



PalatinePicklers.com

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FEBRUARY, 2021 NEWSLETTER

HAPPY 6TH BIRTHDAY, PPC

It was six years ago this month that I recruited a couple dozen picklers, created a logo, and started the Palatine Pickleball Club, a.k.a. the Palatine Picklers. Our first five years were a lot of fun. We grew to 1,414 members and enjoyed 36, unique and fun tournaments for all sorts of segments of our membership. I sent members 61 newsletters that filled 782 pages and contained 6,637 photos. Members ordered 502 club shirts.

Now, one year later, we've added another 360 new Picklers for a total of 1,774. You're reading our 73rd newsletter. Adding these **276 pages**, members have now received **1,004 pages** of Picklers news and pics. **With 2,022 new photos that total climbed to 6810.** We've now had a total of **558 club shirts** ordered.

Our sixth year wasn't quite as much fun. COVID-19 came calling. Many members haven't played pickleball in 11 months. We lost our indoor venues, save a few poorly attended days in the fall. Outdoor courts were locked until June 4th. Desperate for play, Picklers flocked to Hamilton from early June to well into December, despite temps as low as 28 degrees. We had to adapt to touching only our own ball and not entering the kitchen for post-game celebrations. We were good at setting up our chairs 6' apart but struggled with not bunching up at the paddle racks. I'm sure we'll be better, whenever Hamilton opens in spring or summer.



30 Picklers played in 30 degrees on December 18th

LET'S REVIEW OUR 2020 MONTH BY MONTH

This newsletter might could be largely a bunch of photos of the same 20-30 Picklers who have been appearing in recent newsletters, some so bundled up that they'd be unrecognizable. That's why I've decided to remember some of the things we were able to experience during this largely dark year. I won't take up space with captions. You can always go to PalatinePicklers.com and look up any month's newsletter, if you want to know who's who. OK, here we go ...

JANUARY ... Reviewed the December, Holiday Luncheon.



Feed My Starving Children ... Marilyn Darby organized an afternoon of Picklers volunteering for Feed Me Starving Children. We had a bunch of Picklers volunteering an afternoon for this worthy cause.



Elena Nikolaev was our Pickler of the Month in January.

Then we held our Bionic Picklers Tournament. The photo shows all participants pointing to their replaced parts.





FEBRUARY ... Though not due to COVID, we lost Dennis P Waliczek.



PUERTO VALLARTA CONNECTION ...

PICKLERS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR ANNE STEIN ...



UNTALL LADIES TOURNAMENT ...

MARCH ...

PHOTO DAY



PICKLERS' PAJAMA PARTY TOURNAMENT ...



ADAM PROPOSED TO KRISTINE AT BULLS GAME, EARNING HIMSELF PICKLER OF THE MONTH

TREE TOPPERS TOURNAMENT FOR THOSE AT LEAST 6' TALL



I just ran the Tree Toppers. Too short to play. March set a record with 325 photos in the newsletter.

APRIL ... We introduced safe play policies. There were still plenty of photos of Picklers playing at Falcon and Birchwood from February and early March. We saw a chart of the last 6 months of visits to our website, by town, state, and country. Membership had gone up to 1,457. I urged all to honor the Park District's and the club's COVID-19 protocols. Everyone was invited to send photos of their lockdown pastimes. Only one group photo was shared. It was from a post-travel team match lunch before the quarantine.

