

# LAGUNA WOODS

## GLOBE



Laguna Woods resident Ruth May loves her newly redecorated kitchen with red quartz countertops. May is the Historical Society's honoree for November. > JEFF ANTENORE/PHOTOGRAPHER

# MAY HONORED

HISTORICAL SOCIETY LAUDS RUTH MAY ON NOV. 5. PAGE 12

# Ruth May named Honoree of the Month

BY CHERYL WALKER  
THE LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

**Y**ou'd think it would take someplace very special indeed to make a world traveler finally put down roots.

But world traveler and Historical Society honoree for November Ruth May explains when compared to Laguna Woods "there is no where else I would rather be."

"I love living here. I love the way this place is run, the way it looks ... what's not to love?"

"And I've been everywhere that I wanted to go," she explains. She's even lived in Paris, France and Zimbabwe (in the area formerly known as Southern Rhodesia).

The Village she says is one of the best places to be if you are single and a woman because there's so much to do, day and night. And May, an 11 year resident and current Golden Rain Foundation director and candidate for reelection to the board, has sampled quite a few activities.

The list includes Toastmasters, the Historical Society Foundation, the Theatre Guild, the Old Pros, Friends of the Library, the Laguna Woods animal committee and the Cat Club.

The latter in particular is a command performance dictated by her caramel and cream colored tabbie, Cinnamon, who, says May, only has eyes for her.

Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, May spent 30 years in the travel industry and has experience in retail travel, wholesale travel, incentive travel, trade shows, marketing, public relations and even teaching travel at the West Los Angeles Airport School.

She's put that multicultural savvy to work in the community, too.



Ruth May is the Laguna Woods Historical Society's honoree for November. She's joined by her cat Cinnamon who, she says, only has eyes for his mistress.

> JEFF ANTENORE/  
CONTRIBUTING  
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Sheila Bialka, her partner in crime in the Old Pros and Theatre Guild productions, says "Ruth is the power behind the throne, so to speak. She doesn't act nor does she want to, but she is great at researching possibilities for the Old Pros to get involved with. Also, she comes up with wonderful ideas to enhance the club and make it better and finds different venues for our performances such as City Hall for our readings. Without her support and contributions there would not be an Old Pros."

Fellow GRF Board Director Bea McArthur says of May, "The most astounding thing about Ruth is her encyclopedic interest in the community and, by extension, its residents. She belongs to a plethora of organizations and has a minimum of 21 friends in each, bringing the total to 741. All of this she manages along with her board responsibilities exhibiting grace and humor throughout."

Linda Wilson, United Director, adds that "Ruth's succinct, five word, 'to the point' explanations demonstrate that you don't have to be longwinded to be effective. She brings honesty and

straight forwardness, like a breath of fresh air, to all her endeavors. She definitely carries her end of the canoe."

May said her dearest wish is "to see amity between the housing mutuals, the City of Laguna Woods and all the residents. "That is not to say we should have no opinions but that we treat each other with respect and attention."

She said she's also enjoyed her time on the GRF Board and had several issues she'd like to see carried to fruition "and some new ideas instigated, particularly in the area of the greening of the Village and the city. "I would like us to take responsibility for the greening."

"Before I die I would like to see one or two solar panels and one windmill -- the way the finances of government are now we have to do for ourselves. We have to start (our independence) one step at a time."

May will be honored at a ceremony at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5, in Clubhouse 6. All interested residents are welcome to attend.