



THE DECLARER



Spring 2018

Volume 61 Issue 1

Peter Wright, Editor

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--|----|
| Woodbridge May Sectional flyer | 2 |
| Article: "Know, Know, Know Your Bot" | 3 |
| Winners Announced at Annual Brunch | 4 |
| Article: "An Indelicate Overcall" | 5 |
| Club Doings: Shrine Center Bridge Club | 6 |
| Article: "Unauthorized Information" | 7 |
| Club Doings: Jersey Bridge Club | 8 |
| Kohn's Korner | 9 |
| Article: "The Bridge Connection" | 9 |
| Unit 140 Attainments | 10 |
| Ken Powell (1943-2018) | 10 |
| Remembrances | 11 |
| Masterpoint Races | |
| Player of the Year Race | 11 |
| Mini-McKenney | 12 |
| Ace of Clubs | 12 |
| Club Doings: Essex Bridge Center | 13 |
| Big Games | 14 |
| Youth Bridge | 15 |
| Milestones | 16 |

ACTIVE ETHICS AT TRICK #11

Scene: a big money game in NYC. Contract: 7 NT. Everybody is now down to three Spades: Declarer, on lead, holds ♠KJ10; Dummy, ♠Axx; LHO, ♠xxx; RHO, ♠Qxx. The tension is palpable.

Out comes the ♠J. LHO dithers, tugging in turn on each of his pips, and finally plays "low." Declarer confidently lets the ♠J ride. RHO nonchalantly follows with . . . well, *not* the Queen. 7NT made.

The devious, sputtering LHO demanded to know why RHO did not win the ♠Q. "Because," answered RHO – whose name was Alvin Roth – "I thought . . . well, *not* the Queen."

THE DECLARER

| | |
|----------------------|---|
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And thus . . . BREXIT!

Luxembourg, October 26, 2017

The highest court in the European Union has issued a ruling that vexes sports fans and card players alike. It states that *Bridge is not a sport*.

The position of the European Court of Justice is that Bridge involves only a negligible physical element and is therefore not encompassed by the term "sport." As a result, Bridge players in the United Kingdom are responsible for paying taxes to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

The English Bridge Union had hoped for a value-added tax (VAT) exemption, so that entrance fees to tournaments, as with soccer games, could become more affordable.



New Jersey Bridge League SPRING SECTIONAL May 18-20, 2018



Hungarian-American Citizens Club
95 Port Reading Avenue, Woodbridge, NJ 07095
Playing site phone: 732-634-9697
Tournament Chair: Arnie Kohn at 732-216-5579

Friday, May 18

10:00 AM: ● Open Stratified Pairs ● Stratified 299er Pairs
2:30 PM: ● Open GRASSROOT Stratified Pairs ● GRASSROOT 299er Stratified Pairs

Saturday, May 19

10:00 AM: ● Open Stratified Pairs ● Stratified 299er Pairs
● Youth Bridge (19 & under, 0-50 mp's) – Trophies for Winners; Free Entries
For further info, contact Barbara Clark at 973-736-1969
2:30 PM: ● A/X (X=0-4000) GRASSROOT Match Points (open to all)
● B/C/D GRASSROOT Match Point Pairs (3000/2000/1000)
● Stratified 299ers GRASSROOT Pairs

Sunday, May 20

9:30 AM: ● Light breakfast
10:30 AM: ● Seven-round Bracketed Round Robin Teams. Team average master points will determine your bracket, or your team may play in the top (Swiss) bracket by choice. We will have a short break in mid-afternoon for a complimentary lunch with bagels, rye breads, spreads, salads, and hummus.

Stratifications: Open Pairs A (3000+) B (1000-3000) C (0-1000)
299ers Pairs A (200-300) B (100-200) C (0-100) (May be varied based on participation.)

In pair events, strats will be based as an average of the total master points of the pair. In any event or flight with a master point upper limit, no individual's MP total may exceed that limit.

Guaranteed Partnerships: We guarantee partners for you in both the Open and 0-300 games for all Friday and Saturday sessions. You **MUST** request a partner by Tuesday May 15th, to be guaranteed a partner. Email your request to George Browne at brownege4111@gmail.com or call him at 973-819-0308. Also, please contact George if you have questions about the tournament or need help putting together a team.

Food: Between sessions Friday and Saturday, we will serve pizza for \$1/slice (cheese) or \$1.50/slice (with a topping), small salads for \$1/each and cans of soda for \$1/each. Sunday's complimentary food includes our light breakfast, mid-afternoon lunch, and snacks throughout the day.

NJBL Website: Visit our website www.njbl.net to read about upcoming tournaments and events, past results, bridge clubs, THE DECLARER (NJBL's online newsletter), and many other useful bridge links.

ACBL Membership Required: The ACBL has mandated that, in order to play, non-members must join the ACBL on an annual basis or, alternatively, obtain a temporary one month membership for \$7.99.

Entries: \$28/pair Friday & Saturday; \$112/team Sunday. The ACBL has mandated that we charge an additional \$4 charge per session to ACBL members whose membership fees are not current.

DIRECTIONS

From NJ Turnpike Exit 12: At the tollbooth, bear to the extreme right, and keep bearing to the EXTREME right at the ramp, following the signs to RAHWAY. The off ramp will put you on Roosevelt Ave. You will pass a Holiday Inn on your right. The third traffic light (about ¼ mile) is Blair Road (BP station on the SE corner). Left onto Blair Road and proceed past the first traffic light, staying on Blair Road into the Industrial Park. After about ¾ of a mile from the light, the road narrows, and you will cross a freight RR track. Shortly thereafter the road curves right. Stay to the extreme right, which is Port Reading Ave, go another two blocks, and turn right into the parking lot.

From other routes: NJ TPK Exit 11, Southbound GSP exit 129, Northbound GSP Exit 127, follow to Route 9 North. Once on Route 9, take Main St. Woodbridge Exit (Route 514). Turn right and go 1 mile to railroad overpass. Look for monument. Turn left BEFORE monument and continue on route 514 East. Go to 2nd traffic light and turn right onto Port Reading Ave. Club is ¼ mile on left.

From 287: Stay southbound, past exit 1 and NJ Tpk exit, and take the Route 9 North exit. Once on Route 9, take the Main St. Woodbridge Exit, and proceed as above.



