

FALL 2020

WGGB Links

Enriching Girls' Lives Through Golf in the Greater Philadelphia Area

Women Golfers Give Back (WGGB) Invites You to Share Your Passion for Golf!

WGGB gives back by promoting the game of golf for girls who would not otherwise have a chance to play.

Our Mission

To support golf programs for girls in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware that encourage personal development through unique opportunities for skill building, playing and competing.

Our Founding Belief

Exposure to golf and the character-building aspects of the game will help girls develop leadership and communication skills and lead to greater educational and career opportunities—all while exercising and having fun!

Women Golfers Give Back

600 W. Germantown Pike
Suite 400
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

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Two Big Moments in Women's Golf

Joanna Coe, Inaugural Women's PGA Professional Player of the Year



The victorious United States Women's PGA Cup Team: Brittany Kelly, Ashley Grier, Seul-Ki Park, Alison Curdt, **Joanna Coe**

Excerpted in part from www.pga.com, published on Tuesday, January 7, 2020

It all started in October 2019, when Joanna Coe was invited to participate in the Women's PGA Cup, the first international event for female PGA professionals from five nations. One of our very first girls to participate in a **WGGB program** dating back to **WGGB's** foundation in 2003, Joanna, now a PGA professional and assistant director of instruction at the Baltimore Country Club, was more than a little nervous. She had never participated in a team-format international competition. But she took solace, she said, learning that the team captain was Suzy Whaley, the first woman since Babe Didrikson Zaharias in 1945 to qualify for a PGA Tour competition in the 2003, and the first female president of the PGA of America in the organization's 103-year history.

"I just thought, 'Wow, this is my first time, and I don't really know how it's going to feel,'" Coe recalled. "I just figured I would play the very best golf that I could and soak it all in and have a great time with my teammates and be so engaged with Captain Suzy Whaley. ... Just to be with her for a whole week and just get inside her brain, shoot, I didn't even need to play golf."

But play, she did. Joanna helped the five-member team capture the inaugural Women's PGA Cup.

In January 2020, Joanna was honored to be named the **inaugural Women's PGA Professional Player of the Year**—a momentous achievement in women's golf!

"To be included in some of the great history of the PGA of America and be the first Women's PGA Professional Player of the Year is truly special," said Coe. "It's a highlight considering how long the PGA has been around and how important it is for the game of golf. It's really cool; it's something I will be proud of for the rest of my life."

"Thanks to programs like **Women Golfers Give Back**," Joanna said in 2019, "I received the jump-start I needed for a fulfilling career in the golf industry."

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2021 Fundraising Goal

\$150,000

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WGGB is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization. You will receive written acknowledgment of your fully tax-deductible gift.

The official registration and financial information of Women Golfers Give Back may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Questions?

Contact us at:

womengolfersgiveback@gmail.com



2020—A Successful Year Despite the Pandemic

Letter from WGGB President, A.K. Frazier



Dear friends of WGGB,

Without a doubt, 2020 has been an unsettling year. At the same time that COVID-19 is posing enormous challenges for our entire nation, **Women Golfers Give Back** is deeply saddened that so many Americans still face social injustice and inequities in their daily lives. It makes us all the more determined to forward our mission to introduce girls in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware to golf. We especially support girls who are underrepresented in the golf community, whether by race, ethnicity or limited financial resources, and who, without our support, would not have the opportunity to benefit from the personal development and leadership aspects of this wonderful sport.

Recognizing that golf has traditionally been a white male sport, **WGGB** believes golf helps boost girls' confidence and self-esteem, positioning them for success throughout school, college and career. The advantages of learning to play golf are immense: not only does it teach values such as honesty, integrity and perseverance; it also helps develop vitally important interpersonal skills, while offering a fun way to interact with people of diverse backgrounds.

I am extremely proud of the entire **WGGB** team and the PGA and LPGA professionals and volunteers who run the programs we fund. Fortunately, because golf is an outdoor sport and easy to play while socially distanced, the programs we funded in 2020 were in full swing by summer, despite the lockdown in the spring.

