

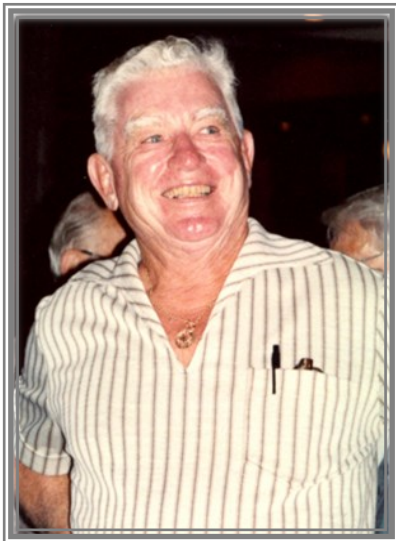


# Center Court

MAY 2013

## Jack Grace Biography

by daughter Paula Grace and Cathy Hullman



1925-2012

Jack was born in New Jersey in 1925. According to his family, he led a full life. Jack graduated from West Point in 1946 and then received his Masters Degree from MIT. After his tour in Korea, Jack spent many years working in the Aerospace Engineering field. This career took him and his family to England, and upon their return, the family settled in Southern California. Jack moved on to real estate ventures, and in many ways he was ahead of his time.

Over the years, Jack enjoyed camping with family and friends, fishing in both the harbor and ocean around San Diego, water skiing, snow skiing, and most of all, tennis. Jack and Cathy Hullman spent many wonderful years as members of the Balboa Tennis Club. This is a man who worked hard and played even harder. He will be greatly missed.

\*Jack Grace so kindly left 2% of his estate to Balboa Tennis Club. A special thank you to Jack and his family for remembering the Club.

### Estate Planning - Tennis Legacy for BTC

Leave a wonderful tennis legacy in your name, like Jack Grace did, that will significantly help carry forward the BTC tradition of service to the tennis community. You can arrange a bequest in your will or trust. You could also make BTC the beneficiary of an insurance policy, an IRA or a bank account. For additional information, call the Club Director, Colleen Clery Ferrell at 619-295-4242.

## New Entryway to Balboa Tennis Club

### what's inside...

#### ARTICLES

President's Court Chatter	2
Director's Report	2
Meet the New Pro, Eduardo Afini	3
Geoff Griffin, More Accolades	4
John Flowers, Player with Passion	4
Lam Le, Lessons for Players	5
GSDCTC, Renovation Ceremony	5
Jason Hom, Sportsman of the Year	6
League Team Winners	6
St. Augustine Tennis Team	7
Calendar of Events	8
BTC Spring Tournament Results	8



The new entryway to the club, completed in January, was a great improvement to the overall look of Balboa. A big thanks to all who contributed to the project.

## The President's Court Chatter

*By Dwight Van Slyke*



The Club Remodeling Project, which is essentially the money generously donated by the Belinsky family, is beginning in stages. Now that the new carpet has been installed, a remodel is taking place until we receive approval from the City to proceed with construction. We are hoping to get new furniture in the Clubhouse prior to the start of the tournament season.

BTC Board Member Janene Christopher, who just happens to be a very successful architect with some very prestigious projects under her belt, has prepared a power point presentation that will be presented to the San Diego Park & Recreation Department for approval. This presentation will outline all of the future club projects that we intend to complete; first and foremost the remodel of the clubhouse and fencing in the central courtyard. The members will receive a link in the Club Update to this power point presentation and printed copies will be posted or displayed in the clubhouse. We'll keep you informed every step along the way.

## The Director's Report

*By Colleen Ferrell*



Thank you to all members and friends who supported the Donor Brick Project. Phase one of the project has been successfully completed and we will be soon moving forward to the next step of development. Congratulations to BTC Board Member Dan Hays, who conceptualized the project as well as many of the landscaping enhancements around the club. In conjunction with President Dwight Van Slyke, these two men have used their creative eyes of imagination, along with concise planning to receive Board approval and have transformed BTC into a beautifully manicured tennis facility.

Thanks also to BTC member Kay Davies and her helpers' Roger Hernandez and Lynn Beerle. This group has been vigilant about keeping up the plant beds around the club. BTC is fortunate to have so many generous friends helping out in many ways all year round.

We hope everyone likes the new carpet in the Clubhouse. BTC Vice President Peter Conneely and fellow Board Member Pat Mason aggressively shopped the San Diego area to come up with the "perfect" pattern, color and durability. In moving forward, new furniture will temporarily complete the upgrade until the City grants the Club approval to begin renovation construction.

