

RACONTEUR

MARCH & APRIL 2020 | A PUBLICATION OF THE HOUSTON RACQUET CLUB | www.houstonracquetclub.com



3 | POP-UP & POP-IN

Women's Association Pop-Up Shop

Wednesday, April 15 • 11:00AM-6:00PM • Ballroom

Complimentary for HRC Members





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Jonathan Chung – F&B Committee
Cary Dunham – Secretary
Stacie Dunn – Fitness Committee
Brad Elmore
Scott Gilley
Ashley Holmsten
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Alex White – President
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Michael Keegan – Director
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WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Tennis VP – Jessica Womac
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NSWCCC – Sue Bramlette & Cathy Lassetter
Parliamentarian – Jill Perez

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.

ALEX WHITE
Club President



My fellow members, as I write this, Spring is fast approaching. For those of you that actually read this, you may be privileged enough to do so on a beach somewhere while on Spring Break! "Privilege" is sort of a buzz word these days; there have been recent documentaries on privilege, and while I don't want to get too political, I do want to offer my perspective. First, we are all privileged to be living in the good ol' USA! I really shouldn't need to say more – just stop and think about that a second. Second, we are privileged to be in Houston. The economic run we have been on the last ~15 years in Houston isn't rivaled by many other cities in America (yes we have had more than a handful of "100-year" rain events over the last 15 years, but who is counting). Finally, I hope we can all agree that we are privileged to be members of HRC!

As a Board, we do have the privilege of dealing with first-class problems. I offer the following examples:

- Other clubs in the country have an aging membership and struggle to find new members; our membership is getting younger and new member demand is strong and ahead of our forecast – the Board is monitoring to make sure we don't erode the member experience by having too many members;
- At other tennis clubs members struggle to find courts and are kicked off following their allotted time for others waiting to play; at our Club that is the exception and not the norm and the Board has even kicked around the idea of adding additional court(s);
- Some clubs have to assess their members for deferred maintenance and/or capital expenditures; our capital expenditure budget this year is just under \$1MM (with no assessment) and we as a Board get to struggle with decisions like replacing working tennis court lights with new LED lights; and
- Member dining at some clubs is virtually non-existent; we face the problem of having too much demand and the Board and Finance Committee are working to control the costs associated with making sure our members have a great dining experience.

As we look for ways to improve, I think it is helpful to remember that these are exactly the types of problems we want to have. As a Board we are challenged with creating policy to promote a member experience that is not just great, but consistently great. That is our goal and it is our privilege to serve. See you around the Club.

Alex

SNEAK PEEK



FEATURE

POP-UP & POP-IN

Women's Association Pop-Up Shop

Wednesday, April 15 • 11:00AM - 6:00PM • Ballroom

DEPARTMENTS

Eye On The Ball.....	4	Social.....	10
Membership.....	5	Fitness.....	14
Tennis.....	6	Club News.....	15



Pop-Up & Pop-In

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION POP-UP SHOP

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15TH • 11:00AM-6:00PM • BALLROOM

HRC Women's Association will host a Pop-Up Shop with over 30 vendors.
There will be clothes, make-up, jewelry, art, home goods and more!!
Complimentary for HRC Members. Please stop by to support our local stores!

Amelia and Co.
Aspire Accessories
BaubleBash
Be Good Bunny
Bella's Candles
Bella Sofia Studio
Coconola
Color Street
Courtney Robertson Art
Cristin Miller Designs
Delamora Designs
Emilia Collection

Fig Tree
Frock Shop
G Kaufman Jewelry
Game Day Jewelry
Golden Thread
Jentry Kelley Cosmetics
JJ Designs
Lady Pera
LC Designs
Lindsey Leigh Jewelry
Marilyn Biles
Memorial Designs

MiCa
Milla and Ella Co.
Mirta Tummino Studio
Muse
Shannon Weir Modern Art
ShellLizzie
Susan Branisa
Urban Spikes
Young Living Essential Oils
Young, Wild & Friedman
Zein

THOMAS PREUML
COO



"You've Come A Long Way, Baby!" I remember seeing a Virginia Slims ad in my native Austria in my younger years. As fate would have it, I eventually ended up at the Club where it all began. Back on September 23, 1970, the Virginia Slims Houston Invitation, with the Original 9 (pictured) and \$1 contracts with World Tennis took place right here at HRC. We are very proud to be the birthplace of professional women's tennis. The **National Senior Women's Clay Court Championships (NSWCCC)** will be at the Club from March 30th until April 5th and they will be celebrating the tournament's 50th Anniversary.



