

THE COURT REPORTER

Newsletter of the Walnut Creek Racquet Club

December 2025



Long time WCRC member and board member Sally Krapf keeps her eye on the ball.

Last month, Sally started her new adventure in Florida. We miss her already so much!



Walnut Creek Racquet Club

P.O. Box 4574 • Walnut Creek, CA 94596
(925) 945-0105 • www.wcrc.net



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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy December

Hi everyone!

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving holiday with friends, family, and of course, food!

Now that we've stuffed ourselves with turkey (or prime rib in my case), it's time to shed off those extra pounds once again, and what better way to do that than to get back on the courts.



Garvin Tom
2025 WCRC President

In this issue, I have some announcements to make.

First, as the WCRC doubles league coordinator, I am moving Winter Doubles over to the summer, so we will be having a **Summer Doubles league** instead. This is to take advantage of the slow time of year for USTA tennis since there will only be 40+ mixed going on during a good part of the season. This will also give our under-40 crowd something to do tennis-wise. The league will start in May and end with the league tournament in September. Thank you to Kayla Baier for the suggestion.

Second, I would like to wish the best of luck to my good friend and former president, **Sally Krapf**. (Check out the cover photo as well as more photos of Sally on pages 7-9). If you haven't heard already, she moved out to Florida last month to be closer to family. I know we miss her already, but she'll be traveling back to the Bay Area from time to time for work, so I'm sure we will see her again soon. I can't wait!

Finally, this was originally going to be my last President's message as I'm reaching the end of my third and final year as President. But since we haven't found another sucker volunteer to take over, I'm sticking around for a fourth year. Lucky you guys, huh? And I promise more pet peeves are coming!

See you on the courts!

Garvin Tom

M EMBERSHIP

Welcome to Our **10 New Members**
Current Membership: **1,134**

Vitaliy Belevich	Walnut Creek	2.5
Nathaniel Calachan	Walnut Creek	NA
Mina Chang	Orinda	2.5
Adriana Ciarnuto	San Ramon	4.5
Betsy Kemp	Concord	3.5
Tom Kring	Concord	3.0
Pete Palmer	Alamo	4.5
Sharon Sintchak	Moraga	3.5
Mila Veber	Alamo	2.5
Yuri Veber	Alamo	3.5



Membership questions contact:
Pam Maloney at 925-787-3970 or
email at: pam4tenis@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERSHIP RAFFLE

Each month a random draw
will pick a WCRC member's
name to receive free WCRC
membership for a year!

This month's winner is:

Frances Bashark



I Was Found on the Courts: Catherine Sampietro

Interview and article by Ian McLaughlin

You would be hard pressed to find anyone with a broader and more eclectic array of personal and professional interests than WCRC member Catherine Sampietro. Her mind is constantly racing and contemplating her next endeavor, because tennis is only one of the many activities that interest her.

Catherine hails from a large family that exemplifies the melting pot that is the United States of America. Her mother was Norwegian, her father Italian, and in storybook fashion her paternal grandmother arrived in the United States from Italy by boat and ended up in the East Bay, in Albany. Her grandmother met her grandfather when he delivered goods to her home from his family's Italian store, which was located on San Pablo Avenue back when there were few buildings and the streets were still dirt. Catherine's father was born in Albany and later met her mother in Berkeley during World War II. They settled in Berkeley and had their first four children there. In the early 1950s, they moved to a newly built home in Walnut Creek, just a few blocks from Heather Farm. They had four more children in Walnut Creek, then in 1959 they moved to Visalia, in the Central Valley, where they had their last three children. Catherine is the tenth of eleven children. Yes, you read that correctly. Catherine likes to joke that her parents used the rhythm method, but they couldn't keep the beat.

Catherine was a very active child who loved sports. Her mother got a kick out of telling people, "I have seven sons, but it's my daughter who plays all the sports."

In primary school, Catherine earned the Presidential Physical Fitness patches and received a separate award for completing a 42-second flexed-arm hang. When she dropped from the bar, she remembers feeling happy about her time because it meant she didn't have to do



pull-ups, which she was horrible at. After school, Catherine played on soccer, basketball, and softball teams, although she would have much preferred baseball over softball. When Catherine was in fifth grade, she was playing a game of tackle football with the boys when she suddenly heard a voice call out, "Hey girl, you wanna be on our team?" Catherine ended up being the only girl on her flag football team and didn't notice any girls on the other teams. She played defensive end and was a "scrappy" kid.

