



META Quarterly Newsletter Summer 2019

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
- The Mall Tennis Club
- Netmen Co-Ed Tennis Club
- S.A.F.E. of DC
- Tennis At Shiloh
- Tennis Champions
- Virginia State University Men's Tennis
- Washington Tennis Association

Greetings!

Welcome to the first issue of the META Quarterly Newsletter. We want to keep you informed and up-to-date with news relevant to META Clubs and their memberships.

To achieve this, we need your participation by sending in current happenings, awards, competition outcomes, upcoming events, notable facts about tennis history, pictures and the like. When one of us succeeds, we all WIN!

This issue of the newsletter is on me, but I need your input on future features and relevant news for upcoming issues. So, let's get the ball rolling and start sharing what's up on your tennis calendar.

Cheryl Sloan
META President



Celebrating the Life of Ava Lynn Fleming

Celebrating the Life & Homegoing

Ava Lynn Fleming

SUNRISE:
September 24, 1967



SUNSET:
August 20, 2019

Friday, August 30, 2019

Viewing: 10:00 a.m. - Service: 11:30 a.m.
Open Expressions: 10:20 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.
AKA Service: 10:45 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.

Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church
"The Family Church, Serving the Family of God"
7707 Allentown Road - Fort Washington, MD 20744

Rev. Dr. Grainger Browning, Jr., Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Jo Ann Browning, Co-Pastor

The support of the tennis community was evident at the *Celebration of Life for Ava Lynn Fleming*, daughter of our beloved Alice Lee.

META was well represented by the members of the Active Aces, Netmen Co-ed Club, Washington Tennis Association (WTA), Deanwood Tennis Association, and S.A.F.E. of DC all of whom I personally saw at the service along with many others from the tennis community.

Testimonials from Ava's brother, Andre Lee; nephew, Terrell Etheridge; and son RJ, were most touching as nephew Terrell and son RJ shared their personal letters written to Ava.

Kelly Jackson of WTA, spoke of her doubles partnership with Ava while friends and co-workers alike recalled her smile, her love of celebrating her birthday, her can do attitude and work ethics.

Thank you META members for representing in such a time of great sadness.

Statute Unveiling at the US Open
Althea Neale Gibson
August 25, 1927 – September 28, 2003

On Monday, August 26, 2019, Katina Adams, CEO of the USTA, hosted the unveiling of a statute of Althea Gibson.

A group of girls from the **One Love Tennis Group** in Wilmington, NC, the city Gibson called home during her high school years, helped lead the campaign to build a memorial for Gibson in Queens. The youngsters wrote letters in which they highlighted Gibson's legacy and contributions to the sport of tennis and urged the USTA Board to honor Gibson with a memorial. The granite statute is actually a bust, dedicated to Gibson created by sculptor Eric Goulter and sits outside the Arthur Ashe Stadium, which is named after the only African-American male tennis player to win the US Open and Wimbledon.



Althea Gibson, the 1957 singles winner at Forest Hills Lawn and Tennis Center broke the color barrier and won the US Nationals and went on to win 5 Grand Slam Singles titles, 5 Doubles, and 1 Mixed Doubles title. She had back to back wins at the US Nationals and Wimbledon in 1957 and 1958.



Ms. Gibson's famed career started out in the American Tennis Association (ATA) where she won the Junior Singles title in 1944 and 1945. In 1947 she won the first of 10 consecutive Singles titles at the ATA Championships. Dr. Robert Johnson became Ms. Gibson's mentor and sponsor but, 1950 was the break through as Ms. Gibson became the first African American to compete in the US Nationals Championship.

Winner

- French Open Singles and Doubles 1956
- Wimbledon Doubles 1956
- Australian Championship Doubles 1957
- Wimbledon Singles and Doubles 1957-1958
- US National Championship Singles 1957-1958 and Doubles in 1957

Other Accolades

- Professional Golfer
- First African American to earn Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Card
- Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year 1957, 1958
- First African American on *Time Magazine* cover August 26, 1957
- Cover of *Sports Illustrated* September 2, 1957
- International Tennis Hall of Fame 1971
- International Women's Sports Hall of Fame 1980

Billie Jean King helped unveil the sculpture and called Althea Gibson the Jackie Robinson of tennis.



By Sandra Diles



Members Club Spotlight!

Active Aces - Changes at the Top



Creator and Past President, Alice Lee moves on and Cornell Chappelle takes over as new Active Aces President. The DC Aces with the largest club members at 94 of which 29 are inactive, maintains their scheduled programs including twice weekly play throughout the year, World Team Tennis League, end of League picnic and awards, Blue Jacket ceremony for Octogenarians, Kids Fest Play Day, sponsors Jr. Aces to ATA National Championships, trip to the US Open for Arthur Ashe Kid Day activities and end of the year Gala celebration. There are two Aces clubs, one in DC and the other in Fredericksburg, VA.

Welcome aboard Cornell!!

Around the Citi Open 2019

Hello Tennis enthusiasts: Today on this very hot day July 30, 2019, I ventured down to DC to catch some tennis action at the CITI Open. Of course the venue has changed a bit and lots of tennis could be viewed from many angles. From the top of the stadium court you can look across and see other tennis matches in the same vicinity. I walked around the venue and enjoyed lunch which was a bit pricey but I am on tennis holiday so what the heck enjoy. Again so very hot on this day as it always is in July so I ventured to one of the indoor eating facilities while waiting to see other matches. I had very nice conversations with DC residents in attendance and other visitors from out of the area.

At one point of the day I had fond memories of the days I would drive down to the old Volvo- DC National Bank tennis tournament at the same location. Drive up to the site near the tennis courts and the attendant would direct me to park my new Volvo 240 next to other new Volvo's on display and then direct me to the Volvo tent where as a member of the Volvo Tennis League I enjoyed quite a spread of cheeses and other delights and conversation before heading to the matches nearby.

Bob Rhodes

Three Amigas at 2019 Wimbledon

We were **DETERMINED** to go to Wimbledon. When you get to London be prepared for no air conditioning and warm beer.

Can you imagine, we left for Wimbledon **WITHOUT** tickets? Some here in the States said tickets were too expensive at \$1200 to \$1400 each and also it was just too hard to get tickets. They never heard of anyone going Wimbledon **WITHOUT** tickets.

One day we waited in the queue for 4 hours and in line for tickets for 2 more hours. Success, **TICKETS!!** Some people had tents and had camped out over night. While in the queue the 3 of us met people from all over the world.

Yes indeed, we had fish and chips and enjoyed strawberries and cream. The Underground (similar to our Metro subway) was easy to negotiate and get around.

We were in the stadium when CoCo Gauff made history. The second day CoCo played, the crowd was so packed there was no standing room even on The Hill. It was a sea of people and everyone was cheering for CoCo. Everyone was crammed together and event officials kept moving people off the steps, but finally just gave up.

The Three Amigas are looking forward to going back with a group of friends and **WITH TICKETS** next time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

▪ Saturday, September 28, 2019

WTA 55 and Over Picnic/Awards

12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.

14th and Kennedy Streets NW

Washington, DC

▪ Sunday, October 8, 2019

META Meeting

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

16th and Kennedy Streets NW

Washington, DC

▪ Tuesday, December 10, 2019

AASSTC Annual Gala

7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Camelot by Martin's

13905 Central Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD

▪ Saturday, November 2, 2019

META Tennis Party

6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Fairland Tennis Bubble

Laurel, MD