rehearsal space, the studio, the lobby, and the Green room—where additional events can be hosted. I should add that we have two rental scales: one for profit and another for not-for-profit. Other than the theatre, our rental income for our other spaces totaled to date 19% for both profit and non-profit.

*Besides the stated current revenues and the continuing Carmel government's annual obligation, what other means do you have to sustain the Sunset complex?*

We have work to do. We need to update the North complex of meeting rooms with state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment, cosmetic enhancements, and a generally improved feel and comfort of these spaces. Why? Because we're looking to welcome conferences, meetings, lectures, civic groups, and events. Carmel has so much to offer, and the Sunset is ideally a destination for groups and special events.

*And the theatre?*

The theatre is a beauty, both practically and aesthetically. It stands as it is, something for the citizens of this village to be proud of.

*Thank you, Ms. Sandin. After our conversation this morning I believe Carmel has every reason to be proud of you in your new role. Good luck from the Carmel Residents Association.*

*Good morning. You have a history with the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel, and the Sunset Center. What is your new title?*

I am the recently appointed Executive Director of the Sunset Center. In 2009 I was hired on contract as a marketing consultant. I originally came to the Peninsula five years ago, when I managed the Monterey Blues Festival.

*Can you give our readers an overview of your current responsibilities?*

I oversee and manage the Sunset staff. We're responsible for operating and maintaining the facility, fiscal management, providing meeting space for local organizations, locating and booking performing arts—music, comedy, lectures, special events, etc. If I may, I'd like to quote just the last sentence of our Mission Statement: "The Sunset Center . . . is a gathering place for cultural enrichment through the performing and visual arts and education programs."



**EXTRA!** In an exclusive to the CRA NEWS, Sunset Center has announced two major stars who will appear on stage in the coming season:

actress **Shirley MacLaine**

& musician **Chris Botti**

# Legends of the Lost Padre Mines

## Ghosts and Gold in the Santa Lucia Mountains



*Vintage photograph of the Santa Lucia Wilderness. Courtesy of the Henry Meade Williams Local History Room, Harrison Memorial Library.*

Every village in America has its unique hoard of legends. Carmel has its share, among them the legends of the Lost Padre Mines of the Carmel Mission. As with most legends, just enough presumed evidence has emerged from time to time to keep them alive. Several versions of the mine legends are found in Randall Reinstadt's books, *Ghosts, Bandits, and Legends of Old Monterey, Carmel and Surrounding Areas* and *Tales and Treasures of California Missions*.

Different versions of the legends don't even agree on the number of mines: one or several. Nevertheless, there are common elements in all versions: The Indians knew of rich deposits of gold in rugged and remote spots in the Santa Lucia Mountains. (One version locates a Lost Ventana Mine in a vicinity where Indians quarried stone when building the Mission.) As some Indians converted to Christianity, they shared their knowledge of gold deposits with the padres. The padres set Indian laborers to work mining the gold and delivering it to the Mission. At some point, for unexplained reasons, the mining ceased and the locations became lost secrets.

Some motivation for secrecy is an essential ingredient of most legends. In this instance there is a choice between two. One claims that the Great Spirits, angry because the Spanish took the land, forbade the Indians from ever disclosing the location of any gold deposits to white men. The other accuses the padres of telling the Indians that God would punish them if they revealed the secrets to any layman.

Many versions of the legends seem to have come from old-timers living in Carmel Valley. The likely explanation is that a few of the last descendants of the Mission Indians lived and worked there. One story, published in a 1931 issue of *The Pine Cone*, told of recollections by Joseph Enright. His family retained as their cook, an Indian woman who claimed to be 103. She maintained that in her youth she had often seen Indian runners leave early in the morning, disappear through the next day, and return on the third day with heavy bundles—undoubtedly filled with gold nuggets—which they delivered to the Mission.

Another Valley old-timer said he once persuaded an elderly Indian to guide him to a mine, but as they neared the site, the guide refused to go farther, saying he feared being “chased out by ghosts of the padres.” A similar version holds that in return for a family's kindness, an Indian offered to guide one family member to a mine. When they arrived at the site, it had been buried by a landslide and no gold could be found.

Supposedly, in 1962, four prospectors stumbled on a sealed cave on a rugged Santa Lucia peak. Within the cave were the skeletal remains of ten human beings. This “discovery” has been cited as support for a version of the legend that Spanish soldiers exploring the Santa Lucia wilderness happened upon a mine and forced the Indians to continue their work, pocketing the gold. When the soldiers left California, they killed the Indians and sealed their bodies in a cave, hoping to keep the mine secret until they could return one day. Another version has Spanish soldiers following Indians to the site. The soldiers enslaved the Indians and helped themselves to large quantities of gold, but eventually the Indians turned on the soldiers and killed them.

Occasional discoveries of artifacts in the Santa Lucia wilderness—such as skulls, swords, and Spanish coins—have been presented as further evidence to support the legends. Some prospectors have even been so convinced of the mines' existence they staked legal claims in areas they believed a mine to be located.