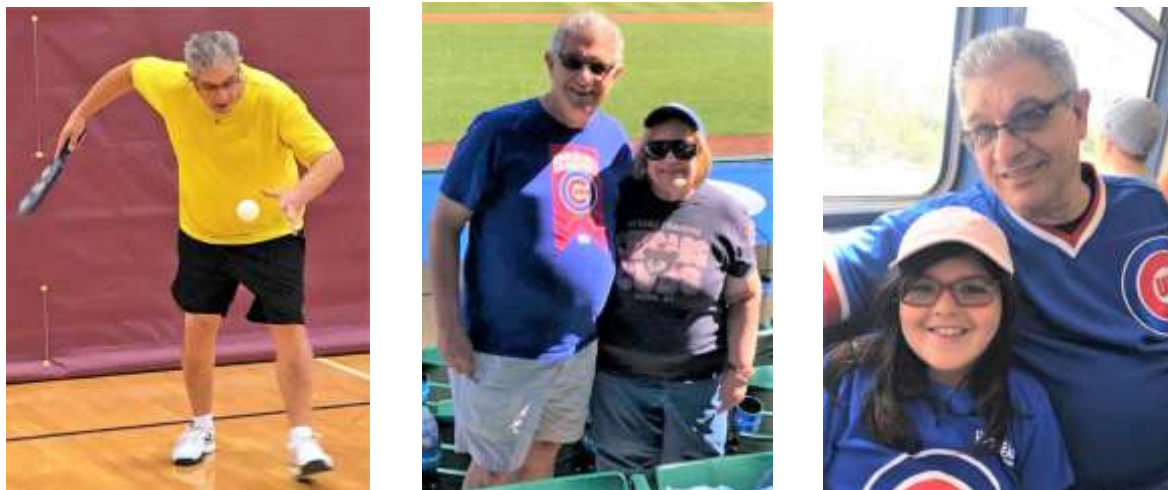


MAY ...

We lost Dennis Girardi to COVID-19. 102 cars participated in a memorial drive-by while his family waved.



We also lost Mike Rosenblum to a massive heart attack.



We were introduced to Thea's pickleball workout videos online.

Masato Suzuki and his staff at D&J Bistro prepared 300 meals for healthcare workers.



JUNE ...Again we saw many of the activities Picklers were enjoying without pickleball. We did look back one year to Hamilton's Grand Opening at which I had the honor of the first serve on our beautiful, new courts.



We were invited by Neal and Mary Harris to enjoy the tranquility of their yard and labyrinths, by appointment.



We also got to see Picklers' dogs. Joyce Pihl shared many photos of painted stones she saw on a walk in Arizona. Additionally, we got to see an impressive number of home pickleball courts. We saw a chart of transmission probability for 2 people 6' apart with no masks (70%), 1 mask (5%), and both masked (1.5%). With an incubation of up to 14 days, one can spread COVID, before symptoms appear.

JULY ...Along with hundreds of pics of Picklers, we welcomed doubles play being permitted. Policies were explained again and expanded. The biggie was the return of mentoring. The format was altered to be COVID-friendly, and only 24 students could be mentored each week. We showed the bricks that will be laid at the home of pickleball, Baimbridge Island. Picklers were gives several opportunities to invest in these.



AUGUST ...We saw our first, post-quarantine tournament, a half-court, singles round robin that would last the rest of the summer. We honored Giuseppe Rivetti as Pickler of the Month and shared a couple COVID charts.



Robin Dubin volunteered to take over the scheduling of Mentoring students.

SEPTEMBER ... Mike and Linda O'Connor were recognized as our Picklers of the Month. Neal Harris became a Certified Pickleball Coach and offers lessons on his private court.



We introduced the “Kyle Yates Challenge,” to see who could bounce a pickleball on the edge of the paddle the most times. We saw our first post-COVID medalists. We had 54 Mentorees served so far. I cancelled travel teams for the foreseeable future. We publicized the Chicago Pickleball Open which would take place later in the month. We recognized 15 Picklers who medaled in the Summer Slam tournament in Des Plaines. We introduced the “Wrong Hand Tournament” for later in the month. We saw what USAPA suggests for safe play.

OCTOBER ... Jaime raised the bottoms of Hamilton’s nets so balls could easily be putted back to their owners, rather than flipped or hit into the net for retrieval. We celebrated 10 Palatine Picklers who earned medals at the Chicago Pickleball Open. We got to see a nicely painted court which magically appeared in a cul de sac.



We announced Jonny Storm’s win in the Kyle Yates Challenge. No one came close to his 192, consecutive edge of paddle pickleball bounces. We announced the “medalists” of our Wrong Hand Tournament.



We checked in on our Wednesday morning mentoring sessions.



NOVEMBER ...A lot of pickleball players from the Hoffman Estates and Palatine clubs participated in the October 17th drive-by to wish George Cridland a happy 94th birthday.



18 mentorees competed in the annual, season-end Mentorees Tournament. Mentors served as referees, wounded Mentoree Marsha Miller was scorekeeper, and the top three men and ladies were introduced.



DECEMBER ...The new feature of “Up Close & Personal” was introduced, with profiles of Neal Harris, Bear Shatwell, Jeff Degner, Clay Farnsworth, and Jenny Buesing. We saw photos of a lot of Picklers, some in shorts and t-shirts and some in virtual Eskimo space suits. We even saw three Picklers who earned medals in a Florida tournament. And we got to see some more non-pickleball interests of some Picklers.