We now have LED lights on five courts (25-30), which also means that **out of our 34 courts, 32 have lights. That is 11 more lighted courts than 12 years ago**, with lights to be added to only two more courts – 33 & 34. Member feedback on the new LED lights has been outstanding. Once the WOTT (World Oilman's Tennis Tournament) wraps up in early May, **we will be converting courts 1 & 2 to LED** as well. The light posts on these two courts are in bad shape, so installation was moved up on the priority list.

We are in budgeting mode. Our new fiscal year starts July 1st, which means that at this time every year, we look at our membership trends, operations, capital expenditure needs and everything else that goes along with developing a financial game plan. **Several committees and the Board work in tandem with management to come up with realistic goals and expectations in order to continue setting HRC up for long range success.** Given the incredible amount of member usage, our facilities are wearing out much faster, so it is paramount that we continue to generate the necessary capital funds to maintain our Club facilities in great shape. **What is our primary source for capital funds? Initiation fees from New Members.** As outlined in a previous column, our annual net member growth hovers around 10 members every year. On average, 70 members resign, and 80 new members join the Club every year.

The new HRC App is live. Many thanks to our Director of Communications, Lindsey Tafolla for spearheading this project. You now have a **digital membership card to sign in at the fitness desk**, the ability to instantly message the front desk, access

the membership directory, look at your membership account, pull up the Club bylaws and house rules, request your car from the valet, read the Raconteur, request a tennis lesson or personal training session, listen to the HRC Insider Podcast, and leave comments or send pictures to management. Please let us know what you think. **Also in the works is a completely redesigned Club website.** Our target date to get that project done is May 31st.

"TO US,
FAMILY MEANS
PUTTING YOUR
ARMS AROUND
EACH OTHER AND
BEING THERE.."

- Barbara Bush

Congratulations and thank you to security guard, Ramiro (Steve) Benavides, for his 40 years of service. Steve is easy to spot with his cowboy hat and aviator sunglasses on a golf cart patrolling the parking lot. Please give him a thumbs up or shake his hand next time you see him.



In the closing paragraph of my State of the Club letter last year I wrote how I feel about the Club. One thing I did not specifically mention, but it comes up many times in Board meetings, committee meetings or conversations with members, is that **HRC is family**, and that staff is treated like family. I have always felt that way, but never as much as recently

when I received a phone call on a Friday morning that **my sister, Irmí Pinter** had unexpectedly passed away at only 49 years young. The world stopped. I had to leave for Austria on a moment's notice. What about the Club? We have a great management team in place, so I knew it will be ok, but there is always that worry at the back of my mind. Then I received this text from our Club President that put me at ease (Alex, thank you for allowing me to share it): **"Just want to reiterate to please do what you feel is best for your family and take whatever time you need away from HRC to attend any services in Austria etc. I have corresponded with the Board and they are supportive. We can handle things while our leader is gone."** I cannot put in words how much I appreciated that text, everyone's support, words of encouragement, prayers and the kind messages while I was out.

Irmí and her twin sister Rosi visited HRC in 2010. She loved the Club. You may not know that **Irmí created the silk painting at the trophy room entrance.** It was a gift to the Club in honor of our **50th anniversary** in 2015.



And, she loved Texas (maybe just not the heat as much). I wanted to share a picture of her family with you as well.



I truly feel like part of the HRC family. Thank you.

Thomas

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

CAMILLE & LUIS BARRETO

His: Managing Director, Brookfield Asset Management
Her: Founder, ME Cosmetics LLC
Children: Damien (17), Sofia (12)
Sponsors: Matt Pomroy, Jason Presley



TAYLOR & TYLER BRADY

His: Director, Greystar
Her: Director of Tax & Finance, Wolf Creek
Children: Townsend (7 mos.)
Sponsors: Morgan & Todd Moore, David Reid



TONYA & DAVID CALLENDER

His: President & CEO, Memorial Hermann Health System
Her: Nurse Practitioner, UTMB
Child: Kerry (23)
Sponsors: Deborah Gordon & Nathan Coco, Randolph Wile



JILL & JOHN CALTAGIRONE

His: Partner/CIO, Dinerstein Companies
Children: Whitney (4), Brooke (2)
Sponsors: Kevin Frankel, Scott & Dara Frankel



VICTORIA & JUSTIN CHAPMAN

His: Executive VP, Hunt Companies, Inc.
Children: Caroline (16), Leighton (14), Ford (11)
Sponsors: Ty Hoffer, Josh Patterson



DARRELL & PEGGY DELAHOUSAYE

His: Retired
Her: Owner, MLD Pathology
Sponsors: Harrison & Tamara Bibb, Rachel Conkling

