

12/29/84

'Sky pilot' is first honoree for 1985

His credentials are indeed inspiring. As a resident teacher and guest speaker Dr. Martin Weitz has appeared at college campuses from New York to San Diego. He is an author of eight books, 32 booklets and more than 200 published articles and essays. He has toured the world, leading groups through Eastern and Western Europe, Mexico, Israel and the West Indies. On a tour in 1968, he was granted a private audience with Pope Paul VI and another with Golda Meir. He has also participated in 10 missions to Germany.

Rabbi Weitz has led an inspirational life. To his long list of honors and citations, he will add being named Leisure Worlder of the Month in a program sponsored by Home Federal Savings and the Leisure World Historical Society. A ceremony to commemorate the event will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 2 at 10 a.m., in Clubhouse 6. The public is invited to attend.

The life of Rabbi Weitz has been a full and varied one. He has served congregations in six states, and has been active in many interfaith programs. He was known as "Sky Pilot" in the Soloman Islands during World War II, where he wrote articles and sought to teach courage

and give confidence and faith by holding services and counseling in the six islands, one each day.

In 1968 he began his first people-to-people study tours. Having visited Egypt, Africa, Japan, the Far East, China, U.S.S.R, India, Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Isles, Mexico, Israel and much of Europe, he spoke on the subject that people are people, and the first step to full understanding is by realizing that fact. In addition to meeting the notables already mentioned, Rabbi Weitz's tours allowed him to meet the daughter of President Kenyatta in Kenya, Dr. Kazir, the President of Israel and the most recent introduction, he and his group from National University met first lady De Monge, three term past president Dr. Jose Figures and minister of Education Dr. Lalo Gomez of Costa Rica.

With the variety of congregations and universities with which Dr. Weitz has served, he has had the opportunity to work with numerous causes. While living in Atlantic City, he helped establish the Atlantic Community College, which grew into a network of community colleges through the state of New Jersey. He also is founder and past president of the Atlantic County

Board of Rabbis. He was on the executive board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and also the editor of several manuals for the World Union for Progressive Judaism, where he also served on its American Advisory Board.

He has held resident lectureships at Drake University in Des Moines, State University of New Jersey at Rutgers, the New York Institute of Technology, Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and currently at National University at San Diego.

He has been active in many civic causes, through Rotary International, International Platform Association and the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

And his long dedicated hours have not gone unnoticed. In 1982 he was honored as an outstanding teacher of the year by Saddleback Community College and in 1983 he was given National University's Outstanding Faculty Award at the Vista Campus.

Closer to home, Rabbi Weitz hosts a monthly program on Leisure World's Channel 6. He is a past president of the Academians' Society, where he was Chairman of the Education Committee for Tem-



Dr. Martin Weitz

ple Judea last year. He is currently on the emeritus faculty of Saddleback College and is a member of several advisory councils, and at National University he is on the board of trustees for the Students and Alumni Association, in addition to teaching a variety of courses in the learning centers in both San Diego and Orange County for the past nine years.