Debbie



Gary



Janet



Jim



Jenny



Karin



Kathy



Janice



Jaime



Greg



Gillian

THANKS, 2020 VOLUNTEER PICKLERS

2020 saw easily the largest number of Picklers who helped make PPC the awesome club we are. In alpha order I want to thank each one of them.

Anne Stein ... selling club shirts

Anne Stein ... taking pics of Picklers playing in Northbrook

Bob Goldstein ... Assistant Mentor

Connie Kus ... would have been co-captain of our 3.0-3.5 travel team, had we had a season

Dennis Bourgoin ... Mentor

Greg Kuhs ... Mailmaster getting out all our newsletters and Tweener Memos

Jaime Sandoval ... lifting the bottoms of our nets, to facilitate returning balls to their owners

Jaime Sandoval ... running text threads for winter play at Hamilton

Jim Blair ... always our resident handyman

John Pihl ... our Webmaster

Karin Beil ... took photos of Picklers on Northbrook courts

Larry Shoemake ... would have been co-captain of our 3.0-3.5 travel team, had we had a season

Linda Hycnar ... Assistant Mentor

Marilyn Darby ... organized our Feed My Starving Children day

Marsha Miller ... served as scorekeeper for our Mentorees Tournament

Marv Zwass ... Mentor

Mike Siemplenski ... took photos at Hamilton

Neal Harris ... Mentor

Neal Harris ... invited Picklers to enjoy the tranquility of his and Mary's property and labyrinths

Robin Dubin ... Mentoree Scheduler



Gina



Jaime



Jeff



Jesse



Mary



Bill



Brigitte



Dave

MEET PICKLER BOB GOLDSTEIN

73 year old Bob has been married to Elaine for 48 years. After a few years in Hoffman Estates, they've lived in Schaumburg the last 34 years. They have Amy, 42 and Jeff, 39 and two grandkids, Noah, 9 and Chasse, 5. There are no Goldstein pets at the moment, but they have had two German Shepherds, a Collie, and, thanks to a young Jeff, various other creatures that lived in bowls.

Bob was born in Chicago but moved to Skokie when he was five. He went to Niles West HS for three years but graduated from Niles North. He played baseball and football throughout those years. His junior team's photo remains in the Niles West trophy case, as they finished 2nd in state. Bob graduated from Chicago State University in 1970 with a double major in Business and Education. Then he spent six years, part-time in the Army Reserves.



Bob's first job was teaching in Chicago. Unfortunately, he was one of 600, new teachers to be laid off his first year, due to a budget shortfall, one week before he and Elaine got married. He moved on to the Elgin division of the First National Bank of Chicago where he stayed for 27 years. Hired as a Financial Analyst, he left in 2000 as an Account Services VP. He was selected as one of five Business Managers across the country to represent their business function as part of the largest systems re-write in First Chicago history. After leaving due to a merger with Bank One, Bob worked four years in Discover Card's Risk Department. He finished his career at Sears Corporate Center and retired in 2014.

While at First Chicago, Bob helped coordinate fund-raising for the United Way of Elgin. His family has been active in their temple for years and have been volunteers for the Les Turner ALS Foundation of Chicago. While participating they were members of a fund-raising, walking team that raised the most money for the Chicago Foundation.

Not being ambitious sight-seers, the Goldsteins spent many vacations at Disney World. When the kids were young, they spend many days at theme parks. As they grew, more time was spent at the resort pools, food courts, outlet malls, spas, and fishing trips, and Bob enjoyed more time to spend on Disney's outstanding golf courses. Now, with grandkids, they're returning to the parks, but they still save plenty of time for the pools.

Bob's hobbies have always been sports-related. From the time he was six through fifty, he played organized baseball or softball. He also coached his daughter's and son's little league teams. From the '70s on, he's played racquetball and enjoyed running. With time softball evolved into golf, running into walking, and racquetball into pickleball. He won his share of park league championships and has run one half-marathon, along with many 10-milers and 10ks.



As for bucket list items, he did get to see (on tv) his White Sox win a World Series. He'd love to see one of their next WS games. He and Elaine have seen Paul McCartney perform twice, as well as the Rolling Stones and Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. His greatest air adventure didn't involve jumping out of planes. It was sitting in First Class. He did enjoy kayaking for an hour in the Gulf of Mexico. He'd like to visit more, big, US cities and watch a game in their major league ballparks or stadiums.

