

RACONTEUR

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2018 | A PUBLICATION OF THE HOUSTON RACQUET CLUB | www.houstonracquetclub.com



3 | BRING THE CLUB HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

To Download the 2018 Holiday Order Form,
visit www.houstonracquetclub.com or call 713.464.4811





PRESIDENT



KATHY ZAY
Club President

2018-2019 HRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chip Cowell – Tennis Committee
Cary Dunham
Stacie Dunn
Ashley Holmsten – Secretary
Correne Loeffler
Eddie Perdomo – Fitness Committee
Joel Phipps
Carolyn Putterman
Todd Riedel
Michael Stavinoha
Bob Stephan
Danny Weingeist – Ex –Officio
Alex White – VP, Finance Committee
Darin Zanovich
Kathy Zay – President

MEN'S ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD

President – Darin Zanovich
President Emeritus/Treasurer – Brad Elmore
Tennis Chair – Albert Schnewly
Social Chair – Steve Smith
Poker Chair – Lee Jackson
Director – Cary Dunham
Director – Tim Jordan
Director – John Leggett
Director – Ryan McKenzie

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD

President – Jill Perez
Social VP – Jenna Jackson
Tennis VP – Gretchen Smith
Assistant VP – Yvette Simpson
Treasurer – Debbie Dobbins
Secretary – Ann Staley
NSWCCC – Cathy Lassetter & Sue Bramlette
Parliamentarian – Ashley Holmsten

OUR MISSION THE CLUB FOR A LIFETIME

To instill, inspire and promote love and enjoyment of the game of tennis; to encourage athletic and social fitness activities in an exceptional family environment, and to satisfy the social, recreational and fitness needs of our members in a congenial atmosphere.

OUR VISION

The Club that aspires to attract and retain an exceptional membership and provide its members the finest in facilities and amenities.

What a difference a year makes! After months of dealing with Harvey-related renovations, our Club is finally completely re-opened! Our staff moved into their beautiful new offices in September, and the new, larger, light-filled Garden Room is open for business! If you have not been to see the new spaces, please do. Thank you to Forney Construction for making our Club even more beautiful than we imagined! Our Club is in a good place physically and financially thanks to our past Boards making hard and sound decisions for our future. On that note, I would like to thank our exiting Board members, Hilary Purcell, John Edmonds, Lynn Murphy, and Craig Smyser for their time and dedication to the Club. Danny Weingeist will remain as ex-officio, and I am sure I will be calling on him often for his wise counsel!

Congratulations to our incoming Board members: Cary Dunham, Stacie Dunn, Joel Phipps, Michael Stavinoha and Darin Zanovich. As this goes to press, we are planning the Board Retreat Nov 1 & 2 where we will have a presentation by Club Benchmarking consultants. From their report, we will embark on developing a 5-year plan for the Club. This may include opportunities for new services, programs or equipment, and improvements, among other ideas. So to this goal, your Board is here to represent all of the members, and we always welcome suggestions from the membership at-large. As you visit other clubs or resorts, if you see something you think is a good idea for HRC, let us know. You may always reach out to me, Thomas Preuml, and the committee chairs (listed to the left) with your suggestions.

It is so great to be at the Club and see so many members of all “ages and stages” enjoying the Club with family and friends. It is such a dynamic atmosphere! This fall we will have a special for Legacy memberships, which will be available to an expanded group for a limited time only, so please see Cathy Lassetter, Membership Director, for details. Thomas Preuml has also started planning his Gingerbread Masterpiece, so start planning your holiday events at HRC as well! Karla Contreras, Director of Private Events, can help you with your event!

Lastly, I want to say how very honored I am to serve as your President, and I am very excited about working with this year's Board – such a talented group of people who genuinely care about our Club. I look forward to seeing all of you on the courts, at the Fitness Center, the Pools, or having fun and food in the Grill!

Kathy

SNEAK PEEK



FEATURE
3
BRING THE
CLUB HOME

DEPARTMENTS

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BRING THE CLUB HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

We can prepare a wonderful meal to-go or we can supplement your turkey with one of our delicious side dishes or desserts. Thanksgiving order forms must be received by Saturday, November 17th.

To download the 2018 Holiday Order Form, visit www.houstonracquetclub.com or call 713.464.4811.

