



Bridge Buff

March/April 2010



A Publication of Unit 116, Buffalo, New York

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President's Message:

At this writing, the Spring Sectional is yet to be. In anticipation of a good turnout, I thank you all for your participation and hope a good time was had by all! Thank you to **John Toy** for organizing and any and all of his helpers - you know who you are.

John Marvin has tendered his resignation to the Board. On behalf of the Board and membership, I thank John for his service to the Unit for the past six months. **Frank Kidd** has been named to fill this opening for the remainder of the year.

I trust you all have seen the article in the March ACBL BULLETIN featuring our own **Pat Rasmus** as one of the ACBL Volunteers of the Year. Pat has been doing what she loves to do for Unit 116 and District 5 for years. THANK YOU, Pat for all you have done and continue to do for the Bridge community. Your recognition is well deserved.

Judie Bailey, Board President

Your 2010 Unit 116 Board Members

Bailey, Judie	636-6148	Baj_42@msn.com
Kidd, Franklin	656-5740	fwkidd@verizon.net
Kurtz Fran	688-7069	Kurtz1095@roadrunner.com
Lederhouse, Bob	625-9443	
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

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. NEXT DEAD-LINE FOR Bridge Buff is June 4, 2010.**

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

UNIT 116 - WESTERN NEW YORK - 2010 EVENTS

APRIL - 16th - 18th - WNY Spring Sectional - site: Knights of Columbus - 2735 Union Rd at William - John Toy, Chair

Friday & Saturday: 10:30 AM and 3:30 single session Stratified Pairs A/B/C
Sunday: 10:30 AM Stratified A/B/C Swiss Teams with short break after round 4
Pairs and Teams stratified by AVERAGE MP'S

MAY - Tues, 18th - Unit Game - 7pm at Lockport Duplicate, Sr. Citizens Center, 33 Ontario St., Lockport

Bob Lederhouse, Chair

JUNE - 14th - 20th - District 5 Summer STaCs
Unit Game - tba

JULY - 16th - 18th NLM (<500) Sectional - site: Bridge Center of Buffalo, 3362 Sheridan Dr. at Sweet Home Rd, Amherst

Betty Metz, Chair

Unit Game - tba

AUGUST - Unit Game - tba

**SEPTEMBER - 24th – 26th - WNY Fall Sectional - site:
Knights of Columbus – 2735 Union Rd at William
Co-chairs: Judie Bailey/Sue Neubecker**

**OCTOBER - Unit Game – tba
26th – 31st - District 5 Spooktacular Regional
(including District 5 NAOP Flights A/B/C)
Co-chairs: Pat Rasmus/John Toy**

NOVEMBER - Unit Game – tba

**DECEMBER · Saturday, 4th– Annual Meeting and
Game - site: Lamm Post on Wehrle Dr. - Fran Kurtz
- Chair
· 6th – 12th District 5 STaCs**

**Welcome New Members
Mary Helenbrook
Daniel Pfeffer
Heather Roberts**

**Welcome to Unit 116
Bob Blazer
Sharon Wilcox
Janet Holland
Angela Lawrence
Nelson Torre
Hannah & Norman Weinberg**

ATTENTION WEB USERS

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.

Attention

This is a list of ACBL Unit 116 members who do not appear in our Directory or have not recently provided info to be included. If you know them or are the person listed below and wish to be included in the

update fill out the registration form on the next page. This is my final effort to not leave anyone out of the directory that would like to be included. The forms can be e-mailed to me at baj_42@msn.com or returned via club owners/mgrs or mailed to me at 1301 Netherton Ct., East Amherst, NY 14051. If you have already relayed your information to me, please ignore this message. Thank you.

