

News From

E. Weingarden

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23941 AVENIDA de la CARLOTA
LAGUNA HILLS, CALIFORNIA 92653
(714) 837:0530

Contact: Paul Zimmerman

A. Ceresa

MRS. MINNA LIEBMAN

LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH

FOR DECEMBER

How science, questing for perpetual motion, overlooked Minna Liebman is hard for her friends to understand.

Since Minna moved to Leisure World with her husband Aaron seven years ago her breathless pace to assist others has left those who seek to keep up with her gasping.

"I prefer to choose my own aggravations," enigmatically says this petite, pert 66-year-old package of femininity who looks as though she belongs in one of the glassed cases of dolls that take over the walls of the Liebman living room. At last count there were 176 costumed dolls in residence.

The compelling thing about Minna's chosen burdens, or "aggravations" as she calls them, is that they all seem to turn into someone else's blessings which is the reason the selection committee has chosen her to be Rossmoor Corporation's Leisure Worlder of the Month for December. In token of the honor her color photograph, reproduced on

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canvas and artistically framed, will be hung in a place of prominence in the Rossmoor New Sales salon at 10 a.m. Monday, December 3 during an informal ceremony. Minna's many friends are invited to attend. The portrait will remain there until Wednesday, January 2 when the picture of the person selected as Leisure Worlder for January will replace it.

Mrs. Liebman's self-imposed "aggravations" are manifold. She was one of the organizers of the Sunday Discussion Club that still meets each week in Clubhouse One. Minna also organized and was twice president of the Leisure World Chapter of the Gray Panthers, an activist group whose campaigns resulted in such things as the construction throughout Leisure World of special ramps for persons in wheelchairs, the extension of the time period for pedestrians on the traffic signal between Gates One and Five, etc.

Minna was one of the organizers and was a board member of the Institute for Living which operates (now through the Education Department) the Drop In Lounge at Clubhouse One for the lonely, and promotes "other services to enrich the lives" of Leisure World residents.

Mrs. Liebman's extensive volunteer work includes services with the Mental Health Association and research duties in the Women's Opportunity Center at University of California, Irvine, from 1974 to 1977

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When Carol Brandt organized her first folk dancing classes in 1973 Minna volunteered to help as teacher of beginners. Currently, she's coordinator of programs for the Performing Folk Dancers, a group that puts on special shows both here and outside of Leisure World. She and Aaron also put on solo performances.

It is obvious this special "aggravation" gives Minna much pleasure. "I enjoy giving people skills they never had before," she explains.

Ballroom dancing also is an important part of the lives of the Liebmans. If that is not enough, Minna also is in regular attendance at the Strenuous Exercise Classes. Yet it is apparent this spry little lady considers her busy schedule to be nothing unusual.

Born in Troy, New York, she spent her early life in New York City, where her advanced education was limited to two terms at City College. Which may account for her obsession to learn. She is still taking college courses.

While the Liebmans raised two sons and a daughter in West Los Angeles, Minna was active in Parent-Teacher Association, Friends of the Library, Headstart Program, Synanon . . . the works. And, in her spare time, she sold real estate. When they first moved to Leisure World Minna continued to sell, but no more. With other more pleasant "aggravations" she no longer finds the time.

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"I guess I've done just about everything from working in a factory to conducting travel tours," she says. "It was traveling that got me started collecting dolls from all over the world. Friends have helped fill the gaps in the collection and it keeps Aaron busy building new cases and cabinets, but he loves to work with wood."

The host of dolls makes one wonder if a modern Pied Piper had not led them there. Some even are draped on the spinet piano. Minna paused before it to play a few chords of "St. Louis Blues". Although St. Louis is one of the few places she's never been, that song is her favorite. She turned away from the piano and said: "You have to make your own Shangri-la in life. That's why I chose Leisure World with so many opportunities to fulfill my goals."

That her goals make other people happy pleases Minna Liebman.

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Nov. 22, 1979