How did he get started in pickleball? Marv Zwass, a friend since daughters were roommates in college more than 20 years ago. After more than a year of Marv's urging, he picked up a paddle and hasn't put it down. With Marv's coaching, he got both more hooked and ever better. He met Bear and signed up for the PPC. He began playing on Picklers' travel teams. He encourages everyone to give that a try, when travel play resumes. Bear is careful to match skill levels so everyone can enjoy playing for their club. Three summers ago Bob became an Assistant Mentor and has enjoyed watching beginners quickly improve and develop friendships.

Why do I value being part of the PPC? It starts with Bear. His vision, leadership, and commitment have provided a culture where everyone, regardless of skill level, has the feeling of inclusion and fun. Beyond the friendly competition, I've made lasting friendships. There are leagues, fun tournaments and social gatherings.

No favorite saying, but please "Be smart and stay safe."



Bob



Carol



Chandra



Brian



Karin



Karen

PLEASE HELP US GET OVER COVID-10 AND B.1.1.7

This pandemic is not fading away. It's getting far worse. Fortunately, the administration is taking actions to help get us over the hump. Now it's up to us to do what we should have been doing right along. ALWAYS wear your mask when not at home or in your car. Overkill the 6' "rule" and stay 8-10' away if possible. Obviously, if playing pickleball, touch only your own ball. Wash your hands often to two "Happy Birthday" songs. Get your vaccines as soon as possible. No, you won't be safe, until weeks after your second shot. (I don't know, as I write this, if J&J's one-shot vaccine will be out or how long it takes to be fully effective.) Know that, even if you're in the safe zone, you can still be asymptomatic so keep wearing your masks and distancing. The newer B.1.1.7 and other versions spread considerably more easily and have a higher mortality rates so more than double down on your safeguards. Do not go into buildings. Get everything delivered or curbside. Shrink your bubble to as few as possible... one or two households who do not have contact with anyone else. By the time this, we'll have 440,000 deaths in the USA due to this pandemic. Now it is recommended to wear 2 masks. After this newsletter I will not be publishing any pics of Picklers not wearing, and wearing properly, 1-2 masks. We cannot condone such selfish irresponsibility, no matter how fun to see more fellow Picklers in newsletters.

That brings me to ask you again to PLEASE send me photos of you enjoying your non-pickleball activities. This will surely be the last newsletter of this size, for 6-12 months, depending on how many Americans get with the program. I could really use some content. That includes my urging you to submit your personal profile ... see those in the last three newsletters, to get the idea ... your geographical history ... your spousal/family history ... your educational history ... your career resume ... your family ... your sources of pride ... your recognitions ... your accomplished and yet to be bucket list items ... your pickleball history ... your motivating saying ... etc.



John



Paul



Ralph



Zig

PREPARE FOR PLAY ... USE YOUR DISCOUNTS

Play is pretty limited now, but get your equipment ready for when we can semi-safely take the courts again. 10-20% discount on Paddletek paddles ... Chuck Feinstein ... grtfuldad@aol.com or 847-877-7770.

Anything from shoes, to jewelry to paddles, nets, clothing, and balls ... PickleballCentral.com ... 5% discount on anything/everything you want, when you use the promo code CRPALATINEPB.

MEET PICKLER GILLIAN STEELE

Gillian was born in a small village in the north-east of England 60 years ago. The closest city is Newcastle-upon-Tyne, known for coal, castles and the start of Hadrian's Wall not to mention Sting!

Gillian met her husband, Stephen Cassidy (also British) many moons ago while she was studying Occupational Therapy and he was working at P&G. They've been together for nearly 40 years thanks to being good friends, having a similar sense of humor and a common curiosity about culture. His patience and good-nature also help!

They both love to travel and have visited over 50 Countries in Europe, Asia, Australasia, Africa, North, Central and South America. A planned bucket list trip to Antarctica was postponed to Dec. 2021.



They made up for that disappointment by going to Belize where COVID-19 protocols are well-established and enforced. Here's Gillian enjoying the warm sun and sea in Belize on Dec. 23rd.

Gillian lived in England, Malaysia and Singapore before coming to the USA in 1997. She has had a varied and fascinating career in healthcare, teaching English as a second language, intercultural consulting, outplacement and career management.

She worked at DePaul University as Assistant Vice President of the Career Center until she semi-retired three years ago. She is now an Adjunct Professor in the business school at Dominican University where she teaches a required undergraduate career development class.

