

Volume 13, Issue 9  
May 29, 2019

## Finals:

### Results at the Half

		Total	Seg 1	Seg 2	Seg 3	Seg 4
2	Donner	128	16	52	34	26
3	Rosenthal	148	37	38	11	62

Our pens, though not feather,  
Perhaps need a tether?  
To keep them from flying away?

The Seniors are coming,  
And they will be humming,  
If there are no pens when they play!

We clearly assert  
Your need to alert  
So use when explaining a call!

But leave at the site  
So others can write.  
Should they need to explain Lebensohl!

*Alert!*



Several Committees of the USBF meet online as Forums on BridgeWinners. These groups impact future United States Bridge Championships. Among these committees are the **USBF Tournament Policy Committee, the USBF Technical Committee, and the USBF Systems Committee.** These committees formerly known as the ITT committees make decisions that impact you as participants in our Competitions.

All of these committees and more are active as Forums on BridgeWinners. If you, as a member of the USBF, would like to be involved in our future decision making process, you are welcome to visit there, participate, and read up on the current outlook.

For access to the BW Forums, email Jan to request your access at [marteljan@gmail.com](mailto:marteljan@gmail.com).

We encourage your involvement. Your input and your interest is important to us.

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**USBF COO & Secretary**  
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Gary Cohler

Mark Feldman  
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**Photographer**  
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**Hospitality Chairs**  
Molly O'Neil

# MUSBC Teams Entered

## Alphabetical Order

"TRIALS" AND TRIBULATIONS

Byrnes	Dori Byrnes, Capt Matthew Granovetter Les Bart	Jiang Gu Pam Granovetter Gloria Bart
Donner	Gary Donner, Capt Sheila Gabay Adam Grossack	Yoko Sobel Giorgia Botta Zachary Grossack
Ivatury	Uday Ivatury, Capt Steve Garner Howard Weinstein	Christal Henner Jill Meyers Cheri Bjerkan
Kent	Robert Kent, Capt Mark Aquino Carl Nelson	Ellen Kent Selen Hotamisligil Abigail Nichols
Kolesnik	Alex Kolesnik, Capt David Caprera Kit Woolsey	Irina Kislitsyna Anne Brenner Cheryl Mandala
Pepsi	Jacek Pszczola, Capt Gary Cohler Jenny Wolpert	May Sakr Anam Tebha Eldad Ginossar
Radin	Judi Radin, Capt Lew Stansby Sam Lev	Jim Mahaffey JoAnna Stansby Janice Seamon-Molson
Rosenthal	Andrew Rosenthal, Capt Michael Rosenberg Migry Zur Campanile	Debbie Rosenberg Chris Willenken



# Alert!

Before the 1998 Chicago NABC, the ACBL commissioned an artist named Jim Harrington from Waukegan, IL, to do a painting called "Our Game." The lithos were sold at the '98 NABC and the original was auctioned off as a fund raiser for the tournament. Leo and Pat Perez from Garden Grove, CA, won the drawing and the winners were named at the Orlando NABC that year and awarded their painting. The picture was prominently displayed during both the Chicago and Orlando NABCs.

The lithos are numbered editions.

Mr. Harrington's widow, Sue, donated the remaining lithos to the USBF when she moved from her Waukegan home last year. We have several here at the tournament. If you would like one, please see either Jan Martel or Suzi Subeck. From the July 26, 1998, Daily Bulletin at the Chicago NABC:

These are not for sale. We are giving them to those who want them.

