





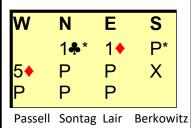


Volume 15, Issue 10 October 5, 2021



| NS | EW | Contract | Lead | Sco | ore |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------|-----|-----|
| _es Bart & Gloria Bart | Bart Bramley & Kit Woolsey | 6 . X-1 W | ♥A | 200 | |
| Jeff Meckstroth & Eddie Wold | Steve Garner & Zia Mahmood | 5 ♠ -1 N | * K | | 50 |
| Allen Kahn & Jeffrey Rothstein | Bill Hall & Joe Viola | 5 ♦ -2 N | + K | | 100 |
| _ance Kerr & Tom Reynolds | Rick Binder & Alan Watson | 5 ♦ -2 S | ♣ A | | 100 |
| Drew Casen & Jim Krekorian | Doug Doub & John Stiefel | 5 ♦ -2 N | * K | | 100 |
| Fred Stewart & Steve Beatty | Jerry Helms & Jim Fox | 5♠ X-2 N | ♦ A | | 300 |
| Neil Chambers & Allan Graves | Ralph Buchalter & Jeff Roman | 5♠ X-2 N | + K | | 300 |
| Dan Morse & Pratap Rajadhyaksha | Bob Bitterman & Bob Cappelli | 5♠ X-2 N | + K | | 300 |
| Billy Cohen & Ron Smith | Doug Simson & Jeff Aker | 5♠ X-2 N | + K | | 300 |
| Alan Sontag & David Berkowitz | Mark Lair & Mike Passell | 5 ♦ X= E | ^ 2 | | 750 |

On Board 73 in the Seniors, no one played in the suggested "par" spot of 5HX, though 5S was common and, if doubled, would produce the same result. Only one pair succeeded in making their contract.



Lair/Passell, had a preemptive auction to buy the contract before their opponents knew anything relevant about each other's distribution ... an effective method of defending against strong club and/or relay systems.

1C was strong and South's pass showed 0-5 or looking for penalty. West jumped to 5D, and it was back to South. South knew his side held more than half the deck but nothing more. He doubled. North, looking at good defensive values, passed.

Berkowitz led a spade to Sontag's ace and Sontag cashed the HA.

Lair claimed the eleven remaining tricks and scored +750. Good defensive bidding and a well-deserved result.

12 IMPs to Levine

niors, no uggested th 55 was d, would ult. Only making

USBF President
Brad Moss

USBF Vice President Kate Aker

USBF COO & Secretary

Jan Martel

USBF CFO & Treasurer Stan Subeck

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Al Hollander
VuGraph Organizei

VuGraph Organizer Chris Wiegand

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Bulletin Editor Suzi Subeck

Joann Sprung

Photographer Peg Kaplan

Hospitality Chair

Christian Jolly Julie Arbit Evvie Gilbert Maya Alela

QuarterFinalists in Alphabetical Order

| | T | |
|----------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Bramley | Bart Bramley, Capt | Kit Woolsey |
| | Mike Becker | Peter Weichsel |
| | Hemant Lall | Michael Kamil |
| Donner | Gary Donner, Capt | Sandra Rimstedt |
| | Radu Nistor | Iulian Rotaru |
| | Ish DelMonte | Finn Kolesnik |
| Fleisher | Marty Fleisher, Capt | Chip Martel |
| | Joe Grue | Brad Moss |
| | Roger Lee | Daniel Korbel |
| Gu | Jiang Gu, Capt | Hailong Ao |
| | Ming Sheng | Hongji Wei |
| | Jian-Jian Wang | |
| Hill | Kevin Dwyer, Capt | Joyce Hill |
| | Shan Huang | David Grainger |
| | Joel Wooldridge | |
| Levine | Mike Levine | Eddie Wold |
| | Jeff Meckstroth | Steve Garner |
| | Mike Passell | Mark Lair |
| | Bob Morris, NPC | |
| Nickell | Frank Nickell | Ralph Katz |
| | Geoff Hampson | Eric Greco |
| | Bobby Levin | Steve Weinstein |
| | Jill Levin, NPC | |
| Spector | Warren Spector, Capt | Gavin Wolpert |
| - | John Kranyak | Kevin Bathurst |
| | John Hurd | |
| | | |



Face to Face Tournament Schedule

VACCINATION REQUIRED:

All players in the 2021 Open USBC MUST be vaccinated against CoVid19.

Players must submit proof of vaccination to the USBF Secretary (Jan Martel) before play commences in the event.

This includes the online stages - players are not eligible to enter the event if they do not submit proof of vaccination.

There are no exceptions to this rule.

Ed. Note:

With the delayed broadcasting and the Covid ban on kibitzing, it is especially challenging to write up the hands. If anyone has a hand of interest, please submit it to me at stansubeck@prodigy.net. I also welcome any human interest stories, news or gossip!!

Thanks.

Suzi



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 committee is a group that keeps minutes and loses hours.

