

Ceremony facts

Who: Mary K. Davis
What: Leisure Worlder of the Month for May
Where: Clubhouse 6
When: 10 a.m., Wednesday, May 3
Sponsor: Leisure World Historical Society

Tortilla Queen is society's May choice

By Cheryl Walker
 The News

Although Austria is Mary K. Davis's native land, Mexican tortillas are the finger foods that made her the hit of Orange County Philharmonic Society's underwriters' parties.

And, with a plethora of other community groups and organization's, the retired dietician has put not just her cooking skills to good use but a variety of talents ranging from managing and organizing events and activities to being a well-rounded jack-of-all-trades.

That's why the Historical Society decided she's the perfect choice for Leisure Worlder of the Month this May.

And why her colleagues are cheering the selection which they say with one voice, is well deserved.

"She's very capable, very involved and very nice," explains Philharmonic President Carol Blanchard.

"She's unflappable: always responsible - and what ever you ask her to do it will get done," says Betty Phillippi, president of the American Ballroom Dance Club.

Fellow Ebell member Dori Bauler adds her friend is such a humble person she never wanted to be president of the many organizations she has participated in during the 19 years she's lived in Leisure World. "But any other job she handles with enormous enthusiasm - I just can't say enough good about her and I'm thrilled she's been selected for this honor which she really deserves."

Tom Beckwith, former Saddleback Hospital Associates president, adds that Davis is the kind of worker every club president and event coordinator dreams of because of her "sincerity, loyalty and dedication . . . she has unlimited energy and never gives up until something is done to her satisfaction."

And that's saying a lot since Davis believes strongly in doing for others as you would have



Rod Veal/The News

Mary K. Davis, Leisure Worlder of the Month for May.

them do to you.

"I have been a chairman and know what it's like when you give someone a job and they let you down," explains the 90-something Davis adding that as long as she has her health she'll continue to try to do her best.

That's one tall order considering that besides belonging to Ebell, the Philharmonic Society, the American Dance Club and Saddleback Hospital Associates, she's an active member of Opera 100 and the Ballroom Dance, three bridge and the California and Minnesota clubs.

She is also a 20-year Meals-on-Wheels volunteer and, at Geneva Presbyterian Church, she's served as a deacon, usher, beadle, wedding coordinator and participant in the religious institution's women's and prayer groups.

Background: Davis says she takes after her energetic, active father who brought his family from Austria when she was only 3.

The twice-widowed Davis adds that her own involvement in community activities has always been intense from her youthful participation in the Eastern Star, Planned Parenthood, League of Woman Voters, Methodist Church and Parent Teachers Organization to the host of groups she's involved with now.

Davis says a lifetime of giving has been its own reward as well, particularly when one is suffering the most: from the loss of a loved one.

"You can't be with the dead, you can only be with the living and, to do that, you have to keep going.

"My friends say, Mary, some day you are going to have to say no - but if I have the time, I'll do it, I will help."