

LAGUNA WOODS

GLOBE



JANUARY HONOREE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NAMES ART YANES HONOREE OF THE MONTH. PAGE 3

Art Yanes is Honoree for January

BY CLAIRE WEBB
THE LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

Art Yanes, 79, has played guitar, swung a racket and studied bugs, but he said he was still very surprised when he learned he would be January's Honoree of the Month from the Historical Society.

"I'm in total shock," said Yanes. "I really am. I said to myself, he's got the wrong phone number."

Yanes and wife of 29 years, Ruthi, have been a part of the Tennis Club since they came to the Village. He plays his bass guitar, an instrument decorated with a Bob Marley sticker, in the Sunshine Musical Variety Band and with the Village String Band.

"He's been playing all his life," Ruthi said of the bass and also the ukulele.

Yanes plays the ukulele with the Ukulele Club in the Village and with the Oasis Strummers group, which is a collection of roughly 50 players in Corona Del Mar that meets every week and includes famous strummer Bill Tapia. And the couple share music as a passion, since Ruthi plays accompaniment piano to his guitar right in their own living



Yanes and his wife of 29 years, Ruthi, live in the Village and are both musicians and members of the Tennis Club. > SAM GANGWER, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

room.

Yanes has nine children, three step-children and nearly two dozen grand-

children and great grandchildren. He was born in Santa Ana in 1930, attended a few high schools in Orange County and then went on to Fresno State University on a football scholarship. His education was cut short because he entered the United States Air Force in 1951 during the Korean War.

After leaving the Air Force, Yanes got into agricultural consulting where he would advise individual farmers and corporate farms on a variety of services. He became involved in pesticide research and pest pathology working with companies in California, Arizona and New Mexico and for the California Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"I got into the chemical portion of it initially," Yanes said. "I was always involved with earth and with dirt."

Yanes was also an entomologist for former farm management company, Roberts Farms Inc., which grew citrus plants and almonds on 275,000 acres of land in California. He even developed an insectary to raise beneficial bugs for citrus growing, so farmers could use insects instead of chemical pesticides.

"I knew there was no way in the

world we could kill every insect, Yanes said.

Yanes eventually started his own consulting business, Integrated Pest Management, for farmers to help moderate problems with crops and insects.

"I just had a knack for it," Yanes said. "I knew a lot about insects anyway."

After more than 20 years in agriculture, Yanes and his wife retired to Laguna Woods Village in 2003. Since then, Yanes has been active in the Tennis Club as a doubles player with his wife. Recently, since the couple stopped playing after Yanes suffered an injury, the couple helps to throw a BBQ each month for the club.

"That is the first club we joined when we got here," Yanes said, and he still enjoys it.

Yanes has also been a president of the American Ballroom Club and member of the Keyboard Club, as well as serving on the CAC Clubhouse Advisory Board among other Village activities. He said despite the award, his community involvement will not stop any time soon.

Yanes will be honored by the Historical Society at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, in clubhouse 6.