



# A Publication of Unit 116, Buffalo, New York

# President's Message

My term of President ends with this Newsletter. I look back at the last two years with much gratitude for the work that the Board of Directors has done. We increased the number of unit games and had greater attendance at the Sectionals and Unit The President's Race Contest was rein-Games. stated and well received. The result was a significant increase in our treasury. Because of this increase, we were able to subsidize the cost of the annual meeting. My thanks to all the Board members who made my job very enjoyable.

On a personal note, my father, Harold Harrison Levy, passed away on October 15<sup>th</sup> at the age of 92. Although not a bridge player, he played gin, pinochle and participated in a regular poker game until his hospitalization six months ago. At an early age, he taught me many card games and my love of cards. I owe to him. Thanks DAD!

# Jay Levy Your President

The Bridge Buff editors wish to congratulate the following to a 3-year term on the Unit Board: Fran Kurtz, John Marvin and Sue Neubecker and Stan Zionts to a one year term. Pat Rasmus was named ACBL "Volunteer of the Year".

#### UNIT 116 - Presidential Masterpoints Race

#### 0 to 100 MP's

12.78 Franklin Kidd 1

II

2 12.29 Peter Patterson 10.97 Florence Boyd 3

#### 100 to 300 MP's

- 17.27 George Donsky 1
- 2 17.08 Carol Bedell
- 3 15.78 Betty Metz

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

- 300 to 1000 MP's
- 16.75 Richard Czarnecki 1
- 2 14.25 Dale Anderson
- 3 14.20 Chongmin Zhang

#### 1000 to 2500 MP's

- 34.85 Judith Padgug 1
- **Dian Petrov** 2 28.76
- 3 25.84 Kathy Pollock

#### 2500 + MP's

- 63.41 **Jim Mathis** 1
- 48.29 Randolph Seidenberg, Jr. 2
- John Kilmer 3 43.98

Your 2009 Unit 116 Board Members

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#### Important! Please Read

# Editor's Note

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

**Judie Bailey** asks that anyone with an e-mail address contact her at <u>j.anneb@verizon.net</u> and they will receive the Buff by electronic delivery.

The Buff is also available on the Unit 116 website courtesy of **Dick Rasmus**. It can be read or downloaded from that facility.

Thanks for your attention.

# Bernie and Dick Czarnecki, Editors



The editor interviewed a soft-spoken talented bridge player. Her name is **Joanne Kelley:** 

# Bridge:

- Joanne started taking bridge lessons from Rhoda Jacobs in 1980. After two lessons she showed up at the local duplicate game.
- **Jim Gullo** convinced Joanne to try bridge in the big city of Buffalo. She felt intimated at first but met many wonderful people and was ready to improve her game.
- Paul Thurston was another helpful teacher, combining knowledge, patience and a superb sense of humor.
- Joanne is amazed at Brian Meyer's ability to analyze bridge hands. She loves to hear him think out loud. One of her favorite bridge memories was playing in a Buffalo Regional Swiss with Jim Gullo, Donna Steffan and Judy Graf. Joanne didn't have many points and she never once went to look at the board to see how they were doing. Jim asked if she wanted to know and she indicated "No". To her great surprise, they won the event and 19 gold points.
- Since her husband travels in his profession, she was able to play bridge in Hungary and in Namibia.

• Joanne feels that Unit 116 is loaded with talented players and it would be great to have some of the stars lead a discussion after one of the Unit activities about the hands and the best way to play.

# Personally:

- Joanne is married to Ted Schwalbe for 30 years; they have two (2) daughters Kate and Laura.
- Ted works as professor of communications and has enabled them to some unique travel opportunities.
- Joanne manages a small data base of sold properties in Northern Chautauqua County.
- She has been a Meal on Wheels volunteer for many years.
- She enjoys gardening, quilting, reading as well as playing bridge on Bridge Base.

The editor also interviewed a helpful and energetic bridge player. Her name is **Betty Metz.** Here is what she gave the editor:

### How I got started in bridge.

My dad was a life master in the early 60's and he took me to lessons and had the patience to play with me in duplicate games at the Barrett Club. I fell in love with the game at this time. During these few years, I finished college, worked full time, got married and then had children. Decision Time!! Do I play halfheartedly or do I guit cold turkey? As is true to my nature of doing things well or not doing them at all, I decided to put bridge on hold. That is an understatement as I didn't come back to this game until 2005 (sounds like a lapse of 40 years): This wonderful game has progressed, grown and changed dramatically over time but it has been able to retain its intrigue. So bridge has stolen my heart once again and now I have the freedom of time to enjoy every pleasure, frustration and challenge that comes to me.

