

Cambridge Massachusetts to Carlsbad California

Rosemary Eshelman

Cambridge Massachusetts is about the furthest you can get from Carlsbad California in terms of distance and climate, but this was my destiny.

Graduating from a two-year college in back bay Boston I decided to venture to Wichita Kansas to finish my degree and live with my brother Sonny who owned a Steakhouse.

The mid-west was very different than Cambridge/Boston, but the people were so welcoming. My Boston accent made it difficult in college as people did not understand when I presented papers and used the word Park, Art and other R words with my Boston accent. I really had to slow down for people to understand me.

Two years went by quickly and I was ready to head out on adventure and see the states. I thought Oregon sounded like a great place to go live. I should have done more research as although it is green and beautiful it rains a lot, too much for me. I did however climb Mt. St. Helen's while working at a YMCA camp in the summer. A few years later it blew up, I had no idea it was an active volcano.

I decided to head south to California, specifically Southern California. I had a bit of a nomad minimalist personality and headed out on my own with my dog Katie. We took our time and travelled the California Coast, through the Redwoods camping along the way. Things were much more simplistic in the late 70's or at least it seemed that way to me. I met so many people and saw so many beautiful places, it was Groovy.

I had a friend who lived in Leucadia, and I decided to give that a go. I was looking for a job and the City of Carlsbad had a job opening in Recreation and Youth Development. When I interviewed for the City of

Carlsbad in 1980 the City of Carlsbad had a population of about 55,000 people and the growth management plan was in place with Bud Lewis as the Mayor. The Recreation Department did not have the budget and resources like it does now, so we had to be creative in our planning of programs and events. Some of these are still in place today. The team I worked with was amazing and so fun.

While working for the City I met my husband Dave on a blind date set up by a friend. Little did I know that we would be together for the rest of our lives from that evening forward. Dave and I lived in Del Mar for a while and when he proposed and we decided to marry years later, we knew Carlsbad was the place we wanted to live and raise our family. When we bought our house in 1986 housing prices were steep for our new family. We worked hard and became embedded in the community.

We have been married for 39 years and have lived in our house for 37 years. We have raised two amazing sons Sam and Thomas who have been a part of the City of Carlsbad Programs in their youth and went through Carlsbad Schools K-12. Dave and I decided that we wanted to be a part of our community. We try to serve in many capacities and Carlsbad has enriched our lives in so many ways.

I have been back to Cambridge to visit friends and family and I love coming home to Carlsbad, our Paradise in North County.