KNOW, KNOW, KNOW YOUR BOT



by Jay Korobow

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Dlr: West Vul: All | | | |
| | | ♠ 962 ♥ K8653 ♦ A10832 ♣ – | |
| ♠ J10 ♥ QJ9 ♦ 6 ♣ AQ98754 | | ♠ 8543 ♥ A10742 ♦ Q97 ♣ 6 | |
| | | ♠ AKQ7 ♥ – ♦ KJ54 ♣ KJ1032 | |
| <u>West</u> | <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> | <u>South</u> |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | 1♠ |
| 3♣ | 4♣ | All Pass | |

In these online short event Robot-x-3 barometer-scoring play games, it can be tempting to do something a bit offbeat in the bidding to try and get some “action” that will score well above 50%. Of course, it might also get you well below 50%, but if you are half-way through the 8-board (or 12-board) event and see you are hovering at 45-50%, might as well, right?

In 4th seat after three Passes, both vulnerable, I found myself in such a predicament. A Pass is too offbeat (and not much fun), so it was between opening 1♠ or one of a minor. I couldn’t decide how offbeat either minor opening was; surely many of the 15 competitors would try either, so I went with the 1♠ choice. Not too bad a suit, at least.

Robot-West, a passed hand, contributed a preemptive vulnerable overcall of 3♣, and these bots are generally conservative, so a good suit – usually seven – and some decent values were to be expected for such a call. Robot-North, my clanky partner for this deal, had an awkward hand to bid and found a 4♣ call. Probably its programming did not include “go slow with less than four-card trump support if there is a preempt by the opponents suggesting bad breaks.” Nor would it consider a negative double (as some might), which I would of course pass with appreciation. Not that 4♣ was the worst call I have ever seen a robot make in these venues! Although I got a favorable Diamond lead, a pretty good bet to be a singleton, it was one of the worst contracts I had found myself in lately.

After dummy’s ♦8 was covered by Robot-East’s ♦9 and my ♦J, I played the top three Spades, hoping that just maybe, given the opening lead, they were divided 3-3. This was unlikely, due both to math and East’s failure to open 2♥ in 3rd seat, which it would likely do with a decent

six-card suit if West indeed were shaped 3-2-1-7. That would still only get me up to nine tricks in this optimistic contract: four Spades and five Diamonds, but both of the side suits looked like they might provide trick #10 on some endplay or other position. Along the way, I ruffed one of my Clubs safely small in dummy. After all, a cheap trick is a cheap trick, and in fact it would be trick #10 if the missing trumps were evenly divided. Surely removing East’s Club from its hand couldn’t be a bad thing. Not that it was likely to be a singleton ♣Q (or ♣A) but there’s always a first time. And so I reached this position, with Spades revealing they were *not* 3-3:

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Dlr: West Vul: E-W (Jupiter) | | | |
| | | ♠ – ♥ K865 ♦ A1032 ♣ – | |
| ♠ – ♥ QJ9 ♦ – ♣ AQ875 | | ♠ 8 ♥ A10742 ♦ Q7 ♣ – | |
| | | ♠ 7 ♥ – ♦ K54 ♣ KJ103 | |

I could exit my spade ♠7 to East’s ♠8 and so take all five Diamonds safely thereafter, but that’s only nine tricks, as East would just return a Diamond. They would surely then find their way to two Heart tricks and the ♣A on defense for the set. I decided to run my Diamonds, seemingly stranding myself from dummy when East ruffs in. But without a Club left, East would have to give me both the ♥K *and* an entry to dummy even if it ruffed the correct 4th round of Diamonds. Ten tricks would therefore result: four Diamonds, four trumps (the ♠7 being high after East ruffs), the Club ruff in dummy, and the ♥K.

East’s “simulations” programming was adept enough to see this, so it simply discarded Hearts. With my ♠7 located behind East’s ♠8, it eventually became trick #10 in a fashion somewhat akin to the “en passant” maneuver in chess. Even though a 5♦ contract makes with careful play for +600, the score of +620 for 4♣ making earned a 100%, since 3NT was failing, as was 4♣ at other tables, after South opened 1♣, shutting West out, but also getting the devastating ♥Q opening lead.

I found myself humming “Know, Know, Know your Bot” to the tune of “Row, Row, Row your Boat,” but I was interrupted by what sounded like a synthetic bot voice saying “If you want a Heart lead, *bid them*, you nut case”. Or maybe it was just the wind?

WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT ANNUAL BRUNCH

ACE OF CLUBS WINNERS

Stephen Cooper, Chuck Dvorkin, William Esberg, Sumner Freedman, Sheila Holderness, Wendy Lee, Joyce Menezes, Piotr Olszewski, Foster Osborne, Douglas Reeves, Jesse Reisman, Justine Roberson, Judy Rothstein, William Schoener, Ira Tarnow



MINI-MCKENNEY WINNERS

Pictured: John Gimblette, Piotr Olszewski, Michael Lo, William Esberg, Wendy Lee, Len Myers
Other winners: Sam Borenstein, Joan Broday, Dori Byrnes, C'huck Dvorkin, Will Ehlers, Gloria Gribin, Sheila Holderness, Ginny Mason, Joseph Wright



NEW LIFE MASTERS

Pictured: Julie Anderson, Mitch Cayen, Teresa Chek, Michael Fried, Joseph Lebretoire, Sherry Leib, Chandu Mehta, Joseph Messina, Patricia Pates, Akshay Shah, Joan Vrba, Chung-Zong Wan, Ke Zhao
Others: Marjorie Becker, Zoe Bylin, Elizabeth Carlson, Dominick D'Ascoli, Susan Feisenheld, David Forbes, Dorid Lamb, Charles Levitan, Michael Perkons, Patricia Rodilosso, Rochelle Schack, Om Singh

AN INDELICATE OVERCALL

by Peter Wright

Dealer: East
Vul: both

North
♠ KJ54
♥ KQ7
♦ KQJ4
♣ 43

West
♠ Q8
♥ 1085432
♦ 9753
♣ 2

East
♠ A1092
♥ A6
♦ A82
♣ QJ86

South
♠ 763
♥ J9
♦ 106
♣ AK10975

The bidding:

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <u>East</u> | <u>South</u> | <u>West</u> | <u>North</u> |
| 1NT | 3♣ | Pass | Pass |
| Dbl | All Pass | | |

Playing in a club game against a pair at least a notch above my pay grade, I opened the East hand with a routine 1NT. Depending on agreements, South might double to show a long suit (in which case West players would typically bid 2♦ as a transfer to Hearts.) Using the Blooman convention against a strong 1NT opening, South could overcall with a natural 2♣, but this convention has not as yet caught on much in Unit 140.