Throughout this newsletter, you will hear first-hand from some of our girls about how important the opportunity to play golf has been, and continues to be for them. From seven-year-old Caitlyn who wants to "show the world what girls can do" to Joanna Coe, one of our earliest participants who was named in 2020 the inaugural Women's PGA Professional Player of the Year—a momentous achievement in women's golf!

In March, our board had extensive discussions about whether to have our fundraising event due to the restrictions posed by the pandemic. If we did not hold an event, there would not be money for the programs to continue in 2021. Would we be able to host a safe and fun event? By mid-summer we were confident we could. The tournament committee and Whitemarsh Valley Country Club worked together to make the event happen on September 29th. With the safety of our golfers in mind, the field was limited to 84 players; the auction was held entirely online; and meals were carefully socially distanced. Although the tournament was shortened due to rain, our sponsors and players still enjoyed the day. Wendy Kennedy and Alexis Hollander, who co-chaired the event, went above and beyond to make it a success. We are proud to announce that **we raised \$122,000**, allowing us to continue to fund our grantees in 2021. A heartfelt thank-you to our sponsors whose support made it possible.

Mark your calendar for next year's tournament on **Tuesday, June 22, 2021, at Whitemarsh Valley Country Club** in Lafayette Hill, PA.

In the meantime, please enjoy this newsletter and consider supporting **WGGB** with a donation. You'll find a donation envelope enclosed or you can donate online at **www.womengolfersgiveback.org**. Your gift will help support golf programs that teach girls not only how to play golf but also to provide them with skills they need to grow into strong, confident women.

Sincerely yours,

A.K. Frazier, President & Founder,
Women Golfers Give Back

womengolfersgiveback.org

Thank You, Womens Golfers Give Back!

Ava O'Sullivan, Golf Revolution, Age 16



"Thank you for all the support **Women Golfers Give Back** has given me. I am honored to share how important golf has been to me.

Golf has really been important to me during the pandemic because it is one of the only activities I can still do. Before the pandemic really impacted the U.S., I played in a tournament in early March. I almost didn't play because it was cold, and I figured there would be other opportunities to play that month. Luckily I decided to play, because that was the only tournament I played in until the beginning of June. As the calendar turned to April, virtually all golf courses were quiet. Early in the pandemic when golf courses were closed, I resorted to the only thing I could do, pitching into a five-gallon bucket in my backyard. The grass wore bare from my hitting spot. I wanted more than anything to be back on the golf course and competing in tournaments. I missed seeing my golf friends and coaches. Finally, after three months without competitive junior tournaments, I was able to play in one. Unfortunately, there is no high school golf season this year, but luckily junior tournaments are still happening. I am very grateful that I decided to pursue golf as a sport, especially during this pandemic, because golf is one of the only sports available to play currently. **I'm thankful to everyone who continues to support junior golf."**

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Megan Meng

Captured the Junior Girls' Crown

Megan Meng, First Tee of Greater Trenton, Age 14

On June 29, Megan Meng, a participant in a **Women Golfers Give Back Players' Program** of the First Tee of Greater Trenton, set the pace and the rest of the field never caught up. Meng followed up her first-round score of 68 with a solid second round of 70 to capture the Pennsylvania Junior Girls' Championship at Lebanon Country Club. The championship, which is presented by DICK'S Sporting Goods and UPMC Pinnacle, was the first statewide win for the 13-year old Meng.

"I came to this tournament just hoping to place because I've never played here before," said Meng, who plays out of Jericho National Golf Club. "I had not played here and had not played in this event, so it was a really nice experience to come out with the win."

Meng was the most consistent player in Monday's opening round as she made five birdies en route to the 4-under-par 68, and she continued that strong play in Tuesday's final round.

For Meng, the secret to success was the putter. "Yeah, it was my putting mostly," Meng said. "I figured out a way to putt without thinking about it too much. It was just easy going."

Meng made the course look easy at times, as she ended up with 10 birdies over the 36 holes.

Five weeks later, Megan placed third in the 84th Pennsylvania Women's Amateur Championship held on the same course, posting 151, just shy of the winner's score of 149.