Each passing year takes its toll on Carmel's treasured San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo Mission, demanding more and more expensive restoration and preservation. The Carmel Mission Foundation has embarked on a major fundraising drive to commemorate the 300th anniversary of Father Serra's birth. If any Lost Padre Mine exists in fact, not merely in legend, and someone knows the secret, the time to reveal it is now.



# Community CALENDAR

■ **18TH ANNUAL CARMEL ART FESTIVAL**  
Sculpture in the Park: May 12-15 Devendorf Park

■ **CRA GENERAL MEETING**  
Thursday, May 26, 4:45 pm.

■ **MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY**  
Monday, May 30, 11 am • Devendorf Park  
Sponsored by our local American Legion

■ **CRA BEACH CLEANUP 10:00 to noon**  
Saturday, May 28      Saturday, July 23  
Saturday, June 25      Saturday, August 27  
Foot of Ocean Ave.

■ **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
Council Chambers  
Tuesday, June 7      Tuesday, August 2  
Tuesday, July 12      Tuesday, September 13

■ **JUNE AND JULY**  
No CRA events, just Beach Cleanups

■ **CARMEL'S 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION**  
Monday, July 4, 12:00-4:00 pm Devendorf Park  
Concert, food and games.

■ **CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE  
PARADE AND DISPLAY**  
Thursday, August 18, 11:30 am, Ocean Avenue

■ **CRA FIESTA IN THE FOREST ANNUAL BBQ**  
August 25 • Flyers will be mailed to members

### ONGOING CITY MEETING DATES:

All held in City Council Chambers,  
Monte Verde between Ocean and 7th.  
Check with City Hall for updates.  
<http://ci.carmel.ca.us/>

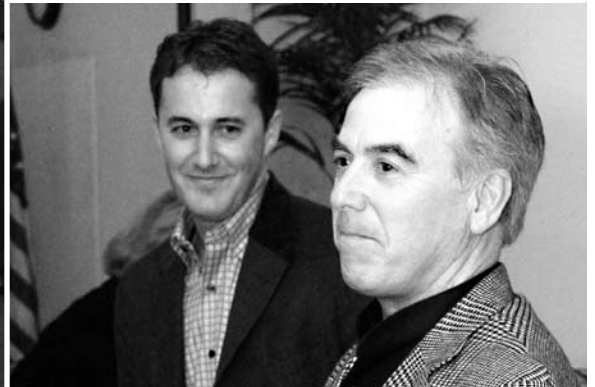
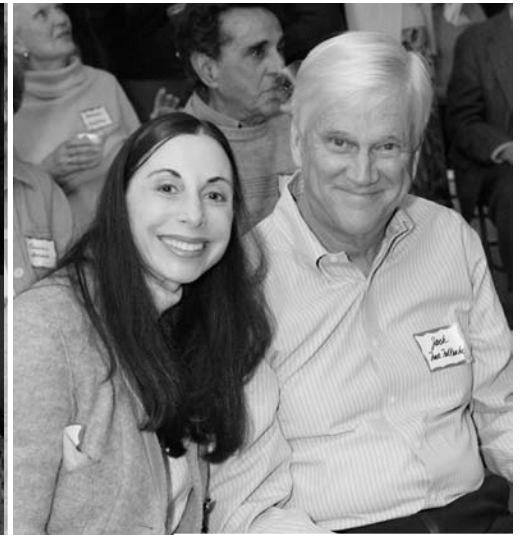
- City Council, 1st Tues., 4:30 pm
- Forest and Beach Commission,  
1st Thurs., 1:30 pm
- Planning Commission, 2nd Wed., 4 pm
- Community Activities and Cultural  
Commission, 2nd Tues., 9:30 am
- Historic Resources Board, 3rd Mon., 4 pm
- Library Board of Trustees, 4th Wed., 9 am

Please see the CRA's website for the  
schedule of meetings and events.  
**[www.carmelresidents.org](http://www.carmelresidents.org)**

Council meeting TV broadcast:  
the Sunday after the meeting,  
8:00 am-noon, Channel 26.

## Celebrating Carmel Citizenship... SHARING GOOD TIMES WITH GOOD FRIENDS!

Greg DeAmbrosio and Carmel's community of friends celebrated  
what it means to be an active and conscientious Carmel Citizen!



## COMMENTS ON THE CARMEL BUDGET PROCESS

During Carmel's budget process, our Board of Directors' Budget Committee submitted the following propositions to the city council that we believe should govern formulation of the 2011/12 budget.

**The city is facing serious financial problems.** The city will suffer unsustainable deficits unless council members are willing to make significant changes to both revenue and expense sides of our budget.

**Cost reductions cannot be relied upon to balance the budget.** Salaries and benefits account for the bulk of the city's expenses. Over the past decade, the Carmel workforce has been reduced by over one-third. Minor reductions may still be possible without a serious loss in services. However, further reductions large enough to balance the budget would result in cutting back essential services — seriously harming the livability and attractiveness of the city and carrying long-term negative consequences for residents and businesses.

