

Triumph



Special Olympics New York • SEPTEMBER 2002

Winter Games are Back in Ellenville

Catskill resort town will host delegations from across New York in February.

The Nevele Grande Resort & Country Club in the storied Catskill Mountains will be the site of the 2003 and 2004 Winter Games, the sixth and seventh time since 1991 the vacation destination has hosted the Games.

Nearly 1,000 athletes and coaches from across New York state will take part in two days of competition and celebration. Competition will be held in six sports – Alpine and Nordic Skiing, Floor Hockey Team and Floor Hockey Skills, Figure Skating and Speed Skating.

The Winter Games is one of three

statewide competitions held annually by Special Olympics New York and one of 400 Special Olympics competitions that take place throughout the state each year.

“The Nevele is a great location for many reasons,” said Walter Kopczuk, vice president, Program, for Special



RF Photography

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Athletes will compete in six sports, including Alpine Skiing.

Lleyton Hewitt Serves Up Tennis Tips to Special Olympics Athletes

Hewitt conducted clinic for NY and NJ athletes before US Open.



Special Olympics

Westchester County athlete Sara Chamberlain was Hewitt's doubles partner.

Before he began his unsuccessful U.S. Open title defense, Lleyton Hewitt conducted a clinic with Special Olympics athletes as part of Arthur Ashe Kids' Day at the USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing, Queens.

Fifteen athletes from New York and New Jersey took part in the clinic, which was surrounded by a full day of activities that included tickets for qualifying matches, seats at practice sessions and an afternoon concert

Arthur Ashe Kids' Day is held annually advance of the U.S. Open, the final major championship of the tennis season. The event features a full day of family fun, including interactive games, entertainment and, of course the clinic.

“It was great. I was picked to be Lleyton's doubles partner,” said Sara Chamberlain of Irvington. “I was so thrilled I had a smile on my face for the next three days. He was very nice to me, and I loved his accent.” Chamberlain's tennis prowess has taken her to two World Summer Games (1995 and 1999), as well as the European Games in 1999.

The participation of Hewitt, ranked No. 1 in the world, was part of a new Special Olympics initiative to double the amount of Special Olympics athletes (to two million) worldwide over the next five years.

“I've been fortunate to have earned the title of champion in tennis, but Special Olympics athletes earn that title every day

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Find up-to-date information on our official Web site, www.specialolympicsnewyork.org.

A Message from the President

Neal J. Johnson is President & CEO of Special Olympics New York, Inc.



We Americans, it would seem, are always looking for heroes and fortunately or not, we are always able to find many. Certainly on 9/11 of last year, the world witnessed countless acts of heroism and it is safe to assume there

were still many more which will never be revealed. The media provides us with access to many heroes on a daily and evening basis.

There are many heroes, it is also safe to assume, who accomplish magnificent things well below the media's radar and beyond the public's attention. I suspect that many of us have numerous "heroes" in our lives who do great things, without notoriety, and only because it is the right thing to do. While they might not risk or sacrifice their lives, what they do nonetheless makes a lasting impression on all those around them. If we stop and reflect for a moment, I'm sure we can all name quite a few of these "quiet heroes".

One such person who is known to many of us here at SONY was Herb Rosenblatt. Herb, who passed away suddenly 11 years ago, was a special educator and an avid sports fan. More importantly, Herb spent his entire adult life as an advocate for youngsters and adults with developmental disabilities.

He had a deep belief in the value of athletic training and competition for people with mental retardation and when Special Olympics was conceived, he signed on immediately. Herb founded Bronx Special Olympics, and from its earliest days he made sure that quality of the experience for the athletes was at the heart of the program. Herb was responsible for directly affecting the lives of thousands of athletes, their families, and countless others across the Bronx and throughout New York. I personally can attest to his influence on people's lives because he brought me into Special Olympics so many years ago.