ALLISON GRAHAM

Her: Counselor, Positive Recovery
Children: Caldwell (16), Katie (13), John (7)
Sponsors: Stacy & Michael Hardison, Kris & Jimmy Vallee

SHERI & WAYNE GROSS

His: Owner/CEO, Self Tree Source Wholesale
Children: Mary Elizabeth (23), Alex (20), Morgan Elizabeth (11)
Sponsors: David Nini, Kim & Brad Conrad, Bonnie Weekley, Jim Pappas
Referral: Carol Allen

BRIDGET & SHAWN KUSHIYAMA

His: Geologist, Shell
Her: Instructional Design Consultant, The Mosaic Company
Child: Logan (3)
Sponsors: Bryan Stanford, Kevin Turner

STACEY & TODD LAMB

His: CEO, Lamb Investments
Children: Sophie (14), Savannah (8)
Sponsors: Richard Rainer, Yvette & Erik Simpson, Ty Hoffer

Congratulations to Susan & Gregory Litts who won the drawing for a trip to La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club at the Member Sponsor Party. Contact Cathy Lassetter, Director of Membership if you would like to sponsor a prospective member. lassetter@houstonracquetclub.com



It's the Big Five-O!



THE USTA NATIONAL SENIOR WOMEN'S CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIPS CELEBRATES THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2020!

Tournament week is March 30 – April 5.

The tournament committee is planning every detail of a memorable week for HRC, and we are asking for your support!!

Over the last 15 years, the NSWCCC has donated generously to many charities and our club.

In 2020, we are supporting "Team Luke – Hope for Minds," founded by Tim Siegel (Thomas Cook's tennis coach at Texas Tech).

The foundation offers support and education to families of children with brain injuries.

We encourage you to get involved to learn more about the "Team Luke - Hope For Minds" foundation!

On Tuesday, March 31st, we will host a sponsor event to thank our generous HRC members

and to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the NSWCCC tournament.

We cordially invite all donors to attend this special event.

NSWCCC DONATION FORM

☐ Game (\$25) ☐ Set (\$50) ☐ Match(\$100)

Name to be listed in the tournament program: _____

Member number: _____

Or make check payable to NSWCCC and send to: Sue Bramlette, 96 Sugarberry Circle, Houston, Texas 77024



THOMAS COOK
Director of Tennis

The spring tennis season is in full swing! We have a really busy schedule, so check the big scoreboard for event announcements, and sign up in the pro shop for each one. There's something for everyone!

Get your name on the "Wall of Fame" in the trophy room HRC **Club Singles** take place March 7/8.

Ladies' Night Out Exhibition Match featuring Sarah Flood, Tammy Morris, Kai Siewrattan, and Kaysie Smashey will get you ready to celebrate the national clay courts!! Wednesday, March 25, 6 PM.

50th USTA National Senior Women's Clay Court Championships – March 30 thru April 5 – all ladies are welcome to play singles and/or doubles. (limited clay court availability during the tournament)

Spring Exhibition Match - special guests to be announced – fun for the whole family! – Friday, April 3.

The **Aussie Re-mix Volume 2** was rained out on January 26. It will be played on Sunday, April 26 –all levels of ladies and men are welcome to play doubles.

The **Women's Association New Member Mixer** will be on April 29th – fun tennis for all ladies to get to know our new members!

See you on the court,

Thomas

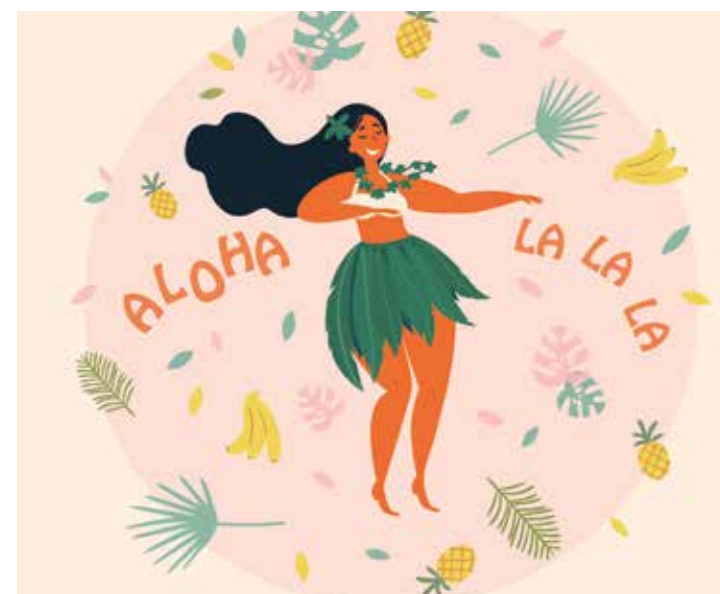
TENNIS

**TEAM
LUK3**
HOPE FOR MINDS

BRINGING HOPE,
ENRICHING LIVES
FRIDAY, APRIL 3



Silent & Live Auction
Exhibition Match 6:30PM
Dinner 8:00PM in the Pavilion
Meet & Greet with Luke, Jenny & Tim Siegel
All Star Hitting Clinic with Special Guests & HRC Pros
Raffle Drawings
Stay tuned for more details on Facebook & Instagram