Finally, when the City bestows their blessing upon us, the Club will fulfill their obligation to the Belinsky family and complete their requests for upgraded restrooms, locker rooms, clubhouse and permanent tennis center. The transformation for Balboa Tennis Club continues to be a journey, not a destination. Thanks to all the members for your support along the way.



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San Diego, Calif. 92104  
619-295-9278  
[www.balboatennis.com](http://www.balboatennis.com)

**President**  
Dwight Van Slyke

**Vice President**  
Peter Conneely

**Treasurer**  
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**Secretary**  
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Gregg Ward

**Director**  
Colleen Clery Ferrell

**Tennis Director**  
Geoff Griffin

**Reservations & Info..... 619-295-9278**

**Director's Office..... 619-295-4242**

**Pro Shop..... 619-291-5248**

**Babycakes..... 619-220-4990**

**Club hours of operation:**

**Monday - Friday 8am – 9pm**

**Saturday & Sunday 8am – 8pm**



## Meet the New Pro – Eduardo Afini



Originally from Brazil, Eduardo recently moved from Florida to fulfill a long time dream of living in Southern California. He played College Tennis for Hampton University, in Virginia and graduated with a degree in Marketing. As a top collegiate tennis player, Eduardo was a finalist twice in the NCAA Div. II National Team Championships. After college, he played professionally at various Satellite and Challenger events.

Eduardo is USPTA certified, with over 15 years of experience coaching all levels and ages, in the United States and abroad. On the junior level, he worked with the development of young players aiming to take tennis seriously and possibly pursuing high school and college tennis careers. Eduardo has worked with league players of all levels to maximize their potentials through private and small group dynamic lessons, focusing on work skills and fitness.

On the professional level, he worked with players beginning their careers on the circuit. Last year, at the Farmers Classic in LA, Eduardo coached the former number one college player from UC Berkeley, Pedro Zerbini, who is starting a promising professional career.

Eduardo is very excited about his opportunity at Balboa Tennis Club. This is the first time after all these years of coaching that he has worked at a facility with so many high level club players. “The high spirited group of people that I have met so far and the strong tennis environment is really impressive and motivating for a coach to be part of. I hope to bring to the students the best possible tennis experience on the technical, strategic and workout levels, helping them achieve their personal goals, whatever they may be.”

The small group clinics Eduardo is promoting, in addition to his private lessons, are for up to four players on the court. These clinics are a dynamic approach to both singles and doubles, where players take advantage of the small ratio to develop their skills and strategies through intense workout drills with specific point playing situations. They are the perfect option for those who want to improve their games and also break a nice sweat on the tennis court! The small number of players on the court also allows for individual attention from the coach to each player.

The sessions are 1 hour long and the prices are:

- \* 2 players on the court: \$35.00 per player
- \* 3 players on the court: \$25.00 per player
- \* 4 players on the court: \$20.00 per player

Students can contact Eduardo Afini at 305-345-6061 or email: [eduardo@afinitennis.com](mailto:eduardo@afinitennis.com).

# BALBOA TENNIS CLUB MEMBERS

FOOD, DRINK & SWEETS

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Spring is here and Summer is near! Babycakes will be evolving in 2013 introducing Smoothies, Espresso, Cappuccino, and other Frozen Coffee concoctions. They will be extending to YOU as a Balboa Tennis Club member a DISCOUNT CARD that you can use EVERY time you visit. And the cherry on top is that you can use the DISCOUNT CARD at the Hillcrest location as well! The cards will be available in May 2013 and ready for pick up at the reservation desk.....Stay tuned...

## **More Accolades for Tennis Director Geoff Griffin**

After years of volunteering to help underprivileged children, needy adults, Wounded Warriors and any event possibly connected with the tennis community, our BTC Tennis Director Geoff Griffin has finally reached the pinnacle of recognition. First off, Geoff received the Pro of the Year Award from the San Diego District Tennis Association at the Annual Banquet in January. This is the second time Geoff has received this award in his 23 years at Balboa Tennis Club.

Recently, the USTA chose Geoff as one of three finalists for the U.S. Olympic Committee Volunteer



Left to right: Geoff Griffin, Karen Ronney and Conan Lorenzo

Coach of the Year Award. Each year, in conjunction with the United States Olympic Committee, the United States Tennis Association (USTA) participates in the USOC Coach of the Year Awards Program. The goals of the program are to help elevate the status of coaching as a profession and to reward and recognize the very best coaches in the United States. Congratulations Geoff on receiving this special recognition. Geoff and wife Manuela will be flown to Colorado Springs on June 21st to attend the awards banquet. Balboa Tennis Club is very proud of all your accomplishments.

