

# Preparing for Battle

15 D	N jtmlaw	W N E S
	♠ A732 ♥ 5 ♦ QJ83 ♣ 9743	P P 2♣ P 2♠ P 2NT P 3♣ P 3♥ P 1♥ P 6♥ P
W jwolfson	E garner	
♠ K64 ♥ K632 ♦ K1054 ♣ 82	♠ Q85 ♥ AQJ109 ♦ A ♣ AKQ5	
	S jsorkin	
	♠ J109 ♥ 874 ♦ 9762 ♣ J106	6♥ E NS: 0 EW: 0

On April 29th, Jeff Wolfson and Steve Garner were practicing on Bridge Base against Jeff Mandell and John Sorkin. Jeff and Steve play "tried and true" methods without many of the fancier gadgets others employ.

Showing controls over a strong, artificial and forcing 2C opening on the hand above, Jeff promised three or more controls with his 2S response (aces = 2 and kings = one). Once the pair found their 4-4 heart fit, Steve could judge precisely that a heart slam had an excellent play. He did not require any form of ace-asking to make this decision.

There was nothing to the play, but getting to the slam proved to be worth 9 IMPs in IMP Pairs.

## "Trials" and Tribulations

Nº	Time	North	South	East	West	Result	EW Points	Score
1	2019-04-29 20:01	bucefal2	azoro007	dotcomguy	az1944	6♥E=	980	9.00
2	2019-04-29 20:04	jtmlaw	jsorkin	garner	jwolfson	6♥E=	980	9.00
3	2019-04-29 20:05	pama5	carritt jo	billy312	aura_10	6♥E=	980	9.00
4	2019-04-29 20:07	lab3333	louvain	joaotgrilo	maizymom	6♥W=	980	9.00
5	2019-04-29 20:02	Jay Mac	scotchd844	binnudi	iancu18	3NE+3	490	-1.27
6	2019-04-29 20:01	caymandonn	Vic C	pmgrant	luckysix	3NW+3	490	-1.27
7	2019-04-29 20:04	genes414	anoush10	jidu	Schnauser	4♥E+2	480	-1.53
8	2019-04-29 20:03	heff44	dora92	goldie5643	touti555	5♥E+1	480	-1.53
9	2019-04-29 20:08	gsada	flash20	Stanpil	choctaw610	5♥E+1	480	-1.53
10	2019-04-29 20:03	mrds	Opus360	searchers	lozlo	4♥E+2	480	-1.53
11	2019-04-29 20:14	irisea	bittersuga	Coach Life	evvone	4♥E+2	480	-1.53
12	2019-04-29 20:01	yad2014	aidoru	paula1	yjd8888	4♥E+2	480	-1.53
13	2019-04-29 20:03	franklydo	glenda38	karenmier	bawa321	3NE+2	460	-2.27
14	2019-04-29 20:02	JanetEB	ebois	madair01	Stellarcam	4♥E+1	450	-2.27
15	2019-04-29 19:23	TANKER2	puddin3	coco178	kamadouram	2♠E+3	150	-8.27
16	2019-04-29 20:00	justjude49	JanThoro	emcom	jikenjake	7NxW-1	-100	-11.47

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# Teams Entered...

"TRIALS" AND TRIBULATIONS

There are 18 teams entered. Teams are listed in seeding point order, except for teams with byes, which are listed first in PP order.

