



Bridge Buff

January/February 2010



Bernie and Dick Czarnecki, Editors - Phone: 731-1707
Email: sanbornjoker@aol.com

A Publication of Unit 116, Buffalo, New York

President's Message

Well, here we are almost through the second month of February already. I hope you all have been playing good bridge at warm clubs and escaping the cold wherever you are – yes our snowbirds aren't having it so warm this winter. I want to welcome the new Board members: **Fran Kurtz, Sue Neubecker, John Marvin, and Stan Zionts**. Thank you for your willingness to serve when you know not what it entails. (I'm not entirely sure I know either but here I am, plodding along.)

To acquaint new members and remind everyone else what "the unit" does, I'm summarizing the six "objects of the organization" from the by-laws. To promote and stimulate the art of playing duplicate bridge; hold and promote tournaments; encourage and enforce standards of conduct and ethics; promote area clubs; to sponsor and conduct charity events; conduct other activities in keeping with these objectives. So please participate in the events we plan throughout the year.

Thank you for attending and supporting the winter Sectional. It's never too early to plan for our other two this year: April 16-18 and Sept 24-26. You could make last minute plans to attend Reno NABC 2010 March 11-21. You might also plan to go up to Toronto for the Regional there March 30 - April 4 or the popular tourney in Gatlinburg TN April 12-18. Also, two local clubs (ABC & BCB) will be hosting the ACBL-wide Charity Game Wednesday evening March 17.

Congratulations to the winners in the ACBL Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs Races for 2009. Lots of good bridge playing!

Judie Bailey, Board President

Your 2010 Unit 116 Board Members

Bailey, Judie	636-6148	Baj_42@msn.com
Kurtz Fran	688-7069	Kurtz1095@roadrunner.com
Lederhouse, Bob	625-9443	
Marvin, John	836-2803	Johnmarvin@msn.com
Metz, Betty	773-7398	bettymetz@roadrunner.com
Neubecker, Sue	876-2630	suebobneu@roadrunner.com
Rasmus, Pat	649-4634	prasmus@verizon.net
Toy, John	885-5364	JohnToy@msn.com
Zionts Stan	633-2429	Szionts@buffalo.edu

The Bridge Buff Editors wish to welcome the new officers of Unit 116:

President	Judie Bailey
Vice President	Pat Rasmus
Secretary	Betty Metz
Treasurer	Bob Lederhouse
Sunshine	Fran Kurtz
Membership	Sue Neubecker
Publicity	Sue Neubecker
Site & Tournament	Pat Rasmus
Disciplinary	John Toy
Electronic Contact	Judie Bailey

Editor's Note

To accommodate members without e-mail access, there will be limited printing of the Buff. **PLEASE READ AND RETURN COPY TO DESK OR TABLE.**

Judie Bailey asks that anyone with an e-mail address contact her at baj_42@msn.com and they will receive the Buff by electronic delivery.

Thanks for your attention.

Bernie and Dick Czarnecki, Editors

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Unit Sectionals – 2010

Date	Where	Chaired	Phone
April 16-18	Knights of Columbus - Cheektowaga	John Toy	885-5364

Unit Games – 2010

Date	Where	Chaired	Phone
Feb. 27th	Bridge Centre – 7:00	John Toy	885-5364

ATTENTION WEB USERS

Dick Rasmus is no longer posting Unit 116 information on his website (arejayare.net). In fact, this web site has been taken down. The Unit Board is in discussion for erecting one in the future. Stay tuned for updates. Until then, please retain a copy of your Bridge Buff for information and watch your e-mails for updates or new information.

To receive Unit 116 e-mails, please add baj_42@msn.com (Judie Bailey) to your address book, be sure she has your e-mail and/or updated e-mail address. She has a healthy list of defunct addresses - yours might be one of them. If you are a new member in the last two years, you probably should send her your e-mail address.

