

NVBA Annual Meeting, Awards and Bridge May 6, 2010

This year's annual meeting, awards night and election of new members to the Board is being held May 6, 2010. We'll gather starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia. The evening will start with a dinner, which is free for NVBA members (\$7.00 for non-members). The Annual Meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. Following the Treasurer's report and a "State of the Unit" report by the President, all players who became Life Masters in 2009 will be recognized, and the NVBA President will present the Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs awards in each category, as well as the trophies for NVBA Man and Woman of the Year, the Rush Buckley award and the NVBA Rookie of the Year. We ask that recipients of awards be present by 6:30 PM in order to receive their awards before game time.

After the annual meeting ends, circa 7:00 p.m., the 13th annual Pat Eyman Strawberry Pairs will be held. There will be an Open game, a 0-199er game, and a separate 0-5 game, if enough players come who fall in that category. New Life Masters in 2009 and players with 0-5 MPs play for free. The offices of Vice President and Treasurer, and two Executive Director positions are up for election. Listed below you will find candidates listed for these positions. All interested candidates who have not yet declared

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Of Special Interest:

- Flt A GNT (1st weekend), Apr. 10-11
- GATLINBURG, TN REGIONAL, Apr. 12-18
- NVBA Sectional, Apr. 22-25
- Flt A GNT (2nd weekend), Apr 24-25
- NVBA Annual Meeting, May 6
- WBL Sectional, May 13-16
- NVBA LM/NLM game, May 20
- RALEIGH, NC REGIONAL, May 25-31
- D6 STaC week, June 14-20
- BETHESDA, MD REGIONAL, July 5-11

2009 Membership Survey

*By Bob Boyd
NVBA President*



The survey at the 2009 Holiday Party provided the Board useful perspectives on the Unit Game and is guiding some of our decisions. Below are some key survey responses and Board reactions:

FOOD. Food is highly regarded; 36 percent rated it “Great” and 55 percent “OK.” The rest (9 percent) do not eat the food. Despite appreciation for the food, it is not a major factor in attendance. Beyond charging for sodas, no major changes are planned.

ENTRY FEE. The entry fee is not a major issue. The NVBA charged \$8 per player for the Unit Game compared to the usual club entry fee of \$6. If NVBA were to raise the entry fee by \$1 (i.e., to \$9 per player), 89 percent would still attend at the same level. Local clubs went up to \$7 in February, and the Unit followed suit by increasing the fee to \$9 for regular Unit Games. There will be no change in fees for Sectionals, STACs, GNTs, and NAPs.

MENTORING. There was significant support among Non-Life Masters (NLMs) for a volunteer mentoring program; 39 percent would play more often if such a program were in place. We are designing a mentoring program and hope to initiate a one-year trial beginning in April. More to come on this.

LOCATION. The average Unit Game player lives 15 miles from Temple Beth El and has a drive slightly over 30 minutes each way. About one-quarter of all responses named specific locations for the Unit Game where they would be more likely to play; of those, nearly half named the Elks Lodge, site of NVBA Sectional tournaments. As long as the Unit Game is on Thursday night, the Elks Club is not an option, since Thursday is an Elks Bingo Night. No location change is contemplated right now; our lease with Temple Beth El runs through 2011.

SWISS TEAMS. If the Unit Game were to include more Swiss Teams, half of all players and NLMs would attend regardless, but one-third would attend less often and only 17 percent more often. Given this input, no increase in the number of team events is planned.

NEWSLETTER. Almost three-quarters of those surveyed always read the NVBA Newsletter, and only one in ten said they rarely or never read it. NLMs rely upon it more, with almost 90 percent always reading it and only 3 percent rarely or never. NLMs also depend more on the paper copy than players at large. Half of NLMs and one-third of all players are unwilling to forgo the paper copy, so we will continue to make it available in hard copy. To receive the newsletter electronically, send an email request to RonKral@gmail.com; if you are willing to read only the online version, let Ron know that and we will save postage.

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Upcoming NVBA Games & Special Events

Apr. 1 Beth El – 7:00 Stratified Grand National Swiss Teams

Apr. 8 Beth El – 7:00 District Six Fund Game

Apr. 15 Beth El – 7:00 Stratified Unit Championship

Apr. 22 Beth El – 7:00 NVBA Sectional – Stratiflighted Pairs

Apr. 29 Beth El – 7:00 Stratiflighted Unit Championship

May 6 Beth El – 7:00 Annual Meeting – Upgraded Club Championship

May 13 Beth El – 7:00 WBL Sectional – Stratiflighted Pairs

May 20 Beth El – 7:00 LM/NLM Pairs - Stratified Unit Championship

May 27 Beth El – 7:00 Stratified Unit Championship

Jun. 3 Beth El – 7:00 Stratiflighted North American Pairs

Jun. 10 Beth El – 7:00 Stratiflighted Unit Championship

Jun. 17 Beth El – 7:00 District 6 STaC Stratified Pairs

Jun. 24 Beth El – 7:00 Stratiflighted North American Pairs

Stratification Limits:

All NVBA Unit Games include a separate Stratified 199er game.

Players with 0-5 MPs play free every Thursday in all scheduled events.

Stratiflighted limits are A/X: Unlimited/3000 and B/C: 2000/750.

Stratified events are: Unlimited/2000/750; STaC: Unlimited/1500/500

For the North American Pairs qualifying games, the stratification is:

0-500 (NLM), 500-2000, 2000+

Upcoming Sectionals

NVBA

April 22-25, 2010

September 23-26, 2010

October 28-31, 2010

WBL

March 25-28, 2010

August 12-15, 2010

January 6-9, 2011

For information on Tournaments – Cancellations – Special Events – Club games

NVBA on the Internet: <http://www.nvba.org>

NVBA Bridge Information Line: 703-869-0852

NVBA Partnership Cell Phone: 703-869-0852.

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their candidacy must have a petition signed by 20 NVBA members submitted to the Nominating Committee chaired by Leo Cardillo (703-868-6868 or cardillo@bellatlantic.net), or to NVBA Secretary Jennifer Nisenoff (703-255-1674 or jnisenoff@mac.com), no later than April 23 in order to get their name on the ballot.

The Candidates for NVBA Officer and Executive Director positions for the NVBA 2010-2011 Board of Directors are:

Candidate for Vice President – Alan Breed
Candidate for Treasurer – Lynda Flanger
Candidate for Executive Director – Jim Dick
Candidate for Executive Director – Amanda Carter

2009 Membership Survey continued from page 2

The Board appreciates all the responses and comments that were provided. We sent the survey report to Board members and to anyone who responded and included an e-mail address. If you would like to see the full report, please request it by email to bobbyd72@aol.com.

**Help Wanted:
Guaranteed Partners**

*By Bob Boyd
NVBA President*

The survey at the Holiday Party showed just how valuable the unit Guaranteed Partner program is. More than one-third of all players and nearly half of the Non-Life Masters responding to the survey used it at least once in 2009. For those who used it, the average number of times was 3.7 for all and 4.5 for NLMs. Several players mentioned in the survey comments section that the GP program “is great.” The favorable reaction shows how important it is in keeping our attendance up.

Please consider joining the cadre of GPs. We need help, especially at Sectionals. We have four sectional tournaments each year, and even if you can volunteer only one or two times at a Sectional once or twice a year, it would help greatly.

Being a GP volunteer is not only rewarding because you are helping someone, it pays, too. Each GP who shows up and is not needed gets a free play for a future date. If a GP is paired with someone, he or she has a free entry that session and a free play for a future date.

We need GPs at all masterpoint levels. To volunteer, contact Mary Ann Kral (maryannkral@gmail.com) for Sectionals and Leo Cardillo (cardillo@bellatlantic.net) for the Unit Game.

Upcoming 199er Unit Games

Apr. 1 Beth El – 7:00 199er ACBL Charity Teams
Apr. 8 Beth El – 7:00 199er Club Championship Pairs
Apr. 15 Beth El – 7:00 199er Pairs game
Apr. 22 Beth El – 7:00 NVBA Sectional – 199er Pairs
Apr. 29 Beth El – 7:00 199er Pairs game
May 6 Beth El – 7:00 Annual Meeting – Upgraded Club Championship 199er Pairs
May 13 Beth El – 7:00 WBL Sectional – 199er Pairs
May 20 Beth El – 7:00 LM/NLM Pairs – Stratified Unit Championship
May 27 Beth El – 7:00 199er Pairs game
Jun. 3 Beth El – 7:00 199er Pairs game
Jun. 10 Beth El – 7:00 199er Pairs game
Jun. 17 Beth El – 7:00 District 6 STaC 199er Pairs
Jun. 24 Beth El – 7:00 199er Pairs game

Stratification Limits:

All NVBA Unit Games include a separate Stratified 199er game.
 Players with 0-5 MPs play free every Thursday in all scheduled events.
 For the D6 StaC, the stratification is: 0-500/500-1500/1500+

Upcoming Sectionals

NVBA	WBL
April 22-25, 2010	March 25-28, 2010
September 23-26, 2010	August 12-15, 2010
October 28-31, 2010	January 6-9, 2011

For information on Tournaments – Cancellations – Special Events – Club games

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 NVBA Partnership Cell Phone: 703-869-0852.

