



CARINE NADEL, FOR THE LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE.

Katherine De Courcy will be honored at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 12 at Clubhouse 7.

OCTOBER HONOREE

KATHERINE DE COURCY IS THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S OCTOBER HONOREE PAGE 3

Katherine De Courcy, at home, says there is still more to explore and "there are many doors just waiting to be opened." She may be signing up for art classes.



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Historical Society's honoree enjoys the arts

BY CARINE NADEL
FOR THE LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

Katherine De Courcy and her husband, William, have taken their children all over the United States, flying in their own Cessna 180 plane and exposing them to historical tours all over the United States and Mexico. They visited Civil War cemeteries in Washington, D.C., the 1964 World's Fair in Niagara Falls, New York, and exposed them to the performing arts and all kinds of music.

In recognition of De Courcy's contributions to school systems, including her driving force during the creation of Saddleback Junior College in 1968, the Laguna Woods Historical Society will host a reception and ceremony in her honor at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 12 at Clubhouse 7. Katherine De Courcy is the Historical Society's October Honoree.

Upon hearing the news the first thought that came to her mind, she said, was, "Me? I don't qualify! They must have the wrong person; there are so many more villagers that are much more deserving."

De Courcy says her real life's work has been her years as a full-time parent to her three children, Gregory, Valerie and Timothy. It was that love and devotion that led her to being active in both civic events and the school system. During the years her children were in school she was not just a

member of the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), but served as its president in 1964.

Moving into the Village in 1985, De Courcy participated in the Saddle Club, the 9-Hole Golf Club, the ESP Investment Club, the Aliso Club, the California Club and the Philharmonic Club, where she served as president from 1995-97. She also enjoys the Opera 100 Club and has been president there since 2009.

The De Courcys have worked very hard to raise money and have donated numerous hours as docents for the Youth Concerts at the Music Center in Costa Mesa. "With school districts cutting back on these studies, it's important that the programs are able to continue. In fact, we invite some of the various schools to come out and perform for us during our meetings and we pay them! It becomes a win-win, they get to see what it's like to perform for a paying audience and we get to enjoy the performances."

How did her kids react when they heard about this honor? "All of them were very happy and proud of me, but my oldest one did say that he had no idea that I was so involved in the community," says De Courcy.

When asked to consider what her greatest gifts were to her family, in her career, in her community and to herself, De Courcy had some interesting answers:

To her family: "My gift to them was the

great love I had for them all and to give them all the support I could to make sure they had the opportunity to become the best they could be."

In her career: "I owned several of my own businesses, including an antique store and a wholesale jewelry venue. I found the stories behind some of the items to be quite interesting. I learned and shared so much with so many people. I enjoyed those years."

Her greatest gift to herself is to have an innate sense of optimism that enables her to always have hope.

And last, De Courcy feels that her gift to the Village is that she realizes how fortunate she is to live in such a welcoming and warm environment. "When I arrived here, I was one of the 'young' kids on the block and everyone was very friendly and open. Because of that I jumped right into as many activities as I found interesting. We all need to do this and enjoy everything our Village has to offer and contribute in any way we can."

What's next for Katherine De Courcy? "I used to do a lot of drawing and sketching, so I'd love to explore and sign up for some art lessons. I can tell you this, I'm not done yet - there are so many doors just waiting to be opened."

Those interested in Laguna Woods Village's Historical Society and the reception may call 206-0150 for details.