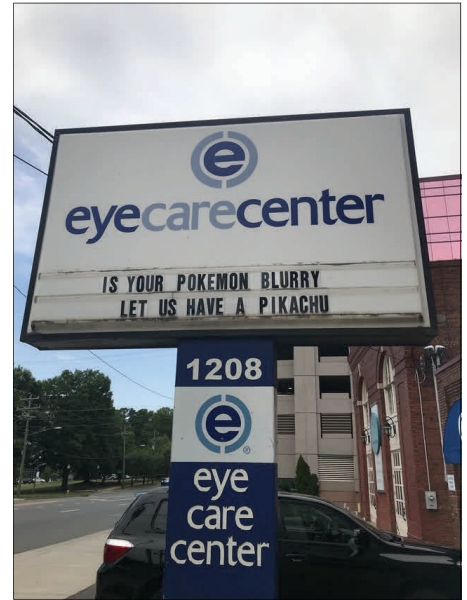
## Our Game

The ACBL Educational Foundation is happy to welcome artist Jim Harrington who is here in Chicago this morning to personalize limited edition prints of his painting "Our Game". This is the only day he will be here. Harrington will be at the Educational Foundation's booth which is located near the NorthEast Exhibit Hall on the lower level.

Harrington is a well-known artist listed in *Who's Who of Living American Artists* and is well represented in the collections of many corporate and private collections. Proceeds from the project will be split evenly between the Educational Foundation and Art Etc. Inc.

# Tournament Schedule

USA1 FINAL & USA2 QUARTERFINAL			
FRIDAY	MAY 24	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
		3:45 - 5:55	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15
			SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
SATURDAY	MAY 25	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30
		3:45 - 5:55	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 1-15
			SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 16-30
USA2 SEMI-FINAL			
SUNDAY	MAY 26	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
		3:45 - 5:55	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15
			SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
MONDAY	MAY 27	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30
		3:45 - 5:55	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 1-15
			SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 16-30
USA2 FINAL			
TUESDAY	MAY 28	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30
		3:45 - 5:55	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15
			SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
WEDNESDAY	MAY 29	10:00 - 12:10	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15
		12:25 - 2:35	SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30
		3:45 - 5:55	70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK
		6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 1-15
			SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 16-30



*“OSCAR. (Sitting at table.) My friend Murray the Cop is right. Let's just play cards. And please hold them up, I can't see where I marked them.”*  
 — Neil Simon, The Odd Couple

*“The cards always look different when it's your turn to play them; loaded with subtly different possibilities.”*  
 — Alastair Reynolds, Revelation Space

Writing my name in cursive is my signature move.

A commander walks into a bar and orders everyone a round.

I lost my job as a stage designer. I left without making a scene.

What's the difference between in-laws and outlaws? Outlaws are wanted.

As amazing as cliffs are, they're often overlooked.



Yesterday's match started slowly with only 9 IMPs scored in the first 4 boards. Things got more exciting with board 5, with the first big swing going to Donner.

**Board 5**

**Rosenthal**  
 ♠ KJ96  
 ♥ 9  
 ♦ A83  
 ♣ AKJ102

**A Grossack**  
 ♠ 874  
 ♥ Q108632  
 ♦ QJ5  
 ♣ 4

**Gabay**  
 ♠ A1052  
 ♥ A54  
 ♦ 1072  
 ♣ Q85

**DRosenberg**  
 ♠ Q3  
 ♥ KJ7  
 ♦ K964  
 ♣ 9763

NS: 0  
EW: 0

A Gross	Rosenth	Gabay	DRosent
1 ♣	Pass	1NT	
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	Pass

Willenke	Sobel	Migry	Donner
1 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Rosenthal/Rosenberg played in 5C which would have succeeded had the CQ been in the pocket. As it was, E/W could and did collect their two major suit aces and trump queen. Down one

At the other table, Sobel and Donner found 3NT. Migry led a 4th best spade and Sobel won her S9. Sobel played a spade toward dummy. Migry ducked and the queen won.

A club to the king followed. The CA was cashed and the CJ was led to Migry's queen. Migry played the H4 to the seven, won by Willenken's ten. Willenken played the DJ which Sobel won in hand. The SK went to the ace and the H5 was led. Sobel guessed correctly and put up dummy's king. When this held, she cashed her clubs and claimed 10 tricks.

