

March 2018



## Coming Soon

3/18 11th Annual High School Coaches Workshop @Bethpage Park Tennis Center

5/2 USTA LI Region Annual Awards Dinner @Chateau Briand Caterers

5/11-12, 14 Suffolk Boys' Individuals Tournament @William Floyd HS

5/12 & 5/13 Nassau Boys' Individuals Tournament @Eisenhower Park

Week of 5/21 Long Island Boys' Championship (location TBD)

5/31 - 6/2 NY State Boys' Individuals Championships @National Tennis Center

visit [www.longisland.usta.com](http://www.longisland.usta.com)

for details on all events

...

follow us on Facebook [USTA Long Island](https://www.facebook.com/USTA-Long-Island) or Twitter [@USTA-LI](https://twitter.com/USTA-LI)

# On The Ball: News From LI



## LI Awards Dinner Scheduled

### Join the Celebration on May 2nd

Planning is underway for the 2018 USTA Long Island Region Annual Awards Dinner, which will take place on Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Chateau Briand Caterers in Carle Place. This year's event promises to be the biggest and the best yet!

"We will be recognizing the best and the brightest of tennis play and volunteering on Long Island, including USTA League teams, volunteers, adult and junior players and much more," said Jonathan Klee, USTA Long Island Region President (volunteer).

"Make sure to check our web site and social media often for updates including the [complete list of honorees](#) and [how to buy tickets](#). We hope to see everyone at our 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Long Island Awards Dinner," Klee said.

#### Honorees

This year's Prestigious Honorees will be led by Peter Kaplan, longtime owner/operator of Westhampton Beach Tennis. Mr. Kaplan will receive the Hy Zausner Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes a lifetime of achievement both on and off the tennis court on Long Island. It is given in memory of Hy Zausner,



**Peter Kaplan, Hy Zausner Lifetime Achievement Award**

founder of the Port Washington Tennis Academy. Additional prestigious awards will go to David McKean (Vitas Gerulaitis "For the Love of Tennis" Award); Fabiana Rezak (Arthur Ashe Multi-Cultural Award) and the Morales Family (Rose Buck Scalandre Tennis Family of the Year).

Several people will receive awards for their sportsmanship, including Dawn Schosberg (Birdie Tarulli League Captain Sportsmanship Award), Darren Scheinberg (Blane Magee League Captain Sportsmanship Award), Pieter Wernink (Anuj Agarwal Junior Sportsmanship Award) and Sophia Schutte (Jennifer Sherry Junior Sportsmanship Award).

#### Sponsors

"We are grateful to this year's dinner sponsors, led by chief sponsor [South Shore Eye Care](#) of Wantagh and Massapequa," said Sunny Fishkind, Vice President, USTA Long Island Region (volunteer). "Thank you to Dr. Jason Flicker and his partners for their generous contribution to supporting our dinner."

Dr. Flicker said he and his partners "will continue to be a part of and support Long Island tennis for many years to come. We're thrilled to be a part of this special occasion. I have enjoyed playing tennis throughout my life," Dr. Flicker said.

"It's a great cardio workout but more importantly forces you to be 'present' in the moment. That's always appealed to me." He added that having grown up on Long Island playing tennis and going to local tournaments like the Hamlet Challenge Cup and the US Open, "to be part of a special event like (this dinner) is a great honor."

Additional sponsorship opportunities are still available. For information, please email [ustaonlongisland@gmail.com](mailto:ustaonlongisland@gmail.com).

#### Join Us

Want to join your Long Island tennis community to celebrate this year's best in local tennis? Visit [www.longisland.usta.com](http://www.longisland.usta.com) for information on attending the dinner, congratulating the awardees and more.



**Dr. Jason Flicker, South Shore Eye Care**

## Athletics for All in Commack

The Commack High School Girls Varsity Tennis team held a clinic with the school's Athletics for All athletes in December.

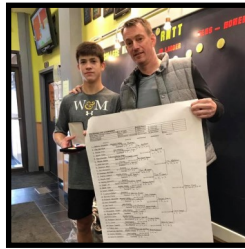
[Athletics for All](#) informs and provides the tools and guidelines by which coaches, athletic directors and school administrators can include students with disabilities in interscholastic sports.