The Jack of Hearts *By Marshall Kuschner*



It had been 15 years since the last San Diego NABC and much had changed. Instead of playing in a converted parking garage, we played in three huge, carpeted ballrooms with excellent lighting and climate control. Heck, we even had indoor plumbing. The tournament had moved from Mission Valley to the new Manchester Grand Hyatt towers adjoining Seaport Village. The last NABC was during the summer, and it was 78 degrees and clear every day. If that's what you expected, you might have been disappointed. This was fall and the weather was quite cool. Strangely enough, this NABC reminded me a little of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh? Well, yes.

Both feature hilly terrain and proximity to water and in both cases there were lots of good restaurants six to eight blocks from the playing site with almost nothing in between. Still, it was sunny and pleasant. Mexico was so close you could almost hear the mariachis blaring. You could almost taste the margaritas. Actually, we did taste the margaritas. In fact, the light rail to Tijuana stopped across the street from the Hyatt, so if you didn't care about getting back across the border, it was an easy visit. All in all, San Diego proved a popular venue, drawing a total of 12,927 tables.

Of course, being on the West Coast, few familiar faces were seen. A notable exception was one of our rising stars, Stephen Drodge, who won a national championship for the second straight Fall NABC. He paired with fellow NVBAer, Dan Emmons, now attending college in Los Angeles, to win the Non-LM Pairs. Though I scoured the results, the only other National overall I could find with a Northern Virginia flavor was Alan Schwartz and Ai-Tai Lo, who were 12th in the Open BAM. Regional wins went to Helene Bauman, Kevin O'Brien, and Robbie Hopkins in KOs, while Don and Margot Hennings won a regional Mixed Pairs. As for me, I went to San Diego with no games, and things went downhill from there. I found some.

This quarter's ration of humor comes from the nation's humor capital, New York. Yes, New York. At their Holiday Regional, several local pros volunteered to be guest lecturers. Of course, they were free to choose their subject matter, and, for most, the lecture title was indicative thereof. Not so for Jesus Arias who titled his lecture WWJD?*

On the final day of that same Regional, I got called to the table during the last match of the Swiss. An elderly lady was declaring a heart partial and had ruffed the opening club lead. At trick five, she played a club. Since she had won the revoke trick, I had to assess a two-trick penalty which made her down two, vulnerable. The poor thing looked so disheartened that I tried to make her feel better. "You know," I started, "your partner might have helped by asking 'no clubs, partner?'" She became even more downcast as she answered, "She did."

** If you didn't get it, WWJD stands for What Would Jesus Do?

Advertising on the NVBA Website and/or In the NVBA Newsletter

A small ad on the NVBA home page may be purchased by bridge teachers and club managers. Rate is \$10 per month payable quarterly or annually in advance to the NVBA Treasurer. The ad must be small and link to a bridge-related page. Each ad must be approved by the Secretary, Jennifer Nisenoff (jnisenoff@mac.com). Once she approves it, contact the Treasurer, Lynda Flanger (lflanger01@comcast.net), and arrange payment. Then send the ad to John Mason (jm36@cox.net) for posting on the website. Current NVBA web pages listing teachers and club games will

remain unchanged. The ad will have greater visibility by appearing on the Unit home page.

Advertising by any player is welcome in the NVBA Newsletter and does not have to be bridge-related. Ads will be run only when accompanied by payment to the NVBA Treasurer in full. The newsletter is published quarterly—in January, April, July and October. The rates are: \$100.00 for a full page, \$75.00 for a half page, and \$50.00 for a quarter of a page per issue. An ad appearing in four consecutive issues will be run for the price of three.

BRIDGE CLUB RESULTS POSTED ON THE INTERNET:

Director: Carole Grob – *Game:* Ballston Bridge Club – Monday, 10:00 AM;
URL: <http://www.mybridgeclub.com>

Director: Jim Dick – *Games:* Montebello DBC – Monday, 7:00 PM;
Beth El – Sunday, 1:00 PM;
URL: <http://bridge-results.com/results/5065/cal.html>

Director: Gene Schuyler – *Games:* Carlin Springs BC – Tuesday 7:00 PM;
Arlington DBC – Wednesday, 10:00 AM; Bridge at Lyon Park – Friday, 10:00 AM
URL: <http://www.bridge-results.com/results/5050/cal.html>

Director: Bernie Oetjen – *Games:* KOCH – Monday, 7:00 PM;
KOCH – Saturday, 1:00 PM
URL: <http://www.bridge-results.com/results/5011/cal.html>

Directors: Candy and Marshall Kushner – *Games:* KOCH – Tuesday, 10:00 AM;
Reston – Wednesday, 7:30 PM
URL: <http://www.bridge-results.com/results/5016/cal.html>

Director: Norma Pierzchala – *Games:* Thursday Morning Bridge Club – 10:00 AM;
KOCH – Saturday, 9:00 AM;
URL: <http://www.bridge-results.com/results/5021/cal.html>

Directors: John Mason & Jim Dick – *Game:* Site TBD – Friday, 10:00 AM;
See NBVBA and Fun Friday website for information
URL: <http://members.cox.net/jm36/bridge/FunFriday/funfridayjsmhome.htm>

Director: Terry Jones – *Game:* Falls Church Bridge Club –
URL: www.fallschurchbridgeclub.com

Parade of Winners

WBL SECTIONAL January 7–10, 2010

Thurs. Eve. A/X Pairs (84 Pairs)

- 1 1 Dhirendra Ghosh – Ron Kral
- 2 Annie Schwartz – Alan Schwartz

Thurs. Eve. B/C/D Pairs (46 Pairs)

- 1 1 1 Lynne Beresford – Eleanor Schwartz

Thurs. Eve. 0–NLM Pairs @WBL (22 Pairs)

- 1 1 1 Laura Sherman – Steven Spaeth

Thurs. Eve. 0–200 Pairs (22 Pairs)

- 1 Roy Robson – Albert Stolpe
- 2 Larry Taylor – David Meadows
- 1 1 James Connor – James Callender
- 2 John Holt – Joseph Drodge
- 2 Brigitte Friedman – Ronald Friedman

Fri. AM Open Pairs (28 Pairs)

- 2 Ann Lindley – Al Duncker
- 2 Mike Frosch – Francesco Parisi-Presicce
- 2 Douglas Fox – Larry Moran

Fri. AM 0–300 Pairs (18 Pairs)

- 1 Sara Hilgartner – Terence McCarthy
- 2 Terry Mitchell – William Pruiett

Fri. Aft. A/X Pairs (22 Pairs)

- 2 Robert Hopkins, Jr. – John Miller

Fri. Aft. B/C/D Pairs (29 Pairs)

- 1 Neal McKinney – Jay Cherlow
- 1 Terry Vann – Art Hartstein
- 2 Robert Wilbur – Charles Skillern

Sat. AM A/X Pairs (52 Pairs)

- 1 James Geist – Sven Pride
- 2/3 David Milton – Leo LaSota

Sat. AM B/C/D (50 Pairs)

- 2 2 2 Terry Vann – Art Hartstein

Sat. AM 0–300 Pairs (40 Pairs)

- 1 Terry Mitchell – Albert Dimillio
- 2 Bahman Shahin – Taraneh Shahin

Sat. AM 0–50 Pairs (18 Pairs)

- 2 1 James Connor – James Callender
- 2 Jayne Lynch – Tamara Vetter

Sat. Aft. A/X Pairs (44 Pairs)

- 1 David Milton – Leo LaSota
- 1 Terry Jones – Francesco Parisi-Presicce
- 2 Steve Reed – Kiyomi Shiba

Sat. Aft. B/C/D (50 Pairs)

- 2 1 Mike Frosch – Ellie Clark

Sat. Aft. 0–300 Pairs (34 Pairs)

- 1 Gayle Tomasetti – Rose Marie Sanders
- 2 Ken Kimball – Marsha Ann Brown

Sun. A/X Swiss (18 Teams)

- 2 John Miller – Rusty Krauss –
Robert Hopkins, Jr. – Joan Lewis –
Barry Falgout
- 2 Srinivas Kachibhatla –
Mark Gospodnetic – Govind Narayan –
John Montgomery

SUN ROUND ROBIN TEAMS

Bracket 1 (8 Teams)

- 1 John Glynn – Ron Susi – William Fitch –
Lynda Flanger

Bracket 2 (8 Teams)

- 1 Arun Guha – Ed Rodrigues –
Mohsen Esfandiary – Jose Porres
- 2 Alfred Liepold – James Metzger –
John Lowe, III – William Mendez, Jr.

