



# The Fifth Column

## December, 2015

### Upcoming Tournament Calendar

#### DECEMBER 2015

- 07-13 District 5 Winter STaC

#### JANUARY 2016

- 13-17 CLEVELAND Rock and Roll Regional [Information](#)
- 22-24 Buffalo Winter Sectional

#### FEBRUARY 2016

- 20-21 President McKinley Sectional, Canton OH

***SPECIAL NOTE FOR FEBRUARY, 2016 ISSUE. NO SUBMISSION AFTER JANUARY 15 CAN BE ACCEPTED!!***

#### Deadlines for Columns and Tournament Information

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February Issue . January 15  
April Issue -March 15  
June Issue-May 15

# AKRON ALERT *BY JIM SULLIVAN*

**Holiday Parties** - The Akron Unit will hold its Holiday Party at 6 PM Friday, December 11 at the Quirk Center Ballroom. A dinner of meat, potatoes, drinks, and tableware will be provided by the Unit. Bring your favorite special holiday hors d'oeuvres to share with everyone. At 7 PM there will be a **STaC Game** that will award Silver Points. The winners from this game receive more Masterpoints if they place in the District Overall for that session. . Pre-registration is requested, but not required, so that pair assignments can be set up in advance. For more information contact **Barbara Sparhawk** at [barbarasparhawk@att.net](mailto:barbarasparhawk@att.net) or phone 330-630-5902.

Other Christmas or Holiday Parties will also be held at the individual Clubs. Check with the Managers at your Clubs and read the Akron Calendar/Newsletter for more information about these Parties.

**STaC Games** – Many clubs will be holding STaC Games during the week of December 7 thru 13. Plan to play in these games and maybe you can win some of the big Masterpoint awards. The winners from these games receive more Masterpoints if they place in the District Overalls for that session. Check with the Managers at your Clubs and the Akron Calendar/Newsletter for more information about these STaC Games.

**2016 Mentor/Mentee Program** - The Mentor/Mentee program will begin its 8th year. This Mentoring Program is for the Akron Friday Afternoon game at the Quirk Center. **Carolyn Sullivan** is the Program Registrar. Anyone wanting to improve his/her Bridge Game can sign up to be a Mentee. We need more players who are willing to be Mentors to the newer and improving players. Anyone willing to help a less experienced player improve his/her Bridge Game can sign up to be a Mentor. Mentor/Mentee can sign up as a pair or contact Carolyn Sullivan to be matched. The Mentor/Mentee fee will be \$3 each for all regular 2016 Friday Afternoon games at the Quirk Center.

The rules are: 1) Non Life Master Mentees must have a Life Master or above as a Mentor; 2) Life Masters and above, up to 1000 MP, can have a Mentor, but the Mentor must have at least twice as many Masterpoints as their Mentee; 3) Mentors can have more than one Mentee; 4) Mentees can use more than one Mentor; 5) Mentors and their Mentees each pay the Mentor/Mentee fee; 6) For Mentors with multiple Mentees, if the Mentor is playing with one Mentee at the same game that the other Mentees play they pay the Mentor/Mentee fee (The Mentor must be playing with another of their Mentees to be allowed to pay the \$3 Mentor/Mentee fee); and 7) A Mentor may be a kibitzer to a pair of their Mentees (The Mentees pay \$3 each and the Mentor does not pay).

You can sign up for the 2015 Program via e-mail at [bridgenews@aol.com](mailto:bridgenews@aol.com). .

**Friday Unit Games** - What better way to start your weekend than to play Bridge at the Friday Unit Game. Come on out and enjoy the fun, competition, hospitality and win

some of the extra Masterpoints. All of the games will have pre-dealt hands with hand records and automatic scoring. If you need a partner or more information, contact **Jim Sullivan** at [sullivan01@aol.com](mailto:sullivan01@aol.com) or 330-659-4707. The schedule is:

Dec. 4 - 12:30 is a Club Championship Game.

**Dec. 11 – 6:00** is the **Annual Christmas Party**. The **STaC Game**, where you can win those elusive Silver points, won't begin until about 7:00 in order to allow time for socializing.