Rosenthal  Bye to Rnd of 8	Andrew Rosenthal, Capt Chris Willenken David Berkowitz	Aaron Silverstein Eldad Ginossar Migry Zur Campanile
Fleisher  Bye to Rnd of 16	Martin Fleisher, Capt Eric Greco Joe Grue	Chip Martel Geoff Hampson Brad Moss
Wolfson	Jeffrey Wolfson, Capt Zia Mahmood John Hurd	Steve Garner Michael Rosenberg Joel Wooldridge
Kranyak	John Kranyak, Capt Greg Hinze	Vincent Demuy David Grainger
Kriegel	Oren Kriegel, Capt John Diamond	Ron Smith Brian Platnick
Rajadhyaksha	Pratap Rajadhyaksha, Capt John Schermer	Venkatrao Koneru Billy Miller
Hill	Kevin Dwyer Kevin Bathurst Joyce Hill, NPC	Shan Huang Justin Lall
Mahaffey	Jim Mahaffey, Capt Billy Cohen Daniel Lev	Sam Lev Gary Cohler Jacek Pszczola
Robinson	Steve Robinson, Capt Kit Woolsey Robert Hamman	Peter Boyd Bart Bramley
Donn	Joshua Donn, Capt Curtis Cheek Roger Lee	Huub Bertens Daniel Korbel Sheri Winestock
Morris	Michael Levine Mike Passell Dennis Clerkin Robert Morris, NPC	Eddie Wold Marc Jacobus Jerry Clerkin
Lo	Ai-Tai Lo, Capt Adam Wildavsky Jiang Gu	Larry Robbins Doug Doub
Watson	William Watson, Capt Vinita Gupta	Geeske Joel Debbie Rosenberg
Donner	Gary Donner, Capt Rose Meltzer	Yoko Sobel Nikolay Demirev
Grossack	Adam Grossack, Capt Bart Bussink Alex Hudson	Arjun Dhir John McAllister Peter Boyd-Bowman
Dinkin	Sam Dinkin, Capt Alex Kolesnik	Bob Etter Michael Shuster
Reynolds	W. Thomas Reynolds, Capt David Pelka Ellen Kent	Lance Kerr William Hall Robert Kent
Warner	Marc Warner, Capt Stephen Zolotow	Anam Tebha Glenn Eisenstein

**Two  
Day  
Warning!**



I believe anybody who is not afraid to fail is a winner.  
Joe Torre

# Tournament Schedule

ROUND ROBIN			
DAY	DATE	TIME - CDT	BOARDS
FRIDAY	MAY 10	9:45 AM	CAPTAINS' MEETING
FRIDAY	MAY 10	10:00 - 11:03 11:10 - 12:13 12:25 - 1:28 1:35 - 2:38  4:00 - 5:03 5:10 - 6:13 6:25 - 7:28 7:35 - 8:38	MATCH 1 - BOARDS 1-7 MATCH 2 - BOARDS 8-14 MATCH 3 - BOARDS 15-21 MATCH 4 - BOARDS 22-28 82 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK MATCH 5 - BOARDS 1-7 MATCH 6 - BOARDS 8-14 MATCH 7 - BOARDS 15-21 MATCH 8 - BOARDS 22-28
SATURDAY	MAY 11	10:00 - 11:03 11:15 - 12:18 12:30 - 1:33 1:45-2:48  4:15 - 5:18* 5:25 - 6:28* 6:35 - 7:38*	MATCH 9 - BOARDS 1-7 MATCH 10 - BOARDS 8-14 MATCH 11 - BOARDS 15-21 MATCH 12 - BOARDS 22-28 88 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK *MATCH 13 - BOARDS 1-7 *MATCH 14 - BOARDS 8-14 *MATCH 15 - BOARDS 15-21
* THE FINAL 3 MATCHES ARE SEQUESTERED - ONE PAIR ON EACH TEAM MUST PLAY ALL 3 MATCHES & REMAIN AT THE TEAM'S HOME TABLE FOR ALL 3 MATCHES. NO SCORE COMPARISON ALLOWED.			
ROUND OF 16			
SUNDAY	MAY 12	9:45 AM	CAPTAINS' MEETING
SUNDAY	MAY 12	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35  3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
MONDAY	MAY 13	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 16-30
QUARTER-FINAL			
TUESDAY	MAY 14	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35 3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
WEDNESDAY	MAY 15	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35  3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 16-30

It's nice to be in first place. But just because you're not on a winner doesn't mean you're a loser.

Joe Torre

# Round Robin Information

SEMI-FINAL			
THURSDAY	MAY 16	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35  3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
FRIDAY	MAY 17	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35  3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 16-30
FINAL			
SATURDAY	MAY 18	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35  3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30
SUNDAY	MAY 19	10:00 - 12:10 12:25 - 2:35  3:45 - 5:55 6:10 - 8:20	SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 1-15 SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 16-30

Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser	Margin	Winner	Loser
0	10	10	14	15.22	4.78	28	18.36	1.64
1	10.47	9.53	15	15.50	4.50	29	18.53	1.47
2	10.92	9.08	16	15.78	4.22	30	18.69	1.31
3	11.35	8.65	17	16.04	3.96	31	18.85	1.15
4	11.77	8.23	18	16.29	3.71	32	19.00	1.00
5	12.18	7.82	19	16.53	3.47	33	19.15	0.85
6	12.57	7.43	20	16.77	3.23	34	19.29	0.71
7	12.94	7.06	21	16.99	3.01	35	19.43	0.57
8	13.31	6.69	22	17.21	2.79	36	19.56	0.44
9	13.65	6.35	23	17.42	2.58	37	19.68	0.32
10	13.99	6.01	24	17.62	2.38	38	19.80	0.20
11	14.32	5.68	25	17.82	2.18	39	19.92	0.08
12	14.63	5.37	26	18.01	1.99	40	20	0
13	14.93	5.07	27	18.19	1.81			

## Round Robin

The 2019 USBC Round Robin will be a 2-day complete Round Robin, with 7 board matches, scored using the **USBF 7 board Victory Point scale** (see above). The Round Robin schedule is on page 3.

