

June 2016



On The Ball: News From LI



Plainview's Solomon is State Champ

Coming Soon

7/1-9/6 Hempstead Lake St. Park 2016 Open Tourn.

7/9 Free Kids' Clinic @Newbridge Park

7/11 Nassau Kids' Day @Engineer's Country Club

7/16 Free Kids' Clinic @Harold Walker Mem. Park

8/4 Suffolk Kids' Day @Hamlet Commack

8/7-12 USTA Christian Ardito Memorial Tourn.

8/12-14 5th Annual Cure Mommy's Breast Cancer Tourn. @Long Beach Tennis Center

9/17 Freeport Memorial Library "Outside the Lines"

For Plainview JFK HS junior Yuval Solomon, 2016 was a fantastic year of singles play: after winning his second straight Nassau County Boys' HS singles championship, he went on to become New York State Singles Champ.

LI-ers also succeeded at doubles play at States, with Syosset's Neel Rajesh & Kabir Rajpal taking third at



the 2016 NYSPHSAA Boys Tennis Championships held at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing. Cold Spring Harbor's Sean Mullins received the Section VIII Sportsmanship Award.



The USTA Long Island Region was pleased to provide all Nassau and Suffolk County participants at States with wind shirts displaying their Long Island pride.

(...continued on page 4)

Kids Days Are Coming

Hey kids! Love to play tennis? Whether you're an expert who's been playing for years or a newcomer who's never touched a racket before, Nassau and Suffolk Summer Kids' Days are for you!



Coordinated by the USTA LI Region and *LI Tennis Magazine*, these fun and FREE annual events will give you a day of fun on the tennis court – with lots of time for instruction, game play and competition, and meeting new friends. In addition to great tennis action, with instruction provided by volunteer USTA pros, participants at both events will enjoy a dunk tank, a DJ, prizes, carnival games and more, courtesy of *LI Tennis Magazine*. Lunch, snacks and drinks will be provided to all kids as well.

Participants must wear sneakers, but everything else will be provided including rackets and balls. Individuals and groups are asked to sign up in advance by emailing ustaonlongisland@gmail.com. Please include your name and your group's name, email address, phone number and number and ages of children in your group.

Nassau Kids' Day is scheduled for Mon., 7/11 (10am-2pm) at the Engineer's Country Club, 55 Glenwood Rd., Roslyn (rain date 7/18.).

Suffolk Kids' Day is scheduled for Thurs., 8/4 (10am-2pm) at the Hamlet Golf & Country Club, 1 Clubhouse Dr., Commack. Rain date is 8/11.

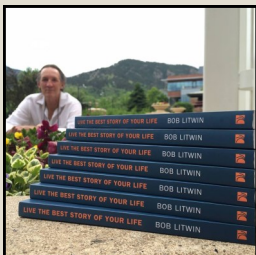
visit
www.longisland.usta.com for details on all USTA LI Region events

LI-er's Book Guides Others

Originally from Port Washington, 18-time US National Tennis Champ Bob Litwin knows a few things about success. His new book, "Live the Best Story of Your Life: A World Champion's Guide to Lasting Change," has become a best seller in the Business/Coaching/Mentoring category.

The book chronicles Litwin's journey from club tennis teacher to eight-time member of the US Sr. Davis Cup team, National Sr. Player of the Year, World #1 ranking and USTA Eastern Hall of Fame inductee.

In business, Litwin today coaches executives in many industries including financial, legal, medicine, sports and more. The book is available for purchase online and at local book stores.



A Look at the 26th Annual LI Awards Dinner



All photos from the 26th Annual USTA Long Island Region Awards Dinner can be found at

www.longisland.usta.com

Reading, Writing & Tennis: School Tennis Programs Sweep Long Island

Ten-and-under Tennis is sweeping across LI as new school programs pop up. Most recently, children in four Locust Valley Central School District buildings were introduced to the sport through a program coordinated by the USTA LI Region and Tennis Workout of Long Island.

During May and June, Steve Haar, principal of Tennis Workout of LI and a member of the volunteer USTA LI Regional Board of Directors, along with other local pros, held clinics in four district schools, reaching children ages 5-10.

“All told we will have introduced tennis to 920 children within three weeks,” Haar said. “This effort will be followed up in the fall with equip-



ment and instruction for each school.” Participating schools are: Bayville Elementary, Bayville Primary, Locust Valley Elementary and Locust Valley Primary.