Herb Rosenblatt's days as a "quiet hero" are numbered, however. On Friday, Oct. 11 at 11 a.m., Waters Place in the Bronx will be renamed for Herb. The City of New York, the borough of the Bronx and the entire SONY family will stop for a moment and publicly recognize yet another hero. Thanks Herb. ■

2 Special Olympics New York

2002 Calendar of Events

October

- 4 Healthy Athletes Training, Desmond Hotel and Conference Center, Albany
- 4-6 2002 Fall Games, Saugerties
- 19 Bowl-A-Thon, Manhattan
- 19 Section 2 Adult Bowling, (Age 22+), Bowling Time Lanes, New Windsor
- 19 Section 3 Adult Bowling, (Age 22+), Pine Lanes, South Glens Falls
- 19 Section 4 Bowling, (Age 22+), Lakeview Lanes, Fulton
- 23 The Real Estate & Construction Gala, New York Sheraton, Manhattan
- 27 Section 1 Adult Bowling, (Age 22+), Maple Lanes, Brooklyn

November

- 2 & 3 Bowling West, (Age 22+), AMF Olympic Lanes, Rochester
- 8-10 Bowling Central, (Age 22+), AMF Pin-O-Rama, Utica
- 9 Bowling East, (Age 22+), Melville Lanes
- 23 & 24 Fall Leadership Conference & Awards Banquet, Sheraton Hotel, Saratoga Springs

Also scheduled during November, with dates to be confirmed:

- Area Coordinators' Council meeting *
- Training schools – Scheduled as needed throughout the year *

* For more details, please contact your Director of Field Services or the Special Olympics New York office.

In the Next Issue

- Fall Games Review
- NY World Games Team Announced



Triumph

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Inspire Greatness

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Long Island Regional Team to Present Findings at Fall Conference

Best practices for restructuring will be outlined to delegates from across the state.

The team of volunteers and staff working to establish the first Regional office of Special Olympics New York will share their experiences in a special round-table session at the 2002 Fall Leadership Conference and Awards Banquet in November.

The session will focus on the efforts of an *ad hoc* committee established six months ago to merge programs in Nassau and Suffolk counties into a single Long Island Region. The new region is expected to be operational in the beginning of 2003.

"We feel that by bringing together the collective knowledge and experience of those involved in the Long Island regionalization effort, that others around the state will benefit," said Walter Kopczuk, vice president, Program, for Special Olympics New York. "There is always a degree of uncertainty and uneasiness during organizational changes. I think other volunteers in leadership positions will benefit greatly from the work of this great group of volunteers and staff."

Special Olympics New York is in the process of creating regional programs across the state. The goal of the restructuring is to provide a more consistent level of training and competition programs for existing and potential athletes

no matter where they live in New York, while increasing the numbers of athletes who are served.

The restructuring will help Special Olympics

New York create efficiencies in the functional areas of communication, training, competition, public awareness, volunteer recruitment and retention, and fund-raising.

The committee's charge was to examine the region objectively, find efficiencies and deficiencies, and not be a rubber-stamp for the organization, Kopczuk said.

Nick Mort, an 18-year volunteer who coaches Gymnastics, served on the Long Island transition committee and will become a member of the Long Island Regional

Regionalization is going to happen. Help us get there.

– Nick Mort



**Special Olympics
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in it together

Leadership Committee. He said the process of creating a Region will help volunteers in Area programs understand the necessity of these structural changes.

"This is such a big change for people," Mort said. "The sticker shock of what regionalization means both factually and how people interpret it is the biggest problem to overcome. Regionalization is going to happen." His advice: "help us get there."

The 2002 Fall Leadership Conference and Awards Banquet is Nov. 22 to 24 in Saratoga Springs. For more information, call Diana Bennett at 518-388-0790, or e-mail dbennett@nyso.org. ■

Winter Games Return to the Catskills

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Olympics New York. "It provides a centralized competitive location, which enables athletes to meet one another more easily and cheer on other athletes. It really enhances the overall athletic and social experience for our athletes. Then, of course, there are fantastic venues and a supportive community, which really help make the Nevele an outstanding location."

