

# POST MORTEM

## All the news that fits in print

.....by arlene port

December, our last month of the year, carries with it pleasure and pain. We mourn the loss of so many of our friends and suffer the despair when we think of all the mistakes we made at the bridge table and in our lives. On the other hand, we still have support from our family and our friends. We still get to play bridge, no matter how bad we are and, best of all, we still wake up in the morning. So, I guess it's a wash.

Did I forget anything? Wait!! Yes I did!! We have much to look forward to at the PBA. Starting on December 9 - 15, STaC week is happening, featuring silver point games and lots of fun. Look at the calendar of events and take note that every Friday evening PBA has the word championship or special game. That translates into "points, points, points!) Check the flyer on page 6 for information.

There are three XMAS parties planned for this month: Greensburg, at Lakeview Country Club on December 12 (Reservations required) and Saturday, 12/7 at New Brighton. On 12/17, The game in O'hara Twp will be a swiss team event and a Holiday party. So, take advantage of the month: Eat until you burst and play bridge until you get it right

And finally, our tiny, but efficient editorial staff; Phyllis Geinzer, Chris Wang and I wish you all the happiest and most healthy in the new year.

## WORDS OF WISDOM TO LIVE BY

**SAVE THE EARTH  
IT'S THE ONLY PLANET WITH CHOCOLATE**



## BRIDGE BYTES

.....By Ernie Retetagos

It certainly does!!!

### Subject: Interesting Hands

A couple of hands that I played recently involved some unusual bidding situations. One hand featured high level preemptive bidding at a team event. The other was a one level decision at a club game.

1) S- A K x x H- K Q J x x D- A x C- A x Both VUL

At a club game with everyone vulnerable, my RHO opened 1 heart. The standard way to show a big hand is to double. If I was playing a total point method of scoring like IMPS, I would have doubled. Partner needs very little to make game. But if partner doesn't have anything, I could defend and probably get plus 200 on a part score hand. I guessed that if I doubled, I would make a part score or go minus more often than not, so I passed. LHO passed, and partner balanced with 2 clubs. I bid 2 hearts, partner bid 2 spades, and I raised to game. Partner had 6 clubs to the King and 5 spades to the Jack, and made 12 tricks when the Queen of spades dropped doubleton. I don't think that many would agree with my pass since it is such an anti-field position. It's probably close as to whether passing will work out more often than not, but it exemplifies a difference between matchpoints and IMPS.

2) West - S-x H-J x x D- x x x x C- A x x x x East- S- A x H- K Q x D - A K Q J C- K J x x

Vulnerable against not, East opened 2 clubs and South bid 3 spades. West passed, showing a control and forcing to game. North continued the preempt by bidding 4 spades. East passed, indicating a balanced 22-23, and South bid 5 spades. West made a forcing pass and North bid 6 spades. East made a forcing pass and West doubled for 500. I don't recall ever playing a hand where each partner made a forcing pass. This seemed like a good save against a club contract which makes 12 tricks by finessing the club Queen. Since South preempted twice, it was likely that they had a singleton somewhere. The 6 spade bid didn't pick up IMPS, because their teammates doubled 4 spades for a one trick set.

## BRIDGE HUMOR POST

This elderly gentleman went to the Dr. for his annual checkup. The Dr., impressed that this man was in even better health than he was the year before. Curious, he asked him what he does for mental stimulation. The man answered that he played duplicate bridge. The doctor, a bridge player, told him that's great. "And what do you do for physical stimulation?" "I sit East-West" was the reply.

Said the declarer to his partner: I'd like a review of the bidding with all of the original inflections.

Years ago there were only two acceptable reasons for not leading partner's suit: (1) having no cards in the suit; (2) a death wish

A man and woman who had never played before got involved in a heart-spade war each trying to outbid the other. Finally the woman who had a terrific hand, bid 7H. \ Not enough, her partner bid 7S. When the dummy came down he saw that 7H was cold and 7S didn't have a prayer. He knew there was going to be trouble after the hand so he began his apologies early by saying: Sorry, I should have withdrawn." "You should have withdrawn?" said the lady, "Your father should have withdrawn!

