

bRidge Bits

The Newsletter of the Rhode Island Bridge Association

Doing Good: R.I. Bridge Clubs Raise \$2,000 for Alzheimer's Association

(Reprinted from The Providence Journal)

NARRAGANSETT, R.I. -- Five Rhode Island bridge clubs -- the Viking Bridge Club of Portsmouth, Narragansett Bridge Club, Warwick Bridge Club, Bridge Club of Northern Rhode Island of Smithfield, and the Bridge Club of Rhode Island -- came together June 21 and 22 to raise money and awareness for the Alzheimer's Association in a national event called The Longest Day.

The team, Rhode Island Kings & Queens, supported the cause by playing bridge and other games from sunrise to sunset at the Narragansett Bridge Club's home, the Narragansett Senior Center. The cause is especially important to team captain Marshall Williams, who lost a loved one to Alzheimer's disease.

The association raised more than \$2,000 for the Alzheimer's Association this year, surpassing its 2014 total by \$500.

Pictured above, Jean Lieberman, Terry Byrne and Lee Rodman participate in The Longest Day fundraiser at the Narragansett Bridge Club on June 22. Lieberman and Byrne were auctioned off as "expert partners" to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association, an idea devised by Joan O'Connell, director of the club.



President's Message — From Maureen Fahey

I can't believe it is fall again. It seems like we just had the Providence NABC. It has been a great pleasure to see so many of you at the Warwick Regional and the Johnston Sectionals. My husband Stan and I have also played at almost all of the clubs here in Rhode Island this year and we cannot get over how welcoming all the clubs were.

Plus, we enjoyed a very special event — On October 8, more than 40 Rhode Island bridge players attended "The Octette Bridge Club," performed by The Players at the Barker Playhouse in Providence. The play is about eight sisters who meet for bridge every two weeks. The Players provided RIBA with deeply discounted tickets which we sold to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association, and we raised nearly \$150. Marshall Williams helped with these efforts. Based on the positive feedback from our attendees, we plan to continue to partner with The Players and raise more money in the future.

The district has some special events coming up in the first part of 2016. This January is a special regional in Newton — it is the last individual tournament, the Keohane Individual Tournament. If you have never played in in this event or in Newton, this is your last chance. The district is also holding a Pro-Am event in Cromwell on February 13. I played at the last Pro-Am in Nashua and as an "Am" I had a great time and my "Pro" taught me a couple things that I am still using (thanks, Joe Brouillard). Whether you are a Pro or an Am, please consider coming to one or both of the events. And - as always - play nice!

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Annual Meeting & Bridge Gala Saturday, October 24

The Annual Meeting and Gala will be this Saturday, Oct. 24, at Rhodes Place in Cranston. There will be a complimentary continental breakfast before play begins at 10am. You can register for either the Open Game or the 299'er Game.

The Annual Meeting will be held immediately after the buffet lunch. At this time, members will be asked to vote for Officers of the Rhode Island Bridge Association. The nominations include: Maureen Fahey, President; Paula Najarian, Vice President; Linda Ahrens, Secretary; Joseph Brouillard, Treasurer. New members to the Board of Directors this year include Julie Goulet and Beatrice Martini.

We hope to see you all at the Gala for a delicious lunch buffet, the Annual Meeting, presentation of awards, and a fun day of bridge!

Changes At The Clubs

Two of our bridge clubs have moved — Bridgeworks has a new location at Temple AM David, 40 Gardiner Street, Warwick. The new site provides easy accessibility (no stairs) and plenty of parking.

The Bridge Club of R.I. has closed, and is replaced by The Bridge Place at a new location - St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 50 Park Place, Pawtucket. The game schedule remains the same except for a change in the starting time of the noon games, changed to 11:30 a.m.

Sectional / Regional Tournament News

Bridge is alive and doing very well in Rhode Island. Attendance at our June and September 2015 sectionals showed big improvements from 2014. The Johnston Senior Center is a modern facility and players love the convenient location. The hospitality is legendary and enjoyed by all players. Each tournament has separate sections for 299er pairs, 2 session open pairs, 299er Swiss and bracketed Swiss on Sunday. Hopefully Mother Nature will be kind to us in late January this year. Silver points can only be earned at local

sectional tournaments for those working on their life master requirements.

The District 25 Fiesta regional held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick is the most successful in New England. The District has a contract with the hotel for at least 2 more years in Warwick. The District has added a new event to the regionals, A-B-C pairs. The event is different in that it expands the point totals for the B and C players. A "C" player can have up to 1,500 points and "B" up to 3,000 points. This will make the event much more competitive for the "B" and "C" players.

Want to improve your play and bridge skills? Attend the FREE expert panel discussions and lectures at every regional. The next regional will be held in Mansfield, MA November 4 – 8. Mansfield is only 20 minutes from Providence. Gold points can only be earned at regional and national tournaments for those working on their life master requirements.

The WORLD'S LAST individual regional will be in January, 2016 in Newton. Newton is only an hour drive from Providence. Be part of history and play in a fun event for the very last time.

Chicago - Our Kind Of Town

By Lois DeBlois & Paula Najarian

We are big fans of traveling to the Nationals. It's not just about playing bridge — you can play bridge at any Rhode Island Club or nearby Sectional or Regional — it's about the opportunity to play with and against players from all over the world.

