

SHORTCUTS NEIGHBORS



Photo: Kelli Udall

Carmel Market Celebrates 90 Years

BY RENEE BRINCKS

Owners Michelle, Tigran, Azniv and Michael Amirkhanian in front of Nielsen Brothers Market & Deli in Carmel, which has been in business for 90 years.

Azniv and Tigran Amirkhanian fell for Carmel-by-the-Sea during a California vacation that coincided with their search for a new business venture. Shortly after that trip, the then Virginia-based couple had the opportunity to purchase Nielsen Brothers Market & Deli.

"It was exactly what we were looking for," Azniv says. "It was meant to happen."

The Amirkhanians took over from Merv and Nancie Sutton in 2009, nearly 80 years after Nancie's father and uncle founded the market. As the store celebrates 90 years, local purveyors still supply fresh produce and meat. Shelves are stocked with specialty goods from the Nielsen Bros. product line, plus cheeses and chocolates imported from Europe. Longtime

store employee Patrick Schradly maintains an impressive wine and spirits list, and customers can request deliveries just as they have since 1930.

The Amirkhanians and their children, Michelle and Michael, enjoy welcoming tourists who sign the store's guest book as well as residents who grew up shopping at the market with parents and grandparents.

"There is such nostalgia," Azniv says. "This is more than just a market. It is a landmark. It is the history of Carmel. We're just the stewards of the store, and we wish for that to continue."

Nielsen Bros. Market & Deli is on San Carlos and 7th Avenue in Carmel. For hours and information, please contact 831/624-6441.