"LOVE MEANS LUAU" LADIES NEW MEMBER MIXER

Wednesday, April 29 • Check-in 5:30PM

\$40++ Members • \$50++ Guest

New Members are Complimentary

Fun Round Robin

Festive Music, Dinner, Drinks at the Resort Pool

RSVP in the Pro Shop

Host Committee: Alexa Probst, Emily John,
Heather Chenoweth & Danielle Ryan



TENNIS

TENNIS EVENTS

LIVE BALL TENNIS

Tuesdays 9:00-10:30AM B level & above (Ladies)

Tuesdays 10:30AM-12:00PM B level & above (Ladies)

Tuesdays 6:00-7:30PM Champ/A level (Coed)

Wednesdays 9:00-10:30AM B level & above (Ladies)

Wednesdays 10:30AM-12:00PM B level & above (Ladies)

Friday 9:00-10:30AM B level & above (Ladies)

Fridays 10:30AM-12:00PM B level & above (Ladies)

Saturdays 10:00-11:30AM Champ/A level

(Coed or Ladies)

Saturdays 1:00-2:30PM B level & 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 & Fridays 10:30AM-Noon

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

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 7:00-8:30PM

Join Marlon for fundamental oriented drills for "B" level players and up. Beer is provided. \$30/person.

CLUB SINGLES

Saturday & Sunday, March 7 & 8

Saturday 9:00AM & Sunday 1:30PM

Play begins on Saturday at 9am and Sunday at 1:30pm. Lunch will be served on Saturday. Sign up in the Pro Shop. \$20/player. Men & Women. Club Singles Finals will be held on Sunday, March 29.

LADIES EXHIBITION MATCH WE'VE COME A LONG WAY BABY!

Wednesday, March 25

6:00PM

Hosted by the Women's Association

Please save the date and come out for our Ladies Exhibition on March 25th at 6pm featuring Tammy Morris, Kai Siewrattan, Sarah Flood and Kaysie Smashey. There will be complimentary wine and appetizers and Sue Bramlette will be officiating every move from the umpire chair. Ladies only event.

"LOVE MEANS LUAU" LADIES NEW MEMBER MIXER

Wednesday, April 29

Check-in 5:30PM

\$40++ Members, \$50++ Guest and New Members are complimentary. Fun round robin. Festive music, dinner, drinks at the Resort Pool. RSVP in the Pro Shop. Host Committee: Alexa Probst, Emily John, Heather Chenoweth & Danielle Ryan.

SPRING EXHIBITION MATCH

Friday, April 3

6:00PM

Court 1

Save the Date for this Friday night event. More details will be available soon. Watch for Facebook and Instagram posts as well as flyers and posters around the Club.

WOTT

Thursday-Saturday, May 7-9

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

Date TBD

Contact Sarah Flood or sign up in the Pro Shop.

SUMMER TENNIS CAMP

Begins - Tuesday, May 26

TENNIS



TENNIS TRIUMPHS

APRÉS TENNIS - WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION GUEST TOURNAMENT

The women's member-guest tournament was a huge success and had over 100 women participating! The weather was fantastic and the warm turkey chili hit the spot after playing. The event hostesses gave out HRC Apres Tennis sweatshirt favors -- and they were a hit! **1.** Thomas Cook, Melissa Morgan, Veronica Gompers, Ashley Holmsten & Angie Hardin; **2.** Kim Thom, Sommer Bukowski, Kristi Callaway and Gemma Askew;



LADIES EXHIBITION MATCH WE'VE COME A LONG WAY BABY!

Wednesday, March 25 • 6:00PM

Hosted by the Women's Association

Please save the date and come out for our Ladies Exhibition on March 25th at 6pm featuring Tammy Morris, Kai Siewrattan, Sarah Flood and Kaysie Smashey.

There will be complimentary wine and appetizers and Sue Bramlette will be officiating every move from the umpire chair. Ladies only event.



JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

Date TBD

For kids of all ages 7 and up that can serve.

Sign up with Sarah Flood.



