

The People of La Mision



by Rosemary Manion Fitzpatrick

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This column is to acquaint you with some of those you may not have met as yet and who are living in our wonderful community, and, some you may know already. It is always fascinating to learn more about the people in our neighborhood, their story, so over time I will provide you with a profile of those we live with in La Mision.

My first profile is of Ron and Nadine DeJong who recently celebrated their marriage here in La Mision, and their interesting and alluring story about how they got here.

First question I asked them was, "How did you learn about La Mision?" Nadine answered as follows: "I first heard of La Mision in my communication with Ron when we first started chatting on "Plenty of Fish," the online dating site. Ron learned about La Mision on Craigslist."

Second was, "How long have you been here?" Ron said that he had been here for two years and Nadine said that a few days after their first date, she came down for a visit, stayed ten days, fell completely in love with Ron and La Mision, went home to Santa Monica to pack and returned four days later. She said, "I felt at home immediately with a sense of belonging that had eluded me for years. I don't plan on living anywhere but here ever again."

Third, "What do you like about the area and living here?" On this subject both were so very complimentary, and in complete accord. Nadine said she loved the interesting assortment of clever, creative and caring people inside our gates, and the warm accepting friendly locals. Ron agreed, and added how much he loved the physical beauty and proximity to the U.S. to see his kids. Nadine added, "... the handsome mountain across the valley, the proximity to the beach, the ratio of land to structure and people, the lack of traffic, the birds flying by her window at eye level, the stars and moonrise I can see without putting a foot on the floor or raising my head from my pillow, the



horses and rustic surroundings. I love that you can go out for an afternoon walk and encounter a horse, a bunny, a beautiful bird, and usually a few friendly neighbors. The life here is simple but full. There is no shortage of intellectual stimulation, and it abounds with great camaraderie. It's a wonderful community and I am so happy to have found it."

Fourth inquiry was "What impressed you the most?" Both Ron and Nadine agreed that it is the openness and generosity of the local families, always willing to help others.

Fifth, I asked "What would you tell other people about living in Mexico and La Mision?" They both agreed that they feel very safe here, and Nadine said, "I know it is a concern of many Americans considering a move or even a visit, but I feel as safe here in La Mision as I did in Santa Monica. I think about where and when I go out here just as I did there. I wouldn't go down to the boardwalk in Venice by myself at night, and I wouldn't go to Prima Tapia at night either. You have to use common sense wherever you live."

Last question was "Do you find that the services and expenses of living here are less or more than living in the U.S.?" The answer to that was much less than the States, and Nadine added medical, dental, housekeepers, handymen, and mechanics are significantly less expensive, and surprisingly quicker. Ron and Nadine have lived in many places before coming to our great area. It is nice to know more about them, and their input to the Newsletter is greatly appreciated.