UNIT 116

MINI-MCKENNEY – 2009 STANDINGS

0 to 5 Masterpoints

Lane Bishop	91.49
Bonnie G Taylor Gillings	42.04
Carl Hasselback	41.71

5 to 20 Masterpoints

Jan Hasselback	75.51
Kenneth E Wagner	71.84
Sharon Chang	41.50

20 to 50 Masterpoints

Joe Rooney	103.68
Florence Boyd	80.04
Ginny Panaro	79.42

50 to 100 Masterpoints

Franklin Kidd	145.35
Peter Patterson	84.58
Marilyn Sultz	83.79

100 to 200 Masterpoints

Judy Kaprove	157.00
Diane Lyons	124.10
Betty Metz	113.37

200 to 300 Masterpoints

Ruth Kozower	211.75
Ross Markello	203.95
Helen Panza	160.98

300 to 500 Masterpoints

Dale Anderson	309.90
Mike Silverman	252.53
Dorothy May	205.04

500 to 1000 Masterpoints

Carlton Stone	237.93
B. Ruth Hnath	161.74
Janet Frisch	136.54

1000 to 2500 Masterpoints

Michael Kisiel Jr	388.52
Dian Ketrov	261.64
Robert Linn	253.22

2500 to 5000 Masterpoints

Judi Marshall	401.85
Beverly M Cohen	336.85
Jay R Levy	329.36

5000 to 7500 Masterpoints

Meg Klamp	561.93
Christine Urbanek	277.50
Jill Wooldridge	91.33

7500 to 10,000 Masterpoints

Joel Wooldridge	765.42
John Toy	156.19

over 10,000 Masterpoints

Dan Gerstman	624.20
Jim Mathis	215.45

UNIT 116 ACE OF CLUBS – 2009 STANDINGS

0 to 5 Masterpoints

Lane Bishop	58.97
Paul H Zittel	33.56
Carl Hasselback	32.81

5 to 20 Masterpoints

Ken Wagner	67.04
Jan Hasselback	63.41
Sharon Chang	29.99

20 to 50 Masterpoints

Joe Rooney	90.13
Ginny Panaro	72.07
Florence Boyd	62.91

50 to 100 Masterpoints

Franklin Kidd	98.49
Marilyn Sultz	68.35
Manju Ceylony	58.16

100 to 200 Masterpoints

Judy Kaprove	126.54
Marie Suprinick	90.64

Diane Lyons 75.07

200 to 300 Masterpoints

Ross Markello 176.13

Ruth Kozowr 171.46

Helen Panza 126.25

300 to 500 Masterpoints

Dale Anderson 261.53

Mike Silverman 207.55

Dorothy May 172.89

500 to 1000 Masterpoints

Carlton Stone 217.91

B. Ruth Hnath 138.44

Janet Frisch 117.09

1000 to 2500 Masterpoints

Michael Kisiel Jr 333.77

Robert A Linn 231.27

Vince Pesce 176.32

2500 to 5000 Masterpoints

Judi Marshall 262.66

Beverly Cohen 259.75

Jerry R Geiger 236.25

5000 to 7500 Masterpoints

Meg Klamp 372.18

Chris Urbanek 57.14

Jill Wooldridge 1.59

7500 to 10,000 Masterpoints

John Toy 48.32

Joel Wooldridge 1.59

Over 10,000 Masterpoints

Jim Mathis 122.81

Dan Gerstman 36.64



The editor recently interviewed a soft-spoken and talented bridge player named **Mike Silverman**.

Bridge:

- Mike learned the basics of bridge by observing his grandmother as she played in her home.
- He added to his knowledge in high school, coffee houses, in college often using conventions oblivious of the ACBL and Duplicate Bridge rules.

- He first played duplicate with a roommate in grad school at UB, eventually winning a local tournament.
- Mike is self-taught through playing and observing and by reading bridge columns and a few books.
- His mentor is **Bill Finkelstein** from whom he took weekly lessons this year.
- He chooses partners that are comparable in experience and ability and who also enjoy the social aspects as much as the intellectual challenge.
- His favorite and frequent partners at present are: **Helen Panza, Dale Anderson, Frank Kidd, Bruce Bronstein, Diane Lyons** and **Ruth Kozower**.
- His most memorable hand was a 7-No Trump contract. His partner **Lou DiLorenzo** had bid to seven diamonds. Mike holding a single diamond and stoppers in the other suits thought "*Oh, what the hell*" and bid seven no. Dummy held 7 diamonds to the AKJ so his one play was to finesse the queen with his singleton and hope for a good split. It gave him a spine-tingling thrill and it was a high board. His mentor **Bill Finkelstein** observed the hand as it was played.

