

March 2013



**EASTERN
LONG ISLAND**

HAVE NEWS?

Email us at:
ustaonlongisland@gmail.com

Coming Soon

The LI Region will be hosting or participating in the following events. Visit www.longisland.usta.com for more information.

- 3/23: Stony Brook U. Seawolves Tennis Family FunFest
- 3/30: Junior Team Tennis Party
- 4/21: Nassau County Girl Scouts Walkathon
- 4/28: 8th Annual Robbie's Run
- 5/1: LI Region 23rd Annual Awards Dinner
- 5/6: League Captains Scheduling Cocktail Party
- 5/25: Hicksville CTA Play Day
- 5/29: Boys' HS LI Championships
- 5/30, 31, 6/1: Boys' NY States

On The Ball: News From LI

Region Prepares to Celebrate

The USTA Eastern Long Island Region's 23rd Annual Awards Dinner has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 1, 2013, and plans are underway for the best and biggest awards celebration ever.

The dinner will take place at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury. Once again, the evening will be a great celebration of Long Island talent and volunteerism as we recognize many terrific volunteers and players.

The evening's most prestigious honor, the Hy Zausner

Lifetime Achievement Award, will be presented to Susan Alvy, who retired this year after a long and successful career at Rockville Racquet Club in Rockville Centre.

Additional awards will be given to USTA league players, as well as high school and junior players. Awards also will be given for sportsmanship, tennis pro, family participation, volunteerism, tennis facilities, community service and innovative programming, among others. Individuals and organizations being recognized represent both Nassau and Suffolk Counties and take in the full range of USTA members and member organizations.

In addition to a delicious buffet meal and awards ceremony, the evening will feature a selection of

terrific raffle prizes including court time at Arthur Ashe Stadium at the National Tennis Center and tickets for the U.S. Open and a NY Yankees game.

Dinner registration is ongoing and can be completed by visiting www.longisland.usta.com and clicking on the Annual Awards Dinner link.

Are You a Past Winner?

In advance of our Awards Dinner, we have compiled a history of the awards. That list is available at www.longisland.usta.com (click on the Annual Awards Dinner link on the home page). Please take a look and let us know if we missed recognizing you. If your name is missing, please send an email with your name, award and the year to ustaonlongisland@gmail.com.



LBTC Reopens After Sandy

Four long months after Hurricane Sandy devastated much of Long Island, the *thwack* of ball against racquet could once again be heard on Monroe Blvd. when the Long Beach Tennis Center reopened for business in late February.

LBTC owners Sid and Ellen Siddiqui and their staff were joined by Nassau County Executive Ed Mangano, USTA Long Island Region volunteers and about 100 Nassau County Girl Scouts, among others, at the facility's Grand Reopening Party. LBTC showed off its newly renovated



Above: LBTC owner Sid Siddiqui gives Mr. Mangano tips on how to hold a racquet to improve accuracy. At left, the Siddiquis are joined by USTA LI Region President Daniel Burgess and Mr. Mangano.

courts and clubhouse space. The day's events included a Girl Scouts Carnival, celebrity appearances and adult zone.

The USTA LI Region congratulates LBTC and wishes the facility the best of luck moving forward.





LI Goes National

Congratulations to the Long Island League Teams who reached Nationals this year:

- ◆ 3.0 women from Point Set Racquet Club in Oceanside captained by Nadine Letts
- ◆ 3.0 senior women from Point Set led by Marilyn Shimon
- ◆ 3.5 senior women from Carefree Racquet Club in Merrick led by Bonnie Kolenberg
- ◆ 9.0 super seniors from Jericho Westbury Tennis Club captained by Ed Wolfarth

League Teams Take on Nationals

The LI Region is proud to announce that four local USTA League Teams have gone or are going to their National Championships!

According to Bonnie Kolenberg, captain of the 3.5 senior women's team from Carefree, "our goal was to make it to Nationals. It was a great experience that really bonded the girls and we will cherish the memories for the rest of our lives!"

"We were in a tough flight at Nationals, which included teams from Arizona, Florida and Virginia. Being that we are an indoor club and the other teams are used to outdoor" play made it harder, Kolenberg says. "We finished in a three-way tie for 1st place with Virginia and Arizona but Virginia had more individual wins. It was a wonderful experience."



