

LEISURE WORLD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Presents

LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH

APRIL 1999

AARON KAPLAN

The Leisure World Historical Society is pleased to present **AARON KAPLAN** as the **LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH for APRIL 1999.**

Aaron was born and raised in the "Windy City" – Chicago – and received his primary and secondary education in his hometown. He also received an AA degree after two years at a local junior college, followed by matriculation at the University of Illinois and completion of a BS Degree in Pharmacy. While working on his academic studies he was a member of Rho Pi Phi fraternity. In addition to the foregoing, Aaron studied chemistry at the University of Chicago, where he participated in research on the atomic bomb and studied the effects of high altitude on flying personnel.

After graduation, Aaron worked with his father at the latter's drug store before setting up his own pharmacy and operating it from 1950-1975. He concluded his working career as Chief Pharmacist at a Chicago area health center, and retired in 1987.

Aaron's non-working extra-curricular activities reflected experiences of his career. He was president of the Chicago Drug Club (1976) and served on many pharmaceutical committees in various capacities. His performance at the University of Chicago merited a special commendation from the Office of Scientific Research of the U. S. Government for research assistance in the war effort during World War II.

Sylvia, his wife-to-be, and Aaron met while both were vacationing at the Grand Canyon. After several courtship round trips between Chicago and New York, Aaron and Sylvia were married in 1947. The nuclear Kaplan family eventually included daughters Jackie, Kerrie and Elise. The expanded family unit now includes the requisite number of son-in-laws and grandchildren Shelley, Tara and Julia.

The Kaplans came to Leisure World in 1987 and Aaron became involved in a number of diverse activities. As a Computer Club member he writes a column in the monthly newsletter and functions as a Computer Workshop Supervisor. He and Sylvia are involved in the Leisure World Chapter of the National Audubon Society and have been instrumental in raising funds for the chapter, which then distributes the money to environmental and nature programs throughout California. Aaron also composes and publishes the chapter's newsletter, "The Burrowing Owl". The Canine Club also benefits from the participation of Aaron and Sylvia.

The "Peace Grove" of many Golden Rain trees was an idea Aaron suggested to the Concerned Citizen Club, which in conjunction with the Golden Rain Foundation brought the idea to fruition. Aaron has also been active in the Hikers Club by producing membership rosters, publicity fliers for the club's events and he hikes and has helped in locating new and interesting trails for hiking. He also aided in updating the club's constitution.

Our honoree has also been recognized as an "Honorary Member" by the Leisure World Saddleback Section of the NCJW (National Council of Jewish Women) for his work in transporting quantities of goods for the SOS (Share Our Selves) Clinic. As if that weren't enough, he volunteers his pharmaceutical skills with the Flying Doctors of Mexico nine times a year in Sinaloa State, Mexico.

As a retired pharmacist Aaron is a member of the Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) of the U. S. Government and is assigned to unit "California -1".

Aaron's personal satisfaction is achieved through his lifetime motto: "...helping people".