



Quarterly Newsletter



Cincinnati
Bridge Association



UNIT 124

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2860 Cooper Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45241 (513) 563 2218

From the President's Desk



Last year we made every effort to create a better environment to play at the Cincinnati Bridge Center with your help. We have received feedback from many members that the Cincinnati Bridge Center is friendlier. Can we do more? Yes, of course we can, and we should all do more so that it is the best place to play bridge. One request to all, especially experienced players, is to welcome and greet new members when they come to your table. The Play Nice principles on your tables are paying dividends. Sanction holders are helping by announcing reminders about these principles at the start of the games.

We are recruiting new members. They are excited and willing to learn the game of bridge. Remember how we all felt few years back when we all were once beginners? Excited, and somewhat tentative and perhaps even anxious. So how can experienced players help? One thing that had frightened me few years when I started to come to play here was how my opponent had screamed for the director. I was not a happy camper. Reluctantly I asked what did I do wrong. Could the player have explained to me that I need to call a director because of this reason. That sure would have helped me better and NOT feeling that do I need to play here. Unfortunately, this kind of experiences are repeated and shared with us including at the Membership Meeting. I have simple request. Be nice if a novice makes a minor procedural mistake. It is not life or death. Just explain that "it is not your turn" and will result in a director call a director in future. The player would say thank you. We are very competitive players. These new recruits are future of organization. We urge to take couple minutes to coach/train them as much as you can. Some irregularities might require a director's assistance. Simply saying "I'm going to all the director now, so we are all protected." Can take a great amount of negative energy out of any situation. Remember "Director, **Please**" when asking for help. Intonation matters. **Be pleasant, PLEASE!**

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Columbus 2020 I/N Schedule	25	March 19-29, 2020
D11 GNT Finals (Dayton)	26	April 18-19, 2020

Unit 124 Club Games

Day	Time	Game
Mon	AM	CBC 11:00 Inv
	Aft	MIDM 1:00
	PM	CBC 7:00 (Ltd) - OXF 7:00
Tue	AM	NKY 10:00 11:00 CBC , MIDS -- C&P/SP 2:45PM
	PM	AND 1:00 CBC 7:00 Ltd (Call for 0-20)
Wed	AM	CBC - 11:00 - SCC 10:00
	Aft	MIDL 12:00 AND 1:00 PM
	PM	NKY 6:30 CBC 7:00 PM (Ltd)
Thu	AM	INT 9:00 - CBC 11:00 - NKy 11:30 AM
	Aft	WHC 12:00 - EAB 12:30
	PM	CBC C&P/SP 2:45PM CBC 6:30 "8 is ENOUGH" Swiss Team 1/3/5
Fri	AM	NKY 10:00 - CBC 11:00 Open & NLM
Sat	AM	CBC 9:30AM-Noon Supervised Play (SP)
	Aft	CBC 1:00

Have you been to our Unit Website recently? We have an excellent website. It has lot of information for you. When you meet our webmaster next time just ask him about the

HOURS he spends on the website. I encourage you to read/scan as often as you can especially at the upcoming events for your planning purpose. Don't know who our webmaster is? You have some homework to do...

Board has appointed Isaac Stephani as our new CBC manager. Isaac will ensure the smooth operation of the CBC for all events. He is also our lead director for the Tuesday Evening CBC game. Welcome Isaac!

Isaac will coordinate the next AED training day in April/May. Members who are interested in get trained on saving device on this life please contact Isaac.

Columbus is holding the Spring NABC 2020 March 19-29, 2020. The Unit Board encourages everyone to play and volunteer as often you can. Pam Campbell is responsible to coordinate volunteers from our unit 124.

Your comments and feedback are critical to improve our unit. They will be addressed in a timely manner by either your board or the sanction holders.

See you at the tables.

Nalin Mehta

President, Unit 124 Board of Directors

ONE STEP FORWARD...

Why do we do what we do?

Motivation – what makes us tick.

If you look around the room during a bridge game, there are a broad range of players with a broad range of capabilities looking to share common ground – fun, time with friends, a chance to experience the thrill of accomplishment, a shot at winning (ok, free food and drinks).

For the vast majority, bridge is a game. We play for fun. Playing with friends gives us a welcomed social experience and a few hours rest and relaxation. Some are just beginning their bridge journey. Some have played rubber bridge for years. We learned at our parent's table, at a friend's house, in the military or perhaps in a college dorm.

¹ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/bridge-card-game>

² <http://bridgetable.net/bridge/1-bridge-goren-era/>

³ See California re Allen, 59 Cal.2d 5
<https://scocal.stanford.edu/opinion/re-allen-24364>

Bridge has a very long history¹. Only decades ago bridge was a game of social importance². There's no doubt about the skill and intellect needed to succeed in the long run. Then people routinely gathered for social interaction in their homes. Games were a common form of entertainment. These were years before television, legalized gambling, video games, pads, and smart phones. Now we compete for attention.

Among card games, duplicate bridge is unique – it is the only card game where the luck of the draw has no impact on the score. The courts have ruled bridge as a game of skill³. Even so, many still object to bridge on religious, moral, or (unchallenged) legal grounds⁴ perhaps because the rules allow certain behaviors that would otherwise be even slightly morally objectionable in an outside context (what do you call a falsecard or a psych?). In Bridge, ethics are prescribed by the rules. From the "Laws of Duplicate Bridge" p. 80:

LAW 72

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

A. Observance of Laws

Duplicate bridge tournaments should be played in strict accordance with the Laws. The chief object is to obtain a higher score than other contestants **whilst complying with the lawful procedures and ethical standards set out in these laws**.

B. Infraction of Law

1. A player must not infringe a law intentionally, even if there is a prescribed rectification he is willing to accept.
2. In general, **there is no obligation to draw attention to an infraction of law committed by one's own side** (but see Law 20F for a mistaken explanation and see Laws 62A and 79A2).
3. A player may not attempt to conceal an infraction, as by committing a second revoke, concealing a card involved in a revoke or mixing the cards prematurely.

There's much more to say on this subject, but for now, remember that ethics can appear subjective and situational, and the game would lose its comity when

⁴ Legal challenges often circle back to the game of chance or skill argument settled in many but not all states.
<https://bridgewinners.com/forums/read/youth-bridge-education/game-of-chance-college-club-shut-down-2-sm6g73z21f/>

different cultural paradigms allow behavioral norms to clash. This way, everyone has the same level playing field – the same set of expectations.

But I digress.

We are all here for many different reasons. We all contribute to each other's fun. We are all ambassadors for our game. We need more players. We can behave well toward each other with grace and respect no matter what occurs at the table. The more, nay the better, we do that the more people we have at our games and the more fun we will all enjoy.

There are as many bridge journeys as there are members. Our Unit provides a vast array of offerings that will enhance your game. Check out our website at <http://www.cincybridge.com>

Getting better at bridge means doing the hard work. Learning to count out opponent's hands, learning to build and refresh a mental picture of the hands held by opponents, learning how to plan the play or defense of a hand, learning how play informs bidding (and vice versa) all come with experience. Malcolm Gladwell suggested that for complex tasks we must do something 10,000 hours⁵ before we become masterful.

But mastery is not a universal goal.

My daughter Jessica was shy. We brought her to Karate with two of her friends. She worked hard, overcame her anxieties, and earned a 2nd Dan Black Belt. I witnessed the hard work and the accomplishment that came with it create confidence. But I was surprised to learn from the Master of the Dojo that a black belt was not a sign of mastery – simply proficiency. There was more to the journey. Jessica is now an immigration lawyer in Washington DC. Toughness. Accomplishment. Mastery.

⁵ Forty years ago, in a paper in *American Scientist*, Herbert Simon and William Chase drew one of the most famous conclusions in the study of expertise:

There are no instant experts in chess—certainly no instant masters or grandmasters. There appears not to be on record any case (including Bobby Fischer) where a person reached grandmaster level with less than about a decade's intense preoccupation with the game. We would estimate, very roughly, that a master has spent perhaps 10,000 to 50,000 hours staring at chess positions...

In the years that followed, an entire field within psychology grew up devoted to elaborating on Simon and Chase's

So too with Bridge. Life Master is an emblem of proficiency. Mastery comes with work and experience, from challenging the best until we succeed.

The upcoming North American Bridge Championships in Columbus Ohio March 19-29, 2020 is a great opportunity for players at every level to participate in the best and largest tournaments in all of North America. There are games for every level of bridge. More than that there are so many resources available to help you on your bridge journey – free seminars, books, computer programs, and more. Go. Do it for yourself. See the greats. Play against them if you choose. But go. This is a once in a decade opportunity for all of us.

Club bridge serve those of us who like to compete, and want to do so outside our home. Of the 840 members in our Unit, 40 have no masterpoints – either they are not playing or they haven't yet taken advantage of the many opportunities we offer novices.

One of the biggest opportunities to improve your game begins shortly. John Williams leads the **Unit Mentor Program** (Greg Brinker for NKy). See John's note in this issue. Sign ups will begin shortly. See the Mentor Page on the Unit website for more details:

<http://www.cincybridge.com/CBAMentoringProgram.html>

As always I thank our talented and overworked contributors for making this another vibrant and compelling issue for our membership. All of this is done by volunteers. This means you can contribute. This also means you should take time to thank any author for the time they take to engage, inform, and entertain us.

We offer three articles published with permission of the authors and Bridgewinners.com for your enjoyment. We continue Steve Bloom's excellent series on The Theory of Total Tricks with installment 3.

observation—and researchers, time and again, reached the same conclusion: it takes a lot of practice to be good at complex tasks. After Simon and Chase's paper, for example, the psychologist John Hayes looked at seventy-six famous classical composers and found that, in almost every case, those composers did not create their greatest work until they had been composing for at least ten years. (The sole exceptions: Shostakovich and Paganini, who took nine years, and Erik Satie, who took eight.)

See: <https://www.newyorker.com/sports/sporting-scene/complexity-and-the-ten-thousand-hour-rule>

We also add an article about the extremely successful SiVv Youth Program (Silicon Valley) by Debbie Rosenberg. This two-part contribution details the effort and number of people necessary to make a youth bridge program successful. Part 1 is in this issue.

I commend both of these to your attention.

Wishing You Good Bridge and Good Luck,

Steve
Editor, The ALERT moesefamily@aol.com



Unit 124 News

The Board of Directors publishes meeting minutes for your perusal (and comment) to the website at:

<http://www.cincybridge.com/Board%20Minutes.htm>

We offer Pam Campbell's note later in this issue thanking our Unit for the heartfelt support for Mike's family.

Your Board Officers for 2020 elected at the December 2019 Board Meeting are:



Nalin Mehta
President



Potter Orr
Vice President



Pam Campbell
Treasurer



Steve Moese
Secretary

Go to <http://www.cincybridge.com/CBA-Board-of-Directors-2020.html> to contact us at any time.

In addition, Tom Mess assumes the role of Education Chair/Liaison replacing Larry Newman who will focus his efforts on the OLLI Bridge Program taught at the CBC.

Members in all Unit Committees are posted at: <http://www.cincybridge.com/Committees.html>

Unit Holiday Party 14 DEC 2019 –

Congratulations to **Lorna Davis**. Mike Purcell presented Lorna the **Nancy Sachs Award** for mentoring new bridge players and contributions to Saturday Supervised Play. Nancy Ziegler Sachs was a beloved member of the Cincinnati Bridge Association who passed away in 2014. She was a vibrant force in our bridge community. She had served as the President of ACBL District 11, worked as the CBA Tournament Chair for 15 years, and was a member of the CBA Board for over 20 years. She co-authored four bridge books and was a gifted teacher of the game she loved so much. She initiated the CBA Mentor-Mentee

program, reflecting her philosophy that talented bridge enthusiasts should help other bridge players learn and enhance their game. The award is presented deserving Unit 124 members who have volunteered their time to help other bridge players. The winners will be honored on a special plaque at the Cincinnati Bridge Center and a \$200.00 stipend.

