

President's Report

By Carol Jory



In January 2020 I was honored to be elected by San Diego District Tennis Association as President. I joined the SDDTA Board of Directors in 2004 and have served as Treasurer and Vice-President. I was also Activities Chair for our Annual Awards Dinner. Due to Covid-19, awards dinner and our annual yearbook publication have been cancelled for January 2021. I represent World TeamTennis Community Leagues since 2000 as San Diego coordinator. I took a tennis class in college; although athletic I was not very good at tennis. I took it up again years later and with much practice played on many league teams. Tennis has become a passion and I would play every day if the body would allow. Many of my best friends I met through tennis activities and I cherish those memories and hope to make new ones. I look forward to working with such a knowledgeable group of board members.

The first three months of my presidency went very well until Covid-19 hit the United States and California shutting down much of our State and many businesses were closed.

Tennis clubs were closed from mid-March until June 1 or after. With the re-openings, many State, City and County restrictions were imposed. To list a few requirements: wearing masks to and from the club/courts, sanitizing stations, social distancing of 6 feet, leaving courts immediately after playing and no group gatherings or socializing after play.

Since tennis is an outdoor sport, it was deemed safer than most sporting activities. Many clubs allowed only club members for several months after reopening to restrict the spread of the virus.

Most recently USTA and SCTA made the difficult decision to cancel most sanctioned tournaments and leagues for the remainder of the year. Another key change is to USTA Memberships starting in 2021: Junior membership (under age 19) is available at no cost, Organization membership will be available at no cost, and the USTA will no longer be offering the following memberships: Family, Adult 3-year, Adult 5-year, Senior 3-year, Senior 5-year, or Lifetime.

Looking forward, I am hopeful our tennis community will get back to a bit of normalcy. The SDDTA will once again be promoting tennis programs and special events in 2021 provided the conditions are safe for all. See you all on the courts!

2020 College Scholarship Award Recipients



Anukriti Bhadada



Amanda Letzring



Lindy Cornwall



Thelma Sepulveda



Camila Nevarez

Five \$500 scholarships were recently awarded to young San Diego players by the San Diego District Tennis Association in conjunction with Angel Lopez. Receiving the two Angel Lopez Scholarships are **Camila Nevarez** and **Thelma Sepulveda**. Camila attended Classical Academy High School and will be a freshman at Biola University. Thelma attended San Ysidro High School and will be attending Point Loma Nazarene University. **Amanda Letzring**, **Lindy Cornwall** and **Anukriti Bhadada** received the three scholarships from the SDDTA. Amanda attended Mt. Carmel High School and will also be attending Point Loma Nazarene University. Lindy Cornwall is a sophomore at Carnegie Mellon University and was a student at Poway High. Anukriti Bhadada is also a sophomore and attends UC San Diego and was a student at Torrey Pines High School. All five are outstanding students and tennis players. Congratulations!

San Diego Tournaments

Due to the impact of the novel coronavirus, August and September tournament play resumed in a limited way in San Diego. Mountain View hosted the 28th Mountain View tournament with a good turnout of 160 participants. In the Men's Open, **Zachary Ermert** defeated **Zachary Leslie**. In Men's 4.0 unseeded **Kevin Mallery** was the winner, beating the #1 seed from Los Angeles and in the Men's 4.5 #1 seed **Dale Gutierrez** defeated **Ken Johnson**.



Jayson Blando



Midori Castillo

The 104th La Jolla Championships moved from June to September, restricting entrants to men's and women's singles only. According to referee **Tony Perez**, "The tournament went extremely well. We had a full, strong draw of 16 women's Open players and a 128-men's draw." After covering expenses, the Men's division winner, unseeded **Jayson Blando**, walked away with a \$1,400 check. Along the way to the final, Blando defeated **Derek Miller** (seeded #3) in the quarterfinals; in the semifinals, he defeated #1 seed, Tomas Aranguiz (La Habra), in an exciting three-set match: 7-6, 4-6, 6-1. In the Women's Open, **Midori Castillo**, seeded #1, defeated **Hiromi Sasano** 7-6, 6-2.