DINNERS

Turkey Dinner (6 - 8 people).....\$250
Mixed Green Salad, Turkey, Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Candied Yams, Rolls and Choice of 1 Pie

Turkey Dinner (10 - 12 people)\$380
Mixed Green Salad, Turkey, Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Candied Yams, Rolls and Choice of 2 Pies

A LA CARTÉ

Cooked Roasted Turkey Small (10 - 12 lbs) and choice of 1 Pie
Cooked Roasted Turkey Large (20 - 24 lbs) and choice of 2 Pies
Seasonal Cheese Platter
Artisan Cheeses & Seasonal Berries
Shrimp Cocktail Platter
3 Dozen Shrimp, Lemon Wedges & Cocktail Sauce

Triple Dip Platter
Fresh Tortilla Chips, Queso, Salsa & Guacamole
Spicy Sausage, Spinach, Tomato, Egg & Cheese
Breakfast Casserole (Cold Pick Up)

Giblet Gravy
Cranberry Sauce
Cornbread Stuffing
Mashed Potatoes
Candied Yams
Green Bean Almondine
Macaroni & Cheese
Honey Glazed Carrots
Mixed Green Salad
Yeast Dinner Rolls
Pumpkin Pie
Pecan Pie
Key Lime Pie
Apple Pie
N.Y. Cheesecake
Assorted HRC Cookies

THOMAS PREUML, CCM
Chief Operating Officer



Are you already planning your turkey dinner? We are, and then some. With Thanksgiving just around the corner, time at HRC has started moving much faster. As you can see on our event calendar, we have a lot going on, and you have a lot to look forward to. **My thanks and compliments to our hard-working staff and to our volunteer committee members** for their ideas and their work planning these events. A lot goes into making your holiday season special, and we love doing it.

2018 will be a thing of the past soon, so I wanted to list a **few highlights from this year**, which I also shared at October's Annual Meeting:

- With the Garden Room and offices now open, Harvey is officially over
- Thanks to our staff members who were stuck in temporary offices for over a year
- I am now the proud owner of two Hurricane Books (Ike and Harvey), signed by HRC Staff
- We have the most Voting Members in history
- Our new dining rooms and decks have unprecedented member usage
- We had record setting Easter and Mother's Day brunches
- Karla Contreras was promoted to Director of Private Events
- Members and guests are booking the ballroom at twice the rate of last year
- The Manta Rays placed 2nd again. Thank you, Jackie Busa!
- We hired a new Service Director to replace Berta, who now takes care of all Club Events.
- Brenda Pineda left us after 20 years for a life on the beach (literally)
- Vanessa Roman was promoted to Pro Shop Manager
- Chef Adam had a new addition to the family – son Jacob
- Sonny attained his CCM designation

Some of our **more notable facility improvements**:

- We re-plastered the resort pool
- The 50th Anniversary Commemorative Path now in place
- 9 tons of clay were added to courts 27-30 after Harvey
- We replaced fences on courts 20-24 and 27-32
- We replaced fitness equipment
- Upgraded the Club Championship plaques that Harvey took away
- Three post tension courts and a beautiful new gazebo at court 20
- More trees and more shade
- Kids Club Improvements
- New scoreboard and radar system for Courts 1&2
- 350 members attended the Gingerbread Workshop
- We raised \$30,000 with no fund-raising promotion



There are lots more, but I think that's enough bullet points for one issue.

This year's gingerbread project is in the works. **Board Member Cary Dunham**, whose attire at the annual Freezin' for a Reason event is the talk of the Club for long after the holidays wrap up, is helping us get the word out. Look for communication from him coming your way soon, and thanks in advance for your support. Once again, River Oaks Country Club, the Petroleum Club and The Briar Club are supporting the cause. Pictured are last year's complete display at MD Anderson, my 2nd attempt in 1991 (after my somewhat larger 1st attempt collapsed), and the 1993 display, which was the first one donated to MD Anderson.

Happy Holidays to you and yours, and all my best for a healthy and prosperous 2019!

Thomas

IN MEMORIAM

Cara Coe

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

KELLEY & MICHAEL ANNINO

His: Principal /Partner, InSite Realty
Children: Ava (13), Sophia (11)

Sponsors: Paige & Forrest Green, Alan Ratterree



SANETTE & DUKE AUSTIN

His: CEO, Quanta Services
Children: Cade (21), Cross (21), Carsyn (12)

Sponsors: Brett Schrader,
Jenna Jackson & Brendan Gilbert



ASHLEY & CHAD BECK

His: Broker, Cushman & Wakefield
Children: Parker (11), Henry (9)

Sponsors: Elizabeth & Mark Lester, T. Kemp Jones



KARI & CHRISTOPHER DIAL

His: SVP/General Counsel, American Midstream
Her: Director of Government Relations, USAA

Sponsors: Joanna Chryssikos,
Jeff & Courtney Butler



LAURA & SALVADOR ESCALONA

His: Owner/CEO, Mexilink, Inc.
Her: VP/HR, Mexilink, Inc.