Dec. 18 - 12:30 is a Unit Championship Game.

Dec. 25 . No Game, Holiday Weekend.

Jan. 1 . No Game, Holiday Weekend.

Jan. 8 . 12:30 is a Unit Championship Game.

Jan. 15 . 12:30 No Game, Independence Regional.

Jan. 22 . 12:30 is a Unit Championship Game.

Jan. 29 - 12:30 is a Junior FUND Game.

Feb. 5 . 12:30 is a Unit Championship Game.

**Springtime Sectional March 11-13, 2015** - The location is the **Quirk Center** at 1201 Grant Avenue, Cuyahoga Falls, 44223. Look for a flyer.

## WHISTFULLY YOURS *BY BEV CARTER*

The bridge world lost two of its nicest recently. Our Unit mourns the passing of **Nancy Hunter**, who was known for her flamboyant style of dressing, her sense of humor and her bridge ability. Nancy loved the game of bridge and was a Gold Life Master. We also lost long time player **Bill Alcorn**. Bill held several patents on catalytic converters including one for electric cars, wrote several plays and many books. He enjoyed the game of bridge and became a Life Master. His quiet humor was always appreciated. These two nice people will be sorely missed.

Our Non-Life Master Sectional was held this past October with **34** tables of enthusiastic players attending the Saturday session and **40** players competing on Sunday in the team game. Results can be found on our website, ***whistclub.org***. Interestingly, 90% of our players were in the 0-100 bracket. Where were all you guys in the 100-300 and 300-500 bracket. What, you don't need any Silver points????

Our Mentoring Program is going great guns. Many Life Masters have signed up to help our newer players become better bidders, declarers and defenders. There is still a need for more of you LMs to sign up to be a mentor. Once you mentor someone 5 times, you will receive a certificate good for a free entry at our next Sectional. Contact **Bev Carter 330-722-8214** or [bcarter@zoominternet.net](mailto:bcarter@zoominternet.net) or **Andy Halpern 216-461-2414** for details.

Congratulations to **David Hobe** who became a Life Master and Bronze Life Master in one fell swoop and to **George Gorodeski** for becoming a Life Master. Also to **Shirley Burke** who became a Diamond Life Master (way to go, Shirley).

Speaking of overwhelming success, our Learn Bridge in a Day program held on Sunday, October 25 was a rousing success. 72 very interested people attended to learn what the game was all about. 17 volunteers helped them figure out how to play the cards and get an inkling of what bidding was all about. **Peg Gallagher, Barbara & Bernie Greenspan, Bill Hogsett** and **Mary Spooner** did a wonderful job. The next step for the participants was a supervised play event on November 1 at the Cleveland Skating Club in Shaker Heights. Mary is now certified to lead this program, so we are hoping to introduce LBIAD all over northern Ohio in the near future.

By the time you read this, our November Sectional will be a thing of the past. Results, as you know, can be found on our website, <http://whistclub.org/> Players were asked to bring canned food items to be donated to the local food bank and they responded with overwhelming enthusiasm. The new Charity and Scholarship Fund welcomes any Unit member wishing to propose a local charity that could benefit from a donation from our Unit. Please contact **Bernie Greenspan**. If a club wishes to assist at the club level, organizing its own food drive, supporting a local charity or donating to a scholarship award, it is very welcome to do so. Please contact **Kathy Sulgrove 330-425-7631**, or **Barbara Greenspan 216-382-9229** with your ideas. The new trustees are **Mike Creager, Bernie Greenspan, Sharon Robertson, and Don Sulgrove**. They welcome your input as to what charities you would like to see sponsored.

Our **December STaC game** will be held on **Sunday, December December 13**. The game is at the Solon Senior Center 2500 Portz Parkway and begins at **10:00am**. **This is an earlier time, so be sure you put it on your calendar**. Get your teams together and let **Susan Stark** (216-831-1610/sudi2@gmail.com or **Bill Hogsett** (216-692-2184/bhogsett@gmail.com) that you will be coming. Advance notice is not required, but helps us figure out how many tables and how much food we will need. If you are looking for great desserts, please bring your favorite one to share. Full details are on the flyer on our website.