Judie Bailey

Joan Alexander	John Lyches
Anne Astmann	Agi Maisel
Manmohna Bhavra	Beverly Mallon
Bob Blazer	Gerald Masker
Brian Block	Nancy Mastroianni
Stewart Brenner	Richard McGowan
Cecile Calabrese	Joyce Meskill
Catherine Crocuston	Marjorie O'Brien
Jack Cukierman	Anna Pelow
Beena & Madhav Deshmukh	Daniel Pfeffer
David Donaldson	Bernice Reger
Merri & Paul Earl	Renzo Renzoni
Chester Fell	Lorraine Repicci
Lynda Freedman	Heather Roberts
Robert Hessel	Miri Salamone-Burnett
Davis Heussler	Shirley Salter
Sandra Honney	Ralph Schupp
Doris Jones	Carole Sedita
James & Paula Jones	John Sinclair
Philip Kadet	Rita Stewart
Arthur Kean	Bonnie Taylor Gillings
Carol Kleban	Ann Torrell
Leonard Knabelkamp	Beverly & Sam Traina
William Kross	Hannah & Norman Weinberg
Elaine Lavigne	Frances Witnauer
Angela Lawrence	Elaine Zeve
Robert Leach	Linda & Paul Zittel
Susan Levy	

ACBL Unit 116

Directory Registration

Please fill out this form
PLEASE PRINT ONLY

Name _____

Street Address _____

City/Town _____ Zip code _____

State/Province _____

Home Telephone Number _____

Cell Phone Number _____

E-mail Address _____ @ _____

instructions for use of this information

E-mail me notification of Unit happenings

Include me in the directory

I request that I not be included

Special Requests to include some but not all of the above information:

please sign and date this form

(signature)

(date)

INTERVIEW CORNER

The Bridge Buff editor interviewed a gracious and talented bridge couple named **Dave and Jane Larcom**. This is what the editor received from this couple:

Dave and Jane Larcom began playing Bridge under the tutelage of Jane's dad, **Russ Hitchcock** who at one time was a pro bridge player. Pre-Goran bridge used Culbertson's Honor count- 2 ½ honors to open, an honor and a half to respond.

Their bridge was restricted to playing contract bridge with friends and, perhaps once a quarter of a year duplicate game. Dave started in Hamburg at **Dick Rasmus'** Monday night game. Dick was kind enough to become the partner of the neophyte and he was good enough to carry him- They won (you all know that Dick is still very patient and still very good).

After retiring from teaching **English at Iroquois**, , **Jane began playing at Bert Hargheimer's** Bridge Center on George Urban. Jane likes to play, but it's not one of her consuming interests. She is a volunteer docent at Graycliff and a lector at St. Peter & Paul's parish,

Dave began playing more regularly about a year and a half later at Bert's. Bert and **Christy Kellogg** gave us numerous lessons (although he doesn't believe they thought he was a very good pupil. His many other activities include being officer of a Credit Union.

"I would like to thank many that have attempted the impossible - make me a Bridge player- Bert and Christy, **Dick and Pat Rasmus, Bob Winkler, Joan Rose, Chris Urbanek, Bill and Peg Reiker**; but most of all **Brian Meyer** whom I consider the ultimate teacher, He not only teaches, but delights in teaching at the precise moment the lesson which he wishes to impart by Making Me deduce his desired outcome. He scares

the hell out of me when he does it, but most of the time (30%?) I come to the right conclusion."

Dave runs the Bridge Club of East Aurora which has a regular game @ 9 am on Wednesdays. Goals for his game and for the Unit which he wishes could be achieved include: the promotion of an atmosphere of tolerance; realization on the part of the self-proclaimed "expert" that a kind word teaches much more than a harsh one; support for unit officers and directors whose work make games possible; and developing a mutual respect for all clubs.

*Another person interviewed is a leader in the bridge community. Her name: **Joan Rose**. This is what Joan gave to the editor:*

When our kids were all in school, I decided I needed a diversion from scouts, PTAs, teaching religion classes etc. I had played some kitchen bridge so I got up my nerve and went to a club on Elmwood. Picked up a partner and ended up winning. Of course that was my hook. The club closed right after that game but I was hooked so I found the Barrett Bridge Club. Oh, the memories!.

I took lessons from **Jeanette Michienzie, Alan Greer, June O'Connor**, and my all time favorite bridge teacher, **Danny Gerstman**. Danny was way over my head but, oh how I learned to focus and to think.