"My Varsity Girls Tennis Team and I think it is very important to give back to the community, so we do tennis clinics with them a few times a year," said Jackie Clark, Commack Girls Tennis Coach, speaking of Athletics for All. "We use the red and foam balls and provide the racquets. The athletes love it and it is so much fun and rewarding for us."



## Juniors in the News

**Oren Vasser**, who trains at [Sportime Roslyn](#), won the Boys' 18s National Title at Glen Cove, with an incredible effort in the finals. Oren (photo at left, pictured with Sportime Roslyn's Jay Harris) won the match in a tiebreaker at the end of a 3-6, 7-6, 7-6 marathon that lasted almost four hours. Oren and his future William & Mary teammate, Daniel Pellerito, also had a strong showing in the National Doubles Tournament, finishing second, and had a great run in singles



with a third place finish.

Oyster Bay HS senior **Patrick Maloney** (photo bottom right, shown with his coach Adrian Chirici) won the Boys 18's Super 6, an Eastern tournament held at [Robbie Wagner's Tournament Training Center](#). Patrick has been training at Robbie Wagner's for three years, during which time he has won several National and Regional titles.



He will attend the University of Michigan on a tennis scholarship in

the fall.

[Sportime Kings Park Tennis](#) Director Jason Wass hosted the 1st annual JMTP (Johnny Mac Tennis Project) Night at the New York Open. "Our Sportime and JMTA (John McEnroe Tennis Academy) Athletes got to hang out and take pictures with Sloane, Genie, James and of course, Johnny Mac himself," Wass said. Wass is a USTA LI Board Member (volunteer).

## Spotlight: Net Generation

USTA Eastern and the USTA Long Island Region are working together to bring [Net Generation](#) training sessions to schools and tennis programs across the Island. Net Generation is the USTA's youth (ages 5-18) tennis brand, dedicated to welcoming millions of new players to the game by focusing on empowerment, unity and play.

Neil Thakur, USTA Eastern Tennis Service Representative for Long Island, led recent programs including:

*The "Sportime World Tour" visited [Sportime Syosset](#) with a red, orange and green ball event, bringing Net Generation to children (photo left).*

*Nine elementary physical education teachers from the Oyster Bay School District attended a Net Generation school training program at Oyster Bay High School. Joe Arias conducted the program on behalf of USTA Eastern. [Robbie Wagner's Tournament Training Center](#) will be the district's Net Generation school partner.*



## LI's National Champions!

### Lynbrook's 65+ Ladies Take Home the Prize

Long Island has its second National Champion USTA League team of the year! [Sportime Lynbrook's](#) 65-and-over 7.0 women, captained by Leslie Wecksler and Patricia Molloy, won the National Invationals title in Surprise, Arizona in January.

Team members are: (from left) Dale Conway, Nancy Johnson, Maureen Cornacchia, Nancy Rosenthal, Mary Jo Cecil, Leslie Wecksler, Pat Molloy, Julia Berkowitz, Sue D'Alessandro, Jane Muller, Cathy Caldwell and Arethia Williams.

Molloy and Wecksler shared their thoughts about the big win:

“What a surreal moment! On Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, (our team) received Championship Medals for being the #1 team at the 65-and-over 7.0 National Invationals Tournament.

Just 45 minutes earlier, we were cheering on our teammates who had won Court 2 but lost Court 3. Now it was up to Court 1 to determine the Championship or 2nd place. Our Court 1 players lost the first set and were down in the second 1-5. Our teammates won the next 5 games and Southern won the following game to tie the set at 6-6. We quickly won the second set tiebreak and now had to play the 3<sup>rd</sup> set super tiebreak! Our team steamrolled our opponents and won 10-2! What incredible tennis ... and an

extraordinary comeback!

