



Tee Talk

Beth Lankler, Editor

IN THIS ISSUE:

PAGE ONE:
2016 POTY Denise Martorana
2016 Judy Bell Award Winner

PAGE TWO:
2016 Annual Meeting

PAGE THREE:
WMGA Superstars
Nancy Early's Farewell

PAGE FOUR:
A Tribute to our Met Rep:
Cynthia Guerriero

PAGE FIVE:
2016 French-American
Challenge

2016 WMGA Player of the Year: Denise Martorana



Cheryl Brayman, Denise Martorana

Denise, born in Brooklyn and raised on Long Island, started playing golf with her Dad when she was 7 years old on Bethpage Black. She loved to play sports and golf was no exception—holding bragging rights as the first female in New York State to play golf on a boy's high school team. Denise continued her golfing journey as a collegiate player for the women's team at Texas Christian University. During her first year, however, a shoulder injury forced her to step away from golf and it would be 12 years until she returned to the game. In the early 1990s, Denise joined Southampton Golf Club and began her association with the WMGA.

This past year, Denise won the Long Island One Day Stroke Play, tied for 2nd in both the New Jersey One Day Stroke Play and the Westchester/Connecticut One Day Stroke Play, placed 3rd

in the Stroke Play Championship, advanced to the quarter finals in the Match Play Championship, and placed 9th in the Met Am Championship. Other past victories for Denise include: the 2013 WLIGA Medal Play Championship, the 2013 Long Island Match Play Championship, the 2011 WMGA Stroke Play Championship, and the 2010 WLIGA Medal Play Championship. Denise has been a member on the 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2016 Griscom Cup teams and served on the WMGA Board in 2012 as the Initiatives Chair.

Denise credits not only her Dad but also Arnold Palmer for her love of the game. Denise's wonderful humor and modesty brought laughter and smiles to the room as she graciously accepted this honor, shared personal memories and thanked her inspirations: Ben & Jerry's, Sara Lee, and Betty Crocker who would be joining her in celebration that evening.

2016 Judy Bell Award Recipient: Coleen Luker



Cheryl Brayman, Coleen Luker, Val DePiro

Named after the first female President of the USGA, the WMGA established the Judy Bell Award in 1998, "to recognize significant contributions to the game of golf for women and/or juniors in the Metropolitan area."

Coleen, currently a member of Bella Vista Golf Club in NJ, was previously a member of the Beacon Hill Country Club (1973 to 2012), where she served as the WMGA team captain, played in team matches for over 32 years and held title to the club championship 12 times. Coleen is a dedicated volunteer, encouraging participation at all levels of the game. From 1988 to 1992, Coleen served on the WMGA Board as Tee Talk Chair than Shore Tournament Chair and, in 2008, she served as the Chair of our Nominating Committee.

Coleen continues to be a significant fixture in New Jersey golf serving on the Board of the Garden State Women's Golf Association, including as President in 1996 to 1997. Coleen served on the New Jersey State Women's Golf Committee as the Junior Amateur Tournament Director and as the Senior Amateur Tournament Director before taking over as Chairperson in 2010. In 2008, she was instrumental in merging the New Jersey State Women's Golf Committee with the New Jersey State Golf Association and in 2011, she became the first woman to serve on the NJSGA Board, serving as Women's Championship Chair, until 2015. Coleen is also an accomplished player. She was a member of the WMGA Griscom Cup team (1988), won the WMGA Sis Choate Pinehurst (1990 and 1992), and the WMGA Sister-Brother Championship (1981 and 1983). It was an honor to present the Judy Bell Award to Coleen.

-Valerie DePiro

- @WomensMetGolf
- @womens_metgolf
- Women's Metropolitan Golf Association



Lann Trophy winner: Caroline Hodge

The 117th Annual Meeting of the WMGA was held on Thursday, October 27th at Metropolis Country Club in White Plains, NY which, based on our well-received meeting rotation, will be held on Long Island next year. It was a highly successful meeting and well-attended by more than 150 members, guests, award winners and honorees from Long Island, New Jersey and Westchester/CT.

