

*SAN DIEGO TENNIS HALL OF FAME
CLASS OF 2020*

CATHIE ANDERSON

Senior Success

ARNOLD AND ESTHER BELINSKY

Philanthropy

LARRY BELINSKY

Senior Success and Community Service

GEOFF GRIFFIN

Community Service and Teaching Pro

ROZ KING

Senior Success



In November of 2005, the idea of having San Diego's own tennis Hall of Fame was presented at a San Diego District Board Meeting. The idea was well received and subsequently, an exploratory committee was formed. After several meetings, the concept was officially outlined to the District Board, motioned, and then enthusiastically accepted. Bylaws were formed and a Selection Committee (SC) was appointed. There are six members of the Selection Committee (three serving two-year terms and three serving one-year terms).

Beginning with the San Diego Yearbook, published and issued in January 2006, nominations for potential inductees were opened to the general public. Additional posts were published in the San Diego Union-Tribune, the San Diego Tennis Reporter and the Southern California edition of Inside Tennis. Sixty-five (65) nominations later, while establishing a methodology in which to determine ten inductees for the Class of 2006, the Selection Committee agreed on ten individuals who left an indelible mark in San Diego's rich and abundant tennis history. The inductees were recognized in at least one or more of the following categories:

- World Class
- College Greats and Junior Stand-Outs
- Coaches, Teaching Pros, Teaching Instructor and Mentors
- Community Service, Philanthropy, Officiating and Media
- Senior Success

It was decided that the venue to present those selected to the SDTHOF would take place at an Induction Ceremony, to be held in conjunction with the annual San Diego District Tennis Championships. It was the hope that this would become an ongoing tradition.

And, finally, a permanent display located at the BTC Clubhouse was chosen to showcase memorabilia of the current year of inductees for the San Diego tennis community to enjoy and appreciate. San Diego has always been one of the greatest hot beds for tennis in the U.S. It is time to honor our champions of the game and preserve San Diego's tennis history for generations to come!

Cathie Anderson (1942-)



Cathie has always had a competitive streak. Even back in her youth in Dayton, Ohio, where she picked up tennis at the age of six, she enjoyed competing. She would compete in the local junior tournaments around Dayton. However, as her tennis game progressed, Cathie began playing the more competitive tournaments throughout Ohio.

Dayton, had no indoor courts when Cathie was a junior, so when Winter descended on Ohio, she would put her wooden racquets in their wooden presses and stow them away until Spring.

Cathie took tennis lessons at an assortment of locations. Mainly Dayton. However, on her parents' Spring break trips to exotic Florida, young Cathie received additional lessons. Less frequently, the family would head east to Nantucket, CT. Cathie received lessons there as well. It took a dedicated girl to successfully assimilate and implement their diverse coaching.

After high school, Cathie headed west to attend Cal Berkeley. Living in California, Cathie was able to play tennis all year long. This was before Title IX. Women did not receive athletic scholarships. So, Cathie walked onto the women's tennis team and quickly established herself as the one to beat. In her senior season, she qualified for the NCAA Women's tournament in St. Louis. Cal Berkeley gave Cathie \$100 for expenses. She was the NCAA Women's runner up.

Cathie graduated from Cal Berkeley with a major in Economics and a minor in Cartography. She then 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, first in Danville, and then Oakland.

In 1985, Cathie decided to follow the sun to San Diego. She joined an architect firm, but soon changed careers when Ken Walts of the San Diego Tennis & Racquet Club hired her as one of its certified pros. She taught for several years there before branching out and teaching on her own. While teaching tennis, Cathie continued to compete and grow her impressive resume:

- Cathie was voted the USPTA Senior Player of the Year in 1990.
- She won the Women's 50s World Championship in 2006.
- She has won 23 National Championships on multiple surfaces.
- She has won 30 USTA Gold Balls, 58 Silver Balls, and 24 Bronze Balls, to date.
- She has been selected by the USTA to play for the United States on 22 International teams.
- She has been inducted into the SoCal Senior Tennis Hall of Fame.
- She was selected for the Dayton Sports Hall of Fame.

Cathie smiles recalling the time she played Evonne Goolagong-Cawley, the winner of 7 Grand Slam singles titles and an International Tennis Hall of Famer. Says Cathie, "I got squished."

