

The Fifth Annual Twilight Gala



**March 8th, 2014
6:30 PM - Midnight
Aqua Turf Club**

Sponsored by
NSCIA Connecticut Chapter

2014 TWILIGHT GALA EVENT PROGRAM SCHEDULE

The Event is from 6:30 PM - 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, **Eric Legrand**.
- 8:30 PM Live Auction during dinner.
- 9:30 PM Close of dinner, purchase silent auction items, dancing begins.
- 12:00 am Stop Music & Close Event

2014 Twilight Gala Committee

Raymond Gorneault
Gala Co-Chairman

Joseph Uccello
Gala Co-Chairman

Tim Fournier
Bill Mancini
Gina Mancini
Mitchell Pearlman
Susan Pearlman
Diana Pernigotti
Dr. Subramani Seetharama
Bryan Tronosky

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

Website 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.

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 Special Guest Speaker:

Eric LeGrand



Eric LeGrand is a source of inspiration, hope and perseverance for so many. A standout high school football player from New Jersey, LeGrand went on to play for Rutgers University and by his sophomore year he led the team with 13 tackles on kickoff coverage and recorded a tackle-for-loss in seven games.

On October 16th, 2010, in his junior year, LeGrand suffered a severe spinal injury during a game against the Army Black Knights in New Meadowlands Stadium. Following a collision against an opposing player, LeGrand lay on the ground for several minutes before being carted off, only able to move his head. He was taken to the intensive care unit of the Hackensack University Medical Center in New Jersey, where doctors determined that LeGrand was paralyzed from the neck down. LeGrand fractured his C-3 and C-4 vertebrae and, that night, underwent nine hours of emergency surgery to stabilize his spine. In July of 2011, LeGrand shared photos of himself standing upright and announced that he was steadily regaining movement in his arms.

On October 29th, 2011, the 21-year-old LeGrand, in his motorized wheelchair, led the Scarlet Knights onto the field at Rutgers's stadium for their game against West Virginia. This moment was chosen by readers of *Sports Illustrated* as 'The Best Moment of 2011.'

In April 2012, LeGrand was offered the final spot on the Tampa Bay Buccaneers roster by his former Rutgers coach Greg Schiano. On May 2nd, 2012 LeGrand signed his official NFL contract. In 2012 he also received the prestigious Jimmy V Award for Perseverance at the ESPY Awards in Los Angeles.

In the fall of 2012, LeGrand released his first book, titled *BELIEVE: My Faith And The Tackle That Changed My Life*, published by HarperCollins.

Special Guest Emcee: Jocelyn Maminta



Over her distinguished 20-year broadcast career, Emmy Award nominated News 8 Medical reporter Jocelyn Maminta has anchored and reported for television stations in North Carolina, Milwaukee, Texas and at News 8 in Connecticut.

A political science graduate of the University of Missouri in Columbia, Jocelyn works tirelessly for many nonprofits across Connecticut. She has been honored countless times for her efforts.

She serves on the Board of Friends of Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital, the Arts Council of Greater New Haven, and is a member of the Junior

League of Greater New Haven.

Jocelyn is co-founder of Caroline's Room, a safe haven for families coping with the challenges and uncertainties surrounding the birth of a premature baby. There are Caroline's Rooms in Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio, Texas and Virginia. The first Caroline's Room is at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital and a second is located at Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

She is also the CEO of Frangi Pangji, fine hosiery for that bare legged look for women of all color. Made in the USA with profits supporting Caroline's Room.

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The Sankaranarayan and Subramani family would like to wish the Dreaming and Working Together (DWT) Medical Mission all the very best. The team consisting of Prosthetists and Rehabilitation specialists will be leaving for Lima, Peru on 15th March, 2014 to volunteer at the Nacional Daniel Alcides **Carrión** Hospital in Callao, Peru.



DWT is an official 501(c) nonprofit.

To make donations simply click [this link](#) to make a donation via Paypal

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Thank you all for attending the 5th Annual Twilight Gala and Auction to benefit the National Spinal Cord Injury Association, Connecticut Chapter. I was President a few years back and am looking forward to setting the Chapter in a positive direction in the coming years.

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

We are in the process of scheduling a peer assistance training program and reorganizing it 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 also struggle. We also plan on republishing the Resource Directory, and each NSCIA CT 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 spots available to those who 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

Name: _____

Address: _____

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*National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
Publication. U.S. Department of Transportation, Sept. 2007.
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