12 IMPs to Donner

Sometimes it's a tit for a tat... On the very next board, 11 IMPs back to Rosenthal...

**Board 6**

**Sobel**  
 ♠ Q52  
 ♥ AK104  
 ♦ 532  
 ♣ K95

**Willenken**  
 ♠ 74  
 ♥ 98762  
 ♦  
 ♣ J108764

**Migry**  
 ♠ AK109  
 ♥ J3  
 ♦ 10984  
 ♣ A32

**Donner**  
 ♠ J863  
 ♥ Q5  
 ♦ AKQJ76  
 ♣ Q

NS: 0  
EW: 0

Willenke	Sobel	Migry	Donner
1 ♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

A Gross	Rosenth	Gabay	DRosent
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	2 ♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Migry and Willenken bid and made 3C on their combined 13 points. Migry's 1D bid stymied Donner and Willenken's 1H bid kept Sobel from bidding. With 27 points between them, game would have been a good proposition, but it was tough to believe they held that much. Sobel led the HA followed by the HK and a heart which Donner ruffed with his CQ. The DK was ruffed and the C6 was floated. Migry ruffed a heart and claimed 9 tricks.

At the other table, when Gabay chose 1S instead of 1NT, Debbie romped in with 2D. Rosenthal bid 2NT and Debbie gladly bid the game. Gabay led the ST to Debbie's queen. Debbie collected six diamonds, one spade, three hearts and a club. Making 5

11 IMPs to Rosenthal

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Board 7 was a 1 IMP swing to Rosenthal... and then there was eight! An always exciting double game swing...

In the Open Room, Rosenthal opened 1H; Gabay overcalled 2C; Debbie jumped to 3D (WJS); Adam bid 3H cueing in support of partner's clubs; and Rosenthal bid 5D hoping it was a make or a good save. No one could tell who owned the hand. Gabay doubled.

Adam led the SK and a spade to Gabay's ace. Gabay led a third spade which declarer ruffed. Debbie pulled trump, ruffed out the HQ and took 11 tricks.

In the other room, Sobel opened 1H. Migry stayed out of the auction. Donner did not respond a traditional 1NT with 6 HCP and a doubleton in partner's suit?? Willenken balanced with 1S. Sobel bid 2H and Migry pushed things too high for Donner with a 4S call.

Sobel led the HA but all the defense could collect were two hearts and a diamond. Contract making. 14 IMPs to Rosenthal, now well in the lead.

There were four pushes in the last 7 boards and the segment ended 37-16 Rosenthal.

8

**Rosenthal**  
 ♠ 873  
 ♥ AK10873  
 ♦ AQ92  
 ♣

**A Grossack**  
 ♠ KQ102  
 ♥ 95  
 ♦ 43  
 ♣ K8743

**Gabay**  
 ♠ AJ96  
 ♥ Q64  
 ♦ 5  
 ♣ AQ1052

**DRosenberg**  
 ♠ 54  
 ♥ J2  
 ♦ KJ10876  
 ♣ J96

NS: 0  
EW: 0

A Gross:	Rosenth	Gabay	DRosentl
Pass	1♥	2♣	3♦
3♥	5♦	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Willenke	Sobel	Migry	Donner
Pass	1♥	Pass	Pass
1♠	2♥	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Clearly, Zach Grossack lives and dies by the sword. Playing 14-17 NTs, he opened his 13 HCP 1NT on board 16. His partner, holding 18 of her own, drove to the small slam in NT. It looks like they got lucky. Hearts split 3-3 and the SQ is where it needs to be.