My teachers, mentors, favorite partners and friends are all wrapped up in one incredible package – The Bridge Center of Buffalo. I am overwhelmed with the support and encouragement I have received and I send my thanks.

Last year I was elected to the Unit Board. I love the involvement in the greater bridge community of Western New York. Being involved in local bridge decisions has made me far more appreciative of the local bridge events. I encourage my bridge friends -give yourself the chance at this same opportunity by running for the Unit board. Like anything else you gain more than you give.

# Personally

I am blessed with a wonderful and very understanding husband. Doug and I are coming up on our 48<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. It has worked because we like to do things together and in addition we have our individual interests. Doug is "Mr. Fix It". I mean he can fix anything even if it isn't broken. We have two grown children. In their busy schedules, they are very competitive in their own way... Our daughter. Becky, has rowed crew since college when she was on the US Team. Her latest race was in October when she rowed in the Head of the Charles (Boston). Our son, Jon, is a triathlete. This summer he finished his first Iron Man Triathlon (2.3 mi. swim, 112 mi. bike and a marathon). The next generation continues with our two, curious, energetic, wonderful grandsons (Connor 11 yr. and Eli 9 yr.)

Before retiring, I owned and operated a local tour company. We worked with groups both outgoing (all over the world) and to incoming (conventions etc. to WNY). It was a challenging and rewarding time in my life. I had the opportunity to travel worldwide, usually with 25 to 50 people under my care. This makes for some very interesting stories about human nature. The travel bug has long since left me and been replaced by 52 cards that appear simple and straight forward but under certain circumstances become the most complex, challenging, frustrating and rewarding game imaginable.

#### **Congratulations**

### Congratulations-New Life Master Dave Larcom

# <u>New Bronze Life Master</u> Ken Meier Walter Olszewski

### Unit Game Celebration By Betty Metz

On Saturday evening, November 14, Unit 116 held a celebration/game in honor of **Joel Wooldridge. Jay Levy, Carolyn Siracuse, Dan Gerstman** and **Bert Hargesheimer** spoke about Joel's achievements on the National and International Bridge scene. Carolyn fondly remembered Joel's young years and his very beginning and growth in the game. Dan and Bert emphasized not only Joel's success but the wonderful manner in which he achieved his goals, always as a gentleman. Jay, as president, presented Joel with a gift from the Unit.

Wonderful food and drinks were available before, during and after the game.

Congratulations Joel and much success in the future!!

# HONORING JOEL WOOLDRIDGE By Carol Siracuse

Unit 116 honored **Joel Wooldridge**, winner of two national championships and 279 Master Points at the 2009 Washington Summer Nationals on Saturday night, November 14<sup>th</sup>.

There was great hospitality at the Bridge Center. The unit supplied hors d'eauvres and wine and various members supplied desserts. Carolyn Siracuse wove a story of memories of events in Joel's life into her speech which follows.

Joel, I was so excited when I heard the news that you won two national titles! Tonight we are all here to celebrate these well-deserved achievements.

When I received the news a flood of memories came to me and I'd like to share them with all of you.

I remember like it was yesterday, going to Jeanette McKenzie's games - your parents bringing you there as an infant with your baby blanket. You slept in Jeanette's little office while we were all in the next room playing bridge. I recall house parties while you were still a baby. You slept among all the coats on the bed and we all periodically checked on you.

I'm sure most of you remember a director we had, **Claire Chedrow** and her husband. On a hot summer night Val would take you to **Dick Rasmus'** game on Beach Road and buy you a big ice cream cone.

I remember when you were **11 years old** and Jeanette had an Easter Egg Hunt for you. You were so happy and excited when you found that Easter Egg! When you were a little older, your parents started teaching you bridge. After you learned the basics your parent's asked if I would like to be on a Swiss team with the 3 of you. At that time, **Dick Rasmus** ran a Swiss Team Game in Hamburg once a month and a bunch of us would meet and park our cars at Nickel City Cafe at Main & Kensington. Then we would car pool to Hamburg. Pow gave me a choice of who I would like to play with on the team. I said I would partner with whoever would be most beneficial for the whole team. Your parents played together and you and I played together.

