



September 9-13, 2020

By the Numbers

2,000

Views of the Town Hall "Community Conversation" event to kick off tournament weekend

156

USTA players in the main tournament

12

Wheelchair players

664

Tennis balls used in the tournament

13

Sponsors

32

Volunteers

16

Feature news stories about the Tournament

\$2,500.00

Tournament Purse



Second-Annual Charlotte Amateur Tennis Tournament a Grand Slam Against COVID-19

The Charlotte Amateur Tennis Tournament (CATT) successfully celebrated its second year in the Queen City, in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic that halted virtually all sporting events nationwide. After weighing our options, we decided to move forward with the tournament. The decision was welcome news for participants, who were excited to get back on the courts.

The tournament date was pushed back to September 11 – 13, and a series of restrictions and changes were implemented in regards to sign-up and the tournament play, including online registration, temperature checks for participants, spectator limitations, physical distancing, and mask-wearing.

Even with the restrictions, the tournament was a success. Over 150 total participants were able to take part in the open play tournament, which featured singles, doubles, mixed doubles, and wheelchair matches. The proceeds for the event benefited the Cynthia Graham Hurd Foundation, the foundation I started in honor of my sister, Cynthia, who was one of nine parishioners to be killed in the Emanuel AME shooting in Charleston, SC five years ago. Cynthia was my first tennis coach, and I think she'd be thrilled to see the opportunities we're providing for local tennis players to showcase their talent.

A huge thank you goes out to our presenting sponsor, Atrium Health, as well as to our other sponsors for making this tournament weekend possible. We're already looking forward to next year's tournament and its slate of events!

Sincerely,
Malcolm Graham
Founder & Tournament Director, Charlotte Amateur Tennis Tournament
President, Cynthia Graham Hurd Foundation

Presented by



Sponsored by



cghfoundation.org



Tournament Events Schedule

Community Conversation: "Race, Politics, and the 2020 Election"

Wednesday, September 9

The tournament weekend kicked off with a virtual town hall via Zoom to discuss the interaction of race and politics, and what it means for the upcoming November election. Writer, author, and educator Jelani Cobb, journalist Mary Curtis, and minister and political activist Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II joined us as the featured speakers for this panel discussion, moderated by WBTV Channel 3's Dedrick Russell.

Discussion ranged from racism and its historical place as a defining issue in our political landscape, how the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Jacob Blake are bringing the issues of system racism and injustice into sharp focus, and what that means for not only the presidential election but local elections as well. The town hall had over 2,000 views on the evening of the event.

TITLE SPONSOR
Atrium Health

09.09.20

A Community Conversation

Race, Politics, AND THE 2020 ELECTION

WHEN / September 9, 2020 | 6-7:30 pm

WHERE / Virtual via **Zoom**

Invited Guests

City Councilman Malcolm Graham
FOUNDER OF THE CYNTHIA GRAHAM HURD FOUNDATION

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II
PROTESTANT MINISTER & POLITICAL ACTIVIST

Jelani Cobb
IRA A. LIPMAN PROFESSOR OF JOURNALISM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Mary C. Curtis
ROLL CALL POLITICAL COLUMNIST AND
PODCAST HOST; SENIOR LEADER AT THE
OPENED PROJECT, CONTRIBUTOR WCCB-TV
CHARLOTTE, NPR-AFFILIATE WFAX

MODERATED BY:
Dedrick Russell
WBTV

JELANI COBB
Contributor to MSNBC, NPR, CNN, CBS News, Writer for New Yorker, Washington Post, Esquire, Award-Winning Author, Sidney Award Winner, 10x & Lifetime Professor of Journalism Columbia University

MARY C. CURTIS
Contributor to NBC News, NPR, The Washington Post, The Book, CNN's The Undeclared & talks politics on WCCB-TV and WFAX in Charlotte

REV. DR. WILLIAM J. BARBER II
President and is Lecturer at Regeneron of the Breach; Co-Chair, Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

TO JOIN THE CONVERSATION, REGISTER AT EVENTBRITE:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/race-politics-and-the-2020-election-tickets-119048245507>

Main Tournament Play & Championship Sunday

Friday, September 11 through
Sunday, September 13

We had three days of action-packed play from the 156 players in the main tournament to 12 wheelchair players, all competing for \$2500 in trophies and prizes. Matches included men's and women's singles and men's, women's, and mixed doubles. The final day of the tournament ended with the crowning of the Rodgers cup and awards to all tournament winners.