Catherine was especially drawn to baseball and loved the feeling of the bat making contact with the ball. So when she picked up a tennis racquet sometime in high school, it felt completely natural. She began learning tennis by hitting against a wall—the way so many of us were introduced to the game. She still enjoys hitting against the wall at the courts in Crockett, where she lives. She began playing doubles when she was introduced to a group of regulars who played morning tennis in Pinole. It was on those courts that a USTA team



captain saw her and invited her out to hit with his team, which became Catherine's initial foray into USTA tennis and the first time she was "found" on the courts—completely randomly by a stranger who recognized her innate athletic ability and potential. Catherine experienced many "firsts" while playing mixed doubles with the Pinole team. She shared a wonderful partnership with Gary Hazzard and was fortunate enough to go to Sectionals in her very first season. Once Catherine discovered USTA tennis, there was no going back. She was hooked and began honing her skills while developing a real passion for the game.



The next time Catherine was "found" on the court transformed her tennis career. She was playing a match with Pinole against WCRC member Bob Satcher. Bob and Catherine hit it off, and he recruited her to Heather Farm to play in central county. At Heather Farm, Catherine began by playing on one of Bob's wife Moe Satcher's

combo teams around 2019 (may Moe's beloved soul rest in peace). Catherine has been playing at Heather Farm ever since being "found" on the courts once again—this time by one of our club's friendliest and most welcoming members, Bob Satcher.

Professionally, Catherine loves working with children, and for the last forty years she has worked at Academy School, a private K-8 prep school in Berkeley, where she is the Director of Afterschool Programs. Catherine ended up in Berkeley at the ripe old age of twenty-two when her then-husband began attending seminary school. At one point, Catherine considered a career change, so she earned a B.S. in Speech-Language Pathology at CSU Hayward, but it didn't take her long to realize that she loved the school too much to leave. In her early days at the school, Catherine earned the affectionate nickname "Mama," and it's still what everyone calls her today. It makes sense, really, because Catherine says children are her favorite people.



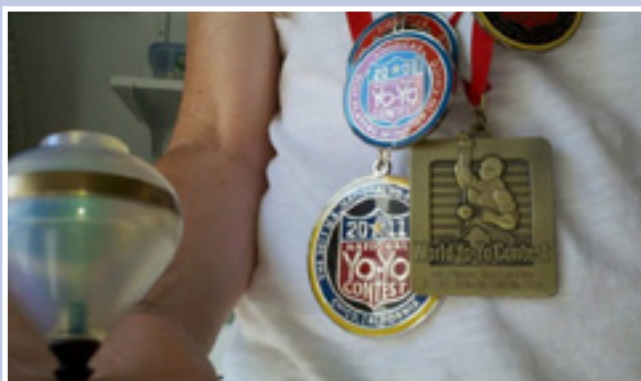
Catherine Sampietro continued...

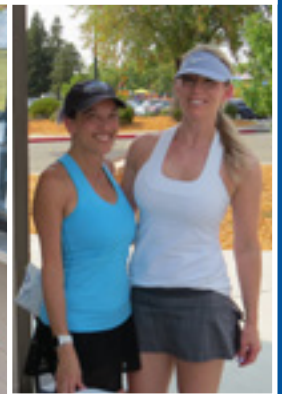
As noted, Catherine has a broad range of eclectic interests outside of tennis. She loves writing songs and has loved to sing ever since she was a child; she currently sings in the Martinez community choir. She also loves to collect vintage bicycles and owns a variety of musical instruments. At work, she teaches children how to do spin-top tricks and has taken them to the National Yo-Yo Contest to compete. But her main passion is simply to create. With her active and imaginative mind, Catherine is always excited for her next endeavor. She also loves everything tennis-related, including hitting with the ball machine and against the wall to improve her strokes. Serving is her favorite part of the game, despite the fact that serving is the Achilles' heel for so many players.

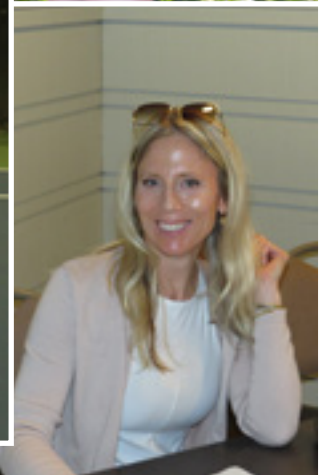
Coming from such a large family, Catherine still maintains a close relationship with her siblings. She enjoys visiting them and is thankful that most of them are still in California. They have a family text thread where they share what they've been up to—or just amusing stuff. Catherine's siblings are also very playful. She says they all got it from her dad.

