

March 2017



Coming Soon

3/25 Stop World Hunger Spring Tennis Party

4/21 USTA Eastern Hall of Fame Induction & Dinner

4/30 12th Annual Robbie's Run

5/3 Gigi Fernandez Doubles Master Clinic

5/3 27th Annual USTA Long Island Region Awards Dinner

5/13-14 Boys Nassau County HS Tournament

5/13 "Play for Autism" Boys Doubles Tourney/ Suffolk

5/19-20 Boys Suffolk County HS Tournament

5/20 LI Tennis Magazine Challenge

5/25 LI USTA Executive Cup (Boys)

6/1-3 NY State Boys HS Championships 2017

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events

On The Ball: News From LI



LI Honors at 27th Annual Awards Dinner Gigi Fernandez Is Special Guest

The USTA Eastern Long Island Region has announced the honorees for its 27th Annual Awards Dinner, scheduled for May 3rd. International Tennis Hall of Famer Gigi Fernandez will be a Special Guest at the event.

Long Island will celebrate the achievements, both on the court and off, of its members at the annual event, which will take place at Chateau Briand Caterers in Carle Place, N.Y.



Awards will be given in categories including Prestigious and Excellence, teams participating in National Championships, high school tennis success and junior and adult rankings. Heading the list of honorees are this year's Prestigious Award winners:

Hy Zausner Lifetime Achievement Award
Steve Kaplan

Vitas Gerulaitis "For the Love of Tennis" Award
Anneleis Karp

Arthur Ashe Multi-Cultural Award
Anthony Brown

Rose Buck Scalamandre Tennis Family of the Year Award
The Kowalsky Family

The evening's special guest, Gigi Fernandez, is a two-time Olympic Gold medalist, 17-time doubles Grand Slam champion and doubles expert. She also excelled in singles, reaching a career high ranking of #17 in the world with a semifinal appearance at Wimbledon and two quarterfinal appearances at the US Open. She will offer some remarks at the event and will be on hand to meet attendees.

More information will be provided on the Awards Dinner and the honorees throughout the spring. To attend the dinner and to see a complete list of honorees, please click [here](http://www.longisland.usta.com) or visit us online at www.longisland.usta.com.

(continued on page 3)

Gigi Fernandez to Host Doubles Clinic

Tennis Great Gigi Fernandez will run a doubles tennis clinic, including tips for getting the most out of your doubles game, on May 3rd at Robbie Wagner's Tournament Training Center in Glen Cove. Gigi is recognized as one of the best doubles players of all time and now shares her passion and knowledge of doubles with recreational players all over the country.



She will spend the day on court teaching doubles and talking about the mental part of the game. The day includes 1 1/2 hours of tennis (4:1 ratio), SWAG bag, \$25 Tennis Express gift card, "The Mental Game" lunch lecture and more. The cost is \$175 per person for the complete program or \$45 per person for the lunch lecture only. For more information and to register, please contact Hilary at Robbie Wagner's Tournament Training Center, (516) 759-0505 ext. 11 or email hilarytennis@gmail.com.

Cohen Family Shares Tennis Love

The USTA Long Island Region was saddened by the recent loss of Community Tennis Association (CTA) pioneer Bonnie Cohen, who passed away this past December. The Region also gratefully thanks Bonnie's husband, Harvey, for his generous donation of the tennis equipment Bonnie loved.



Bonnie launched her tennis program in 1994 as part of the East Williston Creative Arts Program, a Saturday morning enrichment for elementary-school-aged children, for which she was the director. She connected with the LI Region at that time, seeking tennis pros to

teach the classes. After three years, Bonnie used her tennis expertise to found the East Williston Community Tennis Association, one of the Region's first CTAs. She expanded the program to four seasonal sessions a year including two outdoors at the Wheatley High School and two indoors in Garden City, later moving to Cunningham Park and Alley Pond Park in Queens. She also started groups for the parents and added a session-ending carnival where all participants received a prize.

Bonnie had over 300 participants per session including people outside of her area as her program was known for being low cost and



high quality. She expanded her offerings to include Team Tennis, winning several tournaments with varying age groups and even fielding teams that competed in the Junior Olympics.

