



Bridge Buff

January/February 2009



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A Publication of Unit 116, Buffalo, New York

President's Message

A Happy New Year and a warm welcome to two new board members, **Betty Metz** and **Bob Lederhouse**.

In addition, 2 new officers, **Judie Bailey**, Vice president and **Betty Metz**, Secretary and two "old" officers **Luke Danielson**, Treasurer, and yours truly as President..

The Annual Meeting and January sectional were very successful and thanks to all who organized the event and to those who brought food.

We are in the process of preparing an extensive program for Unit games in 2009 and will communicate those to you as soon as available.

As I write this it is 8 degrees outside, so my New Year's wish is to stay warm, be friendly at the bridge table, win a lot of master points and have a Healthy and Happy Year.

Jay Levy,
Your President

Congratulations!

Jay Levy. President of Unit 116 was appointed a member of ACBL Goodwill Committee.

Notice!

Members who have e-mail addresses are requested to go to Unit 116 website www.arejayare.net/u116off

And enter their names so Unit Games and Sectional flyers can be e-mailed to them electronically. You can also download the Bridge Buff from this website. **Dick Rasmus**

needs help with the Unit website. Please contact him and indicate your willingness to assist him. Thank you

Your 2009 Unit 116 Board Members

| | | |
|-----------------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bailey, Judie | 636-6148 | janneb@verizon.net |
| Czarnecki, Dick | 731-1707 | sanbornjoker@aol.com |
| Danielson, Luke | 632-5309 | SLuke32@verizon.net |
| Lederhouse, Bob | 625-9443 | |
| Levy, Jay | 689-2110 | JLevyB@aol.com |
| Metz, Betty | 773-7398 | bettymetz@roadrunner.com |
| Rasmus, Pat | 649-4634 | prasmus@verizon.net |
| Rieker, Bill | 692-2900 | Sweetwill276@hotmail.com |
| Toy, John | 885-5364 | JohnToy@msn.com |

Unit Sectionals

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Place</i> |
|-----------------|------------------|
| April 3-5, 2009 | Rescue Fire Hall |

Reporting from the Board By **Dick Czarnecki**

At the December 15th Organizational Meeting of Unit 116 Board, the following Board members were elected officers:

| Name | Position |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Jay Levy | President |
| Judie Bailey | Vice President |
| S. Luke Danielson | Treasurer |
| Betty Metz | Secretary |

President **Jay Levy** made the following Committee Chairperson appointments:

| Name | Committee |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Judie Bailey | Sunshine |
| Dick Czarnecki | Membership & Publicity |
| Bob Lederhouse | Supplies |
| Jay Levy | Audit |
| Pat Rasmus | Site Selection |
| Bill Rieker | Election |
| John Toy | By Laws |

Interview Corner



The editor is impressed with lifestyles of the diversified group of Bridge members. Remember, your lifestyle, too, can appear in this column.

The editor interviewed a fascinating individual named **Fenton Harrison**. The editor was encouraged to interview this gentleman by another bridge player, **Gloria Brown**.

Bridge:

- He started playing bridge at a frat house at Duke. A 24-hour game (cut in and out); cards so tattered that shuffling was done in a bowl filled with talcum powder.
- **Herb McKeever** got him started on duplicate about 25 years ago. He had no particular mentor; he just tried to play against players that were better than he was and learned by his mistakes.
- He admires the talent of **Meg Klamp** and **Jim Mathis**.
- He remembers a time his partner opened a weak two and he had a Yarborough; they were doubled – down 5 (NV) for a high board! Opponents had a cold vulnerable slam (most bid and made 7)
- His goal for Unit 116 is that “Unit 116 should promote ‘greater harmony’ between the factions of the Unit.”