The 2003 Games will take place Feb. 21 to 23, while the 2004 Games will be held Feb. 20 to 22. Alpine Skiing will take place at Holiday Mountain in Monticello, while Speed Skating will be held at Ice Time Sports Complex in Newburgh. The Nevele will host competition for 90 percent of the Winter Games athletes, including Figure Skaters, Floor Hockey players and Nordic Skiers.

Recruitment has begun for Winter Games sponsors, volunteers and donors. To help, call Peter Lawrence at 518-388-0790, or e-mail plawrence@nyso.org ■

The Nevele: A Brief History

In the late 1800s, a group of eleven teachers from New York City came to upstate New York, looking for the ideal place to hold their summer retreat.

During their trek through the Shawangunk Mountains, they came upon an ideal camp site in full view of a spectacular waterfall. This group of ELEVEN was so taken by the serenity of this unique spot they decided they would return every summer. They dubbed the waterfall "The "NEVELE" Falls", in tribute to their discovery, as the name is eleven spelled backwards.

Upon their return the following year, a nearby farmer offered the eleven teachers meals at his home. He so enjoyed the opportunity to offer his hospitality to these teachers and the relationships he developed with them, that he asked if they would stay with him and his family every summer.

Word spread about the NEVELE (pronounced Neh-vuh-lee) Falls and the warmth of this mountain farm family. To accommodate the growing numbers of city residents attracted to the promise of scenic beauty and gracious hospitality, a boarding house was built on the farm in 1901 and named "NEVELE ACRES."

– Source: www.nevele.com



The green of the nevele will yield to the winters' chill come February.

Long Island has a Regional Director

Jeff McCausland will lead Long Island into regionalization.

The creation of a new regional program on Long Island took a step forward in September when Jeff McCausland was named regional director.

McCausland will oversee all functions of the new regional program being created in Long Island, which combines existing Area programs in Suffolk and Nassau counties.

The Long Island Region will become the first of nine regions being

created throughout New York in the organization's quest to provide athletes with a consistent, high-quality training and competition program, and increase the numbers of people who are served.

"I am pleased to welcome Jeff as our first regional director," said Neal J. Johnson, president and chief executive officer of Special Olympics New York. "His leadership and experience will be vital to providing our athletes on Long Island with

the best competitive experience possible."

For the past year McCausland served as the executive director of the



Our focus needs to remain on the athletes.

-Jeff McCausland

Suffolk County program, which trains 3,100 athletes in 21 sports. The Long Island Region will have 4,600 athletes.

McCausland is a seasoned manager and administrator with experience in government, private sector and nonprofit operations. He is responsible for all functions of the region, including training, competition, volunteer management, fundraising, administration and public awareness. He will immediately begin leading the



transition of Long Island from two Area programs to a single region, which will begin formal operations in January.

"The biggest priority right now is to reach out to all of the key volunteers in Long Island and make sure we're all rowing in the same direction," McCausland said. "It's an exciting time for everyone here, and I believe that in a short amount of time we will become a model for regionalization across New York."

McCausland said he will work with volunteers to recruit more athletes and increase the amount of competitive experiences through such activities as intramurals and Special Olympics leagues.

"Our focus needs to remain on the athletes," he said. "I think if we do that then everything else will fall into place." ■

MBIA Invitational Scores Big for SONY – Westchester/Putnam

More than \$300,000 is raised for athletes and ARC consumers.

For the past 18 years, Armonk-based MBIA and Special Olympics New York – Westchester/Putnam Counties have worked to create an exemplary annual golf and tennis outing, and in the process have forged an even better partnership and friendship.

The annual MBIA Invitational, which benefits Special Olympics and the Westchester ARC, drew 425 golf and tennis enthusiasts, including many celebrities from the worlds of entertainment and sports.

