

February
2022



Update Newsletter 25th Anniversary Edition



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When we began 2021, we thought we were on our way back to some semblance of normalcy. As we start 2022, we realize that we have a new normal consisting of masks, COVID testing, and quarantines. We are blessed that we lost no members to the coronavirus. We have maintained our membership and added new members. We modified our scholarship distribution to recognize students who wrote an essay sharing how they coped with the challenges of the virus. Our Junior golfers continued to grow and shine as their new normal is win, win, win. Many Divas and Dudes took this unusual time to grow their game as the golf courses were some of the few public places open for business.

We ended 2021 on a high note with our first Junior Golf Achievement Celebration. Under the leadership of Jenny Bethune, Junior Golf Chair, and her Committee, we recognized Most Improved Junior, Hole in One, and Volunteer Parent. This is an event that we hope will continue each year.

Our final highlight of the year was our 25th Anniversary Celebration. Sixty-eight golfers from TDTD and other southern area clubs descended upon the Soboba Springs Golf Course and enjoyed a wonderful tournament. The day was capped off with dinner and dancing with family and friends of the Divas and Dudes. On all accounts, the Anniversary was an awesome success thanks to the hard work of the Anniversary Committee.

We do not know what 2022 will be like due to the virus; however, what we do know is that the best golf club in the Southern Area will continue to be the best.

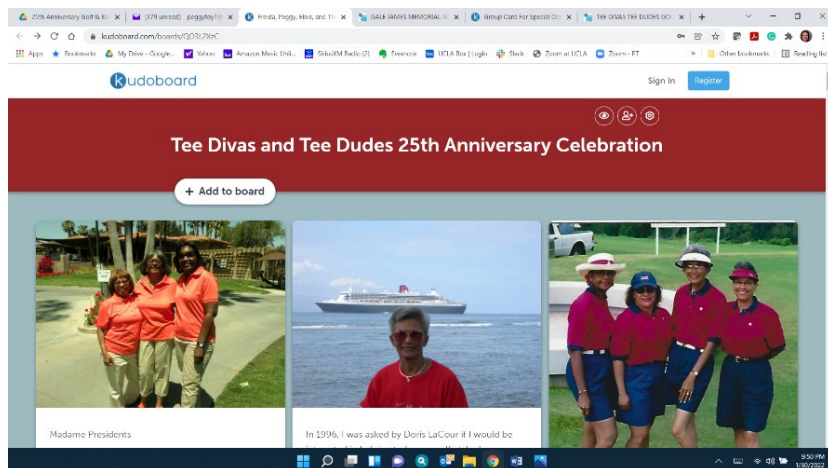
Blessings,
Elois

Elois McGehee, President

25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENTS

The Tee Divas Golf Club was formed in November 1996 by retired Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff Doris LaCour and several women friends to provide golf training and playing opportunities to other women from diverse cultural backgrounds. The Club also traveled to top golf destinations to give members broad exposure to golf worldwide. In 2004, Tee Divas Golf Club became the *Tee Divas & Tee Dudes Golf Club* (TDTD Golf Club) to include men who share the same interest in learning and playing golf. TDTD Junior Golf Program further expanded in recent years with a growing number of Junior members excelling in golf competitions and winning scholarships supported by family members and the golf community. **By 2021 the Tee Divas & Tee Dudes Golf Club had grown to 108 members: 71 Adults, 31 Juniors, and 6 College Junior members.**

To honor our 25th Anniversary, TDTD held commemorative events marking the occasion. The Club's two marquee events. This edition reports on the 25th Anniversary Golf & Gala Weekend Celebration at the Soboba Casino Resort and Soboba Springs Golf Course in November and the 25th Anniversary Junior Golf Achievement Celebration at the Don Knabe Golf Center and Junior Academy held in October.



If you'd like to send a 25th Anniversary message to Tee Divas & Tee Dudes or share a favorite picture or memory of time with TDTD, go to our 25th Anniversary kudoboard—an online message and photo board:
<https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/QO3L2XzC>

Freida Smith, TDTD Historian

25TH ANNIVERSARY GOLF & GALA WEEKEND EVENT

Elois McGehee shared this report on the 25th Anniversary Celebration at the Soboba Casino Resort and Soboba Springs Golf Course November 5-7, 2021:

"I am still smiling after the incredible 25th Anniversary weekend of the Tee Divas & Tee Dudes Golf Club. We had a wonderful time beginning with the Hospitality Room on Friday, where old acquaintances were reunited, and new friends were introduced. We played cards, told jokes, and looked at the beautiful photo albums which captured our 25-year history.



