

# January honoree: A man who keeps on giving

From coordinating free tax assistance, to holding classes for mature drivers, Irv Goldberg can't say no

By Cheryl Walker  
The News

It's especially fitting that the Leisure World Historical Society chose January to honor its former president as Leisure Worlder of the Month.

## CEREMONY TIMES

**What:** Leisure Worlder of the Month  
**Where:** Clubhouse 6  
**When:** 10 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 5  
**Sponsor:** Leisure World Historical Society.

Starting the first month of the year and continuing through April 15, Irving Goldberg coordinates a special program for residents designed to take the fear out of filing federal and state income tax forms.

The program offers residents free tax preparation by

accredited counselors of the Internal Revenue Service and the American Association of Retired Person's Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program.

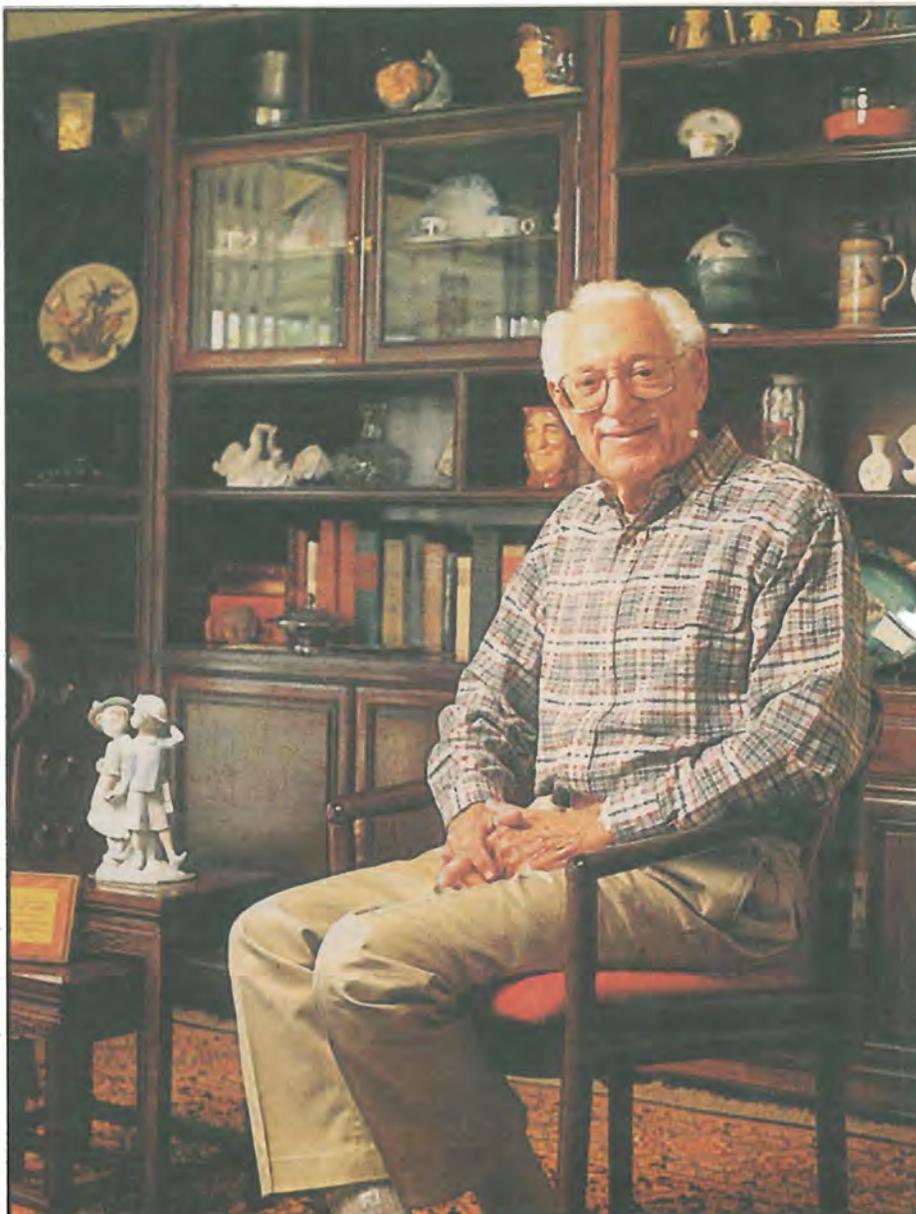
For more than 13 years, Goldberg has also been an instructor of the AARP-sponsored "55-Alive" brush-up driving course for seniors. The course helps mature drivers understand the effect aging can have on their physical abilities and how to compensate, allowing them to continue driving with minimum stress and maximum safety.