But our South, in classic John Wayne style, strode through the saloon door, both sixguns blazing, with a 3♣ overcall. After gulps by West and North, it was back to me. Holding three Aces and one or two potential Club tricks, I doubled, figuring the Fates to have allotted to partner at least a 3rd of the combined West/North HCP. Everybody passed, and a simpering North plopped down a dummy so robust that I thirsted to inform the Fates in no uncertain terms of what they could do with their whatevers.

West led his only honor, the ♠Q, surely from a doubleton. Since he was never getting in again, this was the only lead to keep our side from an unmitigated disaster. Declarer had no choice but to cover with the ♠K. I won my ♠A and led the ♠10, confident of building a 2nd Spade trick before South could drop his presumed 3rd Spade on the floor.

Declarer won the ♠J in dummy and, with evil intent, called for the ♥7 in the giddy hope that I might duck my ♥A *twice*, allowing him to pitch that 3rd Spade of his that he ached to disown. With utter disdain for his utter disdain for my utter disdain of his . . . well anyway I rose to cash both my ♥A *and* my ♠9, followed by my ♦A for “book.”

Now look at it from declarer’s point of view. Since I had opened a strong 1NT, it followed that I *had* to hold both Club honors in addition to my three Aces for my bid. South had two entries to dummy and could take two finesses against my ♣QJ86. Still, as long as I played *one* and *only one* of my honors on *one* of his Club leads from dummy, I could ensure a trump trick for myself.

But South, in abject despair over the disappointing meagerness of his Northern dummy – not to mention dummy’s unforgiveable Acelessness! – played for Clubs to split 3-2, simply cashing his ♣AK. The result was a two-trick set and +500 for me and my 2-pointed partner. This, on a hand in which, according to the Dealmaster Pro analysis, our side could not make the humblest of one-level contracts!

The result was all the more scrumptious in that, if N-S had been playing a convention that allowed South to *double* instead of bidding Clubs himself, *North* might have become declarer in 3♣. East cannot lead Spades without giving up a trick and must endure the dismay of seeing North get that crucial Spade pitch on Hearts. North will quickly discover that West has the ♠Q and can therefore take two confident finesses against East’s “known” Club honors to hold trump losers to only one.

CLUB DOINGS**SHRINE CENTER BRIDGE CLUB**

On March 20 The Shrine Center Bridge Club of Livingston, New Jersey celebrated the 100th birthday of loyal and avid bridge player *Frank Davis* with a party for him. Frank's three daughters joined our players for lunch and a birthday cake. Frank plays bridge at "The Shrine" four times a week year-round, whether snow, rain, sleet, or hail. At the party, Brett Kunin, President of the New Jersey Bridge League (Unit 140), presented Frank with the ACBL's Golden Age Master award (picture attached).



If you want to learn how to play Bridge, not just play at Bridge, call us for private lessons from the best instructors in the area.

Monday evenings 6:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs \$8.00 entry

Friday mornings 9:30 a.m. Supervised play

New improved Swiss Teams

Come and try our new format of Swiss. Players are "handicapped" and given extra IMPs to compete on a more level playing field.

Charity games every month – no extra fee, extra points

Check our calendar for dates and all special events

UNAUTHORIZED INFORMATION

by Rui Marques

[The following article was contributed to the ACBL Unit 141 newsletter and is reprinted here by permission. The author, who lives in Philadelphia, is credentialed as a national and international Tournament Director.]

Bridge is a game of information exchange. When a player calls or plays, he is sending information across the table. The fact that the player made a certain call or play, and all the positive and negative inferences deriving from it, is authorized. When he hesitates, alerts, explains, makes a comment, bids too fast, questions the opponent, or the like, any information that might derive from that is unauthorized for his partner (and authorized for the opponents).

In practical terms, a player has to imagine that his partner is on a black box, and the only things that come out of the box are the calls and plays. Often we find it hard to understand this concept and abstract ourselves from "knowing," for example, that partner thinks that we are playing Lebensohl when we are playing something else and he completely forgot. And sometimes even if we try hard to ignore the unauthorized information, we end up taking some questionable action.

For example, we open 1♥ on ♠KQ2 ♥AQJ98 ♦2 ♣J987 and partner bids 4♦ on ♠J109876 ♥K765 ♦ – ♣AKQ. We bid 4♥. Partner takes another bite of the cherry and bids 4♠. We bid 4NT and partner bids 5♥ (two keycards without the Queen). Two keycards are missing, so we pass. Now imagine that partner hesitated for a while before bidding 5♥. What does it show, or suggest? How long does it take to count your keycards?

The only possible explanation for the break in tempo is that partner is void in Diamonds! Either that, or he was thinking of where to go for a walk on the weekend! We might be itching to play a slam and think of a million excuses to continue the bidding, but we can't. Partner told us that two keycards are missing. Bidding on is not justifiable from the bidding, and even if in all honesty it was not based on partner's hesitation, it might have been, and the opponents are well entitled to call the Tournament Director, and the TD should roll it back to 5♥. This is not

an evaluation of whether we did something unethical or not. It's just a decision that states that our call might have been based on unauthorized information. And this situation is so frequent that it was named "Hesitation Blackwood"

Another example: Partner opens 2NT. We think that we play Stayman, and we bid 3♣. Partner alerts as "Puppet Stayman." We have to ignore what we heard. For us, it is still Stayman. When partner bids 3♦, showing at least a major of four cards in his mind, we must ignore it. For us it denies any major. (We think it is Stayman, remember?)

And one more example: Partner leads a 3-spot against NT (4th best for us). Opponent asks, and we explain. Partner blushes and looks surprised. We "know" that he got it wrong somehow, but that is something that we cannot know. The grimaces, the blushing, the "oops factor" are unauthorized information.



When called to a table because of a possible issue of unauthorized information from partner, the TD should establish that there was UI, that the action from the player could demonstrably have been suggested by UI, and that there are other less successful logical alternatives to the action that the player took. If these three conditions are verified, the TD usually adjusts the score. This is normal in bridge.

