



National Senior Women's Tennis Association

# Magazine

2019 Vol. 1

## Drop Shot Serves and Friends in High Places: Playing Tournament Tennis at 90.

*by Rita Price, Sue Bramlette and Andi Polisky*



Mary Mentzer, Dodo Cheney, Judy Stark, Pat Yeomans

It takes a certain skill to win in the 90s. Here is the late Pat Yeomans in 2010 describing Dodo Cheney's amazing serves:

In the fourth and final USTA Women's 90 event of the year, the Indoor Championship at Green Meadows Club, Vancouver WA, Lucy Dettmer won her first singles "Gold Slam" and teamed with Dodo Cheney to win her second "Gold Slam" in doubles. It was Lucy's first and Dodo's Umpteenth!

Lucy bounced around like a teenager, her ponytail flying topped with a big white bow. Lucy- Dodo led 3-0. Then Dodo served. My partner, Judy Stark, hit two solid forehands down the middle and I won two points with sliced short crosscourt backhands — 3-1! Dodo pulled out her tricky bounce serves and won two games at love. We didn't even connect with the new, high-bouncing slider; she finished with her backhand slice drop shot serve that nobody hits but Dodo. We peeked at her "crib sheet" prepared by daughter Christi. It read "Breathe, Variety." We saw every variety.

Next year, the USTA Women's 90 events have already been set: grass at Mission Hills, clay at Los Angeles Tennis Club, hard courts at La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club and indoors at Green Meadows. We hope to have four doubles teams in 2011.

**And Dodo Cheney wants USTA to start a Women's 95 event.  
She and Billie Burr are eligible!**

*(Article continued on page 15)*

# National Senior Women's Tennis Association

\* *Deceased*

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# President's Message

by *Kathy Foulk*

As outgoing president, I am so proud to have served this wonderful organization. NSWTA is truly a great member association with so much potential. The members that served with me on my board, as website director, magazine editor, treasurer, secretary, membership chair, parliamentarian, the ambassadors, my 9 marvelous directors and the Foundation -- I thank them so humbly. I could not have done any of this without each of you. You all gave me direction and kept me driving NSWTA forward. Thank you all for your time and service to this remarkable organization.



I will also miss the cards from our members, of encouragement and news. Our membership is so strong and caring about each other. You are our lifeline. You have been, as Kathy Langer said, so humbly, "faithful members." Each of you is part of the special thread that holds this organization together. This method of continuing to connect our membership to each other has made the NSWTA what it is today. Thank you for renewing, being a first time member or joining for life during my tenure.

My accomplishments can only be judged by each of you and history. I feel good leaving the NSWTA as it now stands. We are well organized and fiscally sound. We have a very informative website, newsletter and have established a well-organized Foundation. We will be even better as new leadership expands on the accomplishments of the last two years.

I want to wish the best to the new leadership taking over in April. The drive and energy this new group has will propel us into the future, strengthening our reach and ability to make NSWTA the Go-To for women's tennis.

Thank you all for your support and giving me the pleasure and opportunity to serve you these past two years. I will always be an immense supporter of the NSWTA.

See you on the courts,

*Kathy Foulk*

NSWTA President



Irrepressible Enthusiasts - Tennis in the Snow  
Drawn by Arthur Hopkins

# BUSINESS NEWS

**Notice is hereby given:**

The NSWTA Annual Meeting will be held at the Houston Racquet Club Tuesday March 26 at 5pm. The agenda includes voting on new officers and by-law changes. Come as you are from the courts; there will be food and drinks.

**ITF 2019 World Championships locations released:**

Young Seniors: October 20-25 Miami Beach, FL  
 Seniors: August 4-17, Lisbon and Estoril, Portugal  
 Super Seniors: September 15-20 Umag, Croatia

**Two New England Cat 2s find new homes:**

The Hard Court Senior Slams will be held at the Guilford Racquet Club in CT from June 6-9. This tournament was not held last year due to the unavailability of Yale courts  
 The Grass Senior Slam will be held September 12-15 at the Essex County Club, Manchester-by-the-Sea. MA.  
 The Clay Senior Slam remains at the Concord CC, but will be split between two weekends, one in July and one in August.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

- Anonymous in honor of Katrina Adams • Anonymous in memory of Margie Cooper
- Phyllis Adler in memory of Mary Boswell • Sue and Bob Bramlette in memory of Margie Cooper
- Irene Bretzel in memory of Margie Cooper • S.E. Mazzei in memory of his wife Jean Mazzei
- Pam Percy in memory of Mary Boswell • Barbara Sasser in honor of Yolanda Therrien
- Betty Wachob in honor of Carol Clay • Women's 80s Intersectionals in honor of Betty and Gene Hill
- Joan Brisbin • Betty Brunette • Brooks Byrd • Brenda Carter • Gloria Darling • B'Ann Gabelt
- Darlene Gifford • Andrea Hines • Catherine Kestel • Kathy Langer • Elly Leary • Lynne Little
- Mary John Lynch • Dessie Samuels • Annamaria Zimmerman

Member dues, auction and raffle proceeds plus other donations to the NSWTA are used to cover the costs to run the organization, primarily publishing the magazine, the printed directory, salaries of the magazine editor, treasurer, web master, and the membership chair.

Donations to the NSWTA Foundation (NSWTF) go toward some tournaments (Intersectionals, NSWTA Championships, the National Clay Courts in Houston and others as the Board of Directors determines), speakers, the Margaret Russo Sportsmanship Award, and other special projects determined by the Board. These donations are tax deductible.

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The **RALPH AND MARY WILSON FRIENDSHIP CUP** is an event for women 75 and over and is held every other year in Austria the weekend before the Austrian Championships. The team members are selected through a drawing, and will be responsible for travel to and from Austria, and for entry fees associated with the Austrian Championships.

Through generous contributions from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, and managed by the National Senior Women's Tennis Foundation, players are provided hotel accommodations and half board (breakfast and dinner) for 11 days if participating in the Wilson Friendship Cup and the Austrian Championships. Players participating only in the Wilson Friendship Cup are provided with hotel accommodations and half board for four days. All U.S. and International team members in the Wilson Friendship Cup must play singles and doubles. **The date of the next Ralph & Mary Wilson Friendship Cup is Summer 2020.**

To qualify for the **American team**, you must be at least 75 years of age in the year of the competition, have participated in at least one USTA Category I National Tournament and one other USTA Sanctioned Tournament in 2019 and be a current member of the NSWTA. ***Please submit a USTA printout showing your participation in 2019.***

To qualify for the **International team**, you must be at least 75 years of age in the year of the competition and be actively participating in major tennis tournaments. Please submit your 2019 tournament participation.

All must include a recent passport size and type photo i.e. a head and shoulders, 2" x 2" on glossy photo paper (smiling is okay!) to be used in the Friendship Cup program, and a short biography 250 words or less, including how you became interested in tennis and any more interesting things about you, your career, family, interests.

Please submit the above with your separate page regarding your tournament experience in 2019 to:

**Ann Moore, Program Director**  
**3324 Hadfield Greene • Sarasota, FL 34235**

The drawing will take place in **November 2019** to determine the members of the U.S. and International Teams. Applicants will subsequently be notified via email. Please note: Wilson Friendship Cup alumni are not eligible to re-apply.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name

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 Address

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 City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone

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 Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Contact

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Relationship

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 Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address

Jacket Size: (please circle) S M L XL      Speak English? (please circle) Y N

Birth Date: Month/Day/Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# MEMBER NEWS

## In Remembrance



Photo credit: Lu Fendig

### **Margaret L. (Margie) Cooper**

April 13, 1950- January 4, 2019

Margie was a highly ranked junior tennis player in Florida who went on to play Number 1 at Rollins College and then briefly played professionally on the Virginia Slims Tour. She competed in Wimbledon, the French Open and the U.S. Open. In 2013, she was one of the illustrious few given the prestigious USTA Service Bowl Award at the U.S. Open for her notable contributions to the "Sportsmanship, Fellowship, and Service of Tennis." She was the NSWTA Legal Counsel from its inception.

Margie was a partner in the law firm Jones, Foster, Johnson & Stubbs. She was a litigator and honored as one of the top Florida employment law specialists.

But mostly Margie will be remembered for being one of the funniest, warmest women in our small part of the tennis world.

