

LEISURE WORLD

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY

PRESERVING TODAY FOR TOMORROW

volume 1

2000

number 3

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## MEMORIAL TREE PLANTED

A beautiful little Blue Spruce has been planted next to our building and a plaque lists the names of the 23 members named in the 1999 *in memoriam* columns of the Newsletter. Hopefully, this will become a tradition with the Society, and each year deceased members will be so remembered.

All arrangements for purchase of the tree, preparation of the plaque and the actual planting of the tree were done by Manny Ackerman, an active Audubon Society member, who is very involved in the Leisure World tree labeling project. We are most appreciative of his assistance, and for the help of Landscaping.

Members wishing to help fund this project should indicate "Memorial Tree Project" on their check.

## PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS



The last seminar in a 6 session series conducted by Dr. Mathew Ross is scheduled for May 15 (see page 4 announcement). Dr. Ross has already started work on his next assignment as described on page 2.



A day tour to the Federal Reserve Bank and the Wells Fargo museum is scheduled for Wednesday, June 21. Details are on page 3. If you are interested, make your reservations soon as space is limited to 30 persons.



The Demographic Survey, a Historical Society /UCI project may be one of the most important activities we have ever undertaken. Information about it is on page 7. We will need help to stuff and seal envelopes. If you can volunteer some time, leave your name at the desk (206-0150). We will set up a time as soon as we have the final details.

**"PREZ" Patter .....** Evelyn Shopp

This May issue of the Newsletter is the tenth one that I have researched, edited and published. And it is the first time that I have freely admitted my role in this production. I do it only because I get many compliments on it, and less and less criticism, and feel that I can now accept the praise and the blame as it falls! It has been a lot of work, but a source of real satisfaction. It is a job I'd like to keep.



But it would be easier if more people contributed. You'd be subject to editing but would get your very own by-line! If you have an idea, give me a call or drop me a note.

A special thank you to Tobey Greenspan who "volunteered" to proofread copy; to the volunteers who fold, label, and count copies, and to John Bradley who provides post office service.

**ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

The Oral History Project is ready to go. A committee reviewed the proposed plan of action, and Dr. Mathew Ross agreed to coordinate the work. Although a list of "clients" has enough names to start the project, we need to know all the residents who moved into Leisure World through 1970. Please notify the office if you are one, or know one. Many of those early residents are no longer living or have moved into care facilities. Our goal is to interview all still here who moved in during that time period.

**HISTORICALLY ADVANTAGED**

We are still trying to identify all of our HISTORICALLY ADVANTAGED members. We know there must be more in this elite group! If you are already 90, or will be 90 this year, please call 206-0150 and leave your name, date of birth, and state where born. If you want it to be a secret, we won't tell!

**SPEAKERS' BUREAU**

**Harry Schwartz, Chair**

On April 17, Mary Balcom presented an oral history of Orange County to the Nostalgia Guild, EBELL, at the home of Dorothy Clinch. Her information was well received by the attendees.

We are available to provide speakers to any Leisure World group on a variety of subjects that can be generated from personal experience and the Historical Society Archives. Let us talk to YOU. Contact the Office, 206-0150, or call me at home, 586-6255.

**DIRECTORY ERROR**

Pg 37

**Dr. Elaine Morgado, not Margado**

**.....in memoriam.....**

**Virginia B. Marlow**



## Day TOUR

First tour of the year for Historical Society members has been announced by John Bradley, Program Chairman.

\*\*\*\* Wednesday, June 21, 2000\*\*\*\*

Gate 3 Bus Area

Leaves at 8:30 am and returns at 5:00 pm

Includes

**..90 minute tour of the Los Angeles branch of the Federal Reserve Bank  
..lunch at the Tam O'Shanter Inn  
....tour of the Wells Fargo Museum.**

Cost \$45 per person

Maximum 30 passengers

(Deadline reservation date: **June 9, 2000**)

Please make your check payable to the LW Historical Society. Include the name of each person and a telephone number for each. Mail to our office or bring it in any weekday, 9-4. If you have questions, please call John directly.