Many players assisted me in many aspects of the game, but my favorite mentor was **Mary McKenna**. Mary would play with me, not only at club games but at tournaments. One of my favorite stories was when the spring nationals were in Buffalo in 88. I was playing with Mary on opening day and we had the honor of starting against **Lynn Deas** and a client. An acquaintance of mine, who played kitchen bridge and worked in the downtown area, came to see what a national bridge convention was like. She was kibitzing us on the first round and Lynn and her partner bid two games which we doubled and they didn't quite make either of them. I went to get Mary some coffee and our kibitzer leaned over to Lynn and said, "don't feel badly, they are two very good players." When Mary told

me what our kibitzer had said I couldn't help but laugh, but Mary was mortified.

When the Bridge Center of Buffalo first opened, I asked **John Toy** to teach a class. When his student were asked what they liked the most about the class the most frequent response was his ability to inject bridge anecdotes. I do believe those bridge stories are what make up the camaraderie of the bridge community.

As much as I like to play the game of bridge, my true love is helping to develop players. Every Tuesday I look forward to my mini lesson and game for non-life masters. It is fun and satisfying and hopefully I can bring them along as players. The thing so many people don't understand is duplicate bridge draws players with different reasons for playing. Now that becomes a challenge to the teacher or game director. The director has to make all feel welcome and realize why each is playing. I do know that I will sorely miss my Tuesdays when the time comes to say goodbye.

Congratulations to Pat Rasmus – as Volunteer of the Year.

According to an article *Helping Hands* in the March 2010 edition of *Bridge Bulletin*, the article states Pat as saying

"I have been playing bridge for about 35 years and have enjoyed the challenge that bridge provides. During the Nineties, ACBL Tournament Director Peter Mollemet persuaded me to be his Intermediate-Newcomer coordinator and convinced the board members of District 5 to allow me to chair a 299er regional in Niagara Falls. Since that time, I have been very fortunate to co-chair the Buffalo Regional with John Toy. John is a terrific co-chair because he lets me do lots of shopping and cooking for the regional, two things I thoroughly enjoy doing.."

She goes to say that she served on District 5 board as secretary, vice president and later president.

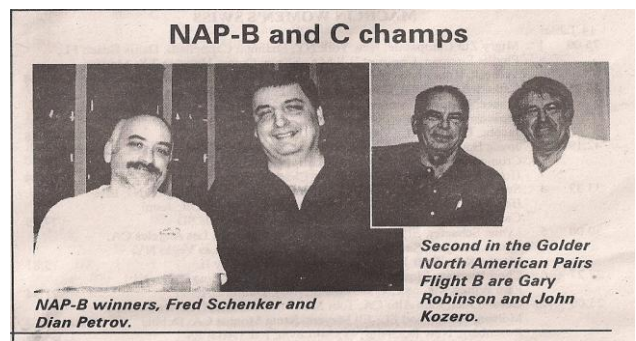
We, in Western New Year congratulate her on her many accomplishments and glad she is part of this bridge community.

Congratulations!

Silver Life Master
Elaine Universal

Bronze Life Master
Robert Padgug

Congratulations-to Dian Petrov On his victory in Reno NABC 2010 as well as being the Director at the B& P Club as of 4/2/2010



Per the *New York Times* April 1, 2010 issue

"Flight B was captured by Dian Petrov of Buffalo and Fred Schenker of Pittsburgh. They lived on the edge throughout.

First they nearly did not make it to the district qualifier. Schenker drove from Pittsburgh to Meadville, Pa. on Interstate 79, a distance of about 100 miles. Because of road work it took him more than 2 hours to cover the first 15 miles. The organizers, who knew several players were affected, delayed the start by 15 minutes, but Schenker arrived 15 minutes after that. However, Petrov was permitted to play the first round with a substitute.

Then they nearly did not qualify for the final day in Reno, needing three tops and a n average over the last four boards.

- ♠-AJ64
- ♥-8
- ♦-K10862
- ♣-952
- ♠-KQ107
- ♥-853
- ♠-9832
- ♥-K9742

Dlr: N

♦-J3
♣-QJ87

♠- 5
♥-AQJ10
♦-AQ75
♣-AK43

♦-94
♣-106

N-1♦2♥4♦6♦
S:4D4H
E:PPPPP
W:PPPP

West led the club queen.

