

# LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH

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## JOE SAMET

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### OCTOBER, 1992

The Leisure World Historical Society is pleased to announce the selection of Joe Samet, Leisure Worlder of the Month for October. The event is sponsored by the Leisure World Historical Society, supported by the Ross Cortese Commemorative Fund.

Joe Samet is a "Boy from Brooklyn" classic. His strength of character, integrity, persistence and ability to lead and manage people belies his self-effacing statement - "nothing interesting has happened in my life".

After his formative years, which included a brief athletic career as a semi-professional soccer player, Joe had an army experience of "sit-com" dimensions. After basic Medical Corps training, Joe was sent to Veterinary School and then to Fort Bliss to care for Quartermaster sick mules! Overseas duty followed via mule transport ship to Italy where, after one day (accounting for a campaign ribbon with battle star), he was returned to the States for trans-shipment to Indo-China, which of course never happened.

But Fort Bliss was not without its recompense. A casual acquaintanceship with a WAC stationed there, and a persistent follow-up, led to marriage with Muriel Himelstein.

The busy years that followed saw both his family and his business prosper. Joe and Muriel had two sons, a daughter and one grandchild. Preparing for retirement, Joe joined an interesting community called Hemlock farms in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. He built a home, became involved in community affairs, was elected president of the temple, and settled in for a life of travel and ease.

Fate, however, had other plans. Tragically, Muriel, after a short illness, passed away, and Joe, some six weeks later suffered an arterial blockage. Hospitalization, surgery and a rather long convalescence persuaded Joe to accept his Hemlock friends' advice to spend the winter with them in Leisure World, California. What followed might best be said in Joe's own words - "to be blessed a second time around is more than one can expect. I was lucky to meet someone as loving, caring and beautiful as Sylvia Krause. One year later we married."

Joe Samet is this month's Leisure Worlder of the Month for his preeminent role in directing the Earthquake and Disaster Task Force. To organize 23,000 people, to motivate and lead them to think about disasters, and take the necessary precautions to be as safe as possible, is quite an undertaking and accomplishment.