

# The Fourth Annual Twilight Gala



March 9th, 2013  
6:30 PM - Midnight  
Aqua Turf Club

Sponsored by  
**NSCIA Connecticut Chapter**

# **2013 TWILIGHT GALA EVENT**

## **PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

*The Event is from 6:30pm - Midnight*

- 6:30 PM Registration starts, Silent Auction bidding starts, appetizers are brought around to bidders, bar is open.
- 8:00 PM Close Auction, Dinner service begins
- 8:05 PM Bill Mancini, NSCIA CT President's Welcome
- 8:10 PM Guest Speaker, Paul Nitz of U.S. Paralympic Team
- 8:30 PM Live Auction during dinner
- 9:30 PM Close of dinner, purchase silent auction items, dancing begins
- Midnight Stop Music & Close Event

### **2013 Twilight Gala Committee**

**Raymond Gorneault**  
*Gala Co-Chairman*

**Joseph Uccello**  
*Gala Co-Chairman*

**Tim Fournier**  
**Bill Mancini**  
**Diana Pernigotti**  
**Mitchell Pearlman**  
**Susan Pearlman**  
**Dr Subramani Seetharama**

## **WHO WE ARE:**

- We are individuals with spinal cord injuries and/or spinal cord injury related diseases.
- We are family members and friends of persons with spinal cord injuries.
- We are professionals in various related fields striving to improve the quality of life for persons with spinal cord injuries.

Our purpose is to help persons with spinal cord injury and/or disease restructure and rebuild their lives. We offer the experiences and support of persons who successfully live with spinal cord injury. We can provide an individual with information regarding spinal cord injury. We want to help you learn to live with the extensive changes you will experience at home, at work, at school and in various relationships with others.

The Connecticut Chapter of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association is part of a nationwide network of people committed to: Providing better services to individuals, families and communities to assist persons with spinal cord injuries. Prevention activities and campaigns to reduce the incidents that cause spinal cord injuries. Supporting research aimed at improving the quality of medical care and eventually, a cure for paralysis.

The Chapter is committed to ensuring anyone with a spinal cord injury has the opportunity for a full, meaningful, independent and active life.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**NSCIA CT Chapter**

**Call 203.284.2910**

Email [nsciact@gmail.com](mailto:nsciact@gmail.com)

Website [www.sciact.org](http://www.sciact.org)

## **GOALS:**

### **SUPPORT & SHARING**

We share our experiences and ideas with each other through community support groups. Through our Peer Assistance Program, spinal cord injured persons who have successfully coped with the results of their injuries assist newly injured individuals and their families adjust to changes in their lifestyle.

### **RESOURCES**

We provide information about specific programs and services available to spinal cord injured persons. Use our Connecticut Resource Directory as a helpful resource. We also provide a quarterly membership newsletter, The ConnCord. We also have a website available to all interested parties, [www.sciact.org](http://www.sciact.org).

### **COMMUNITY AWARENESS & PREVENTION**

We share information on spinal cord injury and its impact on a person's lifestyle. Our Stop Trauma Program explains the causes and consequences of spinal cord and acquired brain injury. This program is available to those interested on request to educators who want to bring the message of trauma prevention into the classroom.

### **EDUCATION**

We sponsor and support informational seminars for persons with spinal cord injury and/or related diseases, health care professionals and the general public addressing issues of spinal cord injury.

### **ADVOCACY & LEGISLATION**

We fight for the rights of present and future spinal cord injured persons and their families. We inform newly injured individuals of these rights.

## Tonight's Guest Speaker: Paul Nitz



In 2000, Paralympic track & field star, Paul Nitz achieved his dream and won his third consecutive Gold Medal in the 100-meter race at the Paralympic Games in Sydney, Australia. In 1992, he won gold at the Paralympic Games in Barcelona, Spain and at the 1996 Paralympic Games in Atlanta, GA he set a new World Record in the 100-meter race and won the Gold Medal.

“Sports have driven just about everything I’ve done,” says Paul, who was born with a spinal cord injury, and grew up playing basketball, indoor hockey, football and track. Wanting a college experience that included sports as well as academics, he chose Southwest State University, in Minnesota, where he competed on their intercollegiate wheelchair basketball team. After graduation Paul joined The Hartford where he works as a Senior Underwriting Analyst.

