



# ***Topspin News***

***The Official Newsletter of the Santa Fe Tennis and Swim Club***

## **THANK YOU**

***By David & Assel Garcia***

Dear Club Members,

This year has been exceptional for the nation, world and, accordingly, has greatly impacted the Club. We have tried our best to cut costs while keeping our pledge to continue to provide employment to our staff. While the federal Payroll Protection Program (PPP) was a big help, it has not been sufficient to counter a 75% loss in revenue because of state closures, most notably, the summer pool passes and the Academy Tennis Camps.

However, many of you have been very understanding, and indeed caring and gracious to continue to pay your membership dues during the closures. Many of you not only paid your membership dues, but went above and beyond by providing contributions well beyond the monthly dues, which not only helped financially but also raised our morale.

This great gesture of love and generosity for our Club has renewed our vigor and our commitment to move forward. *Cont. Page 2*

## **NEW CHEF ANNOUNCEMENT**



Santa Fe Tennis and Swim Club is delighted to announce the appointment of Stephen "Steve" Hunter as the Match Point Café & Lounge's new Chef.

In 2018, Steve relocated to Santa Fe from Washington D.C. after a successful 25 year career as a Chef and baker in several prominent restaurant establishments, including the Watergate Hotel, The Ritz-Carlton, and the Graham Georgetown Hotel.

His hobbies include an ongoing home improvement and renovation project and gardening. *Cont. Page 5.*

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We are doing everything possible to keep the Club open. Thank you for your love, generosity and commitment to this oasis and your support for the most beautiful tennis Club in New Mexico! We wish all of you a happy holiday and a happy and healthy New Year!

Sincerely,

David and Assel Garcia  
General Manager & Owners  
Sana Fe Tennis & Swim Club



## QUARTERLY FOOD MINIMUM

The food minimum for the fourth quarter (October 1—December 31) is being waived this year. The food minimum obligation will resume January 1, 2021 for the next quarter.

## BLOCK TIME HIATUS

Due to the uncertainty of the season, including whether or not the Club will be closed again in the future, we will be skipping the next block time (January 3 through February 13, 2021). 85% of the requested block times were cancelled this session, and created a significant amount of extra work for billing staff.

Members may still book the bubble by calling the front desk, up to four days in advance. Please note that all players in the bubble must sign a release of liability waiver before entering.

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## CLUBHOUSE & CAFE HOURS

As of December 3, the Clubhouse hours are:

Daily: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Holiday Hours

Christmas Eve: 8:00 AM—12:00 PM

Christmas Day: CLOSED

New Year's Eve : 8:00 AM—12:00 PM

New Year's Day: CLOSED

Café Hours

M, W, F: 10:00 AM—4:30 PM

T, Sat: 10:00 AM—3:00 PM

Closed Sundays and Thursdays.

Please note that the Café may close early on days that the outdoor courts are closed due to inclement weather.

# **A SLEEPING GIANT—**

## **Fastest Growing Sport in America**

*By Christine Wantuck*

Pickleball, a social game with a funny name, was invented in 1964. According to the Sports and Fitness Industry Association, pickleball has quickly become the fastest growing sport in America. There are over 4 million active players, of all ages and demographics.

The game has a specific set of rules, but you can learn to play and start having fun relatively quickly. Mastering the unique shot selection and strategy inherent to the game keeps players coming back for more; it truly is a very addictive sport.

Pickleball is athletic and strategic, similar to tennis. The court is smaller than tennis with dimensions comparable to a badminton court. The ball resembles a whiffle ball and paddles replace racquets.

Singles and doubles are played on the full court. It offers the competitive fix for those that have played racquet sports, but it is also fun for those that have not played a lot of sports in the past.

Pickleball is continually evolving. Once thought of as an “over 50” sport, it has become very popular with younger players as well. The current growth at the professional level is due largely to the influx of top-level tennis players transitioning from tennis to pickleball to play in tournaments



around the world. One of the pro leagues run by Connor Pardoe, the Professional Pickleball Association, coordinates tournaments for the pro circuit, including grand slams with payouts as high as \$150K.

Pardoe just signed a long-term contract with ESPN to provide tournament coverage. Pardoe said ESPN sees pickleball as a sleeping giant, with a growing base of players, and numerous sponsors eager to back the sport.

Pickleball is a fun way to improve your fitness and stay in shape. Check out [USAPickleball.org](http://USAPickleball.org) for more information about the sport or give me a call.