Migry led the C9. Grossack won the ace in dummy, played the DK, ducked, and another diamond to the jack, also ducked. He cashed the HA, played a heart to dummy and ran off the heart suit, discarding one diamond and two spades from his hand while West discarded one spade and one diamond. At this point, all Grossack had to do to make the hand is to finesse the SQ. However, playing for S:Qx or for West to hold C:Qxx and the D:A. First he tested to see if the SQ would fall doubleton. When it did not, he played for the endplay. He threw West in with the DA. Willenken won the DA and cashed the SQ for down one. 11 IMPs to Rosenthal when 4NT made 6 in the other room.

Donner	Rosenth	Sobel	DRosentl
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

16

**Z Grossack**  
 ♠ AJ853  
 ♥ A6  
 ♦ J73  
 ♣ K63

**Willenken**  
 ♠ Q1092  
 ♥ J53  
 ♦ A1085  
 ♣ Q5

**Migry**  
 ♠ 74  
 ♥ 987  
 ♦ 964  
 ♣ 109872

**Botta**  
 ♠ K6  
 ♥ KQ1042  
 ♦ KQ2  
 ♣ AJ4

NS: 0  
EW: 0

Willenke	Z Gross:	Migry	Botta
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♥	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♥	Pass	6NT

(Continued on page 11) 5

## Vugraph

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The 2019 Mixed USBC will be covered on BBO Vugraph starting with the 1/4 final , in which we will cover both matches. The 1/4 final starts Friday, May 24th.

To watch the Vugraph online, go to the **BBO website** where you can either log on directly from your browser, go to "Vugraph" and choose which table to watch, or use the download version of the BBO software to run BBO on your computer (only available if you already have it, not to new users). If you choose the latter approach, from the Lobby, click on the button labeled VUGRAPH and you'll be able to choose which of the matches you want to watch.

To watch on your smartphone or tablet, install the BBO app and watch using that.

There will often be a "yellow" user on BBO called USBF. If you have general questions, please ask USBF, not one of the hard-working Vugraph operators, who may not have time to respond to private messages.

Each day's schedule is the same (these are Chicago times; to see the times for your time-zone, go to the **BBO Vugraph schedule site**)

10:00-12:10

12:25-2:35

3:45-5:55

6:10-8:20

All of the teams will play the same boards throughout the event.



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### Hints for BBO viewers

Useful information is available to browser BBO users [and perhaps some mobile bbo users] if you click on the name of the table/event you will get a pop-up that:

- \* displays the BBO Schedule for the specific vugraph event – calculated for the time zone of the viewer's electronic device

- \* has a link to the home page for the event

if you click on a player name you will usually get a pop-up that

- \* displays a picture of the player

- \* shows links to System Summary Forms (SSFs), Convention Cards (CCs), and biographical information

VIDEO: Live video streaming is not available for this event.

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Video from the event tables will be uploaded to YouTube as soon as we can manage.

After a session, you can review the Vugraph action on our Web Vugraphs, which show each hand played with a link to bidding and play records. Take a look at the older events currently available (under Archived Results) to see what we'll have for the 2019 Open USBC. Web Vugraphs are posted about half an hour after completion of the Vugraph show.

You can find the hand records for USBC matches on this site, linked to the scorecards you can get to by clicking on 2019 Open USBC under "Event Results" in the upper left of each page.

If you are going to be in the Chicago area during the Mixed USBC and want to volunteer to help as a Vugraph operator, please **email Jan Martel**.

Sudoku 1

3		5		4				
	7	4	5			8		
2					8			
		3	4	7				2
			2		3			
1				8	5	6		
			8					1
		9			2	4	6	
				5		7		8

Sudoku 2

			7			3	2	
	4			6				
7		5	2					
			9				5	8
5								6
8	1				2			
					7	8		4
				3			1	
	3	7			5			

**Sudoku  
Solutions  
on Page 9**

## Hospitality Suite...

The hospitality suite for the 2019 Mixed USBC will be room 2321. Our wonderful hostess, Molly O'Neill will be in Schaumburg to welcome you to the Hospitality Suite, with a lot of help from other volunteers.

