



LEISURE WORLD NEWS

Thursday
January 29, 1998

February honoree steps into the spotlight



David E. Caballero/The News

Carly Luetzow, is a full-of-energy lady, dedicated to the Laguna Hills Philharmonic Committee as well as other Leisure World groups. She has been named Leisure Worlder of the Month for February.

Carly Luetzow thrives on theatrical creativity

By Cheryl Walker
The News

Carly Luetzow never wanted to see her name in lights.

Although music was her family's passion, she never wanted to take center stage.

But teaching others, particularly children, to appreciate music is a different story, and one which the current program chairman for the Laguna Hills Philharmonic Committee helps to arrange through a variety of innovative activities for nearly 300,000 Orange County school children each year.

She also, as creative director of the Discovery Theater, enjoys putting together musical variety programs to please audiences in Leisure World and smaller venues in the surrounding community.

Luetzow's talents, however, don't stop with music. And, although she claims she only has three achievements in life, raising her three children, founding an inner-city pre-school and starting a video club for seniors that produced more than 200 programs over a five-year period, those privileged to know her realize that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Which is why the Historical Society couldn't pass up the chance to name her February Leisure Worlder of the Month.

A dedicated volunteer and club member since making Leisure World her home 11 years ago, she's served, besides the groups already mentioned, Community Concerts, Opera 100, the Tennis Club, Video Club and Geneva Presbyterian Church.

She's also videotaped Community Association

meetings, Theater Guild productions, the Laguna Hills Senior Center, special meetings, anniversaries, receptions, weddings and award ceremonies; helped staff the Saddleback Hospital Gift Shop; and tutored Spanish speaking people in English to improve their chances of success in America.

"We're in awe of her many accomplishments and Leisure World is so fortunate to have this kind of talent willing to use it for the good of the community," says Philharmonic colleague Joan Nugent. "We need the doers."

Video Club co-worker Roy Odelson agrees, adding "There's only good things I can say of her, with her great energy and phenomenal knowledge of video, she's a great asset to Leisure World."

See **HONOREE**, page 9

CEREMONY FACTS

Who: Carlann Luetzow
What: Leisure Worlder for February
Where: Clubhouse 6
When: 10 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 4.
Sponsor: Leisure World Historical Society

HONOREE

From page 1

Also of the Video Club, Marvin Taves calls Luetzow an excellent model for a Renaissance women who brings a wealth of expertise in the arts, drama and video production to the community.

He notes, for example, that she is the only Leisure World videographer whose work appears on Channel 6 a dozen or more times each month and adds that Leisure World is a better place "because Carly left her mark."

But, Luetzow has been an asset to every community she's lived in - and has the track record to prove it.

Born in Oak Park, Ill., Luetzow worked her way through college and became an early education teacher, a profession she loved.

In 1958, she wed and after the couple spent eight months in the Big Apple, they moved to Dearborn, Mich., which became home for the next 28 years.

There, Luetzow says, she became a "full-time mom and a full-time volunteer."

Besides the usual involvement in activities important to her son and daughters such as Girl Scouts, PTA, swim team, Junior Great Books and Sunday school, Luetzow became a stalwart of her new city's branch of the American Association of University Women.

After the devastating riots in Detroit in 1968, she helped found the Owen Pre-School to help mend race relations in the inner city and the Snow School Latch Key program.

She also raised money for the Detroit Symphony and founded

an award-winning club for seniors, the Dearborn Video Club, which turned out innovative programs and "taught a whole city that seniors are valuable assets to the community."

Because the latter program was so intense and time consuming, Luetzow says she was burnt out on video when she first moved to Leisure World in 1987 - but, in 1990, she became a founding member of of the community's Video Club.

She also enjoys taking Emeritus Institute classes - and saying "yes!" to any interesting project that comes along, especially when it helps others.

"Helping people learn, grow and have fun has been a major motivation for my career and in my volunteer and semi-volunteer activities," says Luetzow.

"I feel like I was very privileged in life - born in the United States, in a whole family, in the suburbs of a big city, where I could work my way through college, have a wonderful education and the opportunity to do what I wanted to do.

"When I married, we settled in a community that was good for my kids, then my husband and I moved to lovely Leisure World and made so many good friends . . . so I feel it's important to give back and, since I work best as a facilitator, I enjoy life especially when I am involved with bringing knowledge, joy and laughter into the lives of children and seniors."

Luetzow says enthusiasm is both her greatest asset and liability because she finds it hard to say no to anything worthwhile. "Living life that way is very satisfying - I probably never will take it easy."