



LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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Computer whiz Society's April choice



Norm Salzberg in the always busy Computer Lab where he is an instructor.

News photo by Rod Veal

Norm Salzberg revels in volunteering and helping others learn to be comfortable with the new technology

By Cheryl Walker
The News

How would you explain an engineer's mindset to someone who's not?

Leisure Worlder Norm Salzberg says it's easy. "They want to look under the hood to see how something works."

Ask him to write the letter "L," says Salzberg. A real engineer's mentality, he demonstrated with pen and paper, will produce in two short strokes a no-frills horizontal line meeting a diagonal. Just enough to make the letter happen. Nothing more, nothing less.

It's the kind of mind, he

states, that gets to the heart of the problem and solves it in the least possible steps.

And that's what Norm Salzberg has done for Leisure World's Computer Club and why he is the Historical Society's choice for Leisure Worlder of the Month of April.

According to Club Founder Joe Schwarz, Salzberg is a "pillar of the organization."

"He is a good soldier and takes a lot of responsibility. We wouldn't be where we are today without him."

Another founding member, Ed Miller, says he first met the honoree in the old Personal Computer Users Group rooms in Clubhouse 1.

He said Salzberg's talents came to the attention of the group when he (Miller) was laid up after a motorcycle accident.

"Norm jumped in and took over my schedule at the club

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Ceremony facts

Who: Norm Salzberg

What: Leisure Worlder of the Month for April

Where: Clubhouse 6

When: 10 a.m., Wednesday, April 2

Sponsor: Leisure World Historical Society

SALZBERG

FROM 1

workshop without any real notice and performed expertly with the talent he has; I, and the Leisure World computer community, owe a great deal of thanks to Norm for his excellent efforts in providing help and assistance to the members of the community.”

Background: Salzberg, a native of the Bronx, got his bachelor of electrical engineering degree from City College of New York and his master’s degree in electrical engineering from New York University.

He worked for Bell Aircraft, Reeves Instrument, Sperry Gyroscope and RCA where he designed military computer systems and managed systems designs of command and control systems.

He retired in 1989 and threw his enthusiasm into volunteering, particularly at an after school program for children.

He also volunteered to teach reading and assisted the handicapped.

After moving to Leisure World in 1994, he was a tax counselor for seniors, fought against the commercialization of the former Marine Base at El Toro, was a digital photo lab supervisor and teacher for the Camera Club, taught and directed workshops at the PC Users Group, became a two cul-de-sac captain in the Gate 9 area for the Golden Rain Earthquake and Disaster Pre-

paredness Task Force (now Homeland Security of LW) and became a popular News contributor with his bi-weekly column “Joy of Computing.”

Salzberg is also a member of the Mens 18-Hole Golf Club and the new Golden Rain Broadband Services internet subcommittee.

Salzberg says during his career he was actually “paid to worry” and find solutions to what could go wrong. But although he loved his job, he now revels in the creativity and fun of volunteering.

“I went from the workforce to playing with kids, from a windowless office to freedom.”

He credits his mother for getting him to see the irony and humor of his transformation.

But that doesn’t mean Salzberg can’t still be all seriousness when he wants to be.

Consider the logistical nightmare of the move of the Computer Center from Clubhouse 2 to the Community Center.

Salzberg was one of the key club members responsible for making that move happen with a minimum of disruption in services.

He said he wants to be there for the residents, especially those 90 something and older, who find computers a challenge they want to conquer but find it difficult to do so. “They could be my grandparent and call me ‘kid’.”

Salzberg says, however, volunteering is its own reward. “I’ve learned so much from being a volunteer and get hundreds of e-mails each week.”