

## 2020 Greetings from Chris and Lou

The year is almost over and will be remembered as the year of COVID. We have survived the COVID pandemic in Los Angeles County without any ill effects so far. We have probably been quite lucky not to collect that disease, which has poor consequences for those over 70. Perhaps general social isolation has helped as, we have avoided any groups and have worn masks everywhere in public since March 2020. We have been only partially isolated, since Chris still goes on fishing trips and to the store for groceries. Most of our board gaming friends have been totally isolated, and there has been no one on our acquaintance list who reports COVID. Many of our usual activities did not occur, including most ski club activities and any in-person game playing. 2020 also marks 50 years together for us, which began in a small loft above a garage on Dempster Street in Evanston near Northwestern University, where we finished our respective degrees.

The previous year ended as a success, as we signed up for a 14-day round-trip cruise from Fort Lauderdale to the Caribbean over the Winter Holiday. The Pacific Princess visited these destinations: 0: Port Everglades, Florida 1: Cruz Bay, United States Virgin Islands 2: Pointe-A-Pitre, Guadeloupe 3: Basseterre, St. Kitts 4: Fort De France, Martinique 5: Scarborough, Tobago 6: Bridgetown, Barbados 7: Saline Bay, Mayreau, Grenadines 8: St. John's, Antigua 9: Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands

After the cruise, we visited Ron and Marilyn Lindner in West Palm Beach, Florida. We toured the very nice drive-through Lion Country Safari. In January, we went to Palm Springs with our friends Robert, Linda, and Tony. There, we took a tour of a wind machine farm and a large back-yard display of strange robot-like artwork. We then had reservations to fly to Tokyo to visit with Andy, Suzuna, and Melina for the Cherry Blossom season in early April. That trip had to be cancelled as COVID and the consequent quarantine isolation happened.

In March, we had arranged a trip with Emily and Victor to Crater Lake National Park for August. Since Oregon did not yet have a severe issue with COVID, we decided to rent a Hyundai Santa Fe and drive up there to meet them, since the four of us had reservations at the Crater Lake Lodge. We stopped to visit with Bob Sugar in Lincoln, California on both ways. We also stayed with Jim and Ellie Christo after they relocated from Glenn Dale, Maryland to Bend, Oregon. Maybe someday, they can go up the hill to ski at Mt. Bachelor. We were then hosted by Emily and Victor in Portland, Oregon. The news media managed to exaggerate the events there, which were mostly confined to the Federal Building downtown. We all went to a sandy beach along the Columbia River. We had some really good sushi take-out there as well as Emily's interesting cuisine. Emily now has four cats and three chickens. On the way back, we stopped at the old rural northern California railroad town of Dunsmuir and then attempted to find open farm produce stands and self-pick orchards along the Central Valley, but we were two weeks too late, just before Labor Day.

Katy is doing her best to avoid COVID, but thankfully, Carmel is currently not a hot spot. Seanna and Kaiden have been attending school remotely and missing their friends and school activities. Seanna just completed her college applications; she is applying to schools with a zoology department.

In the past year, we lost a very close friend and a dear brother-in-law: Tricia Smith passed in December, 2019, after 51 years of marriage to Dennis, and Ron Lindner passed in October 2020, after 42 years married to Marilyn. We spent many vacations and holidays with them.

Louis would like to bring to your attention: the relationship between unvented gas appliances and childhood asthma. There have been several articles over the last 20 years that have examined this issue.

We'd like to wish you happy holidays and a better year in 2021. In contrast to our invitation from last year, don't plan to visit us without testing negative for COVID or until we all get the vaccine.