Gillian is proud of her skills in mentorship. Through Mentttium, she mentors both domestic and international high-potential women and co-led training for new mentors in the program. She is also a career, cultural and language mentor for Upwardly Global which serves immigrants, refugees and asylees. She set up a mentorship program for the Hire Big10+ career consortium, trained alumni mentors as part of a program for MBA students and won an award for her Master's thesis —a study of the effects of mentorship on repatriation satisfaction.



Gillian loves to eat and drink! Many trips revolve around food. Here she is at La Cevichería in Cartagena, Colombia recommended by Anthony Bourdain on his No Reservations show. Due to her love of food and wine, Gillian needs to work out 5 or 6 times a week. She was a competitive swimmer in middle school and played tennis for fun as an adult. She first came across Pickleball at the Good Shepherd Health & Fitness Center about two years ago. She enjoys the camaraderie and competition and particularly likes playing with fellow Palatine Picklers at Hamilton.

Gillian and her husband live in South Barrington. They enjoy fast cars so on many Sundays from March through November they are glued to the TV watching the Formula 1 Grand Prix and her hero (Sir) Lewis Hamilton, the best driver ever!

WE INSPIRED AWARD-WINNING ARTICLE

Back in 2017 I was contacted by Rob Cassidy, Executive Editor of Multi-Family Design + Construction. He had heard of pickleball and wanted to learn more about it. I invited him to a mentoring session. He loved it and

wanted to write an article urging condo developers to install courts. He did. I shared his "Pickleball – Harder than it Looks" in the October, 2017 newsletter. He wrote me last month to say that his "Pickleball Anyone?" article generated 30,000 page views over two years and was named one of his magazine's top stories of all time.



Pat



Pat



Terry



Olga



Neal



Steve



Stana



Shelly



Tom



Steve



Ari



Arnie

FROM A PICKLER POET

Many of us know Jeff Degner as a soft-spoken, shy, vertically-challenged beginning pickleball player. He’s also a poet who enjoys his rhyme time. He’s penned the following, for our COVID enjoyment. To clarify he wrote this in December, when we were playing every day in the cool climate at Hamilton. He suggests reading this to the tune of “Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.”

The Hamilton courts are still open
So there’s just no reason for mopin’
Let the temps and the wind make the call:
Pickleball, pickleball, pickleball!

And now you can go to Lake Zurich,
For play that is fast or mercuric,
or go to Canlan that one giant hall.
Pickleball, pickleball, pickleball!

We’re all waiting for the days of spring
And the updated rules it will bring,
With “drop ball” serves and a new “net” call.
Pickleball, pickleball, pickleball!

There’s no longer this feeble excuse
That the temperature makes you recluse.
So, indoors or outdoors, be in thrall!
Pickleball, pickleball, pickleball!

And, while the virus keeps us distant,
That need remains so darn persistent,
To do what brings smiles to us all:
Pickleball, pickleball, pickleball!



Annie



Rick



Marion



Bill

MEET PICKLER BOB McGOWAN

Bob has been my medal-winning partner for a couple tournaments. He's carried me, but doesn't seem to mind. He makes pickleball friends easily. He's now golfing with others I've brought into the club. How cool.

I'm Bob McGowan, 74. I've been married to Nancy for 45 years. We have three daughters ages from 39-42, and four grandsons ages from 2 1/2 - 6. We have no pets. I retired 3 times (once from AT&T after 32 years, twice from Lincoln Technical College) but now work part time in the summers in the Proshop and as a starter at Palatine Hills Golf Course. I'm a graduate of Downers North High School and have a BS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Illinois in Urbana. I also have a Masters in Engineering Administration and was a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Illinois. In 1968, I was drafted into the Army and served two years in a Medical Research Unit in Alabama.

I started playing Pickleball indoors at the Schaumburg Sports Center five years ago after playing all kinds of racquet sports. My favorite things about the Palatine Picklers Club are the newsletters w/pictures, the King/Queen competitions and the travel competitions against Mid/Bar.

I enjoy playing in a handbell choir, golfing, reading, putting puzzles together, serving as the Palatine Picklers spreadsheet statistician and helping friends with home electrical projects. Among my completed bucket list items are walking on the Great Wall of China, attending a practice round at Augusta National, taking a hot air balloon ride, making a hole-in-one in golf and seeing Alaska. Two things I'd still like to do are go on a river cruise in Europe and tour New Zealand. I've had about every leadership position possible at Atonemnt Lutheran in Barrington, and my favorite annual activity is coordination of our Adopt A Family program where our church members provide wrapped gifts and meals for over 30 families and 120 children from the inner city. I've served on multiple mission teams to help rebuild damaged property due to flooding and hurricanes. I also served on teams five years in a row travelling to Mayan villages in Guatemala and building energy efficient cooking stoves and water filters.



