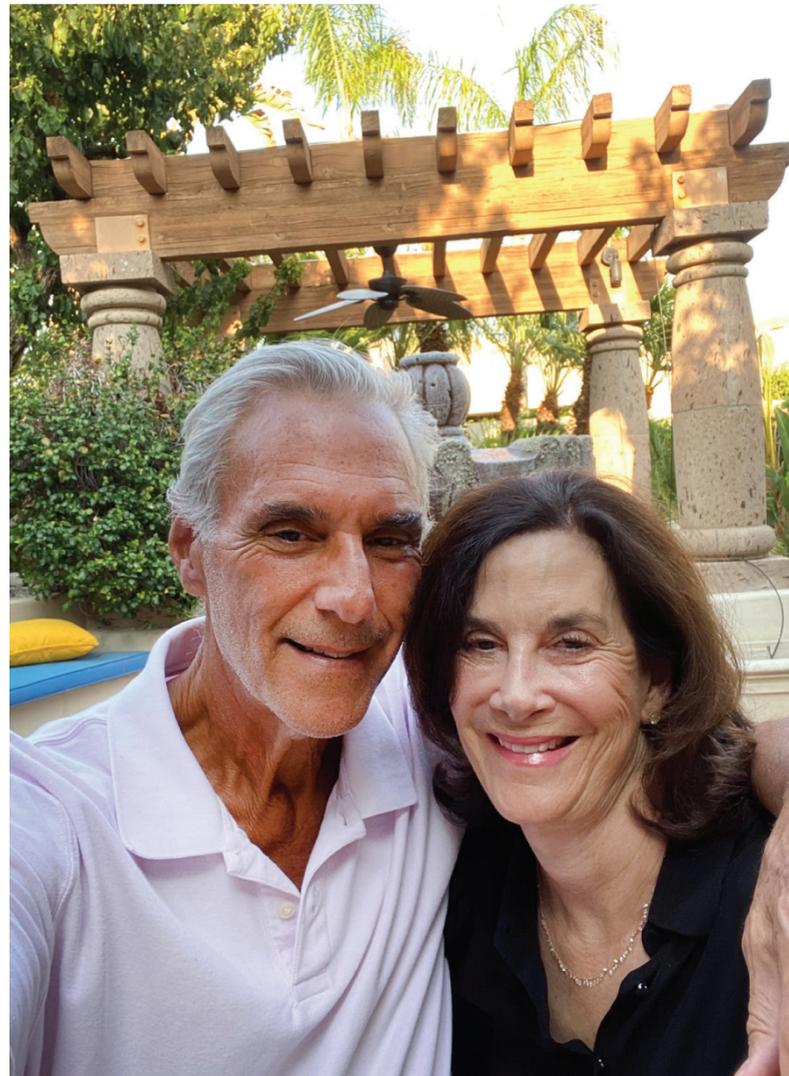


Below: Berger family (from left): Mike Paisner, Lindsay Berger, Mitch and Joan Berger, and Annie, Nicole and Alex Berger. Opposite: Mitch and Joan Berger.



had fond memories of spending time with Joan's parents who had owned a vacation home in Rancho Mirage 30 years prior. San Francisco dwellers Mitch and Joan loved the desert vibe *then* and thought it would be a perfect solution for what they hoped to achieve *now*.

The Bergers, who have been married for 38 years, looked at a number of vacation homes from La Quinta to Palm Springs. Serendipity played a role when a San Diego relative arranged a visit to The Vintage and they discovered their idyllic spot. "As soon as I came through the gate," Mitch says, "I turned to Joan and said, 'I'm not leaving here.'"

