



# Bridge Buff

January/February 2012

Website: [www.unit116.com](http://www.unit116.com)

A Publication of Unit 116, Erie & Niagara Counties, New York

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## President's Message

Happy New Year Fellow Bridge Players

**“New” according to Webster is: Unused; Different from one in the past; Starting as a repetition of a cycle.**

When you first read these definitions they seem to be very different but with some thought I find them not necessarily conflicting. I think we can use these ideas at the bridge table as well as in life in general.

“Unused” - Our year stretches out before us as an unknown. Each of us will have some good and very good things happen. Each of us will probably have some not –so-good things happen too. “Different” - As we move through the year, we all have the possibility of making some things special for ourselves or others. Our thoughts and actions are ours alone. “Repetition” – Each day from morning to evening, each season and each holiday brings a cycle of time to be shared with family and friends. HAPPY NEW YEAR and make it a good year for yourself and for those you care about.

Our annual meeting and party was enjoyed by 20½ tables. Lots of good food (thanks to the cooks and bakers), great bridge, and the results of the voting. I was reelected, thank you for your vote of confidence. Paul Zittel and Tova Reinhorn were both elected to 3 year terms. Thanks to all who ran for the board this year and all past years, your interest in serving is very important to us. The old and new board members met Tuesday, December 20. Officers were elected, committee appointments were filled, and the new board has appointed Elaine Moon to fill Frank Kidd's position. Elaine will serve this year until the next election. I am excited about the people who make up the Board of Directors and look forward to giving the bridge community lots of opportunity to play this amazing game.

Coming up faster than a speeding bullet is the Winter Sectional, January 6, 7, 8. It will be held at Daemen College. Fran Kurtz is chair and I am doing partnerships. Full information is in this Buff and also on the Unit website.

Embrace the **NEW** of the New Year with kindness and understanding.

Betty Metz, President Unit 116

### Unit 116 Officers & Board Members

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Betty Metz 773-7398  
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**Deadline for the  
Mar/Apr 2012 issue:**

**February 24, 2012**

## WNY UNIT 116 – 2012 EVENTS

### Winter Sectional

January 6-8<sup>th</sup> - Daemen College

### February Pro/Am Unit Game

February 26<sup>th</sup> – 1 pm – Bridge Center of Buffalo

### Spring Sectional

April 20-22 - Main-Transit Fire Hall

Non-Life Master Sectional TBA

### Fall Sectional

September 21-23 - Knights of Columbus - Chktkg.

## News & Mews

For the latest information and detailed game results directly from the clubs, check the web sites of clubs in Western New York at [www.unit116.com](http://www.unit116.com).

There is also a link on our website to the Buffalo News column - go to LINKS - choose BUFFALO NEWS - and search for Dale Anderson. (there may be an easier way but this is how I did it, ed. )

Enter or update info you want to share into the **Electronic Directory** on the unit website

*The Buff is being distributed electronically to at least 302 Unit 116 members. This is approximately 2/3 of our membership base. If you have an e-mail address but don't receive anything from the Unit, please send an email to the editor at [baj\\_42@msn.com](mailto:baj_42@msn.com).*

### **HOT OFF THE "PRESSES" ...**

Stay current with unit events, be up-to-date!

You can now access our website on YOUR mobile device, iPhone, etc. (IF YOU HAVE ONE!)

### **BLOGGING...do you write a blog? Do you read/follow any?**

One is our own Dale Anderson's ~ <http://dalebridge.blogspot.com>; another is Bob L <http://www.acbl.org/bobL/>

If you do your own blog or know of one, please let me know and I will publish links (my techniques limited me to these)

## Member's Corner

### **Welcome to New or Returning Members**

Joel Brownstein      James Downing      Diane Forrest  
Linda Marie Franchell      Ruth Hnath  
Edward Griffith      Jerry Kemsley

