



# Courtside Chatter

THE PLACE FOR TENNIS IN VENICE

512 N. Auburn Road, Venice, Florida 34292

Phone 941-485-2000

January 2024

Email: [Courtsidetc@gmail.com](mailto:Courtsidetc@gmail.com)

Website: <http://www.courtsidetennisclub.com>



Courtside Family Members,

I would like to introduce you to our Court Maintenance Technicians. We now have two good guys who take care of our court maintenance needs and help keep our clubhouse and grounds in good shape.

Our morning guy is Larry Deason. Larry worked with us before, then traveled extensively this past summer. He is retired, plays tennis himself, and always has a smile on his face.

Lane Meinders is our afternoon/early evening guy. Lane is in his early 30's, a jack-of-all-trades, and has a 'can do' attitude. Lane has been getting a lot of projects done for us around the property.

Both Larry and Lane are great guys, and I am excited to have them working with us at Courtside. Additionally, we will still rely on Bryan, Jonathon, Dan, and our volunteer member, Randy, to help us out when we need extra hands to complete projects.

Keeping Courtside running safely, efficiently, and aesthetically pleasing takes a lot of hard work, so I am happy that we have a good group of employees and member volunteers helping Courtside be The Place for Tennis in Venice.

Matt Liverman  
Tennis Director/Head Tennis Professional

*Happy New Year*

## News from the Board

Recently Directors have been receiving questions about memberships and if there is a plan in place to monitor new members and ensure court availability for current members.

Regarding the board's plan for membership, I want to assure you that we do have a plan in place.

November of 2022, we started seeing an increase in members due to the rumors Jacaranda Tennis Club might be closing. At our December meeting, it was discussed and voted upon to freeze memberships do to court availability and to protect our current members. As a result, we started a waiting list and stopped accepting new members and summer memberships. The plan was to only accept members who did not have more than a year break in their membership. For example, if a six-month or three-month member returned next year, we would welcome them back. However, if there was a two-year break or longer, they would have to join the waitlist and wait for an opening.

At our January meeting we saw an opportunity to increase our membership without infringing on the current members. We started offering Afternoon and Weekend membership for people on the waitlist. As you know these members can only play after 2:00 pm and on weekends. This also gave us an active list of members who wanted to be possible Full Day members when there was an opening.

To the question about uncontrolled growth, as of November 30th we have 179 memberships or 229 members, which is an increase of 22 members compared to last year. Out of these 22, 9 are Afternoon and Weekend member and 3 are short time members (week or month) who do not usually have access to scheduling prime-time slots in the morning on PlaybyPoint.

As a Full Day member leaves the Club, we fill that vacancy with someone from the Afternoon and Weekend. The only new Full Day members added to our membership have been Afternoon and Weekend members. The office staff maintains a list of members who have left and the new members who replace them. This is a check and balance to ensure that we are not increasing Full Day membership.

Some members have suggested implementing a system that limits the number of times members can play per week, per month, or even in a day. This has been an ongoing discussion item at board meetings. However, no action has been taken so far.

A member recently asked about why we didn't increase dues 20%? Our recent 10% dues increase was fair and in line with inflation and was the first dues increase in eight years. The increase was mainly to cover normal operating expenses, such as utilities up 11%, taxes up 8%, and insurance up 45%. It also helped fund our \$70,000 resurfacing of the tennis courts project. Additionally, we are in need of a new roof, which will be approximately \$40,000. The dues increase was implemented to cover these necessary projects and ensure the proper maintenance of our facilities.

Lastly, we have heard that the board should have asked the members to make some of these decisions. While we value the input of our members, conducting a survey among the 200 members would likely result in 100 different responses. As the elected representatives of the members, the board is entrusted with making these decisions on behalf of the entire Courtside community.

I hope this clears up some of those questions heard on the court. Know that your support and membership is greatly appreciated.

Have a Happy New Year and Keep enjoying the game love!

Tom Lanigan  
President

## Courtside Board of Directors

Tom Lanigan—President  
Debbie Cavness—Vice President  
Lee Scott—Treasurer  
Liz Morris—Secretary

Jim Flynn  
Sandy Murphy  
Sally Pym

*Thank  
You*

The Courtside staff would like to thank all of our members who contributed to the Employee Christmas Fund. Your generosity is beyond words. Again, thank you for this incredible gift!