The Unit Board of Directors honored **Mike Lipp** posthumously - Patty Eber presented him the **Patty Eber Award**. The Patty Eber Award is given to members who show exemplary service and work on behalf of bridge in Unit 124. Mike's efforts on behalf of the members, CBC players, the Unit Board and the District were as substantial as they were exemplary. Mike's sister Pam Campbell accepted for Mike's family. President Nalin Mehta congratulated Pam Campbell for her efforts on behalf of the Unit, not only for organizing a successful Holiday Party, but also for enabling a smooth transition during this trying time. The party began at 11:30 AM (drinks, heavy appetizers, and desserts. The Club Membership game followed at 1 PM. There were 17.5 Open tables & 4 NLM tables. Here are your masterpoint winners.

Dir	#	Name	Name	Strat	OA	OB	OC	SA	SB	SC	Score	%	Award
Open - 17.5 Tables													
NS	5	Kay Mulford	M Mineard	A	1				1		281.67	67.71	4.67(OA)
NS	12	Bob Fisk	Ben Fisk	B	2	1			2	1	258.38	62.11	3.50(OA)
EW	6	Isaac Stephani	A J Stephani	B	3	2			1	1	253.5	60.94	2.63(OA)
NS	15	William Higgins	Yauheni Siutsau	A	4				3		245	58.89	1.97(OA)
EW	8	V Netherwood	Adrienne Netherwood	B	5	3			2	2	243	58.41	1.48(OA)
NS	8	Helen Mess	Thomas Mess	C	6	4	1		4	2	239.42	57.55	1.28(OC)
NS	7	Patrick Hoffman	John Williams	C	5	2			5	3	234.54	56.38	0.96(OC)
EW	3	Diane Travis	Amitabh Raturi	A					3		232	55.77	1.02(SA)
EW	16	Barbara Boswell	Barbara Levinson	A					4		224.5	53.97	0.71(SA)
EW	9	Mike Ma	Stephen Moese	A					5		224	53.85	0.41(SA)
NS	3	Jackie Toth	Nancy Luetge	A					6		222.08	53.38	0.34(SA)
NS	10	Jack Mehalko	Brenda Mehalko	B	6				7	4	221.54	53.25	0.56(OB)
NS	4	Cecilia Kloecker	Cliff Pleatman	B					5		219.38	52.74	0.25(SB)
EW	11	Margaret Young	Judy Ruehl	A					6		219	52.64	0.34(SA)
EW	12	Larry Klein	John Meinking	A					7		218	52.4	0.29(SA)
EW	10	Stephen Felson	Robert Brown	C					3	3	217.5	52.28	0.72(OC)
NS	18	Herb Schapera	Vijay Vasudevan	B					6		214.5	51.56	0.21(SB)
EW	7	Albert Beaupre	Peggy Barrett	B					4		202.5	48.68	0.37(SB)
EW	15	Reeta Brendamour	Stephen Vogel	C					4	2	199	47.84	0.54(OC)
NLM Pairs - 4 Tables													
OW	4	Carla Runda	Judy Crotty Hall	B	1	1			1	1	43	59.72	1.02(OA)
OW	1	Stephen Messinger	Sandra Fielman	A	2				2		41	56.94	0.77(OA)
OW	5	Michael Gundrum	Brian Bergmann	C	3	2			3	2	40	55.56	0.62(OB)
OW	8	Mary Merryman	Phyllis Rozof	C						2	36.5	50.69	0.29(SC)

Mike Lipp Memorial Game December 12, 2019 - 56 pairs participated in the Open and NLM sections combined. Generous donations left the donation box overstuffed. Diane Travis, Lorna Davis and Reeta Brendamour organized the hospitality and promoted attendance. A. J. Stephani and Isaac Stephani directed. Many members brought a side dish to share. This was clearly a community effort.



Thanks to all. AJ Stephani and Steve Moese began the evening with tributes to Mike. A special short game allowed two 20-minute breaks where Mike's friends shared personal stories and remembrances from our relationship with Mike. More than a dozen friends shared their stories. Mrs. Becky Lipp thanked everyone for the love and support the family received from Mike's friends in the Bridge Community. The outpouring of love and respect for Mike and his memory was palpable. Here are the participants→



Columbus NABC March 19-29, 2020



The Columbus NABC is upon us. Every Unit is asked to supply as many volunteers as possible to support these efforts during the tournament: **Prizes, Hospitality, Information, Registrations, and, Partnerships,**

Intermediate/Novice Partnerships. Sign Up NOW at:
<http://www.cincybridge.com/forms/nabc2020/nabc2020.php>

Sign Up sheets are posted at the Cincinnati Bridge Center. Contact Pam Campbell campbell.ps.54@gmail.com with any questions. You can choose the work you like the best and choose when during the day to volunteer. None of the assigned times conflict with play in any scheduled game! We appeal to your better angel to help make Columbus a spectacular tournament. If you were planning to play in Columbus - please volunteer. If you weren't planning to play, please volunteer and enjoy learning what an NABC offers first hand.

Dir	#	Name	Name	Strat	OAA	OAB	OAC	SAA	SAB	SAC	Score	%	Award
A	EW	21	Stephen Vogel	John Taylor	B	1	1		1	1	190.63	66.19	6.13(OA)
A	EW	6	Bob Fisk	Cliff Pleatman	A	2		2			172.51	59.90	4.60(OA)
A	EW	18	Lorna Davis	Diane Travis	A	3		3			171.11	59.41	3.45(OA)
A	NS	2	Marilyn Proisie	Robert Proisie	B	4	2		1	1	165.54	57.48	2.59(OA)
A	EW	17	Mike Burns	Pamela Kennedy	B	5	3		4	2	165.42	57.44	1.94(OA)
A	NS	22	Anton Habash	Richard Pleshek	A	6		2			165.35	57.41	1.79(SA)
A	EW	15	Albert Beaupre	Vijay Vasudevan	A	7		5			163.85	56.89	1.09(OA)
A	NS	11	Joy Singerman	William Cook	B		4		3	2	163.07	56.62	1.28(SA)
A	NS	9	Reeta Brendamour	Pam Campbell	B		5		4	3	163.03	56.61	0.89(SA)
A	NS	18	Joe Fisher	Amy Fisher	A			5			162.21	56.32	0.51(SA)
A	NS	7	Helen Mess	Thomas Mess	B		6		6	4	161.60	56.11	0.50(OB)
A	EW	12	Larry Klein	Norman Coombs	A			6			159.03	55.22	0.43(SA)
A	NS	15	Larry Newman	Gerry Mirus	A				7		157.95	54.84	0.36(SA)
A	EW	9	V Netherwood	Adrienne Netherwood	A				7		157.71	54.76	0.36(SA)
A	NS	4	William Atteberry	Rick O'Connor	A				8		157.38	54.65	0.32(SA)
A	NS	1	Susan Wisner	Sharon Kreitzer	B				9	5	156.08	54.19	0.28(SA)
A	NS	6	Robert Sulgrove	Vickie Sebastian	A				10		155.79	54.09	0.26(SA)
A	EW	20	Carol Vradelis	Charlene Comeaux	B			8	3		155.66	54.05	0.51(SB)
A	EW	14	Nancy Luetge	Daniel Koppenhafer	A				9		153.81	53.41	0.28(SA)
A	EW	1	Potter Orr	Sanderson Orr	B				10	4	149.85	52.03	0.35(SB)
A	EW	10	Donald Durack	Barry Wauligman	B					5	149.82	52.02	0.20(SB)
A	EW	4	Gary Herrington	Anirudh Pandit	C			1/2		1/2	147.60	51.25	0.75(OC)
A	EW	5	Bhupen Joshi	Amul Shukla	C			1/2		1/2	147.60	51.25	0.75(OC)
A	EW	24	Yauheni Siutsau	Amitabh Raturi	A						144.95	50.33	
A	EW	3	Michael Purcell	Stephen Moese	A						144.85	50.30	
A	NS	13	Agnes De Lany	Barbara Boswell	A						143.38	49.78	
A	NS	5	Eunice Abel	Bruce Abel	B					6	142.92	49.63	0.18(SB)
A	NS	20	Joseph Muenks	Theresa Muenks	A						142.53	49.49	
A	NS	17	Robert Roark	Sharon Koster	B						142.14	49.35	
A	NS	25	A J Stephani	Isaac Stephani	A						139.30	48.37	
A	EW	11	Monica Ibarra	Kevin Henry	C						139.00	48.26	
A	NS	16	Judy Barron	Judith Lucas	B						137.59	47.77	
A	NS	12	Judy Ruehl	Chris King	A						135.74	47.13	
A	EW	22	Stephen Felson	Harriet Spiegel	A						134.17	46.59	
A	NS	14	Stacy Vanstone	Martin Gibler	B						134.01	46.53	
A	EW	8	Joan Mehl	Elva Jung	C						133.06	46.20	
A	NS	23	Madeleine Gordon	Nancy Dever	B						131.76	45.75	
A	NS	3	John Meinking	Anne Frayne	A						131.45	45.64	
A	NS	21	Cordell Coy	Peggy Ammon	A						129.72	45.04	
A	EW	23	Mike Ma	Arun Goyal	A						129.19	44.86	
A	NS	8	Liz Lin	Carla Runda	B						128.64	44.67	
A	NS	10	Carol Scovic	Vasudha Kale	C					1	123.60	42.92	0.39(SC)
A	EW	16	Nalin Mehta	Ila Mehta	B						122.24	42.44	
A	NS	19	Linda Pretz	Judith Lubow	B						121.47	42.18	
A	EW	19	Todd Barker	Lewis Temples	B						114.29	39.68	
A	EW	2	Joanne Earls	Betty Torello	B						112.63	39.11	
A	NS	24	Annette Kereiakes	Tom Kereiakes	C						109.03	37.86	
A	EW	13	Peggy Barrett	Barbara Levinson	A						105.73	36.71	
A	EW	7	Amy Gerowitz	Jane Duncan	B						91.47	31.76	
NLM													
B	EW	6	Peter Outcalt	Terry Raulin	A	1			1		57.00	63.33	1.24(OA)
B	NS	1	Judy Crotty Hall	Pamela Heckel	B	2	1		1	1	55.00	61.11	0.93(OA)
B	NS	3	Alexander Grim	Joanne Essig	B	3	2		2	2	54.00	60.00	0.70(OA)
B	NS	5	Anne Rinaldi	Robert Lail	C	4	3	1	3	1	51.50	57.22	0.76(OC)
B	EW	2	Michael Gundrum	Brian Bergmann	C	5	4	2	2	1	50.50	56.11	0.57(OC)
B	EW	7	Mary Merryman	Phyllis Rozof	C				3	2	49.00	54.44	0.31(SA)
B	EW	1	Sandra Fielman	Stephen Messinger	A						43.50	48.33	
B	NS	6	David Elliott	John Warner	B						42.00	46.67	
B	EW	3	Rod Kaplan	Bob Kessler	C						42.00	46.67	
B	EW	4	Jonathan Burns	Kathryn Burns	B						42.00	46.67	
B	NS	2	Judith Painter	Melissa Hellmann	B						41.00	45.56	
B	NS	4	Nelson Leist	Herschell Levine	A						37.50	41.67	
B	NS	7	Robert Campbell	Alison Gorski	C						34.00	37.78	
B	EW	5	Karen Coy	John Ammon	A						31.00	34.44	



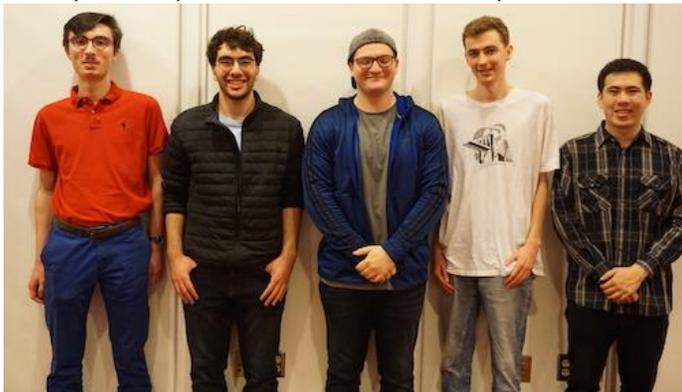
Winter Weather Cancellations: Remember that the winter weather can become treacherous. Be safe. Game cancellations at the CBC will be posted ASAP to the Unit website. For games at other clubs, consult their websites.