We were now up to the last match, we had won each match we had played. Here we were, pitted against the formidable team of **John Toy.** I am proud to say we lost by very little – 1 board. At the end of the game, several people ran over to your parents and asked, "Which one of them did something wrong on the board?" Jill replied, "Neither of them, Pow and I had a bidding misunderstanding!"

When you were **16 years old** I asked you how school was going and you said, "Just great! I have a lot of friends now. I got my Driver's License last week and all the kids are calling me up and asking me for rides!"

When I heard the news that you became the youngest Life Master, the "King of Bridge" at such a young age, I was overjoyed. I would go to tournaments and say, "You know, Joel Wooldridge, the 'King of Bridge'? He belongs to us, Unit 116."

Thank you, Pow and Jill, for sharing Joel's growing-up years with us.

Congratulations, Joel, and enjoy every moment of this special time in your life!

# Sad Tidings

The Editor is sad to report that **Frank Long**, a retired OB-GYN player, passed away in October 2009. Even though he was not a Unit 116 member, he was witty, friendly and a very nice person

The Halloween Regional By **Dick Czarnecki** 

On November 3<sup>rd</sup> Buffalo News reporter **Jane Kwiatkowski** wrote a very informative article on Duplicate Bridge and the recent Grand Island Holiday Inn Regional.

For those who may have missed it, some highlights were:

**Jerry Fleming**, President of ACBL, was impressed and said "Bridge players in Buffalo are very warm and friendly, more so than other places. From hospitality perspective, the tournament in Grand Island was one of the finest I've been to. There was something for the players all the time, between sessions, after the session. I was very much impressed with that."

**Carol Bedell** of Williamsville has five years of experience, plays 12 hours a week at the Bridge Center of Buffalo. "It's not easy to be in competition. You get kicked in the butt sometimes and you have to be able to take it and not be hard on yourself. People can get nasty. You see the character of a person at the bridge table, if they are bad losers or gracious. In the winter when other people are stewing over the weather, us bridge players don't worry about the weather. We have a place to go. We have friends. Most of us are bright. It's a bridge family."

**John Toy** has been playing bridge since college "It's a marathon. I've been playing since my early 20's and it never gets boring. I've had friends flunk out of college because of bridge."

Other interesting facts about duplicate:

- 1. Buffalo's competitive bridge community numbers about 1500.
- 2. There are an estimated 2.5 million bridge players in the country.
- 3. The average age of an ACBL member is 68.5.
- 4. Warren Buffett and Bill Gates have committed \$1 million to a youth bridge initiative.
- 5. The ACBL covers the US, Canada, Mexico and Bermuda.
- 6. The ACBL's only Honorary Life Master is "Snoopy" was often drawn by **Charles Schulz** playing bridge in the comic strip.
- The youngest life master is 9-year old Richard Jeng of Johns Creek, Georgia. He started playing with his brother at the age of 6. Unit 116 has a 100-year old player Renzo

**Renzoni.** So Richard has an activity that he can enjoy for the next 91 years.

#### Please note the following changes:

Name	Address	Phone	Cell
Kidd	11 Logan Lane-	725-3980	
Frank	Lancaster 14086		
Pollock,	298 Wood Acres Dr –	688-0054	
Kathy	East Amherst-14051		
Rogers,		684-2158	
Pat			
Universal	3047 East Pleasant –		548-
Elaine	Eden 14047		0093

# The Quest for Gold By **Bernie Czarnecki**

The Quest led down a yellow brick road where some refused and others agreed to play with me at Grand Island Holiday Inn, made famous by a recent Swinger Convention. I told Dick "Let's mine the gold.

I was very lucky to line up four partners: **Tom Gibbons**, who was available one day, **Mercedes Reinbolt**, who I play with on a regular basis, **Bob Olin**. Who mentored me when I first starting playing Duplicate bridge and of course my husband, **Richard**, who helped me get started playing Duplicate Bridge

The first start in finding gold was with **Tom**, where we won a fraction of red. With Dick I played four sessions and we struck the mother lode on two sessions winning Section tops in "B" getting 2.66 MP in gold. In the other sessions with Mers and Bob, we met many interesting people from all over our country but we could not find the vein of gold. Mers was successful with **Jim Madan** and **Bob Lederhouse** in winning red points. **Dave Larcom was** successful at becoming a Life Master in this Regional. I found the hands very distributionally skewed and some could actually reach slam without a number of high card points. I also learned what a "Sandwich 1NT" is, do you?