Bracket 4 (8 Teams)

- 1 Barry Lieberman – Jon Ranhand –
Terry Vann – Art Hartstein
- 2 Joan White – Joe Hertz –
Alexander Robertson – David Loken

Bracket 5 (9 Teams)

- 1 Guillaume de Decker – Dale Sanders –
Bernadette Merceron – Rochelle Hilton
- 2/3 Gerald O'Dell – Alan Munro –
Bahman Shahin – Taraneh Shahin

Sun. Aft. NLM Swiss (5 Teams)

- 1 Sara Hilgartner – William Pruiett –
Terry Mitchell – Terence McCarthy

WILLIAMSBURG REGIONAL
January 18–24, 2010

Mon. Aft. Educ. Found Open Pairs (35 Pairs)

2 Robert Brady – Michael Murphy

Educ. Found Swiss (33 Teams)

2 Ken Davis – Herb Fallin, Jr. –
 Bruce Houston – La Quitta Talbot

Mon. Eve. Charity Open Pairs (46 Pairs)

1 1 Robert Brady – Michael Murphy

Kickoff KO Bkt. 1 (16 Teams)

2 Martha Lackey – Margie Purkerson –
 Victoria Selph – Rava Giguere

Kickoff KO Bkt. 3 (12 Teams)

2 Barry Lieberman – David Epstein –
 Martha Bley – Ross Bley

Tues. Open Pairs (34 Pairs)

1 Helene Cooper – Youssef Seraj

Tues. Aft. Side Game (28 Pairs)

1 Donna Stoker – J. Ken Boutwell

George Washington Tues.–Wed.

AM KO Bkt. 1 (12 Teams)

2 Ken Davis – Herb Fallin, Jr. –
 Bruce Houston – La Quitta Talbot

George Washington Tues.–Wed.

AM KO Bkt. 2 (16 Teams)

2 Kathryn Miller – Paul May –
 Tim Trissler – Judy Trissler

Tues.–Wed. Colonial KO Bkt. 1 (16 Teams)

2 Ken Davis – Herb Fallin, Jr. –
 Bruce Houston – La Quitta Talbot

Wed. Open Pairs (24 Pairs)

2 Vonnie Lavender – Robert Gookin

Wed. Eve. BAM (11 Teams)

2 Elaine Rowe – Lenore Ward –
 Yvonne Markell – Kathleen Goss
 1 1 Lorraine Tyler – Donald Lundry –
 David Fitzwilliam – James Biss

Martha Washington Wed.–Thurs.

KO Bkt. 1 (9 Teams)

2 Harry Gellis – Robert Pustilnik –
 John Kloke, II – Michael Murphy –
 Robert Brady

Martha Washington Wed.–Thurs.

KO Bkt. 2 (16 Teams)

2 Monica Shumann – Carolyn Becraft –
 Susan Slattery – Nancy Loomis

Martha Washington Wed.–Thurs.

KO Bkt. 3 (10 Teams)

1 Neal Cooper – Sara Hilgartner –
 Jean Schoepe – Jack Rakowski

Yorktown KO Bkt. 1 (9 Teams)

1 Ed Lewis – Ed Lewis, III –
 Al Duncker – Ann Lindley

Kingsmill Thurs.–Fri.

AM KO Bkt 1 (12 Teams)

1 Al Duncker – Ann Lindley –
 Tony Aukstikalnis – Ed Bissell

Prime Time Comp. KO Bkt. III (16 Teams)

1 Steve Reed – Stephen Drodge –
 Margie Purkerson – Martha Lackey

Prime Time Comp. KO Bkt. IV (16 Teams)

1 Ross Bley – Martha Bley –
 David Epstein – Barry Lieberman

Thurs. Open Pairs (28 Pairs)

2 Vonnie Lavender – Bob Boyd

Thurs. Aft. 0–300 Pairs (31 Pairs)

2 Phyllis Isler – Morton Isler

Thurs. Eve. Side Game (26 Pairs)

2 2 Susan Brawn – Ed Brawn

Thurs. Eve. 0–300 Pairs (22 Pairs)

2 Sara Hilgartner – Jack Rakowski

Queens Lk. Fri.–Sat. Comp KO Bkt. II (9 Teams)

1 Frank Hund – Omar Okaily –
 Ibrahim Mady – Daniel Rosenblatt
 2 Helene Cooper – Ed Brawn –
 Susan Brawn – Farideh Makhzani

Queens Lk. Fri.–Sat. Comp. KO

Bkt. III (16 Teams)

2 Neil Selvin – Howard Grunin –
 William Glen – Paul Setzer

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Parade of Winners – continued from page 9**Jamestown Fri. AM Side Game (24 Pairs)**

1 Ken Davis – Bruce Houston

Fri. Eve. BAM (20 Teams)

1 1 1 Calvin Konner – Taraneh Shahin –
Bahman Shahin – Richard Wedgewood
2 2 Steven Rothman – Ibrahim Mady –
Bate Hamilton – Omar Okaily
2 Neil Selvin – Howard Grunin –
Paul Setzer – William Glen

T.G.I.F. Special Gold Pt. (60 Pairs)

2 Edward Flaxington – Charlton Gnadt

Tidewater KO Bkt. 1 (12 Teams)1 Rusty Krauss – Barry Falgout –
Joan Lewis – Robert Hopkins, Jr.**Tidewater KO Bkt. 2 (13 Teams)**1 Tom Musso – Ellen Cherniavsky –
Kathy Paramore – Barbara Ames –
Ralph Hoffman**Tidewater KO Bkt. 3 (13 Teams)**1 Dennis Schwanz – Susan Miskura –
Roma Chandra – Robert Claypool**Tidewater KO Bkt. 4 (16 Teams)**1 Steve Reed – Stephen Drodge –
Margie Purkerson – Martha Lackey**Lafayette Sat. Aft. Side Game (29 Pairs)**

2 Virginia Gibbons – Timothy Smith

Sat. Aft. 0–300 Pairs (31 Pairs)2 1 Edward Flaxington – Charlton Gnadt
2 Judith Heit – Betsy Summer**Lafayette Sat. Eve. Side Game (22 Pairs)**

1 Ed Lewis – Ed Lewis, III

T.G.I.F. Special Gold Pt. (68 Pairs)

1 Ned Griffith – Albert Lauber

Sat.–Sun. KO Bkt. I (9 Teams)

1 David Rodney – Avril Rodney –
Don Hennings – Margot Hennings
2 Randy Joyce – Kay Joyce – Jeff Roman –
Fred King

Sat.–Sun. KO Bkt. 2 (9 Teams)2 Steven Rothman – Bate Hamilton –
William Fishback – Ibrahim Mady –
Omar Okaily**Sun. Open Pairs (18 Pairs)**2 Neal McKinney – Eugene Pelton
2 Donna Stoker – Edward Stoker**Sun. A/X Swiss (22 Teams)**1 1 Tom Musso – Katherine Paramore –
Ellen Cherniavsky – Barbara Ames –
Ralph Hoffman**Sun. B/C/D Swiss (44 Teams)**2 1 Calvin Konner – Richard Wedgewood –
Taraneh Shahin – Bahman Shahin**HILTON HEAD REGIONAL
February 8–14, 2010****Thurs. Open Pairs (84 Pairs)**

1 1 Susan Slattery – Carolyn Becraft

Fri. AM Side Game (40 Pairs)2 Kevin O'Brien – Lynda Flanger
2 Carolyn Becraft – Donald Brown**Dolphin Fri.–Sat. KO Bkt 3 (16 Teams)**2 Lucy McCoy – Betty Bursey –
Kevin O'Brien – Lynda Flanger**NVBA SECTIONAL
February 25–28, 2010****Thurs. Eve. A/X Pairs (71 Pairs)**

2 Bob Zier – Jim Witting

Thurs. Eve. B/C Pairs (56 Pairs)

1 1 Charles Allport – Sandra Allport

Thurs. 199er Pairs @ NVBA (20 Pairs)

1 Stephen Colevas – Richard Leonardon
2 Phyllis Dean – Simpson – John Eldridge
1 1 Ewing Walker – Stefan Popoveniuc
2 2 James Mentzer – James Gerding

Fri. Aft. Open Pairs (70 Pairs)

2 Kiyomi Shiba – Fred King
2 Norman Cowen M.D. – Kevin O'Brien
2 Clifford Feldman – Howard Bender

Fri. Aft. 299er Pairs (40 Pairs)

- 1 Terry Mitchell – William Pruiett
- 2 1 Alan Tapper – Joel Goldberg
- 2 Albert Stolpe – Larry Taylor
- 1/2 Gretchen Blakey – Churchill Blakey
- 1/2 Diane Cohen – Marlene Gross

Fri. Aft. 49er Pairs (10 Pairs)

- 1 1 Pat Kibler – Donald Smith

Fri. Eve. Triple Nickel Swiss (34 Teams)

- 1 Nadine Wood – Margot Hennings – Ann Lindley – Al Duncker
- 2/3 Ken Davis – Marsha Brown – Bruce Houston – Zeke Letellier
- 1 Kevin O'Brien – Lynda Flanger – Dennis Schwanz – Susan Miskura
- 2/3 1 Gary Hinson – Bruce Kasold – Elizabeth Huffman – Mary Ann Kral
- 2 Lynne Beresford – Eleanor Schwartz – Amelia Montjoy – Kay Miller

Fri. Eve. 299er Pairs (17 Pairs)