Reminder – two of our larger bridge clubs have had to relocate. Please see updates in Club News.

The CBA Board of Directors has appointed Isaac Stephani as the Cincinnati Bridge Club Manager. Isaac will ensure that the CBC provides the best possible environment for bridge fun in Cincinnati. He will coordinate all events at

the bridge center. Isaac will also direct the CBA Tuesday Evening game. We welcome Isaac to his new role.

The **Isaac Stephani Team** has qualified for the WBF [Patiño Cup](#) Junior Championships to be held August 21 in Salsamaggiore, Italy. Congratulations Isaac and teammates! This will be Isaac's second time representing USBF in Junior World Championship Bridge. Stephani (Beauchet-Chang, Berk-Soukup) defeated Fan (Wei, Si-Xiong) by 68 IMPs in the USA2 final. They will join Kaplan (USA1) this summer. As it turns out, this will be Isaac's second time representing the USA on the world stage. The last time he also went to Salsamaggiore Italy! When you have a chance ask him about the 1 IMP margin of victory in the quarterfinals. It was actually much less!!



Louis Amaury Beauchet, Hakan Berk, Isaac Stephani, David Soukup, Nolan Chang. Photo by Min Bai.

As with all transitions, the schedule at the Cincinnati Bridge Center moves along too. Ani Pandit takes over the Wednesday Evening game from Deb Wiest (Deb continues to direct the NLM Game on Fridays). Pam Campbell owns the Saturday game(s) and the Thursday AM and PM game (John Meinking directs 8 is Enough), Isaac (and AJ) Own the Friday, Monday evening, Tuesday and Wednesday Morning games). Debbie Cummings continues to direct Monday Morning (Deschappelles – Invitational only).

Tuesday Evening Open Pairs, Isaac Stephani directing. NEW START TIME: 6:30 PM. We had 6 tables on the first night, with 12 flight A, 8 flight B and 4 Flight C players. This is a very friendly game. Join us next week and make it 8 or more! For all players looking for a game in the evenings, this is your chance. Join us for a fun evening. Contact Isaac with any questions. issacstephani@gmail.com.

We have an updated lecture schedule for the winter quarter at the CBC. Of note, AJ and Isaac are teaching a course on slam bidding 9:00-10:30 AM Fridays beginning 1/24/2020 for 8 weeks aimed at advancing players. Class started January 24, but I'm sure they can add one or two

more interested students. Contact Isaac or AJ with interest or questions.

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If you know someone who might be interested in learning bridge for the first time, we recommend you refer them to the **Bridge 101 and 102 series** offered by our Education Committee and accredited teachers at the CBC. For details see: http://www.cincybridge.com/CBA_Lessons_4.html This class is also offered through the University of Cincinnati Osher Lifelong Learning Program (OLLI).

CLUB CORNER  Send Club News to the Alert Editor: moesefamily@aol.com

70% Games Nov-Jan 2020

Date	Game	Player	Player	%
1/25/20	Friday Morning NLM	Anne Rinaldi	Bob Lail	75.6
12/17/19	Tuesday Morning	Steve Vogel	Arun Goyal	70.37
11/13/19	Wednesday Morning	Terry Raulin	Pete Outcalt	72.92
11/11/19	Anderson BC	Rick OConnor	Joe Pike	71.32
11/6/19	Anderson BC	Nancy Reynolds	Chuck Reynolds	74.36

<http://www.cincybridge.com/Seventy%20Percent.htm>

If your club has players who achieve games over 70%, please email Steve Moese moesefamily@aol.com with the details (Names, Game name, date, AM/PM, and %)

Anderson Bridge Club

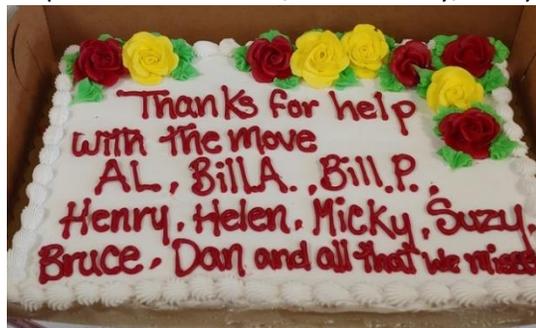
By Jodie Kieffer

We are settling into our new location at:

Mt. Moriah Methodist Church
681 Mt. Moriah Drive,
Cincinnati, OH 45245

and growing accustomed to our **new 1 PM start time**. The church has been so accommodating and we are very happy with the location. We are still requiring reservations as we have little time from when the room becomes available and our game time, so having everyone signed up ahead of time makes things go faster and more smoothly.

We'd like to thank everyone who helped with our move, in specific: Al Norwood, Bill Atteberry, Micky Dasenbrock,



Suzy Haerr, Bill Pirman, Dan Hance, Henry Jackson & Bruce Rocklin.

We wouldn't have a new space if not for the dedicated running around, checking location after location, phone calling etc. of many members, in specific: Bill Atteberry, Micky Dasenbrock, Helen Ogle, and Al Norwood. It's difficult to find an appropriate space as bridge clubs require a big room, tons of storage, lots of parking and we can't afford to pay much. Our club has been very fortunate to have lots of members who are always willing to step up and help where needed. Al Norwood has been responsible for getting our room in order and put away each day, finding storage for us, even building us a cart to put our tables on to store. He does so many things I can't name them all. Micky Dasenbrock and Suzy Haerr have figured out arranging for us to have coffee available, which wasn't so easy. Micky spent hours going through our supplies to make sure we could fit what we need in our space. Helen does partnerships each week, and helps with everything she can, including directing. Bill Atteberry is a new and welcome addition to our directing staff. We're so happy to have him.

February is Education Foundation month so we'll have special games each session with lots of extra points for you to rack up! In addition, Tuesday February 11 is a Club Championship & Wednesday February 20 is the ACBL-Wide Charity Game. We look forward to seeing you!

Northern Kentucky Bridge Club

By Mary Smith

The NKBC welcomes several new directors! Club manager Cordell Coy did an eight-week preparatory course in the fall. The following people are now directors: Bill Atteberry, Jim Brannen, Henry Jackson, Vern Goetz, Tim Martin, Dave Tollison, and Tak Yip. The club also recognizes several people for 70% and above games since October: Peg Amman (2 games), Dave Dressman, Cordell Coy, Dave Tollison, Margaret Young, Bart Jacobs, and Tak Yip.

NKBC continues into 2020 playing at PeeWee's Place. We are adapting to our situation and adopting our previous 4 days a week schedule even though it has changed a little. We now have a Monday game to replace our Tuesday game. Due to limited space all games at NKBC are by reservation only. Please contact Cindy ([859-653-4400](tel:859-653-4400)) if you'd like to join us. Go to nkybridge.org for details.

We have arranged to play at the Erlanger Lion's club on 2nd and 4th Thursdays, days we cannot play at PeeWee's.

Our first game at the Lion's club is Thursday 1/23. Game fee will be \$5. Game time is 10:00 AM. The Lion's club is providing 'space only' which means if you want it, you'll have to bring it. Please bring your lunch, your coffee, your

water, your partner. The Erlanger Lion's Club is located at **5996 Belair Dr, Florence, KY 41042**. To get there, head south on the Dixie to Sunset drive. Turn right onto Sunset, and follow it till it dead-ends into Belair. Turn right into the Lion's club drive.

Get your partner and **MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS** with Cindy for Thursday 1/23.

Queen City Club at the CBC

New! Tuesday & Wed U750 Pairs



Isaac Stephani announces the addition of an under 750 (U750) game to both morning sessions. All interested players are welcome to attend. U750 will be offered as attendance permits.

The Open Stratified games run at the same time. Contact Isaac Stephani with questions. issacstephani@gmail.com

Partnerships!

By Joanne Earls

If you're looking for a partner for a single game, call the director of the game you want to play in - s/he's the first to know about others who are available for that game. You can find directors' names on the cincybridge.com website. Another great way to meet prospective partners is at lessons or during supervised play. Unsure about an appropriate game? Call me!



If you'd like a regular partner, give me a call or send an email telling me about your game and your interests. How many master points do you have? What system/conventions do you play? Are you a ferocious competitor or a more relaxed player? Which games are you available to play in, and when can you start? I'll do my best to find someone who's also looking for a standing game.

Joanne Earls

772-4395 jolman@fuse.net

Name Tags

Contact Joanne Earls – 772-4395; jolman@fuse.net

Your Name Here
Cincinnati Bridge Association

First nametag FREE to new members! Otherwise \$4 each.

Tribute to my brother



By Pam Campbell

Over the past several weeks, I have had the honor to attend 3 Memorial Games. These were hosted by Northern Kentucky, Anderson and Cincinnati Bridge Centers. Thank you to all the organizers of these events and for all of those who attended.

I want everyone to know how heartwarming this has been to me. The letters I have received along with notes of condolences and stories about your interactions with Mike has caused much laughter along with many tears.



If I weren't already a part of this Unit, it would still be easy to understand how it was Mike's home away from home. The outpouring of love and support has been, well overwhelming. At the final Memorial game held at the CBC, there was an opportunity for his wife, Becky, to attend. She knew many of you as she had previously played bridge and Mike brought home many stories to share with her. The stories that we heard were real interactions with Mike and they were funny and sweet. Thank you to A.J. and Isaac for directing the game and putting together a format which allowed a social evening as well as time to celebrate Mike. It could not have been more perfect for me. It is clear that Mike was loved and made a lasting impression on so many people. I wanted so much to be able to share a story, but the emotions were still too high for me. So, I will share now with you. There are many stories, but below is one you may not have heard before.

Mike and I were not close when growing up. It was only later in life and actually when my father was ill in 1999. My dad was living with my husband and me and was diagnosed with lung cancer in January 1999. It was at that time that Mike came to visit my dad on a regular basis and called me to check on him. It was during those interactions that Mike and I started our journey to have a close relationship. Dad passed away in May, 1999. Dad did not want to go through the expense of a burial and asked to be cremated with his ashes spread in my side yard. He wanted me to plant an Evergreen Magnolia tree. Mike came over in the pouring rain to help me with this. Of course, we couldn't wait for a drier day! The tree did not last long because it was the wettest spot in my side

yard. Mike came back over and we planted another tree that would survive those conditions. I moved in September of 2018 and Mike said I was not allowed because dad was still at the other house. I told him dad would be just fine. The tree is still there and we took the stone to our new home. Mike continued to give me a hard time about this, and we had many laughs together.

After the 3 memorials were finished, I am proud to tell you that almost \$31,000 has been collected for Mike's family. As Becky said when she addressed the group at the Cincinnati Bridge Center, to say thank you does not feel like enough. I value that you have trusted me to be sure your donations are used wisely and I will take this very seriously. Your generosity is astonishing and is a tribute to how much Mike will be missed by all of you too. I think it is very true that everyone will miss seeing Mike at the front desk with that beautiful smile when you walk through the door. When I would walk into the front door, I would always say Hey Mike, how are you today? His normal response was I don't think I could be any better! I really miss him.

Pam Campbell

The Board of Directors wishes to recognize Unit members past or present when they pass from this life. We post Memorial notices on our website for players. Steve Messenger offers what many of us have been thinking.

Membership Committee Update

By Steve Messenger

Three of my friends - Mike Lipp, Patricia Burnham and Pat Hoffman recently passed away. I'll always remember them for the support and encouragement they gave me in bridge, and most importantly for their friendship. The social aspect of bridge is very important to me, and they each had special personalities and qualities that made knowing them and playing at the CBA a pleasure.