Know the difference between a serial killer and a bridge partner?  
Answer: You can reason with the serial killer.

A married couple were not speaking to each other after a horrible game and were driving home from a distant bridge tournament. They passed by a field where there were many donkeys. The husband broke the silence by asking the wife: "Relations of yours"? "Yes" she said, "In-laws".

This guy never lead away from a king. He was told not to, so he never did. Finally he passed away and he found himself in a bridge game. He was on lead against 4S holding: Kx, Kxx, Kxxx, Kxxx. Right then and there he knew where he was

Another thing to tell your partner after dummy comes down weaker than expected: "Where is the hand you held during the bidding"

This lady, Charlotte, played very slowly. She was asked to speed it up a bit. She said: "I'm sorry, but I can't think and play bridge at the same time.

When your partner is playing even worse than usual you might say: "You know, you may not be the worst player in the world, .... but if that person should die....

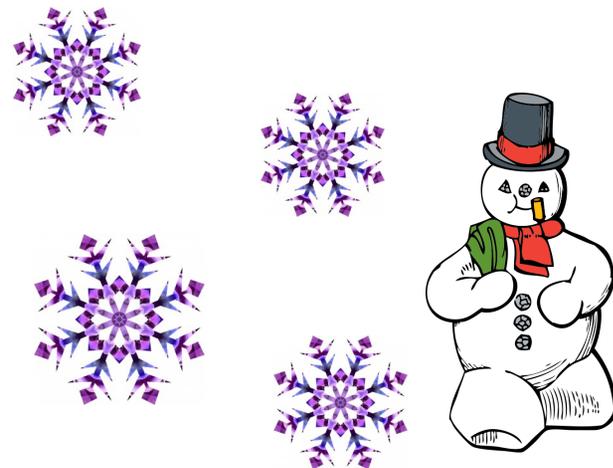
## IN MEMORY

**MARIAN CHABAN COHEN died** : On Tuesday, October 29, She was the loving mother of Rick Cohen and Cathy Cohen Weitz and James and Randi Cohen. She was a grandmother, a great grandmother and a really close friend to everyone who was fortunate enough to know her. She also played bridge - and she was fairly accomplished at the game.

But, most of all, Marion was a great person. Always positive, always, always happy and most of all, always lots of fun to be with. She was in her nineties when she passed away, but she never acted her age. I met her once at Bed Bath and Beyond and she was looking for something she didn't remember the name of, to transfer a liquid into another bottle. I told her it was called a funnel and asked her why she wanted it. "Oh", she said, "when the girls come over, I need to transfer the vodka into a small bottle from the bigger one". Giving her a ride to the game was a treat because she always had a funny joke to tell me on the way. I miss her very much, along with everybody else.

Our condolences to her family and friends. Her death was a great loss, but we will always have wonderful memories of her to keep us warm.

(Ed note:) I hate to preach, but we simply cannot afford to lose so many fine people who were part of our peer group and our friends and who shared the game we love. So, here is my advice to you all. Lose 10 years and take good care of yourselves. We need you.....arlene



## IN MEMORY

**JAN SCHULTHEIS** passed away following a courageous two year battle with failing health. She leaves behind her husband, Alan, two brothers, two children and nine grandchildren. Jan was an avid duplicate player , achieving Silver Life Master status. Jan was treasurer of the Chartiers-Houston Duplicate Bridge Club and secretary of Washington Bridge Club. Her frequent partner was Dennis Pittmann, with whom she played Montreal Relay System. Her absence will be very much felt in the South Hills and Washington County bridge circles.

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**HELEN LAZARUS** died in November. She was a familiar figure at the bridge table, usually playing with her husband, Buddy . Helen was a lovely lady. Always beautifully dressed, always friendly. Aside from her bridge skills, she brought grace to our game and our members. Our condolences to her family and friends.

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**ROSEANNE PATTERSON'S** husband, Barry died in November. We would like to give Rosanne our deepest sympathy for her terrible loss. We hope to see Roseanne back at the bridge table soon. I know she has wonderful memories to comfort her now and in the future.