Tournament Director **Scott Farr** reported, "With only two events and a limited number of players competing on six courts, the protocols for the tournament were quite easy to enforce. All of the bleachers were roped off and everyone on the tennis club grounds was required to properly wear a face covering. We informed the players and the LJTC members that spectators were not allowed. The tournament desk was also quite different. The players were greeted from a 10 foot distance. Hopefully, this tournament format was a once-in-a-lifetime event." With such a carefully managed tournament, we are hoping that the remainder of the 2020 tournaments in San Diego can maintain the same high standards!

Barnes is scheduled to host their adult tournament November 20-22 and the National 40s, Father/Son tournament at the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club has been changed from a National to a Designated Open Sectional Championship. The dates for that tournament are November 30 - December 6.

The status of these two tournaments is questionable though, as the County canceled the La Costa tournament less than five days before it was scheduled to begin.

USTA League Tennis

By Randie Lettington

Tennis is thriving as the top sport for social distancing! Thanks to our USTA facilities and our players following protocols for Safe Play, we have enjoyed social tennis since May. While we were unable to run our team format Fall leagues, USTA So Cal is looking ahead toward Winter Season. We are in the process of working with the State and County to have approvals for play in place for our Adult 40 and Over League and Mixed Doubles 18 and Over league. Registration for these leagues will take place in mid-late November.

Since league play was limited nationally this year, the decision was made to combine those matches with 2021 matches to calculate year end NTRP ratings in 2021. Ratings will not change for 2020.

Congratulations to our winning teams from Winter and Summer Leagues in 2020!

USTA Adult 40 and over League (Winter)

San Diego Local League Winners

Men's 3.5 San Diego Tennis and Racquet Club- Juan Lopez

Men's 4.0 Lake Murray- Seth Hill

Women's 3.5 WD Eastlake Tennis Center- Michiyo Killeen

Women's 3.5 WE Balboa Tennis Club- Lisa Shirley

Women's 4.0 San Diego Tennis and Racquet Club-
Randie Lettington

Women's 4.5+ Barnes Tennis Center- Lisa Crisafulli

North County San Diego Local League Winners

Men's 3.5 Kit Carson Park- Mark Warren

Men's 4.0 Rancho Bernardo Swim and Tennis- Bob Doolittle

Men's 4.5+ La Costa Resort- Aaron Stark

Women's 3.0 Lomas Santa Fe Country Club- Nellwyn Voorhies

Women's 3.5 WD Rancho Bernardo Community- Judy Nelson

Women's 3.5 WE Winners Tennis- Mary Jo Preti

Women's 4.0 WD Surf and Turf Tennis- Kellie Doyle

Women's 4.0 WE Rancho Bernardo Swim and Tennis-
Rene Carmichael

Women's 4.5+ Carmel Valley Tennis- Kellie Jaquez

USTA Mixed Doubles 18 and over League (Winter)

San Diego Local League Winners

7.0 Level Mountain View Sports and Racquet- Vivi Rozo

8.0 Level Mountain View Sports and Racquet- Joseph Reyes

9.0 Level Balboa Tennis Club- Patty Glenn

10.0 Level Barnes Tennis Center- Rockwell Shah

North County San Diego Local League Winners

7.0 Level Morgan Run Resort- Katie Martins

8.0 Level Carmel Valley Tennis- Becky Kuba

9.0 Level El Camino Country Club- Rick Gentry

USTA 65 and over Adult Doubles League (Spring/ Summer)

San Diego Local League Winners

Women's 8.0 Balboa TC- Marcia Bennett

North County San Diego Local League Winners

Women's 8.0 CTA@ Rancho Arbolitos- Debbie L'Heureux-
Hitomi Wittl

SCTA Tri-Level Adult League (Summer)