Chicago is magnificent in the summertime and is known for Lake Michigan, beautiful city parks, museums and sports teams. We attended a Cubs game at historic Wrigley Field. We dined at many wonderful restaurants and enjoyed incredibly good food (and wine, of course). Coming from a place of Great Food, that's high praise.

We both enjoyed the most interesting fact-filled architectural boat tour of the rivers. Getting around the city using public transportation was easy and efficient.

Washington, DC NABC next summer! Can't wait...

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For The Record — Noteworthy Achievements For The Past Year

Life Master Achievements Oct. 2014 to Oct. 2015

New Life Master

Norbert Fessel

Joe Fisher

June Wood

Meg Gousie

Gold Life Master

Gregory Klinker

Silver Life Master

Stuart Treworgy

Sandra Scolliard

Bronze Life Master

Linda Ahrens

Kyle Barrett

Nora Cushing

Marshall Williams

In Memoriam

Edith Blish, Rumford

J. D. Worrall, Wakefield

Carolyn Worrall, Wakefield

Sharon Gerlach, Middletown

Lila Sapinsley, Providence

Belle Perlman, Providence

Mary Barrett, Providence

Mary Iannucci, North

Providence

Carole Goldman, Cranston

Unit Races Mini-McKinney Winners, 2014

Christopher Huber, 0-5 MPs

Tina Yu, 5-20

M. Lynne Fitzpatrick, 20-50

Rex Tien, 50-100

Fredda Sharfstein, 100-200

Peter Buonfiglio, 200-300

Clint Wright, 300-500

Gail Borod, 500-1000

John Urciuoli, 1000-2500

Bart Buffington, 2500-5000

Joyce Regan, 5000-7500

Phyllis Chase, 7500-10,000

Russell Ekeblad, 10,000+

Ace Of Clubs Winners, 2014

Martha Hunnewell, 0-5

Celeste Penney, 5-20

Hassan Naguib, 20-50

Rex Tien, 50-100

Fredda Sharfstein, 100-200

Peter Buonfiglio, 200-300

Alice Forty, 300-500

Gail Borod, 500-1000

John Urciuoli, 1000-5000

Nancy Rosenbaum,

2500-5000

Joyce Regan, 5000-7500

Phyllis Chase, 6500-10,000

John Malley, 10,000+

Upcoming Events

Rhode Island

Johnston Sectionals

January 30-31, 2016

March 19-20

June 4-5

September 24-25

STaC

January 18-24

Massachusetts

Sectionals

Auburn, Oct. 25

Watertown, December 11-13

Watertown, April 1-3

Sturbridge, April 8-10 (GNT
& NAP)

Auburn, May 14-15

Watertown, May 27-29

Great Barrington, July 9-10

Sturbridge, October 15-16
(GNT & NAP)

Auburn, October 22-23

Regionals

Mansfield, November 4-8

Newton, January 8-10

Hyannis, April 27-May 1

Connecticut

Regionals

Cromwell, February 10-15

Danbury, October 17-23

NABCs

Denver, CO, Nov. 26-Dec. 8

Reno, NV, March 10-20

Washington, D.C., July
21-31

Bridge Bits Editors, Meg Gousie & Marshall Williams

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An Important Message From New England Youth Bridge

Wanted: More School Bridge Clubs

How can you help?

If you know of someone who will help recruit students to try out a school bridge club, please inform any board member of New England Youth Bridge, Inc. The recruiter could be a school faculty member or other school-connected individual who would personally reach out to students, a parent who will recruit not only their child but also the friends of their child and/or will personally coordinate responses to a notice to parents from the school's Parent Teacher Organization, or a student who will recruit his/her friends to join. New England Youth Bridge (NEYB) will help the bridge club succeed for the recruited participants by supplying lesson plans and – if you do not want to teach the students yourself – by recruiting a bridge player to teach the lessons. Just contact a board member of NEYB (names are listed below) to talk about how to proceed.

Now is the time to follow up, so that a new school bridge club can begin soon after the start of the 2015-16 school year.

NEYB is a tax exempt charitable organization. NEYB, which charges no fees for teaching youth to play bridge, offers not only lesson plans, teaching tips, cards, boards, and bidding boxes, but also, as necessary, financial assistance to help the youth bridge club succeed.

NEYB board members are Jeff Lehman, Lisa Allison, Pam Miller, Adam Parrish, Jim Rasmussen, Adam Grossack, and Barbara Doyle.

Thank You to Youth Bridge Volunteers

Many of them behind the scenes at D25 school bridge clubs, adult bridge players volunteer to help teach and supervise tables of players at school bridge clubs' meetings and tournaments. Please give a big thank you to these individuals: Dave Lawrence of Rochester, NH; Lisa and Nate Allison of Lee, NH; Ruth Cunniff of Durham, NH; Nancy Hornbeck of Durham, NH; Darien Lauten of Durham, NH; George (Skip) Page of Rye, NH; Maureen Fahey of Coventry, RI; Vivi Leavy of Newton, MA; Barbara Doyle of Chestnut Hill, MA; Lew Gamerman of Randolph, MA ; Pam Miller and Jim Rasmussen of Cambridge, MA; Fizza Adamjee of Newton, MA; and Lloyd Steger of Watertown, MA.

Thank you.

Jeff Lehman, President
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