Haley Quickle

Signed by James Madison University Women's Golf

Haley Quickle, James Madison University Women's Golf Team, Age 18

"Haley Quickle, who starred all four years on the varsity golf team at Padua Academy, was a fresh off significant victories at the 2019 Optimist International in Doral and the AJGA Baltimore Junior Championships when she was signed by James Madison to join the Dukes beginning the 2020-2021 season.

"Haley is a powerful player with the ability to compete and win at the highest level, already owning multiple wins in highly competitive internationally ranked events," said head coach Tommy Baker. "She's a multi-sport athlete who loves the game and her competitiveness will push everyone to be better."

Congratulations Haley! We hope you'll keep in touch with **Women Golfers Give Back**. We look forward to watching your future successes!

A Breakthrough Year

Kyleen McCance, Girls' Golf Revolution, Age 15

Kyleen McCance, an 11th grader at Hanover High School, started her golf journey at age 11. She met PGA Professional Eric MacCluett when looking for a swing coach and has continued to travel over two hours each way for lessons as part of his Girls' Golf Revolution, a **WGGB Players' Program grantee**.

This summer all the hard work, dedication and patience led Kyleen to a breakthrough: Her score average dropped to a 76, with a 1.8 handicap. Some of Kyleen's top finishes this summer include:

- 1st place at the AGA/GAP Women's Coal Scuttle with a 74
- 1st place at the Huntsville Golf Club Junior Co-ed Club Championship with a 74
- 2nd place in the Huntsville Golf Club Women's Club Championship with a 77-77
- 3rd place at the Notah Begay New York Regional with a 79-74



Ran Away with the Peggy Kirk Bell National Title

Christina Carroll, University of Delaware Women's Golf Team, Age 18

Arising star in the **Women Golfers Give Back Players' Program**, Christina had a great year. In July, she ran away with the Peggy Kirk Bell National Title thanks to a final round 68 (-4). Beginning the day three shots off the lead, Christina took advantage of the reachable par-four eleventh and par-five twelfth to conclude the round with a three-shot victory.

Signed by the University of Delaware Blue Hens, Christina was looking forward to heading off to college this fall. Although the fall golf season was canceled due to the Pandemic, Christina took great comfort in her win. "This is a huge confidence boost for me," said Christina. "Even though I won't have a fall season, I'm ready to put in the work for the Spring."

Showing the World What Girls Can Do!

Caitlyn Plover, First Tee of Greater Philadelphia, Age 13

Caitlyn Plover started to play golf at the age of seven in a **WGGB Clinic Program** of the First Tee of Greater Philadelphia. That very same year, she came up with an idea. Rebecca Caimano, program director for First Tee of Greater Philadelphia and Caitlyn's coach at the time, remembers it well. Caitlyn suggested they host a fashion show to help raise funds for the program. "It's just an idea," Caitlyn said. But five years later, with the help of First Tee of Greater Philadelphia and the Lilly Pulitzer organization, that idea came to fruition. The first *Girls' Golf Tournament and Fashion Show* was held in August 2018 with much success. It is now an annual event, and Caitlyn is recognized as its founder.

Girls' Golf "teaches confidence and leadership beyond what meets the eye," said coach Caimano. "We're not trying to create the next LPGA touring professional. Our purpose, and mission, is to provide the educational experience of what the game of golf teaches... we talk about the difference between a goal and a dream and watch the girls gain the confidence to achieve them."

"At Girls' Golf, we get to be who we are and we're comfortable with that and each other," said Caitlyn. "Girls' Golf teaches us that as girls we can do what we set our minds to."

The Girls' Golf Tournament and Fashion Show is a perfect example of the skills girls learn through participation in programs sponsored by **Women Golfers Give Back** put into action.



Christina Carroll

Call to Action!

