

People person gets society's nod



Daivd E. Caballero/*The News*

Joe Carneval finds relaxation from his busy volunteer schedule, in working on stained glass.

Activity keeps the mind sharp, and body healthy

By Cheryl Walker
The News

News that the Leisure World Historical Society selected 10-year resident Joe Carneval as its February honoree triggered a flood of compliments from his co-workers.

Saddleback Hospital's Hospice Executive Director Ann Buchanan, says the hard-working volunteer is "dedicated, committed and reliable, always generous with his time and ideas-and what he does is from the heart."

Jean Humphrey of Geneva Presbyterian Church, says the church elder is a "wonderful man," a true "people person"

to whom serving his fellow man "is his highest priority."

Betty Hohweisner of Opera 100, adds that the former president of her organization is "very easy to work with, calm and collected. I don't know anybody who doesn't like him."

Jesse Dolezal, treasurer of the Circle of Light, says her hospice support group's former president was an outstanding fundraiser as well as an "awfully hard worker."

Republican Club President Fran Dixon adds that the club member and sometime special event gourmet chef is a "good leader and well deserving" of the society's Leisure Worlder of the Month distinction.

Yet, in spite of the unreserved praise, Carneval, a native New Yorker, Columbia University graduate and 35-year General Foods executive, is modest about his contributions.

He admits, though, that

Ceremony facts

Who: Joe Carneval
What: Leisure Worlder for February
Where: Clubhouse 6
When: 10 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 7
Sponsor: Leisure World Historical Society.

volunteering has meant a lifetime commitment and pleasure.

"I always wake up in the morning and ask myself what can I do today to help people," says Carneval. "I've always liked people."

Even when the boss in business, he says he preferred to work *with* his employees rather than pull rank.

Carneval even wrote a training book, "How do you deal with customers," whose essence is that you make everyone feel "comfortable and important."

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And, Carneval adds, he's honest with people and will trust them in return - until proved otherwise.

That maxim, he says, he learned from his father whom he also credits with introducing him to the joys of opera and deep sea fishing.

He learned early in his life about the personal satisfaction volunteering could bring when he taught Sunday school in his late teens.

Even when his job forced him to travel and live all over the country he still found time to work with church and other youth groups, like the YMCA.

He currently works with youth groups at Geneva Presbyterian when he isn't participating in Leisure World's California, Republican, Scrabble, Opera 100, Cribbage and various bridge clubs alone or with his spouse, Portia.

Carneval recently chaired the Golden Rain nominating

committee and chairs various Saddleback Hospital committees.

He's unstinting in his devotion to Saddleback's hospice program which he came in contact with when his first wife Tina was dying of cancer.

He was so impressed by the program that, after her death, he volunteered to serve in any capacity needed, from one-on-one home visits with patients to fundraising.

He watched the program grow (he was in the second training class) from 30 patients to more than 800. "There are more than 2,500 hospice programs around the country, but I think our way is the best way: where people can stay at home and end their days with dignity among family and friends."

In spite of a packed schedule, Carneval says he finds time to relax - by making stained glass art and hosting parties where he can feast his guests on gourmet treats he whips up in the kitchen.

Activity, says Carneval, keeps both the mind sharp and the body healthy. Besides, he adds, there's no use getting involved in anything unless you're willing to give it your all, "100-percent."