



MARILYNN YOUNG, LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

**HISTORIAN HONORED:** Elaine Morgado, the Historical Society's Honoree of the Month for March, with the volumes of history she has collected on the City of Laguna Woods. The volumes are available for the public to view at City Hall.

## City historian Honoree of the Month

BY CHERYL WALKER  
THE LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

The City of Laguna Woods volunteer historian, Elaine Morgado, like her brother Ira Joss, seems to handle a dazzling amount of community activities with serene aplomb.

She participates in clubs and service organizations, sews, plays piano, teaches, tutors. The list goes on and on.

She's a can-do person who finds it hard to say no to a good cause which is why the Laguna Woods Village Historical Society has decided she's the right choice for its community service award in March.

One of her most outstanding achievements has helped preserve the history of the city of Laguna Woods.

City Manager Leslie Keane explains:

"When the city first started in 1999, we were so involved in taking the necessary legal and financial steps to making us a

successful city that we didn't have time to think of history."

What Morgado did was put all the news articles and memorabilia of the city in notebooks for posterity. There are currently 30 notebooks and the pages for the next volume are stacking up every day.

"Without Elaine we would have lost all that early history," said Keane.

### BACKGROUND

Morgado was born in Long Island, New York and got her bachelor's degree in education from the City College of New York in 1951. She got her master's degree in education and her doctorate in curriculum and instruction and educational administration from Georgia State University in Atlanta, Ga.

She taught third and second grade students in New York, Utah, North Carolina and Georgia and played the piano for ballet students and profession-

als in North Carolina, Georgia and California (Ballet Pacifica).

Summers she worked as a technical information specialist in the statistical section at the Centers for Disease Control.

At the latter, she had various duties and wrote the Spanish-English manual on Women's Health Care at the American border and in areas of Mexico.

She and her brother Ira Joss are well known for their participation in a variety of activities. She is a board member of the Newcomers Club, Historical Society and Laguna Woods Square Dance Club; social chairwoman and trip planner of the Garden Centers Club; and a member of the American Association of University Women and the Reform Temple of Laguna Woods.

At AAUW she appeared in presentations, played piano for

events and made 20 reading kits (complete with book, tote, DVD and follow-up exercises) for children to help them read along with a story teller.

She's been the City of Laguna Woods only historian; secretary of the Ramblin' Rogues Square Dance Club of Mission Viejo; and a tutor in the English as a Second Language program at Saddleback Memorial Hospital, San Joaquin Elementary School and Lake Forest Elementary.

When she isn't volunteering, her hobbies include square dancing, sewing square dance outfits, making Halloween costumes for kids, cooking, traveling and more volunteering.

Morgado has diverse tastes that range from Teddy Bears to American Indian artifacts, such as the Hopi Kokopeli, who plays a flute, like Pan, and is equally mischievous. One will find that harbinger of health, fertility and good luck on tapestries, knickknacks and wall decorations throughout Morgado's manor. "He can be good or naughty, and I like that," she explains.

Morgado will be presented with the Society's Honoree of the Month Award at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 7, in Clubhouse 6. The event is made possible with the support of Laguna Woods Renaissance at the Regency.