

LEISURE WORLD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PRESENTS

JOSEPH H. HELLER
Leisure Worlder of the Month

June 2004

JOSEPH HELLER was born in the Big Apple, attended PS 39 in Queens and graduated from Far Rockaway High School. After a move to the west coast he enrolled in the Frank Wiggins Trade School in Los Angeles. The latter education was instrumental in permitting him to procure a Certificate and License in Building Construction from California.

After procuring early work papers at age sixteen, Joseph worked at various jobs until he settled into his major vocation of contractor/construction. He was employed and specialized in Tenant Improvement positions and held assignments as Construction Superintendent in private industry. He subsequently worked for the Los Angeles Housing Authority and also functioned as Resident Building Inspector for Los Angeles and its ancillary Redevelopment Agency. He retired in 1988 after fifty working career years.

Joseph participated in community life as a Suicide Prevention Counselor (San Fernando Valley) and as a District Attorney's Advocate in Los Angeles County Superior Court. His diversity was reflected in his Photography Gold Medal at an Orange County Fair.

Selma and Joseph were married in 1980 and brought, jointly, five sons and one daughter into the "blended family" (from previous marriages). The current Heller Clan includes eleven grandchildren and two greatgrandchildren with one more "in the oven".

The Hellers came to Leisure World in 1989 and became "involved". The Camera Club, Opera 100, Community Concerts, National Council of Jewish Women, Meals on Wheels and the ROMEO's (Retired Old Men Eat Out) were beneficiaries of their time and talents. Joseph also volunteered as Project Manager in the remodel/construction of Temple Judea. Leisure World governance also gained from Joseph's volunteer service. After election to Third Mutual Board he served as member/chair of many committees. Currently he is on the GRF Board and has assignments as Chair, Maintenance and Construction Committee, and Vice Chair, Broadband Committee, plus membership on three AdHoc Subcommittees. He has also participated in the Laguna Woods Planning Committee.

Joseph has been *"grateful for having the opportunity to serve the community which has given me so much in return. - - - satisfaction and joy in working with Leisure World People and knowing I was of some service."*