## **John Flowers - Player with Passion**



Former BTC President and current member John Flowers plays tennis six days a week with passion and pleasure. As a highly ranked player in the Men's 60 division, Flowers makes sure his body can withstand the amount of hours he competes with one well known ingredient – stretching. "I have avoided major injury from following a stretching routine after I play," he says. To his credit, loosening up the limbs after playing has allowed Flowers to regularly play and compete at a very high level.

As a native of the Midwest, Flowers competed four years on the basketball team, yet also played on the tennis team at Illinois Wesleyan College, which is located in Bloomington. He graduated in 1975 and eventually moved to Chicago in 1978 to work at the Board of Trade. Flowers regularly competed in Open tournaments during a six year stint in the Chicago area and was ranked as high as #3 in the Midwest division, which included Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin players.

In 1983, Flowers decided to take his game west to San Diego because he grew tired of the Chicago weather. He started playing the Men's Open division as a 30 year old and continued to compete for years. He achieved a personal high ranking in the 50 division as #3 player in Southern California and #1 in San Diego. Most recently at the Babolat tournament in Mission Hills, Flowers and partner Roland Rhone were finalists, eventually losing to last year's National Hard Court champions.

Flower's style of play as a baseliner is to move his opponents around and work the point. He is completely self taught and gives credit to the Tennis Channel for his continued improvement. His favorite player is Roger Federer, whom he studies and emulates his footwork as well as his one handed slice which is Flower's trademark shot. "I want to play forever," he says. So far the stretching routine is working to keep Flowers on the court and playing regularly at the game he loves.



## Sergeant Lam Le's Lesson for All Tennis Players



The BTC Spring Tournament finished up last week with a strong field of participants in every division. As in any competition, there were winners and losers in every match, yet not many players as thrilled to be on the court competing as Sergeant Lam Le. This August will mark the third year of United States Marine Corps veteran's fight against bone cancer. Despite all the challenges that have come his way, Sergeant Le continues to put a smile on his face and project a warm and positive attitude toward life – one that inspires everyone around him.

Le lost his leg to Osteosarcoma, which is defined by an aggressive, malignant growth within the inner bone, while on active duty in 2010. The diagnosis came as a shock, as there was no one on either side of his family who had such a history. At the time, and ever since, Le has refused to let his illness and subsequent amputation, take precedent over his active lifestyle.

Initially unsure of the boundaries and capabilities of his prosthetic leg and the condition of his overall health, Le began slowly. He started participating in the free, adaptive tennis clinics run by the San Diego District Tennis Association and the Balboa Tennis Club for wounded, ill and injured patients from Naval Medical Center San Diego. But soon, the twice-monthly clinics were not enough for him, and he progressed to playing several hours a day, now playing four days a week.

"I credit the Bwap Program and Spike Lowndes for developing my strokes at BTC," says Sergeant Le, BTC's very affable member who works regularly with the Wounded Warrior Program. Spike devoted extra time to work with Lam Le to develop his strokes. In Spike's words, "Lam is an outstanding young man with a great attitude."

Sergeant Le has come a long way from when he first stepped on the court two years ago. As a result of playing tennis, he has achieved a healthy weight, increased his strength, improved his mobility and now has excellent cardiovascular fitness for someone who has undergone multiple lung surgeries, also a product of the Osteosarcoma. Sergeant Le has also adopted a healthy attitude toward his tennis game and the game of life. As competitors, all players need to recognize the pure joy of playing tennis and competing instead of the end result. Sergeant Le is a great role model for every tennis player to emulate.

"I want to keep getting better overall in tennis," he says. "I like the exercise and the competition. I have higher hopes of success, yet for a first tournament, I had fun."

### GSDCTC with Basketball Great, Bill Walton



L to R: Tom O'Brien, Roz King, Ben Press, Bill Walton, Fred Circo, Dave Gill

The Greater San Diego City Tennis Council (GSDCTC) invites members of the Balboa Tennis Club to a ribbon-cutting ceremony, at Roosevelt Middle School, to celebrate the Grand Opening of the recently completed tennis and basketball court renovation project. Please RSVP to 619-546-3378 if you will be attending. The event will be held Friday, May 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. (rain or shine) at 3366 Park Blvd., San Diego, CA 92103.

