



META Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2021

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

META Member Clubs

- **Active Aces Super Senior Tennis Club**
David I. Merriwether, President
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- **Baltimore Tennis Club**
Royce E. Jones, President
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- **Deanwood Tennis Association**
Cheryl Sloan, President
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- **Fort Lincoln Tennis Club**
Karen Taylor, President
- **S.A.F.E.**
Spyke Henry, President
- **Tennis at Shiloh**
James Janifer, President
- **The Mall Tennis Club**
Ollen Dupree, President
- **Washington Tennis Association**
Stephanie Marshall, President
- **Washington Tennis and Education Foundation**
John Borden, President and CEO

Dear META Family,

Businesses, churches, gyms, beaches, parks and schools are re-opening. We are finally turning the corner on the Covid-19 virus and beginning to slowly return to some sense of what we call "normal." But we are not there yet so I take this time to encourage you or someone you know to please get the vaccine.

I live in Montgomery County and our vaccination numbers are looking good -- nearly 75 percent of residents ages 12 and older are vaccinated and more than 90 percent of residents over 65 are vaccinated. I can only hope those numbers continue to grow.

Please take the shot and protect those around you like loved ones, neighbors and other people you are around and allow *all of us to unmask*. If you or someone you know wants to be vaccinated here are some resources to provide assistance:

- coronavirus.maryland.gov/ 888/932-0511
- coronavirus.dc.gov/page/get-vaccinated 855/363-0333
- vaccinate.virginia.gov 877/829-4682

We are not out of the woods yet. Get the shot so you are protected and can help stop the spread of variants of the virus. Be well, be safe, practice social distancing and mask up where required.

Best Wishes,
Cheryl Sloan
META President



HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY ACTIVE ACES

An interview with Alice Lee founder of the Active Aces Super Senior Tennis Club and Cornell Chappelle second President of the club by Cheryl Sloan, META President.

Cheryl Sloan: Hello Alice! I cannot believe this is the 20th Anniversary of the Active Aces.



***Alice Lee:** Cannot believe it myself. Time flies when you are having a good time. It's been an exciting journey along the way because of the people who started with me and who stayed with me and those who joined along the way.*

Cheryl Sloan: You started with 25 seniors over the age of 65 and now the membership has reached 100 with 60 active members making it the largest META club in the DMV. What do you think led to the success?

***Alice Lee:** I think because seniors when they retire want to have something to do with their time and with people of the same age group. This club provided that opportunity. Also, folks who were not able to play all the time or were injured could still come out to the tennis court and sit around and talk and enjoy the camaraderie.*

Cheryl Sloan: So the name of the club became the Active Aces Super Senior Tennis Club and that's a mouthful. The name was shortened to Active Aces or Aces. What programs does the Active Aces offer?

Alice Lee: *Ok, we have 5 signature programs: Our first program in the first three months of the year is called the **Octogenarian Hall of Fame** for those who have reached the "ripe young age of 80" and is usually held in April. We have a luncheon, invite family and friends, roast the inductee and show a video on the overview of their life. The inductee is presented with a Blue Jacket and a proclamation that salutes the day, verifies year of age, membership in Active Aces and inducts them into the **Octogenarian Hall of Fame**.*

*Next, we attend a **Senior Retreat** in June. We travel to Sweetbriar College in Lynchburg, VA for a four day tennis camp. They offer special drills geared to seniors and in the beginning, Dennis Van Der Meer was the visiting instructor. One thing the seniors looked forward to was the great meals specially prepared by a local chef with most of the vegetables coming from the college garden. Another site we visit is Split Rock in the Poconos in Pennsylvania often attended by spouses.*

*The **Super Senior Tournament**, a one of its kind in the DMV, was successful for ten years until tournaments were no longer popular. In its place, **Aces Team Tennis** was started and used the rules of World Team Tennis for a six week period.*

***Intergenerational Play Day** partnered a junior with a senior as doubles partners for an entire day. It uses a Round Robin format with prizes for first place. The event always ends with a picnic.*

*Active Aces ends the year with an **Evening of Elegance** where tennis players and friends dressed to the nines for a formal dinner dance. There is always live music and awards like the President's Award and AASSTC Service Award.*

Cheryl Sloan: Does the Active Aces Club support junior players?