Getting a score adjusted is not cause for shame, or an ethical indictment. It's part of the game. We may think that we did not use UI, but the TD may think that we might have done so, and the standard of proof is just that we "might have done so".

One common mistake that TDs commit is to say that a player who potentially received UI should "ignore that information." The correct explanation of what a player can do is "to not select an action that could demonstrably be suggested by the UI that was made available." Sometimes the action suggested is the majority action (the action that most people would choose), but if there are logical alternatives the player should stray from the beaten path and not select the suggested action.

CLUB DOINGS**JERSEY BRIDGE CLUB**

At the *Jersey Bridge Club*, our popular mentored session on Wednesdays is rolling out a *0-20 mentored game* two times per month! Come every week at 1:00 p.m. for the mentoring, and twice per month we'll play a game so you can earn points! See the front page of jerseybridge.com for the game dates. This session only \$10. No partner needed, but learning with your partner is always beneficial.

Monday morning 0 – 750 games to begin

With the coming of the summer comes the start of the Monday morning 0-750 game! May 14th is the first game of the season. Game time is 9 a.m. Let us know if you need a partner. Please be sure to sign up if you are planning to play. Every week this session will offer extra points, but no extra cost. Sweet!

Pro-Am Swiss Teams game scheduled

April 1st marked the beginning of our sixth year at JBC! To celebrate, we're going to hold a PRO-AM SWISS TEAMS on Sunday, April 22nd. **UPGRADED CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP RATING!** There will be a full buffet lunch at 11:30 a.m. with a 4-round Swiss Team event to follow. PRO has 300+ masterpoints, AM has fewer than 300, and a team consists of two pairs, each having a PRO playing with an AM. If you would like to play and need a partner, or if you have a partner but seek another pair for a team, please let us help: email lynn@jerseybridge.com. We MUST have reservations, so we know how to plan the buffet lunch. Cost is \$30 per pair for the full lunch and the game! Come help us party!

KOHN'S KORNER

by Arnold Kohn

Minorwood

Players who use the Inverted Minors system, as suggested in my last column, should also use a keycard asking device called Minorwood if either the opening bidder or responder has a slam going hand. After an auction of 1♦ by opener and 2♦ by responder, Opener may have slam interest. A bid of 4♦ asks responder for keycards. When playing RKC 3014, a 4♥ response would show 3 or 0 keycards; 4♠ would show 1 or 4 keycards; 4NT

would show 2 keycards *without* the Queen of Trumps; and 5♣ would show 2 keycards *with* Queen. If responder holds the big hand, he can use 4♦ to ask for keycards after opener's first rebid. The advantage of Minorwood is that it will keep your partnership out of an unmakeable slam, should you lack the correct number of keycards. Club auctions are similar, except that 4♣ would be keycard asking.

THE BRIDGE CONNECTION

by Rosalie Slutsky

Just when you think you've seen it all, along come these unusual examples of amazing Bridge hands and results. These are from the American Bridge Teachers' Association *Quarterly Magazine*.

IT'S ALL TRUE

This deal was played in a duplicate game in San Jose, California, roughly ten years ago.

| | | | |
|--------------|--|--------------|--|
| <u>North</u> | | <u>East</u> | |
| ♠ 7 | | ♠ QJ52 | |
| ♥ 765 | | ♥ AQ9 | |
| ♦ 4 | | ♦ KQ9 | |
| ♣ AKQ109764 | | ♣ J52 | |
| <u>West</u> | | <u>South</u> | |
| ♠ 10983 | | ♠ AK64 | |
| ♥ K42 | | ♥ J1083 | |
| ♦ J10765 | | ♦ A832 | |
| ♣ 3 | | ♣ 8 | |

Care to guess the outcome of this deal at two different tables?

At one table, North played in 6NT – doubled by East – and made it. After doubling with his 1NT opener, East did

not get off to a Heart lead. On the run of the Clubs, both defenders discarded poorly, and declarer ended up with three Spade tricks to go with eight Clubs and the ♦A.

At another table, North opened 1♣. East overcalled 1NT (!), which South doubled. South did not lead a Club on the go or when he gained the lead at least twice as play proceeded. Contract made with an overtrick!

The next deal happened at a duplicate club in New England. A player approached the director with a complaint that her opponent, South, had opened 1♣ with this hand:

| |
|-----------|
| ♠ – |
| ♥ AKJ8543 |
| ♦ Q94 |
| ♣ AQ6 |

The bidding:

| <u>South</u> | <u>West</u> | <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1♣ | Pass | Pass | 1♠ |
| 4♥ | All Pass | | |

West said she and her partner mis-defended because of the unusual opening bid. Asked about her bidding, South said, "Our teacher said we should have five cards in a major to open in that suit, and if we didn't, we should open one of our better minor."

HAPPY BRIDGING, EVERYONE!

UNIT 140 ATTAINMENTS

Jiang Gu has achieved Grand Life Master status. This requires not only the accumulation of 10,000 MPs but also winning a national title at an NABC event. In this rarefied category, Jiang joins Bill Esberg as the second Unit 140 holder of this top ACBL ranking.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PHILADELPHIA NABC PLAYERS— MARCH 2018

- **Steve Arshan, Richard Ross, Peter Stein** (all of Unit 140) and Len Helfgott (Unit 106) took 1st place in the two-day, four-session 0-10,000 Swiss Pairs.
- **Bill Esberg** and **Himanshu Joshi** placed 13th overall in the Silver Ribbon Pairs.
- **Saul Blum** and **Fred Weiner** placed 9th overall in the NAP Flight B Pairs.
- **Ed Lyons** and **Sue Lyons** placed 21st overall in the NAP Flight C Pairs.
- In the Silidor Open Pairs event, **Jason Ji** placed 37th, **Alex Perlin** placed 48th, and **Joan Brody** placed 50th overall.
- **Jiang Gu** placed 8th overall in the NABC Fast Pairs.
- **Stephen Gareffa** and **David Katzen** placed 30th in the Lebhar IMP Pairs.

KENNETH POWELL

1943 - 2018

Kenneth Powell, former owner of the Essex Bridge Center, died Monday, February 26 at home after a nearly year-long battle with brain cancer.