### TABLE ASSIGNMENTS

Each team will have a "home" table for the entire Round Robin. You will be NS at your home table. Your NS pair must remain at your home table for all of matches 13-15 and cannot wander. Your EW pair will play at your opponent's home table each round.

### SCORE SUBMISSION

After each match, you must turn in a form showing your score (in IMPs) for the match; please enter the IMPs for each team, not the net IMPs. If you have time to confirm the score with your opponent before submitting it, please do so, but if you do not have time, turn the score in anyway. The score submission form also has a box to use to enter your lineup. If you do not put anything in that box, you have submitted the identical lineup you had for the previous match - the same players are playing in the same seats..

### SEQUESTERED MATCHES

The final 3 matches on Saturday will be sequestered. One pair on your team must play all 3 matches NS at your home table. No score comparison is allowed during the 3-match clump. You may change your EW pair during those matches.

For the first two sequestered matches, the NS pair at each table will be asked to complete a score sheet & have the EW pair verify that it is correct. We will pick up those score sheets and enter the scores into the computer in order to have your scores for those matches completed by the time you finish the third match. Those scores will be posted on a wall in the Players' Break Room. You will be asked to confirm that those scores are correct when you turn in your score for the final match. We hope that this procedure will speed up the determination of which teams have qualified.

## Vugraph

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The 2019 Open USBC will be covered on BBO Vugraph starting with the Round of 16 on Sunday, May 12th. Some, but not all, of the tables will be featured.

From the Quarterfinals on, all of the tables in play will be covered.

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, 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 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 can be managed.

If you are going to be in the Chicago area during the USBC and want to volunteer to help as a Vugraph operator, please email Jan Martel at [marteljan@gmail.com](mailto:marteljan@gmail.com).

# Afternoon Practice

3 D	N fpancoe	W N E S
	♠ 82 ♥ A92 ♦ 87642 ♣ A74	1♥ P 1NT 2♣ 2♦ 3♣ X P P P
W Ham		E joest
♠ QJ53 ♥ K8653 ♦ AQ109 ♣		♠ K964 ♥ 107 ♦ K53 ♣ QJ102
	S cherilou	
	♠ A107 ♥ QJ4 ♦ J ♣ K98653	
		3♣ S NS: 0 EW: 0

Never underestimate the power of the spot cards. Cheri Bjerkan and Frank Pancoe spend several afternoons playing online to hone their partnership. This deal, played a couple of weeks ago, is a perfect example of why spot cards matter.

Ham led the SQ. Cheri ducked. Ham continued spades to the king and the ace. Cheri could see that if the heart suit behaved, she could collect her nine tricks and score up her doubled partscore.

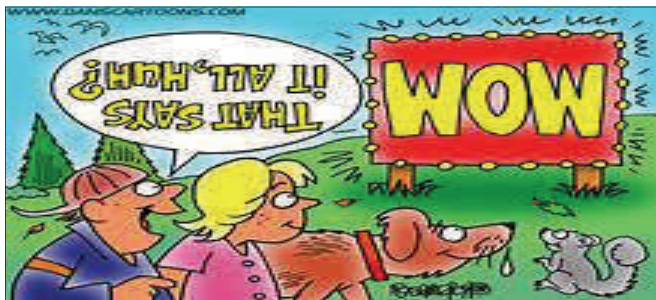
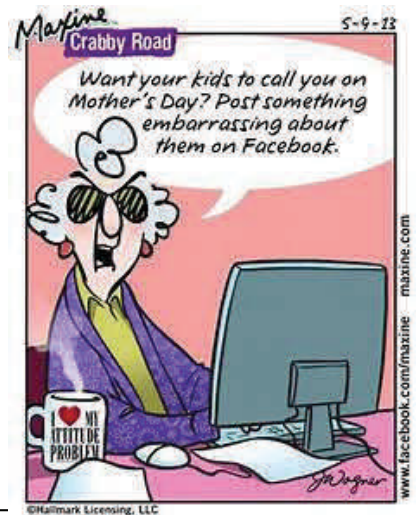
She ruffed her losing spade in dummy; played the club ace and club king, Ham discarding two hearts; and a club to Jack Oest's ten. Oest shifted to a low diamond, his partner winning the trick.