Soon after retiring I decided to check into playing bridge, and Mike Lipp was the first person I talked to at the CBA. He encouraged me to play, welcomed me and made sure my time at the CBA was a positive experience. Mike constantly encouraged and coached me, and since we were both avid Cincinnati Reds fans, we always had something outside of bridge to talk about. Eventually I became confident enough in my bridge bidding to question Mike's advice. No surprise - he did not like this - so he informed me that he was going to be my mentor.

Before our first game he told me that I needed to improve my pace of play, and that I would owe him a quarter each time I took too long to bid. After I was out \$3, he said he would waive the fee if I would speed up my play. He gave me other guidance, but the last time we played his final advice Mike gave me- in front of our competition - was that I should consider playing Chutes and Ladders or Candy Land instead of bridge. Since we were friends, he considered me fair game for teasing, however, given my last score I think that he might have been on point. But hopefully not. Mike did give me some needed advice, and I am thankful that I had a chance to be his friend and mentee.

Pat played with me on Wednesdays when my regular partner Sandy couldn't play, and he coached and mentored me every time we met. I learned a lot from Pat. I earned some of my first gold points playing with him at the Flying Pig. Pat also helped at the Flying Pig by being a Stand-by player and he helped me out on the Partnership Desk. What a great guy! Pat couldn't drive following his first stroke, but he still took a bus and volunteered at soup kitchens. He also took a bus to support the arts by ushering and providing security. Pat set a high bar for volunteering and giving back, and his generosity is truly inspirational.

Patricia was a free spirit. She was always a friendly face and when it came time to play potentially a bottom or top board (she was often either very good or much less focused). I called her the bionic woman since she had hips, knees and shoulders replaced – and she never complained about it. Patricia was always positive and friendly and reinforced that bridge was social and fun. And since I am very competitive and often too self or partner-critical, this was an important reminder. Patricia made everyone around her feel like a friend. Remembering Patricia, I will strive to do the same.

Friends make bridge special for us. I am sure that all of you could share similar stories and that you treasure the friendships you have made playing bridge.

I couldn't think of a smooth transition to update you on membership, so please pretend this works. In 2019, fifty-six new members joined the CBA – a 10% increase over each of the prior three years. While a 10% increase in new members is very positive, our overall membership is flat to declining due to attrition. This is not unexpected given that the average CBA member is in their mid-seventies. It does mean that we still have our work cut out for us to keep the CBA strong.

Advertising, social media, and distributing flyers have not been effective recruiting tools. **Most of our new members came from OLLI, Come and Play or personal referrals by CBA members.** OLLI and Come and Play provide a pipeline of new players for the CBA. Please support the Education Committee, who runs these programs, by signing up to teach or coach when they reach out for volunteers.

Thank you for all you have done for the CBA. I hope to see you often.

Steve

CBA MENTORING PROGRAM

By John Williams



Start thinking about the 2020 installment! Mentor-mentee (M-M) games will begin in May and run through September. The program will be similar to last year. Specific details of the



2020 program are expected to appear on the CBA website once Northern Kentucky is back into its old venue.

Facts from 2019 edition at the CBC:

- Eleven M-M games were held.
- Attendance ranged from 15 to 24 pairs, with the average a bit over 18 pairs.
- Forty-six players served as mentors and 49 as mentees, with 2 players in both roles.
- There were 6 players who served as mentors for 2 mentees and 2 served 3; similarly, there were 7 mentees who had 2 mentors and 1 with 3.
- Forty one of the \$10 coupons were purchased by M-M pairs to play in other games at the CBC.

Based on limited survey data from CBC mentees:

- 1) a plurality had no opinion about limiting games just to M-M pairs;
- 2) a small majority wanted to have master points awarded;
- 3) a plurality wanted the opportunity to discuss a hand just played;
- 4) a large majority did not want to ask about how to respond to a bid in the middle of the auction.

In response to the survey questions at the CBC for 2020:

- Re #1, games scheduled when there are no regularly-scheduled games will be restricted to M-M pairs but M-M games scheduled at the same time as regularly-scheduled games may not be.

- Re #2, if masterpoints are to be awarded (and that is the intent), then #4 is moot, because such questions are not allowed in ACBL games.
- Re #3, the M-M games will involve fewer boards than usual to be played, with more than the usual amount time allotted per round, thus allowing for discussion of played hands (assuming play is not too slow ;-), as was done in the later games in 2019.

FOR NON-LIFE MASTERS

By Steve Moese

So how is your bridge journey going? Each of us have different needs and wants about the game. Don't be shy, reach out for help. Everyone wants to help get you what you want – bridge players know – the more the merrier!

Are you playing as much as you want? Don't let not having a partner (or even not having transportation) get in the way. Call the director for a game a day or two in advance so you can have a partner. Be sure to arrive early so you can fill out a convention card. Then enjoy and have fun. Once at the game find players who are interested in playing on another day. Contact Joanne Earls if you are looking for a permanent partner or two.

If transportation is a problem, call the director – No, they won't come and pick you up but they might be able to put you in touch with someone who lives nearby and can give you a ride to and from the game.

Are you learning about the game at your own pace? Do you want more help? We have lots of resources available. There are great lessons offered at the club, free lectures, supervised play where you can ask questions and get answers while playing, and lots of resources on the Unit Website (<http://www.cincybridge.com>) But Best of ALL is the CBA Mentoring Program. This program will match you with a compatible experienced player who can coach you where you want your game to improve.

Of course, there's when and where to play. All games these days are **FLIGHTED** – that means you play and compete in the entire field, but win Master points against your flight peers (and the entire field if you do well enough). This has the effect of levelling the playing field for all levels of expertise. So, you can earn masterpoints by finishing ahead of all Flight C players. This makes any game – even open games – worth your consideration.

Have you tried Eight is Enough Swiss Teams yet? In this event players of different levels play on the same team. Any NLM is a 1, Anyone under 2500 MPs is a 2 and anyone

with more experience is a 3. The total on any one team must be 8 or less. So, 2 NLMs and 2 experts are an 8-point team. Go look at the score results (Thursday Evenings) and see that almost everyone wins some masterpoints in this game.

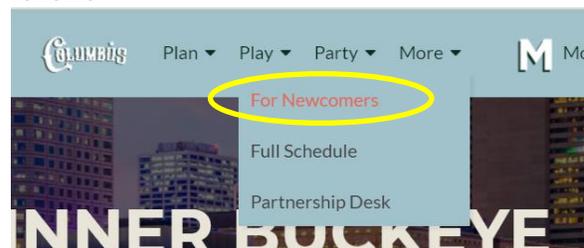
The **Cincinnati Bridge Center** offers many games that might suit your learning journey:

Day	Time	Event	Director	email
Mon	6:30 PM	U2500 Pairs	Isaac Stephani	isaacstephani@gmail.com
Tue	11:00 AM	U750 Pairs NEW!!	Isaac Stephani	isaacstephani@gmail.com
	2:45 PM	Come & Play	Tom Mess	tmess7023@gmail.com
Wed	11:00 AM	U750 Pairs NEW!!	Isaac Stephani	isaacstephani@gmail.com
	7:00 PM	U2500 Pairs	Ani Pandit	slamruff@yahoo.com
Thu	2:45 PM	Come & Play	Tom Mess	tmess7023@gmail.com
	6:30 PM	8 is Enough Swiss	John Meinking	okingme71@gmail.com (1 st , 3 rd , 5 th Thursdays)
Fri	11:00 AM	U500 Pairs	Isaac Stephani	isaacstephani@gmail.com
Sat	9:30 AM	Supervised Play	Mike Purcell	Mikepur2015@gmail.com

Here is a list of the bridge classes being offered at the CBC: http://www.cincybridge.com/CBA_Lessons_4.html

You will find many opportunities to play in tournaments around the Cincinnati area. Check the website or go to the ACBL Tournament Calendar to find an event to your liking: <http://tournaments.acbl.org/>

There are NLM Regional and Sectionals offered nearby. The biggest news? You have a golden opportunity to attend a North American Bridge Championship tournament. This premier event will be held in March 19-29, 2020 in Columbus Ohio. Sound daunting? It isn't at all! There are special programs for Intermediate and Newcomer (I/N) along with your own welcoming registration and special events just for I/N players. Go to the ACBL NABC website: Select Play → Newcomers as follows



Newcomers

Are you new to playing bridge? Do you usually play socially but want to try duplicate? Come to the area of the NABC that's just for newer players! You'll find:

- Free two-hour lessons: **Friday, March 20** (French), **Saturday & Sunday, March 21 & 22** (English)
- Stratified games for your level
- Low-key play
- A place to make new friends

Intermediate/Newcomer Schedule

The I/N schedule lists all the game sessions for **players under 300 masterpoints**. There are many opportunities to compete against players at every level, from 0-5 Pairs all the way to 299er games. Plus **daily celebrity speakers**, **free two-hour lessons** and **half-day seminars**.

[View/Print](#) the I/N Schedule in PDF format

Find the link for the I/N Schedule:

<https://web2.acbl.org/nabc/ColumbusIN.pdf>

Notice there are **free lectures and lessons**, and plenty of limited game for your complete enjoyment.

Welcome to the North American Bridge Championships

Intermediate/Newcomer (I/N) Games Daily

Thursday, March 19

1 p.m.: Stratified* 0-299
7:30 p.m.: Stratified* 0-299

Friday, March 20

10 a.m.: 0-99, 0-299
3 p.m.: 0-99, 0-299
7:30 p.m.: 0-299

0-5 play free in I/N room all day Friday
All events stratified*

Saturday, March 21 - Saturday, March 28

10 a.m.: 0-99, 0-299
3 p.m.: 0-99, 0-299
7:30 p.m.: 0-299

Sunday, March 29

10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Stratified* 0-99 and 0-299
Pairs and Teams

Celebrity Speakers

Friday, March 20 - Saturday, March 28

Daily at 9:15 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.
Saturdays only at 9:15 a.m.

Two-Hour Lessons

Saturday, Mar. 21 & Sunday, Mar. 22
10 a.m. to noon followed by free 14-board game

Learn Bridge in A Day?®

Saturday, Mar. 21 - \$20 when you pre-register
acbl.org/lbiadreg

Doubles in A Day

Sunday, Mar. 22 - \$20 when you pre-register
acbl.org/lbiadreg

el.

Want to know more about the kinds of games played at the NABCs? AJ Stephani and Bob Fisk plan to review the different events at a free lecture **“What's That Event?”**

Bridge Games Explained” on Friday March 6, 2020 at about 10:15 AM at the CBC. Don't miss it!

Check out this welcome pamphlet from the ACBL for the first-time attendee.

https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn.acbl.org/documentLibrary/welcome_nabc.pdf



The American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) welcomes all players who are attending a North American Bridge Championships (NABC) for the first time.

This booklet is your personal guide to the events and activities available to you at the NABC. It also provides helpful information to assist

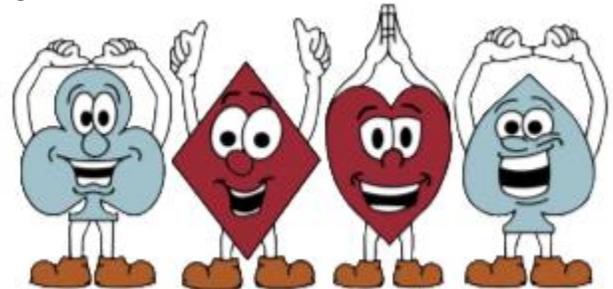
you now that you are an official NABC tournament player!

Three times a year, the ACBL offers these NABC tournaments as the ultimate bridge experience. From world-class players and events to guest lecturers and hospitality, the NABCs offer bridge at its finest for all levels of players. For new players and players new to duplicate, the NABC offers the outstanding Intermediate/Newcomer (I/N) Program, with competitive sessions for all levels of play, up to 299 masterpoints.

Each NABC has its own personality. The flavor and adventure of each of these tournaments are the result of the special hospitality touches added by the local bridge community. Great food, registration gifts, giveaways, sightseeing adventures and special events are just a few of the exciting things that await you. Take advantage of as many as you can — they are a part of the overall NABC experience!