Personally:

- He married his high school sweetheart **Barbara Fries** in 1942 and lost her to Alzheimer’s in 2006.
- His children are:
 - Fenton Jr. – retired school teacher, Salem Va. Grandson John died of leukemia in 2003, Fenton III survives - very successful girls’ soft ball coach

with 5 state championships and many league championships.- lost first grandson to leukemia at age 25; grandson Fenton III now teaching English in S. Korea

- Elizabeth Ann – retired school teacher – Petaluma Ca. – Adarene and Olivia – neither married as yet.
- Janet – (Secor) housewife, E. Amherst – 3 grandsons – Thomas, Michael and Andrew
- Grace (Gori) classical singer with Washington National Opera; one son
- Was a trial lawyer with specialty in maritime law (proctor in Admiralty) Tried cases from Duluth to New York City. Admitted in Fed Appeals Courts for the 2nd, 6th and 7th circuits and 7 US District Courts –all courts in NY.
- He served a term as director of Trial Lawyers Assn of WNY. Lectured at national convention of Maritime Law Assn of US and served 13 years on Williamsville School Board.
- He coached LammPost American Legion baseball team (age 19u) for 50 years amassing 920 wins with over 50% of his boys going to play college ball (about 50 on scholarship) over 25 to pro careers and 2 reaching the major leagues; championships won in Legion Ball – AAABA and CEBA, as a result of which his peers elected him to the WNY Baseball Hall of Fame in 2005.
- He enlisted in USArmyAir Corps in fall of 1942. Commissioned in Feb. 1944 and assigned as a flying instructor for the French Air Corps at Craig Fld, Selma, Ala for next 14 months. For reasons only the Pentagon can understand, they felt he qualified to instruct French based on his 2 years of using a ‘pony’ in college French. Reassigned to 9th Air Corps in April 1945 training to support invasion of Japanese mainland (they found out he was coming and quit).
- He had a multitude of experiences in Court rooms, cases in front of such judges

as **Julius Hoffman** of Chicago 7 fame, being next case to argue in 6th Circuit behind **James Earl Ray's** appeal, baseball championships and too many experiences flying airplanes to recount except the one that stands out is the time he found himself in the middle of a thunderstorm with only a needle-ball-and airspeed for instruments. Only another pilot can appreciate that one!

- In his spare time aside from bridge, he enjoys model railroading, gardening (when he's home). He is a college basketball fan and baseball fan and political junkie.

The editor interviewed **Joyce Kindt**, a gracious lady who always extends a helping hand.

Bridge:

- She's played bridge for at least 20 years and took lessons from **Alan Greer**, a wonderful teacher for 4 years at Eldridge Club.
- Joyce also took lessons from **Chris Urbanek** and thinks she is a fantastic teacher.
- She served on Unit 116 Board for two terms – once as President and another as Vice President.
- Competed in Nationals – played in Las Vegas twice as well as the Regional in Gatlinburg three times. Plays in the winter months in Florida.
- Joyce wishes to thank her partners for the past 100 years and it is her hope to improve her game with them as they continue to play in the world of Bridge.
- When interviewed at **Marge Schomer's** Tuesday night game, this interesting hand came up. How would you have bid it? Dealer is West. Joyce played with **Judie Bailey**. Check with them for the final bid and what was made. The resulting contracts were: 7NT and 7D

Board #12

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---|-----------------|
| | S – 10 8 | | |
| | H – J 10 5 4 | | |
| | D – 9 8 7 | | |
| | C – 6 5 3 2 | | |
| S – Q 6 5 4 3 2 | | N | S – A K |
| H – 9 7 2 | E | W | H – A K Q |
| D - | | S | D – A K Q J 4 2 |
| C – J 10 9 4 | | | C – A K |
| | S – J 9 7 | | |
| | H - 8 6 3 | | |
| | D – 10 6 5 3 | | |
| | C – Q 8 7 | | |

- When the editor was on the Board and ran a Unit event, Joyce gave the Unit several beautiful floral arrangements to give as prizes.
- Her goal for Unit 116 is to have zero tolerance, cooperation at the games and get more younger people involved in the game.

