

## Season's Greetings from Santa Fe

In many ways, 2022, has been a thankfully dull year, mostly because of the pandemic. Here at Brookdale Senior Living we are still required to be wearing face masks when in the common areas. We are, of course, allowed to take them off when eating our meals, which continue to be quite good and sufficiently varied.

Jere and I also continue to participate in various BSL activities, some of which, but not all, were going on before the pandemic. Here is Dick at a Cowboy Happy Hour. These happy hours occur on Friday afternoons and usually come with some sort of musical entertainment. We also have a Scrabble afternoon, a scenic bus ride, and a mild exercise class six mornings a week (usually).



We are not actually confined to quarters, as we both are able to drive places. Dick tries to play pickleball as many mornings as he can – except for times when he listens to a LANL seminar by Zoom or WebEx.

So, being free, we have done some traveling. In April we took a paddle boat up the Mississippi River from New Orleans to Memphis. This was followed in June by a road trip to Durango to celebrate the high school graduation of Jere's granddaughter, Mason. That allowed us to spend a half-day on the narrow gauge railroad up to Silverton, a scenic ride up the Animas River. The success of the first paddle boat trip encouraged us to take another, nominally up from St. Louis to Minneapolis. This trip involved several travel glitches which are described in one of the stories you can access at Dick's web site: [pages.swcp.com/~silbar/Essays/](http://pages.swcp.com/~silbar/Essays/). Finally, in October we spent a week in New York City, for the purpose of Dick getting in three days of squash doubles practice. As well as museums and good meals.



Squash? You thought that Dick had given that up in favor of pickleball? Well, not quite – see the essay entitled “Squash.pdf” at the above URL. He has, probably foolishly, signed up with his old doubles partner, Hank Palmer, to play once again at the Kiva Classic Tournament that takes place at the beginning of December. Since both of us have only been playing pickle ball since the pandemic began, we will most likely be cannon fodder for the other two teams playing in the 80+ flight.

We will both be staying here in Santa Fe over the holidays. Jere's daughter Kellie will be visiting us starting December 8, and we may see son Byron and family again if they come down from Durango at that time.

Please feel free to read any of the stories in the Essays URL for more details on our lives here.

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