

Clara J. Baker

Honoree of the Month – June 2011

Clara was born and educated in New York City and is a graduate of Hunter College. She was an Elementary School Principal and served as Deputy Superintendent in charge of monitoring and evaluating Principals. Her working career also included teaching English as a second language at Mercy College where the student body was mostly Russian, Korean and Spanish speakers.

She received many awards and commendations for her excellence and dedication as both a teacher and administrator.

Clara has two children, Dr. Gil Baker and Paul Baker and still managed to travel extensively on business and pleasure to Europe, Asia, Africa and South and Central America.

Clara arrived in Laguna Woods Village in the summer of 1997 and immediately became an active member, leader and volunteer in a wide variety of activities.

She is the current Treasurer of the Foundation of Laguna Woods, and has been an assistant teacher at the PC Club and a Volunteer Usher at the Segerstrom and Argyros Theatres at SCR and the Laguna Playhouse. Clara has been Treasurer and a Member of the Board of our Theatre Guild, and appeared on stage in many productions the latest of which was the the Old Pros presentation of Twelve Angry Jurors.

She has been Treasurer of the Chess Club, President of the Square Dance Club and generously shared her time and talent with numerous other groups outside the gates.

When asked which of her many career lifetime activities have been the most important and self-satisfying, she readily replied “teaching fourth grade classes and teaching English as a Second Language while working as an Educational Administrator during the day”. It was one of her fellow teachers who touted her on Laguna Woods.

Coming here was also the “birth” of a much enjoyed and never previously considered “acting career”.

Of her current Volunteer activities in Laguna Woods, she remarked that “being on the Foundation Board with a group of such dedicated Board Members..who are both an inspiration and certainly represent a beautiful role model for volunteerism.”