Personally:

- Mike was born in Cambridge, MA 63 years ago and grew up in the Boston area.
- He met his wife **Rebecca** of 40 years while he was a student at Tufts and she was attending Boston University. They got married and came to Buffalo to attend graduate school in Buffalo. They have two daughters – Judi – 32 who currently is an administrator at Harvard Law School and Jessica – 28 who is a physician's assistant for a local dermatologist.
- Both went into the teaching profession, he , as a secondary Special Ed teacher at Niagara-Wheatfield and she as a Library Media Specialist for Sweet Home schools. Mike retired in 2001 but his wife still loves her job.
- Besides teaching, Mike worked on some research grants on developmental disabilities, one of which was published and another that he presented at an Annual American Psychological Association convention. He also worked part-time for ten years as a disc

jockey and at times was a guest on the WBFO program “*When Rock Was Young*”. He also loves independent films and since retiring has chaired the annual Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival. When not playing bridge, Mike can be found at one of the local Dipson Theatres.

- In high school Mike played on baseball and football teams. Since coming to Buffalo he became an avid hockey fan.
- Mike took up running for personal fitness and ran in many 10K races locally but had to give that up a few years ago. He now walks or work out for an hour each day.
- Mike and his wife like to travel and plan to do more once she retires. He has visited 47 of the 50 states as well as 20 national parks. Another mutual interest is wine and they like to tour wineries (and taste the vino) in California as well as locally
- Both he and his wife are active members of the International Wine and Food Society, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, WBFO-NPR and the Buffalo Zoo.

The Editor recently interviewed a very talented interesting person with a bubbling personality. Her name is **Elaine Moon**.

Bridge:

- Elaine went to Cortland College and in her second semester of her sophomore year arranged her schedule so that all her classes were before noon so she could sunbath in the afternoons. Fortunately or unfortunately (upon your perspective) she discovered in her second week of that semester a group of people who played bridge in the Student Union Daily. She joined the game and that was the end of her going to classes at all. She went to the Student Union every day at noon and stayed until it closed at 11:00 pm. She was addicted to the game.
- With playing bridge every day and missing her classes it killed her GPA and the college told her that she needed to “take a break” and decide if she really wanted to be in school. She worked for a year as a nurse’s aide and discovered that she never wanted to work that hard for so little again and went back to Cortland and graduated with a degree in

Elementary Education. She played bridge in the Student Union but she had learned some discipline. She met her husband at the bridge table .

- After marriage she played contract bridge with her husband and friend as well as with her parents and their friends. After her divorce she was so busy working and raising her children as a single parent she rarely had time for bridge. She likes competitive games and learned to play Mah Jong and played weekly with a group of friends.
- When she became an Administrator in a new town – Norwich, NY she returned to playing bridge. She found a duplicate bridge group and called the director. He arranged to have a partner for her and she started to learn how to play duplicate bridge.
- Her partner, **Rich Hamstra** was wonderful. He encouraged her to join ACBL so that her master points could count. They played for two years until she moved from Norwich. She found playing bridge a great break from the stresses of school administration.
- Her next move was to Lockport in 1996 where she met **Marge Schomers**. She played with a variety of people in her first couple of years in WNY but when she moved to Wilson School District she found that her school board meetings conflicted with the Tuesday games at Lockport. Even when she stopped playing bridge, she kept her membership up in the ACBL and looks forward to reading “*Its Your Call*” column in the Bridge Bulletin.
- She has played some bridge on line with MSNBC and ‘met’ people from all over the world. She played regularly with a woman from Seattle and a man from Australia. She found that the Dutch players were excellent and it was a great way to keep her hand in when time was at a premium.
- Her Superintendent **Dan Conner** asked all the administrators if they could teach an Adult Education class. Elaine offered to teach bridge for beginners. She had 8 people sign up and they were card players so it was only learning the rules of bridge that was necessary. They finished the course at her house with a typical contract bridge evening including dessert. One of the women in the class was **Donna Fritton**.