## Sportsman of the Year 2013, Jason Hom

Congratulations to BTC Member Jason Hom on receiving the Sportsman of the Year Award at the San Diego District Tennis Association Banquet. You can see why Jason was chosen for this most deserving award. Here is Jason's story regarding his time as a member at BTC.

"From what I recall, I have been playing at Balboa for about 10 years. I don't remember when I first joined, but most likely between 2002 and 2004. When I joined, I was able to get in the WTT league and played ever since. I have also played in USTA leagues as well. I did however, split my league participation between Balboa and Coronado. Prior to joining Balboa I had met a few players from Coronado where I began in the 3.5 USTA leagues.

For me, Balboa is a great facility. Not only are there plenty of courts, but also many players of all levels. When I first was getting back into tennis, I was searching for a place to play and meet players. My search brought me to Balboa. I dropped by one day and looked around, and noticed the Challenge Court. It was the only place I could find where I can go to a club with no tennis scheduled and pick up a match. I think to me that was the biggest benefit. As for the Ultimate Challenge on Saturdays, I was trying to improve at the time so I can be good enough to play on it. The tennis was very fun to watch.

But above all else, with all of the leagues I have played and on the Challenge Courts, I have met so many nice tennis players and people. Now all of my good friends are the same tennis players I have played with for the past six to eight years. I think my tennis friends (and family) are the ones with the most influence on me. They were the ones who reinforced that tennis is more about fun than winning.



## A Freezing National Team Experience in Chattanooga

*By Captain Debbie Fitzgerald*



The USTA National Senior Mixed Invitational was held March 22-24, 2013. Eight regions competed for the bid in the Southern California Sectionals at Long Beach and Balboa Bombers lost in the finals by a 10-point tie-breaker. The San Fernando Valley team had to pull out of the Nationals, and our Balboa 8.0 Senior Mixed Team was invited to attend the event in Chattanooga, TN.

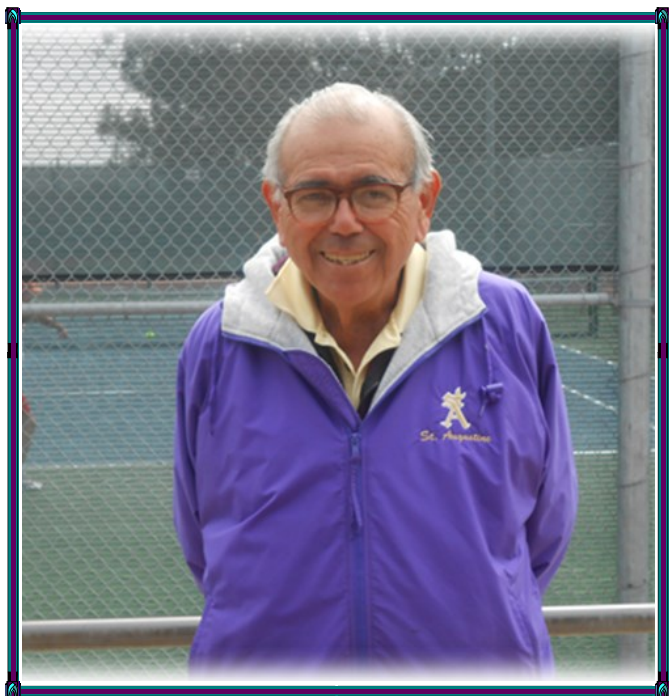
This Balboa team that advanced from a very competitive San Diego Section included Captain, Debbie Fitzgerald and Beatriz Vega, Jane Pulliam, Rory Tarantino, Teri Howard, Kathy Culver, Al Alagata, Craig Macdonald, Jack Autry, Gary Evans, Mark Bauer and Sid Williams. Only six were able to make the weekend trip to Chattanooga, where the weather was unpredictable, at best. The forecast was for rain but remained dry the first

day of play and a balmy 48 degrees. On Friday evening there was a Player's Party on the Southern Belle river boat, where some southern cooking was highlighted followed by a river cruise. Rain hampered the second day and forced the tournament indoors, with abbreviated "no-ad" match play. Our Bombers were undefeated the first two matches with Middle States (NJ) and Mid-Atlantic (VA), then ended their tournament with a 10-8 second set tie-break to eventual National Champions from the Southwest (PHX). Of note were the New Jersey and Virginia teams cheering for our Bombers as the final match-up was hard fought. Balboa Tennis Club was well-represented.



