



WSPC
Pickle News
Summer
2020

Accepting Memberhips!

My “Never-Ending” Trip Back to China



By Hui Gan (Lisa)

Note: All dates are from China perspective. Beijing time is 14 hours ahead of Colorado time.

My mom fell on December 14th last year and was taken to the hospital, but unfortunately the ER doctors couldn't diagnose what was wrong with her. She was eventually diagnosed with a dissection of the aorta and admitted to the ICU on December 26th.

December 31: I left Denver on December 30th and arrived in the Beijing airport late on December 31st. I welcomed the year 2020 on a Beijing airport **shuttle! On the day I arrived in Beijing**, the Chinese government had just publicly

released information concerning the Coronavirus outbreak, which was then mainly contained to the city of Wuhan.

January 1 to 9: I visited mom in ICU in the morning after I arrived in Beijing. She was very happy to see me. The doctor told me that my mom was doing great, and she was transferred to a regular hospital room the next day for recovery. After another week in the hospital, my mom was released, and we stayed in her apartment in Beijing.

January 9 to 18: Mom gradually recovered from her aortic dissection in the apartment with me in Beijing. During this time more news was

released regarding a strange new virus that affected an increasing number of people in Wuhan city. Even Gordon mentioned the virus in Wuhan had made US national news when we spoke to each other everyday. My college classmates and I got together for lunch on January 18th, one of them had a fever when she met us in the restaurant (it turned out NOT to be Covid-19.) Everyone was getting ready to celebrate Chinese New Year on January 25th, and very few people were concerned about the virus in Wuhan. Gradually though, Chinese people's concerns about Hubei province and Hubei people's concerns about Wuhan city went

viral on WeChat, a Chinese social media app similar to Facebook.

January 22: It was mom's birthday (she turned 92) and we had lunch with my aunt and her daughter-in-law, my brother and my sister-in-law. We also had a separate dinner with my nephew and his wife and my other sister-in-law. I remember that night we noticed that the restaurant was no longer as busy as it used to be. We talked about the fact that Wuhan city was going to be locked down and that people were getting nervous about the virus. After dinner, my nephew drove mom and me to a nice hotel that I had booked to celebrate mom's birthday and Chinese New Year. We checked into the hotel and the room was very clean and comfortable. The hotel had an incredible breakfast buffet, so mom and I had a wonderful brunch and we went to a nearby shopping mall for dinner. We noticed that people had started to wear face masks into restaurants. I had packed a couple of face masks with me before we checked into the hotel and so we wore them. This was the day the Wuhan city lockdown started. I didn't realize that our normal life was going to change drastically from now on.

January 24: It was Chinese New Year's Eve and as I looked out from the hotel window, I noticed there was no traffic on the road and very few people on the street. It seemed like the apocalypse outside. As I was trying to make reservations for Chinese New Year's Eve dinner, there were only a couple restaurants available that night. Everyone was concerned about the public's safety and so I cancelled the dinner reservation. I had to pick up the dinner from a restaurant in the shopping mall, but the mall had already locked down all entrances due to the government's new regulations to prevent the virus spreading. It took me a while to find the employee entrance to get in the

restaurant in order to pick up our New Year's Eve dinner. Mom and I didn't have a big family dinner for the first time with everyone as usually we did. This was a surreal time. It felt like we were entering an unknown world now. Everyone was afraid, most of shops were closed and the very few people who were on the streets were all wearing masks. There were no fireworks, no cars on the streets and NO celebrations taking place at all.

My cousin who was staying in the assisted living facility outside Beijing, said that her facility was under quarantine since the previous day, January 23rd, and that she was ready to go back home to celebrate New Year with her family, but she was now unable to do so. We watched a nationally broadcast New Year's Eve special program on TV at night, while my phone messages and news kept indicating all the virus-related news. In the nice comfortable hotel room, we started the Year of the Rat with mixed feelings of fear, confusion, dread and uncertainty about the future. All my New Year's wishes were for mom's health and happiness and the same for my husband back in Grand Junction. But I felt as if we all were entering into a completely unknown future.