Enjoy the excitement of the NABCs and get ready to come back again and again!

Above all else – Do Attend. Have the best time of your bridge life!



(“Hang on Sloopy” playing raucously in the background!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQ8wKPnms0A>

Wait for it – Wait for it – Wait for it...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECCOiqc3SyE>

BREAKING NEWS - SAVE THE DATE!

Adam Parrish – Bridge Professional, Teacher and Author will offer a bridge seminar at the Cincinnati Bridge Center for Advancing Players 1:00 PM Sunday March 15. The topics are TBD (But Competitive Bidding and Declarer Play are the two he intends to choose from). Watch the Unit Website for more details coming shortly.



A PRETTY SERIOUS GAME

By Dean Congbalay

dcongbalay@comey.com

Bridge is a pretty serious game. We're all concentrating and trying to do our best. But every once in a while, we just have to laugh!



Toward the end of a recent game at the Cincinnati Bridge Center, my LHO opened 1S in the third seat, and after my partner du jour Steve Felson passed, my RHO bid 2C, which was not alerted. The contract was set at 4S. Steve placed his lead upside-down on the table, and I turned to the declarer.

"Do you play Drury?" I asked.

"Oh, I forgot!" she said, sighing.

It was almost 2 p.m. We were ready to head home.

"Do we play Drury?" I asked Steve rhetorically.

"Only from 2 to 3," he said.

"Actually, only from 10 to 12!" I said.

At a large club (81 tables!) where I have played in Florida, the door to the men's room opened out to the busy room, just a couple feet from the tables and certainly in the path of players scurrying about, coffee cups in hand.

On the back of the door was a warning: Please open slowly.

So, someone scrawled in blue ink: O-N-E C-L-U-U-U-U-B.

I was having a nice game with Steve in Cincinnati when we went down one in a spade contract.

"Nice double," I complimented the opponent on my right.

"Thank you!" she said, smiling. "Mel's Rule of Nine."

"You know, I play with Mel in Florida," I said. "He loves pretzels!"

The doubler's partner was impressed — but surely not by the culinary choice.

"Wow!" she said. "He has kind of a different last name. How do you pronounce it?"

"Weisel!" I said.

My buddy Carl Willig and I were in Gatlinburg years ago when Carl was just a few points away from becoming a Life Master. Every day at breakfast, I'd tell him, "Hey, pal, today's the day!"

Things weren't going well at the Regional, though...

After each bad game, I'd look at him and shrug at our sorry results.

"Well, just remember, there's no I in BRDG," I'd say.

Carl would look at me and laugh.

"No, but there's a U in SUCK!"
fun time.

OPENING LEADS

By Potter Orr



A couple of years ago at our Cincinnati Regional I heard one of the super A players proclaiming to his buddies that he could write a book to help players improve their opening leads with only a single page. After a bit of good-natured scoffing his friends challenged him to disclose the contents of that one page. His answer was "Always bid one more than the opponents".

His answer is not far off the mark and confirms the fact that choosing an opening lead is one of the toughest parts of bridge. Even the best players have been known to get

it wrong. The good news is that for most of us simply not making a bad lead will improve our results.

Our Alert editor would probably not give me the space to cover everything there is about opening leads and I don't know enough to do that anyway. That said, there are 3 concepts that are fairly easy to explain.

1. Recognize a really good lead when you have one available.
2. Don't make any gifts to the declarer.
3. Make a lead that your partner will understand.

Really good leads

- The **top card of an honor sequence** qualifies as a good opening lead. Against a no-trump contract we need a three-card honor sequence although we can have a gap at the bottom of the sequence. For example, K Q 10 is a three-card sequence with a gap at the bottom. Against a suit contract the top of a two-card honor sequence qualifies as a good lead. What makes this a good lead? It is a way to attack a suit and build tricks for your side with very little risk and partner will have no trouble understanding what we were doing and why we led it. Leading the ace from A K is a favorite among the honor sequence leads. On most hands you will win the first trick and get to see the dummy before you have to lead to the second trick. In addition, your partner will choose his or her card very carefully to communicate with you. In most cases this communication will be attitude. That means they will indicate to you whether they can help with the suit you just lead.
- **Partner's suit.** There's an old ditty in the bridge world that says "Leading partners suit might not always be right, but it is never wrong". While that may seem silly, you figure to win the post-hand discussion with your partner about whether that was a good lead. My standard response would be "Well if you didn't want me to lead it, why did you bid". Beyond that, leading partners suit is also a good way to attack the suit with minimal risk.

Other leads

- Now we have to make a lead without one of those really good options. There are things to consider but the list is not that long and common sense applies.
 - Make sure you read the portion of this article about not making gifts to declarer when selecting a lead.

- Since you are on opening lead, the opponents have made at least one bid and usually more. Think about what you learned from their bidding.
 - Leading a suit that was bid by the declarer is usually a bad idea. The person with strength in that suit will get to play the fourth card on trick one and you have a substantial chance of finessing your partner.
 - Leading an unbid suit is often a good idea, especially a major suit if it makes any sense to lead. Because of the scoring bidding systems are designed to search for major suit fits.
 - If you have no choice but to lead a suit the opponents of bid, lead the one bid by dummy. You have a much better chance with this suit since you should be finessing the dummy rather than your partner.
 - If declarer has shown a very strong hand (2c or 2 NT or a jump shift) leading away from an honor will usually be a gift to declarer. This applies to no-trump leads too. When declarer has opened to no-trump in the final contract is three no-trump and you hold A Q J 2 in a suit, leading the 2 because it is your fourth best will almost always be a disaster. The 2 NT bidder probably has the king of that suit and you're going to let him have it when he would otherwise have no chance of taking a trick with that card.
- Once you've decided upon the suit to lead, picking the right card is important in terms of telling partner what you have in mind. BOSTON is an acronym worth remembering. It stands for bottom of something top of nothing. When I see my partner lead a low card in a suit that I have not bid, I expect them to hold an honor and I will cheerfully play third hand high to promote that honor. On the other hand, if I see partner lead an 8, 9 or 10 I will expect that this is top of nothing and that they do not hold an honor in the suit. This is important too since I will now not be obliged to play thirdhand high unless it makes sense to me. There's no reason for me to sacrifice an honor to promote a nonexistent one in partners hand.
 - The next question is whether you should from an honor.
 - Against a no-trump contract a standard lead (assuming you do not have a three-card honor sequence) is to lead the fourth card down in your best suit. This lead will be a small card away from an honor and occasionally even away from an ace.

While there is certainly a risk involved in making a gift to declarer, it is often the only way to defeat a no-trump contract.

- Against a suit contract leading away from an honor (never the ace) is still a reasonable attacking lead but you need to understand that it is also a risk.
- Short suit leads are usually limited to defending suit contracts. The idea is that you hope to use one of your small trumps to win a trick. For this approach to work, several things need to happen. You have to have the suit played enough that you become void and have your partner on lead before the declarer has drawn trumps.
 - Leading a singleton has a reasonable chance of success. All partner has to do is recognize it as a singleton, and get on lead before drop is drawn.
 - Leading the top of the worthless doubleton (leading the top card of an honor doubleton is likely to give away tricks more often than win them) because it needs a lot more things to happen in just the right sequence for you to get your rough.

Leads to avoid (gifts)

- Leading an ace in a suit that partner has not bid and where you do not hold the king will almost always make the declarer very happy. Consider these two things:
 - When you lead that ace everyone else at the table will play the smallest card they have.
 - After you win that trick, someone's king will be good. There are two opponents and only one partner so all else being equal there is a 66% chance that you will have promoted a king for the opposition.
 - Unless you are pretty sure you have a second trick in your hand, the prohibition of leading and unsupported ace applies when the opponents are in a slam. Did you really think that they bid a slam off an ace king in a suit? If they have bid a slam, the odds are much higher than 66% that one of them has the king you just made good.
- Leading away from an ace against the suit contract on the opening lead is a catastrophically bad idea (it is OK against no-trump although still risky).
 - There's always a chance that you will never get your ace. If one of the opponents has the king and that suit and the other opponent has a singleton...
 - Your partner knows that no one ever leads away from an ace against a suit contract. They will play

the rest of the hand in the sure and certain knowledge that you do not have the ace.

- Careful readers will notice by now that I suggested leading an ace without the king in the suit was a bad idea and I am now suggesting that leading away from that ace is an even worse idea. The take-away has to be - lead some other suit.
- Leading the top of an honor doubleton (Kx, Qx, Jx) is another lead that will probably bring a smile to declarer's lips. As mentioned before an awful lot of things have to go just perfectly for you to get any advantage of leading your doubleton. Leading that honor is a giveaway and you still need that unlikely sequence of events to get a rough.

If you have regular partners, these concepts are ones that you should discuss with them. Even if you have different feelings about some of the ideas, being on the same page as your partner on the meaning of opening leads is tremendously important.

EPISODE 28: YOU ARE GETTING SLEEPY...VERY SLEEPY

By Steve Felson



Look to it, lords! Let not his smoothing words Bewitch your hearts. -- Henry VI Part II, Act I, sc. 1

Did he win the hearts of all that he did angle for? -- Henry IV Part I, Act IV, sc. 3

Pluck their hearts from them. -- Henry V, Act IV, sc. 1

While my hearts are young and eager and gay I'll throw my hearts away. -- From the song and the movie "I'll Take Romance" (1938; lyrics [more or less] by Oscar Hammerstein II, music by Ben Oakland)

One minor irritation at the bridge table is the opponent who stares at you when it's your turn to bid. This is especially disconcerting when the starrer looks like this fella Bob and I ran into at a sectional on Camilio, one of the moons of Sarris.



Since the Lizard Wars ended some time ago these mouth-breathers have made peace with their former enemies on Gekkota and Iguania and turned to the bridge wars. I do not believe they stare because they can't control those

peepers. No, they are still animals; reined in by a tough peace treaty, they act out their aggression at the bridge table.

Now Bob and I are not the sort who comment on such conduct. For example, we could stare back and say, "Hey, you lookin' at me?" or make a "Lizard of Oz" joke. From this we refrain. However, once in a while we get some sweet revenge.

The hand below demonstrates an important principle embedded in Bob's fervent desire to declare: "fast-ever, slow-never."

NS Vul East Deals	NORTH [yours truly]: ♠874 ♥T952 ♦Q ♣AQ864	
WEST [Chamaeleo Calyptratus]: ♠J92 ♥QJ4 ♦6 ♣KJ10752		EAST [Chamaeleo Calyptratus]: ♠AKQ10653 ♥86 ♦83 ♣93
	SOUTH [The Hon. Robert S Brown, Master Mesmerizer]: ♠--- ♥AK73 ♦AKJ1097542 ♣---	

Holding the South cards with an opening bid of four spades on his right, there was only one possibility – an immediate six-diamonds.

E	S	W	N
4♠	6♦	6♠	7♦
All Pass			

West remains calm and green and bids six spades. With my diamond honor and ace of clubs I would never forgive myself if Bob actually

has his bid and I deprive him of a grand slam. Thus, to seven diamonds and a lead of the ♠2.

It is apparent that if these fidgety eyeballers discard a couple of hearts, that would be good; otherwise, it looks bad. How would Bob – not given to praying – convince them he is going after clubs and not hearts?

But this is not my business. In my customary mode as dummy I sit back and ask myself why these two creatures

have the same name, one which looks much more like scientific nomenclature than something Mama Lizard gave them when they hatched. Well, when you get this far from Earth it is *Terra Incognita*, or *Lizardo Incognito*, as the case may be.

I soon realize that something unusual is afoot. First of all, Bob is still thinking; could he really be planning his play for so long? Then he moves his chair back and checks that both opponents have at least one eye on him.

It suddenly occurs to me that Bob and I once took a course on animal hypnosis, back when we thought we might have to do some clandestine work deep in rural China. That project fell through for reasons I will save for another episode. But here is the last known photo of our Russian instructor before his sad accident:

And sure enough:
 Bob (in a monotone):
 "You are getting sleepy
 ... very sleepy."
 Me: "Wha'?"

