

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Rocky Mountain Village Estates • January 2022

With roots in Colorado tracing back to 1873, Carolyn Campbell is very much a native. “I was voracious about traveling,” she says, explaining that she was so inspired by a National Geographic story and pictures of Machu Picchu in the mid 1950s that she accepted her first teaching job in Lima, Peru, so she could see the 15th-century ruins for herself. That was before Machu Picchu had even been restored or opened to the public.

Her ascent to the ancient Incan citadel was on her own with seven other passengers on a single railcar that made infrequent trips up the mountain; catching a ride on a truck took her closer to her destination. Young and naïve, she had planned to camp by herself amidst the ruins, but natives living nearby cautioned her that that would not be good, as “the snakes come out at night.” They took her into their modest hut to give her shelter for a couple of nights until she could get transportation back off the mountain.

After 18 months in Peru, she returned to Colorado, met and married Russ Campbell; and the two of them hitch-hiked back to South America together at a time when countries were going through revolutions. They experienced Communism first-hand and grew up quickly when it came to politics. They returned to the US, and Russ got involved in the US Information Agency (USIA). As a member of the public relations organization meant to influence public opinion of the US in foreign cultures, Russ’s new job took them back to South America for the next 10 years.

They called Venezuela and Brazil home in the

1960s. “There was a lot of danger! We were shot at!” Carolyn exclaims. “Five times bullets went through the house.” It was not uncommon for them to be notified by Interpol they needed to evacuate or leave town. “Russ was on two assassination lists! It was dangerous and exciting, and I loved it!”

A mother’s instinct to protect her babies finally won out, however; and they returned to the US

in 1970. Having missed the 1960s altogether, Carolyn found the cultural changes to be enormous – far beyond the introduction of fast-food restaurants. Music had escalated from ballads to bold rock and roll, while morals had degenerated. She was startled by the use of foul language in public and values in general. There had been a political shift, bringing with it the civil rights movement, which instituted many changes. The defiance of religion and family stunned her, as did the sight of hippies, people in dirty clothing, and women going braless.

They landed back in Boulder, and her husband’s jobs subsequently took them to Aspen and San Jose, California, where she began dabbling in writing. She was designated a California Poet in the Schools. When they returned to Colorado in 1990, she discovered that Colorado hadn’t caught on to poetry yet, so she morphed into a storyteller of sorts. “I love the dramatic characterization,” she says of her monologues.

She published a novel on the Westward movement, based on a story from a strong woman’s perspective. “It’s called **Fireweed – a Woman’s Saga in Gold Rush America**. **Fireweed** is a



One of the happiest moments in life is when you find the courage to let go of what you cannot change.

Memo from the Manager

If anyone is having any work done in their unit that involves any of the building systems – heating, plumbing, gas – please check with me before pursuing the work, even if you are just changing a thermostat. The building systems do not just service one unit and if any work is done incorrectly, it can cause a problem to other residents. Sometimes it can have a negative effect on many residents and compromise their safety and comfort and cost ALL of you LOTS of money.

If in doubt, call FIRST. Thanks. Your neighbors and every owner who pays the bills thank you.

Please remember that the hallways are not for storage at ANY time - not for temporary or permanent. The only items that should be outside your units are the small decorations you wish to display within the boundaries of your units. Nothing should protrude into the hallways. Thanks for your attention to this policy.

To Owners - Instructions for paying new dues amounts:

- If you currently pay by check, begin paying the new amount as of January 1, 2022.
- If you have an automatic deposit, you need take no action as the increase will happen automatically.
- If you have a check automatically sent by a banking institution, you will need to notify them of the new amount to pay.

The 2022 dues amounts are found on the Assessment schedule that was delivered to you on November 30th. Phase 1 and 2 refer to units in the Bergen building and Phase 3 and 4 refer to units in the Genesee building.

The proposed 2022 budget was approved on December 7th so the new amounts will be due beginning January 1, 2022.

The annual owners meeting will be held on Friday, January 14th at the Bergen Park Church beginning at 12:30. A report on RMVE business and accomplishments in 2021 and voting for Board candidates will take place. A Board candidate forum is scheduled for Friday, January 7th at 10 am at Bergen Park Church to allow for distancing. There are 4 candidates: Madeline Olney in Genesee 223, who is currently your Board Secretary; Brian Vitello in Bergen 315 (new but a former resident and a former board member); Maureen Brooks in Genesee 303; and Walt Weiss in Genesee 315, who is your current Board President.

-- Kathy

Carolyn Campbell continued

metaphor for a strong woman," she explains. "It's a strong plant that comes up after a disturbance."

Soiled Doves of Colorado inspired the dramatic monologues that she and three other ladies presented when invited – the stories of young, uneducated women who lived on the edge of society and the entrepreneurial madams who made money from prostitution in the West.

Her bold, expressionistic paintings also tell stories – but not political or angry ones, as is typical of the expressionistic style. "They're joyful fun, funny," she says, explaining that they poke at vanity. All her paintings are colorful women with the hues exhibiting a Latin influence.

As a visual artist, she's participated in two different women's groups – Artists with Altitude and the Artists' Alliance of Evergreen. For many years Carolyn took part in Open Door Studios, opening her home studio to the public on the annual tour. She was named Arts Person of the Year in 2018.

Since 1985 Carolyn has been encouraging others to express their feelings by holding workshops, teaching poetry and creative writing and the writing of memoirs. "I just love it!" It's not uncommon for her to get up in the middle of the night to write a poem. "I love language. I love words!"

She's written seven books of poetry, a novel, a memoir, and a play. And she's still writing and still teaching! Many of those who have participated in her classes are residents from Rocky Mountain Village. "They are courageous people – all who have experienced loss. They are people who face their day and life with grace and beauty and courage. They are pacesetters for those getting older."

It was her memories of picnics in O'Fallon Park and Bergen Park, ice skating on Evergreen Lake and signs along the highway for the quaint little town that served as reminders en route to the ski slopes that brought her back to Evergreen in 1990. She's been a colorful figure here ever since.

Russ and Carolyn moved into Genesee House nearly 10 years ago. They enjoyed 56 years of marriage before his passing in 2014.

Profile and photo by Linda Kirkpatrick

Brian Vitello, 315B

Bruce Bernstein, 319G

WELCOME!

Brian Vitello, 315B
Bruce Bernstein, 319G