Children: Gabriella (18), Sofia (16), Andrea (6),
Daniela (5)

Sponsors: Christina & Alexander Papandreou,
Mindy Rice



ANGIE & CHRISTIAN GUBITZ

His: Senior Mgr/Management Consulting, Accenture

Her: Director of Athletics, The Emery/Weiner School
Children: Blake (7), Addison (4)
Sponsors: Bootsie Le Feuvre, Gayette Eicher

LAUREN & JASON LONG

His: CCO, Water Bridge Resources
Children: Isla (8), Ava (5)

Sponsors: Paige & Forrest Green, Josi Shipley
Referral: Lisa Miranda

TAYLOR & BLAKE SHAVER

His: VP, BD Advisors

Children: Sloane (4), Rhodes (2)
Sponsors: Jed Goodall, Lori & Chris Knop
Referral: Mimi & Chad Meacham

KATIE & ADAM WELLS

Her: Real Estate Broker, Katie Wells Realty

His: VP, Golden Section Technology
Children: Emma Kate (11), Maylee (9), Hattie (6)
Sponsors: Jessica & Michael Keegan,
Kelley & David Reid

MARIANA & STEFAN WIRTZ

His: New Business Development, Entoro Capital
Children: Mathilde & Valentina (11)

Sponsors: Emily & Michael Sperandio,
Gabby & Peter Lowy

WE ARE CURRENTLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR ALL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

Young Professional
Junior Membership
Voting Membership
Senior Social Membership
Corporate Executive

Initiation fee payment options are available. For more please details contact Cathy Lassetter at classetter@houstonracquetclub.com



MEMBERSHIP

YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Memories to Last a Lifetime

At HRC we believe in providing families with memories to last a lifetime.

NOVEMBER 1ST, 2018 through JANUARY 15TH, 2019

Eligible relatives of HRC members will receive one-third off the current initiation fee for qualifying membership categories.

CONTACT CATHY AT CLASSETTER@HOUSTONRACQUETCLUB.COM

WESTWOOD GOLF CLUB



HRC MEMBER PRIVILEGES AT WWGC

- 10 rounds of golf per year
- Discounted greens fees: Tue-Thu \$55+ tax,
- Fri-Sun \$90 + tax
- Cart fee \$18 + tax
- Tee times may be made up to 48 hrs. in advance by calling the golf shop at 713.744.3011 and by introducing yourself as an HRC member.
- Practice Facility on day of play only
- Food & Beverage privileges
- Discounted Initiation Fees for Voting & Junior Members (10% reduction at both HRC & WWGC)
- Discounted Monthly Dues for Voting & Junior Members (10% reduction at both HRC & WWGC)

REFER TO PAGE 9 FOR THE WESTWOOD GOLF CLUB ACADEMY PROGRAMS.

If you have any further questions about your access to HRC or for interest in dual membership, please contact Director of Membership, Jennifer Gonzalez, X210 or at JenniferG@wwgolfclub.com.

WESTWOOD GOLF CLUB
8888 Country Creek Dr
Houston, TX 77036
(713)774-3011
www.wwgolfclub.com



THOMAS COOK
Director of Tennis

As we begin another holiday season, I want to wish you and your family the very best! I have often found that tennis and exercise become even more important as the holiday rush increases. So make time for you and your kids to play some tennis together in these lovely fall months.

We have the HRC annual Mixed Doubles Club Championship coming up on December 1. On December 7 the HRC Women's Association presents the annual Ladies Member Guest. After leagues have ended this is a great time to invite one of your favorite competitors to enjoy a morning of tennis and lunch at HRC.

Our junior program is in full swing, and we thank you for sharing your children's tennis enthusiasm with us.

See you on the courts,

TENNIS



TENNIS NEWS



HRC TENNIS PROS

Pictured: Harry Fowler, Chris Bovett, Jack Brasington, Marlon Mazique, Thomas Cook, Johnathan Sanderson, Randy Druz, Alex Graham and Ronnie Cline
Carla Salazar, Ann Hopper, Ross Persons, Andrew Fitzpatrick, Robby Clarkson, Tammy Morris, Kai Siewratten and Sarah Flood



UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS TENNIS COACH

The University of St. Thomas hired Jack Brasington as head coach of the first men's and women's tennis teams in the school's 71-year history. The teams are scheduled to take the court in fall of 2019. They are fortunate to have someone with Jack's pedigree, reputation and experience to lead the UST first tennis team. Congratulations Jack!



THANKSGIVING TENNIS CAMP

Monday-Wednesday, November 19-21
1:00-5:00PM



CLUB DOUBLES

November 3 & 4 • Saturday at 9:00AM & Sunday at 1:30PM • See page 8 for more details.

CLUB MIXED DOUBLES

Saturday, December 1 • 9:00AM Start – All Day Play • See page 8 for more details.



TENNIS

TENNIS EVENTS

LIVE BALL TENNIS

Tuesdays 9:00-10:30AM B level and above (Ladies)
Tuesdays 10:30AM-12:00PM B level and above (Ladies)
Tuesdays 6:00-7:30PM Champ/A level (Coed)
Wednesdays 9:00-10:30AM B level and above (Ladies)
Wednesdays 10:30AM-12:00PM B level and above (Ladies)
Friday 9:00-10:30AM B level and above (Ladies)
Fridays 10:30AM-12:00PM B level and above (Ladies)
Saturdays 10:00-11:30AM Champ/A level (Coed or Ladies)
Saturdays 1:00-2:30PM B level and above (Coed or Ladies)
With Randy Druz (rjdruz@aol.com)
(*time subject to change)
Check out this link for Live Ball Tennis action and sign up with Randy today: <http://www.tennis.com/your-game/2013/12/live-ball-tennis-done-differently-and-better/50024/#.VVwhlfViko>

TENNIS 101 WITH ROBBY

Wednesdays 10:30AM-Noon
Beginners Only - learn the fundamentals through fun drills, games & strategy. The cost is \$30. Contact Robby in the Pro Shop.

