

bRidge Bits

The Newsletter of the Rhode Island Bridge Association

January 10, 2017

Message from the President

Thank you, members of RIBA, for your support and confidence in allowing me to carry out the role and duties of President of RIBA. I am looking forward to working with the Board of Directors and the Executive Officers to increase participation at our clubs, improve the quality and promote the best interests of the game, and assist ACBL in the promotion of bridge tournaments.

We need your help to achieve the above goals. We must all be promoters and advertisers of the game of bridge. This should be an easy task since this is the game we all really love. 2016 was a great year for District 25 Regionals. Attendance was up and there seemed to be renewed energy. I hope we continue this trend and make 2017 even better.

Paula Najarian

Create A Memory -- Preserve A Memory

On Thursday, March 9, 2017, RIBA will be once again partnering with The Players at Barker Playhouse to raise money for The Alzheimer's Association. We have reserved 50 tickets for Romeo and Juliet. Tickets are \$10 and half of that will go to the Alzheimer's Association. Tickets are not limited to RIBA members so bring your friends to support this excellent cause. Curtain time is at 8:00 P.M. and doors open at 7:15 with seating beginning at 7:30. The Barker Playhouse is located at 400 Benefit St, Providence, RI 02903.

Make your reservation with Maureen Fahey and get additional information from her at faheyri@aol.com or at (401) 316-1122. This event sold out last year so make your reservation early.

RIBA Gives Back

Each year, RIBA uses some of the proceeds from sectionals for charitable donations to not for profit, charitable organizations.

This year, the RIBA is making a contribution to the Children's Shelter of Blackstone Valley and a separate contribution, in Susan Miguel's name, to the Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation.

RIBA members are encouraged to submit the name and brief description of a favorite charity to Julie Goulet, Charity Chair, for future consideration.

Did You Get Your Membership Directory?

If you didn't make it to the gala in October and would like your membership directory, contact Paula Najarian for an e-mail version. Our local clubs have a limited supply of the printed version. You can keep yours up to date with the member information in this bRidge Bits.

Almost Big Games

To make the pages of the ACBL magazine, you need a 75% game, plus you must meet some other requirements. Doesn't it sting when you get 72%? You deserve a pat on the back. Send the news of your 70%+ games to bRidge Bits and let's give you a little local glory.

Home Baked Goodies Needed for Our January Tournament

We are renowned for the yummy food that is served at our tournaments. Be part of the team! Bring something you've made to the tournament -- bonus: you'll get a discount on your entry fee!

New Members & Transfers into Unit 145

Kathleen Caron, East Greenwich
Patricia Hench, Middletown
Joan Keger, Saundertown
Alan Scharman, North Attleboro, MA
Patricia Uhlman, Foster

In Memoriam

William Aznavourian, Providence, RI
Warren Fish, Cranston, RI
Angela Dale Murphy, Wakefield, RI
Neal H. White, Warwick, RI

Rhode Island Bridge Assn. Winter Sectional

January 28 & 29, 2017
Win EXTRA Silver Points!

Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Avenue
(Route 6A), Johnston, RI

www.RIBridge.org ... Please check this website for up to the minute details and in case of inclement weather

Nominations Sought for Larry Weiss Trophy

The New England Bridge Conference (ACBL District 25) is seeking nominations for this year's recipient of the Larry Weiss Trophy, which recognizes "Grace and Skill at the Bridge Table." When Weiss (a longtime New England bridge expert known for his politeness and poise) died, his brother Stephen donated the trophy and specified that it be given to a New England player who has a good degree of success in bridge during the year, and who shows "superior behavior and gracious presence at the bridge table."

Last year's recipient of the award was Luke Gillespie, a member of the Eastern Massachusetts Bridge Association. As is traditional, Gillespie is managing the selection of this year's recipient, and nominations may be sent to him by email at lukegillespie49@gmail.com. Marshall Williams (marshallwilliams@mac.com) is serving as the Rhode Island representative on the selection committee. Rhode Islanders who've won the Trophy include Bernard Miller in 1985 and Walter Fontaine in 2007.

Upcoming Events

Sectional Johnston, RI January 28-29
Regional Cromwell, CT February 15-20
Sectional Watertown, MA Feb 24-26
NABC Kansas City, MO March 9-19
Sectional Johnston, RI March 25-26
Sectional Watertown, MA Mar 31-April 2
Sr Regional Falmouth, MA April 26-30
Sectional Auburn, MA May 6-7
Sectional Watertown, MA May 26-28
Sectional Johnston, RI June 10-11
Regional Nashua, NH June 20-25
Regional Warwick, RI Aug 29-Sept 3
Sectional Johnston, RI September 16-17
Sectional Watertown, MA October 6-8
Regional Danbury, CT October 9-15
Sectional Auburn, MA October 14-15
Annual Gala Cranston, RI October 21
NABC - Providence, June 2021

FREE Gold Points

There will be no fee to play in select Knock Out games in Nashua in June (check flyer for details) - a great opportunity to try out this exciting team event and win piles and piles of gold points.