The hospitality suite will be open starting on Tuesday evening and continuing throughout the event. Breakfast will be served each day from 8:00-10:30 and lunch each day from about 1:00-4:00. Players, kibitzers, friends, spouses and children are welcome to join us in the hospitality suite.

The hospitality suite will be open for Vugraph, casual chit chat, drinks & snacks during the rest of the playing hours and for a short time after the end of the day.

The "Players' Break Room" (aka Jan & McKenzie's office) is room 1321. It will be available for the entire tournament. We will have coffee, soft drinks and some snacks available in that room while you wait for your slow teammates to finish playing.

**No Electronic Devices are Permitted in the Playing Area.**

**This applies to players AND kibitzers.**

**Severe penalties will be assessed for violation of this rule. Please turn off all cell phones and check them at the door. The USBF reserves the right to wand anyone entering the playing field.**



Room #	Replaced Item	TV Show	Last Name	First Name
512	soaps	game shows	Locke	Betty
504	stationary	talk shows	Daley	Doris
531	glasses	religious channel	Holt	Holly
622	towels	soap operas	Palm	Lois
607	toilet paper	history channel	Bums	Patty

**Answer to Puzzle on Page 8:**

# Puzzle Page ...

	Burns	Daley	Holt	Locke	Palm	game shows	history channel	religious channel	soap operas	talk shows	glasses	soaps	stationary	toilet paper	towels	504	512	531	607	622	
Betty																					
Doris																					
Holly																					
Lois																					
Patty																					
504																					
512																					
531																					
607																					
622																					
glasses																					
soaps																					
stationary																					
toilet paper																					
towels																					
game shows																					
history channel																					
religious channel																					
soap operas																					
talk shows																					

## Answer on page 7

First Name	Last Name	TV Show	Replaced Item	Room #
Betty	Burns	game shows	glasses	504
Doris	Daley	history channel	soaps	512
Holly	Holt	religious channel	stationary	531
Lois	Locke	soap operas	toilet paper	607
Patty	Palm	talk shows	towels	622

Five maids were busy cleaning hotel rooms for the next night's guests. Each maid watched TV in the rooms while she worked and each room needed items replaced from the guests who stayed the night before. From the clues, determine the full name of each maid, what kind of TV shows each watched, what item each had to replace, and what room number each cleaned.

- Betty, who didn't clean room #607, doesn't like the soap operas but did replace the soaps. The maid who liked watching the religious channel replaced the used glasses but she wasn't Mrs. Daley or Patty.
- Lois, whose last name isn't Holt, cleaned room #622.
- The maid who replaced the glasses, the maid who watches game shows, and Doris didn't clean on the 6th floor.
- Each room number, from the lowest to the highest, is represented by the following list: the maid who watches talk shows, Mrs. Locke, Holly, the maid who watches the history channels, the woman who replaced the towels.
- Mrs. Daley, whose first name is not Lois, didn't replace the toilet paper.
- Patty's last name is Burns.

What do you call a pig with laryngitis? Disgruntled.

How do you find Will Smith after a blizzard? Just look for the fresh prints.

Prison may be just one word to you, but for some people, it's a whole sentence.

Scientists got together to study the effects of alcohol on a person's walk, and the result was staggering.

How much did the pirate pay to get his ears pierced? A buccaneer.



# Meet the Players...

**Yoko Sobel** works at Honors Bridge Club in New York City.

She studied New Genres at San Francisco Art Institute.

She lives in New York and is currently in a relationship with Dan Lev, son of Sam Lev.



Yoko is described as “really nice girl well worth knowing!” She is clearly a character, good for the bridge world, bringing some spunk and class to the game!



My partner’s name is David, so we named our son Harley. This way he’s Harley, David’s son.

Why did the hipster burn his tongue? He drank his coffee before it was cool.

Why is it unwise to share your secrets with a clock? Well, time will tell.

I tried to find a good skeleton joke for Halloween but none were humerus.

