



# LAGUNA WOODS

## GLOBE

Maxine McIntosh has been selected as the honoree for the month of April by the Historical Society. The ceremony will be held on April 6 at Clubhouse 7. > PHOTO COURTESY OF CARINE NADEL

# APRIL'S HONOREE

MAXINE MCINTOSH WILL BE CELEBRATED BY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF LAGUNA WOODS APRIL 6. PAGE 3

# McIntosh honored by Historical Society

STORY & PHOTO BY CARINE NADEL  
FOR THE LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

On Wednesday, April 6, Maxine McIntosh will be honored at a ceremony by the Historical Society of Laguna Woods. The event will be held at 9:30 a.m. at Clubhouse 7.

Upon hearing that she was going to be honored by the Historical Society, McIntosh was more than a little surprised.

“To be in the company of the past recipients, I don’t feel as if I’ve done anything close enough to what they’ve accomplished! I’m truly very humbled and honored.”

On a recent afternoon, McIntosh greeted this writer by saying, “Would you like a cup of tea?”

McIntosh says she picked up a love for not only tea but the ceremony in England when she was a Fulbright Exchange Teacher in 1974-75.

“It had to be my greatest professional honor.”

Everyone in her family is a teacher and McIntosh is very proud to still be an active part in shaping the minds of children, no matter if they’re as young as her four granddaughters or the high school students she substitutes in many of the special needs classes for in the Irvine Unified or Saddleback Valley Unified School Districts.

“I love to teach, if I can fit it into my schedule! I’d even do it for free.”

McIntosh was assigned at the same time as her husband was on a research sabbatical in England. It was an adjustment.

“I was working in a middle school in a far suburb of London by Elton Palace. I had six very challenging hyper-active boys. After a few months, everyone progressed and I found that I had made life-long friends within the staff.”

The most memorable happening was on July 4th that year the Queen Mother, Queen Elizabeth, invited the 92 American Fulbright Exchange teachers and spouses to St. James Palace for tea.

“I was even presented to the Queen by the Lord Mayor of Westminster. She even ‘chatted me up’ a bit!”

England reveres their teachers, she said.

“I wasn’t invited because I was special; I was there because teachers are held in such high-esteem.

“I never met a president, but I travelled 8,000 miles and got to have tea with a queen. That was truly exciting for me.”

In fact, that was how McIntosh started her interest and activities here in Laguna



Maxine McIntosh enjoys collecting teapots thanks to her formal tea with the Queen of England in 1974.

Woods. Over the past 6 years, McIntosh has served on a number of GRF and United Mutual committees. For 3 years (ending in 2009) Maxine was a member of her housing mutual board. She has conducted a Bench Study for the GRF and United and worked on the GRF nominating committee. Currently, she serves on the GRF Inspectors of Elections. In addition, she has also served as advisor and chaired various United responsibilities.

When McIntosh first moved into the village 16 years ago, she found herself being one of the “youngsters” of the group since she and her husband moved in when they were 55. Wanting to make friends and being an avid walker and swimmer, she would canvas the area looking for other women who looked to be her age and then would boldly go up and introduce herself and invite them over for tea.

“I used to have a formal tea, just like I had in England. Every month there are about 12 of us now, but due to all my activities, I’ve unfortunately had to cut back to doing this to about 4-5 times a year.”

A native Californian, McIntosh is from Orange and graduated from Orange Union High School. A graduate of Chapman University, she went on to complete her master’s degree at the University of San Francisco, where she became a trainer for the program “Equal Opportunity in the Classroom.”

McIntosh said she has been married to

“the right guy, Donald, for 55 years. I have two adult children, Phillip and Mary Ann and my most precious granddaughters: Sierra, Ryan, Cameron and Brooklyn.”

McIntosh has lost a son. One of the most important aspects of her life was helping her son Tod, who was seriously crippled.

“I wanted to make sure he had a strong sense of self. He died at 37 with a good mind that was imprisoned inside a spastic body. Yet he had very high self-esteem and had a conviction that he could help others. Two weeks before he died, he told me that he had a good life.”

As the new president of the Friends of the Village, McIntosh wants to promote all the wonderful aspects of where she loves to call home.

“The most important thing I want to let other new residents know is that they immediately attend one of the “new resident orientations,” find out what you need to know about the most important things, such as what you can and can’t change about your new home, where to go to get things approved and the phone number of the service desk. Memorize it: 597-4600. Put it where you can see it at all times!”

The next suggestion, and this is totally unsolicited, “Subscribe to the Globe. It will tell you about all the activities and clubs, when and where they meet and what other things are happening in your community.”