This amazing accomplishment felt unreal but was familiar to a core group of us. This was the **fifth** time we had competed at Nationals, with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place win (2011 60+ 7.0) and a Championship (2012 60+ 7.0)! The two-time Champions are: Cathy Caldwell (captain of 60+ 7.0), Mary Jo Cecil, Dale Conway, Nancy Johnson, Pat Molloy (co-captain of 65+ 7.0) and Leslie Wecksler (co-captain of



65+ 7.0). Last year, our fourth time at Nationals, we had the honor of being the first 65+ team to represent USTA Eastern and Long Island at the National Invationals Tournament.

Many of us have played USTA tennis together for years, but we didn't become a cohesive, winning team until Tina Buschi, adult tennis director of Sportime Lynbrook, became our coach. After one year of (her) coaching, we earned a spot at Sectionals, followed by Nationals. We attribute our original and continued success to Tina and her extensive knowledge of

strategy, shot selection, etc. and to our work ethic and love of tennis. We view Tina as an invaluable part of our team and were very appreciative when Bea Bielik, general manager of Sportime Lynbrook and Kings Park, financially supported Tina's trip to Arizona. Now our team was complete!



Kathy Miller, Long Island USTA Adult League Coordinator, was also instrumental in our success. She ensured that we would compete against at least one other 65+ 7.0 team. It took a lot of time and phone calls but she was able to find a captain and put together another team.

Another person we have to thank is Mike Pavlides, past president of USTA Long Island and Scholastic Representative Chair/Nassau. Although we are not particularly superstitious, we felt that we had a little extra something on our side when Mike gave us pink USTA wristbands to wear during our matches. Mike had given the same wristbands to the 55+ 7.0 Huntington Indoor team, and they went on the win Nationals a few weeks before we did.”

## Tri-Level Men and Women Win

Long Island boasted two USTA League Tri-Level Tournament winners at Eastern Sectionals, as both the women's and men's teams won and will head to National Invationals this Spring. The men play out of [Sportime Syosset](#), and the women, [Sportime Lynbrook](#).

Men are: (l-r) Lane Lerner, Ian Shapiro (captain), Tomas Kukla, Michael Casamassima, Frank Fattizzi, Paul Wickesser, Joseph Bullaro, Horst Steins-



doerfer and Vladimir Salomon.

Ladies are: (l-r) Mehves Sucato, Yen So, Karen McCabe, Jen Sussman, Kerri Weingard, Karen Adler, Jill Markowitz (captain), Shanon Blue, Ting Liang, Lisa Coletta and Lauren Harris. Not pictured are Adele Votta, Marsha Silverman, Mary Ann Cluess and Dayna Coultier.

## Net Generation at the NY Open

LI's youngest tennis players had an amazing week of [Net Generation Clinics](#) at the Inaugural New York Open (see photos at right).

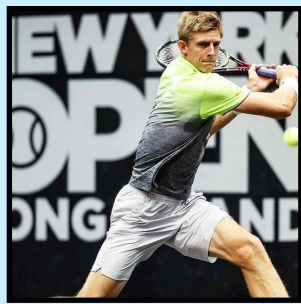
The Open provided "an opportunity for our players to play not only on the same courts but also with some of the professionals who stopped by," said Neil Thakur, USTA Eastern Tennis Service Representative (Long Island). "During the week, they got to meet the eventual Singles Champion Kevin Anderson and Finalist Sam Querrey as well as eventual Doubles Champions Max Mirnyi and Philipp Oswald plus many more star players. They also met legendary coach Nick Bolliettieri. We are very grateful to the New York Open and the ATP for giving our Net Generation players these lifelong memories," Thakur said.

"We thank [Christopher Morley Tennis](#), [World Gym Setauket](#), [Carefree Tennis](#), the [Sportime Clubs](#), [Robbie Wagner's](#), Alliance NJTL and [Suffolk County Junior Tennis League](#) for taking advantage of this unique experience for their players. We also thank Joanna Haich, [Adelphi Tennis](#) Coach, and Jason Pasion, [Hofstra Tennis](#) Coach, and their players for volunteering their help with the Net Generation Clinics.

