



# LEISURE WORLD NEWS

Thursday  
March 28, 2002

## Modest music man is April choice

By Cheryl Walker  
The News

"I don't know anybody as modest as he is -- and he has every right not to be because he's a very knowledgeable and capable person," says Ed Chertow describing his friend and the Historical Society's Leisure Worlder of the Month for April, Leonard Meinwald.

Chertow has known Meinwald, a musician and retired dentist, for more than 20 years, from his working days in Levittown, Long Island, New York, where the honoree dabbled in music during off hours, to his post retirement days here in Leisure World, where he puts his skill with keyboard and string to good use in three music groups: Chertow's String Quartet, the Leisure World String Ensemble and the Discovery Theatre Group.

George Navarre, who heads the Ensemble, says his viola player is not just skilled, he's "one of the strongest members of the group, "with a musical stability you can count on."

Carly Luetzow, one of the founders of the Discovery Theatre, agrees noting that for more than a decade Meinwald's service to the group as a music director and accompanist has been outstanding. "I have found him a joy to work with, generous with his time and expertise and such a natural musical talent that if you just hum a tune for him he'll find the right key and make a singer sound wonderful."

**Background:** Meinwald says his mother forced him to take music lessons but he didn't balk because he loved to play piano. Lessons at a music school opened up the world of chords and was his entrée into playing popular music.

The chord method proved so successful that he was able to make money during summers by tinkling the ivories in



Leonard Meinwald, loves music and plays a variety of instruments in Leisure World groups and for pure enjoyment.

News Photo by Rod Veal

### Ceremony facts

**Who:** Leonard Meinwald  
**What:** Leisure Worlder of the Month for April  
**Where:** Clubhouse 6

**When:** 10 a.m., Wednesday, April 3  
**Sponsor:** Leisure World Historical Society

smaller resorts in the Catskill Mountains.

Although his passion was music, a practical man as well, he decided to follow in his father's footsteps and pursue a career in dentistry. Even so, while majoring in chemistry at Brooklyn College he took all the music classes he could get.

After serving in the Army during World War II and taking a year to work with his father, he decided to break out on his own and started his own practice in Levittown, where he remained for 40 years, until he retired to Leisure World in 1989 with his wife Claire.

Meinwald says one of the best things about Leisure World is finding other musicians like himself who enjoy getting together on a weekly basis to jam.

And Meinwald can jam with the best of them since, besides the piano, he plays the viola, the mandolo and five kinds of recorder (sopranino, soprano, alto, tenor and bass).

Besides jamming, he also enjoys playing for audiences with the Discovery Theatre and at charity events like the Stroke Club.

And aside from music, he also does volunteer computer work for Saddleback Hospital and the Audubon Club and makes beautiful handcrafts: stained glass, furniture making even award-winning needlepoint.

Meinwald says he has no idea who nominated him for the award since he is just a happy man with his music and his family, which includes three children and four grandchildren.

Luetzow says the distinction is a recognition of a quiet, gentle, giving person with a "delightful, subtle sense of humor."

"He's just a joy to work with."