As we celebrate our first 50 years we begin our journey into the past with a dedication and heartfelt thank you...

This publication is dedicated to Midge Lazarus
and all those who have served on the
Historical Committee
of Lords Valley Country Club.

Their hard work and diligence in collecting and organizing materials has served as the inspiration and core source material for all that follows.

An additional thank you to all those who assisted in the production of the Historical Edition of News-Link. Special thanks to Ruth Ding, Eileen Kadanoff, James Longo, Bob Pityo, Tod and Eric Shapiro, Julie Kaplan, Marcia Yawitz, Alan Zuckerman, Jennifer Mang, Jessica Parry, Chris Passenti and especially Gene Yanovitch for their help with research and writing. Finally, thank you to David and Rosalie Baker, Arline Conn, Arnold and Harriet Greenberg, Linda Lobel, Hal Rosenblum, Barbara Selig, Lesly Shapiro, Stephanie Smith, Allan and Vera Sobin, Ken and Jennifer Van de Kieft, Helen Yale, Lynda Zimmerman and Ron Bakich for sharing the photos and stories which add to the richness of this publication.

- Cathe Morrow -

Lords Valley Country Club, 1004 Hemlock Farms, Lords Valley, PA 18428, Phone 570-775-7325, Fax 570-775-0735, LordsValleyCountryClub.org
Timeline of Significant Events in the History of Lords Valley Country Club

1945 Club originally chartered as Pocono Skyline Golf Club.
1963 Name changed to Lords Valley Country Club, a non-profit corporation.
1963 Western Heritage signs 20-year lease with Lords Valley Country Club and will underwrite the cost of maintaining Club.
1964 Construction begins on additional 9 holes on golf course.
1970 Two additional tennis courts added (total was then four courts).
1970-71 Fire closes Clubhouse. Conversion of bowling alley in Game House to Dining Room/Lounge.
1971 Renegotiation of Club lease with option to purchase.
1972 Club exercises option to purchase the Club from Home Smith International.
1973 Incorporation of LVCC, Certificates of Membership issued.
1973-78 Paving of Cart Paths.
1973-78 Additional tennis courts added (total 9 courts). 1975-78 Construction of all-weather shelters on golf course.
1977 Tennis shack and observation deck constructed.
1977 Opening of 19th Hole and dining terrace.
1978 Refurbishing of Pro Shop.
1978 Construction of tennis backboard wall.
1981 Mortgage paid in full.
1985 Remodeling of Clubhouse. (Relocation of bar, new lounge, new lower level seating and demolition of screened porch.)
1989 Restoration of pool wall.
1989 Remodeling of Game House.
1991 Completion of 10th tennis court. Resurfacing courts to “Har-Tru.”
1993 Resurfacing of pool deck.
1993 Purchase of tent.
1994 Refurbishing of Eden Cottage.
1996 Audubon International Cooperastive Sanctuary Certification gained for golf course.
1997 Remodeling of Pool Snack Bar.
1999 Drawings prepared for construction of Lakeview Room and Bathhouse.
2000-01 Construction of Lakeview Room and Bathhouse. Irrigation System upgrade, Phase I completed.
2005-06 Expansion of Pool Snack Bar.
2006 New pool liner.
2006 Kitchen Renovation and expansion.
2008 Tennis Center built.
2008 New Docks at the waterfront.
2009 Gamehouse renovation.
2013 Lords Valley Country Club named a Groundwater Guardian Green Site.
From the President

When Lynda and I first applied for LVCC membership 18 years ago, everyone told us that this Club did not fit the typical country club mold. The term ‘club in the country’ was used over and over again to illustrate what we should expect. I didn’t appreciate that description until we became members and recognized the extraordinary uniqueness of the Lords Valley Country Club.

Back in 1995, I also could not have imagined volunteering to be on the Board. Yet, for the last five years, I have had the distinct pleasure of serving as the 21st President of the Lords Valley Country Club Board of Governors. It has been a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the history of our exceptional and vibrant ‘club in the country.’

Our 50th Anniversary is the perfect time to reflect not only on the physical changes to the facilities, but also to give due credit to the multitude of staff who have ensured the longevity of the Club. There have been ten general managers, six executive chefs, five golf club superintendents, and hundreds of employees that have committed their time and energies to the Club’s accomplishments.

At its inception in 1963, LVCC had only two tennis courts, a nine-hole golf course, a bowling alley, pool and a Club House. Fifty years later, the Club now boasts of 10 Har-Tru courts, a magnificent 18-hole professional golf course, renovations and expansion of the pool/waterfront area, 19th Hole snack bar, and the Club House -- all within the original character of the Brewster estate.

Yet, ‘bricks and mortar’ are not what makes our Club so distinctive. Rather, it is the camaraderie among members and the lasting friendships spanning the decades. It is remarkable that we have had 28 couples who have been LVCC members for 40 to 49 of the Club’s 50 years. Equally gratifying are our more than 25 legacy memberships, reflecting the desires of members’ children and grandchildren to recreate wonderful memories and begin cherished new friendships.

I am often asked about the secret to LVCC’s ongoing success, while clubs around the country are closing their doors. We are member-owned; the credit for our growth rests with our members who have clearly made the difference by playing an active role in both development and oversight of the Club. In our short 50-year history, 173 members have volunteered their time and expertise to be on the Board. Many, many more have contributed countless hours to assist our committees in creating activities in line with evolving member interests.

LVCC has become a family Club that is truly intergenerational in membership. We have parents, children and grandchildren enjoying everything our Club has to offer. Our collective friendships have endured the test of time and distance. I know I am not alone in commenting that my LVCC friends have become part of my extended family; together we have celebrated, mourned, and even traveled the globe.

As we look toward the next 50 years at LVCC, we will focus not only on recruitment of new members, but also on retention of our current families. Turnover in membership is inevitable, yet with more than 50 new families in the last 2 years, I am confident that LVCC will continue on the right path. Our younger generation of families will carry our history and vision and take the lead in bringing LVCC well into 21st century. I am honored to have led the charge for these past five years as your President; I believe in paying it forward through service-- in thanks for the wonderful memories my family has enjoyed at the Club. In the years to come, I look forward to continuing to feel the fun and friendship within our very special LVCC family.

Congratulations to us all on reaching LVCC’s Golden Anniversary!

Steve

Steven L. Krause
President, Board of Governors
Letter from the General Manager

When my mother told me stories about this country club that she worked in I had no idea what she was talking about. I grew up in a small town where the only golf course that I knew of was a nine hole cow pasture that I passed on my way to school every day. When I turned 16, my mother filled out a job application for me and drove me to Lords Valley Country Club. I’ll never forget how I felt driving through those stone pillars and staring up at that grand stone tower. It was like nothing I had ever seen before. Then I saw the lake and all the beautifully maintained green grass. I didn’t know what I was in for, but I knew that it was a pretty nice place to come to every weekend.

I was a shy kid, so bussing tables was uncomfortable at first. I actually had to go up to people that I didn’t know and speak to them—horrifying. Fortunately for me, they all loved my mother. It turns out that she had been talking me up for the past four years that she had worked there like I was some kind of celebrity. I’m not sure I lived up to the hype. I slowly came out of my shell once I got to know some of the members like the Brooks, Lemp, Lankenaus, Connors, Lor, Robbins, Kersners, Ungers and the list goes on and on. They all treated me like family and made it very easy to want to please them and become a part of this great family.

