

MEET A MEMBER

JERRY FIELDER AND DANIEL CAMPBELL-BENSON

California to Boston

Native Californians Jerry Fielder and Daniel Campbell-Benson embraced the cultural life of Boston when they moved here. They knew Boston well due to Jerry's work which is centered at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts -- Jerry is the director of the master photographer Yousuf Karsh's estate. Daniel is retired after a long career as Manager of the University of California's Botanical Garden in Berkeley.



Even though very familiar with Boston, they were eager to explore the extended region's rich cultural offerings such as visiting the Peabody-Essex Museum in Salem, and the Currier Museum in Manchester. For these two culture enthusiasts, their transition "was almost effortless," especially when they found like-minded friends through Beacon Hill Village.

When did you join Beacon Hill Village?

We attended a Beacon Hill Civic Association Fall Fest soon after moving to Boston in 2018. We visited the Beacon Hill Village table and were so impressed that we signed up as members that very day.

How did BHV help you to find "your people?"

We liked the idea of all the services that are offered but, honestly, we just liked the people we met. We kept our friendships from California, but the Village gave us the chance to add new friends—many of whom, we soon discovered, live in our own apartment building. It has added greatly to the pleasure of our living here.

How will your life experience or expertise benefit other members at BHV?

Jerry: Music, theater, art, food, wine – we like it all and we're enjoying sharing it with other Villagers. Recently I was happy to be able to arrange two private tours guided by the curators of the Ansel Adams and the Graciela Iturbide exhibitions.

Daniel: One of our favorite trips was to the quilt museum in Lowell. As we rode by train, we chatted with a member who was very involved with the Creative Kitchen event. That was great fun for us as volunteers. All these trips expand our horizons to new ideas and concepts we might not have found otherwise.

Tell us about one really fun BHV event or activity that you enjoyed?

The Peabody Essex Museum in historical Salem was a favorite. It has such a rich collection of New England maritime and Asian art. We especially enjoyed touring the 5th century Chinese house. And the Arnold Arboretum is a great treat too.

What do you especially love about the Village?

Daniel: We love being part of the social fabric here. We walk down the street and know many of the people we pass. To a great extent it is the Village that makes it possible.

Jerry: We knew a lot of people in Boston through my work and were fortunate to have close friends when we moved here. But it is also nice to have friends in my neighborhood that have nothing to do with work. It is a wonderful tradition of the Village that new members are made to feel like old friends.