He puts his finger to his lips, then makes some swishy hand movements. The lizards' mouths drop open and their eye sockets begin to rotate.

Bob: "You will hold your CLUBS please ... hold them ... very ... very tight. In fact ... never ... ever ... let them go."

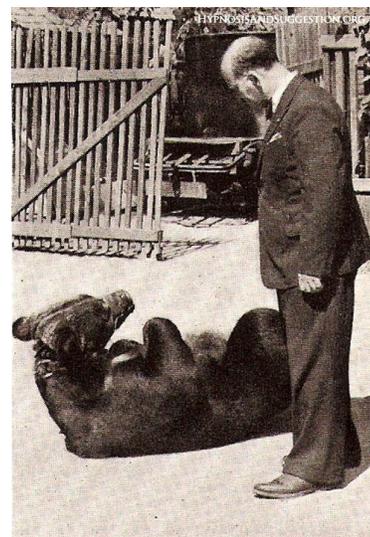


Fig. 83. Hypnosis of a bear in the Moscow Zoo. A firm look and one or two hand movements and the bear rolls over on to its back.

He snaps his fingers. Our opponents look around hazily while Bob calls for a spade from dummy. He ruffs the first trick in hand and plays nine diamonds from the top, discarding hearts from dummy. Sure enough, both East and West keep their clubs firmly in their tiny green claws and shed their hearts. By Mesmer (Dr. Franz Friedrich Anton Mesmer, the father of hypnosis, 1734-1815), Bob has executed the first-ever double-animal-hypnosis coup. Our 2140 was only tied for a top score, as a good number of our North-South competitors bid and made seven diamonds. But they considered themselves lucky when their opponents discarded hearts. As Bob put it afterwards, "In these situations you don't want to leave anything to chance."

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The Theory of Total Tricks: Part
III – Counting Losers



By Steve Bloom April 4, 2013
 (Reprinted with the author's permission)

In the second installment, I investigated completely pure hands, hands where both sides have all the honors in their two longest suits, and calculated the expected number of defensive winners that will cash. The results appeared in Table 2, reprised below:

Table 2: Expected Defensive Winners for Completely Pure Hands

SF	Length of Longest (Solid) Suit	Length of Next Longest (Solid) Suit	Defensive Winners
14	7	7	4.36
14	8	6	4.18
15	8	7	3.82
15	9	6	3.85
16	8	8	3.28
16	9	7	3.49
16	10	6	3.32
17	9	8	2.95
17	10	7	2.96
17	11	6	3.06
18	9	9	2.62
18	10	8	2.62
18	11	7	2.70
19	10	9	2.09
19	11	8	2.16

I ended that piece by looking at the clusters where the defensive tricks were similar. These appeared, like 9-8, 10-7, and 11-6 where the total number of cards in the long suits were the same. That number is called the *second fit* number, or SF. When SF is 17, both sides will cash, on average, three tricks on defense, and so there will be 20 total tricks available:

- *SF = 17, Total Tricks around 20.*

This suggests a simplistic formula for completely pure hands,

- *Total Tricks = SF + 3*

a formula that holds fairly well as a first approximation. Of course, such a formula can't hold universally, or, when the pranksters at the club stack a hand where everyone has a

13-card suit, there would be 29 total tricks. In fact, for completely pure hands, when SF is either 25 or 26, there are 26 tricks available (as a nice exercise, try showing that the set of all hands with SF=25 averages 25.846 total tricks). We expect some tailing off as SF grows, and, looking at Table 2, when SF is 18, we expect around 20.7 winners, and when SF is 19, around 21.8 winners.

For less pure hands, SF + 2 works as a good starting formula, and Colchamiro and I showed that this formula (with some adjustments) predicts total tricks quite well, substantially better than total trumps. These results are in the December 2011 Bridge World, for those interested.

All this raises one obvious question. I am absolutely convinced that the Second Fit number, and not the totality of trumps, determines the number of tricks available, on average. So, Bloom, how come, statistically, total trumps and total tricks line up so well?

The answer is quite simple: Let's suppose, as I believe, that total tricks align with the SF number. Let's take an arbitrary hand and modify the distribution to raise the SF total by one, and so, on average, increase the trick total by one. We can make such a change in one of four ways –

- 1) Move a card from our shortest combined suit to our longest.
- 2) Move a card from our second shortest suit to our longest.
- 3) Move a card from our shortest suit to our second longest.
- 4) Move a card from our second shortest suit to our second longest.

These four moves change the total trumps, respectively, by 2 trumps, 1 trump, 1 trump, and 0 trumps^[1]. Notice that these trump changes *average out* to an increase of one trump. So, we have two causalities in play:

- *Increasing Second Fit causes a corresponding increase, on average, in total tricks.*
- *Increasing Second Fit causes a corresponding increase, on average, in total trumps.*

These two increases move along together in complete lock-step. Yet there is nothing, whatsoever, about total trumps that directly impacts total tricks. The great statistical correlation between trumps and tricks is a direct result of the influence of the second fit number. The Law is anything but! The apparent connection between total trumps and total tricks is, in fact, just one big coincidence.

[1] This simplistic arithmetic only applies when there is really a longest and shortest suit. Things are more complicated when we have two fits of the same length. Here, for example, is the correct analysis when both sides have two eight card fits. SF is 16, so SF+2 gives 18 tricks, but both sides adjust down by half a trick for having only an eight card trump fit. So, SF predicts 17 total tricks. Now move a card from either short suit to either long suit. That change gives both sides a nine and an eight-card fit, SF = 17, with no adjustments. So total tricks rise to 19, a two-trick improvement. That shift also increases total trumps from 16 to 18, another two-trick change, with the usual correlation.

Part IV of The Theory of Total Tricks Next Issue

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SiVY: A Story of Youth Bridge Success – Part 1



By **Debbie Rosenberg** Nov 28, 20193
(Reprinted with the author's permission)

Bridge players often thank me for my work with youth bridge, and while I'm grateful, it feels wrong that I get so much credit, while others who have done at least as much get little or no recognition. Please help me change that this Thanksgiving. Many folks have made vast contributions to SiVY (Silicon Valley Youth Bridge). While I probably won't succeed at mentioning them all, I'd like to try.

In Part 2, I plan to discuss how SiVY got started, give an overview of each of the programs that SiVY offers, provide some data, and share my personal thoughts on the highs and lows. Not everything has been a success, and I will try to offer some of the advice that people have sought in considering starting their own youth programs.

First and foremost, however, allow me to feature a few of the fantastic folks who have done as much or more for SiVY as I have. Most of them are currently doing more.

Please thank these people when you see them! I expect that they will all be at the San Francisco NABC.

WILL WATSON Tournament Director

Meet Will Watson, TD extraordinaire. Will is one of the most selfless people I've ever met, and the bridge world is incredibly lucky that bridge is the passion to which he devotes his time and ample skills.

Will has volunteered at virtually every SiVY event where a tournament director is needed! He also pre-duped many,

many boards. If I suggest to Will that we plan a special event, in addition to the regularly scheduled pizza parties and Casual Fridays (e.g. a parent-child game, or training session for the local juniors competing in the upcoming trials), his answer is invariably, "I would like to do that."



WILL WATSON Tournament Director

An expert player, Will plays some professionally and could surely make his living doing that exclusively. Yet he is loyal and dedicated to the local bridge community, making time to run games regularly, as well as to train and assist other directors. When away at tournament, he works feverishly to prepare in advance, then spends much of his non-playing time working by phone.

If he happens to have a free day, Will can be found partnering a SiVY junior in a local sectional. He is a fabulous mentor. While directing, on occasion I've seen Will lose patience with an adult player (for good reason!), yet I've never seen it with a junior. Will Watson is my hero.



CHERYL MANDALA

CHERYL MANDALA Events Registrar, High School Coach, and more

Cheryl Mandala joined SiVY toward the end of 2013, volunteering to use her exceptional organizational skills to maintain a database and manage the process of inviting kids to pizza parties and other events. Many hours are spent behind the scenes helping these events run smoothly. Six years later, Cheryl still does all that, and so much more. She works not only behind the scenes, but in person at the events. Youth players and their parents are greeted by Cheryl's warm and friendly welcome. She prints personalized nametags for each guest, and makes sure their information is up to date. She diligently records emergency contact info, and ensures that parents feel their children are in a welcoming and safe environment.

In addition, Cheryl coaches the Monta Vista HS Bridge Club, and has done so since she and Kevin founded the club back in 2014! Kevin graduated, and now all the players from that original club have done so, yet Cheryl keeps it going with new players each year. The club is now in its 6th year, and in my experience most volunteers

would have needed a break, yet Cheryl keeps going strong.

On top of the weekly meetings, Cheryl has held practice sessions at her home. She has also mentored individually in tournaments: both players from her high school club and other serious students of the game.

SiVY Board of Directors October 2017



Left to Right: Stephanie Youngquist, Randy Ryals, Debbie Rosenberg, Alan Templeton, Cheryl Haines, Michael Bodell, Margot Livenspargar, and Sue Griswold. Not in this photo: Mukund Thapa and Frank Smoot.



RANDY RYALS
President

RANDY RYALS President

Randy joined the SiVY BoD in 2013, when a secretary was badly needed. He continued as secretary until June 2017, when he became President!

While competently filling the necessary role of secretary, Randy was also a head teacher in one of

SiVY's first after-school programs, volunteered at pizza parties, and then took on the daunting role of Summer Camp Coordinator in 2014. He has continued with summer camp every year, taught in many, many after-school programs, runs Casual Fridays most weeks, and has been at almost every pizza party. Even before he was President, Randy was involved with every aspect of making SiVY a success. It is truly dazzling how much Randy does for youth bridge, while still finding time to play this game we all love at tournaments.

Never seeming to tire, it is fitting that Randy's standard greeting is "Good morning", always with a smile, whatever time of day you meet. When you run into him one evening at nationals, why not greet him with "Good Morning and Good Job!"



SUE GRISWOLD
Vice President

SUE GRISWOLD Vice President

Sue is a founding board member who took on the role of event coordinator from the beginning, and incredibly hasn't quit. Organizing a pizza party for kids every month for over 6 years? I'm exhausted typing that.

As Vice President, Sue has done just about anything and everything for SiVY. On top of that, she has been a head teacher in an after-school program most years. Along the way, she found the time to become a Life Master herself, having played bridge socially in high school and college, then returning to the game after a long hiatus for her career. After her return to bridge, and before SiVY, Sue served as treasurer and president of Unit 503. Thank you, Sue; no way we could have done this without you!



CHERYL HAINES
Marketing Director

CHERYL HAINES Marketing Director

What does Cheryl do? A better question might be, "What doesn't she do?" While she signed on as Marketing Director in 2013, so as to make use of her professional skills, Cheryl has started and maintained many SiVY programs. She has taught in schools, organized summer camp, ordered our T-shirts, ensured that our volunteers are

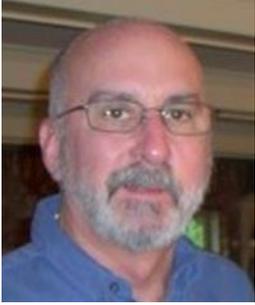
recognized each year, published a newsletter three times a year, raised funds, and helped at pizza parties. In my mind, Cheryl is the glue that keeps SiVY together.

Cheryl is the embodiment of the phrase "if you want something done, ask a busy person." As if all she does for SiVY weren't enough, Cheryl volunteered to chair the I/N program for the upcoming San Francisco NABC. In the midst of preparing for that, she managed to publish [the latest SiVY newsletter](#) just last week. Cheryl is amazing, and should be easy to find in the I/N area at the SF nationals, when she is not playing.

ALAN TEMPLETON Webmaster

Alan is a SiVY founder, and I doubt we would have ever gotten a youth bridge program off the ground without him. His enthusiastic support for the idea, combined with his knowledge and skills, was key to my believing that what we wanted to accomplish was possible. Alan has

served as a volunteer in multiple capacities for many years both for Unit 503 and SiVY.