I have seen many great leaders during my time at LVCC. I spent most of my time working for Siegfried Wiedemann. He was the type of manager that you could love and hate in the same day—maybe even in the same hour. He would scream at you about something you did wrong and then five minutes later, he acted like nothing ever happened. Sixteen and seventeen-year-old kids never quite knew how to deal with that. Despite his quirks, he was a man that commanded respect and always carried himself with confidence. No one ever disputed what he said or did. He is one of the reasons that I decided to pursue club management as a career. He is certainly the person that saw my potential and gave me the opportunity to learn as much as possible at LVCC to start me on that path.

Dennis Watkins was a very special person. There wasn’t a mean bone in his body. He was always thinking of others and doing whatever he could to keep the Club from literally falling apart. He selflessly agreed to take on the position of General Manager, even though it would put him out of his comfort zone, in order to help out two young professionals—Chris Passenti and myself. He gave Chris the opportunity to become the Superintendent and moved me up to the position of Clubhouse Manager. This was the start of things to come. I would not be where I am today if it hadn’t been for his sacrifices. It all worked out for the best, though, since he is doing exactly what he always dreamed of—taking care of his very own golf course in North Carolina.

There have been many great leaders of the Club. I have had the privilege of working with 10 different presidents at LVCC: Bill Brooks, Dolores King, Robert Pityo, Lou Indovino, Ed Jaffe, Jerry Brisman, Ed Hartmann, Larry Solotoff, Nick Gravante and Steve Krause. They all came from different backgrounds and had their own way of leading the Club. I learned a great deal from all of them and continue to hold them near and dear to my heart. Being president of a country club is not an easy job. I admire each and every one of them for all that they taught me.

I have been at LVCC for 16 seasons, and have been in the club business for 23 years. Even though so much time has gone by and many faces have changed, both members and staff, there are still many things that remain the same. I’m still in awe every time I drive through those stone pillars and see that grand stone tower. The lake views and green golf course leave me breathless and I continue to develop special relationships with members and staff that will last a lifetime. This “club in the country” is definitely where I’d like to spend the next 50 years!

Jennifer Mang, CCM
General Manager
Before there was Lords Valley Country Club…

The first half of the 19th century was marked by intensive settlement of the northeastern United States (New England, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania). Forests were cleared and many thousands of small farms were established. This proved to be a short-lived phenomenon. With the opening of western lands (far richer, far less hilly and far less stony) after the Civil War, such intensive exploitation of the poor and rocky soil of much of the old northeastern region became uneconomical. Those who had tried to farm these stony plots were generally driven off by competition of cheaper foods from the west; the individuals moved on west, or moved into the booming industrial towns of the northeast. The process of eliminating marginal land from agricultural production wiped out whatever agriculture may have been attempted in Hemlock Farms. Land that had once been cleared, now reverted back to forest.

By the early 20th century, the only local economic activity was logging; every few decades the area was stripped again of its forest growth and left to start over. The original pine and hemlock forests of the area were stripped off and replaced by the maples and oaks that still dominate its woods. (Though barring further man-made interferences, the pine and hemlock growth will eventually become dominant once more.) The last great sweep of loggers across Hemlock Farms was about the time of World War I, and with rare exceptions, all of our present trees have grown up since that time.

Most of the land around Hemlock Farms not owned by the state wound up in the preserves of the private hunting and fishing clubs, such as Blooming Grove, Blue Heron and Porter’s Lake. In Hemlock Farms, by 1927 the original 14 plots had passed into the hands of 3 parties. About two-thirds of it belonged to Harry Atkinson of Hawley and the rest to the McConnell family and the Spruke brothers of Scranton.
Enter William Brewster, 1927…

A young man, not quite 30, the son of George Brewster, a highly successful contractor in New Jersey, built his country estate in Hemlock Farms. Between 1927 and 1963, the greater part of the community was owned by William Brewster, and much that is familiar to its present residents took shape in those years. In 1932, he built the dam creating Hemlock Lake from a small pond. He built the original clubhouse and the other stone buildings around and near it. In 1944, he bought a large part of the McConnell holdings and shortly thereafter he built the dam that created McConnell Lake from a pond. And in 1950, Brewster bought the land of the Spruke brothers. Brewster laid out and improved the original eight hole golf course and, (except for some minor exchanges of land with the state), the borders of the community were established.

The Brewsters lived in a small house at Little Camp. In 1929, the property was incorporated under the name “Camp Hemlock.” Then, in 1932, when the first cabin was destroyed by fire, the “big” house, as it was affectionately called by the family, was built. That house is now the country club.

Over the years the game house was added, complete with a two-lane Brunswick bowling alley, a billiards room, a card room, lockers and an old English tap room. In Brewster’s time, this was a place to relax after a day on Pheasant Walk, the elaborate shooting range at the Club. The live fowl, consisting of site-raised pheasant, duck, quail and partridge, were released by remote control as a shooter passed along the walk.

The country club was originally known as the Pocono Skyline Golf Club and had its headquarters at the Monomonock Inn, Barrett Township, Monroe County, PA. In 1954, William Brewster changed its name to Mountain Resorts. The club did not own property, nor did it recruit new members, and it was inactive until April 1963 when it became Lords Valley Country Club – a not-for-profit corporation. Its headquarters were moved to Hemlock Farms and the name was changed to Lords Valley Country Club.

In 1963, William Brewster sold the entire property to Western Heritage Properties, Ltd. The approximately 4,500 acres of land brought him the sum of $700,000 – about $155 per acre – a good price at the time.

By 1964 the new developer had laid out his plans, was putting through roads, and had begun an extremely active sales campaign. Within 10 years of the sale by William Brewster, the 1,000th home was completed and the history of Hemlock Farms had become for its residents, a matter of current events.

For more information and photos on the history of LVCC and the Brewster Family see the History edition of News-Link or visit our website at LordsValleyCountryClub.org.
In 1963, after the sale of the properties by William Brewster, the then presiding Board of Governors of Lords Valley Country Club leased the golf course, with several buildings on the Brewster Estate, from Western Heritage Properties, the developer of Hemlock Farms.

In the first years of the Club, in order to establish the aura of a sophisticated English country manor-type club, the new LVCC members maintained the riding stables and brought in a resident riding master and grooms. Brewster’s game house already contained a two-lane Brunswick bowling alley, a billiards room, a card room, lockers and an old English tap room.

The rest of the leasing years brought some changes to the facilities. The golf course was expanded to the USGA rated 18 hole course we enjoy today, the bowling alleys in the Game House were removed and the space was converted into a dining room/lounge area and two additional tennis courts were added to Brewster’s original two. A fire in the Clubhouse in 1970 required reconstruction of the main building. All of this was subsidized by Western Heritage Properties, Ltd. and its successor, Home Smith International, as part of the lease agreement in place at that time.
Back in the early 1960s, the cost of LVCC membership was based on a combination of how far you lived from the Country Club and whether you were a golf or non-golf member. Initiation fees ranged from $150 to $600, and annual dues from $50 to $175. Several of our long time members have told us they joined the Club before they built their house in Hemlock Farms!

In 1971 Home Smith was having financial difficulties, and they offered to sell their prime property, the Country Club, to the community and to Club members. The community turned down the offer. In the mean time, through the extraordinary efforts of George Nye, the Country Club board came to an agreement with Home Smith and the deal was made. To show their “good faith” and serious intent to purchase the Club for its members, the board floated bonds, valued at $2,500 each, to fund the purchase. Club member Dave Jaffe believed that the board was looking for a minimum of 250 members. The support of the membership went beyond this number and the Board of Governors negotiated the purchase of the now member-owned Club. By September 17, 1973, 359 individuals had purchased a bond of $2,500 each and committed themselves to the payment of annual dues and assessments to run and maintain the club. So, 2013 marks not only the 50th anniversary of LVCC, but the 40th anniversary of our becoming a private member-owned club.