Personally:

- She graduated from Lockport High School. She has a BS in Art Education and MA in Elementary from Buff State.
- She retired from Star point after 32-1/2 years of teaching. She taught in three (3) school districts.
- She was a partner in a florist business in Williamsville.
- She traveled with an international repertory theatre group based in L.A. Joyce explored the United States having visited 48 states. She's been to Europe four times.
- She enjoys photography – has self published a book called "Barns of Pendleton" – which has over 100 colored photographs. If interested in purchasing, contact Joyce

Changes to Unit 116 Directory

| Name | Address | E-mail Address |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Clancy, Anne T | 7137 Northledge Dr | |
| Donsky, George | | GeorgeJD2@ve rizon.net |
| Szafran, Maryann | | KJGAL@verizo n.net |

Congratulations

New Life Master
Paula Kotowski

Silver Life Master
Dick Czarnecki

Sad Tidings

*If you know of a recent member passing,
please send info to Editor. Thank you.*

The Road to Silver
By **Dick Czarnecki**

John Marvin was a Social Studies Teacher at Sweet Home Senior, coincidentally so was I. One day, twenty-five years ago, he showed me a gold card and it wasn't from American Express. John said, "I just made Life Master in Duplicate Bridge." He then described the local, state and national tournaments he competed in to earn the points for his precious card. John said with enthusiasm still clearly reflected in his voice, "There are these huge hotel rooms with many tables packed with hundred of players. Do you know playing a session of bridge requires the same level of concentration and energy that a surgeon requires performing a procedure."

With my curiosity enhanced, I discovered a 3x5 card on an Activity Bulletin Board of a Super-market I patronized. It had a single typed sentence

– 18 Duplicate Bridge Lessons – Free –
Call **Alan Greer** – a tel. #

Well, I called and at the *Eldridge Bicycle Club* on Delaware Avenue in North Tonawanda, I began my journey to Silver Life Master.

Alan was the *Pied Piper* of most Duplicate Bridge Players for many years in Western New York. Alan taught classes as well as directed sessions of Duplicate Bridge for beginners. He also offered advanced lessons and sessions of bridge for the advanced.

I've played bridge in Baltimore, Atlanta, Reno, Toronto and other cities on my way to Life Master status. Couple of decades ago it was estimated that it cost \$15,000 to travel and earn enough points to get that gold card. Obviously it was worth the effort.

However, getting in to Duplicate Bridge also resulted in my volunteering for Unit 116 Board. I always felt an obligation to return the opportunities to others that I was given by past members of the Board.

I got my wife, Bernie involved in the game and she, too, ran for the Board and contributed by running Unit and Sectional events. I ran the Legends of Bridge Sectional two years ago at the Bridge Center of Buffalo that honored people like **Alan Greer**.

Bernie and I have continued to help the Unit grow and prosper by our participation in providing the Unit Newsletter – *The Buff* – and the 2008 Unit Directory.

So, although I got a kick of earning my Silver Life Master credential, I've received more satisfaction and enjoyment out of making our Unit a place where new players have a chance to learn and grow.

So when the members of the Election Committee come to you some day this year and ask "We think you'd be an excellent member of the Board!" – please say "yes".

By the way, if you are on your way to Bronze or Silver or Gold or Platinum, that is enjoyable, too.



A Poem About Buffalo By Anonymous

It's winter here in Buffalo
And the gentle breezes blow,
Seventy miles an hour,
At twenty five below.
Oh, how I love ole' Buffalo
When the snow's up to your butt.
You take a breath of winter and
your nose freezes shut.
Yes, the weather here is
wonderful
So I guess I'll hang around.
I could never leave Buffalo
Cause I'm frozen to the ground!



Poems are welcomed by the Buff!

Tator People By Anonymous

Some people are not motivated to help, they
watch others do the work – we call them
Spectators.

Some find fault with others that do the work,
they are called *Commentators*.

Some are very busy and like to tell others
what to do but not do it themselves. They are
called *Dictators*

Others cause problems – it's too hot – too
cold – too sour – too sweet – They are the
Agie Tators.

Others promise to do work but never get
around to do it. They are called *Hezzie
Taters*.

Some people put on a false front and pretend
what they are not. They are the *Emma –
Tators*.

Then there are those who love others and do
what they say they will. They are always
prepared to stop whatever they are doing and
lend a helping hand. They bring real

sunshine in the lives of others – We call them
the *Sweet – Tators*.

If you are asked to be a candidate for the
Board next year – Be a *Sweet – Tator* and
say "Yes" – Leadership must be refreshed
yearly to make a Board creative and relevant.

