

# Being active is a painless task for honoree Ruth Payne

By Cheryl Walker  
The News

When Ward Payne, former president of United Mutual, was chosen for Leisure Worlder of the Month honors in December 1989, his wife Ruth stood by his side.

Now the tables are turned and Ward will be standing next to Ruth as she is honored Wednesday, Sept. 2 as the next Leisure Worlder of the Month.

A member of numerous Leisure World clubs, as well as coordinator of the annual U.S. Tennis Association's Hardcourt Championship Tournaments played here and clerk for Laguna Hills' Mayflower Congregational Church, the native Californian has a long history of community activism starting with her days as an army wife helping organize regimental events.

Payne learned about possibilities of working towards common goals with a motivated group while a co-ed at the University of Washington in Seattle where she earned her bachelor of arts degree. Her ties to her alma mater are still so strong that she's been made a life member of the alumni association.

## LEISURE WORLDER CEREMONY

**When:** Wednesday, Sept. 2

**Where:** Clubhouse 6

**Time:** 10 a.m.

Sponsored by the Leisure World Historical Society.

Residents who would like to nominate someone for Leisure Worlder honors, should write to Irving Goldberg, President, LW Historical Society, PO Box 2220, Laguna Hills, 92654.

A Leisure World resident since 1979, Payne says she's found it a "special privilege" to serve on boards and councils in the community. "I've met some truly caring people, interesting people."

And, working with groups, she says, gives one an added boost achieving set goals.

As a member of Mayflower Congregational Church, Payne has held almost every church office. Pastor Emeritus Raymond Waser called her "one of the finest church workers I've ever known. Our little church would have a hard time if she weren't there."

But Payne extends her work "over the church walls" as well, Waser says. Each year she organizes the Danny Davey drive just prior to Christmas, collecting clothes and other items for

Arizona Indians.

Involvement, Payne says, gets one to focus away from personal problems. "It's good for people to get out and do something, it keeps you young."

Having an active Golden Rain committee member for a husband, she knows that involvement, even when goals are shared, doesn't necessarily guarantee lack of dissent.

"Residents do not agree on every issue, but that's to be expected.

"From the Founding Fathers of this great nation there have been conflicting viewpoints. But through compromises they reached an agreement on the Constitution, a model document which we have used over 200 years."

Payne says she's committed to working out differences-and feels this is one of her strengths, particularly as a group member. "We can move ahead if we can solve these things," she says, noting the efforts are worth it.

She believes in a Leisure World "with rich possibilities for close relationships with others."

"And where else can you enjoy such security and such beautiful landscaping and facilities for such a small price?"



Jim Max/The News

Proud of her association with the University of Washington, honoree Ruth Payne sports poms poms, scarf and hat in the school colors.