You Can Help "Give Back"
— Here's How:

- Volunteer—share your time and talents
- Run a 50/50 at one of your events to benefit WGGB
- Sell mulligans at one of your member-guest tournaments to benefit WGGB
- Run a weekly event at your club to help WGGB
- Spread the word about our great work to other golfers
- Host a Charity Day at your club
- Add your name to our email/snail mail lists
- Friend us on Facebook
- Follow us on Instagram
- Make a donation to WGGB (tax-deductible)

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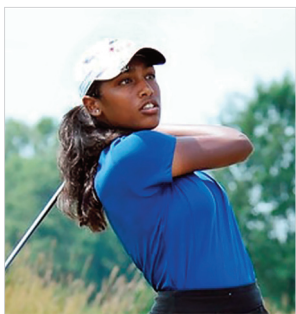
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2019 Girls' Golf Tournament and Fashion show participants. Caitlyn is on the bottom row, second girl from the right.



Tavi Samayam



Esha Rhao



Adriana Ramirez



Liddie McCook



Getting Past the Hazards:

How WGGB Grantees Beat COVID to the Golf Course

C OVID-19 presented everyone with unique challenges at home, work and school, and in the places and activities we love. **WGGB's 2020 Grantee Clinic and Players' Programs** experienced delayed starts but by last Spring most were back out on the course. We were thrilled to hear from so many girls, coaches and program managers about how uniquely special golf was to them during this difficult year. Here's what a few had to say.

Tavi: Improving Her Game and Giving Back

"Golf kept me active through the 2020 summer break, which was unlike any other summer in my life and I am very thankful for this. My game improved a lot, shooting in the low-to-mid 70's at challenging courses. I came in 2nd at the NJPGA Junior Challenge at The Architects. By the end of the season, I was ranked 5th in the NJPGA Junior Tour for girls ages 11-15, which earned me an invitation to play in the Bustard Invitational. I also won the AJGA Qualifier at Fox Hollow to play in the K.J. Choi Foundation Jr Championship at Fiddlers Elbow. This was my first AJGA tournament and a great experience to play with all the top players and to meet Mr. Choi. While I had a great summer, one thing I missed most was volunteering at The First Tee of Greater Trenton. I really enjoy interacting with the kids and giving back to the community by teaching them the core values and some aspects of golf. This year, the in-person classes did not take place; however, I was able to volunteer at a Junior Summer Camp in Royce Brook Golf Club. I hope this is all going to be behind us soon and our lives go back to some sort of pre-Covid normalcy. Stay Safe!!"—Tavi Samayan, First Tee of Greater Trenton, a **WGGB Clinic Program**

Ava: Thinking Outside the Box

"Golf has been important to me during the pandemic because it is one of the only activities I can still do. Early in the pandemic when golf courses were closed, I resorted to pitching balls into a five-gallon bucket in my backyard. The grass wore bare from my hitting spot. I wanted more than anything to be back on the golf course competing in tournaments. I missed seeing my golf friends and coaches. Finally, after three months without competitive junior tournaments, I was able to play in one. I'm thankful to everyone who continues to support junior golf."
—Ava O'Sullivan, Girls' Golf Revolution, a **WGGB Players' Program**

Esha: Gaining A Sense of Direction

"During this unprecedented time, many things aren't going the way they were intended. I have missed out on numerous competitions and opportunities planned for the summer.

But, whether it's a beautiful Sunday morning or a rainy Friday evening, I can always play a round of golf or hit a few balls at the range. Not only is golf an escape from the new "norm" of social distancing, but it also allows me to gain some sense of direction during the uncertainty sparked by the pandemic. While I do not know the fate of the upcoming golf season at my school, 'golf is', as they say, 'the closest game to the game we call life: you get bad breaks from good shots, you get good breaks from bad shots, but you have to play the ball where it lies.'"
—Esha Rhao, First Tee of Greater Trenton, a **WGGB Clinic Program**

Adriana: Golf Helps to Achieve Goals

"With warmer weather and the re-opening of golf courses, I made it a personal goal to get out and play whenever possible. Not only did my golf skills improve from consistent practice, I became physically fit and stronger from walking the course and carrying my bag. Since golf is a non-contact sport, I was able to stay connected with friends while abiding by local health guidelines. This allowed us to partake in a fun, social activity while ensuring the safety of all participants. I feel lucky that golf provided me with some much-needed normalcy during these uncertain times."—Adriana Ramirez, 1st Tee of Greater Trenton, a **WGGB Clinic Program**

