



SMASH TALK

The Official Newsletter of the Neighborhood Junior Tennis Program
2004 SCTA MEMBER ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

SUMMER 2015

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Advisor

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NJTP PARTICIPATES IN MEALS ON WHEELS 20TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER



Sunday, April 26th was a picture perfect Spring day at Santa Monica beach. The **NJTP** was in full force with **NJTP** parents, students, board members, coaches, friends and families all participating in the Meals on Wheels bike/walk event. This year's fundraising was full of veteran fundraisers, as well as, many first timers. This was the 19th annual **NJTP** fundraiser. Pledges came from across the United States and even Internationally. WE WANT TO SAY A HUGE THANK YOU TO THE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE WHO MADE DONATIONS TO OUR WORTHY CAUSE.

PHILIP SIORDIA RECEIVES USPTA PRO OF THE YEAR AWARD



NJTP coach and founding member, *Philip Siordia*, received the USPTA Professional of the Year Award for the San Fernando Valley/Kern County District. Philip was awarded this honor because he excelled in a number of areas including contributing to the USPTA, **NJTP**, USTA, and his endless help with local "Futures" professional tournaments in the area. Philip's strength is his passion to understand players psychology and develop strategies to compete at the highest levels of the game. Congratulations, we are so proud of you!!!

JOEY TSCHERNE GOES FROM PEE WEE CLASS TO COLLEGE



It all started when Joey spoke his first word - ball. He loved to hit a play ball with his little red bat. He was two and half years old when he was hitting a tennis ball and loving it. Joey is a perfect example of what a **NJTP** kid can accomplish. He started in the Pee Wee class where he remained for almost five years. Joey won his first tournament at age 8. During this time he played all the **NJTP** events - leagues, lightning tournaments, Play Days at Riviera, satellite tournaments, **NJTP** group lessons, match play, and private lessons at El Cariso Park. Joey has set the bar very high for other **NJTP** students. He is the first **NJTP** student to win a Boy's 16 Open and Boy's 18 both in Open Singles and Doubles, and an ITA College Tournament event. Joey finished his Kennedy High School career with a semi-final showing in both the team and individual competition. He will attend Metro State University in Denver on a full tuition scholarship playing on their division II team. **Good luck son, we will miss you.**

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LA 84 FOUNDATION
Special Friends

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1,2,3, Grant

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**NOVICE, SATELLITE AND OPEN
TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

*PLAY TWO TOURNAMENTS IN ONE QUARTER AND NJTP
WILL PAY FOR THE THIRD!*

This quarter runs from:
April. 1st to June 30th, 2015.

For tournament schedule check the website at:
www.SCTA.USTA.com

NJTP STUDENTS ROLE

The **NJTP** held its annual satellite tournament on May 1,2, and 3 at El Cariso Park. Fifty tennis players participated. Many **NJTP** students won their divisions starting with *Diego Camarillo*, "Boys 12"; *Charlie Spina*, "Boys 14"; *Kendric Marcy*, "Boys 16"; *Giana Cespedes*, "Girls 14"; and *Briana Cespedes* wrapped up the tournament with a finalist result in the girl's 16. Way to protect the home turf, kids!!



LIGHTNING RESULTS

January Lightning was played on a beautiful winter day with *Kendric Marcy* winning the Achievers division, *Andres Jarrin* winning the Challenger IV Division, *Andrew Ontiveros* winning the Super Stars Division and first time Adult Division winner, *Luigi Zurita*, also taking first place.

April Lightning results were a repeat performance for *Kendric Marcy* in the Achievers Division with a 6-0 final score against *Ruben Banarjee*. *Kendric* is half way into a rare **NJTP** Grand slam. *Andres Jarrin* continued his dominance in the Challenger IV event with a 6-3 win over *Rafael Herrera*. *Marco Preciado* proved too good for the Super Stars Division. *Bruno Marcy* made a family sweep with an unbelievable come from behind victory in the Adult Final, 7-6, versus *Richard Abraham*.

SPECIAL THANKS

The **NJTP** would publicity like to thank *Melanie Bischoff* and the USTA for their Community Tennis Grant of \$3,000. *Philip Siordia* was in attendance on May 6th, 2015 at the LA 84 Foundation to receive the grant.

NJTP PRESIDENT INVITED TO THE WORLD CONFERENCE

Steve Tscherne, **NJTP** president, was thrilled and surprised when he received an invitation to be a guest speaker at the USPTA World Conference at the Mariott in New Orleans in September. Steve's title of his seminar is: "*Creative Ideas to Enhance Your Tennis Program*". This is quite an honor and Steve is very excited to be a presenter this year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

RIVIERA FUN DAY IS COMING

Mark your calendar for *Sunday, May 31st* for the next **Riviera Fun Day**. This event will be held from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. All Challengers III, IV, Competitors and Achievers will be encouraged to attend. We will leave El Cariso Park at 1:00 pm sharp to carpool. Lunch will be included. Tennis attire a must!!! Drivers needed!!! This is free for those who qualify. Any questions, contact Steve Tscherne (818) 434-9231.