*January Birthdays*

Sally Pym 8

Joe Casale 10

Rosie Greenfield 19

Nina Bouclainville 21

MO 22

Charlotte Latta 30

Judy Edmunds 31

## RAFA NADAL ACADEMY-December 11-14, 2023

For the first time this year, the Rafa Nadal Academy hosted tennis clinics in Sarasota, Florida. This occurred December 11-14, 2023 at Sarasota Sports Club. Eight Courtside members attended these clinics. These members included Christine Cully, John and Chris Wilson, Nina and Philippe Bouclainville, Liz Morris, Debbie Cavness, and Debbie's sister, Sandi Shriner. Six pros from Rafa Nadal's Academy in Mallorca, Spain were the instructors. For more details regarding our week, please feel free to ask any of the Courtside participants.

Liz Morris

## For your Information

The monthly Courtside Board of Directors Meeting Minutes is posted every month on the bulletin board next to the kitchen window marked Board Meeting Material.

Also, there is a copy of the latest Courtside rules & regulations of the club on the bulletin board as well.

## REMINDER

**Just a reminder that there is a defibrillator on the porch next to the office door in case of an emergency.**



**“Quote of the Month”**

**“Don't be pushed around by the fears in your mind. Be led by the dreams in your heart.”**

**Roy T. Bennett**



# Remember!

Tuesday—Late Bird Clinic with Ula 11:00-12:00

Wednesday— Early Bird Clinic with Matt-8:00-9:00

Wednesday—Men’s Weekly Clinic with Matt-9:00-10:00

Thursday—Shot of the Week with Ula 11:00-12:00

Call the office and reserve a spot or sign up on the bulletin board outside the office.

\$10.00 members—\$15.00 non-members

## Dates to Remember

Mark your calendar!!

January 1st-New Year’s Day  
(Office will be closed)

January 5th-Happy First of the Month Friday

January 12th—Board of Directors Meeting @1:00

January 17th-Knife Skills Class

January 20th—Snow Ball Round Robin & Lunch



## After School Junior Tennis Program will resume Tuesday, January 9th

Tuesday & Thursday  
4:00-5:30

Ages: 8 & up

\$15.00 per session per child

Sign up sheets are in the office or please call 941-485-2000 for more information.

### On-Line Reservation 8:00 am., 9:30 am., or 11:00 am

BOOK/CALL ON

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

TO PLAY ON THE FOLLOWING:

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

The on-line reservation system will now be open all year around including all holidays.

Sunday (Office is Closed)

\*Court 4 is reserved for lessons & clinics

\*Court 5—when available

\*During League Play ladies and men will use designated courts as assigned by the Director of Tennis, beginning at noon.

# Meet Your Courtside Family!

## Betsey Dale

### What brought you to Courtside?

About 4 years ago, when the Serendipity club was closing, I looked into several tennis clubs within reasonable driving distance. Courtside was within a reasonable driving distance and everyone was so friendly. It actually is the 3rd time I have been a member at Courtside. My husband and I were members about 1980 for a couple of years and then again early 1990's.

### How long have you been playing tennis and why tennis?

I have been playing tennis for about 50 years. When we were in graduate school my husband encouraged/insisted that I play with him for some relaxation and exercise. While at Serendipity, my 3.5 seniors USTA team won the Florida Sectionals in 2014 and we represented Florida at the Nationals in Arizona.

### Do you play other sports?

At the present time tennis is the only "sport" that I play, although I walk frequently and occasionally bike. We are also boaters.

### Tell us about your family.

I am the 4th child of 5 in my family. My husband is an only child. Interesting how "only children" and "one child of many" develop and have personalities reflective of that environment. We ourselves do not have any children (but have had cats and dogs).

### Where have you travelled and where would you recommend?

Coming from New England we are familiar with the northeast. Most of our travels have been out west and I really enjoy the mountains and national parks. Our favorite park is Glacier and we have been there hiking about 6-7 times. Unfortunately, as it grows in popularity it also gets busy. The first couple of trips were the best. We have also done some overseas travelling to Europe, Turkey, Greece, Africa, Australia and New Zealand. The safari in Africa was awesome!

### What did you do for a career?

We moved to Florida in 1969 and had our careers here. I was a business teacher and was department chair for 26 years in both Sarasota High and Venice High.

### What do you wish you knew more about?

I wish I knew more about everything! Especially the fields that are non-business related.

### What are some things people at Courtside don't know about you?

Most of my teammates know that I fish, and I am a pretty good "fisherwoman," or as my husband would like to say, I am a "good hooker." The largest edible fish I have caught is a 42 lb. wahoo. In the earlier days we did a lot of sailing and I guess my claim to fame would be that we sailed a 42' schooner from Bermuda to Martha's Vineyard.

### What talent do you wish you had?

In my next life I would like to be able to sing. I am AWFUL!

### What is the best thing about you?

I think of myself as being dependable, conscientious and loyal. I hope that comes forward in my dealings with individuals.