**Further reductions in financial reserves are unacceptable.** In recent years reserves have eroded through the city council's unwillingness to reduce costs or increase revenues sufficient to balance the budget. Prudent fiscal management requires the council to create a budget that eliminates deficits in the short term and puts us on a path that assures long-term sustainability.

**New revenue sources are essential.** Since significant cost reductions or continued erosion of reserves are not acceptable, there is no alternative but look to various means to add to our revenues. Alternative sources could be an increase in occupancy or sales taxes, imposition of new fees such as a meal fee, an increase in existing public service cost-based fees and permits, or establishing a fee for parking in the central core of the city. No enhanced revenue measure is likely to be welcomed by Carmel stakeholders. Unfortunately, the alternative of running continued deficits

or slashing needed services would be more harmful to the long-term interests of the community. A balanced mix of revenue sources is needed that shares the pain and causes the least hardship to residents and businesses.

**Perform an analysis to determine our short- and long-term financial needs.** Before detailed figures can be established for both costs and revenue, the city council must assess the costs to maintain and upgrade our deferred infrastructure, meet our massive retirement debt, improve and manage our parks and beach, deal with the storm water issue, fund public safety, replace rolling stock and other equipment, subsidize Sunset Center, and keep improving the downtown area to support quality businesses. There is no quick remedy, but a realistic path can bring our house in order within a few years.

**Immediate steps should be taken to reduce long-term employee benefit costs.** Carmel, along with most other governmental jurisdictions, has for many years ignored the accumulation of long-term liabilities for employee retirement and health care. Though the problem is now generally recognized, the city is still adding to the net negative liabilities. Contractual obligations substantially constrain the ability to reduce existing liabilities (other than by increasing current funding for future benefits). Early steps should be taken to avoid digging the hole even deeper. It is hard to see how the city can do this without negotiating less generous retirement arrangements for new employees through some combination of increased retirement age and reduced future retirement benefits.

## 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.

## BECOME A MEMBER!

It's easy to become a member of the Carmel Residents Association.

- Visit us on line:  
[www.carmelresidents.org](http://www.carmelresidents.org)
- or email us:  
[carmelresidents@gmail.com](mailto:carmelresidents@gmail.com)
- or call us: **626-1610**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mary Ellen Thomas	625-0580
Charlotte Townsend	624-0780
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## CRA NEWSLETTER TEAM

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Editorials	Carolyn Hardy Linda Anderson Barbara Livingston
President's Message	
Favorite Places	
Spotlight on Members	
Village Profiles	Tom Parks
Old Carmel	Richard Flower
City Watch	CRA News Team
Content Review	Betty Dalsemer James Emery
Proof Reader	Mary Condry
Email Manager	Dick Dalsemer
Post Office Distribution	Diane and Fred Siegel
Illustrations	Kelly Steele
Beach Cleanup Coordinators	Helen and Mark d'Oliveira

# did you



## MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Kudos to **Fred Siegel**, CRA Ambassador of Good Will, for cheerfully standing duty at the Carmel Post Office to hand out our newsletters and other print materials of interest to the community. And thanks to Fred's army as well.

Condolences to CRA founding member **Joan Horton**, who lost her home in a fire in mid-March. Joan survived by obeying instructions to immediately abandon her home and to seek refuge with her neighbor.

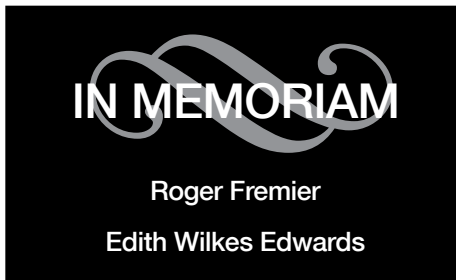
**Lisa Budlong**, Visitor Center Manager for the Carmel Chamber of Commerce, reports that Carmel has been chosen as the #1 small city in the U.S. by Trip Advisor, and one of the top 10 cities of any size, by the Condé Nast Readers' Choice Award.

## IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

Our last newsletter included an envelope and information insert to kick-off our annual membership drive. Don't be the last one on your block to renew! We rely almost exclusively on dues for our source of revenue. Any donation over the designated amount is especially appreciated, and could honor someone or be in memoriam.

Figures for the past year indicate we have a steady membership of over 400 households with about 700 individuals. 28% of households are not full-time residents. 12% last year were benefactors. 30% of the locals volunteered for some type of community activity.

Please send in your dues soon to help us save postage on a reminder note! For your convenience, we've included a renewal envelope with this newsletter. AND, we encourage you to volunteer for one of the many community-building CRA activities!



## LOOKING FOR TALENT!

The CRA is looking for someone to set up and manage a Facebook page. If you are interested, please call Barbara Livingston at 831-626-1610.

## CARMEL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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