Besides tennis, Cathie loves animals. She has been a volunteer at Sea World, caring for their many penguins. Currently, Cathie breeds and trains Chocolate Labradors. She travels all over competing in obedience and agility trials with her dogs.

Cathie lives in Del Mar. She competes here and around the world. She has a daughter, Cindy.

Arnold and Esther Belinsky
(1931– 2016) (1932-)



Arnold and Esther have always taken an active interest in local tennis. And, when they took an interest in something, they would make things happen. They were a couple of “movers & shakers” in San Diego tennis. And, their influence resonates to this day.

Arnold was born in Detroit in 1931. He joined the Navy and was stationed in Coronado. He quickly grew to love it here. Esther was born in Tampico, Mexico in 1932 to a Polish father and Russian mother. Both had immigrated to Mexico to escape anti-Semitic persecution. In 1945, Esther moved to Chula Vista, gained dual citizenship, attended USC for a year, and then finished at San Diego State. While in the Navy, Arnold met Esther at Congregation Beth Israel. They fell in love and married in 1954.

At the age of 21, Arnold began another lifelong love affair -- this time with tennis. He worked diligently at the game and rose to #8 on Balboa Tennis Club’s Men’s Ladder and ultimately achieved a San Diego #1 ranking in Men’s 65 Singles in 1997.

After the Navy and upon getting married, Arnold went to work for Esther’s father’s retail chain, *Union Furniture*. A quick study, he learned the furniture business inside and out. Then, in 1966, Arnold opened his own store, *Arnold’s Furniture & Interiors* (“from our Family to Yours”). It was a complete success. Beginning that year, Arnold and Esther established stores on El Cajon Blvd., in Chula Vista, San Marcos, Miramar Road, and Kearney Mesa, the chain’s flagship store, at the *San Diego Home Furnishing Center*, before selling out in 1991.

As their family grew, Arnold wanted to introduce his children to the sport he loved so well. Arnold reasoned that tennis would be more fun if the kids played along side their friends. Accordingly, Arnold devised the “College Racquetees.” The “College Racquetees” was a group of kids, comprised of all ages, from the Del Cerro/College area. They would gather to play on San Diego State’s old courts. Sometimes, Bob Ray would join Arnold in giving the kids instruction. Periodically, Arnold would invite some of San Diego’s top junior players, like Roy Barth, to give inspirational talks to the kids. Nine of the “Racquetees” went on to become ranked players in San Diego. A few played for their universities.

Arnold and Esther expanded their support for tennis from the days of the “Racquetees” to all of the San Diego tennis community by donating to improve our area’s older tennis facilities, and to build new ones, including:

- Founding contributors to the Barnes Tennis Center and annual contributors ever since.
- They were greatly instrumental in refurbishing the Balboa Tennis Club at Morley Field and to honor Arnold and Esther, the clubhouse was named after them.
- They funded the Arnold and Esther Belinsky Family Playground at the Booth Educational Building located at Barnes Tennis Center.
- Arnold and Esther founded the Belinsky Family Tennis Complex at the San Diego Jewish Academy.
- Court 6 at the Barnes Tennis Center was named THE BELINSKY FAMILY court to honor their valued contributions to youth tennis.

Arnold passed away in 2016 from Parkinson’s disease 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.

Esther enjoys her family visits at “Glendale,” the dream home she and Arnold built in Rancho Santa Fe.

Larry Belinsky (1954-)



Native San Diegan, Larry Belinsky has a long and distinguished resume in San Diego tennis. He began his love of the sport as a child when his father, Arnold, would take him along on his Sunday trips to the old Balboa Tennis Club (located in the Zoo's parking lot). Larry would watch his father play. Often, San Diego tennis legend, Roland Brock took young Larry out on the court for a hit.

Larry's game developed under the tutelage of prominent area pros. First, was Bobby Ray. When Bobby left for the Navy, Larry continued studying under Ben Press. Later, Bill Bond sharpened Larry's all around game, and Bill Stack mentored him on tennis' very important mental side.

Larry's tennis game made steady progress throughout his junior years. Then at age 17, Larry's body and game fully matured and winning became commonplace. He won the San Diego Boys' 18 Junior Championships, and three of the four Pacific Northwest national level tournaments. He was also selected as the winner of the Bob Carrother's Sportsmanship of the Year Award in 1972.