Milton Berle

| DAY | DATE | TIME - CDT | BOARDS |
|-----------|---------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | QUARTE | R-FINAL |
| MONDAY | Ост. 4 | 8:00 PM | CAPTAINS' MEETING WITH DIC (ON ZOOM) |
| TUESDAY | Ост. 5 | 10:00 - 12:10 | SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 |
| | | 12:25 - 2:35 | SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 |
| | | | 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK |
| | | 3:45 - 5:55 | SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 |
| | | 6:10 - 8:20 | SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46-60 |
| WEDNESDAY | Ост. 6 | 10:00 - 12:10 | SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75 |
| | | 12:25 - 2:35 | SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90 |
| | | | 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK |
| | | 3:45 - 5:55 | SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 91-105 |
| | | 6:10 - 8:20 | SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 106-120 |
| | | SEMI-FINAL & U | JSA2 STAGE 1 |
| THURSDAY | Ост. 7 | 10:00 - 12:10 | SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 |
| | | 12:25 - 2:35 | SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 |
| | | | 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK |
| | | 3:45 - 5:55 | SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 |
| | | 6:10 - 8:20 | SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46- 60 |
| FRIDAY | Ост. 8 | 10:00 - 12:10 | SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75 |
| | | 12:25 - 2:35 | SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90 |
| | | | 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK |
| | | 3:45 - 5:55 | SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 91-105 |
| | | 6:10 - 8:20 | SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 106-120 |
| | FINA | AL & USA2 QUART | ERFINAL & SEMIFINAL |
| SATURDAY | Ост. 9 | 10:00 - 12:10 | SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 |
| | | 12:25 - 2:35 | SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 |
| | | | 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK |
| | | 3:45 - 5:55 | SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 |
| | | 6:10 - 8:20 | SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46- 60 |
| SUNDAY | Ост. 10 | 10:00 - 12:10 | SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75 |
| | | 12:25 - 2:35 | SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90 |
| | | | 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK |
| | | 3:45 - 5:55 | SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 91-105 |
| | | 6:10 - 8:20 | SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 106-120 |
| | | USA2 | FINAL |
| MONDAY | Ост. 11 | 10:00 - 12:10 | SEGMENT 1 BOARDS 1-15 |
| | | 12:25 - 2:35 | SEGMENT 2 BOARDS 16-30 |
| | | | 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK |
| | | 3:45 - 5:55 | SEGMENT 3 BOARDS 31-45 |
| | | 6:10 - 8:20 | SEGMENT 4 BOARDS 46- 60 |
| TUESDAY | Ост. 12 | 10:00 - 12:10 | SEGMENT 5 BOARDS 61-75 |
| | | 12:25 - 2:35 | SEGMENT 6 BOARDS 76-90 |
| | | | 70 MINUTE LUNCH BREAK |
| | | 3:45 - 5:55 | SEGMENT 7 BOARDS 91-105 |
| | | 6:10 - 8:20 | SEGMENT 8 BOARDS 106-120 |

Why do you have to be a nonconformist like everybody else?

James Thurber

If it's the Psychic Network, why do they need a phone number?

Robin Williams

FORMAT

The face-to-face USA1 stages will be 2-day, 120-board KO matches.

The face-to-face USA2 stages will be a 2-day, 120-board KO R16 in which the 4 losing USA1 Quarterfinalists will play, followed by a 1-day, 60-board KO Quarterfinal, in which the 2 USA1 Quarterfinal losers will play the 2 USA2 Round of 16 winners; a 1-day 60-board KO Semifinal in which the USA2 Quarterfinal winners will play, and a 2-day 120-board Final between the USA1 Final loser and the USA2 Semifinal winner.

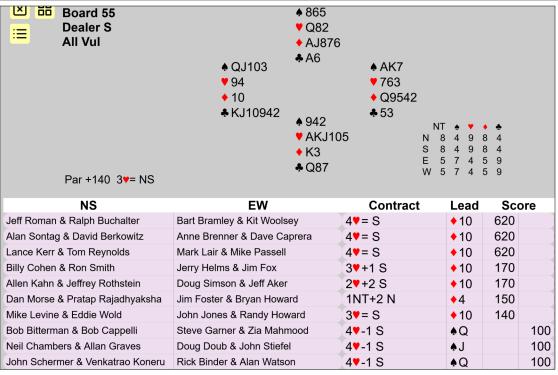
Play Requirements: Each player must play 10 matches in RR 1 and at least one segment against each other team in RR 2 to qualify for the KO stages (a player who does not meet the play requirements can be added back to the team as long as the requirements for roster changes are met. Each player must play 50% of the boards in every KO match to be eligible to continue on the team. See General Conditions of Contest Section XII (at USBF.org) about how to count boards and potential waiver of this requirement.

Closed Notes: Players may not consult their notes at any time during play unless they are dummy.

Withdrawal: A player or team may withdraw at any time.

Play in the KO stages will be on LoveBridge tablets, with either 2 or 4 players in a room.

SETTING THE KO BRACKET: THE KO BRACKET WILL BE BASED ON ACBL SEEDING POINTS, EXCLUDING POINTS AWARDED FOR ONLINE PLAY, PLUS ADDED SEEDING POINTS FOR PERFORMANCE IN EACH STAGE OF THE ROUND ROBIN.



Usually the lead of a singleton against a suit contract works well for the defense.

Board 55 from the Seniors is the exception that proves the rule. Six pairs played in the heart game. Three played in heart partscores.

The lead of the DT looked right but turned deadly when the D87 set up for spade pitches.

Typically, declarer won the DK, pulled three rounds of trump, played a diamond to the ace,

ruffed a diamond establishing dummy's eight and seven! A club to the ace gained access to dummy to cash the clubs. Contract making!

When West led the SQ, the defense took three rounds of spades and generally exited with a heart. To make the hand, declarer must be psychic. He must win the heart with the ace and play the HJ to the queen. He must follow this with the DJ! If East ducks and the DJ holds the trick, declarer leads a diamond to the king and plays the H5 to the dummy's H8, cashes the DA pitching a club and runs the D8 through East's nine to establish the second club pitch. The CA is the entry to dummy to take the second pitch.

The opponents could stop this by playing three rounds of spades ending in East and playing a club through. None of this happened. Conclusion: None of our declarers are psychic!

KO KIBITZING ON LOVEBRIDGE

You can follow the USBC on the https://vugraph.lovebridge.com/ website. The stream is delayed; go to the schedule below for starting times for each segment.

Popcorn time! Do you want to listen to commentary? Search for the TV icon! It will send you to the page where you can choose from the available live commentary. If inactive, no one is commenting.

Nail biting!

Do you want to be deeply involved? Choose the "Match view" at the starting page of your event. Your screen will be divided into four small screens – two of them showing the two tables of the match you choose, the other two having the scoresheet for your match and the current scores of the other matches. In the 2x2 view you can personalize the content in your windows. (Not active on mobiles.)

Think together!

When watching a table, click on a name and choose "Kibitz". Instead of seeing all 4 hands, you will see what the player sees. You can decide what you would do and see whether your chosen player agrees.

More Information:

Be well informed and tell your friends: while following the play, you can click many items. The image of the sticker with the number of the board (upper right) takes you to the results of the board, in the bottom right corner the arrow takes you the scoresheet, the DDS shows the double dummy analyses, beside that there is a button for the other table of the same match, at the top left corner you can see the bidding with alerts and the explanations (mouse over), the tricks already played, and the double dummy analysis for the available number of tricks with the par score.

Navigation icons:

While surfing here and there in the vugraph, or amongst the archive sessions, there are icons to help you. You can always go back to the main page with the "house" or to the standings with the "scores". If you cannot see the icons, move your mouse, or touch your screen and they pop up immediately. There is also a built-in back button because the back button of your browser will always take you to the starting page. If this is not what you wanted, push next in your browser and you can continue.