The Golf Tournament followed on Saturday morning with a modified shotgun start at 8:30 am. The golf course was in excellent condition, and the weather did not distract us from our focus on hitting over the many water holes and bunkers. I personally donated two balls to the course. We were fortunate to be joined by golfers from other clubs: Cosmos, Diff'rent Strokes, Honors, LA Fairway, Tee Masters, and Vernoncrest.



The day closed with a Gala dinner and dance celebration. The program highlighted the history of the Club, introducing some of the founding members, and displaying some of TDTD memorabilia. Certificates of Recognition from Senator Steven Bradford, Supervisor Holly Mitchell, and Assemblymember Autumn Burke were shown.



A toast to the future and a raffle with five winners at \$200 each were highlights of the evening. *[Chris Guyton(r) TDTD Vice-President joins Elois at the podium].* Line dancing lessons with an energetic DJ helped us to work off some of the calories we ingested from a delicious meal.”



25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS BY THE NUMBERS:

Beryl Bryant, Recording/Financial Secretary Report



Soboba Golf and Gala Events:

- 74 attended the 25th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday Evening
- 69 Golfers on Saturday
- 16 Golfers on Sunday
- 2 Congratulatory donations
- 7 Golf clubs attended: Honors, Inland Empire, Dif'Rent Strokes Cosmo, LA Fairway, No Nonsense, Tee Masters, and Vernoncrest
- Junior Achievement Event**
- 65+ Guests, Junior members, and family members attended the Junior Achievement Celebration
- 20 Tee signs for Anniversary Celebration*
- 8 Tee signs for Junior Achievement Event*

See page 7 for a complete listing of Tee Sign Sponsors



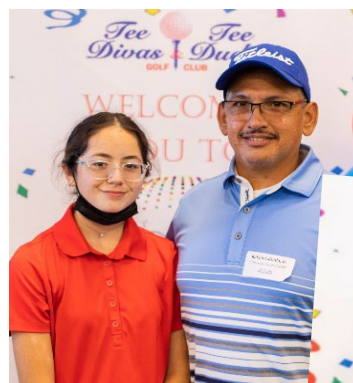
25TH ANNIVERSARY JUNIOR GOLF ACHIEVEMENT CELEBRATION EVENT

TDTD's 25th Anniversary kicked off October 2 with a Junior Achievement Celebration, the first-ever held by the Club, reflecting the growing number of Junior members and the many parents and families supporting the TDTD Junior Golf Program. More than 65 guests, Junior members, and family members attended the event.

Jenny Bethune, TDTD Junior Program Chair, shared this report on the 25th Anniversary Junior Golf Achievement Celebration event at the Don Knabe Golf Center and Junior Academy in Norwalk, California 2021:

“Our Juniors, their families, and friends enjoyed golf and participated in several skill games--putting, chipping, and closest-to-the-pin. We had 22 Juniors play nine holes of golf followed by Chick-fil-A lunch provided in partnership with Chick-fil-A Cienega Triangle. The Junior Achievement program featured awards, scholarship presentations, and speakers.

We presented winners trophies to Junior golfers [top row l-r] **Kourey Patterson** (Hole in One) shown with parents Gary and Cynthia; **Alysa Davis** (Most Improved Junior) with dad Gerald; **Michael, Luke, and Judah Johnson** (Low Gross and Closest to the Pin) with dad Doug; [second row l-r] **Damian Esparza** (Closest to the Pin) with mom and siblings; Salma Ibrahim, (2nd Gross Score) with mom Adey, **Carolina Calzada** (Closest to the Pin) with dad Rafael. A special award was presented to **Gary Patterson, Volunteer Parent**, [second row right] for his consistent dedication to the TDTD Juniors and the Club.





Speaker highlights included our College TDTD Junior member Skylar Graham, who gave the keynote speech on the value of golf to Junior development. John DeGomez [r], Player and Youth Development Program Manager for Southern California Golf Association (SCGA), provided information about the Junior Golf Pass program and the Scholarships offered by SCGA.

The program's highlight was the four Gale James Scholarship winners. Each winner read portions of their essays centered on Covid-19 and how they dealt with the pandemic. Honorable mention awards were also given. The Juniors that played golf were also rewarded with gift cards from Starbucks and Jamba Juice for Low Scores, Most Birdies, and Closest to the Pin.”