### **Congratulations for MP Achievements**

New Life/Bronze/Silver Master:  
Dale Anderson

### **LIFE PASSAGES**

Elsie Braun  
William Eagle      Frank Kidd  
Walter Majewski      Bill Rieker

### **2010 Directory Updates:**

Dale Anderson - cell phone only: 860-2305

Mary Jo Crone  
4600 Martingale Ct. East Aurora, NY 14052

Maryann Szafran -- 812-5702

(If you were not listed in the 2010 directory and want your info/changes reported here, you can request it to be printed and to be included in the next directory. Though there are no plans to do another at this time we are keeping info updated. Limited quantities of the 2010 directory are still available for \$2.00 at BCB, Meridian or contact Judy Kaprove)

# Unit 116 Winter Sectional



## January 6, 7, 8 - 2012

Daemen College

4380 Main Street, Amherst NY 14226

### Friday January 6

10:30 am Single session stratified A/B/C pairs  
3:30 pm Single session stratified A/B/C pairs

### Saturday January 7

10:30 am Single session stratified A/B/C pairs  
3:30 pm Single session stratified A/B/C pairs

### Sunday January 8

10:30 am – Stratified Swiss Teams A/B/C (with short break)

Stratum "A" - 2000+  
Stratum "B" - 500 to 2000  
Stratum "C" - 0 to 500

**Pairs and teams stratified by average masterpoints**

**ENTRY FEE per player per session**  
\$10.00 members/\$12.00 non or unpaid members

### TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:

Chair: Fran Kurtz  
716-688-7069

[kurtz1095@roadrunner.com](mailto:kurtz1095@roadrunner.com)

Partnership: Betty Metz  
716-773-7398

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**THE FOLLOWING RECIPE WAS A WINNER  
IN LAST YEAR'S COOKOFF AND IS  
PRINTED BY POPULAR DEMAND:**

### Chocolate Mousse Cake

From Paul L. Piciulo

Needed: 9 inch springform pan

#### Ingredients:

3 packages of lady fingers  
2 cups whipping cream  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
3 (or 4) egg yolks  
2 ounces sugar (can use less)  
1 tablespoon water  
12 oz. semi-sweet chocolate  
4 tablespoons butter  
3 tablespoons warm espresso  
6 egg whites

Line the side and bottom of the springform pan with lady fingers.

Whip cream and add vanilla at the end. Refrigerate.

Whisk together egg yolks, 1 ounce sugar and water. Warm slowly over a hot water bath to about 145 degrees F, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and whip until cool.

Combine chocolate and butter. Melt over a hot water bath. Stir in espresso. Remove from heat to cool.

Mix egg whites and 1 ounce of sugar and whisk over hot water bath to about 145 degrees F. Remove from heat and beat whites to stiff peaks.

Whip egg yolk mixture and blend into melted chocolate. Fold egg whites into the chocolate mixture. Finally, fold in the whipped cream.

Pour mousse into the prepared springform pan until half full. Place a layer of lady fingers on the mousse. Fill pan with the remaining mousse. Refrigerate until firm; 3 to 4 hours.

Remove springform ring. Enjoy.

Cake can be made a day ahead.

Note: Add Rum or Brandy to chocolate mixture if you like.

## *The return of the "Interview" Bio...*

*I've asked numerous members to share their "story" during 2012. The first is from Ross Markello. It is quite a "read" and I'm sure you will enjoy it. If you don't know him I hope you will seek him out....Judie, editor*

"You guys don't know how to bid, you don't know how to play, you just keep winning" remarked an expert player at the Amherst Senior Center referring to myself and Bruce Burr a few years ago. Flashback 60 years to the lunch room at the U.B. Medical School wherein classmates taught me the basics. Over the years Grace and I played an occasional social game. Upon retirement I played increasingly with other old guys trying to beat boredom. Bruce and I began playing duplicate a dozen years ago a la 50's Goren. At the Amherst bridge club we learned the extent to which we were outdated. We have learned some of the modern bidding systems. I must confess to still being a bit anxious bidding one no without a stopper in every suit. In the ensuing 7 or 8 years I have learned a lot from Shirley Cassety, and the other major leaguers at the Airport club. All have been very gracious and instructive. I like to play with the director himself, he has been a mentor – he mistakenly thinks that towering impatience helps one to remember. I keep using the excuse of creeping dementia, but he assures me it's run of the mill stupidity.