If you haven't visited our website lately, you are in for a treat. **Bill Hogsett** and **Kathy Sulgrove** joined forces to produce a site worthy of an award. It has all kinds of pertinent information on it and many bridge tips, etc. Well worth looking at.

**BRIDGE QUIZ:** Partner holds KQJ of diamonds and for lack of a better lead, leads the K/d against a NT contract. (Opponent opened 1C and wound up in NT. Dummy has a doubleton diamond)

You hold: **xxx-xx-107542-Axx**. What do you play to the first trick?

Q/d is continued. What do you play to the second trick?

J/d is continued. What do you play to the third trick?

Explain your play for each trick.

If done correctly, what does partner know about your hand and declarer's hand?

Send your answer to: [bcarter@zoominternet.net](mailto:bcarter@zoominternet.net)

### **HUMOR TIME:**

- A bridge player was polishing an old brass lamp and poof, out popped a genie. I will grant you one wish he said. "OK," he said, pulling out a world map, "How about world peace?" "You've got to be kidding," said the genie, "That's impossible." "OK," said the bridge player, "How about making me a winning bridge player?" "Hmmm," said the genie "Let me see that map again."
- Player to partner, "Do you lead MUD?" "Never heard of it," replied partner. "Then what do you lead from 3 small?" "Fourth Best, I guess," replied partner "o o o o o o o o"
- Have you ever heard of the Elvis Presley coup? It happens when your opponent leads small from A-Q-xx around to your K-x. The King is NOT dead!!!
- Put 4 bridge players at a table and ask for their opinion on a hand. You will get 4 different answers. Who said bridge is boring???
- There is a fine line between playing bridge and mental illness.+

## **UNIT 229 NEWS BY LOIS PORTER**

Happy Fall!

A belated thanks to **Dave Ruppert**, tournament chair, **George Cross**, partnership chair and **Alex Bealles**, tournament director for a successful Butler tournament in July. Locals won first overall in Saturday evening pairs with a 68.29% game-**Sid Steiner** of New Castle and **Bill Lindgren** of Slippery Rock.

Congratulations to those members who have earned rank changes. **Anita Demarco** became Junior Master, **Suzanne Blackburn** and **Jan Metcalfe** became Sectional Masters, **Maxine Gant** became a Regional Master, and **Philippe Westreich** became a

NABC Master. **Brina Segal** of Beaver Fall achieved Bronze Life Master and **Lynn Rafferty** of Columbiana, Ohio earned Diamond Life Master. Lynn is very faithful attending games in our unit and we are very proud of her achievement. She is also an actress who is now playing the Wicked Witch of the North in the Wizard of Oz. She often partners with **Alex Bealles** and **Jim Wheeler**. One must realize what she has accomplished-5,000 Masterpoints of which at least 1,000 must be red, gold or platinum. In the Unit game in New Brighton in October she and Jim were first in A with a 71.76% game. In September, she and Alex had a 75% game. You can see that she is very consistent and fine bridge player.

Some of our C players are working very hard on their game. **Carole Kinney** and **Jan Metcalfe** were first in C the November Unit game with a 57.05% game. **Bill Stewart** and **Max Rubin** were first in C in Zelienople on November 10 with a 59.63% game. **Hazel Allen** and **Pat Dotson** were first in the Pittsburgh Sectional on November 14 with a 58.33% game. **Diana Boak** and **Tom Brown** also scored. One of our older members, **Chuck Weber**, partners with son, **Chuck Weber II**, in the Zelienople game. They came in second overall with a 62.59% game. Congratulations for all your dedication!

The Ellwood City and New Castle games continue to thrive and always welcome all players. **Jane Crowley**, **Helen Greenberg**, **George Cross** and **Alex Bealles** do a great job. **Lois Porter** and **Dave Ruppert** scored a 66.67% game on November 4 and **Alex Bealles** and **Nick Tredennick** a 70% on the 11<sup>th</sup> in new Castle. In Ellwood, **Carole Kinney** and **Jane Crowley** had a first with 61.90% and the following week **Helen Greenberg** and **Larry Puntureri** had a 67.26% game.