QUARTERLY LIGHTNING TOURNAMENT

This quarter lightning tournament will be on *Saturday, July 11th, 2015* at 1:00 pm at El Cariso Park; there will be four divisions — *Superstars/Challengers III, Challenger IV, Competitors/Achievers and Adults*. Entry fee is \$15.00. Trophies will be awarded to the champions and finalist. Lightning Champion T-shirt go to the winner of each division.



**SESSION ENDS, EVALUATIONS, &
SEMINARS WEEK**

NJTP will be modifying their classes starting *Friday, May 22* through *Sunday, May 31*. Regular teaching classes will not be in session during this time; however, there will be a series of SSV Testing, parent meetings, pathway to success seminars, coach's conferences, and a few days off. **NJTP** staff will be reviewing the first part of 2015 and planning for the new session starting on June 1, 2015. Stay tune for more details on scheduling during this week. It is extremely important that you attend the parent meeting, SSV testing, and pathway to success seminar.

PLAY DAY AT EL CARISO PARK

Mark your calendar *Saturday, June 27th, 2015* at 11:00 am. at El Cariso Park. Entry fee is \$15.00. This event is for the *Future Aces, Rising Stars, and Super Stars*.

ACHIEVER LIGHTNING CHAMPIONS

JANUARY 2010 — JOEY TSCHERNE
 APRIL 2010 — JOSEPH REYES
 JULY 2010 — WILL CHUNG
 OCTOBER 2010 — SARAH NUÑO
 JANUARY 2011 — NICK ARAJUO
 APRIL & JULY 2011 — JOEY TSCHERNE
 OCT 2011 - BRANDEN CURAFA-DE RICCI
 JANUARY & APRIL 2012 - JOEY TSCHERNE
 JULY 2012 - KENDRIC MARCY
 OCT 2012 - JEREMY DOMINGUEZ
 JANUARY & APRIL 2013 - JOEY TSCHERNE
 JULY 2013 - JEREMY DOMINGUEZ
 OCT 2013 - JEREMY DOMINGUEZ
 JANUARY 2014 - EVAN BALMAIN
 APRIL 2014 - AMANDA TABANERA
 JULY 2014 - RUBEN BANERJEE
 OCT 2014 - AMANDA TABANERA
 JANUARY & APRIL 2015 - KENDRIC MARCY

WAY TO GO

Ryan Inton (Kennedy High School Boy's Team)
Andres Jarrin (Kennedy High School Boy's Team)
Joey Tscherne (Kennedy High School Boy's Team)
Ryan Nuño (Granada High School Boy's Team)
Justin Garcia (West Ranch High School Boy's Team)
Kanin Koshak (Valencia High School Boy's Team)
Eddie Torres (Sylmar High School Boy's Team)
Abraham Herrera (Sylmar High School Boy's Team)
Aurelio Gonzalez (Sylmar High School Boy's Team)
Daniel Garcia (Canyon High School Boy's Team)
David Preciadio (Canyon High School Boy's Team)
Kendric Marcy (Burroughs High School Boy's Team)

Joey Tscherne – Champion – Boy's 18; Racquet Center Open
Joey Tscherne – Champion – Boy's 18; Lakewood Open
Kendric Marcy – Champion – Boy's 16; NJTP Junior Satellite
Ryan Nuño – Champion – Boy's 16; Ramada Junior Open
Amanda Tabanera – Champion – Girl's 16; Dbl's Ramada Winter Open
Kendric Marcy – Champion – Boy's 14; Ramada Junior Satellite
Charles Spina – Champion – Boy's 14; NJTP Junior Satellite
Amanda Tabanera – Champion – Girl's 14; Dbl's Ramada Jr. Open
Amanda Tabanera – Backdraw Champion – Girl's 14's; Henry Talbert
Amanda Tabanera – Champion – Girl's 14; YES Foundation Open
Emily Andrews – Champion – Girl's 14; SFV Junior Satellite
Giana Cespedes – Champion – Girl's 14; NJTP Junior Satellite
Giana Cespedes – Champion – Girl's 14; Tennis Junior Satellite
Diego Camarillo – Champion – Boy's 12; NJTP Junior Satellite
Anna Snissarenko – Champion – Girl's 12; Northridge Junior
Briana Cespedes – Finalist – Girl's 16; NJTP Junior Satellite
Amanda Tabanera – Finalist – Girl's 16; Dbl's Scottsdale Open
Amanda Tabanera – Finalist – Girl's 14; Dbl's San Gabriel Open
Brenna Whelan – Finalist – Girl's 14; Manhattan Beach Satellite
Yasmine Chinda – Finalist – Girl's 14; Braemar Junior Satellite
Brenna Whelan – Finalist – Girl's 12; Braemar Junior Satellite
Brenna Whelan – Finalist - Girl's 12; South Bay Junior Satellite
Diego Camarillo – Finalist – Boy's 12; South Bay Junior Satellite
Anna Snissarenko – Finalist – Girl's 12; Scottsdale Junior Open
Anna Snissarenko – Finalist – Girl's 12; Dbl's Braemar Junior Satellite
Anna Snissarenko – Finalist – Girl's 12; Braemar Junior Satellite
Anna Snissarenko – Finalist – Girl's 12; SFV Junior Satellite

