

LAGUNA WOODS

GLOBE

A close-up portrait of an elderly man with white hair and a light blue shirt, smiling slightly. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

AUGUST HONOREE

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY NAMES STAN
LEHRFELD HONOREE OF THE MONTH PAGE 3**

Laguna Woods resident Stan Lehrfeld, 89, was chosen as the Honoree of the Month for August by the Historical Society of Laguna Woods. > CLAIRE WEBB/STAFF

Old Pros founder honored by Historical Society

BY CLAIRE WEBB
LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

Stan Lehrfeld has been feeding and entertaining seniors in the community for more than a decade.

The former Laguna Woods resident, 89, was a founding member of the Old Pros Club theater group in the Village and was committed to serving Meals on Wheels weekly through Age Well Senior Services to residents. Lehrfeld said he was still awed to find out he was chosen as the Historical Society of Laguna Woods' Honoree of the Month for August.

"I enjoy helping people," Lehrfeld said in his apartment at the Regency. "For me it's contentment."

Lehrfeld moved to what is now Laguna Woods Village in 1989 after his two children moved to California.

Prior to his move west, Lehrfeld attended New York University and studied poultry genetics—part of his course of study was to spend two years on a farm in Littleton, Mass. Lehrfeld said he worked breeding chickens for Robert Cobb, one of the world's oldest poultry breeding companies, according to its website.

However, when he met wife Leanore, she gave him an ultimatum—5,000 chicks or just one (her)—Lehrfeld said. He chose the latter.

He began working in the dry cleaning

business after he married in 1945 and purchased a shop called Fur Cleaners that specialized in cleaning Persian and Mink fur coats for \$25. It was while he worked in Manhattan in the 1960s, cleaning draperies for the World Trade Center through his dry cleaning business called Andrew Newman, that he developed a love of theater.

Lehrfeld said he would come into the city from Long Island and go to a business on 46th street, Tkts, that offered unsold tickets to Broadway shows at discounted prices. He and his wife would go to whatever the Wednesday afternoon show was, eat Italian food, then catch an evening show.

Lehrfeld said he remembers original performances of "Oklahoma" and "Damn Yankeeess." He said he was enthralled by the theater.

"You can be anybody you want and it's very exciting," Lehrfeld said.

Later he would act, work backstage and even sell tickets for the Old Pros performances in Laguna Woods Village. One of his more recent performances was with the Readers Theatre of Old Pros performing "To Kill a Mockingbird" at City Hall.

"I was happy no matter what I did in the theater," Lehrfeld said.

Lehrfeld will be honored by the Historical Society at a ceremony on Aug. 4 at the Regency at 9 a.m.



Laguna Woods resident Stan Lehrfeld, 89, was chosen as the Honoree of the Month for August by the Historical Society of Laguna Woods. Lehrfeld was a founding member of the Old Pros Club and serves Meals on Wheels to seniors.