They started the final day well, moving up from 25th to 2nd with a 60 per cent game. But again they needed a big finish, scoring 46.5 match points out of 52 over the last four board to win by 0.32 match points from another team.....

Petrov and Schenker did well in the diagrammed deal, the next to last of the second qualifying session....

Others opened 1♣, but Schenker (South) did better when he started with 1♦ Then, over one spade, South reversed with 2♥. (When the opener rebids in a second suit without a jump, and the responder must bid at the three-level if he wishes to support the opener's first bid, the opener has made a reverse. After a one-level response it shows a maximum opening bid; in principle, at least a good 17 high-card points.)

Petrov's 3♦ rebid promised positive values. (With a weak hand he would have rebid an artificial 2NT.) 4♦ was Roman Key Card Blackwood, the reply showing two key cards (one ace and the trump key, or two aces) and denying the trump queen.

After winning the first trick with the club ace, declarer cashed his diamond ace and heart ace, then led the heart queen and discarded a club from dummy.

East took his king and returned a club, but South won, drew trumps and claimed.

Plus 1,370 was worth 23 match points out of 25, just enough to sneak Petrov and Schenker into the final day.

Sad Tidings Corliss Dye

*One of the Grand Ladies of Bridge passed away. Her name is **Betty Fudeman**. She will be sadly missed.*

Judy Grant

IN MEMORIAM OF BETTY FUDEMAN

Betty Fudeman, a bridge icon in Buffalo, passed away recently. She had been seriously ill the past year. She was a Life Master. She had many years of involvement with the club as a bridge player, teacher, director and unit board member.

One of the many things I remember about Betty was when our Unit Board was having a lot of problems and difficulties, Betty wrote them a letter telling them what a good job they were all doing. She put a smile on their faces and uplifted them. That's the kind of person Betty was.

Betty taught bridge at the Jewish Center and directed a game at Sattler's at the Boulevard Mall. Any time you had a question at the bridge table, she happily answered it. She played with top players as well as those who needed mentoring. Bridge was her passion.

She will be sadly missed by all who knew her

She is survived by her three children, Linda, Bob and Karen and grandchildren. Also, her brother, **Cal Katz** and sister-in-law **Nana (Stoneberg) Katz**.

Carolyn Syracuse

CLUB NEWS



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

MENTORING ON
Tues. & Thurs. @ BCB

For more information on their mentoring program, schedule and classes, you can visit their web site at bridgecenterofbuffalo.com.

AMERICAN WHIST CHAMPIONS.; Ninth Annual Tournament Comes to an End at Chicago -- Buffalo Whist Club Wins a Trophy

July 17, 1899, Wednesday NY Times – Page 4, 473 words

CHICAGO, July 16. – The ninth annual congress of the American Whist League came to an end early

this morning at the Auditorium Hotel. The Hamilton Club Trophy and the championship for teams of four go to the Buffalo Whist Club; the Chicago Duplicate Whist Club secures the Minneapolis Trophy and the championship for club pairs, and the American Whist League Challenge Trophy becomes the prize of the St. Paul Club.

The next special game for the Whist Club will be a Club Championship on June 14 at 7:15 at Zion Church. 15 Koenig Circle, Tonawanda. All are welcome. For additional info, call or email **Barbara Libby**. 836-8303, libby@att.net.

B&P Retirement

Mark this date on your calendar – March 29, 2010 – Because **Bill** and **Peggy Rieker** retired from the Duplicate Bridge business on this date.

Bill Rieker is a legend in Western New York as a director at the church on Koenig and Parkside Avenue.

Bill greeted players at the Church entrance checking on their health and well being.

Whether the game has eighteen tables or seven, Bill thanked his patrons for playing.

Peggy provided refreshments which became significant during Holiday bridge dates.

The Bridge Buff editors congratulate Bill and Peggy for their years of service to bridge players of Western New York.

Bridge Process By Dick Czarnecki

Did you know playing a session of bridge can generate as much stress physically and mentally as a surgeon experiences during a similar length surgery?