LADIES NIGHT OUT WITH ROBBY

Wednesdays 6:00-7:30PM
\$35/member. Enjoy fun and games and match play. Sangria and Margaritas available. All levels are welcome.

TENNIS 201 WITH ROBBY

Mondays 10:30AM-Noon
Tennis 101 grads continue to work on fundamentals through fun drills, games & strategy. The cost is \$30. Contact Robby in the Pro Shop.
Fridays 10:30AM-Noon
Ladies Doubles Challenge Ladder. \$30. Sign up with Robby.

MEN'S NIGHT OUT WITH MARLON

Wednesdays 6:00-7:30PM
Join Marlon for fundamental oriented drills for "B" level players and up. Beer is provided. \$25/person.

BOOT CAMP WITH KAI

Fridays 9:00-10:30AM
Join other B level players (co-ed) for a high intensity workout, doubles tactics and strategy. \$30 for members and \$35 for non members. Sign up in the Pro Shop.

CLUB DOUBLES

Saturday & Sunday, November 3 & 4
Saturday at 9:00AM & Sunday at 1:30PM
Men & Women Divisions, Championship, A, B, C and Senior. Sign up in the Pro Shop or with Alex Graham agraham@houstonracquetclub.com.

LADIES MEMBER GUEST HOLIDAY CUP 2018

Friday, December 7
Check-In 8:30AM
Hosted by the Women's Association
All levels welcome. 24 hour cancellation policy. Members \$35++ and Guests \$40++. Sign up in the Pro Shop or agraham@houstonracquetclub.com. Host Committee: Stephanie Mays, Jackie Powell and Andrea Tellepsen.

THANKSGIVING CAMP

Monday-Wednesday, November 19-21
1:00-5:00PM

CLUB MIXED DOUBLES

Saturday, December 1
9:00AM Start - All Day Play
\$10 per player. All levels (Men & Women). Fun round robin pool play. Sign up in the Pro Shop or contact Alex Graham agraham@houstonracquetclub.com

LADIES MEMBER GUEST HOLIDAY CUP 2018

Friday, December 7 • Check-in at 8:30AM
Hosted by the Women's Association
All levels welcome. 24 hour cancellation policy. Members \$35++ and Guests \$40++. Sign up in the Pro Shop or agraham@houstonracquetclub.com. Host Committee: Stephanie Mays, Jackie Powell and Andrea Tellepsen.



Westwood Ladies Golf



LADIES ACADEMY

ENROLL TODAY

1. Enroll in academy class
2. Choose add-on programs
3. Watch your golf game grow

Connect with a community of golfers and work together to improve your game! Golfers will learn the game in weekly group class where coaches will progress students through the 6 level Operation 36 curriculum. The Operation 36 matches challenge golfers to shoot the score of 36 for 9 holes from 6 different yardage divisions on the course. Golfers can accelerate skill development by training alongside a coach who sets up a structured and efficient practice session.

For more information, please email Scott Hause, PGA scottth@wwgolfclub.com. Contact Scott Hause, PGA for Academy Tuition & Schedule.



Westwood Golf Academy



JUNIOR ACADEMY

AGES 7-15

Director of Instruction - Scott Hause, PGA

1. Enroll in academy class
2. Choose add-on programs
3. Watch your golfer grow

The Westwood Golf Academy uses the Operations 36 framework to structure the program. It consists of coaching, playing and training and is designed to teach golfers to play the game from a hole out prospective. Each golfer will be issued a profile in the Operation 36 Mobile app to track progress through a 6 level curriculum that is designed to set appropriate objectives and challenge each student towards shooting par or better (score of 36) for 9 holes.

To learn more about the Operation 36 Program, please visit www.operation36.golf. Contact Scott Hause, PGA for Academy Tuition & Schedule.





CLUB SCENE



RACONTEUR SPOTTINGS

1. Bjorn Borg was kind enough to take a photo with HRC Member Kelley Reid at the Laver Cup 2018 in Chicago. "It was so exciting" – Kelley said.

2. Stephanie Mays, Kelley Reid, Andrea Tellepsen, and Paige Green watching the Federer/Kyrgios match at the Laver Cup 2018 Chicago.