Bridge Club News



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

MENTORING ON
Tues. & Thurs. @ BCB

Newcomer Games, 0-20 master points, are
held on Tuesday morning and Thursday
evening, and are "mentored" games running
in parallel with stratified pair games. Both
games are preceded by a free Mini-Lesson a
half hour before game time on Thursday
evening or before lunch on Tuesday morning.

District 5 STaC December 8-14, 2008

| <i>Mon Aft Open Pairs - 151.5 Tables</i> | | | | |
|------------------------------------------|----------|----------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <i>MP's</i> | <i>A</i> | <i>B</i> | <i>Names</i> | |
| 7.08 | 7 | 3 | Barbara Libby, Paul Libby – B&P | |
| <i>Mon Eve Open Pairs - 33.5 Tables</i> | | | | |
| <i>MP's</i> | <i>A</i> | <i>B</i> | <i>Names</i> | |
| 4.78 | 3 | 1 | Barbara Libby, James Jacobi-Whist | |
| <i>Tue Aft Open Pairs - 80.5 Tables</i> | | | | |
| <i>MP's</i> | <i>A</i> | <i>B</i> | <i>Names</i> | |
| 7.17 | 4 | 2 | Jack Miller, B Ruth Hnath - ABC | |
| <i>Tue Aft 299er Prs - 19.5 Tables</i> | | | | |
| <i>MP's</i> | <i>A</i> | <i>B</i> | <i>C</i> | <i>Names</i> |
| 1.65 | 3 | | | Maggie McNamara- Marietta Kalman - BCB |
| 1.24 | 4 | 3 | | Eileen Karnofsky – Rolene Pozarny - BCB |
| 0.90 | 5/6 | 4 | 2 | Marcia Wright – Lynda Freedman - BCB |
| 0.50 | | | 3 | Linda Milch – Sharon Chang - BCB |
| <i>Wed Aft Open Pairs - 79.0 Tables</i> | | | | |
| <i>MP's</i> | <i>B</i> | <i>C</i> | <i>Names</i> | |
| 3.21 | 5 | 2 | Jack Miller – Ed Drozen - BCB | |

Sunday A/B/C Swiss Teams – 19 tables

| MP's | A | B | C | Names |
|------|---|---|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7.25 | 1 | | | Jay Costello, Randolph Seidenberg, Jim Mathis, John Kilmer |
| 5.44 | 2 | | | Jay Levy, Saleh Fetouh, William Bascom, William Rushmore |
| 4.08 | 3 | | | Bert Hargesheimer III, Christy Kellogg, Michael Ryan, Judy Graf |
| 4.85 | 4 | 1 | | Allen Beroza, Judith Padgug, Tova Reinhorn, Fred Yellen |
| 2.73 | 6 | 3 | | Mark Pascale, Douglas Megill, PA, Paul Libby, Barbara Libby |
| 2.44 | | | 1 | Dale Anderson, Robert Kaprove, Faith Perry, Florence Boyd |
| 1.83 | | | 2 | George Donsky, Linda Burroughsford, Dorothy Soong, Diane Lyons |

Land of fun
By John Marvin

This hand was played in the BBC 299er game on Tuesday, December 30.

| | | |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Dir: S | ♠-QJT96 | |
| Vul: E-W | ♥-T754 | |
| | ♦-JT9 | |
| | ♣-7 | |
| ♠-K | N | ♠-8753 |
| ♥-K93 | W E | ♥-A |
| ♦-K84 | S | ♦-A7653 |
| ♣-JT6432 | | ♣-985 |
| | ♠-A42 | |
| | ♥-QJ862 | |
| | ♦-Q2 | |
| | ♣-AKQ | |

Let S play in ♥s. Opening lead, ♠K won by the A. South can hold the defense to 5 tricks only by playing 3 rounds of ♣s and pitching 2 ♦s. Only 8 tricks for NS.

Let N play in ♠s. Opening lead ♥A. Then ♦A, ♦ to the K, ♥K, ♥ rough and again, the defense gets at least 5 tricks (and maybe 6). Only 8 (or 7) tricks for NS.