SPRING EXHIBITION MATCH

Friday, April 3 • 6:00PM • Court 1

Save the Date for this Friday night event. More details will be available soon. Watch for Facebook and Instagram posts as well as flyers and posters around the Club.



SOCIAL EVENTS

SENIOR BUS TRIP

Glenwood Cemetery

Tuesday, March 3

8:45AM

Hosted by the Senior Activities Committee

\$15 per person for the guided tour plus lunch (member charge) back at the Club (optional) Glenwood's collection of statuary and monuments are reminders of Houston's rich history and the men and women who shaped it. RSVP today!

WOMEN IN ENERGY PANEL LUNCHEON

Wednesday, March 4

11:30AM-1:00 PM

The Dining Room

Hosted by the Oil & Gas Society

\$25++ per person. Guests are welcome. RSVP to Cristina at ctorres@houstonracquetclub.com

SUNDAY FUNDAY

Sunday, March 8

4:00-6:00PM

Pavilion

Junior & YP Members. \$20++ per person.

SPRING BREAKAWAY CAMP

Monday-Friday, March 16-20

9:30AM-3:00PM

Youth Area

There's no better way to celebrate the spring than by heading to HRC because it's the place to be! Must be 5 years and up. Members \$300 Non-Members \$350.

SENIOR BINGO!

Tuesday, March 17

6:00-8:00PM

Creekside Lounge

Are you feeling the luck of the Irish?

Join us for fun games and prizes. Heavy appetizers.

\$25++ per person or \$40++ per couple. RSVP Jean

jnorthy@houstonracquetclub.com.

LADIES BUNCO NIGHT

Thursday, March 19

7:00-9:00PM

Creekside Lounge

Light bites and Member charge bar. \$ 15.++ per person.

KIDS FAIRY GARDENS & TERRARIUMS CLASS

Wednesday, March 25

6:00PM

Youth Area

Join us for a magical experience as we create unique terrariums or enchanted fairy gardens that reflect your inner imagination! \$15 per person.

FIESTA ON THE REDWOOD

Thursday, March 26 & Thursday, April 9

6:00-8:00PM

Redwood Deck

\$15++ per Person /complimentary when bringing prospective member guests. RSVP to Cathy Lassetter lassetter@houstonracquetclub.com.

MEN'S SURF & TURF DINNER

Friday, March 27

6:00PM

Resort Pool

Hosted by the Men's Association

6:00PM exhibition match with cigars and beverages.

8:00PM dinner at Resort Pool. \$75++ per Member

or \$95++ per Guest. RSVP to Cristina

ctorres@houstonracquetclub.com.

KIDS MOVIE NIGHT

Toy Story 4 - Friday, March 27

Frozen 2 - Friday, April 17

6:00PM

Ballroom

Buffet Available upon request. Reservations required.

HONKY TONK LAUNDRY

Saturday, March 28

2:30PM Matinee (Meet at Theater)

Stages Repertory Theater

Hosted by the Seniors Activities Committee

Tickets \$24 each. Join us for this jukebox musical

treat! RSVP 713.464.4811.

UNCORK'D WINE FESTIVAL

Sunday, March 29

2:00-5:00PM

Pavilion

Join us to "Uncork the Fun" at the annual Uncork'd Wine Festival. We will gather with friends to learn about and experiment with new and unusual varieties of wine. Enjoy live music from Andrew Bateman, sample wines, and visit with representatives from Republic and Glacier. \$25++ per person. Uncork'd Members only.

MEN'S GOLF OUTING AT HOUSTON OAKS

Saturday, April 4

11:30AM Lunch

1:30PM Tee Off

Hosted by the Men's Association

Awards Reception following play. \$80++ per Member.

RSVP to Cristina ctorres@houstonracquetclub.com.

SENIOR BUS TRIP HOUSTON ASTROS VS NY METS

Tuesday, April 7

5:30PM - bus will leave HRC

Hosted by the Senior Activities Committee

Tickets \$35 each. Game time 7:10PM.

THE TIE DYE LAB

Wednesday, April 8

6:00-7:00PM

Youth Area

Dress for a mess, we are going to put the "Art" in Party!

\$17.00 per person. 5 yrs. & up. Limited space.

Reservation required.

CHILDREN'S EASTER PARTY

Saturday, April 11

9:30AM-NOON

Hop on over to the annual Children's Easter Party

Egg Hunt, Photos with the Easter Bunny, Train rides,

Balloon Artist, DJ, Crafts & more! RSVP 713.464.4811.

EASTER BRUNCH

Sunday, April 12

11:00AM-2:00PM

Ballroom & Grill

Spend Easter Sunday at the Houston Racquet Club!