Ham played another spade on which Cheri discarded a diamond from dummy and ruffed in her hand.

Cheri played the HQ. Ham covered; Cheri played the ace from dummy and Jack followed. The small heart from dummy drew the TEN from Jack and it was all over. Cheri won her HJ, played the C8 to Oest's jack.

Jack continued his attack on diamonds, but Cheri had one trump left with which to ruff. The H9 in dummy took the last trick for +470 and 10.20 IMPs playing IMP Pairs.

One other pair played in 3CX and went down two tricks, forgetting to ruff a spade in dummy before attacking the trump suit.



ID: 99043005797270

P.F. CHANG'S MENU & ORDER RESERVATIONS REWARDS

## WOK'D WEDNESDAYS

- 1/2 OFF FRIED RICE ENTRÉE •
- \$5 CLASSIC MOJITO •

ALL. DAY. LONG.

Join us every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday for our new Daily Specials! Available all day, every week for dine-in.\*

**MONGOLIAN MONDAYS**  
 \$5 Mongolian Potstickers  
 \$5 Chang's Margarita

**\$3 TUESDAYS**  
 \$3 Banana Spring Rolls  
 \$3 Refreshers (non-alcoholic)

**WOK'D WEDNESDAYS**  
 1/2 Off Fried Rice Entrée (chicken or veg)  
 \$5 Classic Mojito

# Hospitality Suite...



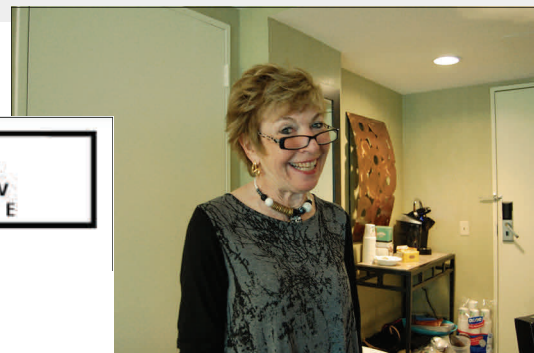
The Hospitality Suite for the 2019 Open USBC will be located in room **2321**. Our wonderful hostesses, Lisa Berkowitz and Martha Katz, will welcome you at the site. They will be assisted by lots of helpful volunteers.

**Breakfast will be served each day from 8:00-10:30 and lunch each day starting on Sunday from 1:00-4:00. On the first Friday & Saturday, we will be serving lunch in the hotel restaurant from about 2:00-4:00**

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

**Players, kibitzers, friends, spouses and children are welcome to join us in the suite.**

The "Players' Break Room" (aka Jan & McKenzie's office) will be in room **1321**. It will be available for the entire tournament. Coffee, soft drinks and snacks will get you through the wait while your slow teammates finish playing.



ABCDEFGHIJKLM NOPQRSTUVWXYZ	give get give get give get give get	LE VEL	L O V E
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# Rebuses

COVER COVER HEAD COVER COVER	KNEE UR FULL OF	12:00T	FAREDCE
Corporate	PumPkinPie	WINEEEE	TRY STAND 2

## Answers to Rebuses No Peeking

Missing you  
 Forgive and forget  
 Split level  
 Falling in love  
 Head for cover  
 You are full of bologna  
 Noon tea  
 Red in the face  
 Corporate Downsizing  
 P's of Pumpkin pie  
 Win with ease  
 Try to understand

**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.**



A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was ticketed for littering.

He had a photographic memory which was never developed.

A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said, 'No change yet.'

What's the definition of a will? (It's a dead giveaway).

When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.

A bicycle can't stand alone because it is two-tired.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

The butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.

She had a boyfriend with a wooden leg, but broke it off.

When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

Those who jump off a Paris bridge are in Seine.

Show me a piano falling down a mineshaft and I'll show you A-flat minor.

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

When you dream in color, it's a pigment of your imagination.

If electricity comes from electrons... does that mean that morality comes from morons?

Without geometry, life is pointless.