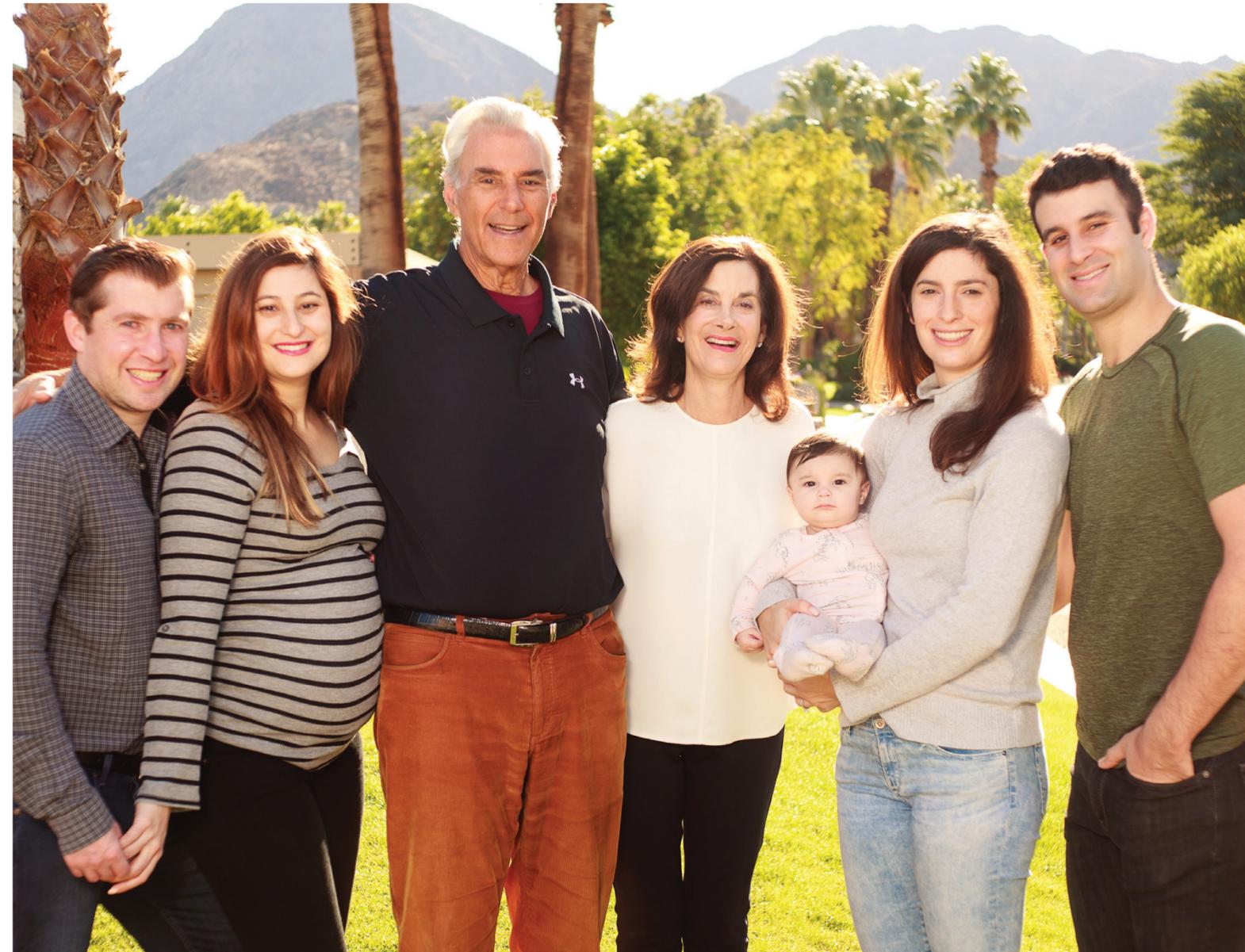
Remarkably, the couple bought their first Vintage property—a patio home

"We were drawn to the idea of being on the golf course, looking at the mountains, and really feeling as if we were living in a national park."

— Mitchel Berger, M.D.

—online, sight unseen. Initially, they were only coming down for a week or so every few months. "Mitch was still in a working mindset," Joan says, "and I was trying to get him into having a little bit more of a fun mindset." The pandemic prompted a shift in his outlook. So much so that the Bergers ended up buying a custom home by the end of 2020.

"We were drawn to the idea of being on the golf course, looking at the mountains, and really feeling as if we were living in a national park," Mitch says. Since moving into their larger home in February, they are residing in the desert approximately two weeks each month while Mitch maintains his practice in San Francisco. "The Vintage



A Refresher Course on Living

New members Mitchel and Joan Berger relish every minute they spend at The Vintage.

AN ACT AS SIMPLE as wandering outside in a T-shirt sipping a cup of coffee thrills Mitchel Berger, M.D. "There's something about waking up and seeing a blue sky," he says. "It's my idea of heaven." The Vintage is a world away from his busy life as chairman of the Department of Neurological

Surgery at the University of California, San Francisco. And that is precisely the point.

When Mitch and his wife Joan bought their first Vintage home in April 2019, it was an effort on both their parts to change the tempo of a lifestyle dominated by his work schedule. They

has allowed me to refocus on what's important in life—my work certainly, but from a personal standpoint it's been great to have our relationship refreshed just by being here, being active and enjoying each other in a different environment."

Both avid golfers, Mitch has even been known to play at noon on a summer's day. "I love the heat," he says. "It can't be hot enough!" His Miami, Florida upbringing might account for this idiosyncrasy although San Francisco native Joan

appreciates a reprieve from that city's foggy, cool weather just as much as her husband does. They both play pickleball, Joan plays bridge, and Mitch enjoys working out at the gym.

Meanwhile, the couple's daughter and son who each have a child of their own are keen to fly in from their homes in Seattle and Philadelphia for visits. "They love it here," Joan says. "The Vintage is a great place for us to all be together." She notes their offspring delight in playing

tennis, and trips to Grandpa's Park are always a hit with the grandkids.

The stunning surroundings never cease to impress, but it's the warmth and kindness the Bergers have experienced meeting other members that makes them feel at home. "Everyone has been so incredibly inviting," Mitch says. "Between the friendships we've made and the beauty of living here, well it's better than anything we ever anticipated. It's wonderful."

—June Allan Corrigan