"We look forward to an even bigger and better 2019 New York Open!" Thakur said.

# INAUGURAL NEW YORK OPEN Takes Over Nassau Coliseum

Long Island was the place to be in February, as the Inaugural [New York Open](#) ATP Tournament (formerly the Memphis Open) brought tennis greats and legends, as well as amateurs and fans, to NYCB Live, the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, for a week of competition and fun. The USTA Long Island Region, along with event sponsor USTA Eastern, was proud to support the NY Open throughout the week. Highlights included:



<<Top seed Kevin Anderson defeated 2<sup>nd</sup> seed Sam Querrey to win the first-ever NY Open men's final.

In doubles, Max Mirnyi and Philipp Oswald defeated Wesley Koolhof and Artem Sitak to become the first NY Open doubles champions.>>



The USTA Long Island Region Volunteer Board (below, right) and other LI-ers were honored on court during the quarter finals.

Chris MacDonald (left), Glen Cove High School Tennis Coach, was recognized for implementing Net Generation in his district. Herb Harris (3<sup>rd</sup> from right), who serves on the Long Island Grant and Community Development committees, was honored as USTA Eastern's Long Island Volunteer of the Year. Pictured below are: (from left) MacDonald, Steve Cloughen (Board Member), Mike Pavlides (Past President, Web Site Manager, Scholastic Representative Chair/Nassau), Fabiana Rezak (Board Member), Jenny Schnitzer (USTA Eastern Executive Director), Terry Fontana (Rally Day Committee, Community Tennis Association and National Junior Tennis & Learning Committee), Jonathan Klee (President), Hilary Bressler (Events Planner, Awards Dinner Committee), Harris, Clark D. Ruiz II (Nassau County Delegate) and Terri Arnold-McKenzie (Secretary, Grant Committee).

Net Generation @the New York Open>>



## INAUGURAL NEW YORK OPEN Takes Over Nassau Coliseum

USTA Long Island's presidents (below, left) conducted the coin toss to start the men's semi-finals. Pictured are: (from left) Semi-finalist Adrian Mannarino, Daniel Burgess (Past President), Mike Pavlides (Past President), Jonathan Klee (President), Scott Axler (Past President), Josh Ripple (Executive Vice President, GF Sports), and Sam Querrey, semi-finalist.



A USTA League 8.0 tournament brought local league competitors to the black courts at the Coliseum for an exciting doubles challenge. Jennifer Einhorn and Michelle Shain, representing Christopher Morley Tennis, defeated Tatyana Battaglia

& Lisa Goldberg to win the women's title.>>

Mens' winners were Daniel Burgess Jr. & Frank Fattizzi, representing Carefree Racquet Club. They defeated Paul Schnabel & Brian Connor.>>



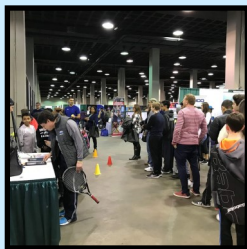
<<Merrick natives Noah Rubin (left) and Scott Lipsky competed in the NY Open, bringing a huge local cheering section to their matches.



<<Carefree Racquet Club in Merrick not only hosted the event's practice courts but also conducted ball person tryouts. Throughout the week, tennis greats like Genie Bouchard, John Isner and Sam Querrey could be seen on court.

USTA LI volunteers could be seen throughout the NY Open.>>

LI Tennis Magazine kicked off the NY Open with the New York Tennis Expo (photos below).



**The New York Open will return to Long Island and the Nassau Coliseum from February 9-17, 2019.**

## Expo Kicks Off NY Open

Close to 4,000 tennis fans converged on the Nassau Coliseum for the NY Tennis Expo, produced by [LI Tennis Magazine](#), which kicked off the New York Open.

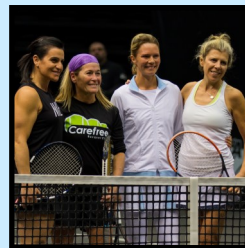
The free event included tennis activities and games, more than 65 exhibits and sponsors, a fashion show, seminars, and much more. Fans had the unique ability to participate in the tournament draw ceremony, watch ATP Tour pros on the Stadium Court and meet stars including Genie Bouchard.