Alice Lee: *The **Granny Clinic** first started with a day to bring the grandkids to play and later expanded the program to include kids from ages 6-18. This turned into the Junior Aces Program. Now, the program is recognized nationally as an NJTL Chapter (National Junior Tennis and Learning) originally started by Arthur Ashe. Besides providing tennis lessons and educational components like the Annual Arthur Ashe Essay contest, the young tennis players also travel to the ATA Championships to compete and visit the US Open on Arthur Ashe Kids Day.*

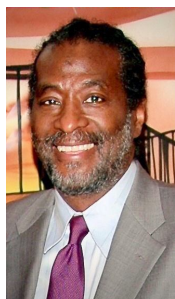
Cheryl Sloan: What is your current role and what about the recognitions you have received along the way?

Alice Lee: *Since I retired and left running the Active Aces to others my present title is CEO/President Emeritus, a de facto position, and I am happy as an observer from the sidelines who attends meetings. Let me say that these awards were given to me but there is no way I could have accomplished all these things without the support and cooperation of chair persons plus the expertise and resources of special club members. Among the awards my proudest recognition came from being nationally selected as **Volunteer of the Year** by the USTA among other awards received to date.*



PART II OF INTERVIEW

Cheryl Sloan: Imagine being the second President of a 20 year old club. How did that happen?



Cornell: *I was already a member of the Aces Board when the founder and President, Alice Lee, wanted to retire. Then I was voted into office by the Board to step into the role of President and ensure the continuation of the organization.*

Cheryl Sloan: What affect did COVID-19 have on the Aces activities?

Cornell: *COVID-19 had a drastic affect on both outdoor and indoor play. Due to COVID-19 the outdoor season closed from March 2020 to the last part of June 2020 due to the direction of DC Department of Parks and Recreation. We went indoors September 2020 to April 2021 under restrictions from Maryland National Capitol Parks and Planning and the State of Maryland as it related to indoor activity. Such restrictions limited the number of people playing and mandated masks were worn plus a court schedule had to be maintained. All in all, it went very well with no cases of COVID-19 infections.*

Cheryl Sloan: Congratulations! I understand your NJTL youth program received a grant? Tell me about it.

Cornell: Thank you and yes the Aces received a \$7,500 grant from the USTA for our NJTL youth program where we conducted a 10-week program for 10 youth. Two youth were selected to participate from each age group with a focus on staying connected and in touch with youth during the pandemic while also maintaining their interest in tennis.

Laptops were purchased for each youth and coaches developed a separate curriculum for each age group to match skill levels through the use of Next Generation by USTA. This program turned out to be a success for parents, youth and coaches. Weekly meetings via Zoom were used to monitor progress, maintain interest in tennis and grow their skills. With the lifting of the COVID-19 restrictions outdoor activities for youth has resumed at Flowers High School on Saturdays. All in all despite the difficulty and nature of the pandemic the Aces were able to play indoors and successfully return to outdoor play with ample participation.



WIISE Program

by Natalia Thomas



Since 2020, S.A.F.E. has partnered with the WIISE Program which stands for What If I Spoke English? WIISE is a language learning program in Côte d'Ivoire or Ivory Coast, a country in West Africa. The country's official language is French however in order to obtain employment, proficiency in English is necessary.

WIISE is comprised of students who range from elementary school level to college level. The youth involved with S.A.F.E. conduct Zoom calls with WIISE students. During these calls they learn about each other's culture. Additionally, WIISE students are able to practice their English skills including how to correctly pronounce words in English with an American accent.

Spyke Henry President of S.A.F.E. Attends Global Conference

"IT'S MY GAME II"

HELLO TEAM!

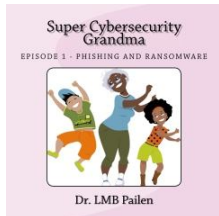
As your Professional Tennis Registry State Representative to Washington, DC, I want you to know that on May 20th - 24th 2021, I participated in the second Global Kids Tennis Conference titled, "It's My Game II" hosted by EVOLVE9 with Mike Barrell (UK) and the Professional Tennis Registry (US).

It was a truly rewarding virtual experience hosted by world experts over four days to focus on four new themes. As you can imagine I met coaches from all over the globe sharing ideas and techniques and learning quite a bit. The conference included networking through locker rooms, live chat events and discussion boards. It was an opportunity to connect, learn and develop with a truly global set of coaches and presenters. FUN was the magic word! STAY WELL!

PEACE & BLESSINGS!

