

## Profiles in Pickleball By Neal Wendel

While trying to keep warm during the snowstorm on January 25<sup>th</sup> I got to talk with Robert and Shari Nisenson about their views of the Regency Pickleball Club. Sometimes it became he said/she said.



**When did you move to Regency? They said:** We moved to Regency on Tournament Drive in September of 2019 from East Brunswick. However, if we hadn't cancelled 2 other previous contracts, we would have moved here in 2017. At first, we weren't sure if we were ready for a place like Regency but are very happy that we made the move.

**Are you retired? What did you do before retiring? He said:** No. I am an attorney specializing in Bankruptcy, Real Estate, Probate and Estate Planning. **She said:** Yes, however I was a commercial litigation attorney, then a director at a large New Jersey Law Firm and then a Legal Recruiter.

**What made you decide to join the Regency Pickleball Club?** The social aspect was attractive to us, and we saw it as a great way to continue learning the game. The clinics are fabulous and the social events make it a great way to learn a new sport.

**What do you think makes our Pickleball Club Special? They said:** We think the people that run the club, (given that they are all volunteers), are exceptionally devoted to what they have created and that is the reason the club has so many members. They are putting everything into it. It is a testament to them how they put their heart and soul into everything. Shari is also looking forward to being a member of the competition committee, saying it was an honor to be asked by Gary Ramella.

**How often do you play? He said:** Once a week. **She said:** 2-3 times a week.

**How has your game changed since you first started? They said:** We have both really improved. **She said:** I am focused on improving my dinking and not slamming. I plan on attending more clinics and hope to get even better.

**Has pickleball helped you connect with neighbors or make new friends? They said:** Absolutely! The social events and especially participating in the league has allowed us to meet new people. We think being on a team allows you to be with the same people for a long period reinforcing friendships, not to mention meeting people you may not have known before.

**What would you say to someone that is hesitant to try pickleball? This game is** for all skill levels. You **do not** have to be a superior athlete or in great physical shape. Everyone in the club is welcoming and gracious. Taking the clinics can help you to learn and improve.

**If you could introduce one new club activity or event, what would it be? He said:** It would be great if we had a Member/Guest Tournament where Regency Club Members can partner with their kids or grandkids.

**What's always in your pickleball bag? He said:** My tennis racquet. **She said:** protective glasses.

**What is a fun fact the people may not know about you?** They have Rob's mom to thank for their wonderful lives together. Rob was attending Brooklyn Law School and commuting each day from New Jersey to Brooklyn and dreading the commute. He decided with another law school friend to rent a four-bedroom brownstone in Cobble Hill next to the school. Rob and his friend needed two additional roommates to cover the rental and Rob's mom suggested they advertise for two female law students to rent the additional rooms.

Shari was one of the women who applied for the rental and was immediately accepted by Rob subject to Shari's parents' approval. They quickly started dating and nine months later they were engaged, marrying a year later. Shari and Rob have been married 41 years and feel extremely blessed and grateful to have moved to Regency and have made so many wonderful friends and to be a part of this amazing pickleball community.