Championship Winners Rocked and Rolled to Victory



2020 Champions

Open Winners

Women's Open Singles

Ruxandra Schech

Women's Open Doubles

RuSandra Schech & Emma Wilkins

Men's Open Single

Benjamin Wayand

Men's Open Doubles

John Haywood & Rob Haywood

Mixed Doubles

Tanner Haddon & Alexis Robinson

Wheelchair Division

Wheelchair singles champion

Johnny Ragland

Wheelchair Doubles Champion

Kelly Flouhouse & Johnny Ragland

Divisional Winners Women's

3.5 singles

Catalina Knutson

3.0 singles

Tiara Perry

3.0 doubles

Julie Linder & Mary Collins

Divisional Winners Men

4.5 singles

Kevin Green

4.0 singles

Anthony Decandia

4.0 Doubles

Mario Henry & Lance King

3.5 singles

Omar Punjabi

3.5 Doubles

Charles Manning & Jordan Teel

3.0 singles

Nareen Sharma

Wheelchair Open Champion Johnny Ragland

Johnny Ragland has been a tennis enthusiast for over a decade. He plays every Tuesday with the ASAP Tennis Program in Charlotte, NC. Johnny is also a competitive hand cyclist and competes in many regional races throughout the year. He team with Kelly Flouhouse to capture the doubles championship as well.



Men's Open Champion Benjamin Wayand

Ben, a senior History major at UNC-Charlotte, won four matches to capture the Men's Open Division Singles title. For his 2019-2020 collegiate season, he was named first-team All-Conference in doubles, and second-team All-Conference in singles as well as being named team MVP. This season, he teamed up with UNC-Charlotte teammate Henry Lieberman to form a doubles team that was ranked in the ITA Top 50 national rankings. He also won 14 singles matches this spring, with seven of those wins ranked at #1 or #2.

Women's Open Champion Ruxandra Schech

A sophomore at UNC-Charlotte, Ruxi Schech captured the Women's Open Singles crown with all straight-set victories after earning the No. 1 seed entering the event. She also captured the Women's Doubles title with UNC-Charlotte teammate Emma Wilkins. Although Schech's inaugural collegiate spring campaign was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, she made an impact on the program this year as she shared the team lead with 11 doubles triumphs and garnered ITA Scholar-Athlete honors.





About the Cynthia Graham Hurd Foundation

A lifelong Charlestonian, Cynthia Graham Hurd was a self-proclaimed “book nerd” who grew up to share her love of books and had a tireless desire to help others in her community.

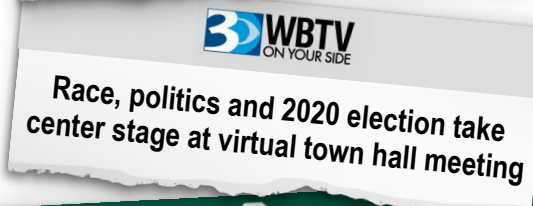
A 31-year employee of the Charleston County Public Library, Cynthia was one of nine people tragically shot on June 17, 2015, while attending a bible study at Emanuel AME Church — just four days before her 55th birthday.

After her tragic passing, Cynthia’s family established The Cynthia Graham Hurd Foundation for Literacy & Civic Engagement to continue her work and legacy of engaging the community through a love and appreciation of reading. As a librarian, Cynthia stirred a passion for reading across generations and literary genres. The Foundation works the way Cynthia lived her life: advocating for the expansion of literacy and the availability of books for everyone.



Press & Media Links

Even with the abbreviated event and restrictions, the event garnered 16 feature news stories from print and digital publications in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area. Links to the stories are included below:



Promotion of the event also included organic and paid social media promotion via the Cynthia Graham Hurd Foundation’s [Facebook page](#).