For her dedication to youth and community tennis, Bonnie received several USTA awards including USTA LI Region Volunteer of the Year and Special Service Award and USTA Eastern Volunteer of the Year (Long Island).



Bonnie was diagnosed with Stage 4 Breast Cancer in 2007 and battled it for nine years. Shortly after her passing, Harvey donated all of Bonnie's equipment including rackets, balls, nets and ball hoppers to the LI Region in the hopes that new generations would learn to enjoy and compete in the sport Bonnie loved.



New TSR: Neil Thakur

Neil Thakur joined the USTA Eastern Section in January as Tennis Service Representative for Long Island. In this staff position, Neil is responsible for the growth and development of tennis on Long Island and works closely with the Long Island Regional Board and other volunteers, members, member organizations and others to ensure that tennis enthusiasts and other stakeholders have positive tennis experiences.



As a long-time USTA league player, Neil is passionate about growing the game of tennis from the junior level up. Neil says he "grew up around the world," graduated from CUNY and has diverse work experience including healthcare administration and working for the United Nations.

Neil's objectives include expanding school tennis programs, stimulating demand for the sport throughout local Long Island communities and increasing overall youth, adult and young adult participation throughout the Region. He may be contacted for information about all aspects of Long Island tennis including juniors, adults, leagues, tournaments, lessons and other programming. He can be reached at by email at thakur@eastern.usta.com.

LI Honors at 27th Annual Awards Dinner Awardee Highlights

(continued from page 1)

The USTA LI Region is pleased to honor the following local tennis legends with its 27th Annual "Prestigious Awards."



Steve Kaplan (left), pictured here with business partner Keith Khambourian

Steve Kaplan: Hy Zausner Lifetime Achievement Award

Steve is the owner of Bethpage Park Tennis Center, director of the Lacoste Academy for the NYC Parks Foundation and is a partner in the Serve & Return Foundation, which provides free tennis lessons to U.S. veterans. During the last 34 years, Steve has coached more than 600 nationally ranked juniors, 15 state high school champions, two NCAA Division 1 Singles Champs and numerous touring professionals and prominent coaches.

Anneleis Karp: Vitas Gerulaitis "For the Love of Tennis" Award

Anneleis is President Emeritus of the USTA Eastern LI Region. A former Regional President, Anneleis oversaw numerous junior tournaments on Long Island (at Robbie Wagner's Tournament Training Center) during her tenure as LI Junior Competition Chair. She has

been recognized with the USTA Volunteer Service Award and USTA Eastern Special Service Award.

Anthony Brown: Arthur Ashe Multi-Cultural Award

A standout running back for the University of West Virginia. Anthony played four years for the NY Jets. After leaving the Jets, he changed careers and has been a professional tennis instructor at Robbie Wagner's Tournament Training Center for more than 15 years, teaching adults and juniors. Anthony has run many school programs and is instrumental in Wagner's 10-and-under program.

Kowalsky Family: Rose Buck Scalamandre Tennis Family of the Year

Keith and Laurie, along with children Kevin, Courtney and Rachel, have invested a great deal of their time and energies into playing tennis and giving back to the tennis community. All three children play tennis. Kevin played for Oyster Bay High School.

Courtney is a two-time NY State and Nassau County Champion in doubles. She was the County runner-up in singles in 2016, won 3rd place in States and was the Section VIII sportsmanship awardee. She will take her talents to Brown University in the fall. Youngest daughter Rachel has a few years before she starts her high school tennis career.



Members of the MacArthur HS Girls' Tennis Team wear pink for breast cancer awareness

Additional highlights are:

Nayana Brahmhatt: Adult Volunteer of the Year

Jack Louchheim: Junior Volunteer of the Year

Alan Delman & Steffi Antao: Junior Sportsmanship Awards

Ann McGrath: Birdie Tarulli League Captain Sportsmanship Award

Michael Siegmund: Blane Magee League Captain Sportsmanship Award

Park Ave. Tennis Club & Nassau Indoor Tennis: Tennis Clubs of the Year-Suffolk & Nassau

MacArthur HS Girls Tennis Team: HS Team of the Year

Nadia Johnston: Tennis Pro of the Year

In addition, 10 USTA League teams and one Junior Team Tennis team will be recognized for participating in their national championships.

