

Ted Rosenbaum Honoree of the Month

BY CHERYL WALKER
THE LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

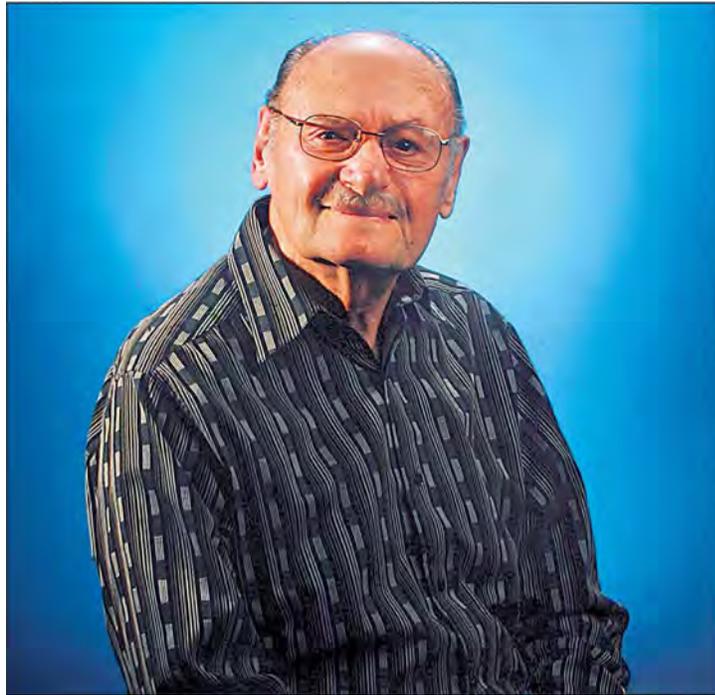
Ted Rosenbaum, legislative and political coordinator for People for a National Health Program (PNHP), is the Historical Society's Honoree of the Month and it's not a moment too soon for the honor.

Because, as of Feb. 25, when PNHP celebrates its 15th birthday, it will also cease to exist as a separate entity and link up with another agency, either Concerned Citizens or the California Alliance of Retired Americans (CARA), to continue its mission.

Like PNHP, CARA focuses on universal health care, lowering the cost of prescription drugs and the protection of Social Security and Medicare.

The guest speaker at the February PNHP "Graduation Celebration" at 11:30 a.m. in the Clubhouse 2 Main Lounge is Jodi Reid, CARA executive director. Another of PNHP's founding members, Xenia Chasman, will be honored.

Rosenbaum said PNHP, which honored him for his dedication May 6, 2006, thought the time was right for the move because organizations like CARA and even the state are taking an active role in considering the kind of health care for all that PNHP has been talking about since its inception by Dr. Bill Schwied, a member of the national Physicians for a National Health Plan, who decided ordinary "people" who were



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HONOREE: Ted Rosenbaum is the Historical Society's Honoree of the Month for February. He was selected for his work with People for a National Health Program.

equally motivated could get involved.

The people joined under the People for a National Health banner started a model grassroots organization which drew national recognition and acclaim from organizations such as Ralph Nader's Public Citizen.

Schwied explained that while he provided the initial inspiration for PNHP, Ted Rosenbaum kept it moving forward.

"He has doggedly followed for 15 years to the present; exhibited a political savvy, ener-

gy and good humor in all he does; and has been our champion and spokesman for health care reform."

BACKGROUND

Rosenbaum, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., has always been an educator, activist and fighter for social causes.

He earned his bachelor's degree in Social Sciences from the City College of New York and his master's degree from Columbia University.

He taught American History

Honoree

FROM PAGE 1

in high school and went into fundraising as director of capital development at the Educational Alliance, the second largest social work agency particularly for newly arrived immigrants at that time, and subsequently at Long Island Jewish Medical Center.

At the Alliance, Rosenbaum secured the sponsorship of the former president of RCA and NBC, David Sarnoff, for an expansion of the Educational Alliance; he coordinated the fundraising campaign to finance a Regional Children's Hospital for the most seriously ill children. The first of its kind in the New York metropolitan area, it was dedicated by Governor Mario Cuomo in 1983.

"I guess I've been very fortunate because all my jobs had a common denominator – the fact that I felt good – that my time and energy were spent

doing something meaningful for others," said Rosenbaum.

Rosenbaum retired in 1986 and moved to Laguna Woods in 1988 "for family and tennis." He soon found out that delivering Meals on Wheels and having a good time wasn't enough and three years later he joined PNHP.

"The issue turned me on and I decided to go all out for it – what could be more important than health care for all Americans when there are 45 million uninsured and tens of millions who aren't insured enough?"

While working in New York and even before, Rosenbaum was an activist supporting Roosevelt's New Deal, price controls, the right to form unions, Social Security and more, so when he saw an opportunity to get involved he jumped at it with PNHP.

Rosenbaum said he worked with local, state and national organizations such as CARA, Health Care for All Californians and the Health Care Council of Orange County, to

expand Medicare, protect Social Security and protect consumers from the "largest lobby in Washington, D.C., the pharmaceuticals."

He said high points of the last 15 years included a meeting he had with then Vice President Al Gore in Washington to present one million petition signatures supporting universal health care.

Another was last year when PNHP lobbying and collaboration with other agencies of like mind led to the passage of Senate Bill 840 to provide health care for all Californians. The bill was vetoed by the governor, but he has come back with one of his own that's moving forward, said Rosenbaum.

"The tide is turning and I am confident that in the near future we will achieve our goal," Rosenbaum said.

Rosenbaum will be honored as Honoree of the Month at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, in Clubhouse 6. He will also celebrate his 89th birthday on that date.