After starring at Patrick Henry High School, Larry played one year for Cal Berkeley. He finished that year with the team's best win/loss record. Larry, subsequently, transferred to San Diego State University and was to be their number one player. Unfortunately, on a trip to Acapulco with his family, Larry contracted spinal meningitis. Recuperating became his job.

After college and getting married, Larry entered into the family's retail furniture business. He began in its warehouse, and through his unwavering hard work, earned his way up to president of *Arnold's Furniture*. Even as he worked full time in the company, Larry was able to make a successful return to competitive tennis. His enthusiasm and his focused drive made up for his lack of court time.

- Larry was San Diego's #1 ranked player in his age group for 20 years, 1990-2010. Including "Male Player of the Year" in 1993.
- Represented the United States at the 2000 International Tennis Federation Potter Cup in Barcelona.
- Gold Ball winner in 2000 USTA National Men's 45 Doubles with partner, Bob Wright. Larry and Bob held the #1 ranking in USTA 45 doubles.
- Gold and Silver Ball winner 2004 USTA National Men's 50 Doubles, again with Bob Wright. Ranked #2 in USTA 50 Doubles with Bob.
- Bronze Ball winner in National Men's 55 Singles, 2009.
- Ranked #1 player in SoCal Men's 55 for two years.
- Silver medalist for Men's 60 Singles, Bronze medalist for 55/60 Mixed Doubles with wife, Judy, in the 2017 World Maccabiah Games in Israel.

After the family sold *Arnold's Furniture* in 1991, Larry and wife, Judy, opened *Country Furniture Faire* in 1993. After several more years in the business, Larry finally retired to be with family, expand his reading, and grow tennis in San Diego. Larry's contributions to San Diego tennis are impressive:

- After visiting the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, RI, in 2005, Larry lobbied for, and founded the San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame to honor our area's many tennis-related greats.
- Larry and family have been, and continue to be, generous patrons of Youth Tennis San Diego at the Barnes Tennis Center.
- Larry spent 9 years coaching and passing on life skills to student athletes at Canyon Crest Academy.

More than tennis, Larry's greatest love is his family. He has been married to Judy since 1976. They make their home in Rancho Santa Fe; and have two children: son, Jordan, granddaughter, Olivia (Jordan's daughter), and daughter, Daryn.

Roz King (1937-)



Roz King is a doer. She was born in Quincy, CA; but grew up in Oroville, CA. Always athletic, Roz was a member of the Girls Athletic Association. She played field hockey (not tennis), and was a drum majorette for Oroville High School. Roz also excelled in the classroom. She was a member of the California Scholastic Federation, and the Latin Club.

Roz received a full scholarship to the Kaiser School of Nursing and graduated in 1959 as a registered nurse.

After moving to San Diego in 1969, Roz continued her vocational education. She earned her Nurse Practitioner degree and license, as well as her bachelor's and master's degrees in 1974. Not one to rest on her laurels, Roz graduated from the Leadership Program at USC in 1995.

Roz retired in 1998 as Director of Primary Care Services at Kaiser Medical Group.

Roz finally took up tennis at age 45 with the encouragement from friends such as Virginia Glass. She credits her coach, Tad Yamaguchi (former UCSD tennis coach) for her rise in tennis. Roz says Tad, "took me from club player to world class." Later, Ben Press was instrumental in developing her potent serve.

Some highlights of Roz's late starting, but extraordinary tennis career:

- Won Gold Balls, National Clay Court Doubles.
- Won Gold Ball, Grass Court Doubles.
- Won Gold Ball, Grass Court Singles.
- Won Gold Ball, Indoor Singles.
- Won Gold Ball, Indoor Doubles.
- Wilson Friendship Cup winner; Portschach, Austria; Captain of the USA Team vs International Team.

- Winner of the European Super Senior Championship; Austria: Womens 75 Singles and Doubles.
- World Team Championship Queen's Cup winner; Villach, Austria.
- World Individual Championship winner; Villach, Austria, in 75 Singles and Doubles.
- All told, Roz has won 9 Gold Balls in Singles, 22 Gold Balls in Doubles (Women's and Mixed), a bucket full of Silver and Bronze Balls. 3 World Championships, and 5 Team Cups. Roz is still winning awards.
- City of San Diego Special Commendation, 2002 & 2012.
- Appointed by the Mayor to the San Diego Park & Recreation Board (1998 - 2012).
- Inducted into the Southern California Tennis Association, Senior Hall of Fame, 2013.
- San Diego Player of the Year, twice (2008 & 2013).
- Roz considers her "San Diego Sportsmanship Award" (1993) her highest honor.