For a complete list of this year's Long Island awardees, please visit www.longisland.usta.com.



Jack Louchheim, Junior Volunteer of the Year



World Gym's 14-and-under Junior Team Tennis Team that competed at Nationals



League Captain Sportsmanship Awardee Ann McGrath with one of her winning USTA League teams



Elysia Bolton, Sportsmanship, Girls 18s

LI Juniors Succeed at Winter Nationals

Five Long Island juniors started the year off strong at the USTA National Winter Championships.

In 18s play, Cannon Kingsley finished in 3rd place in Boys 18s and Elysia Bolton won the Girls 18s Sportsmanship Award.

In Boys 14s doubles, Billy Suarez and his partner finished in 1st place while Logan Paik Chang and his partner won 3rd place.

Shelly Yaloz and her partner finished in 3rd place in Girls 16s doubles.



Billy Suarez, center left, 1st place, Boys 14s doubles

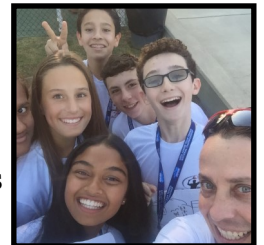
Junior Achievements

World Gym Junior Team Represents LI at Nationals

World Gym's junior tennis players achieved a first in 2016 — the 14-and-under team was the very first Junior Team Tennis team from Long Island to win their Eastern Sectional Championship and compete at Nationals!



Led by Captain Juan Pablo Perez and Co-Captain Victor Tito Perez, the team members are: Alejandro Pablo Perez, Matthew Kronenberg, Joseph Monticciolo, Sara Gunasakera, Sadhana Sridhar and Kiera Agic.



East Meadow Teen A Witness to History

Vinit Patel, 13, enjoyed a once-in-a-lifetime event in January when he was invited to Washington, D.C. to attend the inauguration of the 45th President of the United States. The Woodland Middle School (East Meadow) 8th grader played on the school's 7th and 8th grade tennis teams and looks forward to playing in high school next year. Vinit has trained with the Hicksville Community Tennis Association and at Carefree Racquet Club in Merrick.

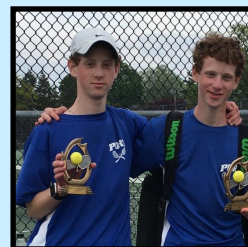


Vinit says that at the end of 6th grade, he was selected for a program called STEM Scholars (science, technology, engineering and math) and attended a study camp. He then was invited to attend the Inauguration with other student leaders. "This was once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness history," he says. "I was able to attend the historic 58th Presidential Inauguration on the National Mall. I also had the opportunity to see/meet and listen to world-renowned speakers such as Malala Yousafzai and her father Ziauddin Yousafzai."

Port Washington Twins Commit to College Doubles

Identical twins Max and Austin Egna have been playing singles and doubles together since they were nine years old. The Paul D. Schreiber High School (Port Washington) seniors play on the Varsity tennis team, where their special bond transfers onto the court. The twins will fulfill their lifelong dream to play as a doubles team at Union College in the Fall of 2017.

The Egna boys have played Varsity tennis since 9th grade and have received awards including the Coach's Award, MVP Award, USTA Eastern Junior Sportsmanship Award and Scholar Athlete Award. They finished 2016 with an undefeated season at first doubles and were All County in doubles. The boys train at Sportime Roslyn. Max is currently ranked 38 in New York State and 112 in the Mid Atlantic and Austin is 47 in New York State and 131 in the Mid Atlantic.



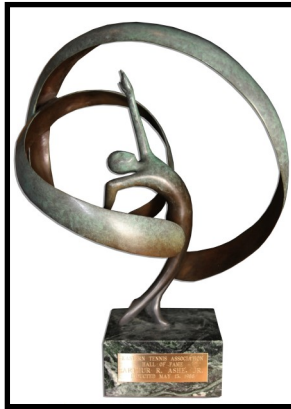
USTA Eastern Hall of Fame Inducts LI-ers

Two Long Island tennis legends will be inducted into the Eastern Tennis Hall of Fame this spring. They are Dick Zausner, of Port Washington, and Steve Siegel, formerly of Port Washington.

