



# META Quarterly Newsletter

# Winter 2020

Mid-Eastern Tennis Association  
A Section of the American Tennis Association

## META Member Clubs

- Active Aces Super Seniors Tennis Club (AASSTC)
- Baltimore Tennis Club
- Deanwood Tennis Association
- Fort Lincoln Tennis Club
- Netmen Co-Ed Tennis Club
- S.A.F.E. of DC
- Virginia State University Men's Tennis
- Washington Tennis Association



## Happy Holidays!

We approach the end of what has been a most trying and terrific year, but we focus on things for which we are grateful. Of course, at the Top of the list is YOU! Be well and keep safe and we will see brighter days and times in 2021.

*Cheryl Sloan*  
META President

*And the people stayed home.  
And read books, and listened, and rested and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still.*

*And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.*

*And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.*

Kitty O'Meara, Author



## New META Officers Elected 2020-2021

During the December 8, 2020 META meeting, two new officers were elected for the positions of Vice President and Secretary. META Family meet your Officers for the remainder of 2020 and for 2021. The positions of President and Treasurer will be up for nomination during the 2021 Annual Meeting in June 2021.



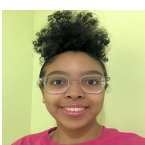
Cheryl Sloan  
President

Focusing on improvements in communication, networking and growing the game of tennis at the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia local levels.



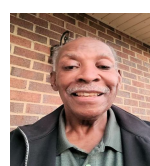
Spike Henry  
Vice President

Looking to help move META forward realizing our challenge is the involvement of youth so they can bring their energy and ideas to the table.



Natalia Thomas  
Secretary

Thank you for the opportunity to join your organization. I am excited to be working with you all and I hope I can bring a fresh perspective.



Willie Graves  
Treasurer

Standing ready to manage the financial affairs of META.



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## IN THE BEGINNING

**S.A.F.E.** was established in 1993, when DC was nicknamed “Murder Capital.” Carroll (Spyke) Henry, native Washingtonian, recognized the need for youth to have organized recreational activities after school. That is when S.A.F.E. started an educational/tennis program after school at Whittier Elementary School. Youth from known “Dope Corners” and “Crack Houses” were recruited.

At first, things were extremely challenging – until the youth took an interest in tennis and learned they could compete and have FUN with their peers – school attendance improved along with their grades. Parents, family households and caretakers, were all too excited.

**FAST FORWARD** Then it happened, something families never thought possible – the opportunity to go to college!

We have engaged over 2,500 youth and parents in activities that secured over \$1,053,540 in college scholarship funds, as well as an additional \$77,000 in private funds for our youth. Our youth have graduated from universities and colleges such as Clemson, MIT, Howard U, Lafayette, Wesleyan, Brown, Towson, East Carolina, Syracuse, UMES - (Captain Tennis Team 4 years).

## 2018

- S.A.F.E. 4 students Inducted National Honor Society – 2 HS seniors – 1 HS junior – 1 Middle School
- S.A.F.E. Student selected by the U.S. State Department to Represent the U.S. in Brazil
- S.A.F.E. Student received Tennis Scholarship (full-ride) to Allegheny College in Pennsylvania
- S.A.F.E. Student received Academic Scholarship to EMORY U in Atlanta, GA

## 2019

Established a Youth Board of Directors  
 Natalia Thomas, President  
 Unique Alston, Vice President  
 Cherish Alston, Media Representative  
 Kenneth Downing, Creative Director  
 Adam Thomas, Sports Representative

## 2020

Established a Language Learning Program with West Africa, Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire  
 S.A.F.E. & WIISE (What if I Spoke English) – we teach their 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders English – they in turn taught our kids French – via ZOOM. Tons of FUN!