Local League Winners- SD/ SDNC

SD Women's (4.0-3.0) Mt. View Sports and Racquet- Aida Padilla

SDNC Women's (4.0-3.0) Valley Center- Josie Hendrix

Women's (4.5-3.5) WE Carmel Valley Tennis- Becky Kuba

Women's (4.5-3.5) WD Surf and Turf- Shelley Goodson

Men's (4.5-3.5) Mountain View Sports and Racquet- Joseph Reyes

Tennis News From Around the County

Congratulations to:



Ed Collins

Ed Collins who was awarded the National USTA/USPTA Community Service Award. In his 48 years as a USPTA member, Elite Professional Ed Collins has made giving back to the San Diego tennis community his life's work. For 19 years, he led the men's program at the University of San Diego. Ed also established a college fund in his father's name, Julius Collins, which has raised thousands of dollars to provide free instruction and summer camps for children from low-income areas.

Karen Ronney received the High School Coach of the Year Award. Karen is in her 14th year as girls' head tennis coach at Patrick Henry High School, where she has accumulated a 127-23 record in the CIF San Diego Division.

Roy Barth, former San Diegan and 2012 member of the San Diego Hall of Fame (Junior Stand-out, College Great, World Class) has recently published a book "Point of Impact" about his career in tennis. It is available on Amazon.

Welcome!



Ryan Redondo

A big welcome to new San Diego District Board members **Ryan Redondo**, **Matt Previdi** and **Todd Sprague**. Ryan recently took over the reins at the Barnes Tennis Center and is responsible for many new and exciting events in San Diego, Matt will replace Amanda Fink as head of "Sip and Serve" and Todd, Director of the National Father Daughter Tournament and USTA Board member, will join our Sanctions and Scheduling Committee. All are great additions to our organization!

A fond farewell was given to two valuable board members: **Lesley Waite** and **Amanda Fink**. Lesley served as Vice-President for many years and was the USTA League Coordinator for San Diego. Editor of the yearbook and newsletter, she will be missed! Amanda headed up San Diego's Tennis Fest for several years and was a USPTA representative on the Board.

From Balboa TC:

For the first time in Balboa TC's 90+ year history they have exceeded 1,600 members! **Colleen Ferrell**, Club Director noted that "We are now able to resurface courts; repair the video/camera equipment, lock up the ice machine, replace the shade canopies on lower courts, complete the gates and fencing projects." Welcome to their 500+ new members. Tennis is obviously alive and well in San Diego!

From Barnes Center:

A fantastic Oracle ITA Masters by UTR was held at the Barnes Center October 9-11 for elite juniors and professional players. It aired on ESPN. It was a great opportunity to bring elite level tennis back for our American and collegiate players. San Diegans **Isaiah Strode**, **Jessica Failla**, **Katie Codd** (Quarterfinals) and **Keegan Smith** (Semifinals) performed well. The event had total prize money of \$20,000.

San Diego Lost Five Important Tennis Enthusiasts This Year



Virginia Glass



David Sanderlin



Fred and Catherine Circo



Mario Moreano



Lois Simmons

Virginia Glass was one of the original founders of the San Diego District Tennis Association and served in many positions in the organization and in the tennis community over the years. She was the first female president of the American Tennis Association, the oldest African American sports organization. For her work with the SCTA Community Tennis Development, she received the SCTA Lifetime Achievement award in 2008.

David Sanderlin was inducted into the San Diego Hall of Fame in 2018. A lifelong tennis enthusiast and top player in high school and college, David stayed involved in tennis his whole life, both as a player and teacher.

Fred Circo had many careers, but the one he seemed to love most was his "retirement job" as a tennis umpire. Both he and his wife, **Cathie Circo**, who also passed away this year, volunteered at the Barnes Tennis Center for years and loved giving back to the tennis community at both the Center and at Balboa Tennis Club, where they were members.