NJTP BOARD MEMBERS, COACHES

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Ruben Mejorado
Rudy Cordova

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Laura Guitierrez
Lonnie Kim
Marco Alegre
Nancy Rodriquez
Robert Koshak
Ruth Johnson
Rene Rodriquez
Suprio Banerjee
Thomas Whelan
Oswaldo Pulido
Rosa Banerjee
Victor Ponce
Wanda Chinda

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Charlie Spina
Christian Camarillo
Dally Johnson
Diego Camarillo
Dylan Garcia
Eliana Medina
Emily Andrews
George Roznetinsky
Halle Antoine
Iris Zuniga
Izabella Tellez
Izzy Ponce
Jacelyn Riveria
Janelle Roznetinsky
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Anna Snissarenko
Audrey Kim
Aurelio Gonzalez
Brenna Whelan
Briana Cespedes

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TOP FUND-RAISERS - \$600.00 or more

Steve Tscherne	\$4,200.00
Ruben Mejorado	\$1,480.00
Celine & Bruno Marcy	\$1,130.00
Chuck & Charlie Spina	\$1,125.00
Curtis Johnson Family	\$1,000.00
Barbara Tscherne	\$930.00
Lonnie & Audrey Kim	605.00

PLEDGES

Thank you all for your support!!!

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Thank you all for your support!!!

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[Please excuse us if we have made an error in spelling your name, as they were transcribed from rather faint copies of hand written

17-year-old NJTP STUDENT becomes one of the world's youngest CPAs

Through hard work and determination, Belicia Cespedes earned the credential before she was even eligible to vote.
by Samiha Khanna

When Belicia Cespedes returned from lunch one afternoon last summer, she was surprised to see friends and family gathered outside her family's Canyon Country, Calif., home. The crowd was cheering, so the teenager joined in, clapping and smiling—until she realized the applause was for her. Belicia's father, Jan, walked toward her holding her results from the CPA exam, which she had spent more than six months studying for. "Pass. Pass... Pass..." the sheet read. At age 17, Belicia had successfully finished all sections of the exam, becoming one of the youngest CPAs in the world. "I was super-excited," she said. "Everyone was cheering. They picked me up and did a victory lap." Now fully licensed, she currently works as an accountant for her parents' landscaping and construction company, International Environmental Corp. She is considering law school and also is interested in ultimately providing financial planning services in her community. "She has such a desire to serve others," her mother, Vicki, said. "She just sees so many ways to help." Belicia is the second of five girls, all of whom received the bulk of their education at home.

"Education was very important to both Jan's family and mine, just because of the sacrifices both of our parents made to come to this country—Jan's family emigrated from Cuba, mine from Mexico," Vicki said. After a lot of consideration, the family decided they could best impart their family's values through personalized education at home. Vicki started by teaching eldest girls Ivana, now 18, and Belicia from the time they could sit in high chairs. Each was reading by age 3 and advanced through the grades rapidly. Middle daughter, Briana, 16, has her bachelor's degree, and Giana, 14, is attending community college. Eliana, only 4, is just starting out—her primary goal in life is to be tall enough to reach the cups in the kitchen, Belicia said, laughing. Growing up, each of the girls studied four to six hours a day, leaving plenty of time for field trips, vacations, tennis, and sleepovers with friends—a lot of the activities kids in public schools enjoyed. But while many teens were tweeting and gaming their afternoons away, Belicia was getting ahead on her homework. First it was next week's homework, then next month's work, and pretty soon, she was a few years ahead.