#### **From Sue Bramlette:**

"I first met Margie at the Houston clay courts. Her enthusiasm was absolutely contagious. I remember Margie playing Daryl Gralka Lerner in a 4-½ hour match. Margie used that determination throughout her life, but never more than when that cancer reared its ugly head. Every time she came to Houston to M.D. Anderson Cancer Hospital, she came out to the Racquet Club and we hit. She never lost her form even as she lost weight.

Margie was SOOO fun to be with! She could make any situation become hilarious. Who could ever forget the state of court 11 at Merion Cricket Club after Margie's match? How about her presence at the "snack bar" at the Ft. Lauderdale Tennis Club?? I can still hear her laugh, and hope that I always will. Margie lived every minute of her life to the fullest, from skiing to hiking, even dragging Pat Greer spelunking. Margie was fearless!

Margie's home on the Intracoastal Waterway in West Palm Beach was ALWAYS full. From dancing to bridge to tennis, she invited the world to celebrate every day. One of her regular houseguests was a family from Romania. Margie loved 18-year-old Alex Gima and flew him from Bucharest to Houston to play in the recent Amigos Cup. She was so proud of his tennis.

She was so generous. Somewhere along the way Margie decided I needed more stylish shoes. I now own 4 pairs of expensive Stubbs & Woottons! Margie could think of fun things to do, and then she actually DID them. Some years ago Margie called me at about 10:30 PM. She told me that we needed to go to Mallorca to play in the World Championships. I agreed and said I'd talk to Bob about it. She responded, "Well, get busy. The entry deadline is tonight at midnight!" It was a great trip! She was a really great friend to me, and I learned a lot from her. Rest in Peace, Margie."

#### **From Tania Torruella with Kerry Young:**

Margie is one of the most beautiful tennis players that I have ever seen. She could make spectacular shots, like a scissor kick overhead winner, AND she once, during an epic match at the Merion Cricket Club, in the third set tiebreak, serving at 20-19, served an ACE by hitting a sprinkler head to win the MATCH! Who does that?

Margie traveled to play in many of the world championships and in South America, she had an epic final in Buenos Aires, playing 2 Ex-Federation Cup players. So, Margie and her partner are out there for hours and hours, playing on Slow. Red. Clay. Sweating. AND they only had OLD BRAS for towels. (what a sight right?) On match point, the opponent ran back for a lob and got her foot stuck in the fence at the back of the court. and SHE COULD NOT MOVE. I mean REALLY stuck.. So now, it is 2 players vs 1... and Margie said to her partner... hurry up! put the ball away, she is getting loose!!!.....and after her partner's several failed attempts to put the ball away...Margie said move over she's about to get loose and she took the shot from her partner and won the match. THAT WAS THE MAGIC OF MARGIE

#### **From Belmar Gunderson, an early member of NSWTA:**

"Margie will be missed for many reasons, mostly because nobody loved a party more than Margie. She opened her home to countless tennis players and others for many years. We always loved tournaments in the Palm Beach area because we knew we had a fun place to stay, wonderful food and friends who congregated at her home. Margie was also a terrific tennis player with beautiful strokes. She will be missed for her good humor, wonderful smile and always her willingness to have a good time."



### From Carol Clay:

"Margie was an epic warrior & fighter. She maintained a positive attitude for the duration of her illness. Even when she wasn't feeling good, she continued work, tennis & communication with family & friends.

I sat with her at the US Open in September & she was as animated & cheerful as ever. I cherish my last visit with her in the hospital, which was very positive. She was totally coherent & we got her to tell funny stories from the past. There were 7 of us in the room in hysterics, including Margie.

She felt she could beat it right up to the end & left us with grace & dignity. I kissed her cheek, told her I loved her & that I would be back in a few days. She took my hand, thanked me & said, "Please come back." This was a lesson to never put off anything in life, if at all possible. We can all learn from Margie who handled everything with grace & humor.

She will be missed by so many from all walks of life."

### From Judi Stiff:

I met Coop about 30 years ago. It was a set-up match by my boss at the time. I was a young pro coming from Michigan, and I thought I was "all that." The match was to take place on center court, and Coop was 20 minutes late--and I was irritated. I didn't know anything about Margie, except she was a member and a lawyer. All of a sudden I saw this woman who was crossing the parking lot in long shorts and a tee shirt, carrying a paper bag and a outdated racquet, I thought No Way! I allotted time for this? After warming up, she started drinking beer, and the more she had, the worse I got. (or the better she got). I quickly realized I didn't know how to play on clay courts. After a couple of hours and me winning a few points, we became fast friends. Any success over the years on clay, I always credited Margie with teaching me how to play.

Margie will be missed by so many people...but I know she's giving someone a clay court lesson in heaven.

### From Pat Greer:

"I lost my best friend this week, and my first thought was, Margie is playing in heaven with the angels and teaching them a few new shots. Somehow that brought comfort. More than that, the outpouring of love, care, and empathy made me realize how lucky we are to have our friends and our wonderful tennis family.

Margie was a consummate tennis ambassador. She was always willing to pay it forward for anyone who showed the least bit of interest in tennis and especially when she saw a young person with exceptional talent. She always said that the sport gave her so much more than anything she could do in return, but she tried to even it out when she could.

Tears are words that the heart can't say and there have been plenty, but Margie was so full of life and fun and would want to be remembered with a smile, some laughter, a party and a beer before the third set. She was Captain Cooper to many who knew her off the court and loved her days on the Florida/Bahamas waters. She lived every day at full throttle and when not working away in her office on a full caseload, would grab her racquet and head for a tennis court.

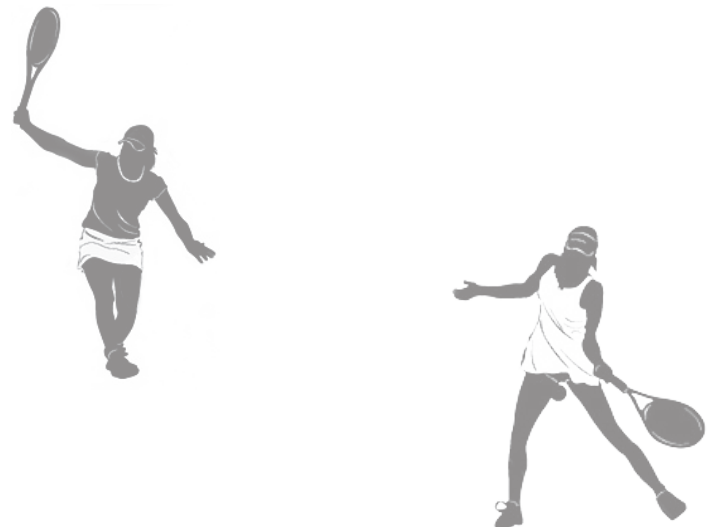
She started out playing, along with her two brothers, on a court in North Miami with a new pro in his first job -- Nick Bollettieri. Nick knew immediately that those three children had a great deal of potential and they took to the sport like they were born to play the game. All three, as well as their younger sister, played top college tennis, Margie at Rollins College and her siblings for Clemson. Margie always said that wherever she went, she had instant friends when she walked onto a tennis court. It didn't matter what country or what language, the welcome was always there.

Life goes on, as it should, and the memories we make along the way are with us forever. Our loss goes deep, but not as deep as the love and the realization that those we lose are not lost. They are just playing the game at a higher level in a larger venue."



Margie and sister Libby, Palm Beach, 2016

Funeral services were held January 21. The family kindly requests that any donations be made to Rollins College, and designated for Women's Tennis. Send checks to David Cooper at 1807 Barker Dr., Winter Park, FL 32789.





## Marietta (Mary) Hervatin Boswell

(1932-2018)

Marietta received NSWTA's highest honor, the Margaret Russo Sportswoman Award, given to her posthumously at the Intersectionals tournament in November. Carol Wood, a long time friend of Mary's, accepted it for her children.



