

April 2014



**GOT NEWS?**  
 Email us at:  
[ustaonlongisland@gmail.com](mailto:ustaonlongisland@gmail.com)

## PRIZES!

Email your name and town to [ustaonlongisland@gmail.com](mailto:ustaonlongisland@gmail.com) with the subject line: *24th Annual LI Awards Contest*. We'll pick several readers at random to win great tennis prizes!! Contest runs until May 31, 2014.

## Coming Soon

The LI Region will host or participate in these events. For details, visit [www.longisland.usta.com](http://www.longisland.usta.com).

4/8: USTA League Captains Meeting

4/27: 9th Annual Robbie's Run

4/29: 24th Annual Awards Dinner

5/10-11: HS Boys' Nassau County Tournament

5/12: HS Boys' Playoffs Begin

5/29-31: HS Boys' State Tournament

# On The Ball: News From LI

## 24th Annual LI Awards Dinner

Each year the USTA Long Island Region recognizes the individuals, facilities and organizations who have gone above and beyond. Some are honored for their tennis play and/or rankings, while others are nominated by their peers for their efforts on behalf of the tennis community.

2014 marks the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual USTA Long Island Regional Awards Dinner; we are proud to say that it will be the largest such event in the Eastern Section.

Kudos to our Prestigious Awardees: Claude Okin (Hy Zausner Lifetime Achievement Award), Dean Nogrady (Vitas Gerulaitis for the Love of Tennis Award), Clem Stancik (Arthur Ashe Multicultural Award) and Tara Ofsink and Glen Nathan (Charles Karp Memorial Award for

Overcoming Adversity). They join a proud history of hardworking volunteers who have helped to shape our Region.

### New Awards

New in 2014, we are pleased to



launch an award recognizing achievements in youth tennis. The 10-and-Under Award was created to show the critical importance of introducing youngsters to the sport to help tennis grow. Sportime will receive this new award in

recognition of their strong emphasis on creating and fostering programs that bring children onto the tennis court. We congratulate Sportime on this continuing commitment to youth tennis.

We are also pleased to recognize two Police Activity League programs (Freeport and Suffolk County) that are reaching out to kids and special populations.

This year we are presenting the first League Captain Awards in memory of two outstanding longtime captains who passed away in 2012. The Birdie Tarulli League Captain Award will go to Christine Miller while the Blane Magee League Captain Award will be presented to Wayne Freeman. Both are truly deserving captains in the style of Birdie and Blane.

## Join Us!

We hope to see many of you at this year's 24th Annual USTA Long Island Region Awards Dinner, which promises to be the best yet. Your home for information about the event, including a complete list of award winners, awards history and a link to RSVP, can be found online at [www.longisland.usta.com](http://www.longisland.usta.com). This is also the place to go after the event to see all the pictures and videos from a great night. You can also email [ustaonlongisland@gmail.com](mailto:ustaonlongisland@gmail.com) with any questions.

## Award Winning Section

**Congratulations** to the USTA's Eastern Section for being named USTA Section of the Year by *Tennis Industry Magazine*.

The magazine cited Eastern's Board of Directors' aim to grow tennis as the basis for the award: "Their enlightened attitude and practical approach toward growing the game overall makes Eastern the perfect recipient of *Tennis Industry Magazine's* 2013 USTA Section of the Year honors."



Photo Credit: James Alfala 2014

Eastern Section Executive Director Jill Fonte (center) and Board President Gerry Cuva (right) accepted the award at the Eastern Tennis Conference.

## Did You Know?

High school graduation doesn't mean an end to competitive tennis play. Whether they played on their high school team or in USTA tournaments, many LI tennis players have gone on to successful college tennis careers.