"They really liked being able to go at their own pace," Vicki said. "They were so motivated to get to the next thing." There were perks, too, Belicia recalled: "Every time we moved up a grade, we'd get to go out for ice cream." After graduating from high school at age 13, Belicia took a QuickBooks course and enjoyed book-keeping so much she decided to pursue a bachelor's degree and study accounting. She enrolled in community college, where she often earned the top scores in her classes, her mother said.

"During those first years of community college, I would help her study and ask questions from her notes, and I could just see her brain ticking away," Vicki Cespedes said. "She would go into this zone. "My husband and I both thought, there's a gift here," Vicki Cespedes added. "We need to support this and encourage her." As she completed her bachelor's degree via online classes from Thomas Edison State College—which took less than two years—Belicia worked a part-time job with an accountant who previously had worked with her father. The company was gracious enough to allow a 15-year-old to come in and learn in their professional office, Vicki said.

It's hard to believe poised and well-spoken Belicia isn't even old enough to vote. But having spent many days working at her father's landscaping and construction company, she became comfortable in a business setting at a young age. She would attend conferences, write checks, answer calls, and do some of the filing. Belicia also learned she had a natural affinity for math and solving problems. "I just 'got it,'" she said. "I kind of have a logical, analytical mind.

"I saw math as a concrete thing, and I like that—you know when the answer is wrong or right," she said.

Studying for the CPA exam was tough. But Belicia had spent years in disciplined independent study as a home-school student. She spent about a month studying for each component of the exam, working through an online program, answering practice questions and flipping through flash cards. The tests were long and mentally draining, Belicia said, but her mother would treat her to The Cheesecake Factory and a movie afterward. Even after failing two of the parts on the first try, Belicia was back in her room, studying for the retests that she eventually would pass. "When I first was able to say, 'I'm Belicia Cespedes, CPA,' I couldn't honestly believe it," the teenager said. "I don't think it changes who I am, but it is something I can use. "I'm really grateful for it and for the opportunity to use it to help others," she said.

Neighborhood Junior Tennis Program

13083 Hubbard #3

Sylmar, California 91342

For more information, call:

(818) 294-2671

NJTP is a non-profit organization

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY STEVE TSCHERNE

SUMMER IS COMING

Summer time is the time to rev up your game. The days are long and everyone is out of school. This is the perfect time to add some tennis hours to your schedule. You can play matches on the weekend, take private lessons, stay after class to work on your game, and, of course, play tournaments, lightnings, play days, and Riviera fun days. Let's get busy, play more tennis and improve your game.

2015 - Grand Slam Schedule

FRENCH OPEN - May 24- June 7

WIMBLEDON - June 29 - July 12

US OPEN - August 31 - Sept. 13

MATCH PLAY TIPS

- ♦ Breathe
- ♦ Attack a weakness
- ♦ Move Your Feet
- ♦ Follow the Ball
- ♦ Look for your openings
- ♦ Change a losing game

NJTP SUMMER 2015 TENNIS CLASSES

Pee Wees - Lobbers - age 3-7: - Mondays 5:00-6:00 pm, **Saturdays** 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Novice - Smashers - Mondays 6:00-7:30 pm, **Wednesdays** 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Novice - Future Aces: Tuesdays 5:00-6:00 pm, **Wednesdays** 5:00-6:30 pm

Rising Stars - A - Wednesdays: 6:00-7:00 pm,

Fridays 5:00 - 6:30 pm, **(Match Play), Saturdays:** 11:00 - 12:30 pm

Rising Stars - B: Wednesdays 5:00-6:00 pm; **Fridays** 6:30-8:00 pm; **Sat's:** 11:00 - 12:30 pm

Super Stars - Pre Interm.— Mondays 6-8:00 pm, **Thursdays** 5-6:00 pm,

Fridays 5:00 - 6:30 pm **(Match Play)**

Challenger 3: Mondays 5:30-7:00 pm, **Wednesdays** 7:00-8:30 pm, **Fridays** 5:00-6:30 pm

Challengers 4: Tuesdays 6:00-8:00 pm, **Wednesdays (Match Play)** 4:30-6:30 pm,
and **Thursdays** 6:00-8:00 pm

Competitors 5: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 4:30-6:30 pm

Achievers: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 4:30-6:30 pm

Adult Intermediate/Advance: Tuesdays 8:00-9:30 pm (\$40.00/month).

Adult Beg: Saturdays, 8:30-10:00 am (\$40.00 /month).

Days off: Friday, May 22 - Sunday, May 31 Memorial Week Session Break

Friday, July 3 - Saturday, July 4, 2015 - Independence Day Break

Friday, September 4 - Monday, September 7, 2015 - Labor Day

*Registration/Orientation on the first and last Tuesday of the month, 6 pm -7:00 pm. Ask for Rudy.

WEB-SITE
www.njtptennis.net