Mary was born in West Virginia and was an accomplished athlete at Fairmont State College, lettering in tennis by playing on the men's varsity team, as so many of that era did. She was inducted into Fairmont's Sports Hall of Fame for being the first woman to letter in one of their programs. She earned her Physical Education Master's degree at West Virginia University, married and settled in Maryland's Montgomery County, where her husband and she owned and operated Great Meadows Day Camp. Mary won the Russo award for her outstanding sportsmanship but she also played a great game. She rose to #1 internationally for her age group, received two Gold Slams in both singles and doubles, represented the US at the ITF Worlds for 10 years and competed successfully in the Mother/Daughters as well as the Senior Olympics. In 2012 she was inducted into the Mid-Atlantic Tennis Hall of Fame. (Donations in her memory may be made to Fairmont State Foundation at [fsufoundation.org](http://fsufoundation.org) for Student Athlete Scholarships.)

## Carol Schneider

May 29, 1927-March 3, 2018

Carol was born in New York, but soon moved to Santa Monica, CA, where she spent her childhood. She was married to architect Frank Schneider for 68 years. Carol was an accomplished tennis player both as a junior and senior. She also spent 40 years tirelessly volunteering her time in service and leadership to the USTA and SCTA, earning many service awards along the way including the Samuel Hardy Award from the International Tennis Hall of Fame, and the first Barbara Williams Service Award. In 2009, Carol was inducted into the SCTA Senior Hall of Fame. In recent years she most enjoyed spending time with her five grandchildren, Brittany, Laura, Lauren, Skye, and Katie. She will be remembered for her selfless kind spirit, and unwavering conviction for what she believed.



Carol Schneider with  
Henry Talbert at US Open

## Pamela Brown Rae

Pamela was hit by a car exiting a driveway in her hometown of Naples, FL. Rae was not a member of NSWTA but NSWTA member Janet French said many of our older members would remember her from the Western Reserve Tennis Club in Tempe, AZ where she and her husband used to tally tournament results.

## Charles (Dick) Richard Clark

Richard Clark, husband of long-time NSWTA member Susanne Clark, died November 8, 2018 at the age of 85. Dick was a successful director of commercials in NYC. He met Susanne in 1965 in Switzerland, where he wooed and won her despite the fact that at the time Susanne spoke no English. The NSWTA offers Susanne its deepest condolences.

## Nancy Kibbey

November 5, 1930 - July 7, 2018

NSWTA has lost one of our most stalwart and enthusiastic members with the passing of Nancy Kibbey of San Diego, CA. With a background and a PE major from UC Berkeley, Nancy was a lifetime sports participant in numerous areas. She entered tennis competition at age 60 and followed the "national senior circuit" in every age group through the 85s. Before this concentrated effort, Nancy's life included active participation in swimming (a certified lifeguard), skiing, equestrianism, teaching PE and raising three daughters. Travelling became a special interest and Nancy and husband Gerry enjoyed travel to many world spots.



Besides being a constant tournament player, Nancy was quick to accept other helping tennis roles, as she became a frequent 'giver' when asked to assist in various tennis activities locally and nationally. Her national awards include a precious Gold Ball which she and daughter Diana Smith won in the 2003 Senior Mother/Daughter.

Numerous other balls followed, all in doubles, in Silver and Bronze plus a myriad of local and sectional awards. In 1996 Nancy was given the Sports Woman of the Year award by the San Diego Tennis District. Nancy was quite honored to receive it.

Affable husband Gerry frequently attended the national tournaments with Nancy and he often served as the Southern Cal host for the Southern Cal teammates.

NSWTA will miss Nancy and her 'thank you' calls during her matches as well as her friendly smiles and caring ways.

Game....Set... Match.

By Fran Wakefield Hunter

## Congratulations To:

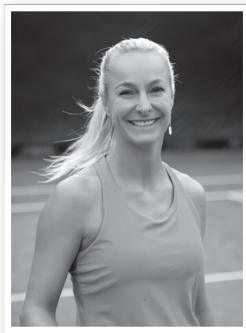
**Carol Clay** was awarded the USTA Florida Merit Award, recognizing a person whose contributions to amateur tennis in Florida, either in play or organizational work, have made a significant impact.



**Judy Levering** received special recognition from THE KEY, the official magazine of Kappa Kappa Gamma, in its Fall 2018 issue. A graduate of Northwestern University, Levering was the first woman to become President of the United States Tennis Association. She introduced accessibility and inclusion to the USTA, playing a major role in naming the USTA's National Tennis Center in honor of Arthur Ashe, the first and only African-American player to win the US Open, Wimbledon and the Australian Open. In 2001 she established the USTA Foundation which now offers tennis programs to over 200,000 children in underserved communities. In 2017 it won the ESPN League Humanitarian Award. Tennis provides key life lessons for anyone who takes the court, says Levering. "Learning who you are is a benefit derived from playing and competing in tennis."



**Lizl Kotz** was recognized as Adult Female Player of the Year by USTA South Carolina.



**Brenda Carter** is a 2019 Honoree at Trident Literacy Association's Founder's Award Luncheon in Charleston, SC.

The March event honors outstanding women leaders in the community. An Educator, Athlete and Administrator, Brenda volunteers in many capacities in her city and state.

## FIRST BALLS

**Jan Pierson** won her First Ball, a Bronze, in October at the La Quinta Hard Courts in the 75 singles.



Jan Pierson



Brooks Byrd

**Brooks Byrd** won her First Gold Ball in the 75 Hard Courts, both in 75 singles and doubles (playing with Sue McCandless).



Sally Smith

**Sally Smith** won her First Ball, the Bronze, at the 60s National Clay Mixed Doubles Championships last October in Seabrook Island, S.C.

## GOLD SLAMS

**Tina Karwasky** has won all four 65 singles tournaments as well as the doubles in 2018. She did not drop a set in winning the clay, hard, grass and indoors. Tina has now won five Gold Slams in singles and two in doubles.



Tina Karwasky and Jan Kirkland-Cochran

**Jan Kirkland-Cochran** of Fayetteville, GA won her first Grand Slam, in the 65 doubles, playing with Tina. Jan Kirkland-Cochran was also named the Slew Hester Female Player of the Year by the USTA Southern section. Given in memory of past USTA Southern Section President William E. "Slew" Hester, this award is presented annually to a ranked female (and male) adult or senior player in the USTA Southern Section in recognition of their outstanding tennis performance.

**Jane Lutz** won a Gold Slam in the 90 doubles 2018.



## ITF World Championships

Congratulations to the following 2018 Women's Teams, playing for the USA in ITF World Championships:

### The Super Seniors in Umag, Croatia:

65s –The Kitty Godfree Cup team of Vicky McEvoy, Judy Dixon, Tina Karwasky and Wendy McColskey came in first, winning Gold.

70s-- the Althea Gibson Cup team of Brenda Carter, Molly Hahn, Liane Bryson and Betty Wachob won the Silver Medal

75s—the Queens Cup team of Charleen Hillebrand, Suella Steel, Cathie Anderson and Sheila Weinstock won the Silver Medal

80s—The Doris Hart Cup was won by the US Team of Carol Wood, Roz King, Dori DeVries and Burnette Herrick



USA 70s wins Silver



80s Doris Hart Cup Team



65s



75s at ITF

### The Young Seniors in Miami Beach, FL:

35s-- the Suzanne Lenglen Cup team of Anda Perianu, Julie Thu, Kaysie Smashey and Katerina Janosek, finished second with silver medals.

40s-- the Young Cup team of Millie Yablonicky, Lizl Kotz, Carolina Blouin and Debbie Higa finished fourth

45s--the Margaret Court Cup team of Nancy Hilliard, Julie Cass, Tangerine Manning and Tracie Currie finished fourth



# Letters to the Editor

*Dear Editor,*

The Intersectionals at Phoenix was truly FABULOUS. The tournament was poetry in motion. Top to bottom.... everything was perfect. I know Elizabeth Barnhill worked endless hours to research and assist in every way possible and I thank her.

Matt wowed us and his "local team" of masterminds kept things focused in a stress-free way. The whole atmosphere was relaxed and certainly contributed to the fellowship and sportsmanship that prevailed.

With Gratitude,  
*Abbi Neuthaler*

*Dear Editor:*

For some time now, we have been asking the USTA/New England to change the mixed doubles age categories to 120 and 140 instead of the current 45/65/75) mixed doubles. We feel this will allow more flexibility in choosing partners and thus encourage more signups and better competition. For example, it would be possible to play with a husband/wife in one age group or a parent/adult child in another age group.