- 1 1 1 Marguerite Salah – Edward Maixner
- 2 2 Albert Stolpe – Kimberly Ferguson

Sat. AM Open Pairs (59 Pairs)

- 2 Bernard Oetjen – J. David Grier
- 2 1 Gil Krawitz – Willis Paley Hume
- 2 William Gurley – Mary Ann Kral

Sat. AM 299er Pairs (34 Pairs)

- 2 2 Kimberly Ferguson – Chuck Kasten

Sat. AM 49er Pairs (8 Pairs)

- 1 Ruth Glen – Donna Setzer
- 2 1 William Starosta – Kiran Starosta
- 2 Jean Feighery – Ann Wagner

Sat. William Poissant Trophy Pairs (40 Pairs)

- 1 Jay Kelkar – Shuba Dey
- 2 Adair Gellman – Vincent Bartone

Sat. Aft. Side Game (70 Pairs)

- 1 1 David Loken – Kathrine Loh
- 1 Bob Silverstein – Leon Fastovsky

Sat. Aft. 299er Pairs (42 Pairs)

- 2 2 John Lupinski – Elisabeth Lupinski
- 1 Sheryl McEwan – Margaret Mastran
- 2/3 Sharon Rosendhal – Ruth Rosenberg

Sat. Aft. 49er Pairs (10 Pairs)

- 1 1 Lynn Frankenfield – Debby Bailine
- 2 Gayle Tomasetti – Rose Marie Sanders

Sat. Eve. Consolation Pairs (32 Pairs)

- 1 Hailong Ao – Weizhong Bao
- 2 1 1 Michael Osborn – Joe Hertz
- 2 2 Lynne Beresford – Eleanor Schwartz

Sat. Eve. 299er Pairs (15 Pairs)

- 1 1 Onorica Luculescu – Alina Galaszewska
- 2 2 Roy Robson – James Shoenhard

Sun. A/X BAM (15 Teams)

- 1/2 Earl Glickstein – Barry Falgout – Robert Bell – Rusty Krauss
- 1/2 1 Prahalad Rajkumar – Rajeswaran Rajkumar – Mark Chen – Raghavendra Rajkumar

Sun. B/C Swiss (31 Teams)

- 1 Neal McKinney – Jay Cherlow – Albert Lauber – Ned Griffith
- 2 Alfred Liepold – John Lowe, III – William Mendez, Jr. – Michael Goldman
- 1 Jerry Nolte – Elizabeth Nolte – Gil Krawitz – Willis Paley Hume
- 2 Jeff Youngen – Mary O'Shea – Candace Carlton – Terry Carlton



Congratulations to Jay Kelkar and Shuba Dey, this year's winners of the William Poissant Memorial Pairs trophy event

Parade of Winners – continued from page 11

Sun. AM 299er Swiss (18 Teams)

- 1 John Menzel – Robert Hollohan –
William Woodward – Ken Duggin
- 2 1 Stephen Colevas – Albert Stolpe –
Richard Leonardon – M. David Jackson
- 2/3 Alan Munro – Bill Murphy –
Richard Uhrig – Elinor Uhrig
- 1/2 Ewing Walker – Carol Goldstone –
Ann Hunter – Barbara Brennan

Sun. Aft. 299er Swiss (17 Teams)

- 1 Michelle Zyguelbaum –
Bernadette Merceron – Rachele Sladoff –
Rochelle Hilton
- 1 1 Ewing Walker – Carol Goldstone –
Ervin Burkholder – Christina Burkholder

**Omitted from Jul–Sep 2009
Parade of Winners List:**

HUNT VALLEY REGIONAL

August 17–23, 2009

Wed. Senior Pairs (74 Pairs)

- 2 Terry Mitchell – Mehmet Goncer



**ANNUAL LIFE MASTER/NON-LIFE
MASTER GAME – MAY 20**

It's that time of year again...Mark your calendar—Thursday night, May 20, 7:00 PM is the annual NVBA Life Master/Non-Life Master (LM/NLM) game at Beth El Hebrew Congregation.

Everyone who participates in this event will pay an entry fee of \$5.00. Pre-matching pairs who sign up in advance has worked extremely well in the past, so we're going to do that again this year. As much as possible, Ron Kral is going to match people up so you know who your partner is before you arrive and can discuss bidding conventions and style. Ron will email you your partner's information in advance once a match is made.

In the spirit of the LM/NLM game, we'd prefer that everyone go through the matchup process and play with someone new. However, if you wish to BYOP (Bring Your Own Partner), it's OK as long as one member is an LM and the other partner is a NLM. Please let Ron know if you plan to attend with a pre-match for our planning purposes. WE NEED BOTH LMs AND NLMs to come out for this event. This is a fun event where you get to meet new people from the "other" game. We'll have sign up sheets at the NVBA Sectional Thursday night game on April 22 and at the Annual Meeting on May 6. Questions or want to register? Send an email to Newsletter@NVBA.org or RonKral@gmail.com or call Ron Kral at (703) 478-0077.

NVBA Returned Check Policy

The NVBA Board of Directors established a policy effective 2/1/2010 that states:

If a check is returned by the bank, a fee of \$35 will be charged to the member writing the check.

If the check is not made good and if this fee is not paid within 30 days of written notice, the member will be reported to the ACBL and will lose their membership "in good standing".

In Memoriam

CAROLINE RICH SYNDOR

Caroline Rich Syndor, died peacefully on Jan. 3, 2010 at a retirement community in Naples, Fla., where she had been living since 2000. She was a noted bridge player, teacher, author, speaker and columnist regarding the game of Bridge. Mrs. Syndor was born in Bandy, Va. on Oct. 16, 1913, third of the six children of John Robert and Anna Marie Gleaves Rich. She graduated from West Virginia University with a degree in journalism and went to work for The Raleigh Register in Beckley, West Virginia. This job enabled her to help send her siblings to college during the Great Depression. She met Charles William Syndor, III, a recent graduate of the Virginia Theological Seminary, when she was assigned to cover a special event at the church where he worked in Beckley. They were married in 1937 and eventually had five children. They made their home in several locations during their marriage, including Petersburg, VA, Waco, TX, Stamford, CT and Alexandria, VA, finally retiring in Naples, FL in 1997.

Caroline started learning to play bridge at the age of six to provide a “ready fourth” player in a family of bridge players. She would grow to become a Life Master more than six times over. At age 50, she began teaching bridge at the local YMCA in Alexandria. By age 60, she was compiling her lesson notes into book form. She eventually produced a four-book series called “Bridge Made Easy,” which sold over 200,000 internationally, with translations into French, German and Hebrew. A fifth book, “Teaching Bridge: How To Do It Better” was published in 1988. Her third book, “Bridge Made Easy, Book Three: How To Win More Tricks” won the American Bridge Teachers Association Book of the Year Award in 1981. Caroline also designed a deck of “Caroline’s Cards” to be used with

each of the four books in the series. The cards were coded on the back to allow for specific distribution when dealt, so that designated hands could be used to play the lesson taught in each chapter. These “marked” cards proved to be one of the most popular features of the series.

Her career also included writing a bridge column for *The Port Packet* (now *The Alexandria Gazette-Packet*) of Alexandria, and teaching bridge classes at the Army-Navy Country Club in Arlington for 19 years. She also taught bridge classes on cruise ships that traveled to such varied destinations as the Panama Canal, the Mediterranean Sea and the Far East.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Syndor was involved in numerous volunteer projects, such as managing fund-raising events for Low-Heywood School in Stamford, Conn. and meeting wounded soldiers as they arrived at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, often in the middle of the night, during the Viet Nam conflict.

Mrs. Syndor was preceded in death by her husband, The Rev. William Syndor, III, and by her daughter Carrie Syndor Coffman. She is survived by four children, as well as by 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

MARY WOOD

Here is a tribute written by longtime friend and bridge partner Alice Yoke to Mary Wood, a lovely woman and bridge player who passed away on February 16, and whom we will all miss at the bridge table:

When Mary and I were young we lived in the same apartment complex in Arlington. She soon discovered that I knew the rank of the suits (the extent of my bridge knowledge) and enlisted me in the search for a duplicate game. Well, you know Mary - the first thing I knew we were play-

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I Never Thought About It

I came back to duplicate bridge six years ago, after a long hiatus. I started out at a local club game. Quite frankly, I paid my money, and played my game—such as it was. Eventually, I got involved with the NVBA Unit Game and even going to tournaments! I went through a number of partners, quickly realizing that a bridge relationship was in a few ways akin to a marriage relationship. In short, I had a lot to learn and I went about learning it. During this time, no one ever suggested that I volunteer for anything, and—with all the other things going on—I never thought about it.

One night, about three years ago, I was sitting at the Unit Game waiting for things to begin. For some reason, I began looking around me. I began noticing all the things that had to be done to make the game operate—Jeff Roman with his lessons, a partnership chairman and volunteers, all the equipment and supplies that had to be out and available, the refreshments, caddies, a director, a site. And, of course, much more was needed to make the Unit operate. I realized that I had been a part of the community for about three years by that time, and I had done absolutely nothing to support it, save for paying my entry fee at each event.