I once worked at a cheap pizza shop to get by. I kneaded the dough.



Sudoku 1 Solution

8	2	7	6	5	1	9	3	4
8	1	9	7	3	2	4	6	5
7	5	2	8	6	4	3	9	1
1	2	7	9	8	5	6	4	3
1	2	7	9	8	5	6	4	3
5	9	3	4	7	6	1	8	2
2	6	1	3	9	8	5	7	4
9	7	4	5	2	1	8	3	6
3	8	5	6	4	7	2	1	9

Sudoku 2 Solution

2	6	9	5	4	8	7	3	1
4	2	8	6	3	9	5	1	7
6	5	9	1	2	7	8	3	4
8	1	6	4	5	2	9	7	3
5	9	2	3	7	8	1	4	6
3	7	4	9	1	6	2	5	8
7	8	5	2	9	3	4	6	1
2	4	3	5	6	1	7	8	9
9	6	1	7	8	4	3	2	5

**Sudoku Solutions from page 7**

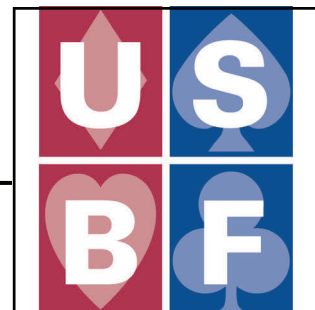
Our wonderful massage therapist, Ela, is available again this year. She has agreed to come to the Hyatt after 1:00 pm on the following days. People who want a massage should sign up with Jan.

## Relaxation Therapy!

Thursday, 5/30 (between Mixed & Seniors)

Monday, 6/3

Thursday, 6/6



### USBF Supporting Membership

If you don't want to play in the USBF Championships that choose teams to represent the USA in the World Bridge Federation Championships, but do want to aid our events, a **Supporting Membership** can be the perfect way for you to be involved. As a Supporting Member, you are eligible to:

1. Enter the fantasy brackets, run on Bridge Winners, for the USBF trials choosing our Open and Senior teams for the World Championships. The highest-ranking Supporting Member in the fantasy brackets for each of these two events will win the prize of your choice - either an online match against the USBC winners or dinner with them at the next NABC.
2. Receive daily emails during the USBF Championships. These will summarize the previous day's results and provide vugraph information and links to daily bulletins containing pictures and commentary on individual hands.
3. Upon advanced request, make arrangements for you to kibitz a USBF member of your choice for a session once each year – either at an NABC or the USBF Championships.
4. Upon advanced request, we will arrange for you to be one of the vugraph commentators for one session of the team trials.

A Supporting Membership is \$25 for one year (\$75 for 3 years) and the ACBL now offers you the chance to become an USBF Supporting Member when you renew your ACBL membership. If you don't want to wait that long, you can join by choosing the red Donate Now button on the USBF website. Your donation will be used to cover inevitable expenses: attorney fees, accounting fees, website support services, tournament directors, insurance, WBF dues, and vugraph operators. The USBF is an all-volunteer organization. Our meetings are by conference call and at NABCS. Board members and the organization's officers are not compensated for meetings, travel, or hotel expenses.

We hope you will join us.

Board 19

**Z Grossack**  
 ♠ 1065  
 ♥ 109764  
 ♦ 3  
 ♣ J1094

**Willenken**  
 ♠ 93  
 ♥ J52  
 ♦ A42  
 ♣ KQ863

**Migry**  
 ♠ AKQ7  
 ♥ AQ  
 ♦ KQJ106  
 ♣ A2

**Botta**  
 ♠ J842  
 ♥ K83  
 ♦ 9875  
 ♣ 75

NS: 0  
 EW: 0

Willenke	Z Grossa	Migry	Botta
Pass	2♥	Dbf	3♥
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	7NT	Pass

Donner	Rosenth	Sobel	DRosent
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	6NT	Pass

Board 19 of the Mixed Finals swung 17 IMPs to the Donner team. In the Open Room Sobel/Donner had an unimpeded auction to 6NT. Sobel won the opening diamond lead in dummy, took the losing heart finesse and claimed twelve tricks.