Goldberg, a former president of United Laguna Hills Mutual, has made further contributions to the community through Audubon and Saddle Club memberships and participation in various United Mutual and Golden Rain committees and groups, in particular tapping into a lifetime of human services expertise to enrich studies on residents' future health needs.

Though 79 years old on Dec. 10, the near decade-long resident of Leisure World shows no sign of slowing down, choosing instead to remain true to his own definition of retirement as "another productive period of life."

Holding the reins on a variety of tasks isn't a new challenge for Goldberg.

From 1936 to 1980, the New York native and World War II Army veteran, cultivated multiple careers, interrelated by the common denominator of his interest in human behavior.



Don Leach/The News

Irving Goldberg, January's Leisure Worlder, had a long career working with and developing programs for problem children. One of his favorite figurines is of children.

These included positions as principal and teacher at special education facilities that addressed the problems of the brain damaged, mentally retarded and emotionally disturbed; as director of a social service agency and youth camp; and as chief clinical psychologist for the Veterans Administration's southwest region.

In addition, he held positions as adjunct professor and chairman of

rehabilitation in the Special Education Department of Teachers College at New York's Columbia University; as associate project director of the Institute for Training Teachers of Special Education at Teachers College; and as a member of a US Department of Health Education and Welfare Comprehensive Health Planning Committee.

See HONOREE, page A2

# HONOREE

From page A1

Although Goldberg modestly claims "serendipity," being at the right place at the right time, had a lot to do with his success, his wife Ruth is quick to point out that her husband paid his dues working three full-time jobs at the same time and mentoring youth groups on his weekends off. "He was never home."

Goldberg shrugs off the compliment noting that, as the youngest of 10 children, he always felt the need to try harder to fulfill his goals.

Coming from a family of rabbis and teachers, it also seemed natural to him to pursue a career in education.

Although he had to decline scholarships to two colleges because of the Great Depression and the financial needs of his family, by taking a plethora of jobs to build up a nest egg, he was soon able to register at City College of New York.

As he studied and observed in the classroom and in clinical situations, Goldberg's view of education broadened. His goal became to solve the learning problems of challenged and challenging students, from the brain damaged to the kind of antisocial, violent, aggressive or even dangerous pupil found in the Big Apple's "600" or Blackboard Jungle-type schools.

His creative solutions drew praise from superiors—even national leaders such as then Attorney Gen. Robert Kennedy who became a colleague.

"I really feel very strongly

about people," explains Goldberg. "I like to help people fulfill themselves."

Even though Goldberg says he "retired in stages" from his many job responsibilities; for him, the call to service is still very strong.

"Leisure World is a microcosm of the world outside," he notes, pointing out that two of his chief goals with relation to the community are maintaining a quality of life and protecting and enhancing the value of property.

To achieve these goals, Goldberg says a resident can't just live in the community, but must take an active part in its ongoing development, to serve it some way, be it by membership in a club or sitting on a board.

In spite of his drive, co-workers, such as former Third Mutual President Virginia Halley, find him always "a gentleman from the word 'Go'-a better friend would be hard to find."

Towers President Bob Donaldson adds that Goldberg's "warm personality, sense of humor and contagious enthusiasm make it a real pleasure to work with him."

But perhaps his greatest chronicler, his young granddaughter and poet Emma Goldberg, targets her grandfather best in a verse she penned on his birthday card.

"There once was a grandpa named Irv,  
A man truly steady of nerve;  
At the stable and pool  
he was known for his cool  
and he wielded his gavel with  
verve."