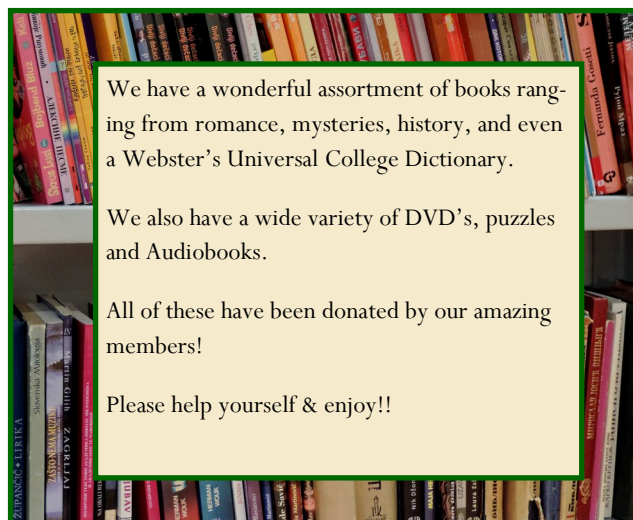
Edward & Jennifer Arbaugh

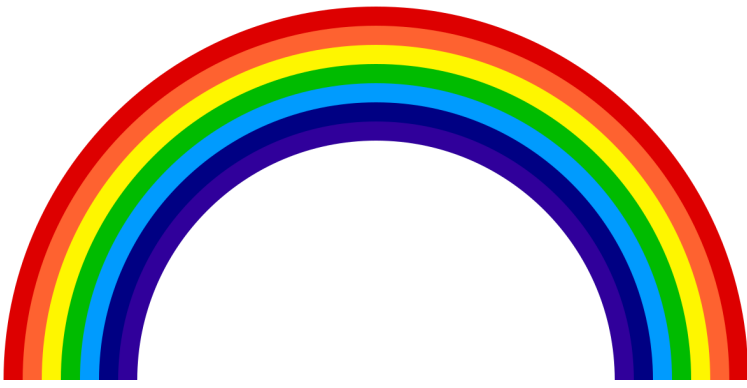
Suzanne Brosman

Sheila Engert

Sandra Shriner

## New Members Courtside's Library





## Miami Open

**March 25th-26th 2024**

Don't miss the chance to see the greatest tennis players in the world at the New Hard Rock Stadium in Miami.

Day Trip—3/25

Overnight Trip 3/25 to 3/26

Call or e-mail OFFICE ASSISTANT, Diane McDonald (941-356-9398) [DLMcdonald@gmail.com](mailto:DLMcdonald@gmail.com) to put your name on the list, 1st come, 1st serve.



### Informal Groups at Courtside

(M, T, W, Th, F) 8:00 am Contact Steve Robbins  
[venicewild@gmail.com](mailto:venicewild@gmail.com) phone: 941-416-5684

(M) 4:00 pm. Contact Kathryn Moen [kpmoen@comcast.net](mailto:kpmoen@comcast.net)

(M, T) 9:30 am 3.5 Women Contact Judy Edmunds  
[judied31@gmail.com](mailto:judied31@gmail.com) or phone/text: 518-361-1453

(M, T, Th & F) 9:30 am 3.0-3.5 Men (November to May) Contact Joe Casale [joecasale@att.net](mailto:joecasale@att.net)

(F) 9:30 am Men Contact Jim Clark  
[Clarkjm2521@gmail.com](mailto:Clarkjm2521@gmail.com) or text 224-656-3214

(T) Women 3.0 level Contact Liz Morris  
[maryelizabethmorris1@gmail.com](mailto:maryelizabethmorris1@gmail.com)

(Sun) Mixed doubles 8:00 am-social play. Contact: Frank Christman [frank.christman@verizon.net](mailto:frank.christman@verizon.net) 941-497-2904

(W) Mixed doubles 3.0 level and above, various times, all levels. Contact Steve Meyers [Stevembakes@gmail.com](mailto:Stevembakes@gmail.com)

Happy First of the Month Friday!!

January 5th-5:00 pm

“Happy Hour”

BYOB & an appetizer to share

We will be celebrating January Birthdays!

**Dessert will be provided**



### Monday Mashups



Name of Group: Monday Mashups

Date: Mondays

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Meet: Courtside near court #1

Contact: Katy Moen, if you would like to participate.

Email: [kpmoen@comcast.net](mailto:kpmoen@comcast.net)

Phone: 360-931-1490

### Want to learn the game of Mah Jongg?

Join Courtside for a fun-filled afternoon of Mah Jongg every Monday at 1:00 pm.

Willing to teach new people. Sign-up sheets are on the porch.



## Reminder

**All full-time members can pay their monthly membership dues through their bank's Bill Pay Option. Once you set that up with your bank, the bank will send a check directly to Courtside each month**