Jenny Bethune, TDTD Junior Program Chair

2021 GALE JAMES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Gale James Memorial Scholarship was established in memory of Gale James, a professional golf instructor and TDTD member until her death in April 2015. The scholarship awards are given annually to student golfers who are in an organized golf program and interested in furthering their golf skills and education. The award may be used to support academic needs, tournament fees, travel, equipment, and golf accessories. For more information about the Gale James Memorial Scholarship, visit <https://teedivas-dudesgolf.com/gj-memorial-scholarship-2021/>



Applicants for the 2021 TDTD Gale James Scholarships were required to write an essay answering the question: “How were you able to maintain your grades and stay involved in improving your golf skills during the COVID-19?” Applicants also submitted an official report card or transcript and letter of recommendation (non-family) in addition to their essay. Applicants were evaluated by the Scholarship Committee using a rubric that scored the Application, Essay, Transcript, Letter of reference, and involvement in golf.

Due to the unique impact of COVID on students, the Committee decided to expand the number of recipients this year to include an “Honorable Mention Encouragement Award” in addition to the Winner Award category. Scholarship Award recipients received \$250 each. Encouragement Award recipients received \$100 each. Awards were presented at the 25th Anniversary Junior Golf Achievement Celebration Event on October 2, 2021.

2021 Scholarship Award Recipients: Kyla Coaxum [previous page], and Kamea Nicolis, Nia Elkouby and Adrienne Walker [l-r].



Encouragement Scholarship Award Recipients: Mahamed Ibrahim, London Clark, and Kaitlyn Haley [l-r].



TDTD Scholarship Committee
Verna Stroud, Chair, Beryl Bryant, Gloria Howard, Doris LaCour, Rosemary Spriggs

25TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of the Anniversary Committee, we would like to thank everyone who joined us in making this a memorable occasion. Your participation and support made it all special. Thank You!

Anniversary Committee: Charna Blakely, Beryl Bryant, Shirley Dones, Patricia Greene, Chris Guyton, Gloria Howard (Co-Chair), Elois McGehee (Co-Chair), Frieda Smith, Rose Mary Spriggs, Peggy Toy, Marguerite Waddy (Co-Chair), and Sharon Walton.

Special Thanks to the 25th Anniversary Junior Achievement Event Sub-Committee: Jenny Bethune, TDTD Junior Program Chair; Parent and Member volunteers: Cynthia Patterson, Patricia Greene, Kimberly Walker, Michele Baham, and Peggy Toy.

25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION TEE SIGN SPONSORS

Thank you to all our 25th Anniversary Tee Sign Sponsors for their contribution to the success of Tee Divas & Tee Dudes 25th Anniversary Events. Your support is deeply appreciated!

ANGELIQUE ON THE LINKS

BERYL & DUANE GREEN

CAR GUY

CARTERS PRECISION PRESSURE WASHING

CHICK-FIL-A, CIENEGA TRIANGLE*

DAS GOLF LESSONS*

ELOIS MCGEEHEE-GROWING OUR YOUTH FOR THE FUTURE*

GALE'S GIRLS-BARBARA, LAVERNE, PEGGY & VERA

GLORIA - CHERYL - ANGIE

INLAND EMPIRE GOLF CLUB*

INLAND GOLF ACADEMY

JENNY BETHUNE*

KOUREY M. ENSLEY

LAGNIAPPE INVESTMENT CLUB

LORA ARY & DEBBIE GIVENS

LORNA WOODS

PARKSIDE EDC

PENNY-CHANEL-GISELLE

RJ'S CERTIFIED MOBILE RV SERVICE

SHIRLEY DONES AND HERBERT DONES

STEVIE MACK COMEDY*

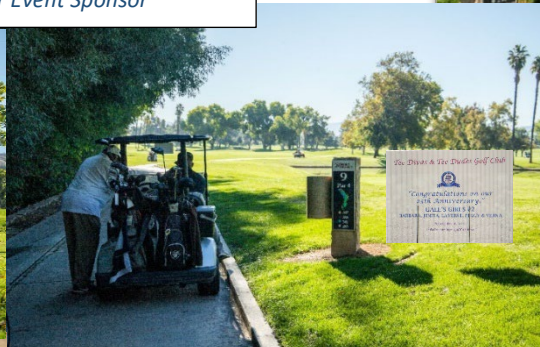
ANTOINE TURNER TOTAL REWARDS AGENCY

TONY HERNANDEZ INK & STITCH

WOW SISTERHOOD*

WSGA The Honors Golf Club

**Denotes a Soboba Golf & Gala and Junior Event Sponsor*



See more photos online at [TDTD 25th Anniversary Golf Tournament Photo Gallery](#)

CLUB ACTIVITIES ROUNDING OUT THE YEAR

Family & Friends Events: Family & Friends attended a showing of the acclaimed film “Respect,” starring Jennifer Hudson in August. In December attended a showing of “King Richard,” starring Will Smith as Serena and Venus Williams's dad. With his wife Oracene, played by Aunjanue Ellis, he leads the phenoms to tennis stardom. **Tournaments in 2021:** No tournaments were held in 2021. However, members participated in casual monthly playdates under COVID restrictions. Approximately 24-36 players participated in our “Monthly Play Date” events.