- Donna started a group playing on Friday afternoons. When Elaine had Friday afternoons off, Donna would include her during the summers. The game has grown to a six-table game of duplicate bridge every Friday at the Wilson House.
- **Marge Schomers** called Elaine and asked her to substitute in a Saturday game where she played regularly with **Roy Crocker** and he tried to help her learn more about bidding and even bought her "*Bridge for Dummies*". Marge still kept her name on the list of substitutes and she began subbing on a regular basis.
- Elaine has recently been playing with **Bob Lederhouse**, whose regular partner has been ill. He encouraged her to enter her first tournament this past fall in Grand Island. It was a great introduction as Bob is very patient and supportive. Elaine earned her first red points and was thrilled. More recently they played at the Sectional at Daemon College and she earned her first silver points.
- Elaine finds the **Marge Schomers'** game in Lockport has excellent players who are willing to encourage a new player and share what they know. While competitive, it is always a pleasant and positive learning experience. She still plays at **Donna Fritton's** games where you never know who will be your partner but you always know you will have fun. Elaine loves playing bridge but frankly while she like winning, she really doesn't care about master points and has never yearned to be a life master.
- However after playing on Swiss teams she has purchased a couple of books –*Points Schmoints* by **Marty Bergen** and *25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know* by Seagram and Smith in the hope of improving her game.
- Elaine has two daughters. Her daughter, Jessica, is married to a member of the Sheriff's department in Niagara County and they have a son who is in Kindergarten in the Barker School district. Her other daughter, Sasha, is married to a lawyer and lives outside Chicago, IL in Wheaton. They have three girls.
- Elaine taught elementary education and then moved into special education for emotionally disturbed adolescents. She worked in Syracuse for a number of years before moving into Educational Administration with BOCES supervising special education programs and itinerant teachers. Later she moved to WNY to be closer to her daughter, Jessica, in 1996 and worked at Starpoint School district as Director of Instruction prior to becoming the principal at Thomas Marks Elementary in Wilson for 10 years.
- Elaine retired in 2008 and is active in Watch Wilson Grow, Delphic Circle and Gnostics as well as vice chair of St. Brendan's Seniors. She served as Vice President on the Board of Cooperative Extension of Niagara County.
- She has since learned Tai Chi and hopes to travel. This spring she will be going to Italy and plan to travel to China within the next year and hopes her bridge, Tai Chi and mah jong skills will help her make connections with the people around the world.

The Devil's Tickets
By Gary M Pomerantz

A Book Report by Dick Czarnecki

Puritans condemned card playing as the Devil's Tickets

There may be some truth in that description.

The *Saturday Evening Post* summed up the state of American Bridge in 1930, "*Now and then a wife does throw the cards in her husband's face and one did shoot and kill her partner husband one night..*"

I guess those early contract bridge players didn't hear of the zero tolerance rule for disruptive behavior. However, shooting your partner is a

Personally:

- Elaine grew up in a card-playing family. She remembers playing poker for her Easter jelly beans and for pennies at her grandfather's house. She played Canasta, Hearts and double solitaire. with her grandmother and her friend as well as Pitch. Her parents played bridge but she didn't learn until she went to college.

level of threat that will get the attention of the most recalcitrant player.

However the book is also about **Ely & Josephine Culbertson** who became the first couple of American Contract Bridge. **Ely Culbertson** promoted the new contract bridge system by encouraging husbands and wives playing as partners. He recommended bigger spats and arguments between husbands and wives as a way to defuse the tensions of married life.

In 1929 **Ely Culbertson** published *The Bridge World*, the only published magazine devoted to bridge. This was followed by the self-publishing in 1930 of the "Contract Bridge Blue Book which was advertised as "simple enough for a child, Deep enough for a master player" It became the best selling Bridge Book for all time as Contract Bridge swept the bridge playing nation.

To see if **Ely Culbertson** loosed upon our nation a new way of playing auction bridge, or just one more way to bedevil people looking for an innocent past time, you need to read "The Devil's Tickets".

Congratulations-New Life Master
Fred Yellen

New Bronze Life Master
Elve Johnston
Fred Yellen

Silver Life Master
Jeanne Gladysz

Emerald Life Master
Margaret Klamp

Sad Tidings
Mel Braun
Jack Miller

(Ken Meier told the editor that Jack was a member of a Senior Traveling Bowling League – he had an average of 150. The week before he died he had a 677 and with handicap was 840 highest score for a bowler in that league. **Maggie McNamara** indicated that Jack was a pretty good ping-pong player at a local senior center. Jack will be missed.)