Paul competed in his fourth Paralympic Games in Athens, Greece in 2004 but did not win any medals. Paul was on track to make the 2008 Paralympic Team but due to a medical condition, Paul unfortunately did not make the team. At the 2010 Track & Field National Championships, Paul won the Gold Medal in the 100m and took Bronze Medal in the 200m. Paul’s training paid off as he captured a bronze medal in the 100m at the Paralympic Games of London

### Career Highlights:

- 2012 Bronze Medal, 100m-Paralympic Games, London
- 2011: Bronze Medal, 100m- IPC Athletics World Championships, Christchurch, NZ
- 2010: Gold Medal, 100m; bronze medal, 200m – U.S National Championships, Miramar, Fl
- 2004: Athens Paralympic Games
- 2000: Gold Medal, 100m- Paralympic Games, Sydney Australia
- 1996: Gold Medal, 100m- Paralympic Games, Atlanta, GA
- 1992: Gold Medal, 100m- Paralympic Games, Barcelona, Spain

In 1992 Paul joined The Hartford as a full-time employee. Furthermore, Paul works closely with The Hartford, Founding Partner of U.S. Paralympics, a division of the U.S. Olympic Committee, helping to positively change public attitudes and perceptions about disability.



## **Special Guest Emcee Brad Field**

Brad Field forecasts Connecticut's weather on NBC Connecticut News at 5 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. He's been with NBC Connecticut since March 1983. He has been awarded the American Meteorological Society's "Seal of Approval For Excellence In Television Weathercasting." Brad has also received awards for his coverage of Hurricane Gloria and the blizzards of 1995-'96.

Brad is a New England native who received his bachelor of science degree in meteorology from the College of Pure and Applied Science at the University of Lowell, in Lowell, Mass.

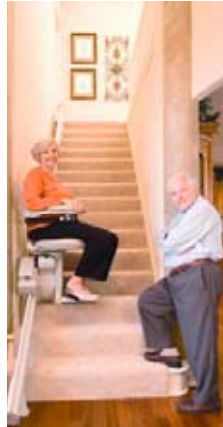
Before he came to NBC Connecticut, Brad worked in Providence, R.I., where he was a meteorologist at WLNE-TV for three years. He has also worked at Weather Services Corporation in Bedford, Mass., and enjoyed forecasting for the Boston Red Sox.

Brad, his wife, Sandy, and sons, Curtis and Connor, live in the northwest hills of Connecticut. He enjoys hockey, baseball, skiing, football, politics and history.

Follow Brad on Twitter @BradNBCCT

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



Thank you all for attending the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Twilight Gala and Auction to benefit the National Spinal Cord Injury, Connecticut Chapter. I was President a few years back and am looking forward to the setting the Chapter in a positive direction in the coming years.

This year the board directors are looking towards continuing to maintain successful funding raising events, i.e., the Golf Tournament and Gala. However, we are also looking to build on our stable of support and resources that has made this Chapter a national role model.

We are in the process of scheduling a peer assistance training and re-organizing the program to make it more effective and open to newly injured individuals. In addition, we will be adding a support group in the Fairfield County area. The Powerful Tools for Caregivers program continues to hold training classes for family members who are also struggling. I would like to conclude that we will be republishing the Resource Directory and each member will receive an updated issue.

I encourage all of you to attend our board meetings which meet on the second Wednesday of each month. The Board is looking to expand and has open spot available to those that are interested. Your voice is needed in order to continue providing support. If you would like to be included on our mailing list, please complete the bottom portion and mail to NSCIA CT Chapter, c/o Gaylord Hospital, PO Box 400, Wallingford, CT 06492.

Bill Mancini,  
President

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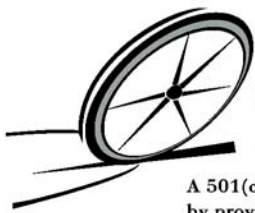
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*Our Dear Wife, Mother and Grandmother.*

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**Dr. Seetharama's Numerous Contributions**

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