Ken was born in Jamestown, NY, in 1943, and was raised



in New York State. He earned a Bachelor of Music from Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and both a masters and doctorate in organ performance from the University of Illinois, winning the prestigious Fort Wayne National Organ Competition in

1967. Ken spent 15 years as a music professor and college administrator at Centenary University. He then returned to school to earn an MBA from Rutgers, and spent several years auditing non-profit institutions to earn his CPA designation. He returned to work, including in higher education, serving as Vice President of Finance at Manhattan School of Music and later at Monmouth University.

A lifelong bridge player, Ken ran a once-a-week bridge club in Hackettstown, NJ. He purchased Essex Bridge Center in 1995 with his wife, Rosalind, and his son, Alan.

In the ensuing 22 years, the Powells built Essex Bridge Center into one of the largest full-time ACBL-affiliated bridge clubs in the country. In the beginning Essex offered mainly open games to players. Soon Ken, Rosalind and Alan began creating bridge lessons for beginning through advanced players, offering them additional learning and playing opportunities through a multi-level structured cycle of learning and play. Ken and Alan thoroughly updated and expanded a comprehensive bidding manual, *Modern Bidding Techniques*, or the "Blue Book." This manual is still in use at Essex for multi-level lessons and is sold throughout the United States as a bridge workbook for players.

Always an advocate for new bridge players, Ken was instrumental in recruiting over 1280 new memberships for the ACBL in 22 years. His efforts in growing the club resulted in a Top 10 ranking of US bridge clubs since 2003.

Special memorial games (Open, 0-499 and 0-199) will be held on Sunday, April 29th at Essex Bridge Center in Ken's honor to benefit Cycle for Survival to support rare cancer research. Voluntary donations for Cycle for Survival will be accepted in Ken's name during the games or through Ken's memorial Cycle for Survival team - King of Hearts at:

<https://goo.gl/kzU5zV>

REMEMBRANCES

The Board of Directors of the New Jersey Bridge League offer their condolences to the families and friends of the following members of ACBL Unit 140: They will be missed at our bridge tables. We would like to remember all who support and participate in this great game. Please notify PaulKiefer619@gmail.com of any deaths within our membership; indicate, when known, dates of passing and club(s) attended.

Carol Azer

d. January 13, 2018
Frequent player at Essex

Paul Duchin

d. January 28, 2018
Frequent player at Monroe Township

Leonard Corwin

d. January 16, 2018
Frequent player at Essex

Susan Kovac

d. February 9, 2018

Ken Powell

d. February 26, 2018
Former owner, Essex Bridge Center

PLAYER OF THE YEAR RACE

Standings by Range as of April 1, 2018

Player of the Year MasterPoints are those earned in Unit 140-sponsored events only. These comprise the annual Awards Brunch game, the four sectional tournaments held each year, the Autumnfest Newplicate and Autumnfest Charity Swiss events, and the Double Knockout team matches.

MEN

| | | | |
|-------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 0 – 50 | Robert Frantzen | Princeton | 4.63 |
| | Hamilton Slye | Bridgewater | 2.83 |
| | <u>Norman Friedman</u> | <u>Scotch Plains</u> | <u>2.24</u> |
| 50 – 100 | James Francoeur | Maplewood | 0.98 |
| | Jack Schrum | Bridgewater | 0.73 |
| | <u>Herbert Shulman</u> | <u>Colts Neck</u> | <u>0.70</u> |
| 100 – 200 | Pramod Khanna | East Windsor | 8.28 |
| | Dinkar Pujara | Edison | 5.37 |
| | John Gimblette | Lakewood | 4.95 |
| 200 – 300 | Ira Tarnow | West Orange | 2.49 |
| | Stephen Riepenhoff | Skillman | 2.12 |
| | <u>Arnold Fox</u> | <u>Eatontown</u> | <u>2.04</u> |
| 300 – 1000 | Eli Duttman | Monroe Twp | 11.55 |
| | Piotr Olszewski | Hackettstown | 11.27 |
| | <u>Komal Komat</u> | <u>Plainsboro</u> | <u>9.20</u> |
| 1000 – 2500 | Saul Blum | Monroe | 11.88 |
| | Paul Fried | Monroe Twp | 11.55 |
| | <u>Neil Jaffe</u> | <u>Belle Mead</u> | <u>7.57</u> |
| 2500+ | Jiang Gu | Mountain Lakes | 38.98 |
| | Peter Stein | Hillsborough | 17.63 |
| | Arnold Kohn | Monroe Twp | 12.92 |

WOMEN

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Chantal Frantzen | Princeton | 4.63 |
| Janine Beer | Livingston | 2.24 |
| <u>Laurie Erickson</u> | <u>Madison</u> | <u>1.68</u> |
| Lauren Liu | Princeton | 1.16 |
| Wendy Miller | Morristown | 0.98 |
| <u>Carol Press</u> | <u>Morristown</u> | <u>0.98</u> |
| Jaishree Gupta | Monroe Twp | 3.77 |
| Cynthia Prell | Morristown | 2.48 |
| Mary Jo Herr | Summit | 2.14 |
| <u>Virginia Disch</u> | <u>Summit</u> | <u>2.14</u> |
| Fran Meyer | Wayside | 1.45 |
| <hr/> | | |
| Teresa Chek | Bedminster | 8.30 |
| Jacqueline Hewlett | Bridgewater | 7.74 |
| <u>Patricia Berkowitz</u> | <u>Little Silver</u> | <u>0.78</u> |
| Ruth Yeselson | Highland Park | 17.58 |
| Dorothy Koernig | Summit | 11.27 |
| <u>Ruth Yeselson</u> | <u>Highland Park</u> | <u>6.04</u> |
| Leora Dubrovsky | Howell | 5.14 |
| Cynthia Schneider | East Brunswick | 3.56 |
| Donna Dulet | Ocean | 3.29 |

MASTERPOINT RACES

Top Three Leaders as of April 1, 2018

Mini-McKenney medallions are awarded to the players in each Unit, one per ranking level, who earn the *most total master points* during the previous year. All points of any color and source are counted. **Ace of Clubs** certificates are awarded to the players in each Unit, one per ranking level, who earn *the most master points in club games* during the calendar year. Only black points are counted; points earned in STaCs and other special games paying "pigmented" points don't count. The awards are not mutually exclusive; it's possible to win either or both in the same year. The level you compete in is the one within which you started the year.