Mario Moreano was also a long-time popular member of the Balboa Tennis Club and a familiar sight at local tournaments in his work as an umpire for the San Diego Umpire's Association.

Lois Simmons was a longtime Pt. Loma resident and devoted tennis player. Lois participated in national tournaments into her 80's and was a spirited competitive player.

Changes in USTA Adult Tournaments for 2021

Significant changes will be introduced in the adult tournament structure in 2021. Encouraging innovation and simplicity in play, as well as national continuity and uniformity were the goals. “The new tournament structure aims to provide tournament points per round at various levels-It will also provide a new ranking system for NTRP tournaments.”

The new tournament pathway will be similar to the one used in junior tournaments. There will be seven levels of tournament and each will have unique rankings. The duration of the tournament, whether it is “Open” or “Open/Closed”, whether it is National, Sectional or Sectional/District and draw format will relate to the different levels.

Levels 1-3 are National Open tournaments lasting between 5-7 days with several choices in draws and scoring. The chart below explains the different levels. Note that a “closed” tournament means that it is open to only players from that section. Right now, none of our local tournaments are closed.

Tournament Level	Current Reference Point	Admin Approval	Duration (Max)	Open/Closed
Level 1	Category I & NTRP Nats	National	7 Days	Open
Level 2	Super CAT II	National	5 Days	Open
Level 3	CAT II	National	5 Days	Open
Level 4	Sectional Championship & NTRP Sectionals	Section	5 Days	Open/Closed
Level 5	District/State Championship or Elevated District/Section	Section/District	5 Days	Open/Closed
Level 6	Local Tournament	Section/District	3 Days	Open
Level 7	Local Tournament	Section/District	1 Day	Open

One of the main impacts of this new structure for adults is all sections will give out the same ranking points, depending on the level of the tournament. There will now also be national rankings for NTRP divisions. San Diego will follow this new ranking system. Right now, all San Diego tournaments are treated equally, no matter what the size of the draw. The exception to this is the La Jolla Championships and the District Tournament, which are weighed heavily. This will no longer be the case in 2021.

The USTA has prepared a “Percentage Based” approach to the Point Per Round Tables.

As you can see, the winner of a level 5 tournament (which many of the larger San Diego tournaments will be) would earn 1050 ranking points and the winner of a level 6 tournament would earn 450, and so on.

A big change will be that NTRP divisions will also have national rankings. In addition, there will be a new tournament (and league) management system that will be instituted. Players, as well as tournament directors, will be using the new system to enter tournaments and register for leagues. COVID-19 has drastically changed the 2020 tournament/league schedule and these new changes beginning in 2021 for tournament (and league) play will be challenging.

USTA Adult Ranking Point Tables

Feed-In Championship through Quarterfinals

Description	Finish	# Players Getting Pts	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Percent-Order of Finish
Percent - Level to Level			100.0%	70.0%	60.0%	50.0%	35.0%	15.0%	5.0%	
Champion	1	1	3000	2100	1800	1500	1050	450	150	100.0%
2nd Place	2	1	2100	1470	1260	1050	735	315	105	70.0%
3rd Place	3	1	1800	1260	1080	900	630	270	90	60.0%
4th Place/SF	4	1	1500	1050	900	750	525	225	75	50.0%

* To see the complete listing of all 2021 tournament levels ranking points system visit:

<https://www.usta.com/en/home/play/adult-tennis/programs/national/usta-adult-tournament-changes-for-2021.html>

San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame 2020 Recipients



Roz King: Senior Success and Community Service

Roz took up tennis at age 45; after that, there was no stopping her. She credits her coach, Tad Yamaguchi (former UCSD tennis coach), for her rise in tennis. Roz says that Tad “took me from club player to world class.” Later, Ben Press was instrumental in developing her potent serve. Her gold ball collection (hardcourt, grass and clay) is impressive—nine gold balls in singles, 22 in doubles and a bucket full of silver and bronze. With three World Championships and five Team Cups, Roz is still winning awards!