The Buff Editors were informed by **Marge Schomers** that **Frank Long** joined ACBL Unit 116 three months before he died.

CLUB NEWS

Lockport

Tuesday evening game - starting time is now 7 pm

Amherst Bridge Club at the Airport -
Monday through Saturday - ALL GAMES BEGIN
AT 11:00am
Sunday game continues to start at 12:30pm



Bridge Center of Buffalo Phone # 834-4222 for reservations and information.

MENTORING ON
Tues. & Thurs. @ BCB

Buffalo Winter Sectional
Amherst/Buffalo NY – January 8-10, 2010

Friday Morning– Open Pairs – 22.0 tables

MP's	A	B	C	Names
5.33	1			John Kilmer, Saleh Fetouh
4.00	2			Randolph Seidenberg, Jr, Jay Levy
3.04	3	1		Fred Yellen, Judy Graf
2.96	4	2		Robert Anderson, S. Luke Danielson
2.27	6	3	1	Bruce Burr, Ross Markello
1.70			2	June Feuerstein, Barbara Sadkin
1.28			3	Mike Silverman, Franklin Kidd

Friday Afternoon Open Pairs - 17.0 Tables

MP's	A	B	C	Names
4.50	1			Randolph Seidenberg, Jr, Jay Levy
3.38	2			Jim Mathis, Patricia Rasmus
2.53	3			Elbert Hargesheimer III, Christy Kellogg
3.23	4	1		Jeanne Gladysz, Joyce Kindt
2.42	6	2	1	Barbara Sadkin, June Feuerstein
1.82		3		Allen Beroza, Elaine Universal
1.38			2	Joyce Meskill, Maggie McNamara
1.04			3	Elaine Moon, Robert Lederhouse

Saturday Morning Open Pairs - 28.0 Tables

MP's	A	B	C	Names
4.75	2			Brian Meyer, Marc Sylvester, Pa
3.56	3			Saleh Fetouh, Jim Mathis
3.48		2		S. Neubecker, Patricia Rasmus
22.61		3	2	Linda Burroughsford, On. Gaurang Sheth

Saturday Afternoon Open Pairs - 19.0 Tables

MP's	A	B	C	Names
4.83	1			Brian Meyer, Marc Sylvester, Pa
3.62	2	1		Robert Olin, Cleveland Fleming

1.55	2	Larry Soong, Dorothy Soong
1.18	3	Faith Perry, Ginny Panaro

Sunday Swiss Teams - 18 Tables

MP's	A	B	C	Names
7.00	1			Daniel Gerstman, Thomas Donnelly, Martin Hunter, On. Susan Cooper, On. Ranald Davidson, On, Brian Meyer
5.25	2			Saleh Fetouh, Randolph Seidenberg, Jr., Jay Levy, Jim Mathis
5.27	3	1		Joanne Kelley, Chongmin Zhang, Kathy Pollock, Judith Padgug
3.95	5	2		Tova Reinhorn, Fred Yellen, Allen Beroza, Judy Graf
2.59		3/4		Dian Petrov, Michael Ryan, Marc Sylvester, Pa, Leuben Zaykov, On
2.92			1	George Donsky, Usha Khurana, Gary Schmitt, Linda Burroughsford, On
2.19			2	Cleveland Fleming, Lane Bishop, Manju Ceylony, Shakeel Ahmad
1.64			3	Mary Terrana, Patricia Lakeman, June Feuerstein, Barbara Sadkin

BRIDGE – THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY
By Lou DiLorenzo

Carl writes in the September Bridge Buff, “I love this game!!” My feelings are more accurately described as a love/hate relationship.

I love to hear Bill call my name as coming in first in any section, but when results are posted and I’m at 39%, I swear I’ll never play again.

I love it when I sit at Meg’s table and she treats me as a worthy opponent, even after she sets me two tricks “doubled.” On the other hand, some “experts” make me feel like a non-entity.

My head swells a bit when my opponents congratulate me on a well-played hand; but my whole body shrinks when at the next table the Director is called because I have reneged.

