

MCL Business Member Profile

Bellam Self Storage and Boxes

by Linda Novy

One look at the [Bellam Self Storage and Boxes](#) website and you know this company is in to the right stuff. They are Green Business Certified from the County of Marin (2006), 100% solar powered (2006), and have been chosen Best of Marin five years in a row. They are big supporters of San Rafael Clean and have been Business Members of the Marin Conservation League since 2006. Andree Jansheski, the owner of the company, is bubbling over with suggestions for “green” best management practices. In fact, you might call her an advocate and helpful coach that assists other businesses and homeowners green-up their own environmental practices.

Andree related that she meets lots of small business owners through her storage business and at the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce. When others tell her, “Oh, I can’t do that” – that is, become a green business, Andree’s response to that is to hand them one or all of her **7 Shades of Green** tip sheets that are headlined: “Everyone can chose a shade of green” and go on to list helpful suggestions on how to get there. She believes that even if we can’t all be a certified green business, we can all be a brighter green in our day to day practices. She especially advocates for home businesses to strive for energy conservation, recycling, pollution prevention, emission reductions, and other sustainable approaches.

Andree and her staff practice what she advocates for others. At Bellam Self Storage they don’t use bottled water, but have a filtered water

Jack and Andree Jansheski on the roof of their solar-powered storage facility at 24 Bellam Blvd. in San Rafael.



station, and encourage their customers to fill up there. All paper is used – not just for note pads, but shredded and used for packing materials. They purchase brown, unbleached paper towels, energy efficient light bulbs, and have a Shades of Green station at their building that has loads of information to help their customers become greener. Andree said that when people move out of their homes or have estate sales, many times they ask her what can they do with everything, tempted to throw things out? She provides them with a list of qualified non-profits who can channel furniture and other household goods to those in need. Andree goes on to say: “If it was used yesterday, it can be used tomorrow.”

She’s very proud of her company’s involvement with the San Rafael Streets Team and pays 1 cent per cigarette butt that is picked up. The collected butts are sent to Terra Cycle where they are made into pallets. San Rafael Street’s Team has already picked up 700,000 butts in San Rafael in less

than a year. Andree quips: “No, ifs, ands, or butts!” She is passionate about picking up litter, and does her own litter walks wearing a vest, gloves, and bucket generating applause from some, and curiosity from others. She encourages everyone to patrol their property and beyond to pick up any litter.

Andree supports the Marin Conservation League too, because the MCL’s mission and advocacy work align with her environmental goals. Andree and her team at Bellam Self Storage and Boxes are more than just a business; they are important environmental advocates that really walk the talk.

For more information about Marin Conservation League’s Business Members, visit marinconservationleague.org/resources/business-members. To join as a Business Member, call 415-485-6257. Business Members receive their own page on the MCL website as well as other benefits.