While at the Holiday Inn, since I am a member of the Pool Club, I was able to swim during the 2-1/2 hour break between sessions. The water was refreshing and helped me to concentrate on the second session better. I really need that therapy because I played ten sessions of bridge starting on Tuesday playing through Saturday. I NEVER PLAY THIS MANY SESSIONS OF BRIDGE BEFORE

I met a lot of sociable people from Florida, Atlanta, Georgia, Rochester, Toronto, St. Catherine's and Petersburg. I also played against pairs that were there to win points and not to make friends; among them was an "Emerald Life Master who lectured his partner on what she was there for. Most of the out of towners commented that they enjoy playing in Buffalo for the price, the sociability, the hospitality, the caddies who were helpful and that the Directors were always available in the aisles.

I want to thank **Pat Rasmus** and **John Toy** for doing a superb job as Co-Chairs of this Regional.

I will be back next Halloween in my quest for the gold. Maybe I'll even get a team together and try for the Knock-Outs

*Editor's Note:* The Buff would love to publish your experiences at a Regional or National or even at a local club. Please e-mail them to bernieczar@aol.com

#### Bridge Club News



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

MENTORING ON Tues. & Thurs. @ BCB

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

#### Buffalo Regional Grand Island Oct. 20 - 26, 2009

Tuesday Morning Side Game – 6.5 tables

MP's	Α	В	C	Names
2.58	1	1	1	Louis Dilorenzo, Robert Davis
1.84	2			Robert Padgug, Eugene Harvey
1.71	3	2	2	Jim Brown, Gloria Brown
1.11	5	4	3	Joyce Meskill, Joseph Rooney