Jerry Peters, executive director of Special Olympics New York – Westchester/Putnam, thanked the sponsors, golfers and the many devoted volunteers who helped organize and staff the tournament. "The generosity and support of MBIA and those associated with this incredible event has provided our athletes not only the chance to confront challenges in their lives, but the opportunity to experience growth and

independence," Peters said.

The annual outing includes breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as prizes for such things as low scores, closest to the pin, longest drive and most accurate drive. Three golf courses are now used in an effort to handle the volume of players. All guests gather at Mt. Kisco Country Club for the dinner and awards presentations.

MBIA Insurance Corporation (NYSE: MBI), which has sponsored the tournament since the company was in its infancy, is now the world's foremost financial guarantor and a prominent provider of investment management services to the public sector. The invitational raised \$300,000, which also includes pledges from the annual Tour de Wagner, an annual New York to Vermont bicycle ride that supports the Westchester/Putnam program.

Gary Dunton, MBIA president and Invitational co-chair, said, "Each year clients



Sue Voltz of the MBIA Foundation with athlete Tommy Ableson.

and competitors alike join us for this truly wonderful day. The support has been tremendous, and indicative of the fellowship we have in the financial services community. I don't know of any other industry that does what we're doing here today – putting aside our business activities to raise money for a common goal." ■

Athletes Match Skills with Tennis Star

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of their lives,” Hewitt said. “Their courage and success over daily challenges is the true definition of ‘champion.’”

Hewitt was first introduced to Special Olympics in 1998 by his former coach, Peter Smith. Smith would host tennis clinics in Australia at which Hewitt would speak and play with the Special Olympics athletes. In 1999 Hewitt was featured in a South Australian-based advertising campaign with SPARC (Sport Art & Recreation Council Disability Foundation) to raise funds for Australian athletes with physical disabilities. Hewitt’s interest in supporting sport opportunities for all people globally has helped mold his decision to join Special Olympics’ campaign for growth.

“Lleyton will be instrumental in helping Special Olympics reach the next generation of Special Olympics athletes,” said Tim Shriver, president and chief

executive officer of Special Olympics, Inc. “He’s one of sport’s brightest young global stars. His commitment to Special Olympics is a tribute to our athletes and a clarion call to the world’s youth that Special Olympics athletes deserve admiration and respect. Lleyton’s personal dedication will help bring the joy of sport and achievement to a million more Special Olympics athletes worldwide.”

Hewitt will most likely hit the athlete-recruitment trail with a stop in China in November to help launch the country’s tennis program. A trip home to Australia will follow where Hewitt plans to incorporate a Special Olympics component into his International Tennis Camp. ■



Hewitt had fun spending time with the athletes. Here he bumps fists after a good volley.



Lleyton Hewitt, right, ranked number one in the world, shows New Jersey athlete Andy “Smooch” Roslan how to improve his swing.



Photos by Special Olympics



Hewitt took the time to sign autographs and meet each athlete, including Jennifer Wong of Westchester County.



Hewitt, center, posed for this keepsake photo with athletes from New York and New Jersey.

Around the State



Long Island Region

A doo wop concert was held at the Westhampton Performing Arts Center in Long Island to benefit Special Olympics New York – Long Island. Rocco Oliviero, a real-estate developer in Suffolk County, organized the event.

“He is invested in the Special Olympics mission and basically does everything to put on this concert,” said Jeff McCausland, Long Island Regional Director; “He even arranged for a ‘50s car show in front of the arts center.”

Athlete Matt Schuster was pulled on stage and helped sing “Charlie Brown.” He really got into singing the refrain “Why is everybody always picking on me?”

The event raised nearly \$15,000 for the program.

Area I - Bronx

The Bronx program lost Paul Riordan, a volunteer and coach for more than 30 years, on Aug. 25. Paul and his wife Marie got involved in Special Olympics when their daughter, Frances, became an athlete. The couple is also credited for helping the Manhattan program get its Equestrian program off the ground. “Paul was a benefit to the Bronx program,” said Special Olympics New York President and Chief Executive Officer Neal J. Johnson. “He was not only one of the nicest guys I knew, but a very dedicated volunteer.”