The format for a knockout is simple. A match usually consists of 24 boards (more in the top bracket) and lasts for one session. In a head-to-head match the winner advances, and the loser is out. Three-way matches usually consist of two sets of twelve boards. Two of the three teams advance; only one is eliminated. A knockout event lasts until only one team remains. It could take four sessions or even longer. Because of the duration of the event it is not uncommon for a team to consist of five or six players. In Cromwell the knockouts are scheduled for four sessions on two consecutive morning-afternoons.

Knockouts are bracketed. Your opponents will, to the extent possible, have total masterpoints that are in the same range as yours. Gold points are generally awarded to all members of teams that survive two sessions.

Next local Knockouts are in Cromwell, CT in February

RIBA Officers

President: Paula Najarian
Vice President: Marshall Williams
Secretary: Linda Ahrens
Treasurer: Joe Brouillard

Board of Directors

Liz Brian	Barton Buffington
Charleen Christy	Lois DeBlois
Maureen Fahey	Julie Goulet
Meg Gousie	Diane Lambert
Bea Martini	Carol McCullough
David Prentiss	Chris Soares
Marshall Williams	

Your submissions to and ideas for bRIde Bits are welcome. Sigh, corrections, too. Send to Carol McCullough at christmascarol999@yahoo.com. Please include your info in the text of an email, as if you were saying hello, not as an attachment - except for photos, which should be jpg attachments.

Or call her at (401) 647-7148. Upcoming bRIde Bits planned for March 10; May 10; July 10; Sept 10; Nov 10. Deadline to submit info is the 1st of those months. Earlier is never a bad idea.

Newest Rank Achievements

Life Masters

Nicholas Blazensky, Westerly
Sandra Blazensky, Westerly
Matthew Byrne, Jamestown
Diane Lambert, Seekonk MA

Bronze Life Master (500 MP's)

Norbert Fessel, Riverside
Marguerite Gousie, Woonsocket

Silver Life Master (1000 MP's)

Matthew Byrne, Jamestown

Gold Life Master (2500 MP's)

Marilyn Ardente, Providence

Sapphire Life Master (3500 MP's)

Philip Lam, Cumberland

Emerald Life Master (7500 MP's)

Terry Byrne, Jamestown

Junior Master (5 MP's)

Catherine Hemerlein, Little Compton
Marshall Mugge, Westerly
Ann Stevenson, Westerly

Club Master 20 MP's

Dr J Brian Haworth, Newport
Jean Haworth, Newport
Elizabeth Nadeau, Little Compton

Sectional Master 50 MP's

Cynthia Wilson, East Greenwich
Dolores Wilson, East Greenwich

Regional Master 100 MP's

Julie Goulet, Warwick
Ann Brendle, Voluntown CT

NABC Master (200 MP's)

Joe Russo, Slatersville

(as of 1/4/17)

Learn to Play Better Bridge

Local opportunities for learning exist. If you know of any that are not included here, please let bRIde Bits know.

These are in no particular order. Contact the clubs for details.

Warwick Bridge Club

Robert Garfinkel
www.WarwickBridgeClub.com
(401) 739-0481
robgarfink@aol.com
Beginner classes starting in February.

Bridge Club of Northern RI

Clint Wright
www.BridgeClubOfNorthernRI.com
(401) 529-6674
cwright1717@gmail.com
Wednesday mornings in Lincoln, a lesson followed by a non-sanctioned game. Friday evenings in North Smithfield a non-sanctioned newcomer game with guidance available.

The Bridge Place

Barton Buffington
www.bridgeplaceri.com
(401) 390-9244
abarton295@aol.com
I have been teaching for many years. I am the only American Bridge Teachers Association (ABTA) Master Teacher in Rhode Island. Currently, I have two beginners classes going, and I expect to start my Beginners II at the start of February. Other classes on request. I have a 2/1 class which runs six weeks. The Beg. II class will be on Monday nights at 7 at the Bridge Place, 275 Camp Street, Providence.

My guided play consists of players dealing and playing, with my assistance as needed with bidding and play. The range of players' expertise is from real beginners to advanced beginners and so-called intermediates. Thursday afternoons from 1:30-3:30 at the Bridge Place.

Narragansett Bridge Club

Joan O'Connell
(401) 369-4012
jmoc34@cox.net

Ed. note: Errors or omissions are unintentional, please let me know about them.