Replay:

After the event you can find every board from every table easily. While replaying the hands, the only surprise can be the way "next board" button works. If you have arrived from a scoresheet, it navigates through the scoresheet. If you have arrived from a screen where the results were shown for a given board then the same buttons move you through the list. Push every button and enjoy!

KIBITZING SCHEDULE FOR THE KO (EDT)

Segment 1: 12:00 noon Segment 2: 2:30 pm

BREAK

Segment 3: 6:00 pm Segment 4: 8:00 pm

NEXT DAY

Segment 5: 12:00 noon Segment 6: 2:30 pm

BREAK

Segment 7: 8:00 pm Segment 8: 10:15 pm



Can't wait to see
How these 8 teams will
do!
Hoping someday
I'll be one of them too!



Mask Rules

Attendees are required to wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth in all public areas in the hotel. That means the hotel lobby, corridors, and elevators, as well as the Hospitality Suite and the Office/Players' Break Room, where masks must be worn at all times. Therefore, there is no eating or drinking in those rooms.

Our attorney has told us that the Cook County Mask Mandate forces us to require masks in the playing rooms. Therefore, we have adopted the following policy about that:

Masks are required in playing rooms. If you are observed not wearing a mask in a playing room, there will be a 2 IMP penalty for the first offense in a segment, a 4 IMP penalty for the second offense, an 8 IMP penalty for the third offense, and a 16 IMP penalty for the fourth and subsequent offenses; however, if you and your opponent agree to something other than both wearing masks, any IMP penalties for not wearing a mask will apply to both of you equally and there will be no other penalties. You may remove your mask briefly to eat or drink. However, if you call for a director (for any reason), and you are not wearing a mask properly when the director enters the room, the penalty will apply to your team for your next match in the event. There is no eating or drinking in the playing room when the Director present.

In addition, anyone who is penalized more than twice (over the course of the entire event) in situations where his/her opponent was wearing a mask while s/he wasn't, or where the director was called, may be subject to additional conduct penalties.

You should bring masks to the tournament with you; we will not be supplying masks.

Covid Waiver

We are going to ask each player in these events to sign a COVID-19 Waiver of Claims. It is being sent to you by email and you may sign it electronically and return it to Jan (marteljan@gmal.com) or you can sign a printed waiver at the site. Waivers will be available to sign in room 1321 starting Oct. 5th at 9:00 am. **Everyone is required to sign the form before the start of play!**

You leave home,
make three left turns,
and return home
where you find
two men wearing masks.
Who are they?

The Catcher and the Umpire!

What month
Do People
Sleep
The Least?

February. It's the shortest month!!



Hospitality Information ... the Suite and more ...

Because of Covid, we won't be able to provide the full, wonderful hospitality we have in the past, but we will do what we can.

Hosts Evvie Gilbert and Maya Alela for the Open and Women's and Julie Arbit and Christian Jolly for the Mixed and Seniors will be in our usual hospitality suite (Room 2321). They will provide grab and go breakfast and lunch each day, starting on Tuesday, Oct. 5th.

Breakfast: From 8-10 am. There will be individually packaged cereal, fruit, hard boiled eggs, bagels, and some hot options. Also individual butter, jam, peanut butter, and cream cheese, as well as condiment packages. They will be making coffee and will have individual packages of sugar, sweetener, and dairy & non-dairy creamers. For those of you who prefer Keurig coffee, that will also be available in the hospitality suite. We are limiting access to 6 players at any one time, so we ask that you come to the suite, pick up a large to go container and put the smaller packages in that to take with you as quickly as you can, and then go someplace else to eat. **Masks that cover your nose & mouth must be always worn in the Hospitality Suite.** There will be a hand sanitizer station near the door and we encourage you to sanitize your hands before choosing what to take.

Lunch: From 2-4 pm (the first half of play each day ends at 2:35; we encourage those of you who are sitting out the 2nd quarter to go early). There will be a main dish (sandwiches, chicken, maind dish salads, pizza) as well as individually packaged tuna salad, green salad, cheese, fruit, and berries. Also all the individual packages of add-ons we have for breakfast. Water and soft drinks will be available in refrigerators.

Let us know what you want: If there is a menu for a future day's lunch hanging on the wall outside the Hospitality Suite, please mark what you want, so we have a better idea of what to order.

Playing Rooms & Player's Break Room

We will have bottled water in the playing rooms and if there is a refrigerator in a playing room, we'll stock it with soft drinks.

We will also have bottled water in the Player's Break Room (1321), as well as soft drinks, Nespresso, some packaged snacks, and some fruit.

Masks that cover your nose & mouth must be always worn in the Player's Break Room, so you may not eat and drink in the room.







Julie Arbit

Christian Jolly

How do you keep a bagel from getting away? Put lox on it.



Come get breakfast.
Come get lunch.
Come get something
Good to much!

bid72

Work on your Partnership Try the App for *Free*



This app will connect you to bid72. All you need to do is scan it with your phone (Special thanks to my children and grandchildren for explaining how to accomplish this...)

Jan VanCleef provided this so our readers could use it to improve their bidding and better build partnerships. Bid72 allows users to participate in bidding contests, bid random boards and get a rating based on their bidding, learn about "topic board" hands dedicated to conventions and special agreements, and to create, upload and bid your own boards.

For more information, email info@bid72.com

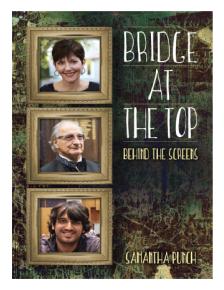
In addition, Bid72 has an excellent newsletter to which you can subscribe.

Now Available

Bridge at the Top

Behind the Screens

Samantha Punch



The interviews make the names we see on VuGraph come to life. The tips are tricks of the trade that will be useful to players of all levels. It is a fun and informative read.

— Jill Levin

...intimate and revealing pictures of who these stars are, how they got to the top, and what keeps them there. The interviews are absorbing reading and the advice will help players at any level. The suggestions on partnership and mental toughness are of particular note.

- Chip Martel

In the course of her research project, *Bridge: A MindSport for All*, sociologist Dr. Samantha Punch has been able to speak with many of the world's top bridge personalities. The best interviews are collected in this book, and they offer fascinating insight into what it takes to be a top player, coach or even sponsor. As a bonus, each subject offers their favorite bridge tip.