This year, for the first time, we are having these two mixed doubles events at the Concord CC Clay Slam in July. The events are not sanctioned, but with excellent participation numbers we are hoping to show the USTA that further events should be sanctioned. Please plan to come to the events and show your support. Since they are not sanctioned, you cannot sign up online but must pay by check or cash to the TD. However, you will be treated the same as the sanctioned event participants and will also get a discount on entry fees. We want to make Mixed Doubles great again!

*From the New England Senior Tennis Foundation*

*Dear Editor:*

Remember that epic 70-68 fifth set at Wimbledon? Well, it will never again be matched, surpassed or even challenged. On Friday, October 19, 2018, the All England Lawn Tennis Club announced that it will introduce final-set tiebreakers next year, starting when the score reaches 12-12 in the deciding set. This decision was reached after consultation with players and officials, and a thorough review of match data from the past 20 championships.

It also comes after Kevin Anderson (So. Africa) called for a rethink earlier this year after his semi-final match with American John Isner lasted over 6 1/2 hours. Anderson eventually won, but then was unable to recover sufficiently to play his next match with any degree of necessary energy.

Philip Brook, chairman of the All England Lawn Tennis Club stated, "Our view was that the time had come to introduce a tie-break method for singles matches that had not reached their natural conclusion at a reasonable point during the deciding set." The rule will apply to men's matches in the fifth set and women's matches in the 3rd set. This new rule will help manage the Wimbledon schedule as well as contribute to the health of the players. Good call.

*Sally Utiger*

USTA Official, New England

(Material gathered from GOOGLE and from the Boston Globe)



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## Sally's Alley

### The Bottom Line

By: Sally Utiger retired USTA  
Official, New England



Sally Utiger

- *Serena is a champion*
- *Naomi Osaka beat Serena in the finals of the 2018 U.S. Open*
- *There are rules for the game of tennis*
- *A chair umpire's job is to conduct the match according to the rules.*
- *Serena chose to ignore the rules in a particularly unpleasant manner.*
- *Naomi has been robbed.*

**B**y now, you know the story and have made an opinion on the outcome. Me, too. I have images, and I have memories. Maybe your opinion will differ from mine, but I think it will be difficult to disagree with my conclusions.

I am not a Serena fan. Admiration, yes. Respect, no. As a USTA official since 1976, I watch matches from perhaps a more critical point of view when it comes to rules and court behavior.

Serena has had her share of disagreements with officials, and of course, the problems are never her fault, but worse, she uses these tactics to try and rattle her opponent, then has a way of turning those outcomes to another dimension, as in discrimination, racism, and sexism.

Scroll back to 2004, Serena's loss to Jennifer Capriati blamed on the Chair Umpire for allowing incorrect line calls, calling her names not repeatable here.

On to 2009, when the very worst incident occurred, in my opinion. Semis U.S. Open: Serena lost the first set to Kim Clijsters 4-6 and was behind 5-6 in the second when she was called for a foot fault by the baseline official. She had already smashed her racquet, so the ballistic tirade that followed earned her another code violation. It was difficult to watch: Serena approached the linesperson, hand holding out a tennis ball, threatening to jam it down her throat. That cost her the match for verbal abuse and a \$82,500 fine. Barely a slap on the wrist.

Finals 2011, Serena, in an attempt to fire herself up, began shouting "Come On" at the top of her lungs whenever she won a point. After several of these outbursts, opponent Stosur claimed that her concentration was disrupted, and when the shouts continued, the chair umpire awarded a point to Stosur, ruling that the screaming did affect her ability to return a shot. That set Serena into a verbal assault on the chair that the entire stadium could hear: "You're a hater, and you're just unattractive inside!" Game, Set and Match.

The Williams sisters boycotted the Indian Wells Tournament for 15 years, claiming that in 2001 a white crowd booed Serena during her Finals match. The background: Father and Coach of the girls, Richard Williams, had made the statement several times that he would never permit the sisters to play each other in the final rounds of a major tournament. When they both reached the semis, Venus developed an injury that caused her to default to her sister Serena. They announced this to a stadium full of people who had paid big bucks for their seats and were now told there would be no match. The next day when Serena played her final, the crowd expressed their disapproval by acting very unsportsmanlike, frankly, even clapping for Serena's errors and faults. It was ugly, no doubt, and the Williamses claimed it was racist. It certainly was embarrassing for the tournament, but I feel it was a crowd intensely displeased by a false claim resulting in their loss of an expensive sporting event, hardly a racist incident.

Then, last September's Open.

In the closing ceremony, Katrina Adams, President of the USTA, called Serena a "champion of champions." I found that difficult to hear. Champion, yes, but save the ultimate praise for players like Billie Jean or Kim Clijsters. I've tried so hard to respect Serena. Her rise to the very top has so much to admire: humble beginnings, hard work, serious illnesses, etc. She manages to tarnish all that with such incidents described earlier. I'll keep an open mind – everyone can change, but for now, Serena is a robber and a thief to me.



# Feature Articles

## Snow Sanctuary

By Lee Hall Delfausse

Sarasota, Florida The Peppertree Press, LLC 2018;  
353 pages

Reviewed by Lois Harris

Many of the members of the NSWTA of a certain age know the author of this book as a fine tennis player and coach. Fewer probably know of her outstanding skiing career as a U.S. World Cup ski racer. Even fewer would know that Lee is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of U.C. Berkeley and spent a long career teaching American literature in college and secondary school. Now she has added to her impressive accomplishments by authoring a book on the challenges facing a young woman in the world of competitive ski racing. These challenges are set in the backdrop of the early 1970s, a time that added further complications to the rites of passage of a world class female athlete.

Lee's book is about Lia, a talented skier from New England, who gets an opportunity to train with and compete against some of the best skiers in the U.S. and the world. In her travels to the West Coast and various places in Europe, she meets new friends and competitors while working with some of the best and worst coaches in the country. Her dream, or so she thinks, is to make the Olympic Team. Her journey is eventful, to say the least. The journey is one in which a relatively sheltered girl grows up quickly when faced with the realities of this specific world. Some of these realities are particularly relevant to today's world. These are the challenges facing young girls at their most vulnerable age when thrust into the adult world at sometimes its most venal.

Lee flexes her literary muscles with apt and interesting quotes and allusions to John Muir, Emerson, Shakespeare, Sandberg, and Frost. In 1872 John Muir wrote: "He decided that if he could conquer these jagged peaks (the Minarets), he could overcome any adversity in life." That might well be considered an appropriate theme for this book. Lia ventures to the heights with her successes and the

depths with adversity as she faces the skiing and personal challenges in the story. In the end, there are several other possible themes to explore, and you may wonder what Lia's dream really was.

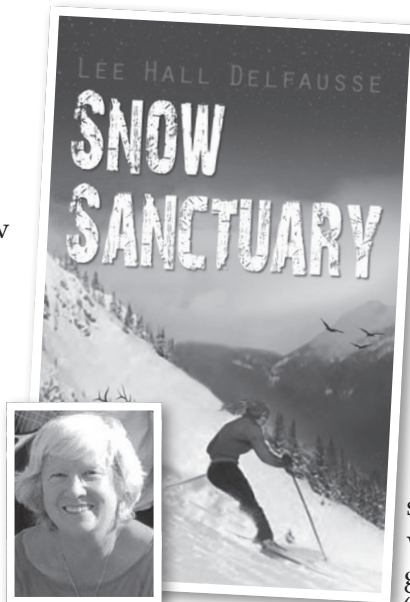
Besides the appealing literary references, the skiing venues are brought to life with a fluid descriptive style. Her knowledge of the flora and fauna of the mountains is also impressive. I particularly appreciated learning the details about her training and about the competitive mindset of a serious athlete. In addition, setting the events in the early 70s allows most of us to relate to where we were and how we felt at these pivotal moments. Lee adds to this by exploring other more sensitive issues that are certainly outside the experiences of "normal" teenagers at that time.

As timely as it is, this is not really or not just a "Me Too" story. Lee says herself that it is important to make parents and female athletes more aware of the dangers of unsupervised coaching. Many readers may have their own "Me Too" story. I can still remember playing some friendly doubles at my local tennis club when one of our foursome asked, "Who are those girls taking lessons down on court nine with JS (teaching pro)?" When someone replied that the three girls took the train down from Wisconsin every other weekend to stay with JS, this player got physically ill on the court. She also had taken lessons from this guy as an early teenager. When the full story hit the fan, many people asked what were those parents thinking? The blinders that accompany any such quest for excellence is not unique to skiing or tennis or gymnastics or....