Steve and Dick will be inducted along with Judge Nicholas Garaufis, Christine O'Reilly, Patricia O'Reilly and Theresa O'Reilly on April 21 at the Beach Point Club in Mamaroneck, NY. The Eastern Tennis Hall of Fame honors those who made an impact by helping develop tennis. Proceeds will help support the Junior Tennis Foundation grant and scholarship programs.

Steve Siegel is a former ATP Player and

director of racquet sports at Plandome Country Club in Manhasset for 22 years.



As Director of the Port Washington Tennis Academy, Dick Zausner has given thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to try tennis over the years.

The Junior Tennis Foundation (JTF) was incorporated in 1979 as a non-profit organization to raise funds for junior tennis and adaptive tennis within the Eastern Section. Over two million dollars has been granted to worthy programs and scholarships to junior players since the inception of the Foundation.

Proceeds from the annual Hall of Fame celebrations support the Foundation's grants and scholarships.

For information on attending the Eastern Hall of Fame induction, please visit www.eastern.usta.com.

USTA League Report: Tri-Level and Mixed

The USTA Tri-Level League completed its Eastern Sectionals with two Long Island teams reaching the finals.

They are: Men's 4.5, 4.0, 3.5 Tri-Level finalist from Christopher Morley, captained by Mitchell Low and Women's 4.5, 4.0, 3.5 Tri-Level finalist from Roslyn, captained by Alyssa Bonadonna.

In USTA Mixed League play, four 40-and-over teams won their respective Long Island Regional championships and will move on to Sectionals in September. They are:

- 6.0 Christopher Morley, captain Sharon Tai-Yap
- 7.0 Bluepoint, captains Jen McCormack & Hank Winnicki
- 8.0 Lynbrook, captain Donna Healy
- 9.0 Hempstead Lake, captains Roz Chua & Cecil Hollins



Sharon Tai-Yap Mixed team, Christopher Morley



Mitchell Low Tri-Level team, Christopher Morley



Donna Healy Mixed team, Lynbrook



Jen McCormack and Hank Winnicki Mixed team, Bluepoint



Alyssa Bonadonna Tri-Level team, Roslyn

Around the Region...

Boys & Girls Club Twenty-three 10-14 year olds from the Glen Cove Boys and Girls Club completed the organization's first 13-week tennis clinic held in conjunction with Robbie Wagner's



Tournament Training Center in Glen Cove. Each Friday during the fall season,

the children visited Wagner's for instruction from the club's pros. They gained confidence and strength and learned basic tennis skills through the program which was sponsored by the club through private funding. A second session will run from March through June... **Noah Down Under** Noah Rubin, of Merrick, defeated fellow American Bjorn Fratangelo 6-7(4), 7-5, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 in the first round of the Australian Open and went on to challenge 17-time Grand Slam champion Roger

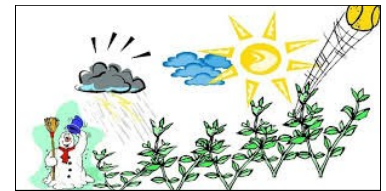


Federer in the second round... **Remembering Susan Alvy** Carefree Racquet Club in Merrick hosted the 3rd Annual Susan Alvy Memorial Tournament in December, in memory of the longtime manager of Rockville Racquet Club and Long Island USTA League Committee member. One of Susan's favorite events at Rockville was the Men's Doubles Holiday Tournament. Susan lost her battle to cancer in November 2014, not long after Rockville Racquet closed its doors for good. "Players who had played in the Men's Doubles Holiday Tournament came to me and asked if I would keep it going," said

Kathy Miller, Carefree manager. "It was an honor to do so and we all knew it had to have Susan's name attached. I am so happy that this tournament continues in Susan's name." This year's winners and finalists were: "A" division winners are Brad Shafran and Jeff Snow. Finalists are Jon Bonnet & Keith Mattes. "B" division winners are Chris Wolfe & Shahzeb Mirza. Finalists are Tomas Kukla & Sammy Tam... **Local is Runner Up in National Tourney** Glen Cove's Patrick Maloney, along with his partner Harris Walker of South Salem, N.Y., were runners up in doubles in a USTA National L2B 18s tournament held at Robbie Wagner's Tournament Training Center in Glen Cove in February. Maloney also was winner of the consolation draw in singles.



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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