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# LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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## Society's pick is tops at Towers

By Cheryl Walker  
The News

Like nothing else in Leisure World, the outdoor Zen Garden at the Towers, with its unique sculptures, plants, architectural features and ambiance, is a fitting tribute to a very special resident, Mac Rosen, who funded the project as a memorial to his late wife.

Rosen cut no corners to remake the former Mutual 50 tennis courts into a place of peace and tranquility. And that kind of quiet largesse, whether serving as a Third Mutual director or as a founder or member of Leisure World clubs and organizations, made him a No. 1 choice of the Historical Society for Leisure Worlder of the Month for September.

Rosen just has to hear of a need and he tries to step in and fill it, whether it be additional outdoor lighting in Third Mutual or a meeting and greeting place at the Towers.

Towers President Charles Gardener points out that doing something with the tennis courts had long been on his board's agenda but all the projects went nowhere fast until Rosen heard what was happening and stepped in. "He came up with what was needed to make it happen."

John Wurmlinger, of the Men's 9-Hole Golf Club, expresses a similar sentiment about Rosen acting as a catalyst for the founding of his organization. "A lot of older



News photo by Rod Veal

Mac Rosen, above, is named as the Leisure Worlder of the Month for September by the Historical Society.

golfers can't play 18 holes, so he started a club for them of their own. He's a great guy, still on the club's advisory board."

Sy Schwartzberg, 9-Hole past president and Rosen's frequent golfing companion, says one couldn't have a better ally or friend than Rosen. "And he's the kind of guy who keeps his giving quiet."

Towers Manager Judie Zoerhof adds that Rosen is really "a kind and gentle person and an asset to Leisure World and the city."

**Background:** Rosen was born in Toronto, Canada and moved to California in 1923. He found he had a head for numbers and

attended the University of Southern California's School of Commerce.

"I was always very active, particularly in sports," recalls Rosen, who also founded his own successful accounting firm.

He came to Leisure World when he retired at the age of 65 in 1976 and, soon after discovered they had a ladies and men's 18-hole golf club and a women's 9-hole golf club but no men's 9-hole club. So, he founded one, which continues to this day.

He also, at age 92, plays three times a week.

In the early 1990s, he decided to run for the board. It was not soon after that that he began to hear from residents and emergency workers about the difficulty of seeing at night because of poor lighting.

Rosen and fellow director Eugene Raymond decided to be proactive. They purchased low-cost building lights and began installing them for residents, charging them just the cost of the fixture for installation. The program, which resulted in the installation of 300 lights, proved a big success. But, eventually, staff put a halt on it for fear of future liability issues, since Rosen and Raymond were doing all the installation work, including wiring, themselves.

Rosen laughs at the memory and the fact that he still has a dozen unused lights in storage.

"I like to keep busy and do things."

Rosen says that includes playing golf, blackjack, bridge (a passion since fraternity days in college), poker and traveling. In fact, it was on his world travels that he saw his first miniature Zen Garden. "And I thought, let's do it."

He got a copy of the plans and worked closely with Leisure World staff to recreate the oasis.

"I love living here in the Towers, I'm very happy here."

That's why Rosen wanted to give something back to the community that he cares so much about.

"My mother was very important in my life and it was she who engrained in me the importance of giving things to other people."

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