Catherine found a home at Heather Farm. She enjoys the USTA leagues and has been to Nationals as a member of one of Tammie Snyder's teams, with the added excitement that her match was the deciding line to win Sectionals and send the team to Nationals. Catherine has found her own passion for the game through the inclusivity and welcoming atmosphere at Heather Farm, where she notes that "Tammie is so good at creating camaraderie on her teams, both on and off the courts." And who wouldn't love playing on one of Cara Mia's teams? "She's always so generous with her spirit and her food—which, by the way, is always so good!"

But along with the immense popularity of tennis at Heather Farm comes a downside. Catherine notes that it can be challenging to find a team because there are too few teams for the number of players who would like to play. That's inevitable when so many people are vying for a limited resource like spots on the successful USTA teams we are fortunate to have at WCRC. But you have to take the bad with the good, and for someone who was "found" on the courts herself, WCRC member Catherine Sampietro always manages to find her way back onto the court for top-level USTA competition at Heather Farm—her favorite tennis home. ▲







Sally!





Sally!



2025 WCRC Men's & Women's Summer Singles League Tournament



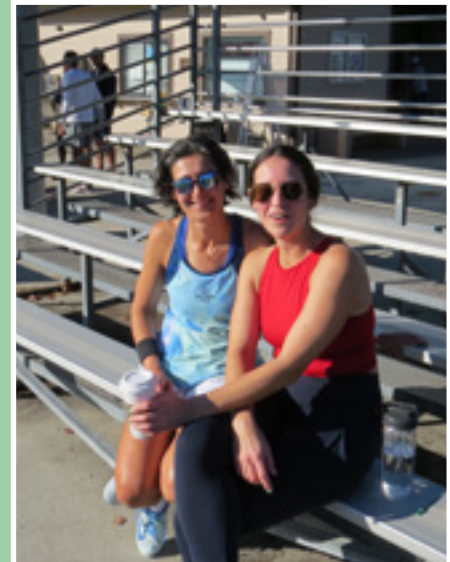
We had nearly perfect weather for the final matches of Summer Singles over the weekend of Oct 18th/19th. A bit of chilly fall crispness in the early morning, followed by gorgeous sunny days. After multiple self-scheduled rounds in many of the groups, we were down to our final four players at each level, ready to settle the club championships on the courts of Heather. Like most tournaments, the matches ranged from a couple of blowouts (should that guy/gal REALLY be at that level??...they better get BUMPED UP this year!!) to several extended 3-set affairs (the semis and finals are old-school – full 3rd set) that were in doubt until the very end.

Thank you to all the players who participated in the league this year. We had over 100 people play close to 200 total matches from the beginning of the league in the early Spring through the final tournament. Whether you're looking to prove that you're the best player in the club at your level, or just wanting a few good competitive singles matches, the league will ramp up again in April next year.

A special thank you to Bobby Walgren for running the tourney desk for finals weekend, and Bob Satcher for taking lots of great photos of those playing on-site. - Steve Lehmer













2025 Summer Singles Tournament - Results



Nadir Zaidi defeated
Steven Bliss
6-1, 6-0

4.0 Men

Sam Chaccour defeated
Ken Bakar
6-3, 5-7, 7-6



Steve Lehmer defeated
Sunny Mukerjee
6-1, 7-6

4.5 Women

Mariia Gryukova defeated
Nicole Goridkov
6-2, 6-0



Erin Brindley defeated
Shannon Knapp
6-1, 6-2



Lang Lindsay defeated
Yulia Costello
6-4, 6-1



Samantha Dullea defeated
Susan Hill
6-4, 6-0

All of the Summer Singles Tournament photos are here: <https://wrcr.zenfolio.com/p843903193>

Sectionals Bound

Another Fantastic Season for WC Daytime 7.5B

Captained by Stacey Blackman & Allene Rognon

Coming off a strong 9–1 regular-season record, our team headed into playoffs against the other Walnut Creek team—and our playoff squad delivered! Huge congratulations to Maddie Thomas, Jasmine Morgan, Ana Larner, Corazon Bellamy, Margaret Harrison, and Amber Golini for an outstanding performance.