IMP's         A         B         C         Names         Thurs Afternoon Side - 10.5 tables           1297         1         Dennis Glazbrock, ON, Lane Bishop         1         1         Allen Bezza, Dorothy Boyd           127         4         1         Allendense, Harris         1         1         Allen Bezza, Dorothy Boyd           127         4         2         Robert McGowan, Robert Silverbarg         319         1         1         Allen Bezza, Dorothy Boyd           125         4         2         Robert McGowan, Robert Silverbarg         Names         1         Names         1	Tuesday Afternoon 299ers – 10.5 tables	
1 67       3       Joyce Meskii; Joseph Rooney         1 70       4       1       Robert Lederhouse; Elaine Moon         1 25       4       2       Robert McGowan, Robert Silverberg         0.94       5       3       June Feuerstein, Barbara Sackin         Tuesday K O Bracket 1 – 6 tables         MP's       Rank       Names         16.15       1       Jay Costello, Dona Steffan, Robert         16.15       1       Jay Costello, Dona Steffan, Robert         16.15       1       Water Olszewski, Eleanor Whean         Tuesday Open Pairs – 28 tables         MP's       A B       C         MP's       A B       C         1       Water Olszewski, Eleanor Whean       Names         1.84       1       Judith Padogug, Jay Sloofman         2.85       1       Peter Shul, Penny Shui         3.84       1       Joe Miranda, Usha Khurana         1.82       3       1       Joe Miranda, Usha Khurana         1.82       3       1       Joe Miranda, Usha Khurana         2.88       1       Joe Miranda, Usha Khurana         1.82       3       1       Joe Miranda, Usha Khurana         1.82 <td< th=""><th></th><th>Thurs Afternoon Side – 10.5 tables</th></td<>		Thurs Afternoon Side – 10.5 tables
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1.23       3       June Feuerstein, Barbara Sadkin         0.94       5       June Feuerstein, Barbara Sadkin         1.98       1/2       1/2       Stan Zionts, Terri Zionts         1.98       1/2       1/2       1/2       Stan Zionts, Terri Zionts         MP's       Rank       Names       Joe Miranda, Arthur Kean         MP's       Names       Bracketed KO II - B - 9 tables         MP's       A       C       Names         9.98       2       Saleh Fetouh, John Kilmer       Also       1         4.95       1       Watter Olszewski, Eleanor Whelan       MP's       Rank       Names         1.29       Saleh Fetouh, John Kilmer       John Kilmer, Elex Hables       MP's       Rank       Names         1.205       1       1       Judith Padgug, Jay Sloofman       Me's       A       B       C         1.82       3       1       John Kilmer, Iber Hargesheimer III       3.82       3       Catherine Majewski, Jogoe Kindt         MP's       A       B       C       Names       Names       Names       Names         2.88       1       Jae Miter Majewski, Stanley Kozlowski       Sale C       Names       Names       Names		Thurs Afternoon 299ers – 6 tables
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4.95       1       Water Olszewski, Eleanor Whelan         4.95       1       Water Olszewski, Eleanor Whelan         Tuesday Evening Side - 14 tables         MP's       A       B       C         3.64       1       1       Judith Padgug, Jay Sloofman         2.05       5       1       Peter Shul, Penny Shui         3.64       1       1       Peter Shul, Penny Shui         2.88       1       Water Majewski, Stanley Kozlowski       Catherine Majewski, Joyce Kindt         MP's       A       B       C       Names         1.82       6       3       2       Mike Silverman, Helen Panza         Wed Open Pairs - 27.5 tables       MP's       A       B       Names         MP's       A       C       Names       1.30       1       Steve Rashkin, Steve Stanley         1.30       1       Sale Fetouh, William Rushmore       7.48       3       Jay Levy, Jay Costello         2.50       3       Henry Chudy, Jr, Lane Bishop       Friday Morning Side Game - 9.5 tables         MP's       A       B       C       Names         3.64       1       Jan Assini, OH, Susan Stark, OH, Bernard Fudor, PA, Anita Torrence, OH, Thomas Donnelly       MP's		
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3.82       3 Catherine Majewski, Joyce Kindt         Wed Morning Side Game – 9 tables         MP's       A       B       C       Names         2.88       1       Joe Miranda, Usha Khurana       1.82       6       2       1       Steve Rashkin, Steve Stalley         1.82       6       3       2       Mike Silverman, Helen Panza       MP's       A       B       Names         1.82       6       2       1       Steve Rashkin, Steve Stalley       1.43       6       2       1       Steve Rashkin, Steve Stalley         13.30       1       Saleh Fetouh, William Rushmore       1.43       3       1       Mercedes Reinbolt, Robert Lederhouse         1.30       1       Saleh Fetouh, William Rushmore       1.43       3       1       Mercedes Reinbolt, Robert Lederhouse         1.30       2       Carl Hasselback, Jan Hasselback       1.49       2       Lance Pollock, William Rich         1.30       2       Carl Hasselback, Jan Hasselback       1.49       2       Lance Pollock, Willer         1.30       Jan Assini, OH, Susan Stark, OH,       Bernard Fudor, PA, Anita Torrence,       OH's A B C       Names         1.36       1       Jan Laceo Roley Mirage Alexes       S		
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1.82       6       3       2       Mike Silverman, Helen Panza         Friday Morning 299ers – 4 tables         MP's       A       C       Names         13.30       1       Saleh Fetouh, William Rushmore       1.49       2       Lance Pollock, William Rich         7.48       3       Jay Levy, Jay Costello       1.73       3       1       Mercedes Reinbolt, Robert Lederhouse         2.50       3       Henry Chudy, Jr, Lane Bishop       1.30       2       Carl Hasselback, Jan Hasselback         MP's       A       B       Names       1.30       2       Carl Hasselback, Jan Hasselback         3.64       Jan Assini, OH, Susan Stark, OH, Bernard Fudor, PA, Anita Torrence, OH, Thomas Donnelly       MP's       A       B       C       Names         2.73       4       1       Faith Perry, Jane Larcom, Ross Markello, Bruce Burr       MP's       A       B       C       Names         1.136       Jay Levy, Bernard Fudor, PA, Jay       Costello, Donna Steffan       MP's       A       B       C       Names         1.136       Jay Levy, Bernard Fudor, PA, Jay       Costello, Donna Steffan       MP's       A       B       C       Names         1.136       Jay Levy, Bernard Fudor, PA, Jay		
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Costello, Donna SteffanMP'sABCNamesThurs Morning 299ers – 5 tablesMP'sABCNames1.7321Marilyn Sultz, Ruth Wurster1.3533Doanne Jackson, Donna Lawton1.193Louis Dilorenzo, Robert Davis0.943June Feuerstein, Barbara Sadkin		Friday Aft 200ars - 6.5 tables
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1.19 3 Louis Dilorenzo, Robert Davis 0.94 3 June Feuerstein, Barbara Sadkin	MP's A B Names	Lederhouse
1.30 4 2 Joe Miranda, Joyce Greenspan		0.94 3 June Feuerstein, Barbara Sadkin
	1.30 4 2 Joe Miranda, Joyce Greenspan	