January 25: Chinese New Year's Day, My mom and I went downstairs for brunch. All hotel service personnel were now wearing masks, as did we. We were sitting away from other guests to minimize the possibility of infection. Most guests at the hotel were tourists which included a few foreigners. We were a little more concerned being around other people, but we still felt safe. The hotel informed us that the swimming pool and gym were closed due to the government regulations to control the virus from spreading. My sister-in-law, nephew and his wife all came to visit mom and I in our hotel room. They brought home-

made dumplings for us, which is a Chinese New Year traditional food.

Suddenly my nephew discovered on social media that mom's assisted living facility was being quarantined at 6pm! It was surprising news for all of us, because none of us had received a call to inform us. My nephew immediately drove mom and me to the assisted living place, it was already 5:30pm. The hotel was located on the opposite side of Beijing from the assisted living facility. We finally arrived at the assisted living facility seven minutes after 6pm! We were not the only family who was trying to get back into there. After an hour-long discussion with the assisted living facility, management would still not allow my mom back in. At this point, I knew I was going to stay in Beijing for a long time, I just didn't know how long. My mom and I had a very unusual New Year's dinner together at the hotel. We were the only customers to eat in the entire restaurant.

January 27 – May 5: We checked out of the hotel on January 27th and moved back to the apartment. We were quarantined at home for 3.5 months and were only allowed to go out to purchase groceries. I left the apartment only twice per week to get groceries and my mom only left 3 times total to go for a walk. Our apartment is only 500 sq. ft in area, so all the rooms are very small compared to the US houses. I was supposed to leave for the US on February 9th, but all flights were cancelled and I also took care of my 92 year old mom during this time.

The daily news mentioned the spread of coronavirus in China and the rest of the world. We were only able to keep in touch with our friends and relatives via social media, WeChat. Restaurants were only open for take-out. All social venues were completely closed except for grocery stores. Going out

meant wearing a face-mask and avoiding contact with all other people during this time, which is not a simple task in a city of 25 million people!

May 5 – May 22: Mom was finally allowed to enter 2+ week quarantine as a prerequisite to going back to her assisted-living facility. She had a room to herself and there were 6 other residents there quarantined to go back as well. She was tested twice for coronavirus, once upon entry and again upon exit. I started to try to rebook my ticket back to the US. United Airlines told me that the first flight back to the US was going to be June 5th, so I was booked on that flight.

May 22: Mom was allowed back into her assisted-living facility for the first time since it was quarantined on January 25!! I was now able to leave China and head back to the US. During this time I was only allowed to visit my mom at the assisted living facility for 20 minutes, twice per month.

May 24: United Airlines notified me that my June 5th flight was cancelled, because the flight itself was cancelled. The flight was rescheduled for June 17th. In the meantime, Gordon looked for other routes back to the US through Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Indonesia, South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Mexico and Canada. However, ALL airports had restrictions not allowing foreigners to land due to coronavirus concerns.

June 3: All passenger flights from China to the US were cancelled by the US government in retaliation for China cancelling US flights into China.

June 4: I discovered that Air China had one flight back to the US per week, on a Sunday, but I could only put myself on the waiting list. We decided to book more than one

flight back to the US to hedge our bets!

June 6: Gordon discovered that my United Airlines flight on June 17th was cancelled. He contacted United Airlines and rescheduled my flight for July 8th.

June 9: I contacted Air China and reserved a booking for June 21st back to Denver through LA.

June 11: My nephew and I visited the largest wholesale food market, Xinfadi, in Beijing to get some seafood for my mom. It had now been 55 days since ANY new coronavirus cases in Beijing.

June 12: The Chinese government discovered 2 new local coronavirus cases in Beijing.

June 13: I dropped off some fruit to the assisted-living facility for mom. The local news indicated that the Beijing government shut down the food market my nephew and I had visited 2 days previously due to a SIGNIFICANT increase in new coronavirus patients who had visited the market. After I visited my mom, I realized the situation was serious so I immediately looked for a facility where I could take a coronavirus test. I tried 5 different facilities, but none of them would give me a test. I was finally able to schedule a test for the next morning. After I returned home, the assisted-living facility contacted me to inquire if I had visited the now infected market and I told them I had. They put mom into isolation in her room right away as a precaution to try to avoid spreading the virus further.

