

LEISURE WORLD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Presents

LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER, 1998

SYBIL BARZILAY

The Leisure World Historical Society is pleased to present **SYBIL BARZILAY** as the **LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH for OCTOBER 1998.**

Sybil was born in Harrow, England where she received her basic education. Subsequently she obtained a degree in accounting in the UK (United Kingdom).

Our honoree's career experiences are best placed in four Phases. Phase 1 (1943-48) included positions in accounting with various firms in the UK. After emigration to South Africa for marriage to Henry, Phase 2 included the operation of a recording and film studio for 11 years (1948-59). When the political situation in South Africa deteriorated, she and her husband were "deported" because of Henry's shooting of newsfilm of the riots for NBC and BBC. After a brief stay in England, Sybil and Henry came to the U.S. (naturalized in 1965) where Sybil entered Phase 3 with Arden Factors of Beverly Hills. Twenty-three years later after many promotions, her job ended when the company closed its doors. Phase 4 was a combination of education and work experience since Sybil attended Saddleback College (1983-84) to gain computer skills utilized in her position as computer "guru" for a home builder. She decided to retire in 1990 when her employer ceased operations.

The union of Sybil and Henry produced Michelle and Robyn (Boyd) and the nuclear family was expanded by a son-in-law and granddaughter, Molly (Boyd). Although they purchased their unit in Leisure World in 1980, the Barzilays did not become full-time residents until 1984. However, that year seemed to be a "trigger" for a succession of volunteer activities for Sybil. Despite her husband's death in 1993, she continued to be active in the Leisure World Duplicate Bridge Club, having been instrumental in the merger of two existing bridge clubs into one entity. She has been a board member for eight years, treasurer and club manager, and has introduced computers into Bridge Club activities. To this date she still directs some games and shares her knowledge as a "consultant".

In addition to the foregoing, Sybil has been a "gung ho" person in the Leisure World PC Users Group (PUG) as a membership chair for eight years and a volunteer teacher at the Clubhouse 2 Learning Center. She presents seminars on e-mail and the Internets and on desktop publishing. She has produced the PUG newsletter for four years. The PUG has been recognized by major news groups including NBC Nightly News.

Travel has been a change of pace for Sybil. She has visited many African countries and toured a number of large European cities. She has also covered many states in the U.S. including "all parts of California".

When queried about accomplishments and personal satisfaction, Sybil was not hesitant in saying: "When I undertake a project it is always the most satisfying...Computers have propelled me to heights I could not have dreamed of 15 years ago. I am so thankful to be alive in this day and age".