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		Fric	day E	Eve Side Game - 9 tables		
, -	-	_	С	Names	MP's	В
2.28	2	2	1	Manju Ceylony, Shakeel Ahmad	7.45	4
1.77	3	3	2	Peter Shui, Penny Shui		
		Fric	lav E	Evening Swiss – 11 tables	3.75	9/
MP's A	E			Names		
3.19 1		-	ane	Bishop, Marg Nash, OH, Liliane		
0.10			Thhe	berge. QC, Paulin Nault,QC	2.39	
	Sa	turo	lov I	Morn Side Game – 9.5 tables		
MP's	<u>A</u>	B	C	Names	1.79	
_		1	U			
3.03	1	I		Catherine Majewski, N		
4 00	_	_	~	Wolstoncroft		
1.82	5	5	2	David Whitt, Carl McMurty		
1.37	6		3	Lance Pollock, Charles Helmerl		
		atur	day	Morning 299ers – 6.5 tables		
MP's	Α	В	С	Names		
2.40	1	1	1	Linda Milch, Sharon Chang		_
1.50	3	2	2	Sushil Amiani, Jasbeer Makhija	Dlr: V	V
1.13	4	3	3	Jack Cukierman, Gaurang Sheth	Vul: N	I-S
				, 0		
		S	atur	day Aft Side = 13 tables	<b>≜</b> -AQ9	853
MP's	Α	B	C	Names	₹-62	000
3.03	4	1	1	Mike Silverman, Helen Panza		
2.27	6	2	· · ·	S. Luke Danielson, Nita Ferrell	♦-A3	
1.94	0	2	2		<b>♣</b> -J3	
			2	Frances Witnauer, Marie Zayan		
1.45		5	3	Bruce Bronstein, Florence Boyd		
		0	- (	law Afr 000 and 5 tables		
			aturo	day Aft 299ers – 5 tables		
MP's	A	B		Names		
2.12	1	1	Me	rcedes Reinbolt, James Madan		Τw
			-		Center	
			/Sat	KO Bracket 1 – 10 tables		
MP's	_	ank		Names	cards.	-
10.96	3/-	4		y Costello, Donna Steffan, Hans cobs, ON, Joseph Sauro, ON,	tables	bu
	start b	v ta				
			De	ebbie Bennett, ON	don't, i	
		Fri	i/Sat	t KO Bracket 2 – 9 tables	tricks.	
MP's	Ra			Names	variatio	ons
6.12	3/4		Jo	banne Kelley, Chongmin Zhang,	third he	ear
0	0, 1			ldith Padgug, Kathy Pollock	wants)	
				addin i dagag, radiny i onook	,	
	¢.	atur	dav	Eve Side Game – 9.5 tables	down.	3. F
MP's	 	B	uay C	Names		
			-			Inte
1.71	4	3	2	Peter Patterson, Linda	benefit	fro
				Burroughsford ON	exercis	
-						.00
			wiss	s – 24 tables/based on 62 tables		
MP's	Α	-		Names		
14.08	3			sty Kellogg, Alexander Kowal,		
		-	lha	t Hargesheimer III John Kilmer		

Elbert Hargesheimer III, John Kilmer

Flight B/C/D Swiss – 38 tables							
MP's	В	С	D	Names			
7.45	4	2	1	Lane Bishop, Guarang Sheth, George Donsky, Linda Burroughsford, ON			
3.75	9/10	4/5	2	Peter Patterson, ON, Dorothy Soong, Diane Lyons, Henry Chudy, Jr.			
2.39			3	Gary Schmidtt, Barbara Landree, Franklin Kidd, Betty Metz			
1.79			4	Joe Miranda, Stan Zionts, Terri Zionts, Marilyn Sultz			