We are looking forward to the holiday season-celebrating the social and intricate nuances of a great game. We are also thankful that **Herman Feldman** is again healthy and challenging us at bridge.



# BRIDGE IS COOL IN BUFFALO *BY DIAN PETROV*

On November 22, our Unit conducted a game dedicated to great Buffalo area players from the past who were colorful characters and shaped the traditions. A lot of memories and stories were shared. The chairperson, **Elaine**, outdid herself again and put together a great event. She collected some of the tales from the past. This is **Elaine Kurasiewicz's** story:

## *A TRIBUTE TO THE BRIDGE GREATS OF BUFFALO*

*The game of Bridge has been played in Buffalo since before World War II. In those early years, Auction Bridge was the game of choice and it was far less complicated than today's game of popular conventions. Bridge dates back to the early 16th century with the invention of a trick-taking game called Whist. Auction Bridge dates to 1904 and the modern game of Contract Bridge became popular in the US and the UK in the 1930's. Pioneers of this game were **Harold Vanderbilt** and others such as **AGNES GORDON**.*

***AGNES GORDON** was Canadian born and moved to Buffalo sometime after 1950. Few Buffalo players of today will remember her, but she popularized Contract Bridge in the Buffalo area. She was inducted into the ACBL Hall of Fame in 2009. **Dan Gerstman** gave the nominating speech for her induction. He said that she was the greatest player in the history of Western NY. She had a presence that commanded respect. Agnes Gordon passed away in 1967 leaving a legacy of Bridge honors that has not been surpassed by any Bridge player in our area since. She is remembered as the Master of the Tough Choice!*

***MARGARET McCARTHY** was another force in our Bridge community. Assisted by her husband, Margaret put the Whist Club on the Buffalo map. She held games in numerous places and membership grew rapidly in those years. Her Whist Club continued with new leadership for many years and finally was disbanded just a few years ago when membership lagged and games became too small to be profitable. Many of the players chosen for this tribute played at the Whist Club and enjoyed the social aspects as well as the competition of that club.*

***MARY MCKENNA AND MARY DOWD** were two fine players often seen at the Bridge table. Mary Dowd was a lovely lady with great manners. If you played with her, you could count on her having her bid and defense was her strong point. Mary McKenna was a Bridge legend*

*in her time and she played until late in life. Here's a story submitted about her.*

*Mary always acted as though she was going down 2 or 3. When the dust settled she had played the hand 2 tricks better than the field. Opponents who didn't know her thought they had another LOL to take advantage of. When they left the table they immediately ran for the first aid office or the bar, whichever was closer!*

*Another "lady" of Bridge was **Roselle Sellikoff** and everyone has a story about her! Here are a few including one from this writer. Danny Gerstman shared with me that he felt she was a true Bridge great and not like some of the other players. She certainly was one of our very best players and with a unique personality that stood her apart from everyone else! I played with her quite often and most often I did something or many things wrong. After murdering a 4 Club contract, Roselle wanted to murder me. For weeks, maybe even years, she would phone to remind me of how I butchered the play, card by card, not even leaving out a deuce! When away from Bridge, Roselle could be almost charming and we enjoyed many meals together at her favorite restaurants. She even charmed my family one Thanksgiving when she was on her finest ladylike behavior!*

*Here is a dandy of a story submitted by more than one person! Roselle had a habit of walking around the room between hands and everyone thought or knew that she was looking at hands. It always created a big concern and some players wanted her barred from playing. She also had a temper with her partners and this led to more complaints. One evening there was such an uproar that she was removed from the game. Here are her famous words as she was being "walked" out. "They should have thrown me out 30 years sooner and I could have done something with my life!" Of course she came back again and again!*