June 14: I took two different coronavirus tests at a hospital. One result came back negative within two hours, the other test takes 24 hours to determine results. The doctor informed me that I needed to report my visit to the infected market to the local authorities. The

local authorities contacted me immediately and I had to fill out several forms and answer several questions regarding who I was with, where I was in the market and if there was anyone else in the apartment living with me. I have since learned that there is a remote possibility up to 350,000 people directly and indirectly could be infected at the food market!!

June 15: The local authorities put a note on my apartment door indicating that I was a possible coronavirus carrier and that I was now under quarantine for 14 days, until June 25th, which meant I couldn't catch my Air China flight on June 21st! I contacted Air China to change my reservation to June 28th, but the flight was already full. My flight with Air China has now been rescheduled to July 5th. I also have a flight reserved with United Airlines for July 8th as a backup plan. Now Gordon and I will wait and see if either of these flights actually materializes! At least I'm still safe and healthy. After a two week quarantine at home in GJ, I'm hoping to see all my Pickleball friends in Grand Junction soon (whenever that may be)!

*We miss you, Lisa!
Hope you can come
home soon.*



Just For Fun, Who's Under The Mask?



Mask #1



Mask #4



Mask #2



Mask #5



Mask #3



Mask #6

(The answers are on the last page of this newsletter)

No Pickleball, No Problem

Guess what I had time for?

Shari Vandervelde:

I learned how to meditate and stay in each moment.

Wanda Robinson:

Planted a garden.

Rich Garrett:

Just cooking and napping, unfortunately. Some reading on strategy but haven't hit a ball in months.

Jerry Daub:

I cleaned and organized my office, including closets, filing cabinets, drawers and gun cases.

Gretchen Annan:

Resumed biking almost everyday but otherwise, stayed home.

Matt Collins:

Yes, hopscotch is a great cardio game.

Beth Klein:

I learned I could install new flooring myself in one bathroom and one bedroom.

Rick Thurlow:

My wife, Vicki, and I had the time to get into binge watching TV. This is something we never made time for until the

stay at home order was issued. We watched *The Hunters* with Al Pacino, *The Sopranos* and the Michael Jordan series on ESPN. It has been a great way to fill time during the pandemic until daily pickleball returns.

Judy Fairchild:

I wrote *Last Lessons On Life For My Grandchildren*. I wrote a grant for our Grand Mesa Arts and Event Center. I cleaned house, washed windows and exercised inside. I started hiking when the weather got nice.

Exciting Changes in Palisade by Wanda Robinson

Palisade Pickleball started about 5 years ago by Shirley Skinner, Wanda Robinson and several others.

To get lines painted on a tennis court Shirley and Wanda set up a meeting at the Town Trustees meeting and did a presentation with visuals. It took some convincing, not only of the town trustees, but tennis players also. We were able to get one tennis court painted with Pickleball lines and two portable nets donated. As the numbers grew we went back to the Trustees and were able to get the other tennis court painted with pickleball lines. Two more portable nets were donated. Our numbers continued to grow and the towns administration changed; with that happening I was able to set up a meeting with the new Town Administrator. A very successful

meeting, she was excited about Pickleball.

Once again back to the Town Trustees meeting with a presentation on how Pickleball would benefit the Town of Palisade. With the support of all the Pickleball players, and George, Bruce Gregg and Tao, the meeting was very successful. We asked for 2 permanent net courts and ended up with 4! That was in January 2019. The money was approved and the courts opened May 15, 2020.

Even though it took time, persistence, patience and support from all, it has all been worth it! We have four beautiful courts. So, pick a day and come out and play. There is organized Pickleball everyday starting around 8:00 am.

New Palisade Courts



Please support our generous WSPC business sponsors below



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Persons behind the Masks:

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Darlene Merkel | 2. Wanda Robinson, | 3. Glenn Furnace |
| 4. Bruce Gregg | 5. George Gerson | 6. Nancy Burford |