US\$22.95 | GBP 17.95 978-1-77140-064-0

Available to order today from your favourite bookstore.



Samantha Punch's book is recently published and ready for your reading pleasure.

Sam is an amazing advocate of the game and while I have not yet read the book, based on her work with "Keep Bridge Alive" and more, I am certain you will want to have this volume in your collection!

Learn about the experts... how they think... what they think... and why they are so driven by a card game.

Editor



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

Sudoku 1

Some people have a knack for remembering faces. Others, according to this e-mail I received at work, go them one better: "The only designated smoking area at Building One is at the picnic benches, under the covered area, where the butt distinguishers are."

I was watching a marathon and saw one runner dressed as a chicken and another as an egg.

I thought, Now, this could be interesting.

One of the less difficult blanks to fill in on our job-agency application is "Position Wanted." One job seeker wrote "Sitting."

If you are always straightening things, you have OCD. If you are always eating things, you have OBCD.

Answer to Puzzle on page 10

| etneltA | csr | ObsoidO | Shepherd | Kalph |
|-----------|------------------|---------------------|------------|------------|
| New York | plane | Boston | livsəJ | Mike |
| Ohicago | nist | New York | tseW | toill∃ |
| Boston | snq | stnsltA | Prescott | Bernard |
| Home City | Travel Method | First Night City | emsN 12ss1 | First Name |

The insurance industry loves its acronyms. The first time I saw the term proof of ownership was in a client's file that read "Insured has POO on damaged items."

A man tells his doctor, "Doc, help me. I'm addicted to Twitter!" The doctor replies, "Sorry, I don't follow you ..."

As I helped my elderly neighbor clean out his garage, I stumbled upon an ax in the corner. "That was my grandfather's," he said, picking it up and running his fingers along the blade. "Of course, it's been through three new heads since he last used it."

When my girlfriend said she was leaving because of my obsession with the Monkees, I thought she was joking. And then I saw her face ...

Sudoku 2

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

Sudoku Solutions on Page 17

| | | | | | | | 1st I | Nigh | t | | | | | | Но | me |
|-----------|----------|--------|----------|----------|------|---------|--------|---------|----------|-----|-----|-------|-------|-----------|--------|---------|
| | | Leavit | Prescott | Shepherd | West | Atlanta | Boston | Chicago | New York | snq | car | plane | train | Atlanta | Boston | Chicago |
| | Bernard | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Elliot | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Mike | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Ralph | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Atlanta | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Home | Boston | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 로 | Chicago | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | New York | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | bus | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Pı | 17 |
| | car | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | plane | | | | | | | | | | | | | | M | a |
| | train | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Atlanta | | | | | | | | | | | _ | | | | |
| 1st Night | Boston | | | | | | | | | ŧ | an | 15 | W | 'e | rs | 5 (|
| lst N | Chicago | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Γ , | | | | | | l | | | | | | | | | | |

Puzzle Mania

Chicago New York

answers on page 9

| First Name | Last Name | First Night City | Travel Method | Home City |
|------------|-----------|------------------|---------------|-----------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Four people traveled away from home to go to the First Night celebration in a different city for New Year's Eve this year. None of them had ever traveled for New Year's Eve and looked forward to the celebration with great enthusiasm. The four people all traveled to their chosen city using a different method of transportation. Determine the full name of each person, the city that they traveled to for First Night, their method of transportation, and their home city.

New York

1. Ralph Shepherd didn't travel to Boston for the First Night celebration. Mr. Leavit, whose first name wasn't Bernard, lived in New York.

- 2. The person who lived in Boston traveled to a different city by bus. Mr. West traveled by train.
- 3. The person who went to First Night in Chicago traveled by car.
- 4. The person who lived in Chicago traveled to New York for First Night, but not by plane.
- 5. Elliot, whose last name wasn't Prescott, didn't travel by car. Bernard didn't live in New York but he spent First Night in Atlanta.
- 6. Mike, who didn't live in Atlanta, traveled by plane.

Public Library

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.

The remaining letters spell a secret message - a Henry Ward Beecher quotation.

| Α | С | S | Е | 1 | ٧ | 0 | Μ | S | Ε | Ν | I | Ζ | Α | G | Α | М | L | I | R | В |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | S | Н | А | ٧ | Υ | G | 0 | L | 0 | Н | С | Υ | S | Ρ | R | W | Ε | Ν | Е | R |
| Υ | Α | R | Е | 1 | R | S | Ν | L | 1 | В | R | Α | R | Υ | С | Α | R | D | С | E |
| G | Ρ | В | Е | С | 0 | Е | S | E | L | В | Α | Т | Т | Υ | Α | Ν | 1 | Υ | R | 1 |
| 0 | Ρ | L | R | Ρ | Κ | S | S | 0 | U | Α | W | 0 | R | R | 0 | В | Ν | Н | Е | Ρ |
| L | L | S | L | Α | Α | 0 | С | E | С | Χ | Ν | Α | U | - | R | Μ | Т | Ρ | Α | 0 |
| Α | 1 | Т | R | - | Ν | Ρ | U | 1 | R | 1 | Ν | G | Т | Υ | Е | U | Ε | 0 | Τ | С |
| Т | Ε | R | В | 1 | Т | С | S | Т | Т | 0 | Α | Α | U | Ν | U | S | R | S | I | 0 |
| Α | D | А | Τ | Υ | Α | Ε | Н | W | 1 | Α | Μ | L | С | А | Т | 1 | Ν | 0 | 0 | Т |
| С | S | D | Ρ | Н | R | Н | R | Т | Ε | R | Μ | Υ | S | Ε | G | С | Ε | L | Ν | 0 |
| 0 | С | U | Α | Ρ | Ν | Ε | С | Α | 0 | Ν | С | Е | С | С | 0 | E | Т | I | Т | Н |
| E | 1 | Е | Ρ | Α | Н | I | ٧ | F | Т | L | 0 | Н | Н | Μ | - | E | S | Н | Ε | Ρ |
| S | Е | D | Ε | R | D | | Ν | 0 | 0 | U | Ν | F | Ρ | Τ | U | Е | Τ | Ρ | 1 | В |
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FINES
GEOGRAPHY
HARDCOVER
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MOVIES
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NOVELS
OVERDUE
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PERIODICALS
PHILOSOPHY
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PSYCHOLOGY

QUIET
READ
RECREATION
RELIGION
RENEW
RESEARCH
RESERVE
SHELVES
SOCIAL SCIENCES
TABLES
TECHNOLOGY

History of Schaumburg

19th century

The village of Schaumburg was incorporated on March 7, 1956, but the heritage of Schaumburg dates back to much earlier times when the first inhabitants of the area were members of the Sauk, Fox, Potawatomi, and Kickapoo Native American tribes. By the mid-19th century, settlers first began to arrive from Bonn, Germany and the eastern United States. Many of the Germans came from Schaumburg-Lippe, a small princely state now in Lower Saxony.