3.5 Senior Women/Carefree

From left: Linda Sweeney, Liz Shelley, Karen Terzano, Pat Emmert, Joanne Crotty, Jean Tanklowitz, Bonnie Kolenberg

Ed Wolfarth captains the 9.0 super senior team from Jericho Westbury Tennis Club, which will be heading to Arizona on April 26-28 to compete against teams from across the country. Wolfarth says the experience will be bittersweet, since this "is the last Super Senior Nationals due to the restructuring of USTA League play.

"We've been to Nationals many times," Wolfarth says of his team, whose members are: Doug Barrow, Rick Bates, Ron Kahn, Steve Siegel, Bob

Mckenna, Mark Harrison, Barry Brahver, Paul Wallack, Lilo Casesa and Bruce Eiber.

"A group of amazing, diverse, talented and dedicated women comprise the Point Set 3.0 Women's



3.0 Women/Point Set

(Back row from left): Patricia Ingraldi, Debbie Saccoccio, Nadine Letts and Andrea Beller. (Front Row from left): Jacqueline Secaira-Cotto, Karen Hynes, Shereen Torbati, Aliza Bitton, Risa Kaiser, Elizabeth Gaudet and Jaci Morrison.

team," says Team Captain Nadine Letts. "In our 2nd year playing together, we were undefeated in the regular season and playoffs, defeating 17 different teams to claim the title of Long Island Champs. We won the USTA's Eastern Sectional Championship and advanced to the USTA National championships in Tucson, Ariz., giving Long Island the honor of representing the USTA's Eastern section, where we placed second in our flight."

According to Marilyn



Shimon, team captain of Point Set's 3.0

senior women's team, eight members of the team went to Nationals in California. "Unfortunately, the time difference and extreme heat weren't on our side," Shimon says. "However, we were thrilled to have made it this far, as we never anticipated this. We met as 14 strangers just looking for a 'game' last winter and ended as friends who made it to Nationals! We will all cherish the memories of our undefeated team that was formed in the lobby of Point Set."

2013 Teams Registering Now

According to Kathy Miller, USTA Long Island Leagues Coordinator, the mixed doubles league continues match play with playoffs beginning in May. The winning LI teams will advance to the sectional Championship in Schenectady the weekend of May 31-June 2.

"Men's and women's teams are registering now in the 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over and 65 & Over leagues," Miller says. Once you have registered a team, please notify Miller by email at kathym65@aol.com.

Miller says that once all the teams have been registered, League Captains will attend the Scheduling Cocktail Party on May 6th at 7pm at the Crest Hollow Country Club, during which all scheduling will be completed. Match play will begin in mid May.

3.0 Senior Women/Point Set

From left: Valencia Hunt-Valencia, Adele Votta, Liz Schiff, Barbara Bloniarz, Carol Vitelli, Lynda Halperin, Margaret McAuley and Marilyn Shimon

Registration for USTA League Teams for the 2013 Season is open until March 25th. To register your team, please visit the USTA's tennislink online.

Grant \$\$ Available Through LI Region

Grant money for 2013 is now available to members for programs designed to promote and develop the growth of tennis on Long Island.

Additional grants are available through the USTA's National Disaster Relief Program for helping to rebuild facilities and replace equipment lost or damaged in Hurricane Sandy.

"We seek to foster participation in tennis programs with all of our members," says Herbert Harris, LI grants coordinator. "Special consideration will be given to tennis programs focused on special populations, minority groups, parks and recreation, community tennis associations, schools/after

school programs, wheelchair tennis and senior tennis.

"We allocate grants in the range of \$300 to \$1,000," Harris says. "Proposals should demonstrate interest in working more closely with the LI Regional Board, the Regional Program Coordinator and the LI Tennis Service Representative; show specific examples of programs that attract new players and/or retain existing players through clinics, leagues, special events and tournaments, and include a desire to participate in USTA League Tennis and USTA Junior Team Tennis."

This funding opportunity is for tennis programs and events

operating in 2013. For more information and to apply for a Long Island Regional grant, please visit longisland.usta.com and click on the grant application link on the home page or email ustalonlongisland@gmail.com.

National Disaster Recovery Grants

According to Jill Fonte, executive director of the USTA Eastern Section, substantial money is still available for disaster recovery through the USTA National Disaster Recovery program. For more information on the application process for these grants, please email Ms. Fonte at fonte@eastern.usta.com.

LI Grant Profile: Holy Family After School Program

The students at the Holy Family School in Hicksville enjoyed learning to play tennis last fall during an after-school program made possible through a grant from the USTA Long Island Region.