Let N play in NT. The defense starts ♦s and lets the ♦Q win the 2nd trick. Declarer can't get to the N hand for the ♠ finesse so she lays down the ace and mirabile dictu, makes 9 tricks.

In actual practice no one played in 2 of a major or any number of no trump. The NS top was scored by a pair in 4 hearts. Opening lead ♠K overtaken. Trick 2, the heart honors crash. NS +420. Dummy said, "Well played partner."

The Bridge "Gene-ie"
By Eugene Harvey

Some of you who know me personally know that I am in the midst of changing careers from clinical social work to library and information science. It's been a very fascinating, rewarding experience so far, and I certainly do not regret my decision. In fact, I think I embraced this decision wholeheartedly, especially from the angle of "learning something new." If we did the same things over and over (and over) again, parts of life might become a little boring and monotonous. So why not spice it up a little by learning something new! ☺

Besides learning how to teach people to find information of all sorts, library science has exposed me to the concept of a *blog*, which is short for "web log." A blog is an online website that functions much like a public journal. Typically they provide a commentary on a specific subject, but other times bloggers use them as online diaries.

So my curiosity got the best of me one day, and I decided to see if there were any bridge blogs in the WNY area. I performed a general search on Google and discovered the bridge blog of **Dale Anderson**, the gentleman responsible for updating the bridge section of Buffalo News. Dale's blog seemed more like an online diary of his trials and tribulations as a bridge player, and I found myself reading about his experiences of working toward

becoming a Life Master. Throughout his updates, Dale talked about many different bridge hands that were interesting or frustrating, and I thought I would incorporate one such situation into this article. Dale picked up this hand:

♠ 9
♥ J 10 7 5 2
♦ A K 8 6 3 2
♣ 2

Talk about a strange little hand! N/S Vul.; E/W Not Vul. - As West (dealer), he decided to pass. (Would you?) North opened 1♠, and his partner overcalled 2♣. South raised to 2♠, and Dale was up to bat. Dale knew his partner had to have a decent hand for her 2-level overcall, but, besides ♣s, did she have any red cards? He chose to bid 3♦, North bid 3♠, and his partner raised to 4♦, which was passed out. Here was pard's hand:

♠ A J
♥ K Q 6 4
♦ 9 4
♣ A 10 9 4 3

Dale cringed: it was obvious they should be in 4♥. Dale took 11 tricks for +150, but it was a complete bottom as a variety of scores were better for E/W.

So what went wrong? Well, nothing, really, except that he and his partner did not know a handy little convention called a Responsive Double. Heard of it? If not, that's okay – it falls into the family of “doubles” like the Takeout Double & Negative Double. Here is a VERY quick rundown:

1. LHO opened
2. Partner doubled or overcalled.
3. RHO raised opener's suit.
4. Your double as the 4th seat bidder should show support for the unbid suits.

Dale easily could have shown his hand in one bid: (1♠) - 2♣ - (2♠) – X! “I have ♥s and ♦s.” This way they discover the ♥ fit.

Happy Valentine's Day to One and All!



April Showers Bring Bridge Players

UNIT 116 SPRING SECTIONAL
RESCUE FIRE HALL
1241 STRAD AVENUE
NORTH TONAWANDA, NY

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Friday, April 3 | Stratified A/B/C |
| Pairs (single session) | 10:30 AM |
| Friday, April 3 | Stratified A/B/C |
| Pairs (single session) | 3:30 PM |
| Saturday, April 4 | Stratified A/B/C |
| Pairs (single session) | 10:30 AM |
| Saturday, April 4 | Stratified A/B/C |
| Pairs (single session) | 3:30 PM |
| Sunday, April 5 | Stratified A/B/C |
| Swiss Teams | 11:00 AM |
| (two session playthrough) | |

STRATUM “A” 2000+
STRATUM “B” 500 to 2000

STRATUM “C” 0 to 500

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

Tournament Information:

Dick Czarnecki Phone: 716.731.1707
E-mail: sanbornjoker@aol.com

Jay Levy Phone: 716.689.2110
E-mail: JLevyB@aol.com

Daily Refreshments

Lunch available for purchase
on Sunday