He didn't tell his mother that he ate some glue. His lips were sealed.

A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.

Cartoonist found dead in home. Details are sketchy.

Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat says to the other, 'You stay here, I'll go on a head.'

As the shoe said to the hat, 'You go on ahead, and I'll follow on foot'.

If you don't pay your exorcist, you get repossessed.

### News:

The ACBL will be using a new reservation service for the NABCs starting in 2020.

OnPeak (our current service provider) will remain as such through the San Francisco NABC, while ConferenceDirect will become our new housing service bureau beginning with Columbus, Ohio, next spring.

OnPeak has not been as responsive as members would like. The ACBL hopes that ConferenceDirect will be more efficient for our needs and more economically attractive for the Organization.

# "Pun"ti



## Answers to Sudoku Puzzles on page 9

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

### Puzzle 1

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

### Puzzle 2



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

Sudoku 1

# Hard Sudoku

Sudoku 2

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

## Answers to Puzzle on Page 10:

roasted pork	cinnamon	Bradley	Stan
hobo potatoes	sage	Night	Paul
seasoned chicken	basil	Summer	Jake
vegetable lasagna	paprika	Jones	Frank
grilled swordfish	spearmint	Manor	Arthur
Snack	Seasoning	Last Name	First Name

## Sudoku Solutions on Page 8

# Puzzle Page ...

	Bradley	Jones	Manor	Night	Summer	basil	cinnamon	sage	paprika	spearmint	grilled swordfish	hobo potatoes	roasted pork	seasoned chicken	vegetable lasagna
Arthur															
Frank															
Jake															
Paul															
Stan															
grilled swordfish															
hobo potatoes															
roasted pork															
seasoned chicken															
vegetable lasagna															
basil															
cinnamon															
sage															
paprika															
spearmint															

A new cooking class, part of the adult education program, started on Monday night at the local high school. Skip, the class teacher and a professional chef, was bubbling over with enthusiasm for his new class and new chance to teach others his love of cooking. He admitted it was the first time he'd tried teaching a formal class but he joked that he had lots of on-the-job experience training the kitchen staff at his restaurant. The first night was just an introduction to the class, what he hoped to cover, and a chance for him to get an idea of the skill level of his five students. He was delighted to find out that he had a group of students who already knew their way around a kitchen. So, for the next class, he asked them to bring a couple of their favorite things with them. Determine the full name of each person, one of their favorite seasonings and the favorite recipe each made with that seasoning.

## Answer to Puzzle on Page 9!

First Name	Last Name	Seasoning	Snack
Arthur			
Frank			
Jake			
Paul			
Stan			

- The one who loved paprika made delicious vegetable lasagna, but it wasn't Arthur.
- Stan, whose last name wasn't Night, didn't cook with spearmint.
- Mr. Bradley loved cooking with cinnamon. Jake, whose last name wasn't Manor, loved to cook with basil but his favorite recipe wasn't grilled swordfish.
- Paul made hobo potatoes but not using spearmint. Arthur's last name wasn't Night.
- Frank Jones didn't make grilled swordfish. Stan, whose last name wasn't Manor, made an awesome slow roasted pork loin but not using sage.
- Mr. Summer, whose first name wasn't Arthur, made a great seasoned chicken but not using sage.

-----	Bradley	basil	grilled swordfish
-----	Jones	cinnamon	hobo potatoes
-----	Manor	sage	roasted pork
-----	Night	paprika	seasoned chicken
-----	Summer	spearmint	vegetable lasagna

# Meet the Players



By Barbara Howard Oct. 27, 2010  
On BrandeisNOW

When first year student **Adam Grossack** was a young boy, his mother – an avid bridge player -- signed him up for free bridge lessons. “I thought it would be nice to have a partner,” says Jori Grossack. So they went to a local bridge club not far from their hometown of Newton, Massachusetts. She remembers that when they arrived, “there was a sign at the door that said something like, ‘Come one, come all, ages nine to 90’, encouraging everyone to learn the game.”

But Adam was eight and didn’t want to go in. “He thought he was sneaking and didn’t want to do it,” his mother remembers. “I had to explain to him that ‘nine to 90’ is just an expression, that everyone is welcome.”

At first, learning bridge was slow going and Adam had trouble winning, but instead of quitting, he pored over his mother’s bridge strategy notes from her own bridge lessons.