Grace once bought me a plaque "An adult is someone who can play bridge and golf as though they were games". I once made the mistake of scolding her about a play – she threw in the cards and walked away. She's tough! A longtime friend and reckless bidder stated "one lie leads to two more". Bruce and I frequently remind each other. I don't know if I shall ever become a life master and I often quote one of our illustrious members - "masterpoints don't do a thing for your bank account or your sex life".

My parents emigrated from Sicily in 1920. I was number 6 of 8 children. Summer 1938, the nation still mired in the depths of the Great Depression. The Markello's arrived in the Buffalo area living in a one room migrant labor "shack" in North Collins. Eight to ten of us, no plumbing or running water, picking berries and beans for the summer. We subsequently moved to a real house with plumbing, hot and cold running water – for the first time in our lives. I have told my children "the major jump in life style occurs when you graduate from the pump and the privy to the toilet (flush) and the tank (hot water). Thanks to the huge economic stimulus of WWII and public education, six of us have obtained advanced degrees and enjoyed lifestyles our parents and grandparents could not have imagined. There were 6 boys in our family and 6 girls in the village grocer's, all nice Sicilian-Americans. My Dad tried unsuccessfully to play matchmaker. We were too enthralled by the pretty and talented "American" Munson girls, three of us marrying three of them. The girls didn't have an awful lot of choice in a small village. Grace and I were high school sweethearts, married 58 years, four children and nine grandchildren. It isn't always easy, but two control freaks can wage a successful marriage.

You never know – A wintry night, four teenagers driving on a country road in Southern Erie County. The lights go out and we come to rest in a ditch, fortunately right in front of a farm house. We rouse the farmer who kindly pulls us out with his tractor, asking five bucks – a princely sum for a teenager in 1947. The driver fashions a fuse from a gum wrapper, the lights go on, we limp back to town. Fast forward twenty years. The farmer finds himself on an operating table at the old E.J. Meyer Hospital, where I practiced anesthesiology. I knew who he was, but he didn't know me from third base. Upon hearing the story, the surgeon offered "Here's your chance to get back your five bucks Ross". Which I did at a generously compounded rate of interest.

My mother, may she rest in peace, had three physician sons. But she had her own ideas about illness and never heeded our advice. I taught and practiced for thirty years with the U.B. Medical School and the now ECMC. In retirement I have taken up photography, furniture refinishing (I still cane chairs), baby-sitting grandkids, hiking, and traveling. Quality of life these days revolves around the Airport Bridge Club. Thanks to the Herculean efforts of Bill, we have a lot of laughs and some fun games.

For 2012, I wish the sibling rivalry which doth beset our Unit will reach maturity. Reconciliation, the ultimate human experience, requires a strong enough ego to risk rejection.

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# Ruffing Finesses

by John Marvin

This hand was played at the Bridge Center Non-Life Masters game in November.

Since E bid ♠s, many defenses started with two rounds of that suit and life was easy for declarer. He just ruffed out his ♣ losers. It's a little more difficult if W leads a trump, let's say the 2.

Board 6	♠-QJ94		
Dlr: E	♥-K983		
Vul: E-W	♦-T983		
	♣-8		
♠-82	N	♠-AKT765	
♥-Q2	W E	♥-4	
♦-Q742	S	♦-KJ65	
♣-KQ942		♣-73	
	♠-3		
	♥-AJT765		
	♦-A		
	♣-AJT65		

Declarer can no longer ruff out ♣ losers. However, she may be able to set up a ♣ trick watching spots carefully. Therefore:

2. ♣A;
3. ♣J, cover by W, ruff;
4. ♦ to A;

Position after 4. S to lead:

	♠-QJ94		
	♥-K9		
	♦-T98		
	♣-		
♠-82	N	♠-AKT765	
♥-Q	W E	♥-	
♦-Q74	S	♦-KJ6	
♣-K94		♣-	
	♠-3		
	♥-AJT76		
	♦-		
	♣-T65		

Declarer knows W's cards by this time & if W does not cover dummy will discard a loser. Therefore, tricks 5 -

8 are a cross ruff in ♣s & ♦s, W forced to play high on the ♣s!

