



LEISURE WORLD NEWS

Thursday
October 1, 1998

Computer wizard loves challenges



David E. Caballero/The News

When she's not in the bridge room, Sybil Barzilay most likely can be found in the computer learning center, when she tutors and teaches.

Society honors Sybil Barzilay for October

By Cheryl Walker
The News

"I couldn't think of another human being who deserves the Leisure Worlorder of the Month honor as much as she does," says PC Users Group President Joe Schwarz.

"She's unbelievable, a real mover - she can step in and straighten anything out - and there's so much she does and so much she has the ability to do," says PC Users Group member Norm Salzberg.

"She's a real perfectionist, I wish we had more like her," adds Justin Webb, PC Users Group member and intermediate computer instructor.

The "she" extolled so unreservedly by these and other members of Leisure World's

computing community is Sybil Barzilay, PC Users Group membership chair, teacher, website and newsletter innovator, historian and jack-of-all trades.

Barzilay says, however, that no one person is responsible for the success of one of Leisure World's most thriving clubs, rather it's the commitment of scores of dedicated individuals interested in expanding their computer knowledge and sharing it with fellow residents and others outside the walls.

"We share with each other - and learn from each other," says the honoree.

Barzilay says her brother first introduced her to computers and, when she took classes to learn the technology, she got hooked. "I created a love affair with

computers."

And the more she learned, the more she wanted to learn - and share with others, such as, at the Leisure World Duplicate Bridge Club (of which she is a long-term

member), teaching play directors computerized scoring methods.

"But everything I do I like to do," she underlines.

Background Born in Harrow, England, Barzilay earned a degree in accounting and worked in her chosen field in her native land until 1948, when she emigrated to Johannesburg, South Africa to marry.

There, she and her husband ran a recording and film studio which thrived for 11 years until her husband was deported for sending film to NBC and the BBC showing riots.

They emigrated to the United States in 1960 and in 1961 she found work with Arden Factors in Beverly Hills. She stayed with the financial investment firm for 23 years but left and moved to Leisure World in 1984 when her boss decided to close the company and retire.

Not content to rest and just play bridge (for which she has a passion and is a life master) she decided to go back to school - Saddleback College - where she enhanced her computer skills before taking another job with Northstar Homes in Irvine. She finally retired in 1990 and in 1991 joined the PC Users Group.

Barzilay says learning about, utilizing and sharing knowledge of computers is a major factor in her life, "I often start my day with my computer because there's always something more to know and, when I'm working at the Computer Facility, I feel like I'm filling a real need.

"I am so thankful to be alive now and am convinced there is something for everybody to do in their retirement years."

Anyone interested in learning more about Leisure World's PC Users Group and its beginning and intermediate classes can contact Barzilay at 472-8402.

Ceremony Facts

Who: Sybil Barzilay

What: Leisure Worlorders of the Month for October

Where: Clubhouse 6

When: Wednesday, Oct. 7, 10 a.m.

Sponsor: Leisure World Historical Society