Denise Martorana earned one of our most distinguished honors, 2016 Player of the Year. Denise brought humility and humor to the podium as she accepted her award. Our other award recipients included Interdistrict Team Match Champion, Meadow Brook; the Joseph J. Lann Trophy winner, Caroline Hodge, for the lowest stroke play round of 71, by a WMGA member, at White Beeches



Board of Directors Cup Winner: Theresa Pisacreta

in the Maureen Orcutt Trophy Tournament; and the Board of Directors Cup winner, Theresa Pisacreta, as the player with the lowest stroke play round in Class B with an 88 in the Seniors "B" Championship at Old Oaks. Congratulations to all on a fabulous season.

The Judy Bell Award was presented with great pride to Coleen Luker, a most deserved recipient, given her very impressive, long and varied career in golf. Honorary memberships were bestowed on Kathy Light (posthumously) and Rosemary Mankiewicz. Kathy's sister, Lucy Pellegrino, accepted the award on behalf of Kathy and recounted how important golf was to her sister. Rosemary delighted us with her stories and it was a thrill to have her sitting at the past Presidents' table.

Nancy Early, who is retiring as Executive Director after over eight years of tremendous dedication to our organization, recounted memories and shared her gratefulness for the position. The gratitude goes both ways; she will be truly missed but we are thrilled that Sarah Relyea will be stepping into her shoes and taking over the position as the Director of Operations.

Valerie DePiro, WMGA President, conducted the business portion of the meeting; Beth Post spoke about our Foundation. The meeting concluded with Valerie handing the gavel over to newly elected President, Cheryl Brayman.

We thank John Ondrush, fitness guru to the stars and many of our members, for being our guest speaker. John enlightened us with the need and importance of fitness/conditioning in our golf games and in our lives.

The day was a terrific tribute to the WMGA; we thank so many who made this day possible and to all who attended. Special thanks to the members of Metropolis Country Club for hosting our meeting. Have a wonderful winter and we look forward to seeing you all in the Spring. -Mary Anne Kelly



Phoebe Timpson, accepting on behalf of Meadow Brook Club, Interdistrict Champion Team



Lucy Pellegrino



Rosemary Mankiewicz



Members who qualified for a 2016 USGA Championship

U.S. Girls' Junior

Handicap Index Limit: 18.4
Age Limit: Cannot be 18 before completion of tournament

Ami Gianchandani (Montclair)

U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur

Handicap Index Limit: 9.4 Age Limit: Must be 25 on or before opening of tournament

Liliana Ruiz-Munoz* (Trump-WC)

Donna Young (Springdale)

LeeAnn Lewis (Southward Ho)

Michelle Stelben-Murphy (CC of Darien)

Katie Renoff (Trump-Bedminster)

*Advanced to Round of 16

U.S. Women's Amateur

Handicap Index Limit: 5.4 No Age Limit

Christina Parcels (Fiddler's Elbow)

U.S. Senior Women's Amateur

Handicap Index Limit: 18.4 Age Limit: Must be 50 on or before opening of tournament

Alicia Kapheim* (Hopewell Valley)

Helen Bernstein (Paramount)

Sue Sardi (Cherry Valley-NJ)

*Advanced to Round of 64

New Year's Resolution: Make next year's list. Visit www.USGA.org to register for the 2017 local qualifiers.



**Make the
WMGA Foundation
a part of your
year-end giving.**

2016 Holes-in-One

Liliana Bedrosian, Team Matches at White Beeches

Jean Rodgers, Team Matches at Canoe Brook

Doreen Crimmins, Team Matches at North Shore

Ina Kim, Stroke Play at Somerset Hills

Donna DeMarco, One Day Stroke Play- NJ at Brooklake

Eileen Grasso, Best-Ball-of-4 at Round Hill

Members who participated in 8 or more WMGA events this season:

Diane Galtieri, Denise Martorana, Marian Bennis,
Helen Bernstein, Patti Feldman, Paula Park and Kate Platt

"Time flies when you're having a good time" really sums up my 8½ years with the WMGA.

Before I go, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you, our members, for your participation, support and dedication to the WMGA. As I travel across the country attending various golf association conferences, and USGA Championships, I am constantly reminded the growth of women's golf relies upon us. Women see the world differently, have different priorities and that includes how and why we play the game. Your support of the WMGA, its Foundation and our junior programs needs to be maintained in order for women's golf associations like the WMGA to continue to thrive.