Area 30 - Brooklyn

Brooklyn will hold its sixteenth annual fund-raiser luncheon on Saturday, Oct. 19, at Buckley’s. This luncheon continues to be the program’s largest fund-raiser. For more information, call 718-474-8314.

Please call, fax or e-mail your Area information to Doreen Hand, 212-661-3963, Fax: 212-661-4658, dhand@nyso.org

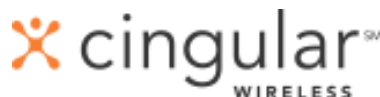
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Long Island Youth Donates Gift

Brian Helfman of Locust Valley, Long Island, knew what he wanted to do with the money he received for his Bar Mitzvah. He told his mother, Jane, that he wanted to give half of it to an organization that helps people. It didn’t require a lot of thought when he decided he would donate \$1,000 to Special Olympics New York - Long Island. His little sister, Dani, is an athlete.

“Brian gets great joy out of watching his sister compete in Equestrian, Aquatics and Track,” said Mrs. Helfman.

When Jeff McCausland, Long Island’s new Regional Director, received the check and Brian’s note, he called immediately.

“I just wanted Brian, Dani, and their Mom to know that it is not only the athletes that keep the “Special” in Special Olympics,” said McCausland. “The ability to give unselfishly to a cause greater than oneself shows the character and strength of the people who contribute to our mission.” ■

Zietz Wins Chance to Skate with National Champion

Female Athlete of the Year, Alicia Zeitz, got the opportunity of a lifetime when she won a sweepstakes to participate in a Figure Skating clinic with current National and former World Champion Todd Eldredge on Sept. 14.

The clinic was part of the Chevy It’s Great to Skate Festival at Ice Land USA in Strongsville, OH. Eldredge and long-time coach Richard Callahan, who also coached Tara Lipinski to her Gold medal, helped Zeitz with centering her spins and checking out of her jumps.

While this event was not related to Special Olympics, Eldredge has participated in Special Olympics events before, including a skating clinic in Central Park two years ago. ■



Mary Rinaldo

Point of View

By Doreen Hand

“One Team. One Vision.” That was the theme of the Special Olympics North America conference Aug. 21 to 24 in Toronto. A major part of that team, as we all know, is the athletes. That was more evident to me than ever at the conference.

There was an entire track developed just for the athletes on subjects such as competition, protective behaviors and empowerment. Many athletes, as well as staff members, attended these sessions including North American Global Messengers, international and local, as well as athletes from Special Olympics Canada.

I sat in on many of these sessions with New York’s own International Global Messenger, Rodney Hankins. While I have been working for Special Olympics New York for almost six years, I was still amazed at how much we can learn from the athletes themselves.

While discussing the reasons why Special Olympics should increase the number of competitive opportunities for athletes, the insightfulness of the athletes’ ideas was astounding. One would think they would want more international competitive experiences. In fact, they think just the opposite. They know that creating more local or state level opportunities will not only give more athletes increased opportunities to compete, including those at lower ability levels, but help recruit new athletes

and increase community awareness and involvement. It would also give us the opportunity to increase the number of sports offered.

They even addressed the difficult subject of protective behaviors and presented their thoughts to a general assembly about what they feel is inappropriate, how it should be handled by the

They know that creating more local or state level opportunities will not only give more athletes increased opportunities to compete, including those at lower ability levels, but help recruit new athletes and increase community awareness and involvement.

– Doreen Hand

athletes and what we, Special Olympics staff, must do to fix it, including the creation of a reporting system and the development of a code of conduct.

One of the highlights of the conference was when the Global Messengers and local athletes put on a play where the Global Messengers portrayed the same athlete through a 50-year span. You saw this athlete as a baby, a young athlete, graduating from high school, becoming a Special Olympics

official and finally becoming the president of Special Olympics, Inc. The honor of playing that role went to Rodney. He stood in front of hundreds of people from Special Olympics programs across North America and spoke as if he were the new president and CEO of Special Olympics.