Playing bells with Pickler Dale Whittenberg Makes home-made ice cream Loves cooking with Nancy

While in the Army as an enlisted man, I was one of the three authors of a report on test results of the proposed purchase of a multi-million dollar helicopter fire rescue system. Our tests proved the system was ineffective in saving personnel caught in a downed helicopter that caught on fire. This was because the temperature inside the craft would reach 3,000 degrees in less than 30 seconds and no one could survive.

One of my claims to fame is I was always a good student, and excelled at math and things like spreadsheets. When I graduated from the University of Illinois I was named as one of the 100 most active seniors in leadership and academics. I was also inducted into three honorary fraternities including the equivalent of Phi Beta Kappa for Engineering students. One of the initiation requirements for the fraternity was to write an essay on any subject. At the initiation banquet I was shocked when they announced I was winner of the essay contest and was asked to describe it. The title of the essay was "I Hate Engineering" and it argued that my course work was far too theoretical and I was anxious to pursue either a Law Degree or an MBA so I could do something practical with my life.



Bob puts out 65 Luminary jugs w plumbers candles in frnt of the 13 homes on his cul de sac every Christmas Eve. Neighbors gave him his sweatshirt. He also enjoys working with Adopt A Family.



Bear



Chris



Hank



Scott



Anne



Connie



Frank



Don



Gary



Heidi

JOHN SWAFFORD'S NON-PICKLEBALL PROJECTS

Besides having his patent application being reviewed for his wrist worn (primarily) pickleball game-tracker, he spoiled his dogs with a ramp to the bed and made cherry recipe boxes with birch tops laser-engraved with the owners' names. BTW I REALLY would love it, if more of you would send me your pastime pics.





Brian



Deb



Mike



Mike

WE'VE GOT MEDALISTS (well 1 anyway)

Who'd a thunk it? Seems it's not winter in Florida.



Lynne Weisbart & Jack Feinberg
Sundial Gamma 3.0 65+ ... Gold



Lynne ... Sundial Gamma
3.0 65+ singles ... Silver



Jack Feinberg & Lynne Weisbart
Punta Gorda Open ... 3.0 65+ ... Bronze



Lynne & Barbara VandeVorde ... Punta Gorda Open
3.5 65+ ... Bronze



Lynne celebrated 2 successful pickleball weeks with a barefoot walk with medals on their own beach

MEET PICKLET ANNE STEIN

Anne has been a familiar face for years. She's been my co-seller of club shirts and an active Falcon player. She's been an occasional Hamilton and Birchwood Pickler too. Her soon-to-be claim to fame is she's Sammy Rosenthal's grandmother. This teenager is destined to be a force in pickleball's future.



Sammy and Anne at Birchwood



A stairway full of Anne's offspring

Anne grew up in Grand Rapids and attended the University of Miami for two years. She then transferred to Ohio State. As juniors she shared a class with Harvey. During the snowy winter, he was on crutches so she offered him a ride home. This June they will celebrate their 56th anniversary. They have two daughters, six grandkids, and two great grandkids. Daughter Robin lives in Deerfield and is pickleball star Sammy's mom. All of Robin's family now plays which is fun for Anne. Daughter Laurie lives in Streamwood and started playing last summer. The grandkids are a huge part of Anne's life. The last several months she has been "virtually" cooking with them on Sundays. Some days even her great grandson joins the fun.

After college Anne taught elementary school, until stopping to raise her daughters. She went back to work part-time starting a gifted program at a Catholic school in Dayton, OH. With no supervisor, she loved doing whatever she wanted, and the students thought the class was the best part of their day.

When the girls were in high school, the family moved to St Louis where Anne became the Director of Education at a synagogue. Three years later they moved to Chicago, and Anne started a Sunday school program for newly arrived children from the Soviet Union. The next year she was offered a full-time position at a synagogue in Lombard where she spent the next 24 years. A perk of that job was traveling to Israel 15 times. She led teen and family trips and attended several conferences, chairing one in 2000. She retired in 2015.