ALAN TEMPLETON
Webmaster

In addition to being an awesome webmaster, Alan has regularly been a pizza party volunteer, photographer, mentor, and summer camp helper. He has also been a classroom helper, contract negotiator, and more. You name it, you need it done, and Alan is there.



MUKUND THAPA
Treasurer

MUKUND THAPA Treasurer
Mukund and I had a meeting in the winter of 2013, to discuss our shared love of the game of bridge, the wonderful experience of having a bridge-playing teenager who also loved the game, and to brainstorm over how we could bring this joy to other families. This got it all started. We shared a vision, and were both ready to work to make it a reality.

From the beginning, Mukund agreed to use his skills to act as treasurer (a thankless job nobody else was willing to do), and has carried on in that role until this day, despite a busy work/travel schedule. When in town, Mukund helps at pizza parties and other special events, often contributing his excellent photography skills.



MICHAEL BODELL Secretary

MICHAEL BODELL Secretary
Michael Bodell joined the SiVY board in 2013, adding a younger voice to the program, and always a voice of reason. His original title was project manager, and in 2017, he took on the thankless job of Board Secretary, a role he continues to perform reliably. Michael is

a regular Bridge Winners contributor, and it will not be surprising to readers that he is our data guy. Part 2 will include some of the stats he has compiled. Michael has also contributed to SiVY in many other ways, including school operations committee, head teacher, event helper, high school championship committee, and managing the YNABC sponsorship program. He is an active tournament player, regularly competing in NABC+ events, so he shouldn't be difficult to thank in person for all he does!



STEPHANIE YOUNGQUIST
Stephanie joined the SiVY BoD in 2016, and injected much needed new energy! She is a hard-working and accomplished volunteer, and has become our go-to person for all that needs doing. From helping at pizza parties, acting as partnership desk for special events, running SiVY's volunteer reception, coordinating the Bay Area high school championship, managing YNABC, and so much more, Stephanie does it all, and does it well. Not only that, she is co-chairing the I/N program at the SF NABC, so please find her there to say thank you.

STEPHANIE YOUNGQUIST



MARGOT LIVENSPARGAR

MARGOT LIVENSPARGAR
Margot is a SiVY Founding Volunteer, and has been a consistent, dedicated force. She has been a head classroom teacher **every year** since SiVY started. This is no small accomplishment - most volunteers have felt that one year in that role is their limit. Margot is also a regular pizza party table helper, often taking on the difficult task of introducing bridge from scratch to a table of beginners. In addition, Margot has helped frequently at summer camp, and has served in various organizational capacities. She joined the BoD in 2016.



FRANK SMOOT

FRANK SMOOT
Frank is a founding SiVY volunteer, having emceed the very first pizza party in May of 2013. His superb teaching skills, sense of humor, and personality have been a boon to the program. A much-loved bridge teacher for adults as well, Frank has taught at SiVY summer camp, mentored as well as emceed at many pizza parties, organized YNABC training, and more. He joined the SiVY BoD in June of 2017.

Youth Volunteers:

Our original vision for the program included having kids we taught in middle school return as volunteers after they

graduated. I envisioned high school students biking back to their middle school at the end of the day, volunteering as a classroom helper or possibly even co-teacher. This was a hypothetical solution to volunteer burnout. 😊

While that vision proved unrealistic, there are a number of "SiVY kids" who have indeed gone on to volunteer, spreading their love of the game to other young people. I'd like to mention a few of them, with apologies to anyone I leave out.

SiVY Founding Youth Volunteers:

Isha Thapa and Kevin Rosenberg, respectively the inspiration for Mukund and me to get all of this started, were both enthusiastic participants, playing key roles the program's success.

Isha Thapa



Isha coaches a group of beginners at the first ever SiVY Summer Camp in 2014

When SiVY got underway, Isha was finishing high school in Palo Alto and heading off to UC Berkeley. Yet somehow, she managed to be around for many of the early SiVY events. Over the years she has helped at pizza parties, coached at summer camp, and mentored younger players. Having her as a teacher and role model was a major asset to the program. Parent-child bridge couldn't get a better advertisement than watching how much Isha and Mukund enjoy playing as partners.

At UC Berkeley, Isha introduced hundreds of students to bridge through a program called [Democratic Education at Cal](#). She taught the bridge DeCal almost every semester that she was there, as well as being president of the Cal bridge club. As mentioned, when back home, she frequently helped out at SiVY events, also managing to bring a few college students from time to time. More than once, Isha captained a Cal collegiate team to great success, all while diligently working toward competing internationally through the USBF junior training program.

Kevin Rosenberg



Kevin coaching Michael Hu at 2014 SiVY Bridge Camp

When SiVY got underway in 2013, Kevin was finishing up his sophomore year of high school, and had recently become an avid tournament bridge player. He was a huge fan of bringing more kids into the game, and played a major role as a volunteer in the first few years, including attending virtually every pizza party or other special event, coaching at summer camp, and starting a club at his high school senior year. He then coached a team from that club to victory in the first Bay Area High School Championship. There were cash prizes, and Kevin was eligible to participate as a player, but he felt it would be better for the program if he did not, and allowed the other schools to compete on a more level playing field.

From my point of view, having Kevin as a co-founder, co-planner, and a sounding board was invaluable. When he went away for college, I greatly missed having him with me for SiVY events and planning. He continued to contribute to the program as a volunteer, frequently playing online with SiVY kids, and live in local games when home. At UC Berkeley, Kevin took over teaching the bridge DeCal when Isha left, and also introduced the game to hundreds of students that way.

"SiVY Kids" who became volunteers

Sarah Youngquist

Sarah learned bridge in her freshman year of high school, a couple of years after SiVY came into existence. Her grandparents had wanted to teach her for a while, but she wasn't really interested until she discovered friends her age were playing.



Sarah coaching at a pizza party lesson in 2019

It was quickly apparent that Sarah had great talent and passion for the game. She has become a star, and a sought-after partner for local experts. Sarah represented the US for the first time at the U21 World Youth Team Championship in 2018. A year later, while still eligible for U21, she was on the gold-medal-winning U26 team in Croatia, at the 2019 World Transnational Youth Teams. Sarah has also become an active SiVY volunteer. She has been a head teacher at SiVY summer camp for two summers, and recently initiated optional lessons before pizza parties. Along with her mom, she co-chaired the 2019 HS Championship (after winning it three consecutive years for Palo Alto HS), and volunteers in multiple capacities, including mentoring campers who are interested in getting more serious about the game.

Michael Hu and Arthur Zhou

Michael Hu

At age 10, having recently completed a beginner bridge class with his parents, Michael attended the very first SiVY Pizza Party in May of 2013. He also attended the first Parent-Child Duplicate and first Summer Camp. To top off the firsts, Michael was the first SiVY kid to become an ACBL Life Master (we don't count Isha and Kevin, who were LMs before SiVY started), which he achieved in 2018, at age 15.

Michael has had a long list of achievements as a player, with successes in local tournaments, plus wins in YNABC Swiss (2017) and YNABC Pairs (2019). I still remember my excitement when he and Arthur Zhou scored 70% at a local sectional Open Pairs almost three years ago. Michael and Arthur were on the winning Flight C GNT team in 2017, having been added after the District phase by the 4-handed team that won D21. Most of Michael's successes have been in partnership with Arthur, so see below for more!

Michael is an active SiVY volunteer. In addition to having helped at more than one camp, he and Arthur have been co-teaching a bridge class for an organization called Silicon Valley Youth (unconnected to SiVY!) Michael has also taught friends less formally, and he and Arthur are in the process of starting a bridge club at Lynbrook HS, where Michael is now a junior.

I know Michael would want this blurb to include a mention of his mom, Qing Lu, who has volunteered for SiVY in many capacities. She is perhaps best known for the delicious snacks she provides daily at summer camp each year. Yet, I think of her above all as a master recruiter, and I want to mention this to illustrate how much one person

can do to Keep Bridge Alive. On a tour bus with ten families from the same soccer team, Qing enticed eight of them to sign their kids up for summer camp. Arthur Zhou's family was on that bus, and that was the beginning of the story below.

Arthur Zhou

I love talking about Arthur. In 2014, at that first SiVY summer camp, Arthur was part of the group of rank beginners which Elianna Meyerson and I co-taught. His talent and interest stood out immediately, and being a first-hand witness to his growth since then has been a blast. Arthur's dad had played some bridge in college in China, but had not played at all in the US before Arthur learned. After that, they became a regular partnership, playing first in SiVY Parent-Child games, and then



YNABC Pairs 1st Place 2019, Michael left/ Arthur right

tournaments. Since Arthur formed his partnership with Michael, his dad doesn't play as much, yet I still feel that SiVY brought him back to the game, and into the ACBL for the first time. Seeing both father and son enjoying the game has been most rewarding.

After Arthur had been playing about a year, Kevin and I suggested that he and Michael form a partnership. They have been enormously successful. In addition to successes mentioned under Michael's name above, they have represented the US twice in the U16 competition at World Championships, and brought home the bronze medal in 2018. This past summer at the NABC, Arthur needed special permission to enter the 3-day LM Pairs, because he had just gone over the point requirements, and they hadn't all been recorded yet. Michael and Arthur proved they belonged by qualifying for Day 3 and scoring above average that day. Later in the week they placed in the overalls of the Wernher Pairs as well, before their victory in the YNABC pairs.

Arthur has volunteered at summer camp, and last semester, when Michael wasn't available to co-teach their class at Silicon Valley Youth (the organization unconnected to SiVY), Arthur did it alone!

Jonathan Yue



Jonathan Yue

Jonathan joined SiVY early in 2016, having recently moved to the US from China where he had been playing bridge for about four years already. Though his parents don't play at all, they are tremendously supportive, which allows Jonathan to be an active participant in both local events and major tournaments.

Jonathan was a member of the U16 team that won the bronze medal at the World Youth Team Championships in 2018, and in 2019 he was on the team which placed 2nd nationally in-Flight C GNT.

By coincidence, Jonathan, who was in 7th grade at the time he moved to the US, landed at Bret Harte, a middle school in San Jose which already had an after-school bridge club. Jonathan became heavily involved in keeping that bridge club going for the remainder of his time in middle school, trying to get the kids to actually learn some bridge beyond throwing cards! He then founded a new bridge club when he got to Leland HS, and works hard to make it a great one. Check out the photo below.



Leland HS Bridge Club Fall 2019

The following SiVY kids have served as table helpers at one or more Bridge Summer Camp(s)

Note: Some have done much more volunteering and/or had great success at the tournament level. Apologies for the lack of specifics.

- Aman Desai
- Claire Bellew
- Cornelius Duffie
- David Zheng
- Kai Eckert

- Kevin Huang
- Lucy Huang
- Michael Xu
- Michael Zheng
- Rory Xiao
- Stella Wan
- Victoria Stukalova
- William Park

Finally, a shout out to SiVY Kids **Matthew Shi** and **Brent Xiao**, who this semester have been co-teaching a bridge class of about 15 students at Carnegie Mellon University, where Matthew is a junior and Brent is a sophomore.

So many more volunteers

SiVY has been blessed with numerous volunteers, in many capacities, mostly big or bigger! There are the brave souls who have managed major programs, such as Summer Camp, YNABC, HS Championship, School Outreach, Mentoring, and Program Operations. An enormous role which some have taken on is Head Teacher in a school. There are classroom helpers, mentors, summer camp volunteers, pizza party volunteers, and HS Championship helpers. We've had professionals volunteer their services in the areas of graphic art and design, fundraising, reporting, Spanish translation, and catering! Many on the below list have filled multiple roles.

These volunteers have done a huge amount for youth bridge and deserve more than a mere mention of their name on a list. You'll surely see some of their names again in Part 2 of this article, in the context of program details. For now, since I really would like to thank all involved, below is a long list of *most* everyone else who has volunteered for SiVY. My sincere apologies for any errors or omissions.