We are offering a buffet with morning favorites as well

as lunch favorites like a carving station, classic glazed

ham and fresh spring produce. Satisfy your sweet

tooth with assorted desserts. RSVP 713.464.4811.

CRAWFISH FESTIVAL

Sunday, April 19

1:00-3:30PM

Pavilion

The Zydecorele Band. It's mudbug season – join us for great food, lively music and fun for the whole family.

RSVP 713.464.4811.

POP-UP & POP-IN SHOP

Wednesday, April 15

11:00AM-6:00PM

Ballroom

Hosted by the Women's Association

If you're interested in being a vendor, contact Jenna

Jackson3@gmail.com for details. Complimentary for

HRC Members.

ROCKET BUILDING CLASS- 3,2,1. BLAST OFF!!!

Wednesday, April 22

6:00-7:00PM

Youth Area

Build rockets and launch them into the air! \$15.00 per person. 6 yrs and up. Reservations required.

TEEN PASTRY CLASS

Wednesday, April 29

6:00-7:30PM

Kitchen

\$40.00 per person. 13 yrs and up. Reservations required. Limited spots.

PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS LUNCHEON

Thursday, April 30th

12:00-1:30PM

The Dining Room

\$10++ Members and \$25++Guests. Men Only.

Guests welcome. RSVP to Cristina

ctorres@houstonracquetclub.com.



CRAWFISH FESTIVAL

Sunday, April 19 • 1:00-3:30PM • Pavilion

Join us for great food, lively music and fun for the whole family. RSVP 713.464.4811.

SENIOR BUS TRIP GARDENING TOUR & LUNCH

Tuesday, May 5

Gardening Tour starts at 10:30AM

Hosted by the Senior Activities Committee

Guest Speaker, Gardener and HRC Member Jill Oliver

will show off her bounty of vegetables and fruit!

Take a short bus ride to see her "Kitchen Garden" and return to the Club for lunch.

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, May 10

11:00AM-2:00PM

Ballroom & Grill

Come Celebrate Mom and all the things we love about her! Make your reservations early.

713.464.4811

CAMP F.U.E.L. SUMMER DAY CAMP FOR YOUTH

Monday to Friday

9:30AM-3:00PM

Session 1: June 1-5

Session 2: June 8-12

Session 3: June 15-19

Session 4: June 22-26

Session 5: July 6-10

Session 6: July 13-17

Session 7: July 20-24

Session 8: July 27-31

Session 9: August 3-7

Session 10: August 10-14

Summer is approaching fast, and the kids are almost out of school! How do you plan on your youth keeping busy, having fun and staying fit? Camp F.U.E.L. is the answer for you! Youth Activities is set and ready to go with a summer full of excitement and unforgettable memories waiting to be created! Cost per session: \$300 Member, \$270 Member Sibling and \$350 Non-Members. Contact Rechelle for Summer Camp Guides real@houstonracquetclub.com.



FIESTA ON THE REDWOOD DECK

Thursdays, March 26 & April 9 • 6:00-8:00PM • Redwood Deck

\$15++ per Person /complimentary when bringing prospective member guests. RSVP to Cathy Lassetter lassetter@houstonracquetclub.com.



HRC BENEVOLENT SPIRITS SOCIETY



TIM JORDAN AND THE YELLOW ROSE DISTRIBUTOR

The first Benevolent Spirits Society event went very well with the Executive Bourbon Steward, Jason Macal in attendance. Our members received first-hand knowledge of the process. Pictured: HRC Member Tim Jordan and Bourbon Steward Jason Macal. Stay tuned for more details for the next event in the next few months. All spirit lovers are welcome as this is not just a Whiskey Club. Thank you to Yellow Rose Distillery for being here.

NEW ARRIVAL



Hudson Chung
December 23, 2019
Parents: Barbara & Jonathan Chung



FROM THE OFFICE OF DICKIE SCHELNICK, DIRECTOR OF SECURITY

Please be aware all arrivals and departures with Uber and Lyft will be directed to the front of the Clubhouse. We need to ensure the safety of our members, guests and staff. Thank you for your cooperation.

RACONTEUR SPOTTINGS

1. Mark & Susan Meyers watching Nadal play at the Australian Open in Melbourne! They were there Monday and Tuesday, then off to Sydney for their cruise down the Australian coast then up the east coast of NZ. They went back to Melbourne for round of 16s! What a great trip! Thanks for taking along the Raconteur.

2. Maxine Mueller and Diane Strong visited beautiful Portugal and remembered to snap this great picture with the newsletter! Thanks Ladies.