Position after tricks 5 - 7, dummy on lead:

	♠-QJ94		
	♥-		
	♦-T9		
	♣-		
♠-82	N	♠-AKT7	
♥-Q	W E	♥-	
♦-Q7	S	♦-KJ	
♣-4		♣-	
	♠-3		
	♥-AJT7		
	♦-		
	♣-6		

Ruff a ♦, draw trump, lose only 1 ♠.

## New Year's Resolutions?

Some suggestions:

1. Ask someone new to be your partner.
2. Do not double-book games.
3. Say, "*please*" with a Director call
4. Try not to bid or play hands too slow (or too fast!).
5. Play at all the clubs at least once. (maybe the invitational game would invite some new players)
6. Find something complimentary to say about your partner's bidding or play of the hand.
7. Congratulate each game's winners.
8. (make one of your own or more)



Bridge Club Meridian will hold **World Simultaneous Pairs** Event with hand records and analysis on its regular sessions Monday **January 23** and Tuesday **January 24**, 2012 at 10:30 am. Club donates \$1 per player to **UNICEF**.

At this fun charity event same hands are played at multiple clubs around the world and participants can check their scores against fellow bridge players from around the globe.

The games will be scored across the world and everybody will get played hands analyzed. It is a chance to play a set of hands and see how you did across the field, and hopefully to have an enjoyable day while raising money for **Charity**.

## Unit 116 Annual Meeting And Game December 18, 2011 ~ 20.5 Tables

A	B	C	Names	Score
1			<b>Joel Wooldridge, NY, NY; Jill Wooldridge</b>	70.16%
2			Stanley Kozlowski; Alberta Brown	67.36%
3			Kathy Pollock; Bert Feasley,	65.00%
4			Jay Levy; Randolph Seidenberg Jr,	64.58%
5			Daniel Gerstman, Buffalo NY; Jay Costello	62.32%
6			Powhatan Wooldridge - William Bascom,	62.27%
	1		<b>Michael Ryan - Howard Foster</b>	59.47%
	2	1	<b>Elaine Kurasiewicz; Carol Bedell</b>	57.75%
	3	2	Shakeel Ahmad - Manju Ceylony	55.56%
	4		Alexander Kowal; Terry Band	55.32%
	5	3	Anne O'Connor - Mary O'Connor,	53.94%
	6		Bernice Baker; Betty Bronstein	52.81%
		4	Tova Reinhorn; Barbara Landree,	52.53%
		5	Jeffrey Bender; Rich Cramer-Benjamin	52.38%



# Joel Wooldridge

## *From OUR HOMETOWN UNIT*

### Joel Wooldridge: 2011 Player of the Year

From the ACBL website...

“The ACBL is pleased to announce Joel Wooldridge as the 2011 Player of the Year. Several impressive national wins this year including the Norman Kay Platinum Pairs, Silodor Open Pairs, and United States Bridge Championships along with a second place finish in the Baldwin North American Open Pairs helped Wooldridge claim this great achievement.

The honor of Player of the Year is awarded to the ACBL Member who wins the most platinum Masterpoints in a calendar year. Wooldridge’s 6<sup>th</sup> place finish in the Keohane North American Swiss Teams at the Seattle NABC secured him the award, giving him a 0.95 edge over Bobby Levin.

A former junior player, taking the honor of the Youth Player of the Year in 1996, Wooldridge, now 32, has an established career in duplicate bridge.

Wooldridge remembers fondly on his first trip to the local bridge club. “It was just before my tenth birthday and I went and played a club game with my father. Our goal was to not come in last,” he said. “We came in second to last, went out for ice cream to celebrate and I was hooked.”

His career first place finishes include the 2001 & 2005 World Youth Team Championships, 1997 Lebar IMP Pairs, 2003 Fast Pairs, 2009 Roth Open Swiss Teams and Freeman Mixed Board-a-Match Teams, in addition to his 2011 wins previously mentioned. Wooldridge was also member of the Bathurst Team, one of the two teams representing the United States in the 2011 Bermuda Bowl.

Be on the lookout for a full interview with Joel in February’s Bridge Bulletin.“