

Elaine Levy joins worlds of art and education

She wears a name tag that says, "I am your teacher," but to the students in her adult education course on "Enjoyment of Painting," Elaine Levy is also a friend and a very warm human being who never loses her cool or her patience. She is a charming mix of enthusiasm, intellect and childlike qualities that shine through like the sun after a spring rain.

Chosen by Rossmoor Corporation as Leisure Worlder of the Month for December, Mrs. Levy brings to her slide-lecture classes a new and exciting insight into great paintings that have dominated the art scene down through the centuries.

An oil portrait of Mrs. Levy has been commissioned and will hang in the rotunda of the sales pavillion during December after which it will be presented to her at an informal ceremony.

Elaine Levy's affinity for art and drawing began at an early age when she was art editor of a summer camp newspaper. The talent followed her through high school, where she was the art editor of the school yearbook and then at Hunter College as art editor of their weekly bulletin. Recently, she was art editor of the monthly publication of Temple Judea in Leisure World.

After graduating from Hunter College at the

age of 20, she started teaching elementary grades in the Bentley School, which was pioneering in so called "progressive education."

Although teaching full-time during the day, she attended Teacher's College at Columbia University at night during the next four years and earned her Master's Degree.

Though licensed to teach in New York City schools she did not have the requirements to teach elsewhere in the state, so she attended Hunter College and Adelphi University and obtained permanent state certification in both elementary and art education.

Over the years, Mrs. Levy studied at Florence Cane School of Art and the Instituto Allende, San Miguel D'Allende, Mexico. Her teaching activities included Long Island University, Brooklyn, New York; Bentley School, New York City; Brandeis School, Lawrence, New York; Yeshivah of Central Queens, Jamaica, New York; New York City public schools and Nassau County public schools on Long Island, New York.

For people who wish they could paint but say, "I can't even draw a straight line," Mrs. Levy counterpoints with "If you can't draw a straight line, why not try a few



Elaine Levy

curves?"

Mrs. Levy believes that a knowledge of art cannot fail to enrich one's life in every way. She does not feel it is essential for the enjoyment of a painting to have a technical background, but it does tend to make a museum visit more enjoyable.

Her favorite period of art is Impressionism and the artists she admires most are Renoir and Monet. On modern art she is often challenged in her Leisure World classes by students who say, "Make me like Toulouse Lautrec. Make me understand Picasso," and it's the purest form of gratification when ever a glimpse of this understanding dawns.

Before coming to Leisurs World a little over a year ago, Mrs. Levy worked for Xerox Corporation as an educational consultant. In this capacity she took educational material including periodicals, paperbacks, micro fiche and regular 8mm and 16mm

films, text book material and other learning tools into schools in the New York City and Nassau County area.

Now Leisure World activities occupy her entire energies. When she has a free morning or afternoon one may find her indulging in one of her favorite hobbies: painting, cooking, playing table tennis, swimming, gardening, astronomy, duplicate bridge or Scrabble.

Her paintings have been exhibited for the Art Guild in the corridors of Saddleback Medical Center and Community Hospital.

A lover of good music, Mrs. Levy finds enjoyment in attending the Orange County Philharmonic series and to add to her list of activities, in

January 1977 she will become a vice president of the Sisterhood of Temple Judea.

But mostly she is deeply involved in teaching as part of Leisure World's adult education program, now possessing teaching credentials in the state of California. She will be giving an art course at Brandeis University national women's group on the subject of French painting and has been asked to work on the committee for next year's Pageant of the Masters in Laguna Beach.

A very special kind of chemistry exists between Elaine Levy and

people—an enviable rapport that has no explanation other than the fact that the lives of those who know her are greatly enriched.