Spyke Henry, President of S.A.F.E.

Notable Books in Review

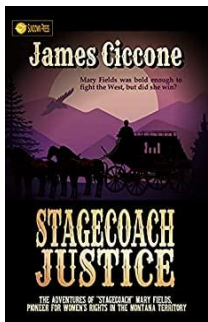


By Dr. Loyce Pailen

Adventures of Super Cybersecurity Grandma is an amazing story about Jastin and his Super Cybersecurity Grandma working through the problems of being online and staying safe. The series is now on episode six with the next episode's subject on bitcoins. META's very own Dr. Loyce Pailen is the author and she started with episode one back in 2016.

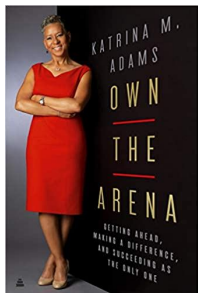
List of books include:

1. Phishing and Ransomware
2. Cyber Bullying
3. Internet of Things
4. Privacy and Identity Theft
5. Cybersecurity Career Day
6. Clouds versus The Cloud



By James Ciccone

James Ciccone, long time trial lawyer and former *pro bono* attorney for the American Tennis Association has turned novelist. His books are in the genre of fictionalized westerns as Ciccone has tapped into his great imagination in writing "*A Good Day to Die*" and "*Stagecoach Justice*." Just released in June 2021 Stagecoach Justice features Mary Fields who tells the story of how she lived and died – "and brought my own brand of Stagecoach Justice to the wild Montana Territory. I was born into slavery but I'm a free woman now – and when I say "free" I mean it in every sense of the word. I do what I want – I smoke cigars, drink whiskey and fight better than any man in Montana Territory white or colored."



By Katrina Adams

As the first Black and the youngest person to ever serve as CEO and President of the USTA, Katrina Adams writes about her time as its leader in her book, ***Own the Arena***. Katrina writes, "*I had a lot of pressure being the 'first.' Being the first former player, the first African American and the youngest. All eyes were on me as I would likely be scrutinized more because it was unfamiliar territory for those around me. I had to be extra knowledgeable of decisions and how I represented the organization especially being black. We have always had to work twice as hard to get recognition for our accomplishments.*" She doesn't hold back – when whites would comment after her speech, '*What a great speech. You were so articulate.*' Adams wrote "*she did not perceive this as a compliment nor do other black people. Why wouldn't I be able to express my views clearly? Why wouldn't I give a thoughtful and informative delivery of my views? Is this a statement you make to your white friends? I think not.*"



Hat's Off ...

Active Aces National Junior Tennis and Learning Club (NJTL) received a \$7,500 USTA grant to engage with youth during the shut down caused by the Pandemic. Ten juniors from different age groups were supplied laptops and coaches followed a USTA curriculum to interact with juniors and keep them engaged in tennis related activities and skills. The concept of NJTL was originated by the late Arthur Ashe.

Hat's Off ... *continued*

Recently, Wolf Park Tennis Association coach, Ed Amos, from the Columbus, OH area was featured on a local Columbus television station spotlighting his 23 years as Senior Coach for juniors. As part of the Back History month celebration each year Wolf Park focuses on exhibits that feature the history of tennis. Recently, 28 tennis students made the honor roll and were awarded certificates and they in turn participated in a rose presentation ceremony to thank their parents and supporters.



Registration is now open for our National Championships
<https://www.yourata.org>

THE ATA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

We are looking forward to reconnecting and meeting with our ATA friends, family and tennis enthusiasts. Seeing everyone after this past year truly means a lot.

Please visit our tournament page for up-to-date information. We will continue to add information as we approach our Championships.

August 3-12, 2021

Orlando, FL

#PlayATA2021

Juniors

August 3 - August 7

NEW this year, we are offering three Junior Events

- 10U Junior Circuit Sanctioned
- 12U-18U Junior Level 5 Open
- 12U-18U Unsanctioned Junior Tournament (our regular event)

Hotels

Three Options:

Host Hotel: Embassy Suites

Juniors Hotel: Courtyard Orlando

Alternate: Residence Inn Orlando

Adults

August 7 - August 12

- 18 & Over Men's & Women's Open > \$1000 First & \$500 Second Price
- NTRP: Men's & Women's 3.0; 3.5, 4.0
- Adult Tournament: Men's & Women's 30 & Over - 90 & Over