MINI-McKENNEY

ACE OF CLUBS

Masterpoint range

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------|-------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 0 – 5 | Julie Bernhardt | Nutley | 6.50 | Julie Bernhardt | Nutley | 8.74 |
| | Stephen Felton | Princeton | 3.76 | Stephen Felton | Princeton | 3.76 |
| | Ellen Cohn | Manalapan | 3.13 | Marcia Aman | Wharton | 3.48 |
| 5 – 20 | Victor Silverstein | Princeton | 6.67 | Stephen Hopkins | Montclair | 15.00 |
| | Richard Helmer | Short Hills | 6.55 | Sean Manns | Murray Hill | 8.45 |
| | Pamela Helmer | Short Hills | 6.55 | Rise Meyers | Jersey City | 7.93 |
| 20 – 50 | Lawrence Harte | Livingston | 21.46 | Lawrence Harte | Livingston | 16.88 |
| | Jane Berry | Roseland | 18.69 | Lauretta Ayers | Toms River | 10.33 |
| | Chantal Frantzen | Princeton | 11.02 | Robert Ayers | Toms River | 10.33 |
| 50 – 100 | Robert Frantzen | Princeton | 11.02 | | | |
| | Cynthia Phelan | Short Hills | 16.34 | Sheila Holderness | Montville | 14.31 |
| | Tony Gribin | Ocean | 14.50 | Laurie Smith | Fair Haven | 11.08 |
| 100 – 200 | Penny Dinger | Westfield | 12.49 | Esther Eisenberg | Holmdel | 10.50 |
| | Joanne Moynihan | Monroe Township | 14.97 | Chris Schwinger | Rockaway | 19.22 |
| | Julie Grossman | Hopewell | 14.20 | Loretta Standing | Chatham | 17.07 |
| 200 – 300 | Loretta Standing | Chatham | 13.84 | Andrew Barlow | Lebanon | 15.99 |
| | Zenon Komar | Summit | 27.78 | John Shotliff | Tinton Falls | 20.03 |
| | Ira Tarnow | West Orange | 22.68 | Ira Tarnow | West Orange | 17.75 |
| 300 – 500 | John Shotliff | Tinton Falls | 16.92 | Zenon Komar | Summit | 17.37 |
| | Joseph Wright | Westfield | 43.04 | Edward Andrews | Skillman | 17.93 |
| | David Weil | New Vernon | 33.40 | Bruce Williams | Oceanport | 16.65 |
| 500 – 1000 | Edward Andrews | Skillman | 21.50 | Joseph Wright | Westfield | 14.60 |
| | Piotr Olszewski | Hackettstown | 125.21 | Piotr Olszewski | Hackettstown | 69.29 |
| | Foster Osborne | Summit | 83.93 | Stephanie Austin | West Caldwell | 27.32 |
| 1000 – 1500 | Michael Hewlett | Bridgewater | 37.70 | Chung-Zong Wan | Somerset | 26.30 |
| | Marc Kelley | Cranford | 29.82 | Neil Rothstein | West Caldwell | 36.24 |
| | Anthony Palumbo | Brielle | 29.15 | Barbara Codispoti | Mount Arlington | 34.58 |
| 1500 – 2500 | Stanley Weiss | Livingston | 29.15 | Jack McBurney | Clinton | 29.77 |
| | Neela Moore | Livingston | 52.56 | Michael Rosen | Freehold | 85.30 |
| | Michael Rosen | Freehold | 50.32 | Leonard Myers | Franklin Township | 47.88 |
| 2500 – 3500 | Wendy Lee | East Hanover | 45.36 | Summer Freedman | Short Hills | 45.60 |
| | Nat Zucker | Monroe Township | 88.72 | Stephen Cooper | Belle Mead | 60.05 |
| | Julia Zucker | Monroe Township | 88.05 | Elyse Menashe | Deal | 40.96 |
| 3500 – 5,000 | Stephen Cooper | Belle Mead | 50.36 | Elizabeth Evans | Mountainside | 35.41 |
| | Joan Brody | Livingston | 122.61 | Joan Brody | Livingston | 44.98 |
| | Muffie Gur | Leonardo | 54.20 | Muffie Gur | Leonardo | 44.54 |
| 5000 – 7500 | Sam Borenstein | West Orange | 53.17 | Donna Dulet | Ocean | 40.71 |
| | Dori Byrnes | Morris Plains | 68.93 | Judy Rothstein | Livingston | 73.92 |
| | Judy Rothstein | Livingston | 59.36 | Lee Schwartz | Morris Plains | 43.87 |
| 7500 – 10,000 | Peter Stein | Hillsborough | 58.30 | Bruce Witzel | Scotch Plains | 43.01 |
| | Jiang Gu | Mountain Lakes | 162.72 | Abe Pineles | Jackson | 70.28 |
| | Abe Pineles | Jackson | 98.28 | Dennis Thompson | Lake Hiawatha | 42.29 |
| 10,000+ | Dennis Thompson | Lake Hiawatha | 80.22 | Cheryl Angel | Livingston | 37.75 |
| | Alexander Allen | Annandale | 36.18 | William Esberg | Long Branch | 18.52 |
| | Lester Sokolower | Verona | 15.70 | Lester Sokolower | Verona | 17.87 |
| | William Esberg | Long Branch | 15.31 | Alexander Allen | Annandale | 13.97 |

CLUB DOINGS

ESSEX BRIDGE CLUB

**King of Hearts Event
Sunday, April 29**

**Ken Powell Memorial Games
Upgraded Club Championship**

Special Game Times * Special Price**

Morning Games: \$10 per player 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon

0-199 game 14-15 boards and 0-499 game, 15-16 boards

There will be special morning snacks served including bagels and assorted cream cheeses, pastries, nuts, fruits, yogurt, and more

Afternoon Game: \$10 per player 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Open Game 20-21 boards

There will be special afternoon snacks served including cheese and crackers, fruits and veggies, finger foods and desserts

All entry fees will be donated in Ken Powell's name to Cycle for Survival to support their ongoing research and treatment for rare cancers such as Ken's brain cancer. Voluntary donations will also be accepted at the game.

