

the VOICE

OF THE CARMEL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

CELEBRATING 33 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

NOVEMBER ♦ DECEMBER 2020

A Holiday Masquerade

What an unusual, strange, and complicated holiday season this year of 2020. What to do, where to go, to celebrate or not, to ask family to the table, to decorate a tree and then ask, for whom?

Thanksgiving has always been the family holiday from the time of the pilgrims. Well, this year we find ourselves pilgrims in a kind of box.

If there's a reader out there who can tell us how to scarf down the groaning table of turkey and all the trimmings while wearing a mask, we'd like to hear from her/him.

And since we learned that Macy's Santa is hunkering down in the North Pole this time around, dads and moms will need to be creative in explaining that the old fellow is snowed in but has sent his Christmas gifts by way of Amazon.

And speaking of being creative, Americans have always come through with inventive ideas. We're not talking of just "making do," we need to find ways to celebrate while being safe, keeping reasonable distances, and inviting our families and friends into our lives at this difficult, even momentous time in world history. We'll find a way, probably already have.

The elections are over. Just as in every contest there are winners and losers. My guy won; yours lost. Or vice-versa. At this point, there's nothing we can do about it. But there is something we Carmelites can do and that is to congratulate our local winners: Here's to Mayor Dave Potter, in for a second term. And then to both incumbent Bobby Richards and Karen Ferlito we send our best wishes for winning two Council seats. Now the work begins.

Through this difficult year we can be thankful that although so much in our lives has been changed or interrupted or disappeared, the beauty of our Village, the beach and forest endure and thrive. We

can still walk the paths of Mission Trail Park, still stroll the sands of Carmel beach, and still be grateful for the continuing watchfulness of the unique charm and character

plaints—but that's not what the majority of our citizens are saying—honestly, we've asked. We're in for the long haul. We'll wear our masks until it's safe to leave the



of this beloved Village. The environment counts. And that's why we live here.

What do we miss? It's a long list. Wouldn't it be a near perfect morning to browse the stacks in the library or take lunch in a cozy corner of our favorite bistro? How about watching a performance at the Forest Theater or the Golden Bough? Carmel Bach Festival? Was there a Halloween parade this year? No, not this year. Complaints, complaints, com-

house and take the fresh air. We'll keep our distances on the street and in Bruno's and Neilson's, we'll not gather in large crowds, and (with patience) we'll be good and caring citizens, as we have always been, abiding by the laws and good sense.

The CRA and *The Voice* wish our membership and all Carmelites a warm and thoughtful holiday season. Our house is your house. Can't wait for Santa's snow in the North Pole to melt. Next year for sure. ■

Looking to the Future for a Cause



Ever since the horrific 1906 earthquake sent writers and visual and performing artists scrambling to Carmel-by-the-Sea to escape the terrible devastation of San Francisco and its neighboring cities, our village has been a haven for creative and talented individuals and families. Carmel has always had a vibrant performing arts scene with the village's first cultural center and theater, the Carmel Arts and Crafts Clubhouse being built in 1907.

Until the outbreak of the pandemic Carmel audiences had so many choices: Pacific Repertory Theater's complete season of plays and musicals at the Golden Bough; Circle and Forest Theaters; local and regional productions at the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts and productions by the Forest Theater Guild. We could also attend the Monterey County Symphony, Carmel Music Society, Chamber Music Monterey

Bay, Carmel Bach Festival, Smuin Ballet, and The Nutcracker presented by the Monterey Peninsula Ballet Theater. To this list we add the many event offerings by the Sunset Cultural Center.

At this time all of these venues are shuttered and all performances are cancelled. We can all agree that the performing arts are an essential part of the Carmel way of life, but events like concerts, theater, dance and comedy may take a long time

Carmel has always had a vibrant performing arts scene...

to come back.

I am asking our members to do what you can to help these local organizations survive. If you are able, donate to one or more of them. Register to watch local performing arts Zoom performances and although the event may be free, consider donating to help fund these events at the end of the program. Help spread the news about these virtual events. Share informa-

tion about them on social media or among your friends.

As we are kept away from these live performances for an extended period, we must not lose the habit of attending and be ready to come back to the theaters when they do reopen.

*Here's some news we received just before our November deadline. I am proud to announce that on November 2, 2020, the Board of Directors of the Carmel Residents Association, for the first time in its history, voted unanimously to honor a retiring past President. **Barbara Livingston**, for her years of service to the CRA, its membership and the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, was named Director Emeritus.*

Fred ■

Pandemic Praises

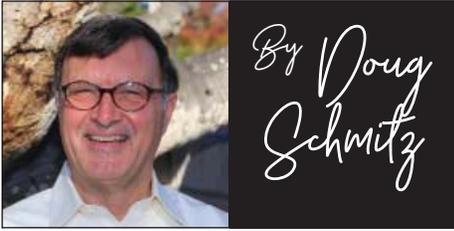
WE HAVE SO MUCH TO BE GRATEFUL FOR. KINDNESS IS PROVING CONTAGIOUS.



- Villagers are out running errands and grocery shopping for our more at-risk folks.
- Townspeople are enjoying weekly outdoor gatherings where neighbors can catch up and share some libation cheer.
- Residents all over the Village are pursuing gardening projects, keeping and sustaining the beauty of Carmel-by-the-Sea.
- Volunteers are bagging provisions for the homeless and food banks are operating at capacity all over Monterey County.
- Locals and visitors alike are supporting our stores and restaurants, and are discovering that sidewalk dining is pleasurable and fun.