One of the best parts of the day was the incredible support from our teammates who came out to cheer—your energy made all the difference!

We're excited for the next challenge as we compete for the NorCal title this January at the Fremont Tennis Center

Pictured below: Amber Golini, Margaret Harrison, Viviana Meyer, Allene Rognon, Stacey Blackman, Jasmine Morgan, Maddie Thomas, Ana Larner, Megan Patterson, Heidi Temkin, Yana Bazulina, Corazon Bellamy & Sunita Mistry.

Team Members not pictured - Martha Matrisian, Laurie Radanovich, Arwa Kaddoura, Cassie Kim, Yolla Elamadie, Melanie Campbell, Wendy Schofield and Farrell Pappas.



Sectionals Bound

Walnut Creek Daytime Combo 6.5 team, captained by Miwa Yoneyama and Maria Rueda, is heading to the sectionals.



Maria Rueda, Mary Soe, Caitlin Stahle, Miwa Yoneyama

The two first teamed up on Cara Mia's 2.5 team in 2023 and quickly built a strong partnership, on and off the court. They began captaining together in 2024 and led their squads to multiple playoff appearances. This season, they delivered an impressive 9–1 record, proving they earned their spot and demonstrating the steady performance that drives the team forward. Now they move into the January Sectional Championship with focus and confidence, prepared to carry their momentum forward.

Minh Cannon, Valerie Epting, Veronika Mora-Mieszkowski, Kris Cortney, Michelle Gonzales, Mary Soe, Kathy Maratukulam, Kristen Steinert, Miwa Yoneyama, Maria Rueda

Not pictured: Diana Corbin, Ashley Edmonds, Yeh-Won Hunt, Rebecca Kay, Lang Lindsay, Leah Vachani



OPERATING HOURS AT WCTC**December 2025****Monday – Friday: 8am-10:00pm • Saturday & Sunday: 8am-8pm*****On Christmas Eve (Wednesday 12/24/25) and New Year's Eve (Wednesday 12/31/25) we will be open from 8:00am to 12:30pm.******We will be closed all of Christmas Day (Thursday 12/25/25) and New Year's Day (Thursday 1/1/26).*****HOLIDAY WISH DRIVE:**

Thank you everyone who participated in the Holiday Wish Drive at the tennis center. The tennis and pickleball community at Heather Farm provided over 25 gifts to families in need and made wishes come true for so many children this holiday.

DECEMBER PASSHOLDER SPECIAL

Keep active this winter and come play on the courts. Each time you play in December, your name will be entered in a raffle with prizes including an annual pass, four-month pass, or free stringing (labor only). Prize drawing will take place the week of December 22nd, winners will be contacted individually and announced in January's Court Reporter. Play more this December to improve your chances!

WINTER COURT REMINDERS

During inclement weather, court conditions can change rapidly. Lifetime Activities staff will determine court playability onsite during inclement weather. For USTA and League Matches, only the Home Team Captain, Co-Captain, or designee shall call the office to check court conditions. Matches cannot be canceled more than 3 hours prior to match start time. Daytime matches starting earlier than 11am may call the office at 8 am to check court conditions. For cancellations of open play reservations, onsite Lifetime Activities staff will determine playability of the court and if cancelled, the reservation holder will be notified via email by CourtReserve. If you have an open play reservation that you wish to cancel ahead of time please do so no less than four hours prior to the reservation time.

HOLIDAY CAMPS

Spots are still available in our holiday camps. [Secure a spot today!](#)

Little Tennis & Little Rallyer Camps (ages 4-6): 9:00-11:00am

Youth Improvement Camps (ages 7-15): 9:00am-12:00pm

- ☐ Holiday Camp 1: December 22-23 (M,T)
- ☐ Holiday Camp 2: December 26 (F)
- ☐ Holiday Camp 3: December 29-30 (M,T)
- ☐ Holiday Camp 4: January 2 (F)

ADULT CLINICS

- ☐ Winter Cardio + Liveball Clinic: December 23 (T), 12:30-2p
- ☐ Winter Pickleball Drop in: December 26 (F), 9-10:30a
- ☐ Winter Cardio + Liveball Clinic: December 30 (T), 12:30-2p
- ☐ New Year Drill + Play: January 2 (F), 12:30-2p