Just consider! If you are the declarer, you have to remember the bids of your opponents and judge which opponent to take the finesse against. You must count down the hands of your opponents so you can tell which one has honor cards that might be a danger. If you are performing a squeeze, you

must have a count of the suits and what is outstanding. Then you must make a decision to go down as few tricks as possible if making the contract is an impossible task. All this takes place in seven minutes, the normal length of time to play one board.

If you are on defense, you have an advantage and a disadvantage. It's you and your partner against the declarer; that's two against one. But that also is your disadvantage because if you don't pay attention to your partner's lead and discards, the declarer has the advantage.

Remember your attention must be total for the entire seven minutes. You can't think about the lunch you brought with you or the slow play of the declarer. I firmly believe some declarers slow play a hand to allow opponents some cerebral drift. If this is done routinely, the Director should be called to remedy this tactic.

It's always a good idea to go over the conventions both offensive and defensive before a session begins. If there are conventions that will confuse the partnership, don't play them. I find that **KISS** bridge really is a superior system because of the confidence it instills in both partners. One great way to drift to the bottom of the standings are complex systems where mistakes occur in abundance.

I find the duplicate bridge community is like fudge, mostly sweet but with a few nuts to give it texture. I have played with a multitude of partners in my twenty-five years of duplicate bridge and I generally have a good time. Rarely am I partnered with a person who takes my mind off what I need to do to enjoy the game. Since the game is complex enough without that added stress, I limit or eliminate the partnership. It really is immaterial which of the partners is the problem; a partnership should operate like a well-oiled machine. Even novices who have learned the basics make for an attractive partnership. Honor your partner for their good play and ask them if some negative traits have crept into your game that might injure the partnership.

Sometimes bridge is like trying to juggle while riding a unicycle. But if you try really hard and trust your partner, the operation will be successful and the patient will live.



**BUFFALO NON-LIFE
MASTER "SILVER
POINT SECTIONAL (0-
499mp)**

*Mentor graduate makes good at BCB's Friday
game.*

by **John Marvin**

JULY 16-18, 2010
Bridge Center of Buffalo
3362 Sheridan Drive
Amherst, NY 14226

*Free food
Free lessons
Free parking*

Board 16	♠-76	
Dlr: W	♥-T53	
Vul: E-W	♦-KQJT532	
	♣-4	
♠-KJ9542		♠-AQT83
♥-9		♥-J8
♦-87		♦-A
♣-AJT8		♣-KQ653
	♠-	
HCP	♥-AKQ7642	N:4D4H
6	♦-964	S:4D4H
9 16	♣-972	E:6C6S
9		W:5C6S



Friday, July 16 & Saturday, July 17

10:00am Single Session Pairs
2:00pm Free Lesson
3:00pm Single Session Pairs
Food Before and Between Sessions

Sunday, July 18

10:00am Single Session Pairs
2:00pm Free Lesson
3:00pm Single Session Swiss Teams
Food Before and Between Sessions

This is an especially interesting hand with many possibilities. I was W and **Mary Helenbrook** was my partner. The opponents were very good, experienced players. The auction as I remember it:

W	N	E	S
1♠	P	2♣	2♥
3♣	4♦	4♠	5♦
5♠	6♥	6♠	All pass

My hand was not right for a 2♠ opener and far too good to pass. Mary's 2♣'s began the description of her hand while awaiting developments. After I freely raised her ♣s her 4♠s might have ended the auction, but the red suitors weren't finished and she correctly decided upon slam when the heated auction got back to her. Every bid except Mary's 1st & 3rd calls is subject to contention. There might be an argument for 6♠s at her 2nd turn, but that might have virtually forced a sacrifice by N or S.

Aftermath: North led a diamond and we made 7 for all 7 match points. If they choose to sacrifice at 7 of a red suit, our +300 to 500 would have been worth only 2 match points.

STRATIFICATIONS –
C; 0-100, B: 100-200, A: 200-NLM
**Game Fees - \$8.00 ACBL Members;
\$9.00 non-members**

INFORMATION & PARTNERSHIPS
BETTY METZ
716-773-7398
betty_metz@roadrunner.com.