In addition to the list below, which includes several parents of kids in the program, I want to thank all of the parents who have graciously helped out without ever being designated "official" volunteers.

<i>Adam Kaplan</i>	<i>Fred Schwerer</i>	<i>Lynn Johannesen</i>
<i>Adele Kellman</i>	<i>Fred Chasalow</i>	<i>Lynn Shannon</i>
<i>Agnes Lee</i>	<i>Gary Lipe</i>	<i>Manuela Mariani</i>
<i>Anam Tebha</i>	<i>Gary MacGregor</i>	<i>Marcy Tivol</i>
<i>Anant Rathi</i>	<i>Gary Porter</i>	<i>Margie</i>
<i>Ankur Rathi</i>	<i>Geeske Joel</i>	<i>Greenwald</i>
<i>Antony Lee</i>	<i>Gigi Spinazze</i>	<i>Mark Pensler</i>
<i>Arif Janjua</i>	<i>Ginny Strock</i>	<i>Mary Steele</i>
<i>Barbara Shukov</i>	<i>Heather</i>	<i>Maryann Hinden</i>
<i>Barbara Hariton</i>	<i>MacGregor</i>	<i>Max Schireson</i>
<i>Beatrice Carrot</i>	<i>Hedi Fejerne</i>	<i>Metin Gokcen</i>
<i>Becca Wernis</i>	<i>Helen Chang</i>	<i>Mich Rivera</i>
<i>Betty DePaola</i>	<i>Howard Liu</i>	<i>Michael Andrews</i>

<i>Bill Bailey</i>	<i>Ivy Chueh</i>	<i>Michael Rosenberg</i>
<i>Bo Xiao</i>	<i>Jana Cushman</i>	<i>Michele</i>
<i>Bob Horowitz</i>	<i>Janelle</i>	<i>Madansky</i>
<i>C. J. Jameson</i>	<i>Van Rensselaer</i>	<i>Min Bai</i>
<i>Carol Schwerer</i>	<i>Janice Nakao</i>	<i>Nan Caldwell</i>
<i>Carolyn Chaney</i>	<i>Jayne Lipe</i>	<i>Nancy Kehl</i>
<i>Cathy Lipe</i>	<i>Jeanie Kwong</i>	<i>Nate Munger</i>
<i>Charlie Conrad</i>	<i>Jeffrey Pugh</i>	<i>Ove Jonsson</i>
<i>Chris Bunz</i>	<i>Jennifer Sheppard</i>	<i>Pam Stoner</i>
<i>Chris Chung</i>	<i>Jim O'Neil</i>	<i>Peggy Sprague</i>
<i>Claire Coleman</i>	<i>JoAnna Stansby</i>	<i>Polly Siegel</i>
<i>Corinne Carter</i>	<i>Joanne Wicker</i>	<i>Qing Lu</i>
<i>Dale Johannesen</i>	<i>Joanne Robertson</i>	<i>Rajeev Gupta</i>
<i>Dan Thatte</i>	<i>Jody Williams</i>	<i>Rajeeva Sharma</i>
<i>Dave Bernstein</i>	<i>John Hoffman</i>	<i>Rick Jasper</i>
<i>David Puryear</i>	<i>Joni Smith</i>	<i>Rita Rubinfeld</i>
<i>David Aston</i>	<i>Josephine</i>	<i>Robin Li</i>
<i>David Platshon</i>	<i>Ventura</i>	<i>Ron Karr</i>
<i>Debbie Lundahl</i>	<i>Judy Fisher</i>	<i>Ryan Wessels</i>
<i>Donna Raynor</i>	<i>Jun Shi</i>	<i>Sandra Erickson</i>
<i>Doug Hong</i>	<i>Karen Rice</i>	<i>Sandy Koo</i>
<i>Doug Burke</i>	<i>Kathie Shaw</i>	<i>Sheila Martin</i>
<i>Doug</i>	<i>Kathy Harper</i>	<i>Shirley Foreman</i>
<i>Schmickwrath</i>	<i>Kathy Jasper</i>	<i>Sioux Atkinson*</i>
<i>Ed Zuckerberg</i>	<i>Kathy</i>	<i>Sona Bhambhra</i>
<i>Ed Barlow</i>	<i>Papermaster</i>	<i>Sriram</i>
<i>Edmund Wu</i>	<i>Kathy Puryear</i>	<i>Narasimhan</i>
<i>Elianna</i>	<i>Ken Rosenfeld</i>	<i>Steve Weinstein</i>
<i>Meyerson</i>	<i>Kent Taylor</i>	<i>Sue Johnston</i>
<i>Elinor Tanck*</i>	<i>Kevin Schoenfeld</i>	<i>Susan Wachsman</i>
<i>Elisabeth</i>	<i>Laurie Walters</i>	<i>Ted Sanders</i>
<i>Aulworm</i>	<i>Leah Khayter</i>	<i>Theron Tock</i>
<i>Ellie Bernhardt</i>	<i>Leila Sink</i>	<i>Tim Capes</i>
<i>Emily Kelly</i>	<i>Li-Chung Chen</i>	<i>Valerie Baldwin</i>
<i>Eugene Hung</i>	<i>Linda Nemmer</i>	<i>Vinita Gupta</i>
<i>Euo Menezes</i>	<i>Linzhi Hu</i>	<i>Yanling Wang</i>
<i>Floyd</i>	<i>Lori Spaeth</i>	<i>Ying Liu</i>
<i>McWilliams</i>	<i>Lynn Bartz</i>	
<i>Franklin</i>	<i>Lynn Giusti</i>	
<i>Gonzalez</i>		

*=deceased.

Supporters

There have been many contributions, both local and from around the country (and world!) which have been instrumental to SiVY's success. In addition to major monetary donations, we have received free and deeply discounted books, among other support. I'd like to name some of these supporting individuals and organizations, again with apologies to all those I am leaving out.

- Silicon Valley bridge community
- Palo Alto Bridge Unit 503
- Bridge Winners
- [Bridge Winners community](#)
- Rosenthal family foundation
- Stukalow family

- American Contract Bridge League
- Larry Cohen
- Marty Bergen
- Bridge World Magazine
- Baron Barclay
- Master Point Press

In advance of the SF Nationals, I'd also like to give a special



Figure 2 Lauren Friedman Center for Bridge Education of San Francisco Founder

mention and thanks to Lauren Friedman and The Center for Bridge Education of San Francisco (CBE), who made getting started so much easier for us by taking us on as a "DBA" (doing business as), giving SiVY 501C3 status with minimal effort. Lauren has been a

quiet force behind the scenes of youth bridge for far longer than SiVY has existed. She is an active competitor, so when you see her at the nationals, please thank her for all she has done for youth bridge. CBE and Peninsula Youth Bridge (PYB) are both neighboring youth programs, which will have kids participating at this national. Along with District 21, the three local youth organizations are co-hosting Junior Day on November 30th.

Coming after the NABC: Part 2 with the history of SiVY and lots of program details. In the meantime, please join me in recognizing the people behind the program. Thank you all. [Part II follows in the APRIL 2020 ALERT- Ed.]

<http://siliconvalleyyouthbridge.org/>

From Debbie Rosenberg's Bridgewinner's Profile:

About Me: It's hard for me to believe, but I've been a professional bridge player and teacher for over 30 years. Along with Michael Rosenberg, our then 14-year-old son Kevin, and my mom, Judy Zuckerberg, in 2011 I moved from NY to the Bay Area of California. While I've always enjoyed seeing young people learn bridge, in 2013 youth bridge became my passion. That year I became a mentor and organizer in the USBF Junior training program, and co-founded a youth bridge organization in the Bay Area, Silicon Valley Youth Bridge.

Favorite Bridge Memory: Kevin at 9 playing duplicate with his great-grandmother, my Grandma Leah. Any memory of discussing or playing bridge with Rev Murthy

BBO Username debrose

ACBL Ranking Grand Life Master

“The youth gets together his materials to build a bridge to the moon, or, perchance, a palace or temple on the earth, and, at length, the middle-aged man concludes to build a woodshed with them.”

— Henry David Thoreau

TOOLS FOR THE IMPROVING PLAYER

How Suits Split

Knowing how to best play a suit combination can save many tricks. Here are some tools to help.

Suit Play is a free software that is easy to use:

<http://home.planet.nl/~narcis45/suitplay/>

Don't want software? Try these web options:

Richard Pavlicek has many stat tools on his site:

<http://www.rpbridge.net/>

The good: You will see how all the cards work and can vary your strategies to maximize tricks. The downside is this takes a lot of work and there is no protection against errors in thinking.

A web browser tool requiring no download:

<http://bridge.esmarkkappel.dk/>

(my personal favorite – easy to use and very easy to understand. No risk of error in understanding the results).

<https://elckhrt.github.io/free-finesse/suit-combos/a.html?>

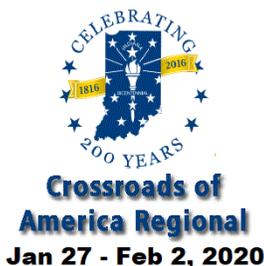
Analyzing hands shown on the web. Ever play a hand and want to go over it with partner? Check out the Chrome Browser Bridge Solver Extension at

<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/bridge-solver/kokhaneonlmnbgbnlohmbkgeahbjanbj?hl=en>

SAVE THE DATES

January 27 – Feb 2

Indianapolis Cross Roads of America Regional



February is Education Fund Month at Participating Clubs. An extra \$1 goes toward the ACBL Education Foundation



ACBL Educational Foundation

March 15, 2020

Adam Parrish Seminar
Details Pending



March 19-29, 2020

Columbus 2020
ACBL SPRING NABC
North American Bridge Championships



April 6-12, 2020

District 11 Spring STaC



April 18-19, 2020

D11 Grand National Teams Finals – Dayton Ohio



April 20-26, 2020

Gatlinburg Regional



An **URGENT MESSAGE** from Microsoft Word – Please find Robert S Brown of “Ruminations” fame and bring him back immediately – The Editor is abusing the footnotes!!

Come play at the NABC!

March 19-29, 2020



Welcome to the North American Bridge Championships

Intermediate/Newcomer (I/N) Games Daily

Thursday, March 19

1 p.m.: Stratified* 0-299

7:30 p.m.: Stratified* 0-299

Friday, March 20

10 a.m.: 0-99, 0-299

3 p.m.: 0-99, 0-299

7:30 p.m.: 0-299

0-5 play free in I/N room all day Friday

All events stratified*

Saturday, March 21 - Saturday, March 28

10 a.m.: 0-99, 0-299

3 p.m.: 0-99, 0-299

7:30 p.m.: 0-299

Sunday, March 29

10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Stratified* 0-99 and 0-299

Pairs and Teams

Celebrity Speakers

Free

Friday, March 20 - Saturday, March 28

Daily at 9:15 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.

Saturdays only at 9:15 a.m.

Two-Hour Lessons

Free

Saturday, Mar. 21 & Sunday, Mar. 22

10 a.m. to noon followed by free

14-board game

Learn Bridge in A Day?[®]

Saturday, Mar. 21 - \$20 when you pre-register
acbl.org/lbiadreg

Doubles in A Day

Sunday, Mar. 22 - \$20 when you pre-register
acbl.org/lbiadreg



American Contract
Bridge League

Find out more!
acbl.org/nabc

All events are played at the
Greater Columbus
Convention Center

Win masterpoints when you score higher than other players at your point level.



District 11 Final

Saturday April 18, 11 a.m. & TBA

Two-Session Qualifying Swiss

Sunday April 19, 10 a.m. & TBA

Knockout Final

Miami Valley Bridge Center

4559 Marshall Road, Kettering OH 45429

937-439-1969

Championship Flight: Open

Flight A: <6000 MPs

Flight B: <2500 MPs

Flight C: NLM, <500 MPs

As of ACBL's September 2019 MP cycle

**Motel: Holiday Inn Express
5655 Wilmington Pike
937-424-5757**

**District 11 NAP/GNT
Coordinator: Ryan Schultz
schultzrr@gmail.com**