One of Roz's most memorable matches was against 393 times Gold Ball winner (and ITA Hall of Famer), Dodo Cheney. Still a new competitor, Roz didn't know who Dodo was. All she knew was Dodo was at least 15 years her elder; and that she probably had an easy win. Roz lost that day, but learned a lot.

Off the court, Roz followed her parents' example in being community and civic minded. She served 17 years on the San Diego District Board; 20 years on Balboa Tennis Club's Board. Six years on a USTA National Committee, and is still active on its 501C3 (non-profit) Board. Roz has been Secretary/Treasurer (and its longest serving member) for the Greater San Diego City Tennis Council since its inception.

When Roz is not traveling to play tennis, she travels the US to play bridge tournaments. Roz is a Master level in the American Contract Bridge League, and in American Bridge Association tournaments. In addition, Roz has served with the San Diego Police Department's RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol).

Roz and her USTA Balls and awards collection live in Encanto. Her son, Gerald Toliver also enjoys tennis.

Geoff Griffin (1959-)



You might say tennis runs in Geoff's blood. Geoff's father, Stan, played tennis in Great Britain, and made a name for himself. In fact, Stan represented Great Britain in the Senior Davis Cup. Mother, Jo (no hack herself), achieved the number one junior girls player ranking in Canada. With genes like that, how could Geoff not be a tennis standout.

Born and raised in La Jolla, the instructors and mentors that guided

Geoff's tennis development included some of San Diego's most illustrious pros. Bob Perry, Bill Millikan, Bill Bond, and Ben Press. Geoff credits Bill Bond with inspiring him to become a professional tennis instructor. And Ben Press taught young Geoff the value of volunteering and giving back to the community.

Upon graduating from San Diego State University with a degree in Business Administration, Geoff made it his business to give back. Big Time:

- It was Geoff who founded the very inclusive *Tennis Fest*, and directed it for 18 years. Children and adults are treated to free clinics and exhibitions from San Diego's pros, as well as prizes and other entertainment. In recent years, Geoff has expanded *Tennis Fest* to include supporting charities. He added an auction. Geoff's wife, Manuela, leads a group of volunteers in making exciting gift baskets. All proceeds are donated.
- San Diego's *Wounded Warriors* holds a special place in Geoff's heart. He has been running weekly lessons for our unsung heroes for over 14 years and has no plans to stop.
- Geoff has run the *Wounded Warriors National Camp* for eight years, giving them his expertise.

- Geoff has been the *Tennis Thanks The Troops/Thanks USA* Ambassador for several years. Geoff led area pros in putting on numerous fundraisers for our troops. More than once Geoff's efforts brought in the most donations in the US. He donates his prize to a deserving wounded member of our armed forces and spouse: an all expenses paid trip to New York for the US Open.
- Additionally, Geoff has given to: *Adopt A Unit*, which sends care packages to troops overseas. And, to various Holiday gift drives for local homeless shelters.
- Geoff has served on the Greater San Diego City Tennis Council for five years and counting.
- As a member of the United States Professional Tennis Association, Geoff has served on San Diego's local board for 25 years and is still serving. He has served as both President and Vice President. Geoff is one involved guy.

Currently, busy Geoff makes the time to be the Director of Tennis at the Balboa Tennis Club. A post he has held for over three decades. He runs a staff of nine certified pros on four courts. With quality instruction and affordability as his guiding principles, Geoff has made the teaching program at the Balboa Tennis Club a tremendous success.

With family first, Geoff's father Stan and mother Jo, still put in hours at the pro shop at Morley Field. As do sister-in-law, Sunya, niece Palia and nephew Shane. Geoff's brother Chaz teaches tennis there as one of the certified pros.

Geoff says he likes his work and supporting his many causes. He also says he likes a round of golf once a week. But, he won't say his handicap. That's okay Geoff. You're still a tennis "ace."

Geoff and his wife, Manuela live in North Park.