Legend has it that one of the earliest settlers was Trumball Kent from Oswego, New York. Kent, a "Yankee", as settlers from New England were called in the west, farmed property in the northeast corner of the township. Another Yankee was Horace Williams, who owned substantial lands but lived in the hamlet of Palatine in Palatine Township. Ernst Schween settled in 1835 not far from what used to be called Olde Schaumburg Centre, in what was then and is now known as Sarah's Grove. Another early settler in Schaumburg Township was German-born Johann Sunderlage. According to one legend, Sunderlage was a member of a survey team that divided Cook County into townships around 1833; according to another legend, he worked on a survey team on the Joliet canal. He liked the area so much that, upon completion of the project, he returned to Europe and brought his family and friends from Germany and settled in the area now known as Hoffman Estates in Schaumburg Township around 1836. His home still stands in its original location.

Sunderlage and his family occupied their land in the township until the federal land sale of 1842 allowed them to buy the property and obtain the deed. Sunderlage and Kent represented the predominant groups that settled Schaumburg Township in its early days. In 1840, 56 percent of the township households originated from the eastern United States, while 28 percent were German-born. By the 1850s, the population mix had changed to 28 percent "Yankee" and 48 percent German.

By 1870, Schaumburg Township had become completely German. Land records show that most of the property in the township was owned by German immigrants or their descendants. This pattern emerged as many Yankee "settlers" continued to travel west for the promise of newly opened lands on the Great Plains. The land they owned in Schaumburg was then purchased by German-born immigrants.

Schaumburg Township remained almost exclusively under German ownership until the Great Depression of the 1930s. The Depression caused the foreclosure on some German-owned farms which were then purchased by non-German individuals and companies. Nonetheless, German heritage remained important in the area. German was the first language of the majority of households until the 1950s.

St. Peter Lutheran Church, the community's oldest Christian church, had services in German as late as 1970. The church remains as a museum, as does the second church of this congregation. Services were first held at the then-existing Rohlwing-Fenz store, at the southwest corner of the intersection of Schaumburg Road and Roselle Road, until their first church building was completed in 1847. The pastor was Francis Hoffman, who walked from the Bensenville area to hold the Christian religious meetings in Schaumburg. He later served as Lieutenant Governor of Illinois. When he retired from the church's ministry, he moved to Wisconsin where he operated an experimental farm and edited a Germanlanguage agricultural newspaper. Other people of the area who were notable in the 1840s included Quindel, Winkelhake, Moeller, Fenz, Kastning, Lichthardt, Meyer, Rohlwing, Thies, Scheiderling, Hattendorf, Nerge, and Freise.

(Continued on page 13)

Sarah's Grove

The original 1842 township survey names the grove (immediately west of the center of the township, in sections 21 and 22) as Sarah's Grove. Three families lived near a grove of woods on the northwest end of the township, and each family had a woman named Sarah (Sarah McChesney, Sarah Frisbe, and Sarah Smith). At a township meeting in 1850, citizens debated new names for the town. A wealthy landowner named Friedrich Heinrich Nerge, at one point during the meeting, slammed his fist on the table and yelled in German, "Schaumburg schall et heiten!" (The English translation: "It will be called Schaumburg!"). At that point, the township became officially called Schaumburg.

The name was taken from Grafschaft Schaumburg (Schaumburg County) in Germany, a part of Hessen-Kassel, now Lower Saxony. Most of the township's German settlers were from Schaumburg; many were born in the parish of Apelern. Some came from Hannover, but the people of Schaumburg had more influence.

Schaumburg Township prospered during its early days. The area's main occupation was farming, with potato growing, dairy products and raising cattle as main sources of income. The land was a very large meadow surrounded by extensive wilderness. Wildlife such as geese, ducks, quail, prairie chickens, rabbits, pheasant and deer were abundant. In 1858, a small market area emerged at what is now the intersection of Schaumburg and Roselle roads. Schaumburg Center was the market center for the surrounding agricultural producers. It included two general stores, four cheese factories, a cobbler, a tailor, a wagon maker, and a blacksmith.

Most of the early growth in the northeast region of Illinois occurred along the Fox River Valley and the major rail lines. Since neither of these transportation networks served Schaumburg Township at the time, the township remained rather isolated. Few roads existed, and several of those were often impassable. To reach a large market, Schaumburg farmers had to travel 27 miles (43 km) in ox-drawn or horse-drawn wagons to Chicago, which only had about 35,000 inhabitants at that time.

20th century

Schaumburg welcome sign

In 1900, a 50-year anniversary brochure reported the following account: "Schaumburg has the reputation of being the model community of Cook County. Also, the town of Schaumburg is an example of a community for all other towns in Cook County and probably in other counties, too. Schaumburg is prompt in the payment of its taxes; it supports churches and schools; it has also the best roads in the land and – Schaumburg has never had a jail. Finally, it is not just for the settlers only, but also for foreigners."

In 1925, O. D. Jennings, the founder of what was once one of the largest manufacturers of slot machines in the United States, purchased a house in the village. It would be his and his wife's home until his death in 1953. On the death of his widow, the house and its surrounding park lands were donated to the village and used as the Village Hall until 1971.

Schaumburg's relative isolation was broken, however, as the automobile became the primary mode of travel. The construction of O'Hare International Airport near Rosemont (about 11 miles (18 km) away) in 1955 in what was previously O'Hare field, the construction of the Northwest Tollway through the farmlands in 1956 and the presence of a technical and business workforce at the Pure Oil Company in Schaumburg now put Schaumburg in a location rampant with suburban growth. In response to development pressures, the area encompassing what was known as Schaumburg Centre was incorporated in 1956. At the time of incorporation, the village consisted of two square miles and a population of 130 residents.