### Historical Society MEMBERS

newly appointed, selected and or elected to positions on governing boards:

United Mutual -- Burton Taubman  
Third Mutual -- Charles Hellmann  
                          Jim Hart

Elected to seats on the Laguna Woods City Council -- Bob Bouer

                          -- Jan Mc Laughlin

Reelected to City Council -- Brenda Ross

It would be nice if we could say all members of all governing boards (instead of just a "majority") were members of the Society! Next year?

### TRIVIA, COLLECTED JUST FOR "FUN"

If you follow any of the morning T.V. News Programs/Shows, you know that it is possible to use at least three hours to say nothing. This column will prove that it is possible to do the same thing with any kind of material. That is, we will give you information you couldn't possibly need, and will draw unbelievable conclusions which you will, naturally, believe.

17 couples, both members of the Leisure World Historical Society, were asked a few simple questions, and the results and conclusions follow:

4 couples were married in the 1930's; 7 in the 1940's; one each in the 50's, 60's and 70's and 3 in the 1980's. Conclusion: More Leisure World couples were married in the 1940s than in any other decade....

8 couples were married in California; 2 in Washington DC, and the other 7 in Newfoundland, New York, Florida, Ohio, Indiana, Alabama and Illinois. Conclusion: The majority of people in Leisure World were married in California.

Out of 17 respondents, only two remembered the day (without spousal prompting) of the week when they were married. Conclusion: Most Leisure Worlders were in a fog when they got married, and most stayed that way.

5 couples had his/her families; 2 had no children. They had 46 children, 69 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren. The 17 couples (+ 5) averaged 2.09 children; 3.13 grandchildren; 1 great grandchild. Conclusion: Leisure World families are almost normal.

Facts which warrant no conclusions: One couple has lived here 6 months out of the year for 16 years and one for 5 years; 2 others had been temporary snow birds.

**One absolutely indisputable conclusion:** Leisure World couples are seldom home.

**Dear God,**

So far today,  
I've done alright.  
Not once today...  
have I gossiped.  
Not once today...  
have I lost my temper.  
Not once today...  
have I been greedy,  
or overindulgent.

I'm thankful for that.

But in a few minutes,  
God,  
I'm going to get out of  
bed,  
and from then on,  
I'm probably going to  
need  
a lot more help.

Amen  
(anonymous)

**WELCOME,  
New Members**

Ed Bernstein  
Charlotte Brady  
Sam Rose  
Bernard J. Rosenstein  
Marion Rosenstein  
Evelyn P. Siney  
Natalie Taksar

**and Renewals**

John Barry  
Judy Brandes  
William F. Brown  
Olive Title  
Shirley J. Weiler

**WALL OF HONOR**

Plaques are added to the Wall of Honor twice a year, in late June and early December. The following will be added next month:

Chicago Club

Swinging Singles

Table Tennis Club

in memory of  
Kathryn Strassburg

in memory of  
Dr. Tracy E. Strevey  
First President

**"Free Money"**

comes to the Society when a new account is "credited" to the Society at **Fremont Invest. & Loan** or when an existing account is rolled over. There is no cost to the depositor. Just tell them you want your account credited to the Historical Society.

**APOLOGIES**

Once again, the editor apologizes for the errors in the last issue of the Newsletter. The spell-check just refuses to correct misspelled names, add omitted words, or change punctuation. These computers really aren't any smarter than people!!

**All you ever wanted to  
know about your board....**

A quick check of the 80 persons who have served on the Historical Society Board since its incorporation in 1977 revealed some very interesting facts: At least 34 and possibly as many as 40 of the 80 served on the GRF board. An additional 15 or more served on a Mutual board.

Three of the members never lived in Leisure World: Dick Hauptfleisch, Rex Perkins and Robert Price.

27 of the 80 were women. 8 directors served 9 years or more while 13 served for one year only. 25, and perhaps more, are deceased.

**and now a question..**

Is there anyone who delights in hunting up this kind of information? If so, do let the President know. She has at least a dozen ideas that need research, and would welcome any suggestions you might have.

Last seminar in the series  
**The Search for Personal Freedom:  
END OF LIFE ISSUES**

**MONDAY EVENING, MAY 15, CH3 DR1 7:30 PM**  
Free for all Leisure World residents. Dr. Ross will conclude the series with discussion of how to involve family, doctor and others in plans and wishes for ones well-being and for eventual death with dignity.

