



LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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Volunteering is her game

Society honoree tunes into music

By Cheryl Walker
The News

To call the Historical Society's May Leisure Worlder a top-notch volunteer is an understatement.

In reality, Joan Nugent, the effervescent wife of Golden Rain Director Burns Nugent, is the kind of volunteer an organization dreams about: dedicated, available, knowledgeable and willing to tackle any task.

According to Katherine De Courcy, president of Leisure World's Philharmonic Committee, "Joan gives us important support in every way, she's a real dynamic person, one of my favorites."

She notes that Nugent has excellent public relations skills, is a dynamo in building membership and knows music.

"She always does a great job," agrees Opera 100 president Fran Dixon. "She never lets you down no matter what job she's asked to do; she's a great gal."

Jesse Dolezal, Nugent's forerunner as the coordinator of Community Concerts, says tenacity combined with tact, something Nugent excels at, is particularly important when you're dealing with professional talent. "It's a persnickety job," Dolezal admits, making sure the artists have what they need to perform their best, be it finding them equipment or supplying them with snacks or at least a place where they can have a post-performance bite to eat.



Janine Swiatkowski/The News

An effervescent Joan Nugent displays fliers for upcoming Community Concert programs.

Background But, Nugent, a San Diego native and holder of a bachelor of science degree in business administration from the University of California, Berkeley, has enjoyed the many volunteer challenges.

Says Nugent, "Thank heavens for volunteer work, it's kept me alive and given me a reason to get dressed and out of the house."

And, since her husband's career in the television industry kept them on the move and rubbing shoulders with the movers and shakers wherever they lived, volunteerism opened doors

and opportunities for Nugent that she found herself unable to refuse.

Her list of volunteer credits is daunting and includes serving as an officer or
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Ceremony facts

Who: Joan Nugent
What: Leisure Worlder of the Month for May
Where: Clubhouse 6
When: 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 7
Sponsor: Leisure World Historical Society

member of the Women's Committee of the Symphony Association of Cedar Rapids, MI., the Junior League and Community Concerts (in various cities), Deluth Mental Hygiene Clinic (MN.), the National Symphony Orchestra Women's Association (Washington, D.C.), the Private Industry Council/Oregon Consortium and the Junior Art Gallery of Waterloo, Iowa.

And, while wearing the hats of wife and mother, she also became a world traveler, successful real estate saleswoman, TV talk show host, copywriter, land use planner, development director for the Portland (OR.) Opera, development associate (or professional fundraiser) for the National Symphony Orchestra (Washington, D.C.), director of development of the Portland Civic Theatre and president of Nugent Broadcasting Corp. (OR).

She even helped put together a bicentennial coffee table book on the nation's capital, "The City of Washington, an Illustrated History," which was published by Knopf.

When the Nugents decided to get out of the day-to-day travails of the broadcasting business and follow Burns' parents to Leisure World, she segued into a new round of activities.

Now, when not working with clubs that are musically inclined, the six-year resident, plays bridge, swims, golfs, and participates in Leisure Worlds' Tennis, Minnesota and Racquettes Clubs. She is also a lay reader at St. George's Episcopal Church.

Nugent says it's very important for her to make a contribution to the community in which she lives and, she adds, she loves trying new things.

"But I'd have to say one of the most important benefits of doing volunteer work is meeting people, we've made so many good friends."