This pandemic is terrible and has taken a shocking toll on the lives of so many. Yet Carmelites are weathering the lockdowns, distancing, mask-wearing, and mostly not complaining. For those who believe that it's a cliché to say "we're all in this together," we are, all of us, in this together!

Everything Seems to Go On as Usual



The community sing began at 7:30 pm on Ocean Avenue in front of the Harrison Library. All Saints Church had held its service for young

people at 5 pm, its candlelight service to be at 11 pm. Unlike other years, the Episcopal service would be the only local “midnight” ceremony this December evening. Carmelites seeking a village clustering between the community sing and the candlelight service could venture east from the library to the World War I Memorial and join John Burr for more caroling beginning at 9:30.

Recent weeks had brought rain, mist and fog, masking the land from observation by pilots flying coastal routes. The Dow Jones Industrial Average had closed up meagerly on this Wednesday; it was to enter the final week of trading at 106.67. PG&E stock was at \$18.50/share. Tomorrow, Thursday, the annual Carmel Business Association party for the villagers under age 12 would be held, as it always had, at 11 am at the Carmel Theatre.

Eleven days prior to this Eve evening, the mayor had signed an emergency order for Carmel-by-the-Sea, opining “an extraordinary emergency now exists and will continue to exist...” Residents were advised to bring a bucket to Junipero and Ocean and get some sand so as to be prepared should a need arise to extinguish a flaming object that might fall from the sky.

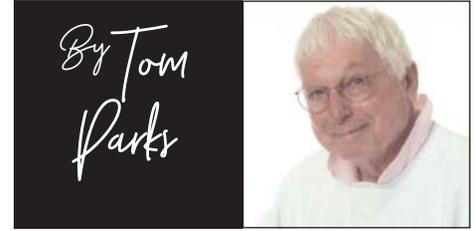
Six minutes after the community sing began at the library, 3000 miles away and outside the White House, FDR lit the national tree and began his remarks, followed by comments from Winston Churchill who had arrived for the Arcadia Conference, the first meeting between the two leaders since December 7th.

“Everything seems to go on as usual,” wrote the Carmel Cymbal/Masten’s Gazette editor Frank Lloyd, except “This is Christmas, 1941.” ■



FDR and Winston Churchill at the Christmas tree lighting ceremony on the south portico of the White House, December 24, 1941.

From Show Business Promoter to Beach Master



That would be Carmel’s Daniel Cardenas. No one else can claim the title because there’s no one else who contributes so much time and energy, care and love to our beach.

Daniel with his partner moved to town about five years ago—an immigrant from the movie studio Warner Bros where he produced those familiar “trailers” known to most of us as coming attractions.

“I loved the business, loved what I was doing and the people, the actors and directors and the making of movies. I was never star struck but I have to admit it was a high being around beautiful people. I had an office in the old Mary Pickford studio, later to become Goldwin. Lots of nostalgia, all quite glamorous.”



Daniel Cardenas

Which begs the question, why say goodbye to the brothers Warner for the quietude of the tiny Village of Carmel-by-the-Sea?

“I’ve always known when to make a change, when to move on to something new, something challenging, something, somewhere for peace and, of course, for a challenge.”

And here you are a leading light with the CRA. You have taken over as producer and leader of CRA’s Lovers of Carmel Beach. Now, there’s a change from making movies. Can you tell us what this, the beach cleanup, is all about? What should we know; how does it work; can we be part of it?

“We meet at 9:00 am every third Saturday from March through October at the north end of Carmel Beach. Our job is finished by noon. Volunteers sign in and are given buckets, bags, gloves and scoopers, and sent out on the white sands to collect what shouldn’t be there—you’d be surprised what we find at times! I’m proud and happy to say that we have as many as 100 volunteers in the summertime; 80% of those are visitors just wanting to contribute to the beauty of what is one of the most beautiful beaches on the West Coast, maybe the continent.”

Thanks, Daniel. And thanks too, for trading in your megaphone for a bucket and a shovel. ■



Holiday Greetings to All



Place
Stamp
Here

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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.

Tribute to Our Lost Members

At the end of the year we have need to look back. This year of 2020 has been the most unusual and heartbreaking in over a century. We have lost so many family members, beloved friends, and people we never knew through this year of the plague.

And we've lost good people of our membership not through the pandemic but by virtue of life's natural passing.

We remember Marjorie Perrine, Elsa Chiodi, Mitzi Francis, Phyllis Kelley, Karen Williams Lyon, and our dedicated member of so many years, Robert (Bob) Condry. These good people are remembered and missed by all of us in the CRA.

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Daniel Cardenas, *Vice President*

Tim Twomey, *Treasurer*
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MEMBERS

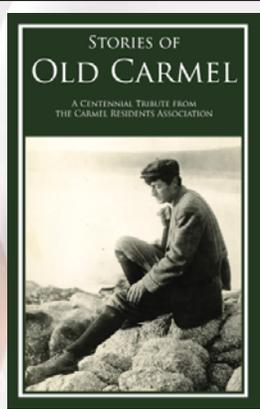
Janine Chicourrat, Frankie Laney,
Ann Nelson, Tom Parks,
Ann Pendleton, Nancy Twomey,
Ken White, Jon Wolfe

Barbara Livingston, *Director Emeritus*

It's That Time of Giving

Stymied for the perfect gift? CRA's book should be the answer, full of interesting vignettes of past Carmel personalities and events — **STORIES OF OLD CARMEL**, A Centennial Tribute from the Carmel Residents Association.

Where to find this treasure? In Carmel: Pilgrim's Way, Carmel Bay Company, Carmel Drug Store, and in the Crossroads, River House Books. A gift for anyone who loves our historic Village.



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