I said to myself—alright, you can't do everything, but you can do something—what can you do? One constraint for me is my travel schedule. I take several major trips a year. How could I work around that? I like to meet people and realized that I could be a designated partner. So, I have done that for the last few years. I do it sometimes at the Unit Game and at every tournament, if I am in town. In fact, I eventually got a promotion! And served as the Partnership Chairman a few times, when Unit Game Partnership Chair Leo Cardillo needed help and was out of town

(I have to admit, without being able to wear THE HAT, I never would have done it.) So, what can you do? Did you ever think about it? Everyone has a talent for something, and, the truth is, a lot of work has fallen on relatively few people. They could use the help.

In closing, let me share something with you about Steve Robinson, a world-ranked bridge player in our area. I love that man. He has absolutely no shame! With all the talent that he has, he could easily stand “above the fray,” as it were, and “let the little people do it.” But that is not Steve. We all know the many ways in which he serves. We get his emails, his problem sets, we see him on the teaching panels at the Maryland Sectional tournaments, etc. But, I'll never forget about a year ago, when the Sectional was over, and the room needed to be cleaned up. Who pitched right in, folding tables, hauling chairs, and otherwise cleaning up—when almost everyone else had left? Well, you know who. I was so taken aback, I followed his lead. I said to myself, “if Steve Robinson can be a janitor for this event, who am I to say no?”

Are you saying “no?” Or maybe, like me, you just never thought about it. If there is something you know you can do, take your idea to NVBA Unit President Bob Boyd, or immediate past Unit President Leo Cardillo.

Shucks, if you are really desperate about whom to talk to, come to me. If you would like to do something, but don't know what is needed, any of us would be happy to steer you in the right direction. And, the good news is—you will probably enjoy doing it. I have.

All the best,
Carl Noller

HAIL AND FAREWELL

We would like to welcome the following new members into our Unit:

Joan H. Axilbund
 Frants Lasse Becker
 Elisabeth H. Brettell
 Coreen L. Brown
 Yuen E. De Anda
 Bruce T. Diamond
 Joanne F. Domson
 Robert Dunn
 Joanne B. Falkowski
 Barbara Goldlust
 Turid H. Gronlie
 Maxwell D. Jallits
 Kathleen Lamarre
 Nora M. Lebahn
 Asim K. Mandal
 Diana Matthias
 Gerald S. McGowan
 Barbara D. Migliore
 Marie Piskorz
 Richard J. Poznanski
 Julia F. Reed
 Daniele P. Schwarz
 Jane W. Stilmar
 Karen A. Taney
 Wilmer L. Tinley, Jr.
 Gail Wollenberg



We would like to welcome the following transfers into our Unit:

Marily A Barnett
 Dr. Adolphe M. Ehrenworth
 Betsy R. Eliot
 Ellen G. Horton
 Michael Kuprenas
 Ann S. Lindley
 John B. Mattioli
 Catherine Nowstrup
 Cathy L. Palermo
 John Regan
 Linda Westphal

We give our regards to the following people who have transferred out of our Unit:

Judy R. Bush
 Dr. Richard O. Clements
 Evan G. Gay
 Dr. Henry J. Horn
 Ann O. Jennings
 Craig Jennings
 Patricia A. Mitchell
 Thomas A Pratt
 Johan Sikkar
 Stan B. Weinstein

We are sorry to note the passing of two of our members:

Myriam Thomas
 Mary Wood

In Memoriam – continued from page 13

ing in a little local game. The next thing I knew we were at a downtown hotel playing in a tournament. A very kind older woman gently explained the movements and other difficult technicalities and we were off!! When the afternoon was over we stayed to see the scores and noticed red “Q’s after some names. As we started to leave our kind friend explained the “Q” and that we were expected to stay and play the evening session. We called and broke the news to our not-very-pleased husband-baby-sitters and played on (not very successfully I’m afraid). This story (from the 1940’s) is so typical of Mary. Through all the intervening years – we both moved many times – when we reunited it was always the same – Mary never changed...always a true friend and game for anything.

MILESTONES

Congratulations to the following players who have reached these new milestones!

♠♦ NEW JUNIOR MASTERS ♣♥

Dr. Stephen V. Fitzgerald
Susan J. Hesser
Rebecca S. Hudecek
Eiji Ishida
Nathalie H. Kaye
Nora M. Klein
Catherine C. Murdock
Glen F. Passin
David E. Street
Eileen D. Street
Phillip Tseng
Robert L. Whedon
John R. Wilson
Rev. John R. Witherell

♠♦ NEW CLUB MASTERS ♣♥

Brigette Friedman
Henry K. Goetzman
Jane R. Goetzman
Helen J. Hyman
Holly R. Thomas
Norman H. Thomas

♠♦ NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS ♣♥

John Carle
William Glen
James M. Hewitt
John A. Kinsey
Kenneth P. Linder
John P. Maynard
Michael A. Murphy
Sharon E. Rosendhal
Craig S. Smith
Ewing S. Walker



♠♦ NEW REGIONAL MASTERS ♣♥

Marvin Burstein
Thomas W. Feick, Jr.
Alina I. Galaszewska
Al J. Kuchinka
Col. Robert B. Magruder
Ike Oren
Mabel Paul
William M. Pruiett
Paul J. Setzer
James H. Shoenhard
David M. Soukup
Martha F. Zier

♠♦ NEW NABC MASTERS ♣♥

Francine M. Donahue
Stephen J. Drodge
Farideh Makhzani
Jack W. Rakowski

♠♦ NEW LIFE MASTERS ♣♥

Michael L. Hampton
Neil Selvin

♠♦ NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTERS ♣♥

Amanda E. Carter
Howard Grunin
Dr. Marvin Josaitis
Monica M. Shumann

♠♦ NEW SILVER LIFE MASTERS ♣♥

Shirley L. Lafferty
Dennis J. Schwanz

♠♦ NEW DIAMOND LIFE MASTER ♣♥

Jean Levin

♠♦ NEW EMERALD LIFE MASTER ♣♥

Robert W. Hopkins, Jr.

Trophy Winners In 2009

At the December 2009 Holiday Party, the NVBA Board awarded trophies to the winner of that year's Dave Murray award, presented to a quality bridge player who exhibits good sportsmanship and is everyone's favorite partner, and to the winners of the first annual Sara Goodwin trophy, awarded to the player or players who attended the most NVBA-sponsored events in the 12 months from December of one year to November of the next.



Congratulations go to Jean Levin, the 2009 winner of the Dave Murray award. Here is a photo of Jean with the trophy.

There was a tie among three players for the Sara Goodwin trophy. In the photo below, Ron Kral is holding the full-size trophy, and in front of him from left to right are trophy winners Tony Robson, Ken Davis, and Jenny Shaefer. The NVBA greatly appreciates their support for NVBA activities and wishes them continued success at the bridge table.



CONGRATULATIONS to all who played in the D6 GNT Finals in March and particularly to the teams who will represent District 6 in New Orleans this summer.

DIST. 6 GNT – CHAMPIONSHIP (16 Teams)

- 1 Steve Robinson – Peter Boyd – William Cole – Beth Palmer – William Pettis – Stephen Landen – Peter Boyd
- 2 John Adams – Lou Reich – Jeff Roman – Don Probst
- 3/4 Richard Wegman – David Abelow – Lyle Poe, Jr. – Brad Theurer
- 3/4 Earl Glickstein – Robert Bell – Fred King – Barry Bragin

DIST. 6 GNT – FLIGHT B (40 Teams)

- 1 Paul Mott – Michael Lane – David Platnick – C. Leland Nettles
- 2 Jose Cortina – Steve Bunning – Srinivas Kachibhatla – John Montgomery – Larry Kahn – Sven Pride
- 3/4 David Grabiner – Suzanne Abrams – Brian Hartwig – Michael McQuistan
- 3/4 Jason Meyer – David Genne – Lloyd Rawley – H. John Edmonds
- 5/6 Albert Lauber – James Beller – Walter Smith, Jr. – Merrill Hirsh – Ned Griffith – Linda Marshall
- 5/6 Jerry Barker – Wrus Kristiansen – Kevin O'Brien – Dale Fiebelkorn – Barbara Taychert
- 7/11 Kathrine Loh – David Loken – Steven Rothman – Bruce Bucklinger
- 7/11 Joel Mashbaum – Robert Baer – Edward Borodkin – Michael Deverin
- 7/11 Shawn Stringer – Eugene Fisher – John Christensen – Larry Brafman
- 7/11 William Goldman – Robert Stearns – M. Bruce Todd – Fletcher Thompson
- 7/11 Ed Kinlaw – Mark Gospodnetic – Govind Narayan – Stephen Wheeler

DIST. 6 GNT – FLIGHT C (18 Teams)

- 1 Jerry Nolte – Elizabeth Nolte – Joe Hertz – Michael Osborn
- 2 Jackson Bell – Allen Grissom – Marilyn Mendelson – Linda Mathias
- 3 Robert Clark – Carolyn Kelly – Lucille Colville – Albert Colville
- 4 Ajit Thyagarajan – Adrienne Kuehneman – Kiyomi Shiba – Eiji Ishida

The GNT – Flight A Finals will be held April 10-11 and April 24-25. See your *TableTALK* magazine or the District 6 website www.districtsix.org for details.