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**JOHN GILLETTE.** passed away in November. John moved back to Pittsburgh from New York a few years ago and quickly became a part of our unit and our lives. The son of Noel Gillette, also a familiar bridge player in our unit. John brought so much to admire. He was a very fine bridge player and teacher. He was a mentor to many of our players. And, her was a nice person. He had some difficult times, but always managed to come back to the game. He was, comparatively speaking, a young man who left us too soon. To his family and friends, we send our sympathy. We wish him peace and hope he knows how much we cared about him.

# STaC Week!

**December 9-15 ALL WEEK!**

**Win Silver Points at your local club!  
A STaC Game is a Sectional Game held at  
many sites. Your performance at your local  
club is compared with other games -  
for a larger award!**

**A: 2500+ B: 750-2500 C: 0-750**

**All Masterpoint Awards are Silver.**

**Check to make sure your club is participating  
at [www.d5bridge.com](http://www.d5bridge.com)**

# STaC Swiss!

**Sunday, Dec 15**

**Game Time 10 am - Breakfast at 9:15  
Wilkins Township Municipal Bldg.  
Continental Breakfast & Lunch Included!  
Reservations Requested! \$ 100/team  
Call Ann Plunkett at 412-999-1250  
Or, Email [1912Swiss@pittsburghbridge.org](mailto:1912Swiss@pittsburghbridge.org)**

**Need help buiding a team? Call  
Jane Marshall at 412-371-4067**



Pittsburgh Bridge  
Association

**Directions on the website:  
[www.pittsburghbridge.org](http://www.pittsburghbridge.org)**

**UP THE LADDER POST**

CONGRATULATIONS  
WHO KNEW YOU WOULD TURN OUT TO BE SO  
BRILLIANT?  
WE ALL DID!:

JUNIOR MASTER  
George Bradley  
Mary Ann Sapienza  
Stephen Strelec

REGIONAL MASTER  
John Burton  
Nancy Kosmala  
Wilbur Moore  
Marcia Taylor

NABC MASTER  
Dina Fulmer

SILVER LIFE MASTER  
George Retos

CONGRATULATIONS  
IT SEEMS PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT  
YOU'RE GOING TO START OFF THE  
NEW YEAR WITH A BRAND NEW TITLE  
"HIGH ACHIEVER"

**PBA EVENTS CALENDAR 2019 - 2020**

*December*

- 6 Unit Championship
- 12 STaC Pairs - Special Thursday Game
- 13 STaC Pairs & PBA Board meeting (if necessary)
- 15 Sunday STaC Swiss Teams
- 20 Unit Championship Swiss Teams
- 27 Open Pairs

*January*

- 3 Unit Championship
- 10 No game—Cleveland Regional
- 17 Junior Fund Game
- 24 Unit Championship Swiss Teams
- 31 Unit Championship

*February*

- 7 Club Championship
- 14 Membership Game & PBA Board Meeting
- 21 Unit Championship Swiss Teams
- 28 Unit Championship

**Internet Post Mortem (Cont.)**

**Bob Zimmermann: Pass.** Weak hearts and an almost guaranteed 4/1 or 5/0 trump split. I'm done.

**Herb Sachs PASS** Between pressure upon my partner and probably poor distribution it may be too complicated .Chicken

**Bernie Fudor: Blackwood:** Sorry if im late, I bid blackwood If they have 4 controls I ask for Q of trumps if 3 I bid small slam If 2 I start wondering. Have a nice Thanksgiving

**Chris Wang:** I bid **5 Diamonds**. Partner may have a 5 loser hand, and I have a 7 loser hand, slam is a possibility. I am concerned about my heart holding. I show first round control



**INTERNET POST: \**

You are South, matchpoints, non vul  
You hold:

S - K J 9 3 H - J 9 7 3 D - A C - K 10 6 2

The bidding is:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1C	PASS	1H	4D
4H	PASS	?	

What do you bid?

**Trudy Cohn** I will bid **5 D**. I have far more than partner can expect for my 1H bid

**Jack Hawthorne: PASS** I'm going to pass. There is an outside chance for a slam, but if so, I'll take my 680 at match points. I need too much help in the trump suit and we're probably facing an uncomfortable trump split.