As the WMGA moves forward into its 118th year, it is time to pass the baton to the younger, eager to serve, generation. Sarah Relyea already wears her navy blue blazer and WMGA crest with pride, carries her Rule book wherever she goes, shows up with a smile on her face so I know she will continue to make us all proud.

Thank you for your support, for letting me be a part of your lives and for sharing my life with you. As I say good bye to you, I just want to remind us all – enjoy the game we all love, it's called LIFE.

Be well and hope to see you on the links,
Nancy Early



John Ratta (New Tournament Manager), Nancy Early & Sarah Relyea



The Essence Of The WMGA

A Tribute To *Our* Met Rep: *Cynthia Guerriero*



Sitting there at the 117th Annual Meeting, listening to the speakers, enjoying the recognition of the Player of the Year, honorary members, the Judy Bell Award recipient and transitioning Board members, I was reminded of how very special the WMGA is. An organization that for years has brought together women in friendship and competition through the game of golf. An organization that is sustained year over year by our many dedicated volunteers.

Yet, I was also painfully reminded that one of those dedicated volunteers, Brooklake MET Rep, Cynthia Guerriero, was not among us. You see, Cynthia would have never missed the Annual or a MET REP Meeting in her 6 years of volunteering. But Cynthia wasn't there this chilly October day, because just three and a half weeks earlier, she had suddenly passed away on a Wednesday in the very early hours of the morning at home. What we do know and are comforted by is the knowledge that she had played the game she loved the very day before, had chatted with her 2 best MET team buddies that night and was in great spirits.

We wanted to write a story about Cynthia because she was the consummate Women's MET Rep. She took her responsibilities very seriously, rallying our team, recruiting new players, getting our paperwork in early and encouraging others to play in as many events as they could. At 69 years of age with a 26 handicap, Cynthia still loved to compete, took regular golf lessons, braved the cold to play in any event and did everything she could to support the club and our team. She was the quintessential cheerleader and competitor and loved to win. I can still see the twinkle in her eyes with her very big smile hearing her say, "Ok team, let's go get them and bring the trophy back to Brooklake."

Bottom line, Cynthia truly represented the essence of so many of our WMGA volunteers. The dedicated club member who is all over her "job" as MET REP working closely with her Team Match Captain. We loved Cynthia for taking so much pride in her role, and that's why we wanted to write this article. You see, we know there's a whole lot of WMGA members, past and present who take their roles as seriously as Cynthia did. We appreciate all of you, as we did Cynthia, for serving as the backbone of our outstanding organization. We miss Cynthia and will never forget the heart she brought to our team.

*Leanne Leonard, WMGA Board Member
on behalf of the Brooklake, NJ Women's Met Team*

In keeping with our tradition-a generous contribution has been made by the WMGA to the employee Holiday Funds of our 2016 host clubs to show our appreciation for their partnership

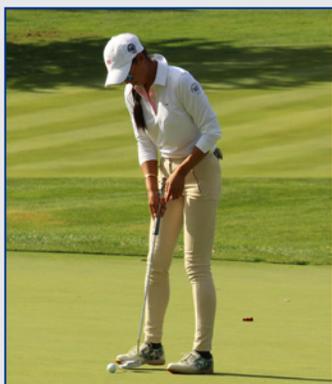
***Wishing All a Very Happy and Healthy
Holiday Season!***



Tara Fleming



Kyra Cox



Ina Kim



Kelly Sim

In 1990, the MGA partnered with the WMGA to enter the “transatlantic” arena with the founding of the French/American Challenge. Originally named the Fred’s Cup, for its sponsor, the international jeweler Fred Joaillier, the event pits teams of men and women representing the MGA/WMGA against the Ligue de Paris. Each country has 10 contenders; 6 male players and 4 female players. The first competition was held at Chantilly Golf Club outside Paris. Since then, it has alternated biennially between France and the Met Area, hosted by some of the finest courses in both countries. The competition has been dominated by the Ligue de Paris with only one outright victory by the Americans in 1991 at Baltusrol and two ties: 1995 at the Creek and 2004 at Plainfield CC. *Title changed in 1997 when he withdrew sponsorship.*



The 18th French–American Challenge was held at the Stanwich Club in Greenwich, Connecticut on Tuesday, October 18th and Wednesday the 19th. The contest mirrors the Ryder Cup format of foursomes, four-ball, and singles. The honor of representing the Met Area [American] team went to: Ina Kim, Kelly Sim, Kyra Cox, Tara Fleming, Brian Komline, Paul Pastore, Trevor Randolph, Darin Goldstein, Ethan Ng and Stewart Hagestad. The golf course was in superior condition and proved a challenging but fair test. To top it off, the weather could not have been better! The French were complimentary of the venue and made particular note of the pace on the greens which were slick, true and could be incredibly challenging should a player find themselves above the hole.