They include: **Long Beach:** Matt Barry (Penn State), Eric Rubin (Columbia), Ben Bogard, (Bates) and Ethan Bogard, (Lehigh). Danny Kreyman is head coach at Wagner College. **Syosset:** Hannah Camhi (Brown) and Vivien Cheng (Columbia). **Cold Spring Harbor:** Josh Levine (Duke). **Hewlett:** Veronika Paikin (SUNY New Paltz). **Garden City:** Jacqueline Raynor (Quinnipiac) and Zach Morris (Bryant). **Commack:** Zack Dean (Yale). **Jericho:** Blair Seideman (Yale). **Half Hollow Hills West:** Noah Gelman (Bryant). **Laurel Springs:** Julia Elbaba (Virginia) and Nadia Smergut (Stony Brook). **Sayville:** Tyler Hoffman (Stony Brook). **Walt Whitman:** Brandon Stone (Stony Brook).



## College Bound

It may not be a well-known fact, but Long Island makes a very strong showing each year when it comes to high school tennis players going on to play in college.

Whether student athletes join Division I, II, III or other programs, their local training makes them excellent candidates for successful college careers, both on the court and in the classroom.



Lonnie Mitchel, head Men's and Women's Tennis Coach at SUNY Oneonta, is bringing several local recruits to his men's team for the fall 2014 season. He says it's more than just his local roots that keep him coming back to LI.

"On Long Island, there are a lot more places to play tennis, a lot more clubs and academies than" any other part of



the state, he says. Also, "there are a ton of USTA tournaments on Long Island. This gives us a lot (of talent) to choose from. It's an honor for kids to play college-level tennis," Mitchel says. "Anyone recruited to play on a collegiate squad is going to be good."

For the 2014-2015 college year, more than 30 local student athletes have already committed to play college tennis.



Some of the students and the colleges they'll be attending include:

Bridget Connors (Salisbury), Danielle Giannetti (Skidmore), Bridget Harding (Emory), Nicole Kaskovolis (Georgetown), Luren Livingston (Claremont-Mudd-Scripps), Rhea Malhotra (NYU), Aleksandra Mally (Louisville), Aimee Manfredo (Bradley) and Claudia Ruiz and Corey Seltman (Sacred Heart). Also, Paulina Tafler (SUNY Binghamton), Sunaina Vohra and



Jonathan Paris (Johns Hopkins), Zain Ali (Tufts), Kyle Alper (Quinnipiac), Dylan Appel (Fairfield), Matt Bahar, Andrew Bentz, Ross Binder,

James Blatchly and Cole Lafitte (SUNY Oneonta) and Patrick Farrell (Connecticut). In addition, Daniel Grunberger (Columbia), Cooper Lacetera (Redlands), Conor Mullins (Boston College), Justin Parks (Stony Brook), Lamar Remy (Wisconsin), Benjamin Rosen (Bates), Josh Silverstein (Iowa), Josh Fleischman (SUNY Oswego) and Chris Buckley, Adelphi.

If you will be a freshman tennis player in the fall, please email your name, high school and college to [ustaanlongisland@gmail.com](mailto:ustaanlongisland@gmail.com) so you can be included on June 4th at the USTA LI Region's Long Island College-Bound Tennis Players Send Off event.



## Developing Young Players

Kurt Kamperman, the USTA's Chief Executive of Community Tennis, visited the Eastern Section Annual Conference recently to discuss an urgent imperative for the tennis community.

"It's critically important for every stakeholder in tennis to focus on developing the next generation of frequent players," Kamperman said. "Our industry has long been living off the millions of frequent players who began during the tennis boom of the 1970s. As this player base ages, it's never been more important to attract and retain more youth in our sport."

In other words, everyone who loves and supports tennis needs to focus on bringing more kids into the sport and helping them develop a long-term love for and commitment to the game.

According to the USTA Eastern Section, the problem is "that not many children are continuing to play sports after becoming teens." There are many reasons that teen-

agers are choosing to quit sports as they age, but the LI Region believes we can buck the trend by continuing to offer compelling programs like 10-and-Under



Tennis and Junior Team Tennis that help kids learn while having fun, key building blocks in the love of the game.

Throughout our Region there are many ways for young players to get involved and stay active—from the Annual Kids' Rally Day and "Play Days" to junior tour-



naments; from high school tennis to the Competition Training Center; from junior development programs at local clubs to tennis summer camps across Long Island.