I also like the fact that there are discussion questions at the end of the book that allow you to use it for a book club. The questions also encourage you to delve a little deeper into the thematic and symbolic substance of the book, e.g. is there justice? Does a failure of authority lead to chaos?

You can obtain this book on Amazon, although why not ask for it at your local bookstore? If you do buy it from Amazon, don't forget that you can add the National Senior Women's Tennis Foundation of choice and a percentage of all your purchases on Amazon is given as donation to the foundation. Just look for AmazonSmile on the homepage and follow the instructions.

That was the commercial—I hope you will read it and enjoy it as much as I did.



Lois Harris

# Tennis Conscience

## – Do You Have One?

by Colleen Clery Ferrell

Imagine playing in a very tightly contested match. After a long rally, the shot you hit is close, yet clearly on part of the line. Your opponent puts up one finger signaling the ball is out. You stop in your tracks and stare in disbelief. Then the same scenario happens again. This time there is no question, the ball is clearly in, yet the opponent's signal is once again out. A glance into the crowd on center court agrees that both balls were in. What's the tournament player supposed to do? Question the opponent who thinks they made a fair call? Immediately call for an umpire? "Hook" the player on the very next close call to get even? Get upset and wonder how someone can play on after making two bad calls in a row? So you give them the benefit of the doubt and play on. They beat you in score and mental strength. What is the best option for the recreational player without an umpire or Hawk-Eye video review to help with the call?



Colleen Clery Ferrell

Tennis is one of the few sports where players call their own lines, whether in or out. Self officiating is part of the game unless the match is a final of a sanctioned tournament and then officials are usually present on the court. Players must be able to watch the ball and make a call. According to the Code, the Player's Guide to Fair Play and Unwritten Rules of Tennis, here are some guidelines:

- Player makes calls on own side of the net
- Opponent gets the benefit of doubt
- Ball touching any part of the line is GOOD
- A 99% out ball is still 100% good
- Players need to clearly see space between where ball hits and a line
- Balls that can't be called out are GOOD
- Out calls can be reversed
- The prime objective in making calls is accuracy

Here's an examination of the options:

- Option 1 -By immediately questioning the opponent you let them know you are in disagreement. In doubles, by asking the opponent's partner if she saw the ball, you will either get a double confirmation or an honest partner that may overrule the first call. "Self confident" players won't think twice about

changing the call. Hopefully it won't happen again in the match. Give the opponent the benefit of the doubt.

- Option 2 - Should you call for an umpire? A USTA umpire at a recent tournament told me, "You give the opponent one bad call. After the second, you call for an umpire. You can't let them think they can continue because they will keep making calls in their favor." A former collegiate All American who played junior tennis for many years commented, "It happens all the time in the juniors. It's no big deal to call for an umpire." One senior player offered a pleasant dialogue on how to tell the opponent you want to call for an official: "We're seeing the calls differently. Let's get some help." This way an umpire will offer another set of eyes.
- Option 3 - "Hooking them back" to even the score. "Taking the law into your own hands" happens at all levels and is definitely pertinent to the title of this article. Would this method of coping really make you feel better? Conscience is defined as "the awareness of a moral or ethical aspect to one's conduct together with the urge to prefer right over wrong." Anyone with a true "Tennis Conscience" would not employ this method.
- Option 4 - Player gets upset and wonders how opponent continues to play well after making bad calls on important points. Nonetheless, they play on and complete the match. In the heat of the battle, players who feel they have been cheated need to overcome this obstacle and concentrate on the next point. After the match, one may realize that an umpire should have been called and be able to handle the situation differently in the future.

Tennis integrity on the court can lead to a clear tennis conscience. There is merit in walking off the court after a highly contested match and having a classy opponent say, "That was a clean match – no drama, thank you." Winning a fair match with no incidents on either side of the net should be the ultimate goal. A recent poster for Junior Tennis and the Net Generation reads: **PLAY HARD – PLAY FAIR.** Juniors, adults and seniors should all live by this motto.

## There's a Hole in the Bottom of the Sea

By Kandy Chain

**T**here's a pimple on a flea on a hair on a wart on a frog on a bump on a log in a hole in the bottom of the sea." This is the last verse of a song I remember as a kid. It may not be the exact words but it's the way I remember singing it. We sang it at Girl Scout camp and I think Peter, Paul and Mary took a stab at it.

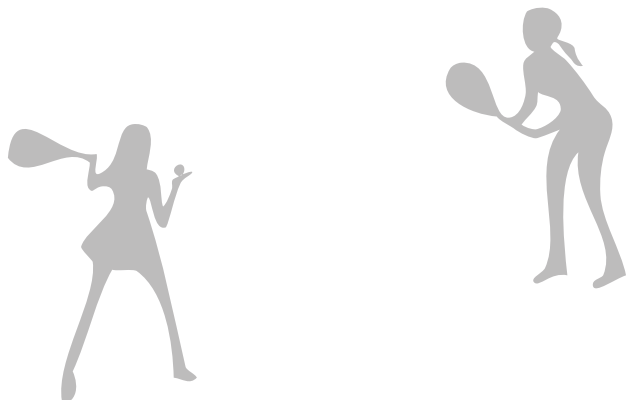
I thought of this song the other day. Many times in life things gets piled on top of another. We all start from that "hole in the bottom of the sea." First, the side of my knee was hurting. X-rays showed that the right side of my knee was practically bone on bone with bone spurs sticking out. Next, the arthritis caused my knees to turn inward – knobby knees. The weight shift in my knees caused my right foot to distort to adapt to my new balance. The distortion of my foot caused tendonitis to develop in the extensor tendons of that foot.

In order to accommodate and secure my foot I wore a new high- top shoe, taped my foot, and strapped on a foot brace. The foot felt great. My brain, however, did not calculate that I had to lift my foot higher in order to adjust. The fall happened when I tried to recover from an out wide backhand. I didn't quite lift my foot high enough to catch my weight. I went down full impact on my good knee. I cracked and bruised my patella and was out of play for 10 weeks.

Rehab is going well. Each morning I ride my bike, do my leg squats and stretches, ice and take my ibuprofen. In the meantime my shoulder is getting sore...here we go again! Just pile it on – how many holes in the bottom of the sea can one person have?



Kandy Chain



## 2019 TOURNAMENTS

(continued from cover)

**F**ast Forward: LA Tennis Club drops out, Mission Hills goes on vacay.

**Rita Price:**



In 2015 the nonagenarians only had two National Tournaments: La Jolla Hard Courts and Vancouver's Indoors. I asked (National Clay Court Championship Tournament Director) Sue Bramlette to add a ninety age division, which she did in 2016, the year I turned 90. I called my Canadian tennis friend

Mary Hallowell who teamed with Joyce Noel to play doubles and singles in Houston. I first met Mary at the Friendship Cup in Pörschach. I also asked Joyce Vanderpol, who I met at the Senior Olympics several years ago. Of course, Cathy Hall and Elaine Mason were on board, having turned ninety in 2015 and were happy to have another National Tournament to play in. We had more 90 entries (6) the first year than the 85 age group.

**Sue Bramlette:**



It was very easy to add the 90s to the Houston Clay Courts. I just included the age group in my sanction application.

Rita always emails me and tells me about ladies who are turning 90 and are still playing. I send all of the 85s and 90s our entry form in hard copy, as well as in email, so that it is easy for them to enter. Additionally, I believe it is important to provide the 85s and 90s with transportation. So I when I arrange for lower rates at tournament hotels (this year I got both hotels for \$89/night), I also request free shuttles to and from Houston Racquet Club. I give the hotels and the players a shuttle schedule so that they don't miss any of our evening events.

It is not difficult to offer this age category a tournament. More publicity about it certainly would help. But I do not think it is an accident that the tournaments which have added the 90s are run by women. Female tournament directors seem to care more, offer more energy, and are more empathetic to the players and their needs. Just my opinion.