RESERVATIONS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED

reservations@essexbridgecenter.com

BIG GAMES

(must have 5 tables to qualify)

January – February - March

| OPEN | | | | LIMITED/INVITATIONAL | | |
|--------|------------------------------------|-------------|---|----------------------|--|----------------|
| 74.11% | Sonia Kaplan / Rochelle Djmal | Jersey | 1 | 81.25% | Gwen Coleman / Richard Buzar | Essex |
| 73.81% | Lisa Walsh / Renee Dondero | Jersey | 2 | 79.05% | Debbie Schneider / Lorraine Stein | Essex |
| 73.75% | Mani Gupta / Susan Braun | Shrine | 9 | 78.75% | Stephen Arshan / Kathy Arshan | Westlake |
| 73.71% | Rosalie Slutsky / Bhartkumar Shah | Grand Slam | 1 | 78.57% | Bill Cassano / Sean Manns | Essex |
| 73.57% | Norma Cohen / Renee Dondero | Jersey | 1 | 77.78% | Lisa Atallah / Lina Bey | Jersey |
| 73.51% | Dennis Thompson / Himanshu Joshi | Essex | 2 | 75.94% | Hallie Brown / Jennifer Kerper | Essex |
| 73.51% | Donna Dulet / William Esberg | Jersey | 2 | 75.45% | Jan Zubow / Ann Stone | Essex |
| 72.76% | Dennis Thompson / Mark Mohr | Essex | 2 | 75.23% | Jennifer Mullins / Patricia Whittemore | Rumson Novice |
| 72.73% | Robert Brolin / Jon Wilkinson | Jersey | 2 | 73.32% | Howard Wolfish / Sean Manns | Essex |
| 72.44% | Dave DuBois / Doree Sobel | Essex | 3 | 73.24% | Phyllis Newmark / Herb Potash | Essex |
| 72.22% | John Hogan / Betty Cox | Essex | 2 | 73.15% | Ed Lyons / Jean Lyons | Princeton |
| 71.83% | Bob Wang / William Esberg | Jersey | 2 | 72.62% | Janine Beer / Norman Friedman | Essex |
| 71.79% | Joseph Gold / Francis Carter Nance | Essex | 1 | 72.50% | Alan Login / Dinkar Pujara | Four Seasons |
| 71.47% | Roslyn Mechlowitz / Ronald Larkin | Toms River | 9 | 72.22% | Davida Schachter / Harold Schachter | Four Seasons |
| 71.30% | George Jones / Sumner Freedman | Essex | 2 | 72.13% | Suzanne Manelski / Laurie Smith | Rumson Novice |
| 71.14% | Steve Newfield / Gordon Cable Jr | Grand Slam | 9 | 72.11% | Roberta Mooney / Patricia Filippa | Essex |
| 71.13% | Vijay Ahuja / Robert Zeckhauser | Shrine | 9 | 72.00% | BillParkins / Roy Knapp | Shadowfax |
| 71.13% | Beau Norton / Dolores Ballard | Stafford | 1 | 71.67% | Pamela Helmer / Richard Helmer | Essex |
| 70.83% | Lester Sokolower / Barbara Tepper | Shrine | 9 | 71.67% | Ron Zielensky / Anne Johnston | Shadowfax |
| 70.83% | Richard Freedman / Stephen Arshan | Freehold | 2 | 71.44% | Sally Walker / Muffy Dixon | Montclair Golf |
| 70.70% | Jon Wilkinson / Henry Stadelmann | Jersey | 1 | 71.43% | Lynn Godfrey / Justine Robertson | Jersey |
| 70.63% | Muffie Gur / Reha Gur | Jersey | 9 | 71.25% | Davida Schachter / Harold Schachter | Four Seasons |
| 70.54% | Donna Dulet / Renee Dondero | Jersey | 2 | 71.23% | George Schneider / Enid Rothman | Essex |
| 70.53% | Romesh Arora / Doug Reeves | Murray Hill | 1 | 71.13% | Jack Greenberg / Myron Weiskopf | Montclair Golf |
| 70.51% | Himanshu Joshi / Ashok Agarwala | Essex | 1 | 71.08% | Ron Ilan / J F Degeorges | Essex |
| 70.45% | Cheryl Britton / David Mayer | Jersey | 9 | 70.91% | Lenore Paddock / Bonnie Conrov | Essex |
| 70.37% | Lawrence Lerner / James Metzger | Essex | 2 | 70.85% | Susan Manns / Bill Cassano | Essex |
| 70.31% | Cheryl Angel / Lester Sokolower | Shrine | 1 | 70.83% | Barbara Romann / Phyllis Kessler | Essex |
| 70.24% | Mark Mohr / Lester Sokolower | Shrine | 2 | 70.63% | Ed Lyons / Jean Lyons | Essex |
| 70.19% | Judy Rothstein / Piotr Olszewski | Essex | 2 | 70.49% | Mira Sheerin / Sheila Albert | Princeton |
| 70.14% | Steve Cooper - Len Myers | BCCNJ | 1 | 70.24% | Sissie Redden / Pat Drummond | Rumson Novice |
| 70.07% | Carol Antebi / Molly Cohen | Jersey | 1 | 70.09% | Susan Korenstein / Nancy Mendelsohn | Essex |
| 70.00% | Jim Heimlich / Pat Heimlich | Stafford | 2 | 70.09% | George Schneider / Dolores Christy | Essex |
| 70.00% | Endel Pool / June Lapp | Toms River | 2 | 70.05% | Cooki Gulkin / Lynn Goldberg | Essex |

YOUTH BRIDGE

by Barbara Clark



Momo Sacko, Justin Depah (Orange)
2nd place 64.58%
Lauren Liu (Princeton)
1st place (87.50%)

Eight tables of kids played in the Saturday, March 3rd Woodbridge Sectional tournament. New to participation in our competitions were a group of very enthusiastic youngsters from the Princeton, West Windsor and Plainsboro areas. In their second year of classes in the greater Princeton area, kids are developing logic reasoning, concentration, and communication skills with partners and others. Their teacher Lauren Liu led a



Taquan Neblett, Iyahna Barrett (Orange)
4th place (61.79%)

discussion about the tournament afterwards and all the kids were very excited to learn and play more. They had questions about scoring, conventions, director calls, and strategies. Both Lauren and her father Zhu Liu are grateful for the Unit 140 bridge program and the opportunity to share the whole new world of bridge with these students, who are interested and excited about learning to play bridge