Man's mind, stretched to a new idea, never goes back to its original dimension.

Oliver Wendell Holmes

## ASSOCIATES

Ward Payne, Membership Chairman

The ASSOCIATES are an important and highly valued segment of our Historical Society "family." ASSOCIATES benefit from our role as official Historian of Leisure World. Our primary purpose is to "record, maintain, and preserve" ongoing chronology, including historical files from our clubs. We have the space and personnel necessary to store scrapbooks, yearbooks, and photographs in a temperature and humidity controlled environment. What a valuable resource!

The Society benefits from the continued support for our programs which include our long standing prestigious program

honoring Leisure Worlders of the Month; seminars and programs; Docent conducted tours of Leisure World for prospective buyers and new residents; a Newsletter every two months.

We know our members are among the most active and participatory residents of Leisure World. If by some chance one of the organizations to which you belong has not availed itself of ASSOCIATE membership, do point out the advantages to the appropriate officers and let us welcome them aboard. The ASSOCIATE dues structure is on page 6 of the Directory.

## ASSOCIATES

### 2000

AAUW	DEMOCRATIC CLUB	MEDICAL SOCIETY	REPUBLICAN CLUB
ACADEMIANS	DOLL CLUB	MIDWEST CLUB	ROD & GUN CLUB
AERO-SPACE CLUB	EBELL	MUG	Saddleback KIWANIS FOUNDATION
ALISO CLUB	FOREIGN POLICY ASSOC	NEW JERSEY CLUB	SCRABBLE CLUB
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	GALES	NEW YORK CLUB	SERENDIPITY CLUB
AMERICAN LEGION 257	HIKER'S CLUB	NEWCOMERS CLUB	TEMPLE JUDEA of Laguna Woods
AQUADETTES	JEWISH WOMEN International	NIFTY 50/60's Club	TOASTMASTERS
AUDUBON SOCIETY	KEYBOARD CONCERT CLUB	Orange County Society for HUMANISTIC JUDAISM	TOPS
CALIFORNIA CLUB	KOREAN AMERICAN CLUB	OPERA 100	VIDEO CLUB
CHINESE CLUB	Ladies 9 Hole Golf LEAGUE	ORT	Women's 18 HOLE GOLF CLUB
COLLEGE CLUB	Leisure World FOUNDATION	PARAPSYCHOLOGY CLUB	Women's CLASSIFIED SERVICE CLUB
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION	LIONS CLUB	PHILHARMONIC Committee of Leisure World	WORLD ON FILM CLUB
COMMUNITY CONCERTS	MASONIC AUXILIARY	REFORM TEMPLE of Leisure World	WRITER'S CLUB
CONCERNED CITIZENS	Mayflower CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH		

## Archivist's Corner Fran Lindberg

In the beginning, there were bare hills. Farmers grew beans and barley on the land; ranchers pastured their cattle and sheep on the slopes..... Many things have changed .... today that land is home to nearly 20,000 people and to 27,000 trees!

 Spring is here and many of us start to enjoy our walks through the Leisure World grounds. Through the Archives, (and largely through the efforts of the Audubon Society,) I learned there are over 240 species of trees in the community. Walk through the grounds and you will find many trees labeled, especially in the area most frequently walked: Serpentine Walk, Friendship Walk and Aliso Park. There are nine species native to California, with trees from the Far East, South America, Europe, Australia and Africa.

One of our most interesting trees is the mammoth Sycamore in Aliso Park. Sprouted 50 years before the Pilgrims landed, and now well over 400 years old, it has a span of 160 feet, stands 140 feet high and has a trunk diameter of 10 feet. It is so huge that part of it is on boulders for support. Many of our residents and visitors have taken pictures of this historic tree.

One of the newest trees on the grounds is a Blue Spruce, planted just outside the Historical Society building, and dedicated to the 23 members listed in the 1999 *in memoriam* column in the Newsletters.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Elfie**, a book written by Elfie Simon-Gerstein, resident since 1991, was donated to the Archives.

