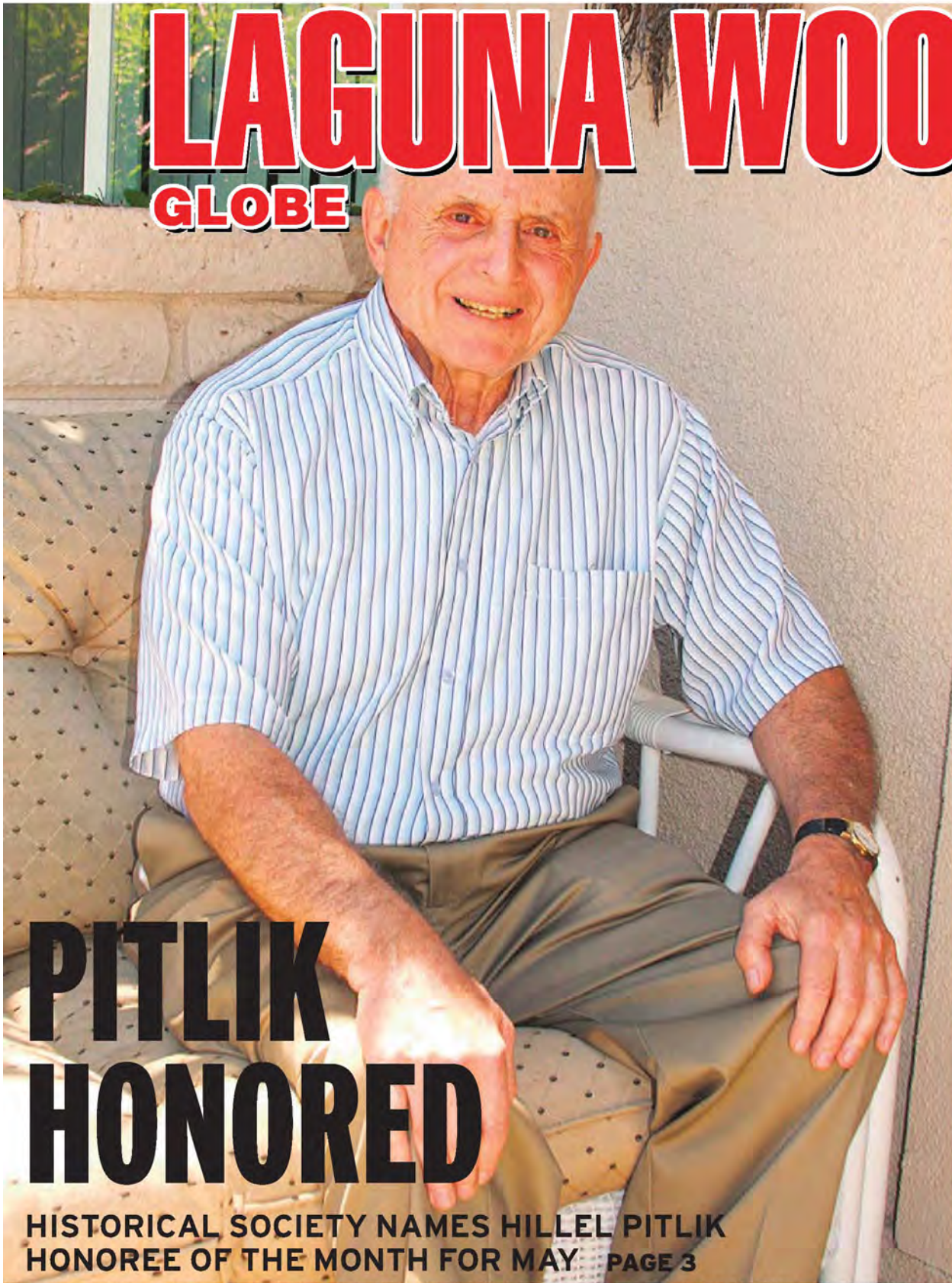


# LAGUNA WOODS

## GLOBE



# PITLIK HONORED

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY NAMES HILLEL PITLIK  
HONOREE OF THE MONTH FOR MAY PAGE 3**

Historical Society of Laguna Woods May Honoree of the Month Hillel Pitlik is a former president of Third Mutual's Board of Directors. > MARI BILKO, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

# Hillel Pitlik is Historical Society's May honoree

BY JANET WHITCOMB  
LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

Anyone who has participated in an election knows that vote tabulation is crucial. Those who count ballots must be thorough, meticulous and beyond reproach.

That being said, it's no wonder that Third Mutual's Board of Directors recently and unanimously approved the appointment of Hillel Pitlik as one of four Inspectors of Election for 2009.

Pitlik, the Historical Society's Honoree of the Month for May, is a former president of Third Mutual's Board of Directors. He continues to serve Third Mutual by facilitating the elevator shaft replacement program, just concluded yet another period of volunteer service to AARP's Tax Aide program, is active in an organization assisting business entrepreneurs, helps set up the Village's "Temple Without Walls" each Friday, has served on the board of the Reform Temple of Laguna Woods, and volunteers several times a week at a local elementary school.

Born in Boston, Pitlik attended Philadelphia's Northeast High School. After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in electrical Engineering, he worked steadily in electronic communications, starting at Bell Laboratories and then progressing to General Dynamics, GTE, Polaroid Corp. and Raytheon.

Whenever possible, Pitlik also has incorporated his love of skiing into his life.



Historical Society of Laguna Woods May Honoree of the Month Hillel Pitlik and his wife Barbara.

> MARI BILKO,  
CONTRIBUTING  
PHOTOGRAPHER

In fact, Pitlik's wife Barbara adds, the two of them met out on the ski slopes. For about 17 years Pitlik served on a Vermont ski patrol, helping disabled skiers, administering first aid, and assisting in getting the injured to a nearby hospital. He continues to occasionally ski our California slopes, but that's not what brought the Pitliks out to this area.

"Our sons were all living out here," says Barbara.

"So we became spring and fall birds," adds her husband. At first they rented in what was then Leisure World, always returning to their Vermont home for "skiing in the winter and golf in the summer." After about eight years they purchased a manor which they kept for two years, then—deciding to become

permanent Village residents—sold that manor and moved into their current home.

Their sons, David, Daniel and Michael continue to live nearby, although the Pitliks certainly exposed them to other possibilities during their formative years.

While working for Raytheon, Pitlik was assigned to the Paris office for six months. During that time the boys attended American schools but along with their parents went sightseeing on weekends. Along with his career in electronic communications, working with young people also has been an ongoing motif in Pitlik's life. While living in New Hampshire and Vermont he served as a high school math and science substitute teacher.

And during the years Barbara participated as a Boy Scout den mother, Pitlik helped out with projects involving inner-city kids. Since taking permanent residence in the Village, Pitlik has been volunteering at nearby San Joaquin Elementary several days a week, assisting students in math and any other subjects they need help with.

"They call me Grandpa Hillel," he grins. Initially he began working with third-graders, tutoring in one teacher's classroom for four years. Then "two teachers I worked with were promoted to the sixth grade," so now he helps out with the older kids as well.

Pitlik not only enjoys assisting the children academically, but also contributing to their sense of continuity. "Some of the kids are without one parent," he says, turning serious, "and some without any parents, being brought up by grandparents."

During their 52 years of marriage, work and travel have taken Hillel and Barbara Pitlik from America's eastern seaboard to Europe, Africa and the Far East. Their choice to retire to the active Laguna Woods Village lifestyle, then, speaks volumes—not just for them, but for the community as well.