While I agree with Special Olympics’ President and Chief Executive Officer Tim Shriver that Special Olympics is, first and foremost, a sports organization, I can’t help but think about what else we as an organization are providing the athletes through sports – joy, courage, self-esteem and even perhaps the ability to break through the glass ceiling and reach higher.

Rodney as president? Nothing would surprise me.

Point of View is written periodically. Doreen Hand is the associate director for public relations at Special Olympics New York. To submit a column idea call 212-661-3963, or e-mail dhand@nyso.org.



Doreen Hand

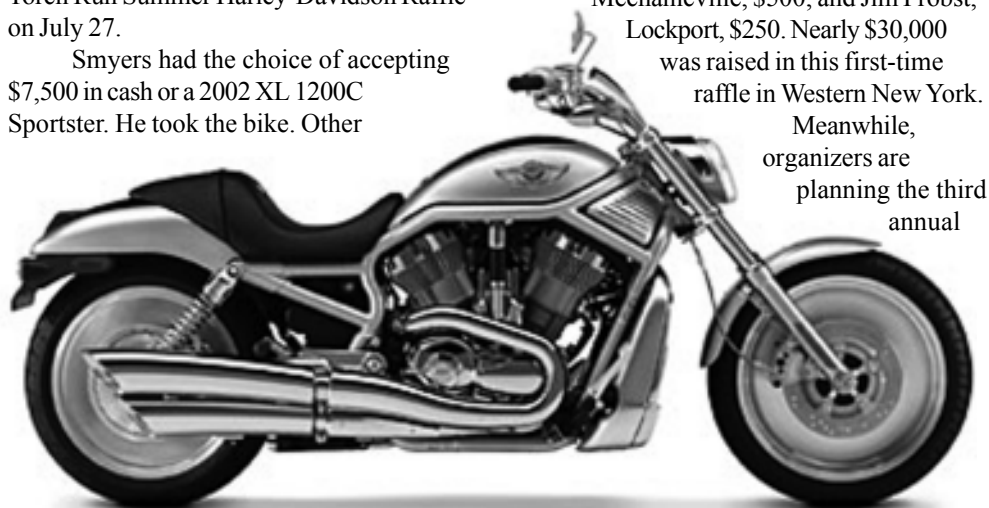
LETR Harley Raffle Winners Announced

Law enforcement officers plan another raffle for the fall.

William Smyers of Tonawanda was the winner of the Law Enforcement Torch Run Summer Harley-Davidson Raffle on July 27.

Smyers had the choice of accepting \$7,500 in cash or a 2002 XL 1200C Sportster. He took the bike. Other

winners included: Mike Lewandowski, Lockport, \$1,000; Kevin Wood, Mechanicville, \$500; and Jim Probst, Lockport, \$250. Nearly \$30,000 was raised in this first-time raffle in Western New York.



The VRSCA V-ROD will be raffled Nov. 30.

Meanwhile, organizers are planning the third annual



raffle in the eastern part of the state. A 2003 VRSCA V-Rod, left, will be raffled Nov. 30 at Moroney’s Harley-Davidson in New Windsor, Orange County. The bike was built to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Harley-Davidson.

Tickets are \$20. Only 3,500 will be sold. For more information, or to take a chance, call, Jeanne Mesick or Rebekah Mount at 800-836-6976, or e-mail jmesick@nyso.org, or rmount@nyso.org



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State Staff Changes

- Oren Yavin joined the staff Aug. 12 as the director of field services, Section 1. He will oversee the local programs of New York City.
- Bernadette Donahue was hired Sept. 16 as director of field services, Section 4. She will oversee the local programs of Central New York.
- Melissa Gross, director of program, is on leave through October. Please refer all inquiries to Walter Kopzcuk at 518-388-0791.
- Bookkeeper Christina Warzek was recently married, and is now using the name Christina James.

Mission: To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-style sports for children and adults with mental retardation, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.