Since the member purchase, the Club has continued to expand and improve the facilities for the benefit of the membership. You can see a timeline of some of the more significant changes elsewhere in this publication. A few of the most notable were: addition of cart paths on the golf course, adding six more tennis courts and subsequently converting all ten to Har-Tru surface, remodeling the clubhouse, and adding the Lakeview Room and bathhouse. LVCC has also become recognized as a good environmental steward in the management of its facilities. In 1996 the Club gained certification as an Audubon International Cooperative Sanctuary, and in 2013 added to that designation by becoming the first golf course in Pennsylvania to be named a Groundwater Guardian Green Site by the Groundwater Foundation.
History of News-Link
1993-2013

News-Link, the official news bulletin of the Lords Valley Country Club, in spite of its humble yet extremely meaningful beginning in 1993, can perhaps be best described as having developed, during that period of time, a life of its very own.

In fact, many feel our present News-Link, which presents colorful and accurate insights into the life of our Club, and has both on-line and printed editions, can be compared favorably with any Country Club newsletter in the country in terms of its quality content and maximum coverage.

The early editions of News-Link were enthusiastically received by the membership, and even though consisting of only four pages, appeared to adequately fill the communication void which existed during the prior 30 years. During that time, the Club’s only apparent contacts with the membership were by the use of the traditional mailings, posters, bulletin board notices, and word of mouth. For the most part, however, this mode of communication met the needs of the membership as evidenced by the continued growth of the Club and its programs, during that specific period.

The initial idea of a club newsletter was introduced to the 1992-93 Board by long time LVCC member Bob Pityo, and with the enthusiastic support and encouragement of then Board president, Dolores King, the entire Board, and the then Club Manager, Siegfried Wiedemann, the first edition was published in 1993. Bob, who assumed the position as its first editor, while continuing in his role as Club President, is also credited with recommending News-Link as the name of the publication, a name still being used today.

The number of members who have since provided leadership and articles to insure the continuation and ultimate success of this publication are many, but those whose input were perhaps the most significant, and are deserving of special mention, are Marcia Yawitz, Richard Sasso, and co-chairpersons of the present LVCC Communications Committee, Cathe Morrow and Tod Shapiro.

However, it must also be noted that without complete Board and staff support, year after year, it would not have reached the heights it has in terms of furnishing our membership with the afore-mentioned high level content and maximum coverage. The advancement of technology and our ability to periodically and efficiently install these advanced methods were also a major contributor in developing a high quality publication, of which all LVCC members can be very proud.

May the cooperative and dedicated effort on the part of many members required to produce future quality and informative editions of the News-Link continue during the years ahead, and may this very special in house communication link always be considered a vital element applicable to the overall success and growth of Lords Valley Country Club.

LVCC
Club Managers
Eugene Tyskovich
Steve Vasey
Roland Hess
Werner Nuenzig
Siegfried Wiedemann
Frank Wrampe
Dennis Watkins
Richard T. Reagan, CCM
George H. Carl, CCM
Jennifer D. Mang, CCM
Board of Governors

We thank all those who, over the years, have given their time and energy to serve as Board members.

Presidents of LVCC

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<th>Name</th>
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Board Members

Thomas Altiere, Harold DeVries, Maurice Joseph, Christy Mills, Tod Shapiro
M. David Baker, Walter Ding, Florence Katzman, Herbert Moelis, Leonard Sherman
John Bauman, Arthur Dooley, Steven Kessner, Dorothy Moore, Marcia Smail
Bernard Benjamin, Martin Ellis, Dolores King, Paul Morigi, Harold Smith
Bertam Benjamin, Norman Elowitz, Gene Koalkin, Stanley Morin, Nelson Smith
Thomas Bergen, Bob Elwell, Carl Koelmel, Cathe Morrow, Richard Smith
Bernard Bernklau, Jerome Feinman, Charles Kraft, Gary Moss, John Soldoveri
Ronald Bloom, Jerry Feinman, Harold Krane, Harold Moss, Cheryl Solotoff
Robert Blum, Alan Feuer, Steve Krause, Jack Most, Lawrence Solotoff
Virginia Boskey, Neil Fuhrer, John Landers, John Moten, Elanore Spalten
Carolyn Bowman, Carol Geshlider, Robert Lankenau, Hal Nabor, Myron Sperber
John Bridgeman, Allen Gilburne, Midge Lazarus, Howard Nerenberg, Leonard Springer
Gerard Brisman, John Gold, Louis Lehrbaum, George Nye, B. Wayne Straight
William Brooks, Joel Goldberg, Art Lemp, Thomas O'Rourke, Barbara Strougo
Linda Brownstein, Lawrence Goodman, Constance Levinson, Schuyler Paterson, John Sullivan
Charles Burger, Bob Gottlieb, Harry Livermore, Joseph Percevault, Roger Swanson
Edward Butler, Nicholas Gravante, Ellen Lobel, Robert Pityo, Barry Tantleff
John Cangelosi, Herbert Greenberg, Linda Lobel, Richard Porter, Enid Terkwitz
Rose Marie Carin, Jack Greer, James Longo, William Pratt, Jack Tresser
Victor Chang, Elliot Grossman, Robin Mandell, Edgar Rachlin, Helen Tsigaras
Louis Ciccotto, Jay Gurfein, Terry Mangino, Richard Resnikoff, Ann Tush
Jerry Cioffi, Arthur Handler, Harold Manheim, Ron Ries, Norman Unger
Raymond Cole, Thomas Hanney, Paul Margulies, Bruce Rifkin, George VonderLinden
Bertam Conn, Seymour Harrison, Dorothea Markham, Thomas Roberti, Donald Wade
Charles Conover, Bill Harrow, James Markham, Frank Rodgers, Jeffrey Weinstein
Eugene Corwin, Edward Hartmann, Herbert Martens, Mike Ronan, Ronald Wishart
Rex Criss, Andrew Hochman, Steve Maxwell, Dan Rosberger, Edward Wolak
Moyra Cunningham, Leon Hurwitz, Gilbert Mc Cotter, Harriet Rubin, Paul Wolfe
John Cusano, Lewis Immerman, Ellen McDermott (Smith), Richard Sasso, Harold Wolff
A. Lockey Dalberg, Louis Indovino, Terrance McGrath, Vincent Scamell, Marcia Yawitz
C.H. Deichman, Albert Jackson, J. Kenneth McKay, Raymond Scheck, Edward Young
Thomas DeLisi, Florence Jackson, Ruthie McKay, Richard Schneider, Mickie Zeitler
Caryl Deutsch, Ed Jaffe, Lola McLinden, Irving Schornstein, Seymour Zeitler
John Devlin, Lynne Jaffe, Edward Mendrycki, John Sedwick, Jack Zurlini
Violet Jones, Sam Miller, Leo Sevush,
40 Years and More at LVCC…

Bertram and Arline Conn
Members since 1964

Hemlock Farms was 50 years ago, and still is the perfect place for us. We built the first house on Hemlock Lake and our family played tennis, sailed, fished, partied, and golfed constantly and we all won our share of trophies. Bert served on the Board under George Nye and was there when the Club was purchased from Western Heritage.

All of our seven children learned their tennis and golf here and some had their first jobs here, the girls as lifeguards and the boys as ball boys and bag boys. Gene Yanovitch was so great as he would often take the boys out and play a few holes with them as they were waiting for the last carts to come in. To this day they can still manage an occasional "39".

We are now blessed with 15 grandchildren and they ALSO had their first golf and tennis lessons here and eagerly look forward to coming every summer to keep their swings going. We are now proud great-grandparents and look forward to soon having a third generation on the driving range!!!