Liddie: Escaping from Covid-19

"Throughout this pandemic, golf became a type of escape for me from the struggles of the world. I have loved golf for most of my life, and I have come to appreciate it on an entirely new level. This is not only because of the pandemic, but also because I am coming back from an injury. I spent this entire winter working hard to rehab my wrist after having surgery. This unique spring and summer allowed me to work hard on my game without the usual pressures of having to quickly rehab to return to playing. In many different ways, this pandemic has taught all of us to further appreciate the gifts that we have as well as the things in our life that we sometimes take for granted like friends, family, and even golf."—Liddie McCook, **WGGB alumna**

Peggy Kirk Bell Junior Girls' Golf Tour

Avery McCrery wins the 2020 Junior Girls' Championship, Age 13

In partnership with **Women Golfers Give Back**, the Peggy Kirk Bell Girls' Golf Tour concluded its Delaware Valley Regional Series at Raven's Claw Golf Club on Saturday. Raven's Claw Golf Club, a host of the LPGA Symetra Tour's Valley Forge Invitational, welcomed the region's PKBGT tour members of the Greater Philadelphia area to one of Golf Digest's "Top New Courses" for the series finale.

Avery McCrery, a participant in the **WGGB Players' Program**, dominated the PKBT Futures Division (ages 11-18), Delaware Valley, and it showed on the Order of Merit rankings as well. Avery held off an impressive field to win the 2020 Junior Girls' Championship held at Sandy Run Country Club on July 7-8, with rounds of 80-79 to win 5 shots over her nearest competitor.

This was the first year that the Women's Golf Association of Philadelphia (WGAP) worked with the Peggy Kirk Bell Junior Girls' Tour to cross promote the tournament. The goal was to increase the number of girls who would have the opportunity to compete in the tournament.



Avery McCrery

Women Golfers Give Back "Opened My Eyes to The Possibilities"

Paloma Santiago, Women Golfers Give Back Alumna



Girls participating in a Live Golf Clinic, a non-profit co-founded by WGGB alumna Paloma Santiago, and supported by WGGB

Hello, **Women Golfers Give Back**! My name is Paloma Santiago and I am a PGA professional. I started playing golf at the age of nine in a city golf program in Trenton, and was invited to participate in clinics given by **WGGB**. These clinics exposed me to LPGA professionals and women in the golf industry. These women opened my eyes to the endless possibilities and opportunities that the game of golf has to offer women. One of the clinics that stood out to me was given by former champion LPGA Tour Professional, Val Skinner. During that clinic, she inspired me to consider golf as a possible career choice. I continued playing golf competitively on an all-boys high school team, and then made the decision to pursue golf as a career.

I attended Methodist University which is one of 18 universities that offered the professional golf management program. It was here where I was able to gain PGA membership, my bachelor's degree in business, and a whole lot of debt—LOL! I am now the co-founder of Live Golf, a non-profit in Mercer County. Live Golf introduces golf to individuals in the community with the help of dedicated PGA and LPGA professionals. I would like to thank **WGGB** for the opportunities they showed me as a young golfer, and for supporting Live Golf. From all of us at Live Golf, thank you **Women Golfers Give Back** for your continued support and for continuing to provide young ladies exposure to the wonderful of game.



Paloma Santiago

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Mark Your Calendar!

2021 WGGB Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Whitemarsh Valley Country Club

Congratulations to 2020 Tournament Winners

Low Net Winners

First Place - 8

Gary Brown, David Walbrandt,
Lisa Perry, Megan McLaughlin

Second Place - 8

Debbie Hanson, Nance Dicciani,
Sarah Ford, Patti Connolly

Third Place - 8

Brendan Nemec, Michael
Meginniss, Christopher Lewis,
Mark Gidden

Fourth Place - 7

John Wert, Michael Zisman,
Sherry Wert, Linda Gamble

Low Gross Winner

First Place - 2

Mike Petro, Steve Thorne,
Tom Holden, Robert Kleckner

Second Place - 1

Francis Vaughn, Judy Owens,
Richard Owens, Patti Owens

Longest Drive Winners

#3 Collin Gordinier

#17 Alta Hamilton

Closest to Pin Winners

#16 Brendan Nemec 5'3"