NVBA Mini-McKenney Winners Final Standings 2009!

0-5 MPs

William M. Pruiett	104.03
Bill R. Teer	34.62
Pat J. Teer	29.46

5-20 MPs

James H. Shoenhard	73.31
Michael A. Murphy	52.26
Andrea S. Stanley-Miller	30.86

20-50 MPs

Dr. Roy A. Robson	139.25
Albert V. Stolpe	115.55
Stephen J. Colevas	106.57

50-100 MPs

Stephen J. Drodge	154.40
Morton L. Isler	88.11
Dr. Dennis K. Sponholtz	83.42

100-200 MPs

Amanda E. Carter	273.78
Eleanor L. Schwartz	138.09
Terry Mitchell	129.34

200-300 MPs

Joan R. White	110.20
Linda A. Burton	96.70
Susan Klaber	90.05

300-500 MPs

Robert A. Brady	156.32
Carl W. Noller	137.91
John R. Miles	115.94

500-1000 MPs

John S. Mason, Jr.	293.14
Prahalad Rajkumar	291.65
Dennis J. Schwanz	285.42

1000-2500 MPs

Herb K. Fallin, Jr.	466.70
Ron P. Kral	381.14
Kevin R. O'Brien	378.43

2500-5000 MPs

Al P. Duncker	446.24
Bruce R. Houston	372.87
Stan S. Schenker	370.69

5000-7500 MPs

Summer Steinfeldt	404.63
Helene Bauman	392.16
Don W. Geerhart	377.19

7500-10,000 MPs

Ken B. Davis	758.34
Janet R. Gookin	329.03
Alan L. Schwartz	271.98

Over 10,000 MPs

Ed R. Lewis	398.25
Jeff M. Roman	385.84
Robert W. Gookin	362.95

ALERT!!!

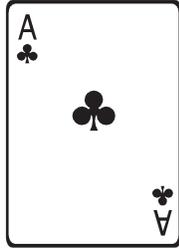
One more game is being added to our NVBA Sectionals starting in April!

**MORE SECTIONALLY RATED
SILVER POINTS TO BE HAD!**

The first game is April 22, 2010
Thursday, 10:00 A.M.
at the First Presbyterian Church
601 N. Vermont St.
Arlington, VA 22205
(in the Ballston area of Arlington)

**THERE WILL BE AN OPEN
AND 299ER GAME**

For more information call or email
Norma Pierzchala
at 703-892-1292
or normattp@verizon.net



NYBA Ace of Clubs Final Standings 2009

0-5 MPs

William M. Pruiett	48.64
Holly R. Thomas	16.21
Bill R. Teer	11.69

5-20 MPs

James H. Shoenhard	27.32
Andrea S. Stanley-Miller	15.75
Norman H. Thomas	15.60

20-50 MPs

Stephen J. Colevas	59.98
Alina I. Galaszewska	54.49
Dr. Roy A. Robson	48.71

50-100 MPs

Stephen J. Drodge	58.47
John L. Hambric	48.15
Shirley E. Prikals	43.64

100-200 MPs

Sara Hilgartner	54.59
James K. Augustine	43.74
Barbara I. Hodges	41.41

200-300 MPs

Jack W. Rakowski	46.47
Susan Klaber	41.81
Mary R. Tubbs	41.15

300-500 MPs

John R. Miles	75.45
Sulaiman Ghaussy	67.52
Yussouf Seraj	58.01

500-1000 MPs

Steve Reed	96.93
Lenore G. Ward	95.45
Anthony V. Cincotta	93.19

1000-2500 MPs

Robert S. Boyd	191.36
Herb K. Fallin, Jr.	124.25
Salam A. Saidi	115.96

2500-5000 MPs

Bruce R. Houston	134.99
Enid A. Hughes	134.36
John R. Ashe	111.37

5000-7500 MPs

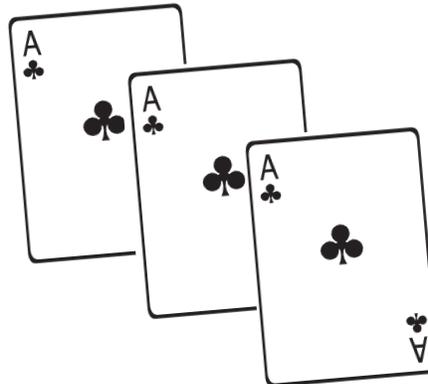
Don W. Geerhart	234.42
Andrew E. Gabrilovitch	174.81
Ed Gofreed	161.08

7500-10,000 MPs

Ken B. Davis	304.46
Jack A. Armstrong	73.98
Janet R. Gookin	41.85

Over 10,000 MPs

Ed R. Lewis	128.76
Jeff M. Roman	116.72
Robert W. Gookin	57.56



A Bridge Player With a Novel Idea

By Bob Boyd

A bridge unit probably has a more diverse lot of high performers and interesting characters than most other hobby organizations. The NVBA has doctors, lawyers, teachers, business people, high-ranking government and military personnel, and let's not forget our Supreme Court justice, just to name a few occupations.

We also have in our midst the author of a remarkable book. Daytime players in this area will know Ralph Bayrer as a nattily attired bridge enthusiast and dedicated runner, but Ralph has done much more than that in his life. He is a Navy vet and Federal Senior Executive with two master's degrees in Physics. Last year he published a book not on bridge, running, or physics, but on economics.

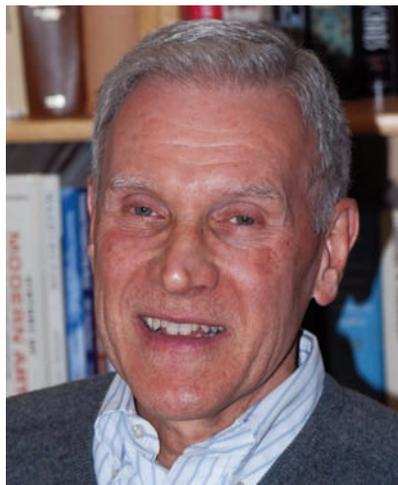
Anyone who, like me, struggled with economics textbooks in school will find much to admire in Ralph's book, *Free People, Free Markets: Their Evolutionary Origin* (New Academia Publishing, 2010, available at <http://www.promiseangels.com/ralph-l-bayrer/free-people-free-markets-their-evolutionary-origin/SKU/1037092>). I was struck by two things about his book. First, it is extremely well-written, being devoid of the academic twaddle so prevalent in textbooks and learned discourses. Ralph credits this to his experience writing as a consultant for demanding editors. Second, the premise of the book is fascinating. Economics, as life, is governed by evolution. Cultures evolve value systems, which constitute the DNA of economics.

According to Ralph, his target audience includes anyone who has questions about the global economic downturn and any-

one who has ever pondered Adam Smith's old question—why do some countries prosper and others do not? After retiring, Ralph had many ideas to keep his mind active, but found Adam Smith's question compelling and set out to answer it. Examining the various economic systems brought to mind "survival of the fittest," hence his application of an evolutionary concept to the discipline of economics.

A review in a bridge newsletter about a book on economics must necessarily be short. *Free People, Free Markets* is a *tour de force* that explains the evolution of economics by the interaction of religion, philosophy, government and culture. This is a readable, yet challenging book that will provide good practice for stretching one's mind for bridge. I heartily recommend it for not-so-light, but pleasurable reading. When you see Ralph, let him know how proud we are of him.

Please let me know of other authors of new books in the NVBA.



Some Tips on Etiquette at the Bridge Table

Most of this information is from an article written by Mark Ehret for a Daily Bulletin at the 2007 Spring NABC in St. Louis and has to do with etiquette involving bidding boxes; a couple of other items were added by the Newsletter Editor.

BIDDING BOXES

Twenty years ago, I attended my first NABC right here in St. Louis. It was also the first time I had to use a bidding box. At the time, a story was circulating about a pair of newcomers who sat down at the table and confronted bidding boxes for the very first time. The other pair at the table asked the new pair if they knew how to use the boxes. Of course, the newcomers, not wanting to appear completely ignorant, replied that they did indeed. The boards arrived at the table, and one of the newcomers had the opening call. He eyed the bidding box to his right, picked it up and spoke the word Pass directly into the box. We were not born with the knowledge about how to use a bidding box, so we all need to learn the proper procedures and etiquette. Back to the bidding box. If you play long enough, at some point you will knock the box off the table and the cards will go flying. Do not panic! It happens to everyone. If a new box is not readily available, and if time is of the essence, just bid the old fashioned way, verbally. Then you can replace the cards in the bidding box when the round is over.

Before you reach for the bidding box, **decide** what your bid is going to be. Problems occur when you start to pull out a bid, decide on a different course of action, hem and haw, then pull out a different bid. This can give unauthorized information to your partner.

