

Debbie Wackeen



Volleyball

## South Bay Adult School

# STORIES

Debbie Wackeen didn't know, when she signed on to teach volleyball for the South Bay Adult School fifteen years ago, that she would also be a matchmaker. "At least sixteen marriages have come out of this class," she said, looking around at her current crop of sixty-seven students and pointing out married and engaged couples. "I thought it was just a coincidence until I met my own fiancé here," she laughed. When asked the reason, she shrugs, "Maybe it has something to do with all the teamwork you need to be good at this game. Maybe it's as simple as sharing something you love to do"

It's not surprising that volleyball would be popular in the Beach Cities, but Debbie's class consistently attracts large numbers of people of all ages, backgrounds and skill levels. She divides them into Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced and has assistants help with different groups. Everybody starts with stretching exercises and drills followed by games within the skill groups. Her students love volleyball, but there's something else that keeps them coming back. "Everybody in here is nice. We all like each other," she said, as one of her students brought her a loaf of homemade banana bread.

Students enroll in the class for different reasons. Some want to play beach volleyball, some want to lose weight, some want to get fit, some want to unwind after work, but everyone seems to want to have a good time. "A friend of mine was complaining because she can't meet any decent guys. She'd done the club thing and the online thing and kept getting disappointed. I told her to come on down to this class. I can't promise her the perfect guy, but I know she's going to have fun."

*SBAS Volleyball meets on Monday and Wednesday nights in the Mira Costa gym. For class info visit [www.southbayadult.org](http://www.southbayadult.org).*