#12 Megan Leinweber 8'6"

Tournament Committee

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2020 WGGB Annual Charity Golf Tournament Raises \$122,000

Tuesday, September 29, 2020 • Whitemarsh Valley Country Club

The 2020 WGGB charity golf tournament was held a bit later this year. Our original date of June 22nd was moved to late September in response to concerns over COVID-19. We are delighted to say that with wonderful sponsorship commitments and the support of our golfing friends we were able to have a fun and successful tournament. Bryn Mawr Trust was our Lead Sponsor, The Zisman Family Foundation served as the Scoreboard Sponsor and Univest was our Lunch Sponsor. All together we had nine Hole Sponsors and fourteen other sponsorships. We thank every one of our sponsors for their support!

Eighty-four golfers took to the links and were able to complete a nine-hole, one best-ball tournament before the skies opened up and the rain chased us off the course. Our LPGA friend Val Skinner graced us with her beautiful swing on the par-3 hole #9. Whitemarsh Valley's golf and house staff did a terrific job of scoring the shortened event and providing lunch, cocktails and dinner for our slightly damp guests! We thank them for their hard work and positive attitude as we quickly transitioned from golf to cocktails and dinner.

Sharon Byrne, Carl Gordinier and Ellen Lordi won the raffle drawing offering three cash prizes: \$10,000, \$750 and \$250.

Please mark your calendar now and join us next **June 22, 2021** at Whitemarsh Valley Country Club.

WGGB Awards \$100,000 in Grants to 15 Grantees in 2020

Across the Greater Philadelphia Region

\$52,000 to Clinic Programs and \$48,000 to Players' Programs

Clinic Program Grantees

LPGA-USGA Girls' Golf of Valley Forge
and Girls' High School Golf Classic

\$13,000

Live Golf

\$3,000

Makefield Highlands

\$1,000

The First Tee of Delaware

\$9,000

The First Tee of Greater Philadelphia

\$12,000

The First Tee of Greater Trenton

\$7,000

YWCA of Bethlehem

\$7,000

Players' Program Grantees

Girls' Golf Players' Program of Honeybrook

\$8,500

Girls' Golf Revolution

\$7,800

Linfield National Players' Program

\$11,200

LPGA-USGA Girls' Golf of West Chester

\$5,000

Peggy Kirk Bell Girls Golf Tour

\$3,000

The First Tee of Delaware

\$9,000

YWCA of Bethlehem

\$3,500

\$100,000

Golf Course

Linfield National Golf Club, Linfield, PA
Spring Ford Country Club, Royersford, PA
Waltz's Golf Farm, Limerick, PA
Worcester Golf Club, Collegeville, PA

Mountain View Golf Course, Ewing, NJ

Makefield Highlands Golf Club, Yardley, PA

Porky Oliver Golf Course, Wilmington, DE

FDR Golf Club, Philadelphia, PA
Walnut Lane Golf Club, Philadelphia, PA

Cranberry Golf Club, West Windsor, NJ
Mountain View Golf Club, Ewing Township, NJ

Southmore Golf Club, Bath, PA
Bethlehem Golf Club, Bethlehem, PA

Honeybrook Golf Club, Honeybrook, PA

Applecross Country Club, Downingtown, PA

Linfield National Golf Club, Linfield, PA

Honeybrook Golf Club, Honeybrook, PA,
Broad Run Golfer's Club, West Chester, PA
Ingleside Golf Club, Thorndale, PA

Bala Golf Club, Philadelphia, PA
Manor Golf Club, Sinking Springs, PA
Meadia Heights, Lancaster, PA
Raven's Claw Golf Club, Pottstown, PA
Tanglewood Manor, Quarryville, PA

Porky Oliver Golf Course, Wilmington, DE

Southmore Golf Club, Bath, PA