

Meet Your Neighbors

Leonard and Linda ZAICHKOWSKY

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## featured family

Written By Leonard & Linda Zaichkowsky, Avingston Ter

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## Leonard & Linda Zaichkowsky



Canvas of our last home on wonderful Lake Winnipesaukee, NH.



With Justin's family in Bahamas, 11-18.



Len receiving Award from the American Psychological Association: "Distinguished Service to the Profession."



Grandpa teaching May and Ben how to ice skate.



Len and Linda at Bridgetown Plantation "Western" function.

You can't make up this story of our journey to Ft. Myers and Bridgetown at the Plantation. But let's start with the fall of 1969 when Len and Linda met in the Dean's office at the University of Oklahoma to begin their master's program. Len drove the long distance from Alberta, Canada, where he was raised, graduated from the University of Alberta (Edmonton) and was teaching high school, playing semi-pro hockey and baseball, as well as coaching a number of sports. Linda grew up in New England, attended Ithaca College, taught at Marymount (NY) College, followed by a stint in the Women's Army Corp, but likewise wanted to expand her education. Dating started shortly thereafter, and they were married August 8, 1970, in Norman, OK. After a brief visit with relatives, the next drive was to the University of Toledo to pursue their Ph.D.s. After three years of study, higher education jobs were tight but Leonard was offered a one-year position at Boston University that turned into 38 years of challenging exciting work. Dr. Linda likewise taught at Boston College, and Northeastern University before going to the corporate world (McCormick & Dodge, then EMC2) as a trainer and technical writer.

The Zaichkowskys had barely settled into the Boston area when BU invited Len and Linda to teach in their overseas program (military personnel) in counseling psychology, research, and statistics, as well as general teacher education. Their son Justin was now a 1-year-old and the European destination was Naples, Italy,

for one semester followed by two semesters in Stuttgart, and one year in Heidelberg. Son Bryan was born in a military hospital in Stuttgart. What a rich, spectacular experience this was. Leonard and Linda used this time to write a textbook, entitled  $\mathit{Growth}\, \&$ Development: The child and physical activity" (1980). Perhaps this exposure to other cultures spawned the "Christopher Columbus Syndrome"—or the desire to travel to all corners of the world. Business/vacation travel has taken the Zaichkowsky's to Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador/Galapagos, Korea, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, and many times to Australia.

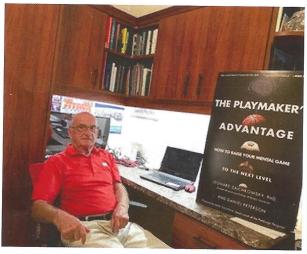
At BU, Len developed one of the first graduate programs in sport and performance psychology in North America, both in the School of Education and School of Medicine (Mental Health & Behavioral Medicine). Being "first" got him teaching and consulting experiences all over the world. For instance, he consulted with the U.S., Canadian, and Australian Olympic Organizations, Duke and Stanford University Surgery, U.S. Military and Special Operations, Boston Celtics, Boston Red Sox, New England Patriots, Calgary Flames, Sydney (Australia) Swans, the Spanish World Cup Soccer Team, Golden State Warriors, and the Watson Center for Brain Health in Burnaby, B.C. Len continues to be active with his consulting world-wide, serves on editorial boards of research journals and scientific boards for sport technology companies.



Len at the junction of the Southern and Indian Ocean in Southwest Australia.

Len's long academic career focused on studying exceptional performers in sport and other domains. Frustrated by the "fake news" and myths of how exceptionality develops, he collaborated with Dan Peterson in writing a new book, called *The Playmakers* Advantage: How to raise your mental game to the next level. Derek Jeter. the Yankee great purchased the rights for Simon & Schuster, and now it is in several "best seller" categories worldwide. Russian and Czech publishers have also purchased rights, so this is an exciting time.

Linda's corporate work was not as well suited for world travel, but they spent six months together on an exchange program in Melbourne,



Len's book writing office.

Australia, then later worked together for several months at Burapha University in Thailand. Before coming to Ft. Myers in 2014, the Zaichkowskys spent three wonderful years in Vancouver, B.C. Retirement did not really happen when the Vancouver Canucks hockey club invited Len to introduce one of the first sport science programs in North American professional sport. Linda provided support and enjoyed the beauty and quality of living in Vancouver.

Today, living in Bridgetown provides the Zaichkowskys with newly developed friendships, a 200-yard walk to the wonderful amenity center for health promotion (healthy eating and exercise), year-round golf, and



Sydney Australia with Bryan's family.

a short ride to RSW for the next consulting or vacation destination. Like so many in the Plantation, family and in particular grandchildren have become a focus. Justin and wife Tamara live in Cambridge, MA, with 5-year-old Talia, and 3-year-old Greyson and visits back and forth occur frequently. Bryan and Tracy live in Sydney, Australia, with 5-year-old May and 3-year-old Ben, so FaceTime on Friday evening is time to catch up on happenings, although the "Aussies" will be coming to Bridgetown mid-October for a week. Annual trips have been made to Sydney but gosh it is a long flight. With the so-called "Golden Anniversary" coming up August 2020, the plan is to have the immediate Zaichkowsky family get together in Maui for a week or so.



If you would like to be featured or know someone who would, please let us know! Email Kathy Ochenrider at k.ochenrider@gmail.com. We'd love to share your story!