***Nat Gerstman**, a real character on his own, often played with Roselle, and a player sent me this statement. "They were a couple from Hell!" **John Marvin** knew the other side of Roselle and contributed this story. "Roselle seemed quite eccentric to many people, but when they knew her and partnered with her at club games, she was tough at the table, conservative and demanding. She was very nice otherwise and my wife Lu and I occasionally met her for cocktails and we enjoyed pleasant conversations."*

*Here is what John said about **NAT GERSTMAN**. "I had the good fortune to partner with Nat on a number of occasions after he had retired from regular high level competition. He was an uncanny declarer and a killer defender. He also had a wry sense of humor. He preferred Unusual No Trump to mean the minors no matter what the opponents*

had bid. Once, in a regional, he overcalled 1 club with 2NT and I, with a 7-card heart suit, responded 3 hearts. The LHO, after studying our card for several minutes, asked Nat, 'What is 3 hearts?' Nat, without hesitation, replied, 'that's his best minor!'" Nat had great player instincts but not much sympathy for his partner's "mistakes."

**Dave Heussler** contributed these anecdotes about NAT and they are truly in Nat's tone. **John Toy** and I were waiting for Nat and **Jeanette Michienzi** to arrive at our table. They were late and very unhappy. No greetings and they just sat down and starting sorting cards. Finally, Jeanette broke the ice by saying, "I played that last hand bad, didn't I?" Nat's retort was "badly, Jeanette, it's an adverb." Another time we were milling around the Elmwood Park Bridge Center awaiting the start of a GNT qualifier. John came in and Nat walked up to him and said, "I don't care what anyone says, Kilmer, you are the best Bridge player in Niagara County. Don't ever move!" Not to pick on Jeanette, who was a fine player, but another time she was playing with Nat (poor thing) and won a finesse. She expressed her pleasure at that occurrence when Nat opined, "it worked for every other jerk in the room!"

Buffalo has seen a number of really fine male Bridge players and many more with personalities to match the ladies. **TOM DONNELLY** will long be remembered by the ladies and by all his partners who unequivocally will say that Tom was all Heart and a Diamond of a partner! Here is another story submitted by John. "At a sectional I was in 4 of a major and needed 2 diamond tricks to make my contract. Dummy held KQT and I had 3 spot cards. Tom led a middle diamond, I played the K and RHO, an inexperienced but serious player, hesitated before following with a low spot. Tom got the lead later and led another middle diamond and I, certain that the LHO had held up with the Ace at trick 1, put in the ten. It was taken by the J. Tom had the Ace all along and was bold enough to underlead it twice! It was the crucial suit and Tom knew he had me. His partner's hesitation was because of inexperience, not poor ethics. I took advantage at my own risk. Tom knew all along and he had attacked accordingly like a master defender!" That story was from **John Marvin's** collection.

**GERRY FRIED** will always be remembered for being a gentleman at the table. He was always friendly and kind to his partners. He also was very generous to the Bridge community. He played often at the Whist Club and was a long-standing member. Scoring was done by hand and **TOM WOLSTONCROFT** was a whiz at quickly adding up the scores. But, by the early 90's, hand scoring was nearing its demise and the computer was the new thing. The Whist Club was a not-for-profit organization and didn't have the funds to buy the necessary computer and printer. Gerry was asked if he would contribute to the purchase of the necessary equipment. Without any hesitation, Gerry said, "You buy

*it and I will pay for it!" He kept his promise and the Whist Club received a new computer and printer in a short time and the math wizards took a break! To thank Gerry for his generosity, he was granted a lifetime membership to the club and free plays as long as he could hold the cards. He played for many more years and continued to be generous to Buffalo Bridge, helping the new club get on their feet in more recent years.*

*Many of us remember **PETER MOLLEMET** for his wit and sarcastic humor. He was a local director for many years before taking a job with ACBL. He was greatly missed at the Bridge table and at social events because he always had a story to tell and he had a charismatic way of telling his tales. Here is one about him. Peter and several friends were at a bar going over hands. Another "fine" Bridge player was sort of listening and asked about a 1 Club final bid. She asked how the bidding went and Peter, using his Peter tone of voice, said, "One club, pass, pass, pass!" He was just a King of Sarcasm and the best of friends to many. We lost him twice, not just once!*