Off the court, Roz is community- and civic-minded. She served 17 years on the San Diego District Tennis Association (SDDTA) Board, 20 years on Balboa Tennis Club’s Board, six years on a USTA National Committee, and has been Secretary/Treasurer for the Greater San Diego City Tennis Council since its inception.



Cathie Anderson: Senior Success

Cathie played tennis as a junior and then played at UC Berkeley and was the NCAA Women’s runner up. Cathie graduated with a major in Economics and a minor in Cartography. After graduating, she went to work for the San Francisco Planning Department and Richmond Redevelopment for three years. Then, Cathie decided 9 to 5 was not for her. Instead, she began teaching tennis. In 1985 she moved to San Diego and began teaching here. While teaching tennis, Cathie continued to compete and grow an impressive resume. She has won 23 National Championships on multiple surfaces, 30 gold balls and more than 80 silver and bronze ones. In addition, she has been selected by the USTA to play for the United States on 22 international teams.



Arnold and Esther Belinsky: Philanthropy

Arnold and Esther have always taken an active interest in local tennis. They are a couple of “movers and shakers” in San Diego tennis. Arnold began playing tennis at the age of 21 and, after marrying Esther in 1954, continued playing and introduced his children to the sport he loved. Arnold passed away in 2016 and is survived by Esther and their three tennis-playing children: Larry (Judy), Craig, and Sheila, as well as six grandchildren and two great-granddaughters.

Arnold and Esther are responsible for their many donations to tennis facilities in San Diego, including the refurbishing of the Balboa Tennis Club at Morley Field, where the clubhouse is named after them. In addition, they have been generous contributors to the Barnes Tennis Center and they also founded the Belinsky Family Tennis Complex at the San Diego Jewish Academy.



Larry Belinsky: Senior Success and Community Service:

Larry began playing at a young age and has been a potent player in all divisions through the years. He played one year for UC Berkeley and then transferred to San Diego State where he was the top player. Unfortunately, Larry contracted spinal meningitis and recuperating became his priority. After college and marriage, Larry made a successful return to competitive tennis.

Larry was San Diego’s #1 rank player in his age group for 20 years! Along the way, he collected his share of gold, silver and bronze balls. After retiring, Larry helped grow tennis in San Diego. He lobbied for, and founded, the San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame, supported Youth Tennis San Diego (YTSD) in many ways and spent nine years coaching student athletes at Canyon Crest Academy.



Geoff Griffin: Teaching Pro, Community Service

Geoff has been the Director of Tennis at the Balboa Tennis Club for more than 30 years. He has a staff of nine certified tennis pros—quality instruction and affordability are his guiding principles. Geoff has made the teaching program there a huge success.

Geoff stands out as a tennis pro who has given so much back to the community. As a member and one-time president of the San Diego District Tennis Association (SDDTA), he co-founded Tennis Fest and directed it for 18 years: more than 700 adults and children are treated to free clinics and exhibitions at Balboa.

He has been running weekly lessons for San Diego’s Wounded Warriors for many years, as well as being a vital part of the Wounded Warriors National Camp.

Geoff’s been an officer on the local board of the USPTA for 25 years, is an SCTA Board member and an active member of the Greater San Diego City Tennis Council. Geoff is one involved guy!

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University City Racquet Club Gets New Court Resurfacing!



Pictured, left to right: Ron De Jong, Bob Siegel, Steven Nakamura, Mike Woodfill

Over the years, the Greater San Diego City Tennis Council has renovated courts throughout the county. Since 2004, the San Diego District Tennis Association (SDDTA) has given more than \$123,000 to the Council to help refurbish over twenty facilities throughout the county. Last month, \$2,500 was given to the Council for University City Racquet Club's court resurfacing. Along with generous University City donors, (pictured above on their beautiful new courts), four of their six courts were renovated.

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