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF and FOUNDER/CEO S.A.F.E., Inc., Carroll (Spyke) Henry

- PTR Certified Tennis Professional (’97-Present)
- PTR State Representative – Washington, DC (’04-Present)
- DCIAA Winningest HS Tennis Coach (Record 106-4) Wilson HS
- PTR Maryland Member of Year 2018
- Inducted, Member DMV LEGENDS Hall of Fame Class 2016
- Recipient, USTA Excellence Award 2014
- USTA National Finalist – Starfish Award Tennis Achievement & NO CUT School Policy 2009
- Washington KASTLES – HS COTY 2008
- DC Coaches – Hall of Fame Class 2007
- National Finalist – HS COTY (NHSACA) 2001 Fargo, ND – 2004 Las Vegas, NV
- Recognized on 60 Minutes with former Mayor Anthony Williams, showcasing his tennis skills and how he uses the game to relax HEAD, S.A.F.E. Tennis Coach – UNDEFEATED in Community Competition 14U (2011-Present)

## Playing Tennis in the Snow?

Well, it was a time not too long ago in Druid Hill Park in Baltimore, MD, on the old Negro tennis courts when tennis was played outdoors in the winter by a number of Black folks. Why play outdoors? They chose to play out of doors instead of indoors ... and some of the players still play outdoors and prefer outdoors in the cool winter air. Black folks were not allowed to play or could not afford to play indoors at white clubs. So at Druid Hill Park on the upper top courts we cleared the courts of snow along with a path to the courts when the sun was at its highest peak and rendered a warm 38 – 45 degrees. Clearing the courts was exercise in and of itself, and the next day when the courts were dry and that good old sun was at its highest peak and temps were in the 40s, we played tennis dressed with warm clothing and gloves.

Not too many years ago on Thanksgiving eve and Thanksgiving Day many Black players played tennis. Yes, it was a bit chilly or balmy as they say, but once again we played tennis when the sun was at its highest peak and the temperatures were above freezing. No problem!!!

Now days some of the older players have gone on to that great “tennis court in the sky,” and folks of today have knee, hip and other joint replacements. These replacements can cause issues with the cold weather so indoor play is preferred.

In my mind I can picture some of the players including: Stan Turner, Joe Hood, Caleb Queen, Al Pastuer, Sam Cousar, Ruth and Charlotte Adler, Richard Stewart, Charles Robinson, Ray Moore, Charles Brown, Ramone Matthews, Jack Jackson, and Albert Bushrod. Come to think of it, I was in that group too that played tennis in the snow!

Bob Rhodes

## AASSTC Celebrates 20 Year Anniversary in 2021

This coming year, 2021, marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of existence for the Active Aces Super Senior Tennis Club. AASSTC currently has 94 members. More than 65 are currently and actively playing tennis. Please stay tuned for updates on activities we are planning to commemorate this milestone. Take care and stay healthy...

Cornell Chappelle, AASSTC President

## Members Club Spotlight!

### Netmen Dedicates Historic Marker in Druid Hill Park to Commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Tennis Association 2017 Championships

Tennis players gathered for an historic event in Druid Hill Park, Baltimore, Maryland on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. A permanent marker was dedicated to the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Tennis Association (ATA) Championships in 2017 which had originally been played in 1917 and both played in Druid Hill Park.

Members on the program who spoke include the following:

- Val Parker, President, Netmen
- Leon F. Pinkett III, Councilman for District 7
- Cheryl Sloan, META President
- Sallie Elam, ATA Life Member
- Marion Harris, Netmen Co-Ed Tennis Club

The Championships had returned to Druid Hill Park in 2017 to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and now the permanent marker would forever serve as a reminder of both dates. What a “way to go,” for the ending activity of Baltimore based Netmen Co-Ed Tennis Club. And, that’s not all, the Netmen also made a substantial contribution in support of junior tennis to the Junior Aces program of the Washington, DC Active Aces Super Senior Tennis Club. Both of these historic and philanthropic actions signify the sense of history and dedication of support for tennis by the Netmen Club.

Also recognized with a plaque and applause from all in attendance was Val Parker who was days away from relocating to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. After Marion Harris unveiled the marker, she made the presentation of a farewell plaque and gave a heartfelt thank you to Val for her years of service as President of NetMen Co-Ed Tennis Club and as META representative on the ATA Board. What a truly significant way to end the existence of the Netmen Club – a philanthropic and historic ending.

Cheryl Sloan, META President







Photos by Cornell Chappelle.