Sistas on the Links 5th Annual Tournament: Sixteen members traveled to Napa Valley wine country to participate in this fun event presented by the Bay Area-based golf club. Sistas on the Links offer opportunities for African American women to gather and play golf.

Beryl Bryant, Recording/Financial Secretary; Charna Blakeley, Tournament Chair

TDTD CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH LOOKING FORWARD

As the golf community mourned the passing of celebrated golfer Lee Elder in November at the age of 87, Golf Digest's coverage of Elder's laudatory career recalled the challenges he faced. His story reminds us that even the greatest of Black American athletes cannot escape the racism that haunts the country.

“Elder made 448 starts on the PGA Tour, winning four times. [He] was invited to the 1975 Masters, where he became the first Black golfer to play in the Tournament. It was an achievement that brought out the worst of humanity, as Elder received death threats leading up to his appearance at Augusta National. The danger forced Elder to rent two houses during Masters week so that his would-be antagonizers would not know where he was. In the face of this cruelty, Elder shot 74 and 78, missing the cut. He would play at the Masters five more times; his best finish a T-17 in 1979.”

In 2021, August National celebrated his legacy by naming him Honorary Starter with Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player for the annual ceremony. “For me and my family, I think it was one of the most emotional experiences that I have ever witnessed or been involved in,” Elder said following the ceremony. “It is certainly something that I will cherish for the rest of my life.” *Golf Digest*, November 2021 <https://www.golfdigest.com/story/lee-elder-dies-masters>

Elder was among a long line of Black golfers who love the game, made significant contributions to the sport, and persisted despite the barriers. Because of those who came before, we rise with a new generation emerging in the sport. Golf is evolving to respond to a changing, more diverse world. **The TDTD partnership with the SCGA Junior Golf Program is an example of initiatives underway.** <https://www.scgajunior.org/>

TDTD Juniors Kyla Coaxum and Skylar Graham were among 15 high school and college students nationwide last year selected to receive the John Shippen Achievement Scholarship. John Shippen Jr. (1879-1968) was the first African American to play in the United States Golf Open but faced harsh racism. The scholarships are awarded “to current students of color who have demonstrated leadership & service and are committed to inclusion & diversity efforts on campus and in the community.” <https://www.minorityleaders.org/the-john-shippen/>

In January, the **Advocates Professional Golf Association**, established in 2010 to bring greater diversity to the game of golf, joined with Farmers Insurance to present the APGA Tournament at Torrey Pines. The Tournament offered the largest purse on the APGA Tour of \$100,000. **APGA engaged young golfers in the event, including our own Kyla Coaxum, in training and meeting the tour's pros.** Learn more about APGA at <https://www.apgatour.org/>.

Tee Divas & Tee Dudes salute these efforts and look forward to a new, more diverse chapter in golf.

Peggy Toy, Update Editor

Tee Divas & Tee Dudes Junior Program: Growing the Future of Golf

RAISING THE NEXT GOLF GENERATION

“As a leader and student-athlete, golf has continued to teach me to exert self-confidence, self-efficacy, and sportsmanship. I continue to set goals for myself to reach the highest potential. Thank you for your continuous support, and I am appreciative of every seed that the golf community has planted within me. ”

Kyla Coaxum,

Gale James Memorial and SCGA Scholarship Recipient

The Tee Divas & Tee Dudes established the Junior Program to promote interest in golf and the acquisition of golf skills in younger players. TDTD assists younger players in pursuing the sport for fun or as a competitive player and a pathway to fund college and a formidable life on the pro circuit.

The Tee Divas & Tee Dudes Junior Golf Program provide Junior members with golf training and coaching, casual and tournament golf events, college preparation, and scholarships. TDTD members mentor and join playdates with Juniors and support Junior tournaments and other activities.