**Visit us online at www.lifetimeactivities.com or stop by the the office at 1751 Heather Drive.
Please call with any questions at 925-945-0105 or 925-945-1102.**

CALENDER OF EVENTS

2025

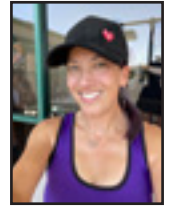
Dec **Jan** **Feb** **Mar**

Dec 1	USTA 65+ Team Registration Opens
Dec 1	USTA 40+ Team Registration Closes
Dec 1	USTA 40+ DT Team Registration Closes
Dec 1	USTA 18+ Mixed Team Registration Closes
Dec 1-5	USTA Combo Doubles DT Round 3
Dec 4-7	USTA Combo Doubles Round 3
Dec 5-7	USTA 55+ Mixed Sectionals
Dec 9-11	USTA 70+ DT Sectionals
Jan 5	USTA 40+ Season Opens
Jan 5	USTA 40+ DT Season Opens
Jan 5	USTA 18+ Mixed Season Opens
Jan 5	USTA 65+ Team Registration Closes
Jan 19	USTA 55+ Team Registration Opens
Jan 19	USTA 18+ Team Registration Opens
Jan 19	USTA 18+ DT Team Registration Opens
Jan 24-26	USTA 65+ DT Nationals
Feb 2	USTA 65+ Season Opens
Feb 17	USTA 55+ Team Registration Closes
Feb 17	USTA 18+ Team Registration Closes
Feb 17	USTA 18+ DT Team Registration Closes
Mar 13	USTA 40+ DT Season Closes
Mar 14-16	USTA 55+ Mixed Nationals
Mar 15	USTA 40+ Season Closes
Mar 15	USTA 18+ Mixed Season Closes
Mar 16	USTA 55+ Season Opens
Mar 23-27	USTA 40+ DT Playoffs Round 1
Mar 26-29	USTA 18+ Mixed Playoffs Round 1

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cara Mia Barnacascel

August 31, 2025



Income

Total League Dues	\$3,313.12
Membership Dues	16,672.95
Miscellaneous Income	62.38
Total Tournament Dues	\$5,311.77
Total Income	\$25,360.22
Gross Profit	\$25,360.22

Expenses

Board Meeting	892.83
Captains Meetings	1,256.61
Contract Labor	200.00
Contributions	500.00
Equipment	221.76
Total League Expenses	\$3,038.81
Nationals Fee	1,424.00
Office Supplies	262.38
Total Printing and Reproduction	\$99.99
Rental Fees	-500.00
Total Repairs	\$3,655.16
Sectionals Fees	2,805.00
Software	677.95
Supplies	534.10
Tax Preparation	335.00
Taxes	25.00
Total Tournament Expenses	\$13,757.72
Website	937.50
Total Expenses	\$30,123.81
Net Operating Income	-\$4,763.59
Net Income	-\$4,763.59

Balance August 31, 2025 **\$66,032.60**

WCRC LEAGUES/EVENTS

Calcutta Party/Auction	May 1, 2026
Calcutta Tournament	May 2, 2026
Longest Day	June 20, 2026
Mid -Summer	Aug 1, 2026
Summer Doubles League	Apr 14 - Sep 7, 2026
Summer Singles League	May 1 - Sep 7, 2026
Fall Mixed Doubles	Sept 1 - Feb 18, 2027



WCRC LEAGUES/EVENTS

Calcutta Party/Auction	May 1, 2026
Calcutta Tournament	May 2, 2026
Longest Day Tournament	June 20, 2026
Mid-Summer Tournament	Aug 1, 2026
Summer Doubles League	Apr 14 - Sep 7, 2026
Summer Singles League	May 1 - Sep 7, 2026
Fall Mixed Doubles	Sep 1 - Feb 18, 2027

55+ 8.0 Mixed Team Head to Sectionals



Tammie Snyder and Steve Lehmer's 55+ 8.0 mixed team are heading to Sectionals.

pictured: Darien Lum, Athena Lofquist, Steve Buchholz, Nga Gross, Janell Mollenhauer, Tammie Snyder, Justin Snyder, Darcy Beauchemin, Heidi Belton, Christine Hohenstein, Arnold Soleta and Suresh Bhat.

Not pictured: Laurie Rananovich, Glenn Teixeira, Lloyd Hohenstein, Steve Lehmer, Nancy Deschane, Sandra Harris, Mike Lee, and Peter Sullivan.