May 4, 1985 brought a Conn family wedding to LVCC, the first major event at the Club after the completion of the 1985 clubhouse renovations.

2012 brought the Conn’s first in the fourth generation of LVCC golfers…
The thrilled grandmother is Lisa Conn and the proud parents are Eric and Britt Conn.

40 Year and More

Past and Present LVCC Members

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<td>1964</td>
<td>Bert &amp; Arline Conn</td>
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<td>David &amp; Barbara Jaffe</td>
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<td>Marvin &amp; Susan Cohen</td>
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<td>1969</td>
<td>Seymour &amp; Lillian Harrison</td>
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<td>Fred &amp; Sally Tawil</td>
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<td>1969</td>
<td>Allan &amp; Vera Sobin</td>
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<td>Ira &amp; Ginny Boskey</td>
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<td>Irwin &amp; Leomi Simkin</td>
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<td>Jack &amp; Margaret Zurlini</td>
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</table>
Q: What made you initially join the Club?
A: We actually joined the Club prior to our purchase of a lot here in 1967. Not knowing what the future of Hemlock and its facilities would be, we made it a condition that we would not purchase a lot until we had been accepted as members in the Club. We saw that the Club had dining, swimming, tennis, sailing and golf facilities which reassured us, while the community only had swimming at two beaches and two tennis courts. Western Heritage owned the Club at that time and their offices were across the street from mine; I was interviewed and accepted as a member within 24 hours of submitting our application.

Q: Over the years, have you been active on any Club committees?
A: Only the Legal Committee. I (David) did serve on the Community Board and was active in both community affairs and served on the Board of Mercy Hospital for a year.

Q: What major changes have you seen over the years?
A: When we joined, Western Heritage still owned and subsidized the Club. The cost was minimal; we believe that the dues were around $250 per year. There were poolside barbecues and cocktail parties, the cost of which was borne by Western Heritage in order to encourage membership. It seemed to be more of a social atmosphere, with Friday night gatherings around the old bar. There were many large private parties as well as formal events throughout the year. The dress code was strictly enforced with jackets and ties on Friday and Saturday evenings. I received a letter criticizing me for wearing an ascot, since I had some neck surgery, instead of a tie. Some of the highlights of the season were the Sunday afternoon sailing races and the swimming races in the pool. There were two bowling or duck pin lanes where the Game House dining room is now located. There were only the lower two tennis courts, but there were not as many tennis playing members as there are now.

Q: Did you participate in any of the sports available?
A: I did play golf with an experienced group and was probably the worst golfer here. Most of our time was spent at the pool and in the dining room.

Q: Were your children, Susan and Bonnie, involved in any Club activities?
A: Susan, who had been a student at a culinary institute, worked in the kitchen and loved it. Bonnie, who is younger, grew up and spent every summer here. One of our favorite Bonnie stories took place at the pool snack bar. She thought it was a marvelous place where you went up to the window ordered anything you wanted and the food magically appeared. She ordered for herself and for all of her friends at this wonderful place.

Q: How do you utilize the Club facilities today?
A: We are up here all summer from May on. We tend to eat in the dining room at least twice a week with our daughter Susan who comes up for the weekends.

Q: What have you enjoyed most?
A: The wonderful feeling of camaraderie.

Q: What special memories do you have of events at the Club?
A: Our daughter, Bonnie, was married here. It had been a typical September week with inclement weather and on the day of the wedding the sun came out. The ceremony was held on the lawn overlooking the lake. Although it was windy, it was picture perfect and a memorable event for all of us.

David & Barbara Jaffe
Members from 1965-2010

David & Barbara resigned 12/30/2010. They may have left our Club but they remain in our hearts.
Philip & Eileen Kadanoff  
Members since 1966

In our early 20s we decided it would be nice to have a place in the country away from the pressures of the city. In 1966, when we first drove through the majestic hand constructed stone pillars of LVCC into the circle, with the stone tower on our left and the golf course in front of us, we were hooked. We felt like we were entering a stately English manor, and made buying the property contingent upon our being accepted for membership in the Club.

Phil has been a member of the golf committee the long range planning committee, chair of the nominating committee for two years, and together with Eileen helped plan several member/guest tournaments. In 1987, Eileen was instrumental in having women’s names removed from parentheses and listed as equal members with their husband in the Club directory.

Both of us play golf regularly and over the years have won our share of tournaments. Phil continues to play in tournaments and in 2011 won the Parent/Child Tournament with our grandson Jake. We have made many close friends at the Club and have therefore chosen to celebrate many of life’s milestones at LVCC. Noteworthy would be the surprise PGK golf tournament that we had for Phil’s 55th birthday.

We have two daughters and three grandchildren. Peri was 18 months and Jackie not yet born when we bought our property. They grew up in Hemlock Farms, and participated in all its activities, making many friends both at the club and in the community. They learned how to swim at the Club pool, and got their sailboat after swimming from Little Camp to the docks. They also learned to play golf and tennis here. Peri got her first set of “real” golf clubs, when she broke 100 for the first time. Jackie's forte was tennis. One summer when we still had the stables we "rented" a horse named Blue for them. In addition to riding, the girls were responsible for his total care including mucking out his stable.

Peri has one son, Jake, who will be 13 this summer. Jake has been taking golf lessons from David since he was 5 and now hits over the 9th hole. Jackie has two children, Ian 8 and Brianna 5. She has rented a house at Hemlock for a month during the last few summers and Ian has begun golf lessons, making him the 3rd generation to golf at Lords Valley. Luncheon they can be seen waiting for Phil to get off the course and get the promised ride on the golf cart.

For 47 years, our children and grandchildren have been a part of our Club lives and even Brianna has learned to sign a chit for ice cream. We have traveled and played most of the "famous" golf courses in the states and around the world, but returning to LVCC, full of rich memories, feels like being in the presence of an old friend.

7-27-91 Phil G. Kadanoff 55th birthday golf tournament at LVCC
Q. What made you and Steve join the Club?
A. In April 1967, Steve and I were walking the grounds at Tamiment and saw billboards advertising Hemlock Farms. We decided to drive over and look at the property. As part of the tour, we were shown the Country Club. We were both impressed with the facility, especially the golf course and the then two tennis courts. We left a deposit on the land and made application to join the Club immediately, which occurred when the Club opened in June. While our house was being constructed, we rented one of the rooms in the Clubhouse and utilized the facilities. The Club at the time was owned and operated by Western Heritage, and everything was subsidized. I believe that the room cost us $12 a night.

Q. Throughout the time of your membership you have been involved with almost every committee. Did Steve participate as well?
A. Steve was not involved, and preferred to be in the background, concentrating on his tennis and golf. Over the years, I have served on most committees and continue to serve on House, Social and Waterfront. I still serve as Chairwoman of the Sunshine Committee of the Women’s Association. One of the things I am most proud of is being the second woman ever to serve on the Board of Governors. In the early days, the Board president selected the other members and I was selected by Jim Markham and served with George Nye, as well. The other thing is the work I have accomplished in compiling the history of the Club.

Q. In what ways has the Club changed over the years?
A. The Club has always maintained its uniqueness as a family club. There is more attention given to children and grandchildren, especially at the pool. In the past, the members participated as performers in many of the social events, such as the musicals that were put on. Although we occasionally had professional entertainers, most of the events featured our own members. The Club in the past had far more formal events and the dress code was strictly observed on the weekends. I, like many of the older members, still support the jackets for men on Saturday nights, which I believe maintains the caché of the Club.