One of the least understood cards in the bidding box is the Stop card. It is used whenever you wish to make a jump bid. It doesn't matter if the jump bid is weak or strong, just use it. The proper procedure is to pull out the Stop card and place it on the table and then make your bid. Some people will accompany the

Stop card with the words "Skip bid. Please hesitate ten seconds." Other players may leave the card on the table, intending for you to wait ten seconds until the card is picked up before you call. We use the Stop card as a courtesy to our opponents so that they have a little bit more time to think about their next action. Remember that if they decide to bid, it will have to be at a higher level than they originally planned. Hesitations are one of the thorniest issues confronting players and directors, and the Stop card helps to avoid problems caused by hesitations. When you are on the receiving end of the Stop card, try to bid in tempo, without undue haste or hesitation. (If your partner is criticizing your play or bidding, feel free to gently pull out the Stop card and show it!)

At some time during the game, you may pull out the wrong bid and place it on the table. You may not even notice it until the next person has made a call. Call the director! If you catch your mistake early enough you may be allowed to change your call if the mistake was clearly a mechanical one and not a change of mind.

The Alert card is one fraught with mystery for the new player, as are Alerts in general. The Alert card is used to let the opponents know that your partner's bid may not mean what it says. Alertable bids are printed in red on your convention card. Most players accompany the Alert card with the verbal Alert (just say the word). You know you've arrived when an Alertable bid is on your convention card. When your partner makes an alertable bid, you only "alert" it using the Alert card and/or the word Alert. You do not

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Tips on Etiquette – continued from page 21

state why you are alerting unless asked to by an opponent. **DO NOT SAY:** That's Bergen, or that's Jacoby 2NT, or that you are playing mini-Roman or Flannery if partner opens 2♦, etc. Doing so is giving unauthorized information to partner about what you think partner's bid means.

LEADING

When the auction is over and your side is on lead, as a courtesy to declarer, you should make your lead before recording the contract in your convention card. This is so that dummy can be faced and declarer can take a moment to think about the play of the hand, and you won't be delaying the progress of the game while you write. The player on lead or who thinks they are on lead should lead face down, establish from the opponents that he/she is indeed on lead (in order to avoid penalties for leading out of turn), ask partner if they have any questions about the auction and then turn their lead face up.

A couple of other reminders from the ACBL Code of Active Ethics:

SLOW PLAY

Failure to finish on time can do a great deal to chase players away from the game and is extremely distressing to waiting players. Bridge is a timed event. If a pair takes more than their share of the allotted time for each round, they are inconveniencing their fellow competitors as well as gaining an unfair advantage over them. When a pair has fallen behind it is incum-

bent on them to make up the time lost as quickly as possible whether at fault or not. The actively ethical player makes a concerted effort to catch up when they have fallen behind, regardless of the reason for their lateness. All players are expected to develop this good habit. Remember: Slow play is subject to penalty, and the penalties are well earned when slow pairs disrupt the normal progression of the game.

Additionally, players should be available to start each subsequent round promptly, avoiding wherever possible, being late to a table for non-bridge reasons. At the discretion of the Director, slow play penalties will be deemed to be either disciplinary (and unappealable) or procedural. If the latter, appeals committees should tend strongly to reject all routine appeals against slow play penalties. When they do deny such an appeal, they should consider imposing an additional penalty for a frivolous appeal. The burden is on the appellant to demonstrate that some unusual circumstance makes the penalty inappropriate.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Active ethics enables players to compete on equal terms. In addition, the actively ethical player contributes to the enjoyment of all players by continuously striving to maintain a courteous attitude toward both his opponents and his partner and by avoiding any behavior that would make anyone uncomfortable. These social attributes are VITAL to the game of bridge and duplicate bridge.

Bridge: Lifetime Learning!

*By Terry Jones, NVBA
Education Chair*

Isn't bridge a wonderful game? Who introduced you to bridge? Perhaps it was your parents or grandparents, a college roommate, or even a co-worker who asked you to join them in some classes? What was it that made the game fun and exciting for you to learn? Do you remember your sense of wonder as this amazing world of bridge began to open up for you?

As you think back on how you learned to play bridge, you may remember a special

person who reached out to you or gave you a bit of encouragement to help you along the way. Unfortunately, many people who introduced today's players to the game are now playing at the big bridge table in the sky, but if you are one of the lucky ones whose teacher or mentor or first bridge partner is alive and well, I encourage you to reach out and personally thank them for helping you to become a bridge player. Share with them what a difference bridge has made in your life, from making new friends to learning and growing as a player.

And then I would ask you to look around at those in your personal circle of friends, relatives and co-workers, and begin to share your love of the game with them. Tell them how you learned and how much you enjoy the game. Encourage those who do not play to learn, and those that do play to reach out to old or new partners and to play more often.

One of the greatest things about bridge is that it is a game that is always interesting, full of new challenges and opportunities to learn, not to mention the wonderful social aspects of the game. Learning to play bridge is like peeling an onion – there is always more to learn and a new layer to peel! As soon as you have peeled one layer and think you have finished, voila! There is a new layer to peel!

Bridge is a unique game that anyone can play and have a wonderful time with, regardless of your level. Whether you are a novice just learning the basics, or an experienced pro who is reading up on the latest discussions in bridge theory, you can sit down at the table with three other people and play bridge, right now, any place in the world and all you need is a deck of cards. Bridge is a great equalizer, reaching across countries and generations. You don't even have to speak the same language!

A few months ago, NVBA President Bob Boyd contacted me and asked me to consider being the Education Chair for

the Unit. I was honored to be asked to do this. There are so many hard working people in the NVBA that do so many things to help make our games and publications run smoothly. Perhaps this would be a way that I could contribute as well. I love teaching and playing bridge, and am always looking for ways to get people involved, so I eagerly accepted his invitation to be the Education Chair.

According to our unit bylaws and program guidelines, the Education Chair is charged with developing and maintaining the NVBA education program, particularly programs for novices, as well as maintaining a list of bridge teachers and coordinating Unit support for all NVBA teachers. Thanks to the hard work of many, there are excellent programs already in place to build on. Special thanks go to Joanne Pretti who is stepping down from being the Education Chair after several years of hard work. She has agreed to remain on the Education Committee, and her input will be invaluable.

Particular thanks go to Ron Kral for his work in fostering the novice games to the point that the Unit game has consistently had 10 or more novice tables every week for several years, and many novice players have graduated to the open game! A big thank you also goes to Jeff Roman who tirelessly gives novice/intermediate lectures before the Unit game on Thursday nights and at the NVBA sectionals. Former NVBA President Leo Cardillo and WBL member Suzanne Abrams have been instrumental in continuing the longstanding NVBA program at Thomas Jefferson High School in Alexandria.

And the list goes on, including the many wonderful teachers we have in the area. We have much to be thankful for, and a great legacy to build on.

A great resource that is available to you is a listing of local teachers on the NVBA website <http://www.nvba.org/html/>

continued on page 24

Bridge: Lifetime Learning continued from page 23

[BridgeTeachers.htm](#). If you have not checked this out in a while, I encourage you to visit the website. You will be amazed at the wonderful range of teachers, styles, locations, etc. that we have available to us in the northern Virginia area!

Anyone wishing to take lessons, whether beginner, intermediate or advanced, will surely find a teacher and location that will be a good fit for them. Some teachers specialize in beginner classes, some in playing club games with students, some in more advanced topics – whatever you are looking for will probably be there, or teachers will be glad to

accommodate your requests! Explore your options with NVBA teachers.

I would ask anyone who shares my enthusiasm to join me on the Education Committee or to volunteer in some way to help promote bridge education. I have many ideas for the future, and would welcome your participation, input and creativity. Please contact me at **terry@fallschurchbridgeclub.com** or call 703-671-7050 if you would like to volunteer to help out.

Bridge is truly a game for lifetime learning, and it's never too late to start!

Learning To Be A "Good Partner"

By David Loken

Bidding, play of the cards, and being a good partner... which is the more important bridge skill? Benito Garozzo, former member of the world champion Italian Blue Team which dominated bridge in the 1960's, when asked to describe his ideal partner, said, "First, he always has a smile on his face. Second, he must understand the bidding system perfectly. Finally, he must be a world class player of the cards."

I learned to play bridge in the early 1960's, as a teenager, when my dad needed a partner after my mom decided she wouldn't put up with him any more. It would be fair to say my dad did not always have a smile on his face. My dad would observe the rule against unauthorized verbal communications, but he developed the habit of grimacing and fidgeting in his chair whenever I failed to return his suit (or made some other silly blunder). Following my dad's example, I concentrated on developing my skill at bidding and card play, but I never gave much thought to what it meant to be a good partner.

Jim Dick's Sunday game at the Elks Lodge has fancy table cards that carry the following message: "The single most important skill for a bridge player is to be a good partner."

I consider Don Geerhart to be the gold standard among bridge players. Recently Jean Levin kindly arranged a game with Don for me. When we came to an opponent's table, Don often smiled and asked our opponents to go easy on us because we were a new partnership. Don's affable and friendly behavior made it easy to feel comfortable playing with him.