Five and a half years ago retired Anne was riding her bike every day. She kept seeing people doing something on the tennis courts. She eventually stopped to check it out. Dick Larson who ran it, explained pickleball to her and invited her to try it. That fall she attended Seymour Rifkind's clinics. That began her obsession. Then she found Falcon and has been coming ever since, until COVID ended that. For several years she has been helping Bear by being point person for shirt sales. Last year she was the Palatine Pickleball Club's Volunteer of the Year and honored at the Park District's annual Volunteer Recognition luncheon. She looks forward to getting back to enhancing the wardrobes of fellow Picklers, once we can safely play again. A few years ago she and Harvey

moved to Northbrook, and their condo community put in two pickleball courts. Anne has been putting up flyers encouraging residents to give the sport a try. She even got Mentor Dennis Bourgoïn to conduct a clinic for their neighbors. They now have a nice group that plays a few times a week.

Besides pickleball Anne loves swimming. For years she enjoyed water aerobics at the Wellness Center. She also likes walking and playing games. During this pandemic she and Harvey have done 13 jigsaw puzzles. She plays mah jongg, bridge, and canasta with friends online. Of course, she's looking forward to seeing the Picklers when it's warm, and everyone is vaccinated.



. Celebrating 55th on the Snake River with Radium Girl at Starved Rock surprise Bday party at pb courts

Anne and Harvey have enjoyed traveling. Their last trip was a road scholar trip to Mt Rushmore and Yellowstone. Had it not been for the pandemic, they would have done another trip last year. Their favorite trip out of the country was a cruise touring Italy, Croatia, and Greece. Remaining on her bucket list are visiting the Galapagos Islands and Africa, as well as seeing more of the USA.

HOW 'BOUT A COSTA RICA PICKLEBALL VACATION ?

I was contacted by MVP International Athletics (www.mvp-intl.com), regarding scheduling a PPC trip to Costa Rica. This group schedules trips for all sorts of sports groups. Our trip would be February, 2022, though that could change if we wish.. This would be for 20 Picklers. It's a week long trip and includes lodging and two meals a day, as well as 4 days of pickleball at different venues with Costa Rican players. Depending on what we want, it can be very competitive or casual. Some country vs country and some intermixed. I asked a lot of questions. Cost ... \$2500-3500 each, depending on what we want. That includes air fair and all on-site transportation. You'll stay in a 4.5 star villas. \$100 in gratuities will be collected up front. You'll have a choice between your own room or sharing. Price is per person, not accommodation. Again, skill level depends on what PPC wants. Gender doesn't matter. Only if you want competitive play, 20 Costa Ricans are not guaranteed.

MVP schedules fun excursions for various teams. I did tell my contact that, while this is kind of necessary for things like softball teams, you can drop a pickleball player anywhere in any civilized country, and he/she can be playing within an hour. I'm sharing only the tip of the iceberg. If we get twenty of you wanting to do this play-explore vacation, let me know. I'll go into detail. If we get a team of 20 to participate, I'll even pop for a free shirt for each of you. As always, I'm at aokbarry@yahoo.com.

HAPPY COUPLES THEN AND NOW

Four Februarys ago in our newsletter, we met the 48 married couples within our 443 members. Today we have more 1773 members of whom 238 are husband-wife pairs who are tickled pink. Perhaps, we should say that couples who pickle together tickle together.



Clay



Kathy



Linda



Deb



Jeff



Judy



Lori



Paulette



Susan



Lynn

THE HARRIS HIDEAWAY FOR PICKLEBALL PLEASURES

Last month Neal Harris managed to acquire use of a vacant warehouse in Lake Zurich in which he could set up courts and run pickleball sessions. He asked for volunteers to tape the courts. His call was answered by Dennis Bourgoin, Don Bextel, Gary Thompson, Jim Blair, and Mike Kaminski. The facility has no heat or open wash rooms. Neal has been emailing the Hamilton email list about the times he establishes for each play day. Only ten spots are available so it's first come first served. Neal will email to each Pickler who has been selected for each session. If you would like to be added to his email list, email him at neal@picklecoach.com. Be sure to sign your name.

Each participant must be masked the entire time in the facility. Each participant must have his/her own ball and touch only that one all day/evening. Everyone is expected to socially distance at all times. Though not required many wear gloves, both for safety and for warmth, as it's about 40 degrees in the warehouse. Players may reserve up to four sessions per week. If they want more, they'll be put on waiting lists.

Though schedules change week to week, here's a recent week's ...