3. HRC Member Lyt Harris made a visit to the Castillo de Gibralfaro overlooking Malaga, Spain.

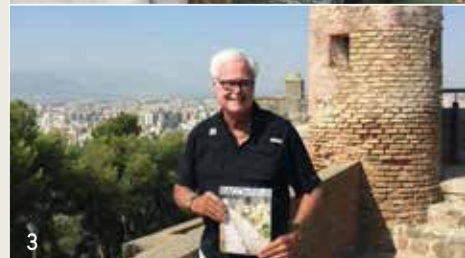
4. The HRC gang at BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells, California with a copy of the newsletter! L-R Chris Zolas, Russ & Ashley Holmsten, Jill Perez, Debbie & Alex Houston and Tony Perez.

5. Cary Dunham and Paul Peacock at the US Open watching one of many matches over the week. Bring us back our tennis towel please!

6. Paul, the gang and the Raconteur in Aspen! Bob Hogan, Joe Baden, Lonnie Jackson, Graydon Oliver, Paul Peacock, Michael Stavinocha, Charles Carr & Jack Brasington.

7. Debra Baker was spotted in Mendoza, Argentina at the Bodega Ruca Malen vineyards. After her business meeting, she enjoyed an amazing 7-course lunch with wine pairings. Thanks for taking along your Raconteur for this good photo!

Take a copy of the Raconteur on your next vacation, have yourself photographed with it, and email the photo to jnorthey@houstonracquetclub.com.



ISAAC VALDEZ

SOMMELIER CERTIFIED
WSET 3 LEVEL CERTIFIED



In the world of wine, when we think about French wines, first thing we think about is Bordeaux. It is the center of the wine world and one of the most recognized fine wine regions. I was fortunate enough to travel there this past month with friends and other wine enthusiasts.

Bordeaux is associated with iconic wines like Pauillac, Margaux, St. Julian and St. Estephe. All these Chateaux are located within a short distance, on the left bank of Bordeaux. Wine collectors are willing to pay hundreds of dollars per bottle for the top wines to add to their cellar collection. What is often overlooked with all the fame and glory are these wines only represent 5% of the Bordeaux region and production. They also produce a wide range of wine styles like white, red sparkling, rosé, and aperitifs.

Bordeaux is a region in southwest France. With its maritime climate and close proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, the region is influenced by 3 rivers, the Gironde, the Garonne and the Dordogne River. Bordeaux also benefits from the Gulf Stream, and the long forest (pine trees) which slow the winds flowing from the Atlantic Ocean. The soil is mostly clay and limestone and these conditions give wines a plummy character, softer flesh and low tannins.

Stop by the Grill and order a bottle your favorite wine today.

Cheers!

SOCIAL EVENTS

KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

Wednesday, November 7

\$35 per person. Ages 8 and up. Join us for Kids in the Kitchen, as we learn Chef Adam's culinary techniques to preparing a Thanksgiving inspired mini-feast.

WOMEN'S GOLF OUTING NEW DATE

Saturday, November 10

12:00PM

Sugar Creek Country Club

Hosted by the Women's Association

Lunch followed by golf at 1pm. RSVP Cristina Torres ctorres@houstonracquetclub.com.

MEN'S POKER NIGHT

Wednesday, November 14

6:30PM

Hosted by the Men's Association

\$35 per person. Heavy appetizers & snacks, two drink tickets, fun prizes. RSVP Cristina Torres ctorres@houstonracquetclub.com.

MEN'S SURF & TURF DINNER

Friday, November 16

7:00PM

Resort Pool

Hosted by the Men's Association

Enjoy Music, Steaks & Seafood. Sample Fine Wines, Single Malt Scotch, Double Barrel Bourbon & Cigars. \$75.00++/member and \$95.00++/guest.

KIDS MOVIE NIGHTS

Friday, November 16 - The Nut Job

6:30PM

Fitness Center

Complimentary popcorn & lemonade will be served and a children's buffet will be available for purchase. Reservations 713.464.4811.

THANKSGIVING FEAST

Thursday, November 22

11:00AM-2:00PM

Ballroom

Adults \$46++, Seniors over 65 years of age \$36++ Children 1-12 years of age \$2.00 per year of age.

LADIES NIGHT MERRY & BRIGHT

Wednesday, November 28

6:30PM

Creeside Lounge

Hosted by the Junior Executive Committee

Join the ladies of HRC for a mingle & jingle!

Guests Welcome. \$25++ per person. Holiday Toy Drive

– Please bring an unwrapped toy for MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital. RSVP Cristina ctorres@houstonracquetclub.com

SENIOR HOLIDAY DINNER EAT, DRINK & BE MERRY

Friday, November 30

6:30PM Arrivals & 7:00PM Dinner

Garden Room

Featuring Holiday Music provided by pianist Cameron Cody. Cameron is the very talented organist from Chapelwood United Methodist Church. You won't want to miss this! \$65++ per person.

NUTCRACKER TEA

Sunday, December 2

1st Seating 10:00AM-2:00PM

2nd Seating 2:00-4:00PM - **SOLD OUT**

Ballroom

Hosted by the Women's Association

The Sugar Plum Fairy invites you for tea time treats and a performance by the City Ballet of Houston. High tea attire. RSVP 713-464-4811.

