



MAY 2018

SPOTLIGHT

Juega Tenis (Play Tennis)

The New Jersey Region has been the recipient of several grants aimed at increasing tennis opportunities within the Latino communities in Passaic, Hudson and Middlesex Counties.

“Our goal is to welcome more Hispanic families into the USTA community by providing multiple opportunities for all children and their families to enjoy the sport of tennis,” said USTA Chairman, CEO and President, Katrina Adams. "This is a tremendous effort by USTA Eastern, and one that will have an ever-lasting impact on these deserving communities for generations to come."

USTA Eastern is focused on offering valuable programs and resources to anyone who wishes to play tennis. The organization will be funding schools and parks and recreation programs in these communities. These programs were initially focused on youth participation but

Upcoming New Jersey events:

1. Tri-Level USTA League Regionals

Contact Hazel Rodney via email at Rodney@eastern.usta.com

2. High School Girl's Challenge

- June 9-10

Contact Quacey Balleste via email at Balleste@eastern.usta.com



as the region's efforts have expanded, innovative programming for adults is also a platform being explored.

This initiative will not only allow USTA Eastern to introduce Latino families to the sport, will enable the organization to create a pathway for continued involvement and growth.



Juega Tennis Play Day with NY Empire's Head Coach, Gigi Fernandez

To learn more, visit [USTA.com/EasternJuega](https://www.usta.com/easternjuega)

New Jersey Region is Hosting FREE Junior Tennis Festivals

The New Jersey Region has kicked off a series of events designed to engage specific player demographics and emphasize the fun of playing tennis, while promoting Net Generation. This new youth platform powered by the USTA makes it easier and more fun to get kids and teens into tennis. The USTA and USTA Eastern provides the tools, world-class curricula, marketing materials and training to empower coaches, teachers, parents, volunteers, NJTL networks and community organizations to grow the game.





Monmouth County Junior Tennis Festival

The first event of the season was the Monmouth County Junior Tennis Festival held at the New Shrewsbury Racquet Club in Tinton Falls, N.J. The event welcomed kids ages 6-17, specifically first-time players. All participants, including parents, were welcomed on the court to try tennis and have fun!

The event featured various types of tennis formats including red ball, orange ball, green ball and yellow ball play based on player skill level. The goal of Net Generation is to allow kids of all ages and levels to feel confident on the court.

The region is excited to host more events like this one to grow the game.

The Battle is On

The Second Annual Battle of the Parks, which is the flagship battle for the New Jersey Region, will begin on July 14. Last year, the winners of two flights had the opportunity to compete against the Battle of the Boroughs champion from the Metro Region for bragging rights – and the competition is heating up!



This year, the Long Island Region and Southern Region are also getting in on the action! All players from the A Flight, NTRP rating of 4.0 or higher, and B Flight, NTRP rating of 4.0 or lower, will compete in a section-wide Battle Championship on July 21 in Flushing Meadows – Corona Park, Queens.



Battle of the Parks 2017 participants

What an amazing opportunity for recreational and competitive tennis players alike to represent a neighborhood or park to battle it out on court.

Get in on the action! Visit USTA.com/EasternBOP today!

Highlighting Organizers of Distinction

While many tennis professionals shy away from teaching the unpredictable, easily-distracted toddler set, Patricia “Patty” Garay thrives and treasures her time working with these young bundles of energy. Patty has more than 10 years of teaching experience on and off the court and will complete a degree in Elementary Education from Saint Peter’s University in New Jersey next year.

With her unyielding commitment to showing children a path to healthy living at a very young age, Patty leads a “Mommy &



Me” fitness program at the Fort Lee Racquet Club (which recently gained its designation as a registered Net Generation provider from the USTA). She helps toddlers develop their motor and movement skills and introduces them to the fun in fitness and exercise, using tennis as the medium. “I love being these children’s first experience with tennis as a fitness activity and organized sport,” she has said.



Patty Garay, Organizer of the Month

Using tennis equipment that is tailored for the smallest and youngest of players, Patty facilitates interactive games for children as young as two years old to develop important skills that are the basis of physical literacy, such as agility, balance, coordination (also known as the ABCs of tennis), eye tracking and spatial awareness. Before even picking up a racket, she introduces children to simply rolling the ball back and forth with one another or their parent.

“Tennis is a sport that you have to be able to reciprocate, meaning it's a give and take,” she said. “You hit the ball to someone and they are supposed to hit it back to you – that’s the sport.”

She believes in teaching the technical progression of tennis slowly, breaking each facet and technique down to the smallest



components, which helps the children in her Mommy & Me program achieve quicker success. She then gradually transitions kids to hand rackets, foam paddles that slip over a child's hand and helps young children get a feel for contacting the ball and playing tennis before they're ready for junior racquets.

When not teaching at Fort Lee Racquet Club, Patty runs an after-school tennis program in the gymnasium of the Hola Hoboken Dual Language Charter School in Hoboken, N.J. She integrates fun games and ultimately gets her elementary school students to rally, play games and get moving after a long day in the classroom. She also facilitates a Little Tennis Tots class for preschool students at the Appleview Early Learning Center in North Bergen, N.J. "I work with children, ages 2.5 - 5 years old and focus on the ABCs of Tennis," she said. "This program has been received well by the kids and their parents. In fact, many of my Appleview preschool students come join the 10 & Under program I lead at the Fort Lee Racquet Club."

Patty started playing USTA junior tournaments around the age of 13, became a nationally-ranked player and played for Concordia College. It was through her own experiences playing tennis competitively that she realized the value that tennis can play in developing a strong personal character.

"I've come to realize that one of the biggest take-away from my own tennis career was my resilience and my grit has served me well during some challenging times," she said. "In competitive tennis, you have to be able to deal with loss, and then learn from it. And you have to maintain a positive mindset and not beat yourself up when you fail. I want to share this important



character trait with other children to give them the tools of perseverance, endurance, strength of character, positive self-talk – everything that you need when you're going to be an athlete and an accomplished person.

New York Empire

Don't miss the best tennis players in the world taking the court in NYC this summer. Competing in World TeamTennis action, the New York Empire is the league's newest team playing home matches at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center.

Top American John Isner, Genie Bouchard and Mardy Fish will all suit up as they battle for the King Trophy.

Join the Empire for a unique tennis experience as they are offering exclusive discounts to USTA Members and New Jersey Providers. Use discount code **CLUB18** to access 10% off all ticket purchases! Visit nyempiretennis.com.



Battle of the Park winners being honored on-court with the NY Empire team.