"The USTA LI Region shares Mr. Kamperman's concerns," says Daniel Burgess, president, USTA LI. However, "we are confident that with the continued support and enthusiasm of our existing tennis community we will be able to achieve the goal of attracting large numbers of young people to the game we love."

For more information on youth tennis, please visit [www.longisland.usta.com](http://www.longisland.usta.com). There you'll find a complete list of tennis resources throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

## King of the Court

While the LI Region has held its Annual Awards Dinner for 24 years, certain awards have been added over time to honor the particular individuals. One example is the Hy Zausner Lifetime Achievement Award (see sidebar), first presented in 1997 to a man who continues to be a King of the Court.

King Van Nostrand, who will turn 80 this June, was a fixture in LI tennis until he and wife, Yvonne (known as Boots), retired to Florida in 2001. King and Boots grew up on Long Island, met at Cortland State and married in their senior year. Their four children were all college scholarship tennis players: two were NCAA All Americans and successful pro tour players.

A graduate of Bay Shore High School, King was LI High School Singles Tennis Champion twice and LI High School Doubles Champ twice with his partner and brother, Allan. After college and the US Navy, King returned to Bay Shore HS where he taught

math for 30 years. He was also varsity tennis coach and taught tennis in the summers.

Still playing competitively despite having both knees replaced — twice — King won his first national title in 1971 at the Shelter Rock Tennis Club. He is currently ranked 47th in Men's 75 Singles, 36th in Men's 80 Singles and 13th in Men's 80 Doubles. His highest singles ranking was #1 in 2004. Very proud of his record, King reports he has won "20 ... USTA Gold Ball Nationals, three ITF World Singles and one ITF World Doubles title, and was part of at least seven winning ITF team titles for the USA."



Interviewed following a tournament in St. Petersburg, King says it "was my 52<sup>nd</sup> consecutive USTA Florida singles (win), totaling 189 wins and zero losses, with all



but one match in straight sets." In addition to receiving the LI Region's highest honor, King Van Nostrand is a member of the USTA Eastern Hall of Fame, the Suffolk County Sports Hall of Fame, Cortland C-Club Hall of Fame and the LI Sports Hall of Fame.

Asked to comment on the USTA's recently announced commitment to attracting and keeping younger players, he called on schools to strengthen their focus on tennis. "As an educator I am disappointed with most public school systems and their continued failure to recognize racquet sports as lifetime endeavors. As we know, exercise and nutrition promote good health, and the obesity epidemic is a tip-off that kids must be exposed early on to many more carryover activities."

The LI Region salutes Van Nostrand: Long live the King!

## Grants and Girls

One of the many benefits of USTA organizational membership is access to grants and other funding for programs that promote and develop tennis participation.

Long Island Regional grants are allocated in the range of \$300 to \$1,000, with special consideration given to those seeking to expand programming to:

Special and Minority Populations, Parks & Recreation, Community Tennis Associations, Schools/After School, Wheelchair and Senior Tennis.

One 2013 grantee that had great success is Girls Inc. of Long Island, which used its grant to deliver tennis programming in its community.

The local affiliate of an eight-year-old

national group, Girls Inc. reaches out to girls ages 5-18, inspiring them to be strong, smart and bold through programming that is girl-centric and girls only. Girls Inc. works with the whole girl through specific educational curricula combined with a focus on the mind and body.

Last summer, Girls Inc. used its USTA LI grant to hold a Tennis and Wellness Summer Camp at Central Islip High School for the school's students. Many participants were on the school's Varsity tennis team. The one-week camp included morning tennis lessons and matches, followed by portions of the Girls Inc. Mind and Body Curriculum and discussions of college, scholarships and careers. The girls learned about mindful eating, sports nutrition and living a healthy lifestyle.



"Because the program was local, it was accessible to the girls and provided additional tennis instruction they wouldn't otherwise have had," said Neela M. Lockel, LMSW-MPA, Executive Director, Girls Inc. of Long Island. "Tennis is a great sport and there are wonderful female role models in tennis." The USTA LI grant "was a great opportunity to give the girls a little extra emphasis" on tennis. "Offering tennis speaks to other aspects of girls' lives; it helps them develop skills in an area they've already shown interest in but don't have resources" to pursue, Lockel said.