Q. What events were the most memorable to you?
A. I chaired the Silver Anniversary Dance celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Club. Ziggy gave me carte blanche and with the fireworks, it was a most memorable event. The other was related to my work with the history of the Club and inviting Lois Brewster Butcher to Hemlock to talk about the original construction of Hemlock and living here at that time.

Q. What special feelings do you have about the Club?
A. As I mentioned before, it is a family club, and as a widow with no family, the members and the staff have been my family. The support, caring and love I have felt has been incredible. My work on the history of the Club is one of the ways I felt that I could give back for all the years I have enjoyed here. It is a very special place.
LVCC in Costume
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When Sports History Came to LVCC…

Legendary Sports Figures Don Budge, First Ever Winner of the Grand Slam of Tennis (1938), and Bobby Thomson, Who Hit the Still Famous “Shot Heard Round the World”, Honored

In July 1994, Don Budge, who in the year 1938 carved out a place for himself as one of the legendary figures in the history of tennis by winning the Grand Slam of tennis, was honored by the members of the Lords Valley Country Club, for what he brought to the game of tennis from 1934 to 1955 in terms of not only his tennis ability but for his personal actions both on and off the court. In addition, he had not only been ranked as the number one tennis player in the world, but as he exemplified when he visited the Club for an entire weekend, he was considered by all that knew him a gracious gentleman during his complete career and thereafter. For certain, he wore the robe of champion as comfortably and proudly as anyone possibly could.

Don’s presence and in-depth presentation, both verbally and via film, was warmly greeted throughout his visit, and even at the age of 76, his many accomplishments recorded a half-century earlier were still vivid in the minds and memories of many of the tennis players in the audience. He was truly overwhelmed by the tribute extended and left the Club with a strong desire to return, since he lived at the time in nearby Dingmans Falls. Unfortunately, he was injured in an automobile accident two years later, reportedly on his way to the Milford Diner, and died on January 26, 2000 at a nursing home in Scranton, PA, at the age of 84. How happy, thrilled and proud we were to have had the opportunity to meet and honor one of the major legends of our time, a person who represented everything that is good about sports.

In mid July 1995 the Club, still excited with the gratifying results of the visit by Don Budge a year earlier, extended an invitation to another legend. 76-year-old Bobby Thomson attended our Club to receive similar acknowledgments from our membership for creating one of the most famous moments in baseball history, known as the "SHOT HEARD ROUND THE WORLD". The former outfielder and right-handed batter for the New York Giants (1946-1953) was also a neighbor in Watchung, New Jersey of the late former LVCC member, Ted and Jean Christian, who helped in our efforts to have Bobby Thomson visit us at Lords Valley Country Club.

His season ending 3-run home run for the Giants, October 3, 1951, was a hit which will always be remembered and was an accomplishment which brought him immediate fame and celebrity status. However, even at the time of his visit to the Club, Bobby was still amazed that people were still talking about the home run that catapulted him to fame over 50 years before. He has apparently always been a humble man and a person who didn't brag about the fact that he hit a home run that might very well be remembered hundreds of years from now. He was and still remains in our minds as an extraordinary individual who, like Don Budge, also represents everything good about sports.
The Backward Boat Race: Allan Sobin will never forget a particular boat race one peaceful Sunday afternoon. As usual, there were 20 or more boats racing and starts were staggered. There were markers on the lake and sailors were told to go clockwise around the fields and woods to arouse the dogs, so that they would chase after the fox. However, when the fox was released from its cage, it ran straight at the dogs who ran with their tails between their legs to get away from the fox.

The Fox Hunt: In the mid-1960s, an attempt to hold an invitational fox hunt turned into a comical fiasco. The dogs, which were scheduled to arrive from a special kennel, never arrived. The members begged the local farmers to lend them their dogs and, after a few setbacks, enough hounds were obtained. A rag dipped heavily in the scent of a fox was dragged around the fields and woods to arouse the dogs, so that they would chase after the fox. However, when the fox was released from its cage, it ran straight at the dogs who ran with their tails between their legs to get away from the fox.

The Mural: In the mid-1960s, Al Hirschfeld visited Lords Valley Country Club and painted a mural covering the entire wall which, at that time, separated the upper dining room from the lower dining room, which was formerly the Brewster family’s three-car garage. Sadly, the mural disappeared under more than a few coats of paint by those who did not appreciate the incredible work of art. It is likely that the mural would have been lost to the fire in 1970, but in any case, subsequently, the entire wall was removed to create a more open atmosphere and the secret it held went with it. All that remains is the photograph which hangs on the wall in the clubhouse. How many of the famous faces can you name?

The Magical Hole in One: One lovely day, John Sullivan was out playing a round of golf with friends. The first and second holes were uneventful. John stepped up to the third tee and swung his club. The ball hit the water. John turned around in disgust, assuming he’d be moving on to the drop zone. The sounds coming from his friends who had watched the ball, quickly made it clear something unusual was happening. John turned back, but too late to see for himself as the ball skipped across the lake, hit a rock, bounced in the air and dropped into the hole, which was at the lower end of the green that very special day!
Golfing Through the Years

Fifty years has seen many changes to golf at LVCC. Brewster’s golf course was initially built by a Scotsman in 1942 and redesigned in the 1950s to create a course similar to part of what we play today. The rocky terrain upon which the course was built lacked the soil necessary to build fairways, and Brewster literally had to have soil trucked in to make it happen.

In 1963 Western Heritage bought the entire property, renamed the golf club Lords Valley Country Club and hired Norman Woods, a renowned Canadian golf course architect, to redesign and expand the existing course to 18 holes. Mr. Woods designed over 300 courses and was considered well versed in designing exceptional mountain courses. The course was completed in stages. The first 9 holes were expanded to 14 holes in 1968 when the new 10th fairway was built and the holes across Orchard Drive were finished (current holes 11-15). At that time, it was set up to allow a return to holes 1-4 using different tee positions in order to complete a full 18-hole round. The course was completed in 1971 with the new construction of holes 3-7, and the 8th tee area. Despite what sounds like major changes during the various stages of development, only the 3rd and 4th holes of the Brewster/Woods original 9 holes were totally lost, due to the construction of Fairway Drive. LVCC is now a 145-acre, 18-hole, USGA-rated golf course which gently winds around the shoreline of two Hemlock Farm’s lakes, providing breathtaking views, and gently rising through wooded areas.

Our present Pro Shop was Brewster’s original Game House, and contained men’s and women’s lockers, two bowling alleys, a bar or tap room, billiard room, and a card room. LVCC’s original Pro Shop was located on the top floor of the current bag room. The lower level was the bag room and garage. Originally the Club had 10 electric carts with especially wide wheels which were thought to be less harmful to the thin fairways.

As the membership increased, the constant crisscrossing of the carts on the fairways became a concern. So, in the early 70s, George Nye introduced the concept of cart paths, which were finally completed in 1978 during the presidency of Ed Butler, at a cost of $96,000. Although some initially felt that the beauty of the course was being ruined, the major issue became not the cart paths, but the 90 degree rule, as many members claimed that the additional walking was creating physical hardships. This led to our first flag system, wherein with a doctor’s note, you were issued a white flag that allowed your cart more freedom on the course. Use of these white flags became so pervasive as to be almost the norm and other solutions had to be found.