## Finding players –Aging up

In 2016 Elaine Mason dropped out. Her partner Cathy Hall then teamed with Joyce Vanderpol before dropping out in 2017. Pearl Evans came and went in 2017. In the 2017 Houston clay courts, there were no 90 doubles players and only one newcomer, Martha Smith, from Florida, for Price to play singles against. Price and Betty Cookson therefore entered the 90s doubles but played down in the 85's. The next National in Vancouver there were only two doubles teams, Joyce Vanderpol and Madeline Smith versus Betty Cookson and Rita Price. However, the following ladies aged up in 2019: Jane Lutz, Janet Hubbard, Elizabeth Harrison, and Janet French.

## Price kept working her TD contacts for a grass court national.

### Andi Polisky:



This was pretty easy I'm astounded to say. I was playing Forest Hills and realized there were no longer 90's there. It didn't seem fair they had no grass event so I started looking into it.

I saw Rita and the ladies at LaJolla and asked if they could come to the desert if I could get the event sanctioned and Mission Hills to sign off.

I think the USTA was grateful that someone stepped up to fill the void. It's easy for the USTA to grant the sanction and they probably really don't care how many players we get. They don't do much to support the event, BUT they do get to say that all 4 surfaces are available to the 90's. So I got it sanctioned, Mission Hills signed off and we are now hosting the 3rd National Grass event in October 2019.

It is my deepest pleasure to host these fabulous ladies in the desert. It is all about the inspiration they bring to all of us and it is an honor to be a part of it. I hope we can continue doing it for years to come. Rita is the glue that holds it all together for sure..couldn't do it without her.

### Rita on the 90 Grass Courts, last October:

Our fantastic Tournament Director Andi Polisky



rolled out the red carpet, chauffeuring Jane Lutz, Janet Hubbard, and Rita Price to our condo at arrival, stopping off for a lovely luncheon, shopping for our breakfast requests, and giving us a tour of the marvelous facility that boasts Croquet, Bocce, Horse shoes, Pickleball, a World Class Golf Course plus Clay, Hard

Courts, and of course the lush green grass where we would play a round robin of three singles matches and one doubles match.

We had numerous ball girls on hand to give us time to breathe freely. After our second round of singles we enjoyed a lovely luncheon at the club house with all our volunteers and judge Cathy Thomas, followed by a fabulous close slithering two setter, 6-4, 6-7 (5) followed by a nail biting tie break finish at 12-10 won by Jane Lutz and Janet Hubbard. Hey, Elizabeth Harrison and partner Rita Price almost had it in the bag with the match on Price's racquet, but I chose the wrong serve. We didn't feel that we were "chopped liver" in such a close but no cigar ending to a fun, fun, romp around the court with many fans cheering us hackers on!

Final round of singles Janet Hubbard beat Elizabeth Harrison 7-6 (5), 6-3 and Price beat Jane Lutz, 6-0, 6-4.  
Doubles: Lutz and Hubbard Gold, Harrison and Price Silver.

*Calling all 80-year-olds: You are well taken care of at these tournaments and, with more prizes than teams, your odds of getting a USTA Ball are good!*

At this time in our lives, we are grateful to be mobile and healthy enough to get out on the courts to play our favorite game. This was three days of sheer pleasure for us four nonagenarians! We were given lovely shirts and a goody bag and shared lovely lunches, and dinners at several delightful restaurants with Andi Polisky Ubering Janet, Jane, and Rita, to and from our condo and courts, with Scott and Elizabeth joining us from their hotel.

It's taken two years of work for this hacker to get us gals four National Tournaments with a hearty thanks to Sue Bramlette and Andi Polisky. It's been an uphill task to persuade older tennis players to play, but hopefully with the help of the Tournament Directors, NSWTA, and USTA we will have a steady stream of "new kids on the block" willing to join! I urge all you USTA "aged up" League players to come play our NSWTA's Tournaments at all these marvelous venues! "Try it, you'll like it!"





# Mother-Daughter Clay Court Championships

Academia Sanchez-Casal, Naples, FL

October 19-21, 2018

By 'Daughter' Lynn Vosloo

The USTA National Mother Daughter tennis tournaments host wonderful weekends full of competition and friendship. Some women have been playing these events for nearly 30 years! They started in the open division and are now playing in the super senior division. The large array of entrants encompass former grand slam champions, former and current world ranked players on the WTA Tour and ITF circuits, teaching professionals, University coaches, collegiate players, and weekend warriors.

There are four national tournaments offered every year on all of the surfaces: grass, hard, clay and indoor. In 2019, the four nationals will be hosted in Massachusetts, Washington, California and Florida. This will give all mother-daughter duos across the nation a chance to compete. Not only are these wonderful events to play, they are also a nice chance for mothers and daughters to spend quality time off the court in wonderful locations. Having a high level of camaraderie among mothers and daughters on and off the court not only makes it fun to play, but likely to make the teams have success.

Last October, the National Mother Daughter Clay Court Championships was hosted at the Academia Sanchez-Casal Tennis Center in Naples, Florida. Women from 10 states came to compete in this exciting weekend of doubles competition. It was 2 p.m. on a Friday afternoon and the courts were packed. The heat index was a blazing 101 degrees! Many women were entered in multiple categories trying to win the coveted Gold Ball.



Left:  
Janet Hubbard's son Jimmie,  
Janet, Jane Lutz, Rita Price,  
Elizabeth Harrison's son Scott



Right:  
Jane Lutz (Silver),  
Janet Hubbard (Bronze)



Left:  
Elizabeth Harrison  
and son Scott



Right:  
Rita Price (Gold),  
Jane Lutz (Silver)



Above: 90s grass with helpers



Super Senior winners Vosloo/Novack with Fales/Fales

In the Open division Michelle Williams and Caitlyn Williams from Tennessee won the round robin convincingly without losing a set. In the Senior division Felicia Hutnick and Teresa Kaiser from Nebraska, both graduates of Rollins College, defeated Toni Novack and Lynn Vosloo 6-1, 6-0. And in the Super Senior division, Florida natives Toni Novack and Lynn Vosloo defeated Donna Fales and Cooley Fales 6-0, 6-4.



Senior division winners Hutnick/Kaiser with Novack/Vosloo

adds 'Mom' Toni Novack

Donna Fales told me that the only tournament she played last year was the M/D which I found extremely surprising knowing how passionate and good she is. These are fun and challenging tournaments.

I rarely play more than one event because it is so taxing on the body assuming you keep winning. My daughter was clearly intent on playing 2 events, so of course I said yes. It was extremely hot: upper 90's not including the "feels like temperature." In a period of 48 hours we played 6 matches. I don't do that on a "normal day."

Yes, it is "only doubles" but this kind of doubles is as competitive as it gets so you have the mental factors and you don't want to let your daughter down and the young ones hit the cover off the ball so the reflexes get a very intense workout.

My daughter is incredible (both on and off the court). During one of our matches I truly did not bring my best to the court and I was extremely upset that I could not hold my own. Lynn was so positive all she could say was - after one poor shot and another from me - "that's okay Mom, don't worry about it because I am playing amazing." How can you not love everything about this game!

I feel so lucky that I have been able to play tennis for the majority of my life. To be able to pass this sport down to another generation and to see their passion for the game extended to their children is such a joy.

## Les Grandes Dames at Palm Beach Gardens

City of Palm Beach Gardens, FL

January 16-20

by Kathy Foulk

**A**lthough we saw low number draws in the 30s and 40s age groups, this tournament was well represented by 50s, 60s and 70s kick-ass women and a most determined group of 8 women in the 80s .

The 50s draw was a nice display of 14 singles players with Florida's Jenny Klitch winning the title over New England's Yvette Kruger. Eight teams played great doubles with Stacey Williams and Mariana Hollman joining together after a few years of not playing, but losing in the finals to unseeded Susan Harris and Patricia Randolph, both from Alabama. Susie Brown and Daniela Esswein had a good tournament, taking Hollman-Williams to three sets before bowing out in the semies.

Kathy Vick moved into the 60s group this year and upset #4 seed Bunnie Allare in three sets. In another good match, Wendy McColskey, recently retired from her education job, took the first set off Diane Barker in the semies. Diane prevailed and in the finals defeated Carolyn Nichols 6-4; 7-6. We are glad Carolyn is back to playing and looking strong for the new year. McColskey then beat Vick in three very tight sets for 3rd place.