All was square after Tuesday morning’s foursomes matches. The team of Kim/Sim had won holes 12-14 to bring their match to all square and ultimately secure a half point. While the team of Fleming/Cox had lost their foursome match on the 18th hole despite capturing holes 14, 16 and 17. Unfortunately, the afternoon round of four-ball, did not fair well for the American team. With the final matches being completed in twilight conditions, Fleming/Cox succumbed to the French on the 18th hole with an untimely three-putt to let go of a valuable half point. Day One concluded with the French holding a 6.5 to 3.5 lead.

Day Two presented a challenge to the Americans with a 3-point deficit but the entire team arrived ready to stage a comeback. The women’s singles matches went out first, securing 2 of the possible 4 points. Sixteen year-old, Kelly Sim, put the first American point on the board with three birdies and an eagle on the back nine to win her match. Tara Fleming would not be denied a third time and won her match on the 18th hole. The men also fought hard winning their first two matches to bring the competition to within 1 point. Despite the Americans winning 6 of the 10 points during the singles, the Ligue de Paris clung to victory with a final score of 10.5 to 9.5, the closest final score since the tie in 2004. Kudos to our ladies who represented the WMGA and also to Alicia Kapheim, Director of Team Competitions, for selecting a team which MGA Captain Al Small credited as being the strongest WMGA team in his 10-year affiliation with the event.

2017 WMGA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

(as of December 8, 2016 - Subject to Change)

DATE	EVENT	HOST CLUB
April 25, 27, May 2, 4, 9	Team Matches	
May 17	Golf Illustrated Tournament - Invitational	Alpine (NJ)
May 18	Interdistrict Playoff	Scarsdale (WCT)
May 23	Myra D. Paterson Tournament - Invitational	Engineers (LI)
May 31, June 1	Griscom Cup Matches - Invitational	CC of Fairfield (WCT)
June 6	One Day Stroke Play A&B	Manasquan River (NJ)
June 27, 28, 29, 30	Match Play Championship	Old Westbury (LI)
July 6	Metropolitan Amateur Championship	Mountain Ridge (NJ)
July 11	Junior Girls' Open Championship	Forest Hill (NJ)
July 12	WMGA/MGA Women's Public Links	Hudson Hills (WCT)
July 20	Seniors "B" Championship	Fiddler's Elbow (NJ)
July 20, 21	Seniors "A" Championship	Fiddler's Elbow (NJ)
July 26, 27	Stroke Play Championship	Westchester (WCT)
July 31	MGA/WMGA Mixed Pinehurst Championship	Saint Andrew's (WCT)
August 14, 15	Maureen Orcutt Trophy Tournament	White Beeches (NJ)
August 16	One Day Stroke Play A&B	Powelton (WCT)
August 24	Father-Daughter, Mother-Daughter, Sister-Sister, Sister-Brother Championships	Cedar Hill (NJ)
August 29	2018 U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball (SQR)	Knollwood (WCT)
September 13	Best-Ball-of-Four Club Tournament	Montclair (NJ)
September 14	"B" Stroke Play Championship	Garden City (LI)
September 19	John B. Mackie Memorial Tournament	Inwood (LI)
September 26	Sis Choate Tournament	Nissequogue (LI)
September 28	One Day Stroke Play A&B	South Fork (LI)
October 3	Better Ball Gross & Net Tournament	Shorehaven (WCT)
October 5	Husband-Wife "A" Championship	Burning Tree (WCT)
October 11	Better Ball "B" Championship	Crestmont (NJ)
October 11, 12	Better Ball "A" Championship	Crestmont (NJ)
October 17	Husband-Wife "B" Championship	Lawrence (LI)
Date & Site to be confirmed:		
July	Mother-Son Championship	TBD (LI)
July/August	Better Ball Gross & Net Tournament	TBD (LI)
October	Volunteer Tournament	TBD (WCT)