Parents and Partners

Parents and family members are essential supporters of the program. Parents enable Junior members to participate in training activities and events. They serve as event volunteers, and parent golfers volunteer as trainers and coaches. For example, parents Gary Patterson and Ralph Calzada work with Advanced and Intermediate Juniors for On-Course Tournament practice at Chester Washington Golf Course after school hours.

TDTD fosters partnerships with leading golf organizations, including the Southern California Golf Association (SCGA), Western States Golf Association (WSGA), Advocates Pro Golf Association (APGA), Cameron Champ Foundation, and other leading golf organizations. Partners support Junior members by providing training, mentoring, tournament play, scholarships, and college golf opportunities. In 2021, we established a partnership with Chick-fil-A Cienega Triangle and other businesses in the community to support the Junior Program.

TDTD Junior Program Highlights



TDTD Junior Kyla Coaxum received the Advocates Pro Golf Association (APGA) \$5,000 Grand Prize Scholarship Award.

Kyla submitted the winning essay in the scholarship competition. In addition to the scholarship, Kyla and her mother, Cynthia, received an **all-expenses-paid trip to the Farmers Insurance Golf Tournament** at Torrey Pines Golf Course, January 27-30, 2022, in San Diego. Kyla is shown here with Farmers Insurance and APGA Foundation representatives who presented her with the award.



TDTD Advanced Junior members received new Nike golf shoes from the APGA Foundation. The Johnson siblings were among Advanced Junior member recipients. APGA Foundation representatives Cole Smith and Michael Washington made the presentations at an APGA Foundation event in January.



TDTD Junior Girls participated in the Southern California Girls Junior Partners Championship, December 28-29, hosted by LPGA professional golfers Lizette Salas and Lee Lopez. Junior members Salma and Siham Ibrahim, Carolina Calzada, Loren Fearence, Alysa Davis, and Arihanna Esparza participated; green fees were paid by the APGA and Tournament Director Lew Murez.



Golf Coach Teresa Thornton and SCGA staff conducted our first LPGA Girls Golf Clinic at Los Amigos Golf Course on December 18. It was a fun afternoon aimed at introducing golf to younger girls, especially those who are friends and family members of the TDTD golf club. Shani Waite, SCGA Scholar, Prairie View University, was the special guest speaker.

TDTD Junior Girls were featured in SCGA Junior online in a January 29 article, “[Creating Fairways of Opportunity and Inclusion in Los Angeles](#),” highlighting the Girls Golf Event in which several Junior members participated.



TDTD Juniors Kourey Paterson and Ibrahim family siblings Mahamed, Salma, and Siham played the first annual Mack Champ Invitational Junior Tournament in Houston. The event was hosted by Mack’s grandson, PGA professional Cameron Champ [shown center with TDTD Juniors and Jenny Bethune]. Learn more at <https://mackchampinvitational.com/>

The Tee Divas & Tee Dudes Executive Board voted to support of the Cameron Champ Junior Golf Academy at Chester Washington Golf Course. The Cameron Champ Foundation will offer Junior golfers lessons by PGA-certified golf instructors, and build amenities. A letter was sent to LA County Board of Supervisor member Holly Mitchell and the SCGA, SCPGA, and WSGA urging the Supervisor to support the establishment of the Academy.

Recognizing All Our Tee Divas & Tee Dudes Juniors



More Highlights:

Alysa Davis, playing on the SCPGA Junior Development Tour (JDT), won a tournament – Alyssa also placed in a few other tournaments. She will graduate to the next level, the Players Tour Club, in 2022.

Loren Fearence and Siham Ibrahim participated in the US Kid World Championship at Pinehurst.

London Clark participated in her 1st Tournament with the SCGA at Don Knabe Golf course on Mother's Day, May 10, along with the Ibrahim girls Ekow and Samia.

Congratulations Kourey Patterson!! Kourey got a HOLE IN ONE at Bear Creek Golf Course on June 21 during the 73rd U.S. Junior Amateur Championship Qualifier - Hole #16 - 156 yards with a 7 iron.

Jenny Bethune, Junior Golf Chair

Learn more about the Tee Divas & Tee Dudes Junior Golf Program at <https://teedivas-dudesgolf.com/juniors/>

Tee Divas & Tee Dudes Golf Club

All rights reserved.

Info@TeeDivas-TeeDudes.com

Rose Mary Spriggs, Newsletter Publisher

Peggy Toy, Update Editor

Visit us online at <https://teedivas-dudesgolf.com/>, Instagram @teedivadudejuniorgolf,

Post a 25th Anniversary message on our kudoboard at <https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/QO3L2XzC>