GINGERBREAD WORKSHOP

Sunday, December 9

1:00-3:00PM

Ballroom

Includes house, candy and decorations.

This HRC tradition started nine years ago and is a family favorite. Limit 3 houses per family due to the popularity of the event. RSVP early. Members Only. \$40++ per house.

5TH ANNUAL FREEZIN' FOR A REASON

Saturday, December 15

11:00AM

Take the plunge and benefit MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital. Ages 8 & up. Plungers 8-17 years old must have a signed waiver form by a parent or legal guardian, who must be present at the event. Sign up at the Fitness Desk or Youth Activities Office.

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY

Sunday, December 16

11:00AM-2:00PM

Ballroom

Join us for Brunch, Cookie Decorating, a visit from Santa Claus and much more! RSVP 713.464.4811.

UNCORK'D HOLIDAY PARTY

Wednesday, December 19

7:00PM

Ballroom

Complimentary for Uncork'd Members. You are invited to raise your glass of holiday cheer at the Houston Racquet Club. Drinks, Hors' d'oeuvres and Holiday delights.

SENIOR BUS TOUR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Wednesday, December 19

5:30PM start at HRC

Join us on the bus and enjoy the holiday lights in a neighborhood close by. Hot cocoa or other beverages will be provided.

POLAR EXPRESS EXPERIENCE

Friday, December 21

6:00PM

Ballroom

All aboard! Grab your train ticket and pajamas, as we board the train to an experience of the Polar Express! Pajamas encouraged. Lemonade and popcorn are complimentary. Buffet - \$15.00++ per person.

NEW YEAR'S EVE FAMILY BINGO

Monday, December 31

5:30PM

Ballroom

Look for more details around the Club.

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER

Monday, December 31

6:30PM Arrival & 7:00PM Dinner

TDR

The champagne is chilling and we hope you are willing to be our guest for dinner. \$65++ per person. Champagne Toast included.

HOLIDAY MINI CAMPS

9:00AM-4:00PM

First Week: Wednesday-Friday, December 26-28

Second Week: Wednesday-Friday, January 2-4

Join us for our Holiday Mini Camp, as we rock through the holidays with activities that are sure to warm your heart. We will make holiday crafts and play games that will leave every child knowing more than just the reindeer's names. Ages- 5 and up. Members \$180+ per session and guest \$225+ per session.



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know HRC has a Facebook Page? Take a look and see the videos, pictures and all the exciting events and activities happening at HRC every day.

Did you know HRC Members use their Club more than any other Club's Members? Thank you to our wonderful loyal Members of HRC!

Did you know HRC has hundreds of loyal dining families that visit the Club at least twice a week? Are you one of them?

Did you know The Kids Club and Youth areas have recently been updated and refreshed?

Did you know The Game Room and Racquetball court are open?

Did you know there is an Uncork'd Wine Society of 150 Member couples? Best wine pours and prices in town.

SONNY MCDANIEL
Club Manager



Did you know you can order Thanksgiving for the Home Table? Call the Club Private Events Office (Keep watching for the new "Order by App" coming soon.)

Did you know the Club Offices are back open and ready for business?

Sonny

NEW ARRIVALS



Kennedy Lynn Keegan
September 5, 2018
Parents Jessica and Michael Keegan



Mills Gardere Moore
June 4, 2018
Parents: Morgan & Todd Moore

APPLY NOW RACQUETEEN COMMITTEE

Now accepting new applications for Racqueteeen Committee 2018-2019. The Racqueteeen Committee will be involved in the development of the Teen Room. Please pick up an application in the Youth Area (due November 15). Ages 12 and up.



CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY EVENTS

NUTCRACKER TEA

Sunday, December 2 • 10:00AM-12:00PM First Seating
2:00-4:00PM Second Seating – **SOLD OUT** • Ballroom

GINGERBREAD WORKSHOP

Sunday, December 9 • 1:00-3:00PM • Ballroom

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY

Sunday, December 16 • 11:00AM-2:00PM • Ballroom

POLAR EXPRESS EXPERIENCE

Friday, December 21 • 6:00PM • Ballroom



SENIORS SOCIAL SCENE



HEMI HIDEOUT ADVENTURE

BY: TOBY MATTOX
Guest Contributor for the Raconteur

John Hovas calls it his "man cave". But, boy, what a cave. The HRC Seniors recently returned from a trip to Brookshire. Most of us had no idea what we were about to see. Jean Northey and Theresa Garner described it as a "large barn full of restored autos and road signs". That is comparable to calling a three ring circus a playground for adolescents.

The Constable Precinct 3 bus picked up about 20 of us at 8:30am for a half hour trip to a nearby farm just past Katy, and we turned off onto a country road then to a lane that wandered through 110 acres of finely manicured lawns, complete with a small pond and a large windmill.