In the 60 doubles there were upsets: #5 seeds Kathy Vick and Kim Jones upset the #2 seeds Kim Dean and Frances O'Sullivan in a long three setter only to lose out in the semis to the other #5 team of Betsy Savitt and Ann Jacobs, who had defeated the sister team of McColskey and McColskey. In the finals the #1 seeded team of Ligia Bottinelli and Abbi Neuthaler defeated Savitt and Jacobs while the #3 team of Kathy Foulk and Bunnie Allare defeated Vick and Jones for 3rd.

Those 70-something players! Molly Hahn and Sue Kimball spent a few hours on the court with Molly prevailing 7-5 in the third set. #2 seed Toni Novack quietly worked her way to the finals of this 15-person draw where she defeated #1 seed Hahn for the second time. #2 seeds Ellen Goodman and Brenda Winstead upset Hahn and Kimball for the 70s doubles title.

Dorothy Wasser upset #2 seed Burnette Herrick in the 80s singles semies, in three tough sets. She then battled Inge Weber in the finals, where Weber outlasted her 5 and 2. Weber and Wasser prevailed in the 80s round robin.

# Pictures from Palm Beach



## Wilson World Tennis Classic

Rancho Mirage, CA

January 19-27

By Leslie Airola-Murvoit

Every January I make an exception to my rule that I don't travel by plane to any tournaments without a feed-in consolation bracket. The Wilson World Tennis Classic has many positives that draw me back each year even though I have to jump on a plane to get there. While January is one of the greyest and rainiest months in Northern Cal, in Palm Desert I love feeling the warmth of the sun on my face without getting a sunburn and trading in my warm jacket for a light sweater.

This year many players in my age group must have felt similarly because the women's 60's was a draw of 16 in singles, and had eight doubles teams. I enjoyed catching up with Southern Cal friends, meeting Canadian snowbirds and even bumping into the ninety year old mom of a high school friend.

The competition in this Super Cat II tournament is as strong as any Category I tournament in many age groups. The tournament draws Californians, of course, but has its compliment of top seeded Mountain and Midwest players and even a couple from the East coast. It includes a Cat I mixed doubles tournament for the 60 to 80 year olds the weekend before the Cat II begins that gives doubles specialists the chance to shine in multiple events. Tournament directors Ed Trost and his wife Jayne do a nice job orchestrating matches for six hundred fifty players from thirty states as well as from Canadian provinces. The social highlight of the week is a dinner and dance party at the Mission Hills Country Club.

Next year the tournament will move 15 minutes away to Shadow Mountain Resort in Palm Desert. Ed Trost will assist as a new Tournament Director Caerwyn Evans takes over. I'll continue my tradition of kicking off the tournament season in the desert and will be recruiting some new players from my club to join the fun. I'll be one year older, but I'll have the advantage of being the youngest player in my "new" older division--one of the few advantages of growing older.

#### The Wilson World Tennis Classic Results:

50s K. Settles d. D. Higa; Finerman/Herreman-Bagby d. Higa/Settles

55s J. Newman d. L. Steinback; Newman/Smith d. Meier/Ross

60s S. Wright d. S. Gordon-Carney; Harris/Wright d. Abel/Gordon-Carney

65s T. Karwasky d. S. Bronson; Davis/Karwasky d. Barnes/Stanley

70s C. Almodovar d. M. Allman; Gay/Johnson d. Louie/Pisani

75s C. Castell d. C. Anderson; Anderson/Castell d. Hunt/Weinstock

80s D. DeVries d. R. King



## Lamita Jabbour – Les Grandes Dames

Ft Lauderdale, FL

February 6-10

by Jan Kirkland-Cochran (from under the Brim)  
and Lil Peltz-Petow

The Lauderdale Tennis Club is a gem of club with staff and residents that bend over backwards to make the event truly feel like a "family affair." This year's tournament was no exception. Margy Edmunds along with her staff of 22 volunteers hosted an outstanding event enjoyed by all players and spectators. Although a relatively small event, the tournament was loaded with talent in every draw, which made matches very competitive and fun to watch. And of course the weather is beautiful in Ft Lauderdale this time of year!

The amenities were a bonus: continental breakfast plus lunch Thursday thru Sunday; a delicious buffet dinner Thursday evening; nice door prizes. The club has rental apartments and condos, which are very convenient for the players.

This year's tournament was named after Lamita Jabbour, who now resides in Paris but has been a loyal supporter of the tournament, sponsoring the dinners in the past. This year her very generous donation enabled the committee to add a substantial amount of prize money for finalists. Randy King was also a major donor along with 8 other club members who not only gave their money but time to make this such an excellent event. This year's award, The Lamita Jabbour Sportsmanship Award, was given to a very deserving Dale McColskey.

In the 55's Carolyn Nichols defeated Shelly Works in the finals, 3 and 3. Terri Thomson came in third. Rainey Miller from CA made her first trip to the east coast for an individual event. Rainey teamed up with Shelly Works and came in 3rd. Kris McDonald/Katherine Zanon came in first; Sheri Adler/Cheryl Hicks came in second. Rainey thoroughly enjoyed the tournament and said the hospitality was outstanding.

In the 65s, Wendy McColskey breezed to the finals, where she beat Lil Peltz-Petow, 1 and 1. Becky Timmis, playing Lauderdale for her first time, came in third, beating Sue Bramlette in the ¾ playoffs. It was a pleasure to see Kerry Young back in the 65 doubles after being away for 3 years recovering from reverse shoulder and back surgeries. Kerry, who previously had two knee replacements and was once #1 in the world, is a testament to disciplined rehab. She teamed up with long time dubs partner Sue Bramlette. They lost to Cindy LePrevost/Ann Stanley in the ¾ playoffs.

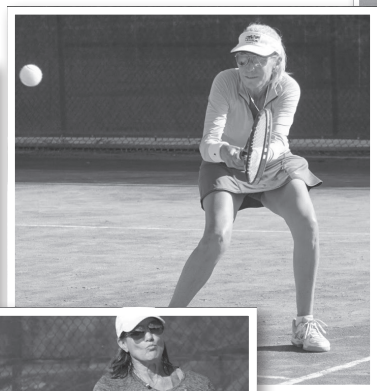
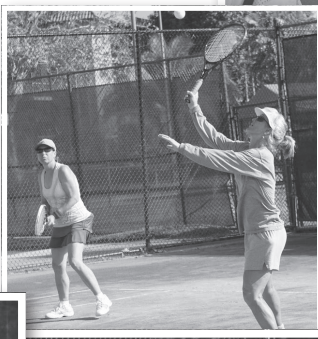
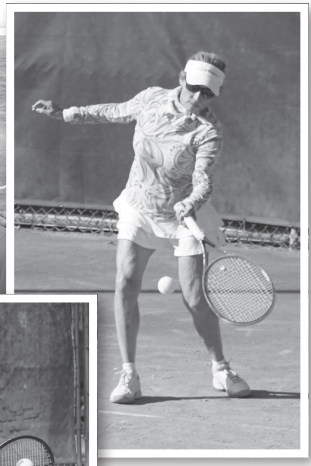


New to the tournament was Miriam Morey, a top player from the Southern section and recently retired from a prominent career. She lost to Becky Timmis in a very tough 3 sets in singles and teamed with Bunny Smith in doubles, losing to Lil Peltz-Petow and Jan Kirkland-Cochran in the quarters in a extremely tight match. Jan and Lil won the 65 doubles beating the McColskey sisters in the finals. I'm sure with a few more matches under her belt we will be reading a lot more about Miriam. It was also good to welcome back to the 65s Lou Armstrong who has been recovering from a heart attack and shoulder injury.

Carolann Castell travelled from snowy Kirkland, WA to Ft Lauderdale for her first time here. She lost in a tough 3 set match in the 75 semis to Cathie Anderson but won the 3/4 playoff in 3 sets against Susanne Clark. Carolann teamed with Lee Delfause and won the doubles in 3 sets against #1 seeds Cathie Anderson and Donna Fales. Carolann said this was her favorite tournament so far, with great hospitality and exceptional competition.

The 85's were not without their entertainment: local Lucille Kyvallos (Lucille lives in NY In the summer) defeated Maria-Helena Barbosa from Brazil in an exhibition match. Besides Lucille being a top player in her age group she is also in the Basketball Hall of Fame.

If you weren't able to play in this tournament this year, you really need to mark it on your calendar for 2020.



