

# LAGUNA WOODS

**GLOBE**



# LOVE FOR MUSIC

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# Historical Society picks Marlene Carr as Honoree of Month

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THE LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

The Historical Society has returned to the same Laguna Woods Village manor to award Honoree of the Month honors to another musical Carr.

In October, 2005 the honoree was Marlene Carr's late husband Frank. Now it's her turn. She will be honored in a ceremony at 10 a.m. Oct. 1 in Clubhouse 6.

Joan Nugent, who is a member of several clubs that have benefitted by Carr's contributions (particularly in things musical) and a Gamma Phi Beta sorority sister, says Marlene is a delight to work with.

"She's always pleasant, nothing gets to her. Intrepid, that's the word I use about her."

Eleanor Santini of the Laguna Woods Village Bocce Club singles out Marlene's contributions to the 9-hole Women's Golf Club and to social events of various other organizations.

"She has the greatest disposition, always cheerful, active all the time. Through her work with the Philharmonic, she's been very influential in bringing classical music to people who might not otherwise be able to go."

Marlene showed some of that unflappable spirit when interviewed in the middle of a home turned upside down by contractors discussing new paint, carpeting and cabinetry.

She says she feels thrilled that the Historical Society picked her for the honor almost exactly three years since they singled out her beloved husband. (He died just a few weeks after receiving the honor.)

Marlene says, like Frank, she "Likes to be busy, all the time" and ticks off a list of activities from exercise classes in the morning to get-togethers with friends at night that make for a very full life.

She said when their daughter suggested she and Frank move to the Village when they retired in 1999, they first hesitated about the idea of living in a senior community until they saw all the amenities and opportunities the community had to offer.

"You need something to do every day to keep going," explains Marlene, explaining that both she and her husband found that commitment to life in the Village.

Marlene says she doesn't feel worthy of the Historical Society's honor but acknowledges it must have something to do with the great love of classical music she has and wanting to share it with others. Both she and Frank helped bring in musical talent to perform in the Village and played multiple instruments themselves ("Frank played them all!").

They also never stopped letting the sound of music enrich their lives.



Marlene Carr is the Historical Society's honoree of the month for October. She is known for her great love of music. > JEFF ANTENORE, OC REGISTER

Marlene was born in Northfield, VT and earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Vermont (where she met Frank) and her Masters of Education from the University of Connecticut.

She and Frank raised four children and worked as teachers primarily in the Nutmeg State, Connecticut. She taught kindergarten, nursery school, music and piano; led choirs; served as a church organist and accompanist and camp counselor during her career.

At the same time, she was involved, like other moms in the PTA.

After retiring and moving to the Village, she got involved in various ways, including serving as president, of Community Concerts and Lovers of Music; as a board member of the Village Symphony Orchestra (as well as a musician playing bass); as a member of the Geneva Presbyterian Church choir; a member of the Bocce and Ebell clubs; a member of the 9-hole Women's Golf Club; as historian of the local Philharmonic Society; as a member of both the water aerobics and circuit training exercise groups; and as a member of the Gamma Phi Beta Alumni organization.

She said both she and Frank and now she

alone deplores the fact that those who appreciate great music are getting fewer because people, especially children, are not exposed to the great composers, like her personal favorite, Bach.

Or, she said, another difficulty is that the venues are far away, at night and not easy to get to. "People are so appreciative when we can bring them to the music." Or bring the music to them.

She said that's why Community Concerts is starting afternoon programs, like the Oct. 19 Rhapsody in Taps show at 3 p.m. in Clubhouse 3.

She says, too, that her activities keep her in touch with other women, like herself, who are having to reinvent themselves later in life after the death of a spouse when children are far away.

She says at first she traveled but now is ready to stay home, which is why she's fixing up her manor, and staying involved with activities in the community.

"We're all in the same boat: you need to have something to do every day and here I have a lot of friends, we get together, have a good time and like to stay busy. It's a fun place to be."