When we arrived at the facility, we were immediately overwhelmed by a 22,000 square foot, huge structure with a five story cupola in the center. The building was made of Douglas fir with oak dowels. A whirlwind of red, blue, green, yellow and white overwhelmed us from about 280 brightly lit neon signs, plus about 1,500 other road signs, large and small. Most of us were stunned by the prospect of trying to read signs of mostly oil and gas companies, and other companies and businesses from years ago. Included were rare Texaco signs, one of which was the last known remaining lighted sign that was festooned with glass beads that reflected various colors. We saw Shell, Humble, Chevron, Lion Oil and many whose names we were not familiar with. There was the winged red Pegasus horse made famous by Mobil Oil. Here and there were restored gasoline pumps, more "dressed up"

than they were in their original days. Some of us were familiar with the Van de Kamp's Bakery sign with the rotating windmill. There were tractors and other farm machinery, all restored to their original finery, as well as an "authentic" roadside diner complete with a counter, round stools, and soft drink dispensers. We said hello to the six-foot Reddy Kilowatt sign we had remembered from our days in the '60s in Houston.

After owner, John Hovas, greeted us in his deeply southern drawl, to tell us how this massive collection had been put together and why it was here in the small town west of Katy. He called our attention to about 18 colorfully restored classic muscle cars from 1968-1971, and one 1937 Plymouth Coupe painted 9 different chameleon colors.

All the cars were Plymouths, Chryslers and Dodges, his favorite brands. John was particularly proud of a bright yellow 1970 Dodge Super Bee, identical to the one he owned in high school.

John related that the \$10 we each paid for the visit was matched to go to one of about nine non-profit charities in the Brookshire area. He and his family had been doing so for several years, and were proud of the impact their generosity had made in the community. The group asked John, and his several guides in the room, many questions. "What is your monthly light bill?" Up to about \$5,000. "How many employees in total to maintain the building and grounds?" Only two paid employees in Hemi Hideout. The guides were all volunteers. "Did you restore virtually everything we see?" No, most were purchased by John and one or two associates at antique sales around the country, and overseas. Occasionally, they would buy something and further restore it.

We even boldly asked John how he had earned the money to amass such a large collection for the enjoyment of people. John started out with one machine shop, originally in Houston, but moved to Brookshire in the 1970's. His clients included oil and pipeline companies who came because of the unique abilities he had to drill and hone parts for deep hole drilling. Eventually, John came to own seven companies, including apartments and buildings around the country. One of John's two sons runs the original H.D.H Instruments now.

"I spend much of my time buying collectibles and telling visitors about them," he said. "I take great joy in seeing folks' enjoyment as they share in my man cave. I call myself the original American Picker."

After the amazing two hour adventure, we stopped for a delicious luncheon at the Brookwood Community founded by HRC members, Yvonne and Dave Streit. We even got into a holiday mood as we browsed the famous Christmas gift shop.

Just another fabulous trip for HRC Senior Members. More to come; join us."

REMINDER

CLUB CLOSED
DECEMBER 25, 2018
JANUARY 1, 2019



1. Take 10! – Find ten minutes every day to re-center and focus on YOU! Try listening to your favorite music, meditating, stretching or reading.

2. Do less, enjoy more- If you find yourself over committed, choose 1-3 holiday activities per week (parties, shopping, card writing) and say “no” to the rest.

3. Swap sugar- Reach out for natural sweeteners like Stevia, Coconut Nectar, or my favorite, Honey.

4. Do a mini fast- Give your digestion a rest by fasting. A

one day juice day, juice until dinner, green smoothies for a day, go vegan for a few meals or an entire day, the possibilities are endless. Whatever you feel you can do to give your digestion a break.

5. Stay hydrated- Drink lots of water or fresh made juices daily!

6. Give yourself a gift “Rest” – Set aside a bit of time each day that is just for you. Read a book, go for a walk, do some yoga, meditate, take a hot bubble bath, etc...

7. Keep on Moving- Don't let the business of the holiday season deter you from your regular exercise routine. Exercise can boost energy and mood.

BLAKE STOVALL
Director of
Fitness & Pools



8. Keep it small- Smaller plates encourage you to eat smaller portions. Research shows that people eat 60% less when using smaller dishes.

9. Eat regular meals- Saving up all your calories for the holiday party feast? Skipping meals may seem like a good idea, but by the time you get to the party you will be so hungry that selection and moderation can be compromised.

10. Roll on- Try doing some foam rolling. Foam rolling is a great way to reduce tight muscles.

11. Resolution planning- Instead of the usual promise of losing weight, try some other healthy resolution such as practicing mindful breathing, do 10 minutes of yoga, attend a Tai Chi class, practice better sleep habits, etc..

12. Smile - Practice the smiles... Even at strangers. It boosts the “feel good” factor for both the “Smiler” and the Smile. Somebody will smile back and if not, just keep practicing.

We are excited to be hosting various Master Classes on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, each from 8:30AM-10:00AM. As we enter into the holiday season, it's never too early to plan your goals for the upcoming year. The Healthy Life Project will be presenting a program kick off in January.

