



Mark Bruce, President

“What’s the use of a fine house if you haven’t got a tolerable planet to put it on?”

Henry David Thoreau

For many years many educated people fought the reality of global warming – I was one. But in the last five years, it has become painfully obvious that our world is heating up. Lisa and I are making efforts. Like most families in Reno, we keep two garbage cans in the kitchen: one for trash, another for recycling. We use reusable containers for school lunches. We are conscientious about running the heat and air conditioner. We wear hoodies (yes hoodies) and slippers during winter months and while you don’t need to know what we wear in summer months, we open all northerly exposed windows each evening when the indoor/outdoor temperatures equalize. We try to carpool and we try to walk to the store when possible. All baby steps—but steps.

There are several local attorneys who are taking larger steps. Two—of the many—who warrant recognition for their evergreen lifestyles are Mike Kattelman and Lara Pearson. Mike Kattelman (Silverman Decaria & Kattelman and Treasurer of WCBA) owns a few acres outside of Graeagle, CA, and has been working for a few

years on developing the property. Rather than build a standard vacation home or energy efficient cabin, Mike decided to use recycled materials. So he purchased a couple 8’ by 20’ shipping containers and turned them into versatile, relocatable living spaces. He has sleeping and living quarters now. And he is in the process of obtaining two more containers: one for a kitchen and wine bar and another for a self-contained compost restroom. Now that’s efficient. There is so much more to describe, but never enough print space. Perhaps I will be lucky enough to get an invite to “Kattelman’s Kontainerville”—the official name of the development.

Lara Pearson (Rimon Law Group) has been working diligently to protect our environment for many years. Last year, she was featured at a WCBA luncheon on the subject. Her firm is a Certified B Corporation (businesses that meet certain environmental and social standards). She is an Associate Member of the Institute of Green Professionals and she was nominated by Green America for the ABA’s Award for Excellence in Environmental, Energy and Resource Conservation. She regularly speaks on

conservation matters. Outside of the office, Lara focuses on a wide variety of green activities. Most interestingly, she purchases food from local farmers, ranchers and other producers. By purchasing locally, her food’s carbon footprint is reduced dramatically—especially meat. The term “local” is defined as within 100 miles. If you would like information on local suppliers, just call Lara. And while you don’t have to become a vegetarian, moderation in meat-eating is very helpful for our environment. Lara is also trying to eliminate paper, all the way down to dryer sheets. I’m impressed. Perhaps we should limit the Writ to on-line publication.

Businesses are emerging which focus on better building, including sustainability and energy efficiency for existing homes. Fred Altmann, a long time educator, residential builder and energy efficiency advocate, recently formed A Better Green Building Company. As part of his business, he audits existing homes to increase energy efficiency and save energy costs. In layman’s terms, he tests air ducts, windows and doors for energy leaks and he inspects walls, floors and ceilings with infra-red technology for inadequate insulation. The process is simple, requires minimum time and is actually inexpensive. Lisa and I have scheduled an energy audit for next week. We’re excited to take another step in the right direction.

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JASMINE MEHTA, EDITOR
CHRISTINE CENDAGORTA, MANAGING EDITOR

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WCBA, P.O. BOX 1548, RENO NV 89505

TEL: 775-786-4494 FAX: 775-324-6116

WWW.WCBA.ORG E-MAIL: CHRIS@WCBA.ORG

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