#### Try This! By John Marvin **≜-**T **♥-KQT9** ♦-764 **♣**-T9872 32 Ν **≜**-Κ W E ♥-7543 S ♦-KJT95 ♣-AKQ **≜**-J764 ₹-AJ8 ♦-Q82 **♣**-654

Two of Eleven 299ers at the Bridge Center of Buffalo made 11 tricks with these EW cards. I don't know how the play went at those tables but I'm guessing good defenders would start by taking the first two heart tricks. If they don't, it seems to me that declarer can make 12 tricks. After the heart plays there are three variations all of which lead to a trump coup. 1. A third heart making declarer ruff (which is what he wants). 2. A trump, which doesn't even slow him down. 3. A club which is probably the trickiest.

Intermediate and beginning players would benefit from trying all of the variations. Such exercises are good for your bridge health.

		The Bridge "Gene-ie" By Eugene Harvey					
		¥Κ	3 7 5 10 6 10 8	5			
KQ				A 9			
Q 4 2 K 7 6			9 8 A J 9				
Q 10			A K 6 5 4 2				
~		10 6	10 6 4				
		AJ	73				
		42					
J 9 8 7							
	N	Е	S	W	]		
	Р	1♣	Р	2NT			
	Р	3NT	Pas	s out			

Bidding: With N-S silent, E-W should reach the 3NT game easily. East opens 1♣ initially. After the opening, West jumps to 2NT, invitational, with 11 to 12 pts., no 4-card major, and a balanced hand. East clearly has enough strength to accept the game invitation.

<u>Opening Lead</u>: North -  $\pm 5 - 4^{\text{th}}$  from longest; With the  $\forall$ K and  $\diamond$ Q as potential entries, it's best to lead your longest suit, not your strongest. <u>Declarer Play</u>: (West declarer) Assume you win the  $\Rightarrow$ A in dummy, then count your sure winners. Looks like a simple 3NT, right? We have 3 spade winners, 2 diamond winners, and 6 club winners. Well, it all depends on how you handle the  $\Rightarrow$  suit. Some players will automatically lead low to their  $\Rightarrow$ Q, and, if they do so, they will find the bad news – there is a bad split in clubs.

Let's take a moment to analyze how to handle this suit. First, when you hold 9 cards in a suit, the remaining 4 cards tend to be divided *unevenly* between the defenders. More often than not, the cards will split 3-1 instead of 2-2. Either distribution will work out for us, though. BUT! If the  $\clubsuit$ s split 4-0, you still have a chance to take all the  $\clubsuit$  tricks, but only if South is the player holding all the  $\clubsuit$ s. The most important thing to recognize is your  $\clubsuit$ Q-10-3; this is called a *tenace*. A tenace is when you hold a slightly broken sequence in a suit; this combination can afford you a finesse opportunity you might not have expected to take. In this case, you could use this combination to finesse South for the &J. You must play the A first to "test the waters" in the suit. We are attempting to **quard**, or protect, against a bad split. We are guarding against South having all 4 s. If he has all 4, next we should play low toward our remaining &Q-10 and finesse South for the known ♣J. Then we use dummy's ♦A as an entry and cash the remaining & winners, starting from the &K down. If North had all 4 clubs, there is no possibility to guard against the bad split. Why? Well, you have no finesse position. If you start with the AQ, which will win, and next play the \$10, all North has to do is *cover* the honor with his honor – the AJ – which will promote his  $\clubsuit9-8$  into a winner/stopper. We cannot guard against North having 4 clubs, but we can guard against South having all the clubs.

Recognizing the power of tenaces is VERY important in bridge as they could afford you finesse opportunities. Also, recognizing the strength and importance of good intermediates– 10s and 9s – might afford you with a finesse opportunity or a trick when you didn't think you had one.

Automatically playing the honor from the shorter side first is not always the best play. Sometimes you must do so, but if you have a tenace position, you should consider *guarding* against a bad suit break whenever feasible. Learning how to play a suit correctly takes time and experience, and I encourage you to stop and think about those "worst-case scenarios" to see if – and how – you can prevent them. It's all about developing your visualization of possible suit division, and sometimes the glass IS half empty...

(\*in a booming voice\* *'Genie HAPPY! Send more!'* Eugene @ <u>bridgegenie@gmail.com</u> )

# Happy Holidays from Unit 116 Board Members and the Bridge Buff Editors