My introduction to our vibrant bridge community came when I played with Bernard Trippett, the Southern gentleman from Mississippi ("M-I - crooked letter - crooked letter - I - crooked letter crooked letter - I - humpback humpback - I - go Mississippi!"). Bernard lavishes compliments upon his fellow bridge players. I have

learned from Bernard because of the simple pleasure he derives from playing bridge.

Like many of us, I have a competitive streak, and sometimes I feel impatient with my partner. In a tournament last year, my partner scolded me two or three times a few boards into the session. I blurted out, "You're not as good as you think you are!" Sadly, my outburst marked the end of our partnership.

The first game between new partners can be called the "honeymoon game." Both partners are on their best behavior. The challenge, of course, is to behave like it's the honeymoon each time we play, even when partner has an off day.

Jeff Meckstroth, two-time ACBL Player of the Decade, in the February issue of the ACBL Bulletin, says he still finds new opportunities for learning each time he plays. For me, the best opportunities for learning come from trying to be a good partner.



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NORTHERN VIRGINIA BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
SPRING SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT

The Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge #2188
 8421 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax, VA; 703-560-2188

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (2000+/2000/750) & 299ER PAIRS (300/200/100)10:00 a.m.
Norma's Game: First Presbyterian Church, 601 N. Vermont St., Arlington, VA 22203, 703-892-1292
Evening games at: NVBA: Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA or
WBL: Ohr Kodesh Congregation, 8300 Meadowbrook Ln, Chevy Chase, MD — E-W Hury 410 E., left
Meadowbrook, left Freyman, lot on left.—No outside food. **NVBA (Beth El) WBL**
 Novice/Intermediate Lecture (Jeff Roman) 6:30 p.m.
 STRATAFLIGHTED OPEN PAIRS (A/X=3000+/3000; B/C=2000/750) . . .7:00 p.m. . . .7:30 p.m.
 NVBA 199ER PAIRS (200/100/50/20); WBL NLM PAIRS (NLM/100/50) .7:00 p.m. . . .7:30 p.m.

...REST OF TOURNAMENT AT ELKS LODGE...

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (2000+/2000/750)2 p.m.
 299ER PAIRS (300/200/100) and 49ER PAIRS (50/20/5)2 p.m.
 TRIPLE NICKEL SWISS—5 rounds, 5 boards, 5 minutes a board .7:30 p.m.
 299ER PAIRS (300/200/100)7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (2000+/2000/750)9:30 a.m.
 299ER PAIRS (300/200/100) and 49ER PAIRS (50/20)9:30 a.m.
 NEWCOMER PAIRS (0-5)9:30 a.m.
 BRACKETED COMPACT KO2 and 7:30 p.m.
Four 12-board matches starting Sat aft ending Sat eve.
All teams will play first two matches.
 STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (2000+/2000/750)2 p.m.
 299ER PAIRS (300/200/100) and 49ER PAIRS (50/20/5)2 p.m.
 STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS (2000+/2000/750)7:30 p.m.
 299ER PAIRS (300/200/100)7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

Novice/Intermediate Lecture (Jeff Roman)10:15 a.m.
 FLIGHTS A/X (5000+/5000) SWISS TEAMS11:00 a.m.
 & BRACKETED FLIGHT B TEAMS (0-2000)11:00 a.m.
B Teams Bracketed by Total Team Masterpoints: three overall places in each.
Both Flights are 2-session events, w/one 30-minute break—on-site food available.
 299ER SWISS TEAMS (300/200/100) (Single session)11:00 a.m.
 49ER SWISS TEAMS (50/20/5) (Single session)11:00 a.m.
 299ER SWISS TEAMS (300/200/100) (Single session)3:15 p.m.

DIRECTIONS: From Route 50/Arlington Boulevard heading west from DC and Arlington AND from Route 495/Beltway: Continue on/Take Route 50 West about one mile outside the Beltway, and turn left at Javier Road (the second stoplight after the intersection of 50 and 495). Take an immediate right onto the access road that runs parallel to Route 50. The Elks Lodge will be two buildings down on your left—parking on the side and in the rear. From Fairfax, heading East on Route 50: Pass the intersection of Route 50 and Prosperity Avenue—the Prosperity Medical Center will be on your right. Between the first and second lights after Prosperity, turn right into the access road that runs parallel to Route 50 and look for the Elks Lodge immediately to your right—parking on the far side of the building and in the rear.

Plenty of free parking! On-site snack bar plus lots of free treats! Many great restaurants nearby!

Championship Events and a Full Schedule of 299er Events for Novice and Intermediate Players! Players with 0-5 Masterpoints play FREE in ALL games!

Tournament Chair
 Margot Hennings,
 703-560-0245

Partnership Chair
 Mary Ann Kral,
 703-437-0342 or
 NVBA cell: 703-869-0852

Mid-Chart Conventions permitted in all A/X Events

Next NVBA Sectional
Sept. 23-26 '10 at Arlington/
Fairfax Elks Lodge
(Thurs at Beth El)

www.nvba.org

SILVER SPRING, MD: MAY 13-16, 2010

Take a Spring Holiday in the Potomac Valley!



Washington Bridge League
65th Annual Potomac Valley Tournament

THURSDAY, MAY 13

- ♣ Stratified Open Pairs (unlim/1500/500)11:15am
Rockville Duplicate Bridge Club, 301-503-3348 (Mark Lavine) **NO ENTRY**
St. James Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Rd., Rockville **TILL 11AM**
- ♦ StrataFlighted Open Pairs (A/X unlim/3000, B/C/D Separate 1500/1000/500) (both sites); Stratified NLM Pairs (NLM/100/50) & 0-20 Pairs (Ohr Kodesh Congregation only); Stratified 199er Pairs (Beth El only)
Beth El Congregation, 3830 Seminary Rd, Alexandria7:00pm
Ohr Kodesh Congregation, 8300 Meadowbrook Ln., Chevy Chase ..7:30pm
 I-495 to Connecticut Ave. South. 4th light left E-W Hwy 410. Left Meadowbrook Ln. 1st left Freyman Dr. Parking lot on left. **No outside food allowed.**

ALERT! FRIDAY EVENTS: NEW LOCATION—OHR KODESH. NEW TIMES—10AM & 2:30PM. NO LUNCH, BUT SNACKS & DRINKS PROVIDED. NO OUTSIDE FOOD ALLOWED.

WEEKEND LOCATION: TBA—SEE WEBSITE.

FRIDAY, MAY 14

- ♥ StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C/D Pairs (1500/1000/500) **10:00am**
- ♠ **IMP Pairs** StrataFlighted A/X (unlim/3000) & B/C/D (1500/1000/500) **2:30pm**
The Friday IMPs are back! With only one partner, it scores like a team game. To get your IMP score on a board, we take your result and IMP it against each result at the other tables, then get the average.
- ♣ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (300/200/100/50/20) (single sessions) **10:00am, 2:30pm**

SATURDAY, MAY 15

- ♦ **7th Annual: Washington Bridge League Trophy Pairs** 11:00am & 3:30pm
 Two session Open Pairs, qualifying and final. Single session entries available.
- ♥ StrataFlighted B/C/D Pairs (1500/1000/500) (single sessions) 11:00am, 3:30pm
- ♠ StrataFlighted A/X Pairs (unlim/3000) 3:30pm
- ♣ Intermediate/Novice Pairs (300/200/100) or Newcomer Pairs (50/20/5) (single sessions) 11:00am, 3:30pm
- ♦ *Don't miss the between sessions **Panel Show*** 2:30pm

SUNDAY, MAY 16

- ♣ **1-Day Bridge Class:** 2 sections: *Start to Play* or *Advance Your Game* 10:30am
- ♦ A/X Board-A-Match Teams, (unlim /5000, 2 session playthru w/short break) 11:00am & TBA
- ♥ B/C/D Swiss Teams, VPs (3000/1000/500, 7 round playthru w/short break) 11:00am & TBA
- ♠ 300/100/50 Swiss Teams, VPs (single sessions) 11:00am, 3:00pm

♣ **Full Schedule of Intermediate and Novice Events** ♥

I/N events: 0-5, 20, 50, 100, 200, 300; Stratification at Director's Discretion.



Famous Washington Hospitality includes snacks, drinks and Saturday & Sunday lunch free of charge. **Chair: Nadine Wood**, 301-565-9555, woodthere@verizon.net. **Volunteer Coordinator: Barbara Summers**, 301-598-5838, jimbarb1184@aol.com **Hospitality: Kitty Gottfried**, 301-587-3981, kgottfried@hotmail.com **Partnerships: Barbara Doran**, 301-608-0347, SectionalPartner@DistrictSix.org

Northern Virginia Bridge Association

10015 Manor Place, Fairfax, VA 22032

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The NVBA *Newsletter* is published four times a year by the Northern Virginia Bridge Association. If you need membership information or have a change of address to report, contact Eric Poskanzer at NY2VA@yahoo.com; for information/suggestions about newsletter content, contact Lucy McCoy at 703-848-2331 or newsletter@nvba.org. To receive the newsletter electronically, send an email request to RonKral@gmail.com.