## Saints and Balboa Tennis Club at Morley Field: A Longstanding Relationship

*By Ruben Carriedo*



Ruben Carriedo

St. Augustine is an all-boys Catholic high school founded in 1922 by the priests and brothers of the Augustinian Order. Located in North Park on Bancroft Street, only a stone's throw from Morley Field, the school has maintained a close relationship with the Balboa Tennis Club (once referred to as Morley Field before its merger with the BTC). The Saints tennis team has used the courts as its "home" site for practices and matches since the 1940s.

Over the seven decades, Saints has fielded competitive tennis teams, winning or competing for local league and California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) titles, the first coming in 1960 for Champions of the Eastern League. Many local, regional, and national junior champions are Saints alumni, winning titles at the most prestigious junior tournaments, including the National Boys Championships at Kalamazoo, Michigan, the Southern California Tennis Association Championships in Los Angeles, and the Harper Ink Championships in San Diego. These former champions include Franklin Johnson, Jack Movido, Billy Jack, Marcos Carriedo, Carlos Carriedo, Ignacio Martinez, and Walter Redondo among others.

Probably two of the most notable Saints alumni who gained national tennis recognition are Franklin Johnson and Walter Redondo. Johnson, who graduated from St. Augustine in 1955, won the national and Southern California Junior Boys Doubles Championships, the Harper Ink Championships six times, and served as the captain of the UCLA tennis team while also being named a collegiate All-American. He later served as President of the United States Tennis Association (USTA), the leading tennis official in this country. Redondo, who attended St. Augustine in the 1980s, won the Harper Ink and Southern California Championships in his age group for several consecutive years. He also won the National Junior Boys Championships at Kalamazoo.

Many of the Saints tennis alumni continue to play at the Balboa Tennis Club at Morley Field, never having left their "home" tennis site. Ruben Carriedo, the current head tennis coach at Saints and an active alumnus is a member of the Balboa Tennis Club Board of Directors. He first began to play tennis in the early 1950s at Morley along with his two brothers Marcos and Carlos who now assist the Saints tennis team as volunteer coaches.

Today's squad continues to carry the Saints tradition of fielding competitive tennis teams and top scholars. Last year, the team enjoyed its best season in over 20 years when it won 18 dual matches in a very tough league that includes La Jolla, Cathedral Catholic, and Coronado high schools. Captains from the last two years earned scholarships and acceptance to Stanford University, and other recent graduating seniors have gone on to Duke, Johns Hopkins, UCLA, and other elite academic institutions.

The Saints tennis squad practices on the bottom six courts at the Balboa Tennis Club during the season and welcomes club members to stop by and cheer them on during dual matches. The St. Augustine Tennis Team winds up the 2013 season with the CIF championships in May.

**MAY 2013**

# Calendar of Events

<b>May</b>		
5	Tennis Fest	12 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.
21	BTC Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
<b>June</b>		
1	Free Tennis Clinic	3:00 p.m.
3-9	National Open Hard Court Championships	
11-15	Wounded Warrior Tennis Camp	
18	BTC Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
<b>July</b>		
5-7	SDTF Championships	
12-14	K&W Junior Tournament	
16	BTC Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
19-21, 26-28	Balboa Open Tournament	
22-26	Balboa Junior Tournament	
<b>August</b>		
10	Free Tennis Clinic	3:00 p.m.
20	BTC Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
23-25, 31-Sept. 2	San Diego District Tournament	

## Balboa Tennis Club Spring Tournament Results

NTRP Men's 3.5 Singles – Ortiz def. Gilfillan 6-1, 6-1  
NTRP Men's 4.5 Singles – Dayani def. Jackson 6-4, 6-3  
NTRP Men's 5.5 Singles – Filipovich def. Ortuno 3-6, 6-1, 2-1 ret.  
NTRP Women's 3.5 Singles – Lacey def. L West 6-1, 6-0  
NTRP Women's 4.5 Singles – Van Doren def. Pulliam 6-1, 6-2  
NTRP Men's 3.5 Doubles – Jones/Jones def. Arias/Pangburn 6-0, 6-1  
NTRP Women's 3.5 Doubles – Ferrell /Loucks def. West/West 6-3, 6-2  
NTRP Women's 4.5 Doubles – Pulliam/Rose def. Driver/Harriman 6-1, 6-0  
NTRP Mixed 3.5 Doubles – Linke/Pearcy def. Carey/Craig 4-6, 7-5, 6-1  
NTRP Mixed 4.5 Doubles – Howell/Rodriguez def. Christopher/Contreras 7-6, 6-2



Teo Ortuno and Francis Filipovich