

LAGUNA WOODS

GLOBE



FEBRUARY HONOREE

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Jim Shaffer, the Historical Society Honoree for the month of February, shown at the weekly TGIF event he founded eight years ago. > JEFFREY ANTENORE, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Jim Shaffer named Honoree of the Month for February

BY PEGGY BLIZZARD
STAFF WRITER

Of all his achievements in Laguna Woods Village the founding of TGIF is the one Jim Shaffer is most fond of.

"Every Friday 150 people look forward to having a good time," Shaffer said of the weekly event that meets from 4 to 6 p.m. at Clubhouse 2 with dancing to live music and a no-host bar.

"They come to make friends and perhaps for a new romance," said Shaffer who is the Historical Society's Honoree of the Month for February. He will be honored at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, in Clubhouse 6.

"The first TGIF was right near St. Patrick's Day," added Shaffer. "We must have had 500 people. Everybody was shocked at how many people showed up. Coming up this March will be our 8th birthday. There are two marriages that I know of that came out of TGIF plus 15 long-term relationships."

Shaffer noted that TGIF also provides two \$1,000 scholarships each year to Laguna Hills High School students through the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program. One of the criteria is that no one from the student's family has ever gone to college. TGIF also donates funds to the Village Library, the Historical Society, The Foundation of Laguna Woods Village and the Florence Sylvester Memorial Senior Center.

Shaffer also does what he calls "dive bombing," picking up trash from the street gutters as part of the Saddleback Kiwanis Take Pride project. His beat is the bus station on Valencia, one block east of the hospital. "My biggest reward was two \$1 bills," he recalled with a smile.

He also served as president of Saddleback Kiwanis in 2004-05 and for that year the club received a Distinguished Club Award from Kiwanis International.

Shaffer is also on the board of the Community Civic Association and assists in the monthly program format. He has also served on the United Nominating Committee for four years.

And he is a service officer for American Legion Post 257 guiding and referring veterans and families needing assistance. He was with the Army's First Cavalry Division in World War II serving on shore occupation duty in Tokyo Bay. He recalls seeing on the horizon the USS Missouri where the Japanese officially surrendered to Douglas



Jim Shaffer, the Historical Society Honoree for the month of February, dances with his daughters Diane (left) and Gina at the weekly TGIF event that he founded.

> JEFFREY ANTENORE, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

MacArthur.

He was a substitute teacher, first in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., and later in Orange County up until last year. His first class in Ft. Lauderdale was a middle school where the students "were throwing things at me and not well-behaved." But Shaffer stuck with it for 13 years covering everything from kindergarten through high school chemistry. While some days were like that mentioned, other days were rewarding with students attentive, wanting to learn and well-behaved, said Shaffer.

A graduate of Indiana University, Shaffer was in sales and marketing most of his life, from retail stores in Chicago to prescription drugs, to two large corporations, U.S. Gypsum and Ashland Oil and Chemical Co. He retired from chemical marketing as regional manager over nine Midwest cities for Ashland. Prior to moving to Laguna Woods Shaffer served as past president of the following organizations: North Dade Chamber of Commerce in Miami, Fla., Cardondelet Businessmen's Association in St. Louis, Industry Environmental Association of Dade County and for three different home owner associations in Miami and Ft. Lauderdale.

When he isn't busy volunteering, Shaffer enjoys writing and had one novel, "Peterbilt to Laredo," about a mysterious truck driver and desperate driver

published by St. Martin's Press.

Shaffer, 82, moved from Ft. Lauderdale to then Leisure World in April 1998 to be near his two daughters and his ex-wife. He says his daughters are his "most gratifying accomplishment." Gina teaches writing at UCLA, was a reporter for the Orange County Register for four years and helps Shaffer care for his daughter, Diane, a special education student.

Shaffer said he loves living in Laguna Woods Village. "On a per capita basis I don't think there is any place in the world that has more clubs. You feel secure living here. You are outside on the

freeways fighting traffic and the minute you pull in the gate it's a relaxing atmosphere."