*Christine is a pickleball pro at Santa Fe Tennis & Swim Club and the USA Pickleball Association District Ambassador for Northern New Mexico. She can be reached by email at [christine@santafetennis.net](mailto:christine@santafetennis.net).*

# ***IN LOVING MEMORY***

## **Scott E. Jones**

**November 1, 1959 — December 12, 2020**



Longtime Santa Fe Tennis & Swim Club (SFTSC) member and local Santa Fean Scott E. Jones, 61, passed away on December 12th following a long yet hard-fought battle with

prostate cancer.

At SFTSC, Scott is remembered for his warmth, kindness, and gentle spirit on and off the tennis court. He was a frequently requested substitute player and was known for being willing to play with anyone regardless of skill level, age, or gender. He and his wife, Club member Margaret Silver Jones, had a long-standing match on Saturdays with their many friends.

The Club extends its deepest condolences to the Jones and Silver families during this difficult time. His presence and smile are deeply missed.

“In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to any of the many organizations near and dear to Scott and family; Temple Beth Shalom, American Cancer Society, or a local

organization dear to you.”

*The above paragraph is quoted from Scott’s obituary, originally published in the Santa Fe New Mexican, which can be accessed online at:*

*<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/santafenewmexican/obituary.aspx?n=jones-scott-e&pid=197292940>.*

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## **Claire Ulam Weiner**

**July 15, 1944 — December 18, 2020**



Beloved wife, grandmother, friend and Club member Claire Ulam Weiner passed away unexpectedly on Friday, December 18.

A native New Mexican, Claire was born and raised in Los Alamos during the Manhattan Project. Following high school, she attended the University of Colorado and Denver University and had a successful and impactful career as a social worker.

At SFTSC, Claire could often be found on the pickleball courts, having retired her tennis racket a few years ago. She was known for her wit, humor, and sunny disposition and

often.

Claire is survived by her husband, Dr. Steve Weiner, of Santa Fe, daughter Rebecca Ulam Weiner and son-in-law Drake Bennett of New York, and two precious grandchildren.

*Claire's official obituary can be accessed online at:*

*<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/santafenewmexican/obituary.aspx?n=claire-ulam-weiner&pid=197355846>.*

## NEW CHEF ANNOUNCEMENT

*(Continued from Page 1.)*

Presently, Steve is working part-time at the Match Point Café & Lounge and is available Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays. He can be reached by email at [steve@santafetennis.net](mailto:steve@santafetennis.net), and will respond to all inquiries within 1 to 2 business days.

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*Pictured above, Claire Ulam at MANIAC (Mathematical Analyzer, Numerator, Integrator and Computer) panel during a Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory open day, 1955.*

*The control panel is for the MANIAC—a computing machine used by Claire's father, Polish-US mathematician Stanislaw Marcin Ulam (1909-1985), and his colleagues to study chaos theory. Ulam worked at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory as part of the Manhattan Project during World War II.*

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# DECEMBER TENNIS

## *COVID-19 Clinic Notes*

- 5:1 Student to Instructor Ratio
- Due to state-mandated ratios, no-shows will be billed full price for any missed clinics.
- Please cancel at least three hours before the clinic starts to avoid a fee.
- Register in CourtReserve or call the front desk.

## Fall Women's Night

*Mondays | 5:30—7:00 PM | All Levels Welcome | In the Bubble*

Ralph Bolton teaches technique and strategy for players of all levels through drills and interactive playing.

*\$35.00 Members | \$45.00 Non-Members*

## Fall Men's Night

*Tuesdays | 5:30—7:00 PM | All Levels Welcome | In the Bubble*

Nils Gould teaches technique and strategy for players of all levels through drills and interactive playing.

*\$35.00 Members | \$45.00 Non-Members*

## Beginner's Clinic

*Sundays | 9:00—10:00 AM | Outdoors*

Whether you're a beginner or a rusty player, this clinic with Ralph Bolton teaches the basics of tennis through instruction and drill practice.

*\$25.00 Members | \$35.00 Non-Members*

## Our Staff

**David Garcia**  
General Manager

**Bernadette Holberg**  
Assistant General Manager

**Ralph Bolton**  
*Director of Tennis*

**Stephen Hunter**  
Chef

**Monika McKennie**  
Bookkeeping &  
Administrative Support

## Clubhouse Hours

Sunday—Saturday  
8:00 AM—5:00 PM