Our Club Scrapbook collection has increased steadily over the past year. There are now over 200 on the shelves. If you need information on any club, do come see us and we will be glad to help you. And if your organization should disband, do bring the records in for storage.

We have a display cabinet in the front part of the Society building. In the past, we have had varied displays: A doll collection, an elephant display, and other miscellaneous collectibles, in addition to specific Leisure World memorabilia. If you have a collection that might be displayed, call me at 859-2335 or 206-0150. Only members collections will be considered.

We are all delighted that Marge Williams, our Archivist, is on the mend and will probably be back on the job by the time this Newsletter is in print. Welcome home, Marge!

lifted from 366 more GREAT  
Things About Getting Older



Nothing seems that terrible anymore.

Your wooden tennis racket may be of interest to the Smithsonian.

When you have a flat tire, people aren't afraid to stop to help you.

Cholesterol is a fascinating conversation topic.

At this point, you probably won't have to go to jail.

### **Historical Society/UCI**

#### **Demographic Survey**

Syd Aronson & Ira Joss, Committee Co-Chairmen

The Historical Society Committee and the UCI staff, after considerable deliberation, decided there was little to be gained from running the originally scheduled Pilot tests prior to the survey. Instead, the actual survey will be conducted entirely by mail (as was the recently completed U.S. census). It will be taken in May. 2000 residences, in Laguna Woods, selected at random by the University experts will be sampled. This survey, unlike the US census, will be completely anonymous, and no part of the survey form or the post paid return envelope will contain any type of identification. UCI will collect the results and report back with aggregate data to the Historical Society. That information will be shared with the entire community.

The importance of this project cannot be emphasized enough, since at the present time very little information is available on the demographics, facilities usage and quality of life issues in our community. For example, the City of Laguna Woods is in the process of utilizing a Transportation Consultant to conduct an extensive study of the transportation needs of the City into the future. The information which will be made available by our Survey will be of tremendous value for the City's transportation study.

If your residence is selected in the random sample, we urge you to complete the Survey promptly (it should take about ten minutes) and return it promptly to the University. If friends ask questions about the survey, please convey to them the importance of the study, or ask them to call one of us.



#### **1970 Progress Report**

of the Leisure World Foundation, the managing and operating agent for the community (pre PCM) is a most interesting document. That year, there were 8,025 manors with 13,166 residents. Investment yield was 6.8%.

Boards of Directors for Mutuals 1,2, 15,17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27,28, 29, 30, 31, and 32 were shown. We could identify only one person, Irene Puhlmann, who is still living in Leisure World. If there are others, please give us a call. We want to interview all persons who were residents from opening date through 1970. Of the 62 pictured, 5 were women!

Construction on Ch 3 started in May, on the shuffleboard courts in November; 150 building exteriors were painted and 120 washing machines were replaced. There were 23,998 "putters." Volunteers worked 4661 hours in the library. George Phelps, Production Manager, and Rob Merritt, News Director, were manning Channel 6. The Leisure World News was delivered free to every resident of the community.

Medical Services had a three page spread. At that time, full medical services including dental care, visual services, x-ray, physical therapy and emergency services, as well as home care were available; about 85,000 prescriptions were filled in the pharmacy.

There were plans underway for a full service hospital.....  
and there were 7 gates.

## **members in the news**

In observance of National Social Workers Month, Helen Mills-Lindsay,89, and Jane Slavin,90, were honored for their many years in Social Work. Jane was named Leisure Worder of the Month in May 1995 and Helen in September 1996.

Denise Welch has been appointed to the Senior Advisory Council (SCAC) to the Area Agency on Aging. She recently attended the Leadership Conference "Up to the Challenge" in Berkeley. SCAC advises the Board of Supervisors on the use of money from the Older Americans Act as well as on policy issues impacting Seniors of Orange County.

South County Senior Services has a new honor being bestowed on volunteers. Winner of the first "Ambassador of the Year" award, Ed Goodman,91, averages 25 hour a week as a volunteer.

Congratulations to Brenda Ross, newly elected **Mayor of Laguna Woods!**

**Leisure World Historical Society**  
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2nd V.P.	Ward Payne
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Treasurer	Burton Taubman
Archivist	Marge Williams
Office Mgr.	Marge Rice