That was ten years ago. Today Adam, age 18, is the **World Champion** of individual bridge players 21 and under after winning an international tournament in October in Philadelphia under the auspices of the World Bridge Federation. He beat out his closest contenders from Norway and Sweden, and was the only American to medal in all of the “under age 26” and “under age 21” events. A **New York Times bridge column** featured Adam’s championship win.

Bridge is usually thought of as a cerebral game for adults, so when pre-teen Adam started competing in tournaments -- armed with his mother’s notes and with a mouth full of braces – he says he was ready to pounce when his adult opponents mistakenly underestimated him and let their guard down. “Most of them were trying to be friendly, saying ‘Oh, isn’t it nice to have a younger person in the game?’ and I’d play along most of the time, and would beat them,” says Adam. “That drew silence.”

He had his first big tournament win in 2003. “I was 11 years old when I won my first sectional,” Adam remembers. “I was the youngest one there.” Before long, he was playing and winning regularly, against some of the region’s best players. His mother remembers, “People didn’t realize how good he was. He’d go to a tournament and they’d think he was so cute and sweet and nice and they were shocked. He would destroy them.”

Soon enough, Adam was in demand as a bridge partner. “I was so naïve,” his mother remembers. “I didn’t realize how good he was either. Major people in the bridge world were asking to play with him and I’d tell his bridge teacher, ‘isn’t it nice that they want to play with Adam’. I later came to realize that while playing at such a high level might have benefited Adam, it probably benefited his partners just as much.”

Three years after that first tournament win, Adam became New England’s youngest Life Master at the age of 14, an achievement that few adults attain even after many years of serious bridge. As a high school senior he was crowned a “**King of Bridge**” which came with a college scholarship.

Playing at such a competitive level, Adam would be expected to have nothing but bridge on his mind, but he also played varsity football for Newton South High School. “Football and bridge are his two loves,” says Jori Grossack. “Football camaraderie was great.” During football season, Adam did not compete in bridge. “They got home at six o’clock so it was really hard when he had limited time,” his mother says. “He’d have to buckle down with homework.”

In addition to football, Adam coached basketball and umpired baseball games. He was on his high school’s mock trial team, and helped set up bridge clubs at both his middle and high schools. He is now organizing a bridge club on the Brandeis campus and says several students seem interested. Adam’s connection to Brandeis runs deep; his grandmother, Judith Grossack, was in the second graduating class.

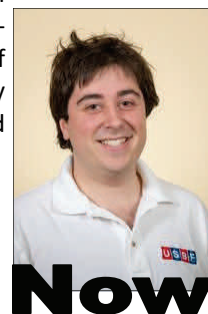
The game of bridge requires a true partnership. Four people sit around a square bridge table. Partner pairs sit across from one another, constituting the two opposing ‘teams’. Once all the cards are dealt but before they are played, each pair bids on how many ‘tricks’, or rounds of play, they believe they can win.

The bidding process is elegant and nuanced. “It was almost like bidding itself is like a language where you are communicating with your partner about what cards you are holding,” says Adam, who is fascinated with the variety of bidding methods used world-wide. “Each country has its own systems,” he says.

When playing the highest level of competitive bridge, as Adam does, a screen is erected so that the partners cannot see one another. “You can’t see facial expressions, so by having your partner and your opponent behind a screen, it takes away that advantage,” says Adam, who still listens for clues. “In the bidding, you learn something from how long it takes them to bid.”

Adam is now preparing for his next tournament later this month, the North American pairs. That means getting ahead on his schoolwork. He says that so far his Brandeis professors have been very supportive of his tournament play.

Asked about pre-tournament rituals, Adam takes a sensible approach. “I get a good night’s sleep and I have a good breakfast. Before the last session of the event, I sort of visualize myself winning, but beyond that I don’t have any rituals,” he says, “I sort of just sit down and play.”



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.

Monday, 5/12

Wednesday, 5/15

Thursday, 5/16

Monday, 5/20

Thursday, 5/23 (that's Mixed of course)

Monday, 5/27

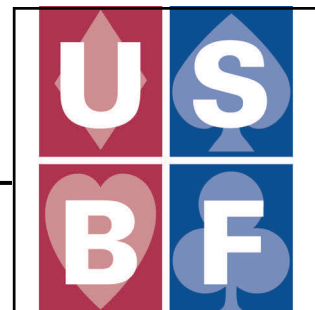
Thursday, 5/30 (between Mixed & Seniors)

Monday, 6/3

Thursday, 6/6



## Relaxation Therapy!



### 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.