

**Biographical Sketch**  
**Jay Knapp**  
**Oro Valley Citizen of the Year**  
**Sponsored by The Rotary Club of Oro Valley**  
***Celebrating Service Above Self***

Jay Knapp, 81 is a retired real estate broker who moved to Sun City Vistoso more than 15 years ago with his wife Reva. Jay got bored with retirement inactivity, so he decided to pursue his life-long fascination with magic. He joined *The Society of American Magicians* and taught himself the art of illusion by watching videotapes.

While he was studying magic, Jay tutored young children. He decided to combine his activities and try his magic routines on his young friends. He was overjoyed with their positive reception, so he expanded his efforts. He contacted the pediatric wards of a number of Tucson hospitals to volunteer his talents to entertain young patients. When he first visited these children, he was overwhelmed by sadness at the severity of their illnesses. He went home and decided that he just couldn't face these children again. He called his son, who is a psychiatrist, and told him of his experience and his inability to continue. His son asked him to give it another try and to look into the eyes of the children before and after his performance. Jay followed his son's advice, and the joy he saw in the children's eyes convinced him to continue in his efforts.

For 12 years Jay has driven every week to the pediatric intensive care unit at Tucson Medical Center (TMC) to do his magic. He has designated this unit as the recipient of a portion of the proceeds from the Citizen of the Year Gala.