Blake



YIN YOGA WITH ALINE

Mondays 10:40-11:40AM

Release tension in joints, fascia, connective tissue, and bones. The class includes poses done on the floor, with no standing poses.



TAI CHI

Thursdays at 3:00PM

Come try the first class for free!
Instruction by Annette Wong
Enhance Balance, Flexibility & Agility



AQUA AEROBICS

with Jeannie

Beginning Friday, September 14
11:00AM- 12:00PM



MILESTONES



BOB TRISKA – 30 YEARS JULIAN SIERRA – 40 YEARS

BY: TOBY MATTOX

Guest Contributor for the Raconteur

It can be argued that the backbone of a Racquet Club is the group of men who keep the courts in top shape for the enjoyment of its demanding membership. In addition, members will want the courts to be nestled in beautiful landscaping suitable for a major tennis facility.

So it is at the Houston Racquet Club.

Bob Triska, Courts & Grounds Superintendent, is the gentleman who, for 30 years, has been the primary individual responsible for upkeep and maintenance of the 34 hard and clay courts; plus the nearly 32 acres encompassing the campus of HRC. Bob received his Bachelor's Degree in Park Management from Texas A&M in 1976 with intentions of being a National Forest Park Ranger. Bob quickly learned that the careers at the national level were very hard to get, so he began at the State of Texas level, the Galveston Island State Park where he worked with 14 other Rangers for three years.

To broaden his experience, Bob moved into Landscaping with a former college roommate. He then worked for Spencer, a major landscaping company in the Houston area. Eventually, Bob heard of a head position in landscaping at the Houston Racquet Club. Bob applied and got the job in 1988. Bob's first boss was Horst Manhard, the longtime General Manager at HRC. Bob began with 8 employees, and his job included being responsible for the swimming pool, as well as the courts and grounds. Bob readily admits he knew nothing about maintaining clay courts. Conveniently, Julian Sierra was the tennis courts supervisor who taught him about clay courts, and Julian continues to this day in that capacity. Julian has actually been at HRC for 39 years.

An interesting side note is that in the early days, the first two supervisors lived in the Howe House, the former residence at the south end of the parking lot near courts 24 and 25.

Bob has a team of 10 men, half of whom are assigned to the courts, and half are assigned to the landscaping. Occasionally, the landscaping personnel assist in the major tennis courts projects. Today's team includes Antonio Henriquez who has worked here for 38 years, so Bob's group is well experienced.

"I give the men general directions, then let them make their own decisions on how to accomplish the assignments," said Bob. "For the most part, they know exactly what to do," he added. Actually, the turnover at HRC is low. Bob brags that he has had to fire only three employees in 30 years.

Bob and his wife, Annette, have been married for 34 years, having met when she was also working at Galveston Island State Park. They have two sons. Jared attended Lone Star College, and Jacob is a Texas Aggie, Class of 2014.

Julian Sierra and his wife, Martha, have been married for 48 years. Martha works in the HRC kitchen, and they have three children, all of whom graduated from the University of Houston. Julian first worked in the kitchen, the locker room, then moved to work outside. Being responsible for 32 acres of land, including wooded areas near Soldiers Creek and Buffalo Bayou, Bob is well acquainted with animals he has encountered in his years. "Yes, he revealed, "we are blessed with snakes, rabbits, raccoons, possums, the occasional transient coyote, and countless birds. We have a pair of red tailed hawks who reside in a tall pine tree near the Clubhouse. They do migrate, but return to HRC annually."

Bob will answer your questions regarding herbicides, new plant specimens, etc, though the mass of information keeps him studying and attending annual conferences. "I cannot keep up with everything," he admits. "I may have to get back to you with the answer."

And he will, you can count on him.



THANKSGIVING AT HRC

Thanksgiving Hours

Clubhouse Open for Brunch Only – 11:00AM-2:00PM

Fitness Center 8:00AM-2:00PM

Pro Shop – Closed. Courtside Café – Closed

Kids Club Open 8:00AM-2:00PM

Thanksgiving To-Go

Let Chef Adam make your Thanksgiving a little more memorable. We can prepare a wonderful meal to-go or we can supplement your turkey with one of our delicious dishes or desserts.

Thanksgiving order forms must be received by November 17th.

Thanksgiving Feast

Thursday, November 22 • 11:00AM-2:00PM • Ballroom

Adults \$46++, Seniors over 65 years of age \$36++

Children 1-12 years of age \$2.00 per year of age.



HOUSTON RACQUET CLUB

10709 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77024
713.464.4811
houstonracquetclub.com



NEW YEAR'S

NEW YEAR'S EVE FAMILY BINGO

Monday, December 31

5:30 PM

Ballroom

Bingo games, prizes, balloon drop, food and fun!

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER

Monday, December 31

6:30PM Arrival & 7:00PM Dinner

TDR

The champagne is chilling
and we hope you are willing
to be our guest for dinner.

\$65++ per person. Champagne Toast included.

CLUB CLOSED JANUARY 1, 2019