Monday ... 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday ... 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday ... no pickleball

Thursday ... 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Friday ... 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday ... 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Show up on time. If you can't make it, notify Neal the day before your reservation. Bring water and an extra ball, in case of breakage. Fragrance-free hand sanitizer will be provided. The parking lot may well be icy so take precaution both driving and walking. If you are a no-show twice, you won't be invited back.



Neal



Clay



John & Maria



bunch of happy Picklers



Ari & Sue



Jaime



Gary



Maria

BIRCHWOOD HAS PLAY TIMES AGAIN

Starting last week, Birchwood opened again. Tuesday and Thursday 11:30-1:30 and 1:45-3:45. Whether in person, online, or via phone, reservations are required a day in advance. No exceptions. Masks required in the building. Touch only your own ball. Socially distance. Falcon is expected to open by the time you get this too ... check the PPD website for details.

<http://palatinepicklers.com/Shirts4>

I still need three shirts to place our next order. Come on. I've been too occupied with newsletters and myriad emails to update the website, but add \$1 to each price and email me what shirt/s you want. I need 12 shirts to place our next order. These are really inexpensive, and they're awesome, as almost 600 buyers would say. Wicking are the most popular, but I'll be happy to order your cotton shirts. Just email me what you'd like ... aokbarry@yahoo.com.

PICKLERS' VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Each year the Palatine Park District holds a February Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at Cotillion. A couple dozen (more or less) clubs and organizations in town are invited to both submit their own Volunteer of the Year and names of up to ten members who are worthy of attending the luncheon. I had attended previously due to prior efforts, but the PPC was first invited in 2018 to participate. That year we ate, drank, and watched. In 2019 we honored Greg Kuhs as our VolY. Should say that, at that luncheon, I was put on the PPD Wall of Fame, for my efforts on Pickleball, Baseball, and Hockey. Last year we honored Anne Stein.

This year the pandemic prohibits an actual luncheon, but volunteers will still be recognized online. On **Saturday, February 6th**, the PPD site will post a video honoring the VolY recipients of all the groups. At the February, 2022 luncheon, these, along with this year's volunteers, will be honored. OK...here's where we are. I submitted Dennis Bourgoin, Marv Zwass, and Neal Harris, our long-time major Mentors. Each had volunteered virtually exactly the same hours all summer long, helping more than 50 newer Picklers develop their knowledge of, and skill at, pickleball. I didn't take the first rejection of honoring three at once lightly. I appealed twice. While I got one on the committee to agree and one to abstain, I lost. My game plan changed. I submitted **Dennis Bourgoin** as our 2020 VolY, with Marv the 2021 and Neal the 2022 (I always go with alpha order). Assistant Mentoree Bob Goldstein will be our likely VolY 2023 honoree.



Angela



Ann



Deb



Janet



Jeff

HOPE YOU DIDN'T SKIP OVER THIS

It is now strongly recommended that we wear two masks over mouth AND nose. The ideal set up for those who can't get an n95 mask is to put on a kn95 mask and cover it with a surgical mask pinched over the nose.

ANY CONTENT IDEAS?

Next month I'll have a few months old pics of Picklers in masks, but without your help, little else. Consequently, I'll be sharing some movie and advertising quotes to challenge your memory. There will be 50 of each that I've been remembering while walking around the neighborhood to get my 12k steps. If any of you can offer such trivia or logic problems or riddles, etc., send them my way. If you have an amusing pickleball anecdote, we'd love to read it. If you've had a close encounter with a famous person, we're even ready for that. This may be the new normal for newsletters, but it will be better than almost nothing. Send your ideas to me at aokbarry@yahoo.com. Thanks



I sign off every newsletter with a photo of me and a sign-off message. I have a bunch of pics of dozens of Picklers, but very few of me. So I thought I'd share a slightly aging pic of me looking towards my favorite of the 36 vehicles I've owned. I love speed and handling. My Mitsubishi 3000GT remains my favorite. I've had quicker cars, but none offered as much overall fun. Though my son took it faster, I thoroughly enjoyed driving it 137 mph. I've driven faster but only in an Indy car.

OK ... now the requests ... I'd REALLY like more Pickler profiles and non-pickleball activity **pics**, preferably including you. IF you're competing in a sunbelt tournament, PLEASE send me pics and details, if you earn a medal. Meanwhile, double mask, get vaccinated at the earliest opportunity, and live long and prosper.

Bear Shatwell
PicklersPrez
aokbarry@yahoo.com

Happy Valentines Day ... Please celebrate safely