(Continued on page 14)

Incorporation enabled the village to control its growth and development. Early village leaders are credited with the foresight and planning that has made later economic growth possible. The original comprehensive plan adopted by the Village Board in 1961 reserved large tracts of land for industrial, commercial, and office development; mostly the Woodfield area surrounding what is now Woodfield Mall. Growth in these sectors has made the village a major employer in the area and the home of Illinois's second-largest retail center.

Schaumburg's expansion during the 1960s changed the character of the community dramatically. Schaumburg was no longer a quiet rural community. In 1959, Alfred Campanelli began construction of the first large residential subdivision in the village, known as Weathersfield. This area contains several thousand single-family homes built in 22 stages over two decades. In total, Campanelli constructed over 6,800 housing units or approximately 20% of the village's housing stock. Schaumburg's YMCA is named after him

In 1967, an apartment complex called International Village (located at the intersection of Meacham and Algonquin roads) was built as Schaumburg's first residential area not entirely occupied by single-family homes. The following year, Motorola began to construct its corporate headquarters across the street.

During this time, country singer Bob Atcher ("You Are My Sunshine"), who had become known on WLS' *National Barn Dance* radio program, became the Schaumburg village president. He held that position until 1975.

In the 1970s, the tremendous growth that had taken place in the previous decade continued. By 1970, the village population had grown to 18,730. That same year, a second expressway, Interstate 290, opened on the eastern boundary of the village. This provided another link to Chicago and further enhanced its stature in the eyes of the region's many developers. The following year, Woodfield Mall opened in Schaumburg. During the remainder of the decade, Schaumburg experienced phenomenal commercial, industrial and residential development.

In 1978, the Village Board formally established the Olde Schaumburg Centre Overlay District to preserve the character of the area located at the intersection of Schaumburg and Roselle roads. The Olde Schaumburg Centre Commission, also established in 1978, reviews new development and restoration projects in the district to ensure the continued historic appeal of the area.

By 1980, Schaumburg had expanded to 18.3 square miles (47.4 km) of land area, and its population had swelled to 53,305 residents. During the early- and mid-1980s, development focused on large corporate office buildings in the emerging "Woodfield Center" along Golf Road. The late 1980s were characterized by the vast expansion of small manufacturing and warehouse uses in the industrial and business parks in the village's northeast and southwest quadrants. Other development such as large manufacturing facilities, commercial retail centers, and large suite hotels boomed in the 1980s. Schaumburg was profiled in Joel Garreau's 1991 book about edge cities as, "a suburb conforming to a new form of urban development in which large concentrations of jobs exist, though outside the traditional downtown city centers."

By 1990, Schaumburg's population was increasing at a slower rate as the land available for residential development was rapidly disappearing. The population in 1990 had risen to 68,586, an increase of 15,281 since 1980. Although this was still an impressive growth rate, it was apparent that Schaumburg was nearing its residential capacity within the terms of current land management.

Office development in the 1990s had also slowed. The once booming office market slumped due to the large supply of office space in the northwest suburbs and the limited demand by typical users in the financial, insurance, and real estate sectors. However, the Schaumburg commercial market enjoyed substantial expansion during this period. Since 1990, Schaumburg has witnessed the development of 2 million square feet (180,000 m) of commercial space, including a variety of retail uses. Another mall named One Schaumburg Place and a retail area called Village Green were built in the early 1990s. One Schaumburg Place quickly lost most of its stores, eventually left only a theater and, a few years later, was completely reconstructed into a walkthrough shopping area with an AMC Theater and GameWorks as its major businesses. Around the same time, Woodfield Mall underwent a major redesign, adding retail space and removing previous attractions. A Nordstrom was added to one branch of the mall as well, increasing the number of anchor stores to five. Woodfield Mall is now an international tourist attraction, harboring visitors every day from locations as far away as Japan. IKEA, an internationally known home furnishings store, opened its 458,000-square-foot (42,500 m) Schaumburg location near Woodfield in the late 1990s.

In the mid-1990s, many restaurants came to the village of Schaumburg: Pizzeria Uno (tourism version), Outback Steakhouse, Chevy's, Champs, Chandlers, P.F. Chang's, Hooters, Rainforest Café, Red Lobster, Joe's Crab Shack, Benihana, and Maggiano's opened in the area during this time.

Lakeside at the Schaumburg Prairie Center for the Arts

In 1994, the village bought the Schaumburg Regional Airport from its formerly-private owners and refurbished it with 90% of the funds for the purchase and refurbishment acquired by federal grant, 5% from the State of Illinois, 2.5% Cook County and the village putting up the remaining 2.5%, with the village gaining 100% control of the property.

The village finalized the purchase of the Town Square shopping center (also previously known as Olde Town Centre) in 1995, and began a slow, but now complete, redevelopment. The 27-acre (110,000 m²) site at the southwest corner of Schaumburg and Roselle roads has been transformed into a diverse development offering several stores, the Schaumburg Township District Library (relocated from Bethel Lane), a few other offices and services, such as temp agencies, and a public amphitheater set in a walk-through area that was designed to be available as a gathering point for citizens. The area also still includes the Trickster Gallery, a museum celebrating the heritage of the Native Americans indigenous to the area. The new development was designed to be "the new downtown", but this largely did not catch on and is primarily used by Schaumburg's government.

Minor league baseball came to the village in the spring of 1999. Alexian Field (named for Alexian Brothers Hospital in the adjacent Elk Grove Village), a 7,000-seat baseball stadium, was built in partnership with the Schaumburg Park District. Alexian Field was home to the Schaumburg Flyers, a member of the independent Northern League. The Northern League split after the 2010 season with several teams joining three other independent professional leagues. Alexian Field was without a professional team for the 2011 season but in 2012 became home to the Frontier League's Schaumburg Boomers and was renamed Boomers Stadium.

21st century

In 2000, the village purchased 45 acres (180,000 m) next to a short, independent stretch of Meacham Road. This was developed into the Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel & Convention Center.

Schaumburg's population as of the year 2000 was 75,386 according to U.S. Census.

Million-Dollar Hobby: Inside the World of Big-Money Bridge By Greg Hanlon ● 11/20/13

A 20-something man played bridge with three old ladies this past Columbus Day. They played at the Honors Bridge Club on East 58th Street, where the median player age is well north of 70 and the air smells of coffee and heavily applied makeup. If you didn't know any better, you'd think the young man was indulging his grandmother and her friends for an afternoon.