In the Closed Room, Zack Grossack opened 2H (4-6 HCP, often a 5 card suit) with the North hand. With twelve top tricks and threats in three suits, a squeeze is often the best route to finding a thirteenth trick. The C7 was led to the eight, ten and ace. Migry cashed five diamond tricks, pitching a spade and a heart from dummy. Botta pitched the H8 and Grossack discarded the H6, H5, S6 and H7 in that order.

This is the position at trick 7:

Open Room Board 19	<b>N Z Grossack</b> ♠ 105 ♥ 109 ♦ ♣ J94	West North East South Pass 2♥ Dbf Pass 4♠ Pass 4NT Pass 5♠ Pass 7NT Pass
<b>W Willenken</b> ♠ 9 ♥ J5 ♦ ♣ KQ63	<b>S Botta</b> ♠ J842 ♥ K3 ♦ ♣ 5	<b>E Migry</b> ♠ AKQ7 ♥ AQ ♦ ♣ 2
Donner: 16 IMPs Rosenth: 49 IMPs Closed Room: 6NT E = +1440		7NT East NS 0 EW 0

Grossack/Botta's defensive agreements are 4<sup>th</sup> best leads (2<sup>nd</sup> from worthless holdings), UDCA and Odd/Even on the first discard.

Since N/S only have a total of 5 HCP, the first reaction is that North must hold the HK and probably a side jack (clubs based on the lead) for his opening bid.

If he has six hearts, that would leave South with a small doubleton heart and 0-2 HCP. Would she really raise to 3H with a worthless doubleton and no outside values? If North held six small hearts, there is a small chance that South would raise with Kx, but this is somewhat risky facing a possible five-card suit.

If North holds five hearts to the king, South has three small hearts. If we assume, from the opening lead, that North has the club jack, this leaves South with 1 HCP (the spade jack) and very little distribution. A raise to 3H is unlikely. On the other hand, if North holds five small hearts (maybe 5-5 in clubs and hearts), with one or two jacks, he might deviate from system and open 2H at favorable vulnerability.

Why would Botta lead a club, dummy's suit, rather than a heart from three small? Grossack's first discard was an the "even" H6. If this is an honest discard, Grossack is telling Botta that she needs to protect hearts. These two factors

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combined with the bidding seem to suggest that Botta has the heart king and will be squeezed in either hearts and spades or hearts and clubs. Grossack discarded a spade. So, unless Zack opened 2H with 5-5 in the majors, he is not protecting spades. This meshes with the C7 opening lead which would seem to be from 7x or 97x. In the latter case, clubs are 3-3 and thirteen tricks are there for the taking.

To squeeze South in hearts and spades, declarer needs to execute the unblocking play that is known as a Vienna Coup. At trick seven, she cashes the HA. Then a club is led to dummy. On the third club declarer discards the HQ from hand and South is doomed. She must either discard the HK making dummy's jack good or she can discard a spade making declarer's hand good.

At the table, Migry was unable to read the position, she cashed her spades before leading a club to dummy. When clubs didn't break she lost a trick to the HK.



Thanks Martha Katz for posting this on Facebook. Apparently it is from one of Ralph's favorite episodes of the Three Stooges called "Pop Goes the Easel."

Quote from Debbie Rosenberg: "The Hospitality here is so good, I can't wait until I am old enough to play in the Seniors too!"

Thanks to our wonderful hospitality staff for providing great breakfasts and lunches and snacks for the players. The camaraderie it promotes is amazing! Our Competitions are the best in so many ways.

As the Mixed winds down, the Seniors approaches... Some volunteers come and some volunteers go, but everyone works together to promote the best possible bridge environment for all!