For many years the course was a patchwork of different kinds of grasses. Gene consulted with a greens superintendent from Penn State who recommended that we use “bent grass” on the course, because it would be the least vulnerable to the damage caused by golf carts. The initial seeding of the bent grass occurred under Steve Malikowski, and was completed by Dennis Watkins over a period of about three years. The rough areas were over-seeded with blue grass, so that the height and thickness of the rough on the course would be controllable. Dennis also oversaw the installation of a new and complete irrigation system that included our sand traps. These improvements, plus a general adherence of the 90-degree rule allows our golf course to be quite lush. In 2013 LVCC was the first golf course in Pennsylvania to be named a Groundwater Guardian Green Site.
Golfing Through the Years—cont’d

No discussion of the golf course would be complete without a reference to the *Case of the Missing Apple Tree* on the 15th hole. When the apples were ripe, many looked forward to picking and eating an apple from this tree and most were not at all concerned about its location in front of the green. One spring, it mysteriously disappeared, giving rise to many rumors and speculations. During a recent conversation with Dennis, he indicated that he alone was responsible for taking it down. He reported that the tree was seriously leaning and the roots were being pulled out from ground. Given its failing condition, and its awkward placement in front of the green, as golf course superintendent he made the decision to remove it.

The changing demographics of the Club has affected active participation in many golfing activities. In the olden days, for example, Ladies Day Golf on Thursday was major. The entire course was utilized, and 36 was the top allowable handicap. Saturday was restricted to men until 1PM. Member/Guest was a two-day event, all tournaments were hotly contested, with multiple flights in the Governors and Presidents Cups and the Club Championships often required five flights for men and three for ladies. These events added a feeling of excitement and energy to being around the golf course.

Many of our members have golfed on famous courses, and upon their return will excitedly describe a particularly outstanding hole. Then they will stand up on our first hole, gaze out at its vista and begin to extol the beauty of LVCC and the warm feelings they have about being back home with their friends.

LVCC Golf Course Development

1963 9-hole golf course:

1st. par 4: existing tee, green and green side bunkers.

2nd. par 4: existing tee and green and left greenside bunker.

3rd. par 3: approximately 190 yds: tee was located on the mound just in front of the cart path by the pump house. The fairway started parallel to the 2nd hole and the green was slightly uphill to the left, and would be in the driveway of what is now the 2nd house on Fairway.

4th. par 4: approximately 395 yards, dogleg right. The tee box was located slightly to the right opposite 137 Fairway. Gradually uphill to a high ledge. The fairway ran parallel to our 1st fairway. There were no original bunkers.

5th. par 3 original (now the 9th hole) yardage and tee for men was the same. Women hit from what is our current drop area. Green location is the same but was a smaller punch bowl green.

6th. par 4 400 yard dogleg left. Original tee was on the mound just above the present 9th green and the practice range was the fairway to the present 10th green.

7th. par 4 (now 16th hole) dogleg left — tee was long and horizontal extending back from behind the blue tees, beyond the cart path, in front of a large tree just off the road. From this position the green was blocked by the trees and you had to hit towards the original very large fairway bunker on the right. Before teeing off you had to check to see if there were any cars crossing the fairway en route to the Club, as this was the only approach available.

8th. par 4 (now 17th hole) approximately 300 yards; original tee and green.

9th. par 4 approximately 300 yds (present 18th hole) original tee, but the green was located on the mound in front of the present 18th green.

Expansion to 14 holes:

By 1968, the present 10th hole was added, with a new tee box and fairway using the original 6th green. The previous tee and fairway was eliminated in favor of a large practice range. Holes 11-15 were newly constructed along with the present 18th green. The holes were renumbered and the course had 14 holes. By replaying holes 1-4 from a different tee position an 18-hole course was played.

In 1971: current holes 3-7 along with the tee area and beginning of the fairway for hole 8 were completed. In this process the original 3rd and 4th holes were eliminated, making room for the houses which grew up on Fairway Drive. The course was renumbered with a total of 18 holes, with the complete front and back 9 we know today.

LVCC Golf Course Superintendents
Levi Travis
Richard Shulz
Steve Malikowski
Dennis Watkins
Chris Passen
Memories are made of this...
And did you know?

The Brewster Meeting: Stanley and Rita Kaplan are attending a charity benefit in Florida and strike up a conversation with the couple sitting next to them. The discussion turns to talk of their house in a community in the Poconos and the other couple begins talking about the country home her family had in the area years before. Guess what? It was Lois Brewster Butcher, daughter of William Brewster, and her husband! As a happy result of the chance meeting, Lois and her husband were invited back to visit Hemlock Farms and what had by then become Lords Valley Country Club. Incredibly gracious, they donated many old family photos of the Brewster’s country home, and did a video interview during their visit, all of which the Club now treasures.

The Lyrics: In the first week of summer, Lords Valley gave to me, a bogie on the first tee... (sung to the tune of “Twelve days of Christmas” of course). The song goes on, as you can see below, but it’s just one example of the many adaptations our own Marcia Rose Yawitz wrote for various Club events over the years. The Siggy ball was the perfect example. Marcia, Caryl Deutsch, Bernie Friedman, and others all happily performed Marcia’s entertaining lyrics, all sung to the tunes of old classics. Imagine, for instance, Bernie Friedman, as Siggy, singing “My Way.”

The Ten Weeks of Summer
(12 Days of Christmas)

In the first week of summer
Lords Valley gave to me
A bogie on the first tee.

In the second week of summer
Lords Valley gave to me
A ten handicap
And a bogie on the first tee.

In the third week of summer
Lords Valley gave to me
Three mulligans,
A ten handicap
And a bogie on the first tee.

In the fourth week of summer
Lords Valley gave to me
Four whiffed shots,
Three mulligans, a ten handicap
And a bogie on the first tee.

In the fifth week of summer
Lords Valley gave to me
Five sandtrapped balls
Four whiffed shots, three mulligans, a ten handicap
And a bogie on the first tee.

In the sixth week of summer
Lords Valley gave to me
Six long long left slices,
Five sandtrapped balls
Four whiffed shots, three mulligans, a ten handicap
And a bogie on the first tee.

In the seventh week of summer
Lords Valley gave to me
Seven closely missed putts,
Six long left slices,
Five sandtrapped balls
Four whiffed shots, three mulligans, a ten handicap
And a bogie on the first tee.

In the eighth week of summer
Lords Valley gave to me
Eight sudden rainstorms
Seven closely missed putts, six long left slices,
Five sandtrapped balls
Four whiffed shots, three mulligans, a ten handicap
And a bogie on the first tee.

In the ninth week of summer
Lords Valley gave to me
Nine waterbound hooks
Eight sudden rainstorms, seven closely missed putts,
six long left slices
Five sandtrapped balls
Four whiffed shots, three mulligans, a ten handicap
And a bogie on the first tee.

In the tenth week of summer
Lords Valley gave to me
Ten dead batt’ry carts
Nine water bound hooks, eight sudden rainstorms
Seven closely missed putts, six long left slices,
Five sandtrapped balls
Four whiffed shots, three mulligans, a ten handicap
And a bogie on the first tee.
**Golf Champions—the Younger Generation:** Four times in the 50 year history of Lords Valley Country Club, the Golf Club Champion was a child of a member. In 1981 and 1982, Bruce Hooper, college age son of Robert and Elsie, ruled the course. Twenty years later, in 2001, it happened again, when Dan Moss, son of Gary and Ronnie Moss, took over the title. In 2005, Danielle Melina, daughter of David and Veronica Mellina ruled the course for the women. Other children of members have competed for the ultimate title over the years, but only Bruce, Dan and Danielle managed to make it all the way to the top. *(Note: Photo is of Dan Moss. We were unable to locate a photo of Bruce Hooper, or Danielle Melina).*

**Women of LVCC get Equal Billing:** In the early days (and actually the not so early days) of LVCC, wives were not treated quite the same as husbands by the Club. Originally women were not listed on the bond or membership certificate, and were denied access to the golf course on Saturday mornings. Even the member directory treated wives differently. In the very early days the directory listed men members, and in the back in another section, the women counterparts. Over time that changed and wives names were moved up to be listed with husbands, BUT they were listed in parentheses. It was not until 1987 that it changed and wives and husbands were listed equally in Club directories. Despite this, it is interesting to note that every LVCC board has had at least one woman Board member. Only once has a woman risen to the Presidency, when Dolores King served from 1990-1993.