"The Expo could not have been possible without the support of the community," said David Sickmen, Publisher of United Sports Publications (publishers of Long Island and New York Tennis Magazines).

"We have great partners and we support each other! This was a special day for tennis. This event should serve as a springboard for a successful tennis year in 2018!"

"The Expo was the perfect introduction to NYCB LIVE for people interested in the tournament. It was the best fan experience from an interactive standpoint. It served as the best way to present tennis on Long Island in a way that even I underestimated," said Josh Ripple, New York Open Tournament Director.

(see photos at left)





## Around the Region...

**Free Money!!** Don't miss out on more than \$12,000 in grant money currently budgeted for your tennis programs! This money is available to fund programs under the guidelines of the USTA Eastern Section, which gives preference to non-profits or 501 (c)3 organizations. These are Regional Grants; the application link and details can be found on the Long Island Region's website at [www.longisland.usta.com](http://www.longisland.usta.com). Questions? Email [ustaonlongisland@gmail.com](mailto:ustaonlongisland@gmail.com)...

**Carefree Racquet Club** in Merrick hosted the **4th Annual Susan Alvy Memorial Tournament** in December. Susan was the longtime manager of Rockville Racquet Club and a member of the Long Island USTA League Committee. Susan lost her battle to cancer in November 2014, not long after Rockville Racquet closed its doors for good. The tournament consists of Men's Doubles with an "A" division for 4.5-5.0 players and a "B" division for 3.5-4.0 players. All players competed in a final round on Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> followed by a breakfast and a trophy presentation by Su-

san's sister, Judy Weiss. The 2017 winners and finalists were (top photo): Division A Winners (from left) Keith Mattes & Jon Bonnet and Finalists Ben Marks & Michael Flaherty and (bottom photo) Division B Winners (from left) Brian Connor & Ian Zalansky and Finalists Justin Skidmore & Jason Maciorowski...



According to *Newsday*, Huntington's **Park Avenue Tennis Club** has been sold for \$3.2 million and will continue to be operated as a tennis facility. With four indoor courts and 30,000 square feet, the club was sold to Huntington residents Karen and Phil Cadorette of Peyton Capital Partners LLC. The couple told *Newsday* they plan to renovate the lobby, lighting system and HVAC system....

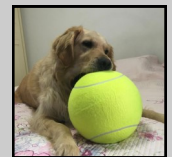
**USTA Eastern** honored several Long Islanders at its Annual Awards Dinner in January. Recognized for their achievements were Herb Harris, Keith Kambourian, Daniel Burgess, Nancy McShea and Heather Corriel. Check

out reports about some of these awardees in *Newsday's* Winners column ([Newsday story 1](#) and [Newsday story 2](#)), and the *Freeport Herald Leader*. Several members of the USTA Long Island Regional Board attended the USTA Eastern Annual Conference and Awards. Want to know more about the Regional Board and its



members? Click [here](#)...

Did you know that you can find a complete history of USTA Long Island Regional awards dating back to 1990 on the Long Island web site? This history includes prestigious and excellence awardees and a list of high school tennis champions throughout the years. Check it out [here](#).



## USTA Eastern Long Island

Like us on Facebook:  
USTA Long Island  
Follow us on Twitter: USTA\_LI

To subscribe to **On the Ball: News from LI**, please send your email address to:

[ustaonlongisland@gmail.com](mailto:ustaonlongisland@gmail.com)

Visit us on the web at:  
[www.longisland.usta.com](http://www.longisland.usta.com)

## USTA Long Island Region Executive Board

Jonathan Klee, President  
Sunny Fishkind, Vice President  
Mike Pavlides, Past President  
Craig Fligstein, Treasurer  
Terri Arnold-McKenzie, Secretary

*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."*

**On The Ball: News From LI** is published quarterly by the USTA Eastern Long Island Region. Written and produced by Jacki Binder. Edited by Michael Pavlides. Founded by Daniel Burgess.