According to Haar, he and the other volunteers ran the tennis clinics in the schools’ gyms with supplies provided by the USTA Eastern Section. The school principals and the children were highly enthusiastic about the program, and Haar was invited to speak at a district Board of Education meeting about the USTA’s 10-and-under programs for elementary schools. For information about starting a tennis clinic in your local elementary school, please email ustaonlongisland@gmail.com.

Tennis Helps Vets and Families With Rehab

Tennis programming for US veterans is underway at the VA Medical Center in Northport thanks to a partnership between private and government resources including help from the USTA Long Island Region, United Way of Long Island and Bethpage Park Tennis Center.

The program is twofold. Several veterans are enjoying free tennis lessons at Bethpage Park Tennis Center, with transportation provided by the Veterans Administration. In addition, a USTA grant will renovate two tennis courts on the campus of the Northport VA Medical Center, next to the Wee Luv ‘Em Day Care Center. The grant will provide for resurfacing, lines, new net posts, nets, fence fabric, wind screens, a wheel chair ramp connecting the courts to a walkway, and a wheelchair access gate.

“We are extremely excited about this project because it will put veterans in a place where they not only can play tennis but can interact with other veterans with similar injuries (some physical and some invisible – PTSD, TBI) which will help them get back to a normal life,” said Craig Fligstein, Vice President, Grant Development & Strategic Program Initiatives, United Way of Long Island, and a member of the USTA LI Region Executive Board. “Over the course of a few years we will be able to touch hundreds of service members, as well as their families and children, through tennis, helping them with their rehabilitation, both physical and emotional, and their community reintegration efforts.” Highlights of the tennis program will include: becoming a host site for the Wheel Chair Games and the Paralympics and tennis camp for children attending the day care center.

The tennis court renovations will be completed and a grand opening celebration will be held in August.



Junior Team Tennis Winter Season Recap

LI's Junior Team Tennis teams (winter season) competed at Eastern Sectionals in June, with Robbie Wagner's 10U team winning first place in

their division and World Gym Setauket's 12U team taking second place in theirs.

In Regional play, the 2016 winter season ended with two exciting

weekends of competition featuring 17 teams. All divisional championships were held at Robbie Wagner's Tournament Training Center in Glen Cove. Each player received a t-shirt from the USTA LI Regional Board. Winning teams moving on to the Eastern Sectionals were: Robbie Wagner's (10U), World

Gym Setauket (12U), 14U and 10U) and Huntington Indoor (18U). Junior Team Tennis continues to grow on LI, with more than 20 teams and hundreds of children competing in both the summer and winter leagues. For information about 10U green dot and orange ball leagues, please contact Suffolk League Coordinator Tito Perez (vtapr@hotmail.com) or Nassau League Coordinator Daniel Burgess (amertwist@aim.com). To learn more about Junior Team Tennis on Long Island, or to start or join a team, contact Junior Team Tennis Coordinator Steve Abbondonelo (steveabby@optonline.net).



Gym Setauket (12U, 14U and 10U) and Huntington Indoor (18U).

Junior Team Tennis con-

...Boys HS continued



In addition to strong play by LI-ers at States, this year's competitors did well at their respective county championships and

had a great Spring season.

Syosset's Kabir Rajpal and Neel Rajesh won the County title in doubles at the Nassau County Championships played at Oceanside High School. Zachary Khazzam & Sangjin Song of Roslyn won second place; Syosset's Spencer Lowitt & Preet Rajpal placed third and Jared Hakimian & Won Jung of Great Neck North took fourth place. Top singles finishers were Athell Bennett (2), Valley Stream Central; Sean Mullins (3), Cold Spring Harbor, and Keegan Morris (4), Carey/Sewanhaka.

In the Nassau County team championship match, held at Eisenhower Park, Syosset defeated Roslyn to win the County title. Nassau Conference Champions were:

- Conference I: Syosset (undefeated at 14-0) ...
- Conference IIA: Friends Academy (undefeated at 14-0) ...
- Conference IIB: Garden City ...
- Conference IIIA: East Meadow ...
- Conference IV: Clarke (undefeated at 14-0).

In Suffolk County action, Cannon Kinglsey (Northport) won the County title; Chris Kuhnle (Shoreham-Wading River), runner-up, and Abhinav Srivastava (Hills East), third place. Aziz Rashidzada & Jackson Weisbrot (Hills West) won the doubles title. Jonas Linnman-Feuerring

& Gonzalo Trapote (Ross), runners-up, and, in third place, Justin Dabler & Adam Wilck (Hills East). In Suffolk team play, Half Hollow Hills West defeated cross-town rival Half Hollow Hills East to win the county championship.