**The Sons of Butchers:** It all began when a few Club members found they had something very simple in common...they were all sons of butchers. Bernie Lorn took the commonality and used it to built a golfing group. For 20 years the SOB’s (as they lovingly called themselves) met to play golf and socialize. As the years went on the group expanded beyond just sons of butchers, to include any male Club member who had a family relationship to a butcher. Once a year, the wives were included in the fun for a cocktail party and dinner.

**The Count of Lords Valley Country Club:** The very first General Manager of the Club was Polish royalty, Count Eugene Tyskovich.

**The Golf Pros:** What else can we say? In the 50 years of LVCC history we have had only two Golf Pros. The first was Ron Bakich, who came when the Club had only six members, and served our membership until 1969. In that year Gene Yanovitch joined our family, when the membership numbered 110, and he has been with us ever since.
Tennis Through the Years

In the beginning there were two tennis courts (appropriately still called courts one and two), and the tennis players came...

The Tower became the first tennis shack, and the tennis players came...

1970 brought two more courts, and the tennis players came...

They came with wooden racquets with presses to keep them from warping, with names like Dunlop, Tad Davis, Jack Kramer, Harry C. Lee, Spalding...

They came with white tennis balls that turned grey after two games, with names like Wilson, Spalding, Dunlop, Slazenger...

They dressed in all white with a white V-neck sweater on cool days, since warm-up wear had yet to be created...

They came in canvas top sneakers with names like Jack Purcell and Bata...

Despite the hard concrete courts they fought for court time...members had to call by 7 am to get a time. Legend has it that some members would call the previous night and let the phone ring all night (in the days before answering machines) until it was finally picked up the next morning.

On weekends, courts were booked all day, so some members would gravitate to Norman Elowitz’s private court, where even there they had a wait.

On weekdays, adults (mostly women) played until 1 pm, then juniors arrived for clinics and play. Some members would return in the evenings, playing with whatever light was available.

Tournaments for both men and women were hotly contested at both A&B levels. Singles, doubles, and mixed doubles, juniors in age groups 8-11, 12-15, 16 and over all had participation. Men’s A singles finals were so closely watched that the Pro would miss two hours of lessons to ump and the linesmen, ball-boys and most tennis players were cheering spectators.

As Archie Bunker would say “Dem were the days.”

Between 1973-78 five more courts were built, for a total of nine hard concrete courts, and the tennis players came...

In 1977 the Tennis Shack with an observation deck was built, and the tennis players came...

1991 brought the 10th court and the conversion of all courts to Har-Tru, and the tennis players came...

Through the early years the tennis players were a small percentage of the membership, who were very active and very friendly within the group.

In 2008 the Tennis Shack was replaced with a more modern Tennis Center, but it lost the observation deck.

In more recent years, tournaments are fewer, but tennis is active and vibrant with events like Team Tennis replacing more traditional tournaments.
Three Generations and Counting
The More Things Change, the More they Stay the Same

(Note: We thought it would be fitting to chronicle a family’s life at LVCC.
The Shapiro gracialy volunteered to be that family.)

Fifty years at Lords Valley Country Club! Enough time for multiple generations to have come of age enjoying all LVCC has to offer. What is it like to have actually grown up here? For the Shapiro family, it’s all about being together and doing fun things with friends. They are already on their third generation. Lesly and Al joined LVCC in 1970, and their kids David, Steven, and Tod grew up here. Tod and Julie have been members since 1996, and along with their sons Eric and Corey, do many of same things that their parents enjoyed over the years.

Tod’s first memories of LVCC go back to the early 70s. He and his brothers loved going to sleep away camp every summer, but they always spent a week before and after camp hanging out at LVCC on the tennis courts, at the pool and lake, and in the dining room. There were tennis tournaments for children of members, as well as the Labor Day Barbecue, and the inevitable Saturday night dinners at the Club, which in those days were much more formal than today.

The Shapiros have always been a tennis-playing family, with Lesly and Al fanatically involved in playing matches and participating in tournaments – Lesly seemed to win or be in the finals every year, while Al never quite did, which annoyed him to no end. The kids all watched in the stands and cheered them on, while behind their backs they cracked wise. Matches were watched with intense concentration – the players argued and shouted and fought about calls, throwing their rackets, as if it was the U.S. Open. Tod, David and Steven watched with amazement – what could be more uncool than tennis? It was a riot to them and they could barely keep from laughing hysterically.

Back then, Tod and his brothers played tennis under duress only, as they were obsessed with any sport BUT tennis, or even worse, golf! They had legendary games of family doubles with their parents, where inevitably Tod would lose, no matter who he played with, as his brothers were the far superior players. Every match ended with Tod throwing his racket in despair against the fence, drawing stares from the Pro Shop and the other courts, and with dad lecturing him to keep the ball in play at all costs, and warning him to hold his temper lest a letter go in the file.

And of course, as soon as these matches were mercifully concluded, Steven and Tod would conspire to steal away unseen to play stickball on the handball court, with buckets of tennis balls – they would hit line drives out onto the approaches to the 18th hole, until inevitably someone would come out and chase them away. The Club actually put up a sign at one point that said “No Stickball or Baseball.” Steven and Tod laughed uproariously, as this was their signature effort to make the Club a cool place ... and wouldn’t you know it, some adult members would sneak by and insist on taking a few swings.

And, of course, there were the Saturday night dinners at the Club, where Tod and his brothers would dress up in sport jackets and slacks, and enjoy the Club’s fine cuisine. They thought it was the height of un-cool to go to the dining room, and see all of the older members eating in quiet, solemn dignity. Inevitably, their raucous conversation would get too loud, and mom and dad would urge them to keep it down – again, the threat of a letter in the file! They would gorge themselves after a summer half-starved by sleep away camp food, and Steven and Tod would go to the bar and get endless milk shakes and Cokes – and of course, it was all on the tab.

And who could forget the Labor Day family picnics? Endless clown shows – every year the same corny jokes and prizes – they could never imagine that their own kids would be eating the same food and seeing the same jokes and tricks 30 years later!
Tod has many fond memories of the lazy afternoons at the pool and waterfront. They would park themselves on the lounge chairs, and help themselves to unlimited snack bar food. Tod’s thing was sailing, and he would never miss the chance to take out a sailboat, and inevitably tip in the middle of the lake on purpose, driving the life guards crazy. His particular pleasure was to “buzz” those in paddle boats and scare them. In those days there were sailing races, and Tod would always angle to get the pole position.

For Tod’s and Julie’s son Eric, LVCC has been a veritable wonderland and he owes some of his fondest memories to his home away from home. When he was 5 years old, the handball court was his playground. He still remembers his father and grandfather throwing him tennis balls as he stood against the wall with his little green racquet. At the time, he did not understand the intricacies of the sport of tennis; his measure of success was how far he could smash the ball. Even then, however, he longed to join his family on the court.