**Herb Sachs**

**Ernie Retetagos Pass.** The heart suit is too short and too weak to consider trying for slam. The field is not going to bid this slam and neither am I.

**Steve Nolan: 4NT.** Given the significant chance of a bad break, pass could be right but I'll try Blackwood and assume that partner's honors are all outside diamonds. I'll bid 6H only if we have all the other aces and kings.

**Gail Carns Pass.** Atimps I bid 5D

**Richard Katz 5D** Easy, if you're going to bid. No ace spades, no ace clubs, so I bid five diamonds which says all that. What else might I have with no aces? Partner also knows cards poorly placed, but I felt I owed one more push. My favorite convention is Blackwood but this time I'll tell

**Asim Ulke** I bid **6C**. The reasonable choice is to pass as a precaution against bad brakes. But partners 4H bid may be based on a good club suit and the heart looser or losers may go on my spade holding.

**Jane Marshall 4 spades** (kickback for hearts). 4NT would be a spade cue bid for me. I have control of diamonds and an opening bid myself (12 hcp). If we have 4 keycards, I will bid 6H. If we have 5 keycards, I will confirm all the keycards by bidding 5 spades and asking for the Q of hearts + a side King.

**Bill Holt: 5d.** I'll show partner my diamond control and a slam-invite hand. It's also my cheapest (only!) Ace. See what happens. My hand is 2 tricks better than a minimum 1H call.

**Phil Goulding:** I would bid **4S** "kick-back", which is Roman Keycard Blackwood in hearts, If partner shows two keycards, I sign of in 5 hearts, if partner shows 0 or 3 keypads with 4NT, I bid 5C asking about the heart queen. If partner shows 1 or 4 keycards with 5C, I'm going to sign off in 6, there is too good a chance of mirror hands to give 7 serious consideration. If kick-back isn't available then this is a tough hand. Normal RKC doesn't work since the 5S response is problematic.

**Craig Biddle Pass.** For me, this is a non-problem, and I love to bid slams. I have bad trumps and only one ace. For a slam to be good, I need partner to have 4 of 5 of SA, H-AKQ, CA, and then I need a source of tricks besides, since even if he has all 5 of them we have only 10 tricks on top. Slam is good if partner has S-xx H-AKQx D-xx C-AQxxx, but (a) they may have a club ruff on the go, or (b) partner may have the SQ instead of the CQ. And the 5-level isn't safe if partner has S-Qxx H-AKxx D-Qxx C-AQJ since I may be off two trumps and the SA. If I were to go slamming, it would be in clubs. Picture partner with S-Q H-AKxx D-xxx C-AQJxx to see why. But getting to another strain here is just too tough.

**Stanley Ruskin: Keycard Blackwood:** This is difficult. There are many holdings that would give you chance to make a grand slam and many holdings that would put four in jeopardy. What do we know? West has at least 7 diamonds without the A so he either has an outside card and/or more distribution like 7-3-2-1 or even 7-4-1-1 or maybe 8D. Partner's 4H shows 4H plus extra values. Being an optimist, I will bid KC Blackwood, planning to sign off in 5H if he has less than 3 key cards and bidding 6H if he has 3 or 4 KC. The downside of this is if partner has 2KC and the Q of hearts which is possible but not likely given his free bid.

**Paul Caplan Pass** slam maybe possible but a bad break in hearts could be impossible to handle.

**HOW EXPERTS VOTED**

Philip Alder	5D
Michael Becker	P
David Berkowitz	4S
Bart Bramley	5C
Larry Cohen	4NT
Mstk Cohen	4NT
Billy Eisenberg	4S
Carl Hudecek	6C
Eddie Kantar	5D
Sami Kehela	5D
Danny Kleinman	P
Eric Kokish	4NT
Chip Martel	P
Mike Lawrence	4C
Robert Lipsitz	4S
Jeff Meckstroth	P
Marshall Miles	P
Arthur Robinson	5D
Andrew Robson	5D
Jeff Rubens	5C
Don Stack	5D
Paul Trent	P
Chris Willenken	P
Anders Wirgren	p
Eddie Wold	P
Robert Wolff	5D
Kit Woolsey	P