Tamyra Rumble, Slov-Ander Adme
(Park Avenue)



Reid Busse, Caroline Zhao (Westfield)
5th/6th place (61.12%)
Munachiso Iherobiem, Prince Antwi (Orange)
5th/6th place (61.12%)

Princeton Bridge Club with
Zhu Liu, Barbara Clark, and Lauren Liu



MILESTONES

CHANGES IN RANK: JANUARY – FEBRUARY – MARCH

Grand Life Master

| | | |
|-------|----|----------------|
| Jiang | Gu | Mountain Lakes |
|-------|----|----------------|

Gold Life Master

| | | |
|--------|------|---------|
| Robert | King | Jackson |
|--------|------|---------|

Ruby Life Master

| | | |
|---------|---------|--------------|
| William | Golush | Denville |
| Penny | Hoadley | Brookside |
| Bill | Miller | Kendall Park |

Silver Life Master

| | | |
|---------|----------|------------|
| Jan | De Boer | Princeton |
| Corinne | Edelbaum | Monroe Twp |
| Foster | Osborne | Summit |

Bronze Life Master

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| Stephanie | Austin | West Caldwell |
| Tina | Boyer | Montclair |
| Michael | Hewlett | Bridgewater |
| Joseph | Lebretore | Hazlet |
| Chandu | Mehta | Morris Plains |
| William | Stolgitis | Avon |
| Joan | Vrba | Morristown |

Life Master

| | | |
|---------|-----------|---------------|
| Pat | Guadagno | W Long Branch |
| Satya | Rami | Morganville |
| William | Stolgitis | Avon |

Adv NABC Master

| | | |
|---------|----------|---------------|
| Paul | Adler | Morganville |
| Richard | Freedman | New Brunswick |
| Clayton | Reynolds | Weehawken |

NABC Master

| | | |
|---------|-----------|----------------|
| Howard | Booth | Summit |
| Debbie | Faigen | Lawrenceville |
| Francis | Gupta | Princeton |
| Pramod | Khanna | East Windsor |
| Ed | Lyons | S Plainfield |
| Jean | Lyons | S Plainfield |
| Mark | Pesner | Cedar Grove |
| Charles | Tomlinson | Princeton |
| Renee | Waas | Mountain Lakes |

Regional Master

| | | |
|---------|---------|---------------|
| Cathryn | Bergin | Rumson |
| Carolyn | Feldman | Pennington |
| Cooki | Gulkin | West Caldwell |

Regional Master (cont'd)

| | | |
|----------|------------|----------------|
| Susan | Kaplowitz | East Brunswick |
| Sherry | Kovacs | Livingston |
| Richard | Mendelsohn | Madison |
| Marcia | Milgrom | Monroe Twp |
| Wendy | Miller | Morristown |
| Lorraine | Novinski | Morristown |
| Kathleen | Riepenhoff | Skillman |
| Arthur | Sabsevitz | Monroe Twp |
| Jack | Schrum | Bridgewater |
| Barbara | Simpson | Chatham |
| David | Weil | New Vernon |

Sectional Master

| | | |
|----------|----------------|---------------|
| Marilyn | Bratz | Millington |
| Chantal | Frantzen | Princeton |
| Robert | Frantzen | Princeton |
| Cathleen | Fuge | Sea Girt |
| Janet | Gardiner | Little Silver |
| Gloria | Gribin | Wayside |
| Lawrence | Harte | Livingston |
| Elinora | Marsh | Pennington |
| Arthur | Rogovin | West Orange |
| Marlene | Rudder-Rogovin | West Orange |
| Niobe | Schabert | Homder |
| Jon | Schweitzer | Scotch Plains |
| Loretta | Smith | Summit |
| Muriel | Spencer | Monroe Twp |
| Judith | Stier | Princeton |
| Cynthia | Tinnirella | Oakhurst |
| Sanford | Vogel | Martinsville |
| Scott | Yablonowitz | Monroe Twp |

Club Master

| | | |
|------------|-----------|---------------|
| Ursee | Braun | Wharton |
| Cionna | Buckley | Little Silver |
| James | Carr | Metuchen |
| Bill | Cassano | Berkeley Hts |
| Ellen | Comerford | Livingston |
| J-F | Degeorges | Millington |
| Marguerite | DiMasi | Ocean |
| Donna | Fernandez | Rumson |
| Ji | Hua | Short Hills |
| George | Isaacs | Boonton Twp |
| Mary | Kallstrom | Lebanon |
| Roy | Knapp | Rockaway |

Club Master (cont'd)

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------------|
| Albert | Knight | Chester |
| Michael | Kovacs | Livingston |
| Eleanor | Levy | Washington |
| Sean | Manns | Murray Hill |
| Madeleine | Miller | Jersey City |
| Tracey | Moreno | Sea Girt |
| Olga | Netto | Summit |
| Joel | Novendstern | Montclair |
| Judith | Polonofsky | Verona |
| Mikael | Salovaara | Bernardsville |
| Robert | Shiff | New Providence |
| Victor | Silverstein | Princeton |
| Roberta | Sutker | Pennington |

Junior Master

| | | |
|------------|------------|-----------------|
| Marcia | Aman | Wharton |
| Suren | Batra | Somerset |
| Julie | Bernhardt | Nutley |
| Casey | Bradford | Maplewood |
| Ann | Cahillane | Spring Lake |
| Victoria | Campbell | Pennington |
| Marlene | Centanni | Watchung |
| Phyllis | Chase | Princeton |
| Stephen | Felton | Princeton |
| Gloria | Frank | Plainsboro |
| Lorraine | Franz | Summit |
| Denise | Glassman | Short Hills |
| Jacqueline | Hinshaw | Mendham |
| Marty | Kale | West Caldwell |
| Mayda | Kale | West Caldwell |
| Elisabeth | Klausing | Bernardsville |
| Carol | Lewkowicz | Upper Montclair |
| Mary Beth | Macchia | Belmar |
| Ravi | Patel | Atlantic Hlds |
| Harold | Sarvetnick | Mountainside |
| Andy | Stotler | Westfield |
| Mariclaire | Stotler | Westfield |
| Mary | Todt | Little Silver |
| Lillian | Velazquez | Monroe |
| Barry | Weinstein | Monroe Twp |
| Margaret | W Strong | Whippany |
| Susan | Wyrsh | Barnegat |