

Meet Julie O'Neill



Hi everyone! I'm Julie O'Neill and I'm originally from San Diego but I've lived all over the country.

I moved to Tucson from Fort Worth, Texas in 2017 and I'm currently living in Santa Barbara for a year – probably until Fall 2021. I guess you could call me a rolling stone!

I decided to be a journalist when I was fifteen. I worked at *San Diego Magazine* that summer ... *without pay*. It was a great way to learn how things should be done - and how things were *really* done.

At seventeen I was hired as a copy kid at the *San Diego Union Tribune*, where my first by-line was published. I was hooked, and over the years I wrote for numerous newspapers, magazines and the *Encyclopedia Americana*.

I was also the first woman editor of *Chess Life*, the national magazine of the United States Chess Federation.

Along the way I was a cheerleader for the San Diego Chargers, an alternate on the U.S. Womens' Olympiad chess team, a dancer on a clogging exhibition team in Florida, a sometimes drummer, and a line dancing instructor.

I played chess competitively for many years and at one time I knew just about every grandmaster in the world. I even got to interview many of them, including seven World Champions. When I retired from chess I took up bridge. I love the social aspect, the competition, and the analytical nature of the game. Bridge is thought provoking and challenging. I'm hooked for life!

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