But no. The young man was John Kranyak, a three-time junior world champion bridge player who now earns a living as a bridge "pro," partnering with wealthy sponsors. That afternoon, Mr. Kranyak was working a shift in the employ of Melanie Tucker, a financier's wife.

Such partnerships are common here at the Honors, one of Manhattan's three major bridge clubs and considered the most hoity-toity. Marjorie Wilpon, the wife of Ken Wilpon (who is first cousin to Mets owner Fred Wilpon), plays here. So does Justine Cushing, whose father was the developer of Squaw Valley.

To this crowd, bridge isn't just some time-passing activity for the idle elderly, but rather a serious competitive pursuit for people whose experiences in life have accustomed them to winning. Of the 11 tables devoted to high-level play that afternoon, eight contained partnerships between a client and a pro. The ubiquity of these pairings lends truth to the famous Mae West axiom that good bridge is like good sex: "If you don't have a good partner, you'd better have a good hand."

The difference is that in bridge, it's not considered untoward to pay for the privilege. For a weekday three-hour tournament at a club like the Honors, pros fetch anywhere from \$150 to \$225. As the stakes get higher, so do the rates. For regional tournaments, pros make in the neighborhood of \$500 to \$1,000 for a day, which consists of two three-hour tournaments. For larger national tournaments, pros make up to \$3,000 per day, while the very best pros charge clients annual retainer fees of up to \$200,000 and pull in seven-figure incomes.

Judi Radin, a four-time world champion, has made her living from bridge for more than 40 years, since she was 17. It has been a jet-set lifestyle: She estimates that traveling to tournaments has taken her away from her Manhattan apartment for half of that time. But she told me that, for a bridge pro, New York is the place to be.

"We're lucky here. There are many more people here who want to hire people than anywhere else. New York and Florida are your best chances to really be busy and have a career of it," Ms. Radin says.

Like many pros, Ms. Radin considers herself close friends with some of her clients, with whom she regularly goes out to dinner and the theater. Melih Ozdil, a pro whose three regular clients include Ms. Cushing, gets his health insurance from one of his clients, though he declined to tell me which one. For clients with a difficult-to-exhaust supply of money, paying a pro is considered money well spent.

"You play with a partner who's better than you, and you try to learn to keep up your end, and it makes it more exciting," Ms. Cushing explained, adding that her partnership with Mr. Ozdil has raised her level from average to above-average.

Because rates for weekday club tournaments are comparatively low, many elite pros save themselves for regional, national and international tournament play. Almost all top players play with sponsors. As a result, top teams at American tournaments, which consist of three pairs, or six players per team, follow a peculiar configuration: one wealthy sponsor and five pros in the sponsor's employ. Top sponsors pay \$1 million or more to field their dream teams.

(continued on page 18)

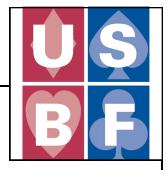
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Sudoku Answers

Answer to Sudoku 1

Answer to Sudoku 2



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.

A Supporting Membership is \$25 for one year (\$75 for 3 years) and your donation will be used to cover inevitable expenses: attorney fees, accounting fees, website support services, tournament directors, insurance, WBF dues, and vugraph operators.

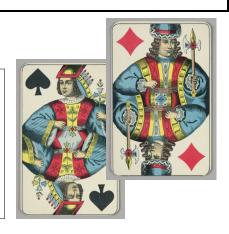
The USBF is an **all-volunteer** organization.

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.



Playing bridge Is always good. I hope I get to use Blackwood!



"Imagine if you could pay LeBron James, Kobe Bryant, Michael Jordan and Shaquille O'Neal and you could be the fifth

guy," Aviv Shahaf, director of the Honors, said. "And you were at a level that was decent but not NBA level. That's basically what this is."



The big sponsors in New York tend to also be big players in finance. The two highest-paying sponsors are Frank T. "Nick" Nickell, CEO of Kelso & Company, a private equity firm, and Jimmy Cayne, the disgraced former CEO of Bear Stearns. Before she moved to Florida, Sylvia Moss, a former partner at the Blackstone Group, was one of the biggest sponsors in New York City. Martin Fleisher, owner of Dearborn Capital Partners,



is another prominent bridge bankroller.

(Mr. Cayne's obsession with bridge is now an infamous part of financial history: When Bear Stearns saw its big hedge funds go under in 2007, an event considered a precursor to the firm's collapse and the global financial meltdown the following year, Mr. Cayne was mysteriously incommunicado. The reason? He was at a bridge tournament in Nashville, cut off from the world. Now that he's no longer encumbered by a day job, Mr. Cayne spends his time playing online at bridgebase.com under the username "jec." In the aftermath of the Bear Stearns collapse, people would create accounts specifically to heckle Mr. Cayne during his matches, forcing site administrators to beef up security.)

The tradition of sponsors in bridge dates back to the 1960s, when a wealthy Texas businessman named Ira Corn grew tired of American teams losing to Italian teams. In a fit of patriotic pique, Mr. Corn commissioned the best players money could buy to play with him. He set up a practice regimen, hired coaches and even used a computer to analyze hands. But it wasn't until he stepped away from the table himself and rolled out a team of six professionals that the team, dubbed the Dallas Aces, began winning titles and brought bridge supremacy back to the States.

America's tradition of sponsor-backed bridge distinguishes it from other top bridge countries like Italy, Poland and the Netherlands, where the country itself pays tournament entry fees and, in some cases, runs national training programs. The tournaments become a matter of national pride, and top teams playing with six professionals often beat sponsor-handicapped American teams.

While some blame the sponsor system for this, others say the American system produces better top-end players by incentivizing pros to train full-time to chase the big bucks. And though the sponsor system was lamented at first, it has become accepted in the intervening decades. Sponsors like Mr. Corn who decline to play are rare these days: If someone's ponying up the cash for these players, they want to share in the glory.

"These are competitive people who have risen through the ranks in business. They want to be out there playing," said Augie Boehm, a Manhattan-based pro.

At the same time, they want to make sure that they win, which means it's customary for sponsors to play only 50 percent of the hands at a tournament, the bare minimum under the rules. "Any more, and it would be an ego trip," Mr. Boehm added.

I put the question to Mr. Shahaf, of the Honors, of whether hiring ringers was considered a cheap way to win. He answered my question with a question: "Was it cheating that LeBron wanted to play with Dwyane Wade? No. Someone wants to win, and he builds a good team."