When you see me smiling, you know the cards and the gods have been good to me, if not, I avoid eye contact. I know some bridge players must always be at the top of their game. I get the Bridge Bulletin and every month, page after page, is a picture of a smiling player writing about his/her game.

After five years of playing, I’m still looking for ways to improve. I thought about burning my convention card and getting a copy of Gerry’s cards – he has been doing well lately. My partner says “No Way!”

I purchased ACBL’s computer game (Pro Bridge) thinking they must have some pointers about the game. It allows you to replay the same hands and I do exceptionally well. I often wish I could replay the hands at the club.

Speaking of replaying the hand describes my worst moments with bridge; surprisingly these occur outside the club setting. I occasionally play the last board as declarer, overbid and underplay, going down too many. I leave the premises immediately not waiting for the results. During my one hour drive home, I agonize and replay the hand at least twelve times; the other cars – the victims of my frustration.

Regional tournaments seemed like a good opportunity to sharpen my game, the extra cost and travel would be worth it if I could return to my home club with some new “tricks”. I got in with a bunch of These so-called “Life Masters” who literally take the life out of you. I also learned that, unlike poker, bridge is not strictly a man’s game. It was unnerving when end-played by opponents who looked like housewives or someone’s grandmother.

Some clubs offer bridge classes. The one I tried was so intimidating I was going to nullify my ACBL number and turn in red and gold points. But I will keep playing; I would miss the smiling faces of Vince and others. I will keep trying to improve because like Carl, “I Love the Game!”

The Great Finesse from the BCB 299ers Game
John Marvin

Board 9	♠-QJ5	
Dir: N	♥-T63	
Vul: E-W	♦-KJ32	
	♣-A75	
♠-K94	N	♠-T863
♥-5	W E	♥-KJ8
♦-QT96	S	♦-85
♣-J9642		♣-KQT3
	♠-A72	
	♥-AQ9742	
	♦-A74	
	♣-8	

Board 9: One pair made 12 tricks on this hand. To do so declarer must bring home the ♥s without losing a trick. The only way to do that is to take a double finesse. Run the T. If it holds, finesse again & then drop the K. Since the ♦ finesse works your only loser is the ♠ K.

In NT it's an automatic squeeze and (probably) end play against W.

In NT after the opening lead of a ♣ to the A. Run the T of ♥s, finesse the Q, play the A and run the suit.

After Trick 6, S to lead his last ♥:

	♠-QJ5		
	♥-		
	♦-KJ32		
	♣-		
♠-K9	N	♠-T8	
♥-	W E	♥-	
♦-QT96	S	♦-85	
♣-J		♣-KQT	
	♠-A72		
	♥-4		
	♦-A74		
	♣-		

If W pitches a ♣, you throw a ♠, lead the ♦A, low to the J, then the K and throw W in with the last ♦ and he will have to lead a ♠ to give you 2♠ tricks, for a total of 12.

If W pitches a ♠, you pitch a ♦, cash the ♠A crashing the K, and with the ♦ finesse you have 13 tricks.



If W pitches a ♦, you have 4♦s and a ♠ for 12 tricks.

February Unit Game
 Saturday February 27, 2010
 Bridge Center of Buffalo
 Time: 7:00 pm
 Cost: \$6.00 per person



Contact **John Toy** @ 885-5364 for partners and information

Pairs will be averaged to determined masterpoints
 Stratified by attendance

Buffalo Spring Sectional
 Knights of Columbus
 2735 Union Road
 (Next to Dave's)
 Cheektowaga NY 14225
 April 16-18, 2010



Single Sessions

Friday - Stratified A/B/C Pairs –
 10:30 am. and 3:30 pm

Saturday – Stratified A/B.C Pairs –
 10:30 am and 3:30 pm

Swiss Teams

Sunday – Stratified A/B/C teams -
 10: 30 am (short break after round 4)
 Stratrum "A" 2000+
 Stratrum "B" 500 – 2000
 Stratrum "C" 0 to 500
 Stratrums are by Average MP's



Daily Refreshments
 Lunch available for purchase
 on Sunday

Entry fee per player per session - \$8.00
 Non-member - \$9.00

Tournament Information
John Toy, Chairman
 Phone: 716-885-5364
 E-Mail: johntoy@msn.com