Teenager Shares His Tennis Love



Fourteen-year-old Jack Louchheim of Sagaponack loves tennis so much that he wanted to help other kids enjoy the game too. To

that end, he set out to raise \$50,000 to build a youth tennis court in Bridgehampton. The eighth grader is enjoying the fruits of his labor with a grand opening in June of the new youth tennis court at the Bridgehampton Child Care & Recreational Center, where Jack plans to teach tennis to

children ages five through eight this summer. He will have lots of help from his friends, several of whom plan to help him teach.

Jack has been playing tennis since age five and plays almost every day. He has trained at several East End tennis clubs including East Hampton Indoor Tennis, the Bridgehampton Club and the Ross Tennis Academy, and competes regularly in USTA tournaments across the Eastern section. Jack joined the East Hampton High School Varsity tennis team at second singles in 7th grade and was undefeated his

first year. Jack raised money for court construction, fencing and equipment through his Bridgehampton Youth Tennis Project.

For additional information and to donate, please visit <http://bridgehamptonyouthtennis.com/>.



NYIT Men and Women Achieve Success

New York Institute of Technology's (NYIT) tennis teams under the leadership of Head Coach Jason Pasion enjoyed several successes in 2015-16. The men won their fourth consecutive East Coast Conference (ECC) championship by defeating Queens College 5-3. Junior Matej Selecky was named the ECC Player of the Year. Coach Pasion was named 2015-16 Division II East Region Coach of the Year for both the women's and men's teams.

The men ended the season with a 21-4 record and enjoyed the program's first-ever Elite 8 appearance in the NCAA Division II playoffs. Senior Tomas Lieb was named the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's (ITA) Most Improved Player and Selecky was named the ITA's Player to Watch.

The women were 20-7 for the season and reached the Sweet 16 for the second straight season. Junior Alessia Rossetti was named the ITA's Player to Watch.



USTA League Eastern Sectionals Finalist

Congratulations to LI's USTA Eastern Sectionals 18 & Over 7.0 Mixed finalists from Eastern Athletic Club. Captains are Jennifer Suh-McCormack and Henry Winnicki.



World's Longest Tennis Volley

Have a few hours to spare hitting the ball back and forth? Maybe you want to try to beat the Guinness World Record for longest tennis volley. The record – at 30,576 hits without the ball bouncing on the court – was set on August 8, 2015 by teaching pro identical twins Angelo and Ettore Rossetti of Connecticut. *Tennis Industry* magazine reported that the feat took five hours and 28 minutes. If you're a Long Island tennis duo interested in breaking the Rossettis' record, let us know and we'll do our best to help!



Around the Region...

Freeport Reads Between the Lines

Thanks to the success of adding tennis lessons to its Fall programming in 2015, the Freeport Memorial Library will bring tennis back again during this year's "Outside the Lines" event. The day-long special event will include tennis lessons for kids and adults at Northeast Park on Saturday, September 17th from 10:00am-

2:00pm. Lessons will be provided by USTA LI volunteers... **USTA LI Region in the News** Have you seen the USTA Long Island Region in your local newspaper lately? Stories have been appearing around town



about our fabulous awardees from our 26th Annual Awards Dinner. Some of

the newspapers that have covered us include *Newsday*, *Manhasset Press*, *Glen Cove Record Pilot*, *Merrick Herald*, *Nassau Herald* and *Port Washington News*. Have you seen us in another newspaper or magazine? Please snap a picture or copy the online link and send it to ustaonlongisland@gmail.com!...



Fundraisers and Free Fun

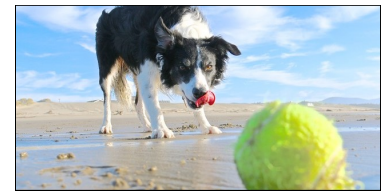
There are many tennis fundraisers happening this summer for great causes! Check our calendar on our

web site often for information on events like the CMBC Championships and the Christian Ardito Championships, both in August. There are also lots of opportunities to enjoy free tennis fun this summer. In addition to our Nassau and Suffolk Kids Days (see page 1), the USTA LI Region will also be running free clinics for kids at parks including Newbridge Rd., Harold Walker and Northeast...

Tennis at Robbie's Run USTA LI region volunteers were happy to offer lessons for kids at the 11th Annual Robbie's Run in Merrick. This 5K race and family fun day raises money to supply youth sports organizations with Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and also to run CPR/AED safety training classes. For more information on the work of the Forever 9-Robbie Levine Foundation, organizer of the Robbie's Run, please visit www.robbylevinefoundation.org.



USTA Eastern Long Island



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ustaonlongisland@gmail.com

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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