That top-level bridge and Wall Street money are so intertwined shouldn't be surprising; the game's

appeal to Wall Streeters is well established. Steve Weinstein, a pro who plays on Mr. Nickell's team, was a former Wall Street derivatives trader who retired after 9/11 to play bridge full-time. Joe Grue, the New York Bridge Association player of the year in 2010, was a former options trader. David Einhorn, the hedge fund maven who was

seemingly in line to own the New York Mets in 2011, is an avid bridge and poker player.

Even the composition of upper management at Bear Stearns spoke to the connection between bridge and finance. It was bridge that brought Mr. Cayne to Bear Stearns in the first place: During his job interview with Alan "Ace" Greenberg, the company's former CEO and a bridge devotee himself, the subject of the game came up. Mr. Cayne boldly declared that he was a better player than Mr. Greenberg and always would be and was rewarded for his moxie by being hired on the spot for \$70,000. Warren



Spector, former co-president, is a bridge player as well. Alan Schwartz, another former CEO, reportedly got ahead at the company when Mr. Cayne learned that he used to play bridge.

A scion of money created the modern scoring system for bridge itself. In 1925, Harold Stirling Vanderbilt, while on a ship from Los Angeles to Havana via the Panama Canal, invented what's known as "contract bridge," wherein players must accurately assess how many "tricks" they will take at the beginning of the match based on their hands and draw up a "contract" that serves as the basis for the scoring.

The reasons the game attracts business-oriented minds is fairly obvious: Bridge is competitive and limitlessly complex, involving an endless series of rapid short- and long-term calculations.

The intellectual cost of entry is high. Jeff Bayone, proprietor of the Manhattan Bridge Club, another of the city's three major clubs, believes you can't even sit down to play bridge unless you've had 12 hours of lessons. Mr. Shahaf, of the Honors, told me you can't hang with decent players until "a minimum of a year—and that's if you have talent."

The analytical thinking required of bridge is also unique to the human brain. Computers can beat the world's best chess players but not so in bridge. One reason for this is that the "bidding" stage at the beginning of a bridge match, wherein players determine the final "contract" in rounds, does not have a single, optimal solution at each point.

Compare bridge to poker, its coarse cousin. While bridge is infinitely analytical, poker is more psychological: In high-level matches, every player at the table can compute the odds instantaneously, and what separates the best players from the pack is the ability to pick up "tells," such as the furrowing of the brow as an indication of bluffing.

Mr. Bayone said, "The best bridge players are, as a group, finance people, actuaries, lawyers. The best poker players are 19- to 22-year-old kids who have never done anything else."

Another difference is that money is central to poker, while bridge is played for no stakes other than "masterpoints," a running tally of points that ranks players similarly to chess ratings. Thus, bridge satisfies the universal truth that those who have vast sums of money are loath to talk about it.

Mostly, though, the nature of bridge presents an enduring intellectual challenge for people whose success in life leaves them seeking further challenges. It has a "comforting leveling aspect," as psychiatrist Melvyn Schoenfeld, a regular at the Manhattan Bridge Club, put it.

Take fashion mogul Isaac Mizrahi, who learned the game at the behest of his bridge-playing mother, who told him that, if he didn't learn to play by age 30, he wouldn't have any friends by 40. Mr. Mizrahi described a bridge tournament to me as "the most fantastic use of three hours of your life." In bridge, he finds intellectual and psychological nourishment.

"I think it's really important to keep that state of vulnerability," he said. "You have to give it up every once in a while. You have to walk into a room and be an idiot and not know what you're doing. That's the only way you can get anywhere in the world. And that's the great lesson of bridge."

Located on the 14th floor of an office building on the east side, the Honors's game room belies its regulars' wealth. One -hundred-twenty-four players sit in an L shape at tightly packed tables under low ceilings. Many of the

Styrofoam coffee cups bear large lipstick marks. The shades are drawn, shutting out the afternoon sunlight, and chatter is conspicuously absent; addicts are satisfying their fix.

Of the three main public clubs in Manhattan, the Honors draws the most pros, while the Manhattan Bridge Club on the west side is considered the most informal, with the widest range of players.

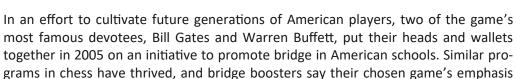
(Recently, there have been rumors that the Honors and the Manhattan are considering merging.) The third club is the Cavendish, on East 88th Street. "The pros you'll find on the east side, because that's where the money is," said Mr. Bayone, of the Manhattan, before amending his statement: "The west siders may have the same money, but it's a different mentality."

Bridge is often a featured activity at exclusive social clubs, like the Regency Whist Club on East 67th Street ("whist" is the game out of which bridge grew, as with rugby to football) and the Colony Club on East 62nd Street. But Manhattan socialites are as likely, if not more likely, to be found at the public clubs, whose relatively humdrum settings are outweighed by the frequency of the tournaments and the stronger competition.

Is bridge a dying game in America? The average age for a member of the American Contract Bridge League, the game's sanctioning body, is 67. In the 1940s, bridge was played in 44 percent of American homes, according to the Association of American Playing Card Manufacturers. There is no corresponding contemporary figure, but nobody would dispute that the percentage has dropped dramatically.

Still, the raw numbers have held relatively steadily for nearly a half-century: In 1970, ACBL member-

ship stood at 170,000. Today, that figure is 167,000, including 2,420 New York City residents. Meanwhile, the game is exploding in popularity in places like China, Russia and Eastern Europe.





on partnership makes for better lessons than chess, a one-on-one game that has been linked in psychological journals to paranoia. But the program fell on its face, with some blaming poor management and some others blaming a dumbed-down, instant-gratification-seeking American society.

Yet the demographics of the game's top players have gotten younger in recent years. In the past, it took decades to play enough hands to encounter enough situations to become elite. But now, because of the convenience of playing on the Internet, amassing enough experience takes a fraction of the time it used to. Mr. Shahaf told me that the peak age for a bridge player used to be the 40s and 50s; now, it's the 30s.

There's enough interest in bridge among young people that places like the Honors will look the same 30 years from now as they do today, predicted Mr. Shahaf.

Originally in Business Insider in 2013

"The bridge scene in New York hasn't changed much for a very long time, and I doubt it will change much in the future."

A Twist on Meet the Players...