***Saleh Fetouh** submitted medical stories about three of our finest players who we were fortunate to have around for many more years because of the doctor's keen perception and quick judgment. **JIM MATHIS** was given three extra years after the doctor intervened with the correct diagnosis of a bowel infection that was easily treated without surgery. Another incident involved **GERRY FRIED** who fainted and had no pulse until Dr. Fetouh laid him flat on the floor and Gerry regained a pulse and survived to play many more years of Bridge. **JOHN KILMER** was also given some extra time when Saleh diagnosed him with blocked arteries and recommended him for by-pass surgery. Given this extra time, John lived to play more Bridge and passed away in 2013.*

*We all remember **JIM MATHIS** as one of Buffalo's truly great Bridge players and a Grand Life Master who accumulated nearly 14,000 master points. He was often seen playing with Gerry at the Whist Club. He probably favored **Bob Freedman** and **John Kilmer** whom he often talked about when they ceased playing. Between sessions at many tournaments he and the guys would play Cribbage and kept a written tally of the scores without use of a board. Many onlookers would watch this game as well as the Bridge game. Jim was a gentleman at the table and talked a lot between and during play. He would play the hand like a Master and had a way of deceiving the opponents. He was a good teacher and would point out the best line of play to an inexperienced player when asked.*

*I got to play with Jim just the last few years of his life and he was always a gentleman and kind teacher. I told him once that I had to wait until all his favorite partners had passed away before I could play with him and that I had wanted to have a game with him for years. He said to*

me, "Kiddo, why didn't you just ask me?" He would tell me how I misplayed a hand and he would also give loud compliments when I did something right. Jim helped me improve my game in so many ways, especially by boosting my confidence. Jim passed away in 2015 and played his final game with **Barbara Libby**. She is proud to say that they won!!! His family shared a poem written in his honor and it is included in this tribute to Jim and all the other fine players who have stood alongside him.

The last story for this tribute goes to **Peter Mollemet** and was told by **Pat Rasmus**. She and Dick had many years of friendship with Peter and I believe they miss him more than they might say! Here is the story: I was playing in a Pittsburg Regional with Bobbi. We landed in a 4 heart contract. The opening lead was the Ace of spades and all followed. Then the Ace of clubs with all following. Next, the Ace of diamonds and all followed. Declarer now says, "I don't know what to lead next" and her partner suggested, "lead another diamond." I immediately called the director and Peter Mollemet stepped over. I hated seeing Peter because he hardly ever gave a favorable ruling to people from Buffalo. Peter asked what the problem was and I told him what the lady's partner said. I explained if she led anything else, I could draw trump and pitch my losing diamond on a club, therefore making my contract. Peter now told the opponent that as much as it pained him to make this ruling, she must lead anything but a diamond. My one and only favorable ruling from Peter!!!!

I can't forget this little story about **TOM WOLSTONCROFT** because we can all identify with this problem! Tom was quite forgetful about his Bridge dates and seldom kept a calendar or forgot it. One game he showed up at and three different players swore they had a game with him. Now what do you do? Mix and match or just go home and watch a Bill's game (which Tom probably preferred)!

Thanks to all the contributors of memories for this celebration of the Bridge Greats of Buffalo. It was an honor for me to know and play with many of these unique personalities and to share their stories with the newer members of our Bridge community.

With respect and admiration, **Elaine Kurasiewicz**

# RECENT TOURNAMENT RESULTS

2015

[Pittsburgh Fall Sectional](#), Nov 13-15, Pittsburgh, PA

[Buckeye Sectional](#), Nov 6-8, Parma, OH

[Buffalo Regional](#), Oct 20-25, Buffalo, NY

[Rocky River NLM](#), Oct 17-18, Rocky River, OH

[District 5 NAP Final](#), Oct 3-4, Erie PA

[Akron Autumn Sectional](#), Sept 18-20, Akron, OH