For more information on grants, please visit [www.longisland.usta.com](http://www.longisland.usta.com) and click on Grant Application.



## Award History: Hy Zausner

In 1992, the Long Island tennis world lost one of its greats with the passing of Hy Zausner, 84, founder of the Port Washington Tennis Academy.



Established in 1966, thousands of young tennis players have passed through

PWTA's courts, including some who went on to greatness including John McEnroe and Vitas Gerulaitis.

Born in Harlem and raised on basketball and handball, Zausner didn't pick up a tennis racquet until age 57, but when he did, the rest was history. Within a year of his first tennis lesson in Puerto Rico with club pro Nick Bollettieri, tennis had become more important than Zausner's dairy business — at the time he was the largest importer of Danish cheeses in the U.S.. By 1965 he was playing tennis almost daily and decided to create the PWTA, where Bollettieri soon became head pro.

According to the PWTA, the Academy was "created as a non-profit ... to use tennis as a means of fostering educational success for children, by developing a stimulating lifelong activity that is fun, healthy, scholastically and socially beneficial." Today PWTA is the East Coast's largest indoor tennis facility with 17 indoor courts.

To honor his many contributions to local tennis, the USTA LI Region established the Hy Zausner Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997 to recognize a lifetime of achievement both on and off the tennis court.



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To promote and develop the growth of tennis.

## Around the Region...

**Many thanks** to USTA Long Island Region Board volunteer Mike Pavlides for his hard work creating the directory of past winners of LI Region Awards as presented on our web site. Pavlides, who serves as Regional Board Vice President



and Co-Web Site Coordinator, compiled and organized lists from the past 24 years of awards. Pavlides also serves as Scholastic Representative Chair/Nassau for the Regional Board and is the Varsity Tennis Coach at Massapequa High School...

**USTA League** players from Long Island got to know each other on the courts of Total Tennis in Saugerties, NY, at the LI Region's 2nd Annual USTA Adult League Appreciation Weekend. Thank you to Ronni Klein,

LI Region League Liaison (volunteer) for coordinating this fun event... **Check out** [www.youthtennis.com](http://www.youthtennis.com) for a complete list of local Tennis Play Days near you. Play Days make it



easy for newcomers to try tennis with their friends and other kids their age. Dates are scheduled at many Long Island tennis facilities throughout the spring... **Junior tournament players**, high school tennis team members and ranked juniors seeking competition and added court time are invited to try Junior Team Tennis, where you'll play against other ranked players and



have the opportunity to represent Long Island at Regional, Sectional and even National events. Juniors up to age 18 train at and play for local clubs, with matches played on weekends. For more information, please contact [ustaonlongisland@gmail.com](mailto:ustaonlongisland@gmail.com) or call your local tennis club... **With the goal** of increasing tennis participation across LI and introducing the sport to a younger population, the USTA's LI Region is offering funding to schools for tennis

equipment, training and programming. Grants are available to schools and districts seeking to bring tennis to phys ed classes or after-school programs. In 2013, 10 districts/schools received funding for equipment packages: East Islip, Sayville, Southold, Glen Cove, Buckley, North Shore Day, Atkinson/Freeport, Levittown, Valley Stream and Center Moriches; so far in 2014 packages have been provided to Three Village Schools, St. Mary's and Comsewogue. For more information on LI Region grants for school programs, please visit [www.usta.com/schools](http://www.usta.com/schools) or email [ustaonlongisland@gmail.com](mailto:ustaonlongisland@gmail.com)... **Congratulations** to 5th grader Rachel Arbitman of Hewlett, who helped her team, the Tornados, win a USTA Gold Ball at the National Spring Team Championships, a new USTA national championship tournament. Rachel was one of 256 juniors selected to play. She personally won six of eight matches in the Mobile, Ala., tournament.



## 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](http://www.longisland.usta.com)

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