3. Carolyn & Leland Putterman made it to the top of Park Pass Glacier just outside of Queenstown, New Zealand with the HRC pop socket! The Raconteur was left in the hotel room (LOL). Great Picture.

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



THE USTA NATIONAL SENIOR WOMEN'S CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIPS CELEBRATES THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2020!

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the USTA National Senior Women's Clay Court Championships, we pause to thank the Houston Racquet Club members and staff for their many years of support and hard work that have made this historic event what it is today. Tournament week is March 30 – April 5. Please join us by watching the highest level of women's tennis and the outstanding sportsmanship and camaraderie which make up the NSWCCC. There's still time to enter or donate!

2020 TOURNAMENT UNDERWRITERS

Foley & Lardner LLP
Houston Racquet Club Women's Association
PFS Group
Prosperity Bank
Vinson and Elkins LLP
Styles Jewelers
Trendmaker Homes
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MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, May 10
11:00AM-2:00PM
Ballroom & Grill

Come Celebrate Mom and all the things we love about her!
Make your reservations early.
713.464.4811



SWIMMING NEWS



MARCIA SHEAR
Aquatic Program
Coordinator/Swim Instructor

The pool area will be an exciting place for all ages this summer. You will see a whole new swim team format that is designed to raise the level of your child's swimming experience.

We are introducing water baby classes for 8-36-month-old children. Water exercise classes now include Aqua Joggers and new routines, and last but not least we have created a class for you and 3-5 friends. Also, not to be missed, are our private and semi-private lessons that are tailored to the individual and offered by request.

Four distinct and separate practice groups will combine to form one competitive swimming community.

• **Manta Refresh Strokes 101** is the perfect intro to the competitive swimming season. Geared for 5-10-year-old swimmers. Competitive strokes will be introduced and refined. Starts will be introduced and endurance encouraged. Class size is limited to provide more individualized attention, so pre-registration is required.

• **Manta Refresh Fitness** is a chance to get in shape for the season. Offered Tuesdays beginning in May and divided by age groups. It is a chance to practice with guidance free of charge. All that is required

is to turn in Swim Team Registration early and pass the swim test for the Manta Rays. Want more information? Contact Marcia Shear at mshear@houstonracquetclub.com.

• **Stroke Clinics** are offered each Friday beginning in April and led by Head Coach Isabelle Thirouin. 9 year and older swimmers can choose from a different stroke each week.

• **Manta Rays Swim Team** is a great way to have fun, improve skills, get fit and make friendships that will last a lifetime.

• **Water Babies** is a class to teach parents and children 8-36 months of age appropriate swimming and safety skills. Songs, games, oral and tactile activities will introduce age appropriate water skills.

• **Swim Lessons** are available for all ages and skill levels. Let us personalize a learning plan that allows you to swim and enjoy the pool. For more information or to arrange instruction contact Marcia Shear, Aquatic Program Coordinator, at mshear@houstonracquetclub.com.

SWIM TEAM SCHEDULE

June 2 ROCC @ HRC
June 4 HRC@ Houstonian
June 9 HRC@ Lakeside CC
June 11 Forest Club@ HRC
June 16 Briar Club@ HRC
June 18 HRC@ Houston CC

Swim Team Banquet Tuesday, June 23



BLAKE STOVALL
Director of
Fitness & Pools



I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season, and with Spring and swim season just around the corner, I want to make sure that you're informed to ensure everyone has a wonderful pool experience. Aura Aquatics will again be providing the lifeguarding services for HRC. Below are the guidelines of the Child Safety Policy. I am also including the hours of operations for March and April. Please note that the Lap Pool will be open for Spring Break with Lifeguards on Duty from 10-8pm during that week. And, it's heated!

CHILD SAFETY POLICY RULES:

- Children 48 inches and under in height that enter the swimming pool area are required to take a swimming test.
- A red and white checkered wristband indicates that the child has not passed the Swim Test administered by the lifeguards. Children with a red and white checkered wristband will be issued a life jacket, which must be worn at all times when the child is in the pool area. If the parent/guardian elects for the child not to wear a life jacket, the parent/guardian is then required to and must agree to keep the child within arms' length at all times while the child is in the pool area.
- Once a child has passed the Swim Test the child's name will be added to our Child Safety Log. For each visit to the pool the child will need to give the lifeguard his or her name/member number. Children on the Child Safety Log are not required to wear a life jacket or be within arms' length of their parent/guardian.
- The Swim Test consists of swimming one length of the Lap Pool unassisted. The aid of flotation devices, lane ropes, pool walls, or the bottom of the pool is prohibited during the administration of the swimming test.
- Any child on the Child Safety Log can be asked to perform a swim test again should the lifeguards on duty feel the child's swimming ability has diminished.