The program, coordinated by Terry Fontana and Steve Abbondandolo under the auspices of the Hicksville Community Tennis Association, allowed more than 30 children in grades one through six to play tennis on Fridays. Fontana and Abbondandolo, along with three assistants -- Jennifer Carnovale and Danielle and Michele Lapierre -- ran lessons and made sure the program was fun for all.

"Thanks to the grant money, we were able to purchase 12

small racquets, two nets, two buckets of orange tennis balls and two hoppers," Fontana says. "We left all the equipment at the school, and the PE department will be including tennis as part of their curriculum."

Due to its success, the program has been invited back to Holy Family for next Fall.

The Hicksville CTA has been very active in its community, coordinating tennis programs and 10-and-under workshops, among



Family FunFest

The Stony Brook University Seawolves Tennis Team will hold a Family FunFest on Saturday, March 23 from 6:00-9:30pm to raise money to support its activities.

The event will take place at Eastern Athletic Blue Point (9a Montauk Highway, Blue Point; pre-registration is required. The FunFest includes a tennis clinic, court time, gift bag and light food.



Seawolves Tennis is headed by Coach Gary Glassman. Bob Curn, membership/marketing chair for the USTA Eastern Long Island Regional Board, serves as an Assistant Coach.

For more information on the SeaWolves Family FunFest, please visit www.goseawolves.org or email susan.abbott@stonybrook.edu.



USTA EASTERN LONG ISLAND

To promote and develop the growth of tennis.

Around the Region...

Kids 10 and under are invited to the USTA's Long Island Junior Team Tennis Party on Saturday, March 30th from 5-7pm. Junior tennis players or aspiring players will play tennis, learn about joining a junior team and have some snacks and fun with friends old and new. They also will be able to sign up for a junior team playing out of one of several Long Island tennis clubs. Tennis facilities who want to field a 10-and-under team this spring can register to attend the Junior Team Tennis Party by emailing Daniel Burgess at amertwist@aim.com or calling him at (516) 343-5957. This event takes place at Carefree Racquet Club, 1414 Jerusalem Ave. in Merrick... **The USTA LI Regional Board** has added a new volunteer position, League Liaison/League Appeals and Inquiries, and appointed Jonathan Klee to manage the inquiry process. This new position was created to simplify the process for league players who want to appeal a rating or a ruling or who have questions or need guidance with appeals. To contact Mr. Klee for assistance with the appeals process, please email ustaonlongisland@gmail.com and put League Appeals in the subject line...



Tots Tennis teaches the basics to three and four year olds.

Westhampton Beach Tennis is offering partial and full scholarships to both adults and juniors at its tennis academy. These scholarships are for beginning tennis players who have made contributions to their community. The scholarships are in the names of two of owner Peter Kaplan's roommates at Cornell University. Please visit www.westhamptonbeachtennis.com or email peterkaplan2002@yahoo.com for more information...

Eastern Athletic Blue Point has launched "Tots Tennis" for children ages 3-4, focusing on the ABC's of tennis (Agility, Balance & Coordination). For information, call (631) 363-2882 or email akko612@gmail.com...

The Long Island Region wants to recognize member organizations who went out of their way to help their communities in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. If you had a great experience with a local tennis club, please email your story to ustaonlongisland@gmail.com...

The Hicksville Community Tennis Association will host a Tennis Play Day on Saturday, May 25th from 11:00AM to 1:00PM on the Hicksville High School Tennis Courts. This event will focus on 10-and-under tennis but is open to players of all levels and experience. Racquets and balls will be supplied. Junior participants will have the opportunity to sign up for a one year free USTA 10-and-under membership. For more information please call Terry Fontana (516-822 8711) or Chuck Romeo (516-931 3634) or visit www.hicksvilletennis.com or www.longisland.usta.com and click on the Events Calendar on the home page.

USTA Eastern Long Island



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We are committed to the promotion and growth of tennis, the "lifetime sport," for people of all ages and abilities to play and enjoy the game. Through the efforts of volunteers, USTA staff and strategic partners, we are dedicated to the highest standards of integrity, honesty and ethics in developing tennis programs in local communities throughout Long Island. Our mission will be served by having our youth, our adults and corporate partners enjoy the "sport for a lifetime."

Visit us on the web at:
www.longisland.usta.com

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