# Les Grandes Dames JoAnne Russell Cup

Academia Sanchez-Casal, Naples, FL

February 19-23

by Judy Dixon

The focus for this week was the heat, which averaged 85 degrees each day. Adding to the heat was the 16 mph winds that gave some relief but made it difficult to play.

This tournament is played at just the right time, after the holidays are in the rear view mirror. There were 104 entries in a myriad of divisions and the competition was fierce particularly when understanding that this was a Category 2 event. Most of the players received housing from the numerous volunteers in the area. The cost of the local hotels was quite expensive as it was vacation week for high school kids who came to Florida to escape the cold. The volunteers also ran the desk and were warm and friendly. They did their best to record scores and assign courts while trying to work around the lack of available practice courts due to the Academy program.

This was the first time for the new round robin doubles format consisting of flights A,B,C etc with the winners of each flight moving ahead to the main draw semi finals and the other 5-8 finishers going into a back draw. This seemingly encourages more participants and gives opportunity for more matches. I think there are some issues around this new idea but the thought behind it is positive. All in all, a fun week ....saw many friends and enjoyed the competition.

Les Grandes Dames JoAnne Russell Cup Results:

40 singles: M. Todo

50 singles: Yvette Kruger d. Julie Dybendahl, 1 and 0

doubles: Dybendahl/Esswein d. Hicks/Runk

55 doubles: Jackson/Nagy

60 singles: Diane Barker d. Bunnie Miller Jackson 6-0, 3-6, 6-1

doubles: Foulk/Johnson d. Neuthaler/Purcell

70 singles: Toni Novack d. Judy Dixon (ret)

doubles: Kimball/Wachob d. Dixon/McColskey

80 singles: Inge Weber d. Dorothy Wasser, 6-2, 6-1

doubles: Wasser/Webber d. Herrick/Wood

Right:  
70 singles finalist Dixon,  
winner Novack



# Shots From Intersectionals, Recent and Past

**C**ongrats to the following 2018 Intersectional teams for winning their divisions last November in Phoenix:

- 35s--Southern Callifornia (A. Udall, D. Olszewska, S. Hastings, Q. Le, V. Tan, J. Gerken, S. Morse)
- 45s--Southern California (N. Herman Bagby, D. McBride, D. Nasim, R. Nideffer, K. Settles, D. Higa)
- 55s--Northern California (L. Montero, E. Smith, J. Newman, T. Houk, K. Lackey, P. Cooke; not pictured: A. Barnes)
- 65s--Southern (C. Babb, B. Carter, W. McColskey, M. Lobel, L. Fuller, J. Kirkland-Cochran with NSWTA President K. Foulk)
- 75s--Southern California (C. Anderson, L. Fujii, S. Steel, U. Hegberg, T. Eggers)
- 80s--Southern California (B. Oldfield, R. King, D.



NorCal wins the 55s



Southern wins 65s



SoCal's 75s win trophy



SoCal 35s win Gold

DeVries, S. Palmer)



SoCal 45s



SoCal 80s dominated



## A message to past, present and future 8th decade tennis players regarding the 2018 Intersectionals in Phoenix:

I want to encourage each of you to do something to get more sections and players in their 80s to come to the Intersectionals. We need to keep this upper age group going and it's up to us. It only takes one person in each section to organize a team with only 4 players necessary. This year we were missing teams from Florida, South West, No. California, Pacific North West, Intermountain, Mid-Atlantic etc. Players don't have to be super stars, just competition-loving tennis players.

To entice you to come to the new venue in Phoenix: The weather was 100% perfect for 7 straight days, the venue was extremely easy to navigate – close from the parking lot to a ground level tournament area with one big room holding a trainer and massage person, tables, chairs, lunch and easy access to the bathrooms, tournament desk and the courts. As usual Southern California and Texas prevailed but the rest of us enjoyed competitive matches and we shared a camaraderie developed over many years of playing with, and against, each other.

By the way, every one of us 80 year olds received a very special invitation to a dinner party at Betty Hill's home in Scottsdale. She sent a bus to pick us up at the Hotel. She and her husband Gene greeted us and arranged a random drawing for us to sit at tables with others we may not know so well. Then we were treated to an array of enticing appetizers and a sumptuous dinner – salmon, beef, risotto, roasted vegetables, salads, a sampling of deserts.... – which truly enriched our experience of sharing time together.

Talking with others who share our age and passion for tennis is a rare treat and one we all highly valued. I think there's a special, conscious appreciation for blessings we have in our lives now that is heightened by our age, and was evident in conversations that evening. We were very appreciative of Betty's invitation and are hoping we can all get together next year at the Intersectionals in Florida.

With warm regards,

*Judy Smith, New England*



80s at Betty Hill's dinner



80s Betty Hill (far left) hosts fellow players



The Dancing 80s



# The 2010 Intersectionals winners. Recognize everyone?

35s—Texas (S. Bowes-Hackney, J. Cass, P. Verdan, M. King, N Krishnan with Larry Eichenbaum)

45s—Texas (V. Buholz, S. Works, K. Vick, S. Whiting, L. McWilliams, H. Gerger)

55s—Southern California (C. Nichols, J. Heston, K. Bennett, R. Young, A. Stanley, S. Sprague)

65s—Southern California (A. Russ, U. Hegberg, S. Steel, A. Polinsky, J. Louie, L. Fujii, R. King)

75s—Southern (J. Fowler, R. Barton, B. Herrick, M.A. Park)

80s—Florida (J. Lutz, N. Stout, J. Brisbin)



The 55's  
C. Nichols, J. Heston, K. Bennett, R. Young, A. Stanley, S. Sprague



The 65's  
A. Russ, U. Hegberg, S. Steel, A. Polinsky, J. Louie, L. Fujii, R. King



The 35's  
B. Bowes-Hackney, J. Cass, P. Verdan, M. King, N. Krishnan, L. Eichenbaum



The 75's  
J. Fowler, R. Barton, B. Herrick, M.A. Park



The 45's  
V. Buholz, S. Works, K. Vick, S. Whiting, L. McWilliams, H. Gerger



The 80's  
J. Lutz, N. Stout, J. Brisbin



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## Major 2019 Category I and II Tournaments

(go to <http://www.nswta.org/calendar.html> for links to each tournament)

- \*January 16-20 Les Grandes Dames Palm Beach Gardens 30-80 clay
- \*January 19-27 WILSON World Tennis, Rancho Mirage, CA 35-85 Hard
- January 19-27 National 60 Mixed Hard Courts, Rancho Mirage, CA**
- \*February 9-13 Les Grandes Dames Lamita Jabbour, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 35-85
- \*February 19-23 Les Grandes Dames JoAnne Russell Cup, Naples, FL 40-80
- March 25-31 National 35-90 Clay Courts, Houston Racquet Club, Houston TX**
- April 8-13 National 40-80 Clay Courts, Palm Beach Gardens, FL**
- April 15-21 Bermuda Breeze at the Coral Beach Club, Bermuda 40-70
- May 13-19 National 50-90 Hard Courts, La Jolla Beach & Tennis, La Jolla, CA**
- \*May 22-27 Pacific Coast Seniors & Family, Berkeley, CA
- May 23-27 National 30, 35-85 Indoors, Lexington, KY**
- June 6-9 Senior Slams Hard Courts at Guilford Racquet Club, CT (ages 50-75)
- June 7-9 National 30 Hard Courts, Kansas City, MO**
- July 11-13 Senior Slams Clay Courts at Concord Country Club, Concord, MA
- July 8-14 National 30-80 Grass Courts, Forest Hills, NY**
- July 15-21 National 35-85 Grass Courts, Philadelphia, PA**
- August 19-24 National 60 Indoors, Seattle Tennis Club, Seattle, WA**
- September 2-8 National 40, 50, 70-90 Indoors, Club Green Meadows, Vancouver, WA**
- September 12-15 Grass Senior Slams, Essex County Club, Manchester by the Sea, MA
- October 2-6 National 40-70 Mixed Clay Courts, Seabrook, SC**
- October 21-26 National 35-85 Hard Courts, Rancho Mirage, CA**
- October 29-31 National 90s Grass Courts, Mission Hills Country Club, Rancho Mirage, CA**
- November 29-Dec 4 National 30 Clay Courts, Ft. Lauderdale, FL**
- December 2-9 National 40 Hard Courts, La Jolla, CA**

**Bolded = Category I**

\*Super Cat II