LAP POOL HOURS MARCH-APRIL

Monday- Friday 6:00AM-9:00PM
(Lifeguard on Duty: 4:00-8:00PM)
Saturday and Sunday 7:30AM-9:00PM
(Lifeguard on Duty: 10:00AM-8:00PM)
March 16-20 (Spring Break)
(Lifeguard on Duty 10:00AM-8:00PM)
**Please note that no one under 18 may swim when Lifeguard is not on duty.*

RESORT POOL HOURS MARCH

Saturday and Sunday 10:00AM-8:00PM

RESORT POOL HOURS APRIL

Saturday and Sunday 10:00AM-8:00PM
Good Friday 10:00 AM-8:00PM

Blare



CARLOS CHAVEZ



BY: TOBY MATTOX

Carlos Chavez sat comfortably at the white cloth table in the corner of the adult dining area of the Grill. His dusty rose smart dress shirt and color coordinated tie signaled that he was a gentleman who was quite at ease with his station in life as the Manager of the practically new gathering spot at the Houston Racquet Club.

And why not?

Carlos has been Manager of the Grill for the past eight years. Thirty seven years ago, Carlos began his employment at HRC as a Bus Boy, having arrived in Houston from El Salvador to seek a better life than was offered in his home country during a long period of government unrest.

"I am very much pleased with where I am and what I have accomplished thus far," beamed Carlos. I enjoy working with my fellow staff members, with the Club management, and with the many members, who are all friendly and pleased with their Club".

After only six months of employment, Carlos was promoted to Server for a year, then Captain of the Fine Dining Room, where he resided for 8 years. He then transferred to the Grill, where he served for 18 years. Too, he worked in the Banquet Area, returning to run the morning shift in the Grill at the direction of Thomas Preuml eight years ago.

Carlos says he has made many friends among the Club members.

"I am particularly proud of my relationship with Former President George H.W. Bush," said Carlos. "As a member, he and his family often dropped by the Grill, and he always asked for me. He knew I would take special care of him. President Bush even called me his friend."

President Bush would often invite Carlos to visit him in his nearby Houston office, but Carlos sadly confessed he never took the time to do so. He added that he did attend President Bush's funeral.

Carlos did have a fun time with the President on the occasion that he was invited to join the Bush family and friends to a special showing of the movie "Up In The Air", starring George Clooney.

"We saw the movie, and participated in the social afterwards. I think the Bush family had a connection

with the movie's director, or maybe even Mr. Clooney," said Carlos.

Through his 37 years at HRC, Carlos has seen many changes, both with the Club and with the membership. He remembers when there were over a thousand members, when the club fell to about 600, and now back up to a capacity of some 1,400.

Carlos says it is fun to know that three or four generations of the same family are members of HRC. He takes pride in knowing that today's members are so proud of what HRC has become. And, he credits the growth and fantastic improvements to Thomas Preuml and his devoted staff, including Sonny McDaniel, Adam Heath, and many others.

Carlos Chavez is married with grown children. He returns periodically to El Salvador to visit his parents and family members. When not working the day shift at the club, Carlos enjoys being at home, relaxing by catching up with odd jobs around the house.

"I look forward to serving the membership at HRC for many more years," added Carlos. I feel quite at home here."



KIDS SPRING
BREAKAWAY CAMP

Monday-Friday, March 16-20
9:30AM-3:00PM • Youth Area
Members \$300 • Non-Members \$350



HRC PAST PRESIDENTS DINNER

Back to Front: Bob Landauer, Leland Putterman, Clark Reid, Tim Purcell, Fred Saunders, Doug Dawson, Andy Johnston, Brad Patt, Pete Sterling, David Frantz, Ted Erck, Bill Kottwitz, Bob Bramlette, Steven Madden, Michael Monk, Bert Tabor, Nick Nichols, Danny Weingeist, Kathy Zay, Current President, Alex White & Clyde Buck



HOUSTON RACQUET CLUB

10709 Memorial Drive

Houston, TX 77024

713.464.4811

houstonracquetclub.com

Celebrate Easter

CHILDREN'S EASTER PARTY
SATURDAY, APRIL 11 • 9:30AM-NOON • PAVILION
Hop on over to the annual Children's Easter Party
Egg Hunt, Photos with the Easter Bunny,
Train rides, Balloon Artist,
DJ, Crafts & more! RSVP 713.464.4811.

EASTER SUNDAY BRUNCH
SUNDAY, APRIL 12 • 11:00AM-2:00PM
BALLROOM & GRILL
Spend Easter Sunday at the Houston Racquet Club!
RSVP 713.464.4811.