**INTERNET POST RESULTS:**

BID	Nat.	Pgh	Award
5D	7	4	100
4S	3	2	90
5C	3	0	90
5H	0	0	80
Pass	10	7	70
4NT	3	3	60
6C	1	1	50
6H	0	0	20

# Pittsburgh Bridge Assoc. DECEMBER 2019

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

1	2	3	4	5	6 PBA Unit Champ.	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 PBA Unit STaC Pairs. PbA Board Meeting if necessary	14 pba mini lesson Preempts & opps doubles 0—99 gm.
15 SUNDAY/ STaC SWISS TEANS	16	17	18	19	20 PBA Unit Champ	21 0-99 gm
22	23	24	25	26	27 PBA Open Pairs	28 pba mini lesson Acvancing TO Dbls.
29	30	31	Jan 1 2020	2	29 PBA OPEN PRS.	30

ALL GAMES ARE DESIGNATED AS STaC GAMES DURING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 9— 15 UNLESS POSTED.

## FIRST AT THE POST

### 70% GAMES

Robert Greco & Lorraine Worsley	72.22	Natrona Heights	Mon
Ronald Franck & Harold Haffner	70.42	Wilkins	Thurs
Sandra Brand & Marcella Retetagos	70.35	Rodef	Mon
Diana Boak & Judy Bruce	72.50	New Castle 750er	Mon
Ethel Levine & Estill Duggins	70.00	Whitehall	Mon
Hazel Allen & Elizabeth Goldwait	77.78	New Castle 750er	Mon
James Gump & Sandra McCall	70.37	Wilkins	Fri
Philip Goulding & Ronald Franck	72.02	Sewickley	Fr
William Holt & Kenneth Bergman	70.14	Zelienople	Tue
Paul Rosenberg & Eric Ruben	70.25	South Hills NLM	Thurs

### THREE IN A ROW

John Killmeyer New Brighton Sat Gary Marcus Edgeworth

### TWO IN A ROW

John Spear	Rodef 299er	Mon	Errol Miller	Rodef 299e	Mon
Pamela Croach	New Castle 750er	Mon	Barbara Strittmatter	New Cas.	Mon
Judy Lorigan	South Hills NL	Tues	Dina Fulmer	South Hills NLM	Tues
Angie Cooper	Indiana	Tues	Jane Marshall	Glensha	Wed
Peggy Shivetts	Greensburg	Thurs	Joanne Zambroski	Glenshaw	Mon-
Steve Eisner	South Hills NLM	Tues	Allen Harper	South Hills NLM	Tues-
Lorraine Hanna	Glenshaw	Wed	Richard Katz	Rodef	Wed
Nancy Kosmala	Edgeworth	Wed	Jan Assini	Glenshaw	Sat-
Frank Cymerman	Glenshaw	Sat	Patricia Anders	Glenshaw	Mo
Janice Phillips	Glenshaw	Mon	Nolly Gibbs	South Hills NLM	Tues
Elaine Kirshenbaum	S. Hills NLM	Tues	Martin Cohen	South Hills	Tue
Kathleen Glassford	Indiana	Tues	Fred Lant	Greensburg	Thurs-
Richard Bulow	Greensburg	Thur	Carl Bonfiglio	Glenshaw	Mo
Gloria Hetzer	Woodridge	Mon	Barbara Anderson	Woodridge	Tues
MonGrant Anderson	Woodridge	Mon.	Richard Katz	O'Hara	Tues
Henry Nelson	O'Hara	Tues	Richard Krauland	Glenshaw	Wed
Ami Elis	Glenshaw	Wed	Jack Hawthorne	Glenshaw	Wed
Ethel Levine	Temple Emanuel	Wed	Sidney Metzger	Temple Emanuel	Wed
Jenny Janitor	Wilkins	Thurs	Nurit Elis	Wilkins	Thu-
Constance Hoechstetter	Ch.-Houston	Fri			