Not being blessed with his father’s and grandparents’ natural athletic abilities, Eric strove to confine his efforts to the intellectual realm where he was more comfortable, BUT his parents weren’t as convinced and they signed him up for the LVCC tennis clinic. Eric initially resented having to jump through hoops for tennis pro Steve Kent. A friendly, generous man off the court, Kent ran his clinic with the discipline of a drill sergeant. His goal was not to lavish aspiring players with compliments to make them feel good about themselves, but rather to equip them with the skills necessary to enjoy the sport well into their adulthoods. And so, while at the time many of them resented having to wake up early to spend long hours in the sweltering heat running drills, in retrospect Eric, at least, is grateful that he had the opportunity to learn from a truly gifted tennis instructor.

Eric says the summers of hard work paid off when he was at long last ready to join his father and grandparents on the court for family doubles. Back in NYC, his buddies were wowed by the formidable tennis abilities of a boy they had always considered to be, at best, a mediocre athlete. Eric tells us proudly that he owes his ability to enjoy competitive sports to Lords Valley Country Club and the tennis instructors who coached him through years of frustration.

Even as the responsibilities of the real world and the cost of renting courts in the city have at times made it difficult for Eric to play tennis during the fall and winter months, he takes heart knowing that every summer he is lucky enough to have the chance to hit the courts with his family and friends to bond over their devotion to a sport that he never would have learned how to play had he not been encouraged to confront his athletic insecurities.

Beyond tennis, some of Eric’s fondest memories of LVCC took place at the waterfront. After rigorous tennis matches that often yielded thrown racquets and yelled obscenities (something that seems to run in the family), he and his brother Corey relished a refreshing plunge in the pool. Perhaps even more exciting than swimming, though, was LVCC’s famed frozen drinks. A trip poolside on the weekends held the enticing promise of delicious virgin pina coladas, strawberry daiquiris and yogurt drinks galore. They would have been happy to guzzle down the treats all day, but mom, ever-attentive to their sugar intake, would usually prevent them from going overboard. At which point, they would move on to other waterfront activities.

When they were young, Tod took the boys out on a sailing expedition that ended in a capsized boat and a hearty round of laughter from the rest of the family, lovingly stationed on the dock. Realizing the limits of their sailing abilities, Corey and Eric soon took a liking to the considerably less intimidating paddle boats, which allowed them to explore the lake without the risk of being blown over by a strong gust of wind.

As the years drifted by, the paddleboats lost some of their appeal, but when 5-year-old cousin Luke came to visit, Eric seized the opportunity to take him out on the lake and show him the favorite places he knew so well. Luke’s wide-eyed wonder at scenery Eric had long since forgotten allowed him to vicariously relive the adventures of his youth in a way that he hopes to repeat someday with children of his own.

When Eric was not on the lake or swimming laps in the pool, he would entertain himself in much the same way as his father, soaking up sun on the side of the pool and retreating every so often to the shade of the tents. He has lost count of the number of great (and some not so great) literary works he absorbed in those cushioned chairs, with his father and grandparents on hand to explain words and concepts that went over his precocious head.
And, by the way, did you know?

**The Deaths in the Tower:** Twice in 1971, director and Club member John Sedwick arranged for popular soap opera “Edge of Night” to film on location at Lords Valley country Club. The Club became the country estate of the Whitney family on the show. Both episodes brought a character’s death to the tower. In the first, Uncle Charlie (Dr. Charles Weldon) fell off the top of the tower to his death. In the second, Keith Whitney, played by Bruce Martin, fell down the stairs inside the tower and did not survive. Bruce Martin retired from acting shortly thereafter, and even now, if you look for him on Facebook you will find a picture of our tower, which brought an end to his days on “Edge of Night.”

**English Country Estate?:** The original entrance to LVCC was very different than today. The road came in from Orchard Drive, past the stables, across the fairway of the original third hole (now the 16th), making a left turn onto a gently curving road that went behind the present 18th green and straight through the stone pillars into the circle. With the tower on the left, and looking directly at the lake and golf course in front, those entering might have felt transported to an elegant English country estate.

**The Family of Golf Champions:** 1972 was the only year in LVCC history that a husband and wife shared the title of Club Golf Champions. The talented couple was Albert and Florence (Al and Flossie) Jackson. Both also won in other years, but it was only one year when the stars aligned to bring them joint championships. *(Note: The woman in the photo is Flossie, but we were not able to locate a picture of Al.)*

**The Best Geese Control:** During the years that Dennis Watkins graced our lives, we were also lucky enough to have Barkley as a loyal employee. He was a border collie who roamed the course and chased the geese away, keeping our fairways and greens free of the annoying birds. It was a sad day when we received Barkley’s letter of resignation (yes, he really did give us one), but it was even sadder last spring when he passed on to that big golf course in the sky.

**The Home Grown Pro:** Marge and Joe Sposa were members of the Club and had a son named Mike. Mike, it seems, loved the game of golf, and practiced and practiced, took lessons from Gene Yanovitch, and participated in the Junior clinic program. When he left LVCC he joined the PGA Tour. He played on the 1991 Walker Cup team, and in 1998 Mike had his biggest win at the Boise Open. Not surprisingly, Mike was good friends with Gene’s sons, Gene Jr and Dave, and they played together often. Mike also played along as an amateur with Gene in some local Pro Ams before he turned pro. Mike's LVCC junior achievement plaque is still on display in the Pro Shop.
Siggy Comes to LVCC: Ever wonder how the Club found Siggy? Well, it turns out we had a manager named Werner Nuenzig, who decided to leave us to buy a restaurant called Cornucopia in Port Jervis. Years before, he had been a chef on a steamship line alongside our own Siggy Wiedemann. As a matter of fact, originally Werner served as both chef and manager to the Club. When he decided to leave us he introduced us to Siggy, and the rest, as they say, is history. Siggy served as GM of LVCC for more than 25 years, and is still spoken of with much fondness.

The Scotland Tournament: In the mid-1960s (we know it was before 1969, because Gene wasn’t Golf Pro yet), Sid Kriser, Ben Rawlins, Tom O’Rourke, and Ron Bakich (the first Club Golf Pro) attended an invitational golf tournament in Scotland. The tournament was played at Gleneagles, with 25-30 foursomes competing. Alas, our intrepid travelers did not win, but they did come in a very respectable fourth. Special jackets with the LVCC Crest were ordered, but with no time for fittings they weren’t quite right, as you can see from the photo. The foursome wore them proudly nonetheless and represented our Club with grace and style.

The Couple in Charge: Twice in our 50 year history the President of the Board and the President of the LVWA have been husband and wife. Both times pre-date the LVMA so each time the Club was in the hands of one couple. Imagine the dinner conversations...In 1993-94, Betty and Bob Pityo jointly gave their time and energy to the betterment of LVCC. Then in 2002, for ONE DAY, Eva and Jerry Brisman took the reins together.

Brewster’s Ghost: William, Mildred, maybe one of their kids or guests, or workers? Whoever it is, it seems clear that we have a ghost in residence at the Club. Sightings seem to be primarily limited to staff members, but they are not isolated. The spirit has been seen in Eden Cottage, and in particular becomes active around the Club when major renovations are being performed on the Clubhouse. Even if they aren’t seen, they make themselves known, by moving things around and creating noises that seem to have no source. Not happy with the house being changed? So who do you think it is?
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Note: * denotes missing or unavailable information.
Happy 50th Anniversary
Lords Valley Country Club!

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Robert Frost

A special thank you to Cathe Morrow for putting together this 50th Anniversary Journal for all members of the Club to enjoy. She has spent many hours searching for photos and information to capture the past 50 years of life at LVCC. If she wasn’t an LVCC expert before this, she definitely is now! If you should see Cathe around the Club, be sure to thank her for donating her time, as she has done on many occasions, to work on this special project. She is truly an asset to the Club and to the Board.