

# Kibitzer

Publication of the Chicago Contract Bridge Association August/September 2023



## CCBA Wants You! Seeking Nominations To Board of Directors

Would you like to serve on the Chicago Contract Bridge Association Board of Directors? If so, now is the time to submit your nomination.

All nominations must be in writing (emails are okay) and must be submitted by October 1 to Bob Maxson at [bishopmaxson@yahoo.com](mailto:bishopmaxson@yahoo.com).

A candidate must be a member of the ACBL/CCBA, and in good standing. Only self nominations will be accepted. A brief explanation of why you would like to join the board is helpful but is not required. If you have any particular skills or experience that you think would be useful, that would also be helpful.

There are 15 members on the board, with five terms expiring each year. The nominating committee will select the candidates to slate for the five positions. The slate will be presented and voted on at the annual meeting. The terms of Bill Anspach, Phyllis Bartlett, Sarik Goyal, Loring Knoblauch, and Joe Stokes are expiring.

Check the inside pages to see coverage of the successful 2023 Summer North American Bridge Championships (NABC) held in Chicago.

## Don't Miss the fun After-Labor-Day Regional Sept. 5-7 FallFest Sectional Oct. 23-25

The fun of competing in tournaments continues into the fall with Unit 123's After-Labor-Day Regional and the FallFest Sectional. Grab a partner, or come alone to the three-day events, which will be held at Temple Beth-El, 2610 Dundee Road, Northbrook.

The special Invitational Pairs barometer game will be held on the first day of the After-Labor Day Regional, with the qualifying round at 10 a.m. and the final starting at 2:30 p.m. Also taking place that day will be the first session of the Stratified Open Pairs at 10 a.m., with the second session at 3 p.m.

Wednesday, September 6, will feature Open Pairs and Gold Rush Pairs at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. At 2:30 p.m., Jim Diebel, a respected bridge director and club owner, will present an intermediate mini-lesson.

Thursday sees two sessions of Open Swiss Teams and Gold Rush Swiss Teams at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The 3 p.m. bridge time was selected to give players a chance to eat at any of the nearby restaurants.

Tournament Chair Guy Franklin said single session entries will be accepted for all pairs events except the Invitational Pairs. Partnership Chair is David Sales.



FallFest always is a fun event, with some players showing up in Halloween costumes.

The tournament begins Monday, October 23, with games at 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. each day. Monday features two-session stratified team game and a two-session 0-500 stratified team game. Tuesday and Wednesday offer two single-session stratified pair/team games and two single-session 0-500 stratified pair games.

Tournament chair is Joe Connelly and Partnership Chair is Steve McConnell. Contact information and other details can be found on the flyers on pages 3 and 5.



### Jeopardy Champion at NABC

James Holzhauer (formerly of Naperville) of "Jeopardy!" fame stopped by Thursday night's Collegiate Individual. Here Holzhauer follows the play on defense. He took time to play and chat with the young people. (Photo used with permission of the ACBL from the ACBL Daily Bulletin in Chicago.)



## CCBA Board News

### President Stein resigns, Knoblauch to lead board

Mark Stein, who has served as CCBA president for the past 18 months, resigned as president in June citing personal and family obligations.



He will continue to *Loring Knoblauch* serve on the Board. Stepping up to fill the office is Vice President Loring Knoblauch who will complete Mark's term, which ends in January. The Board thanked Mark for his service as president.

### Exciting News! More 2023 Tournaments Coming

The Board is planning three more Unit 123 tournaments for this year.

The first is the Regional After-Labor Day Tournament, which takes place September 5-7. This and the other two tournaments will take place in the Temple Beth-El in Northbrook. The details for the tournament can be found in the flyer on page 3.



The second is the Fall-Fest Sectional, which will be held October 23-25. In the past, some players have had fun dressing in their Halloween costumes for this event. A variety of games will be offered for both non-Life and Life Master players. Here is a chance to win silver points.



### Board to assist clubs

The Board, in an effort to show their support for the clubs and to assist them financially, voted to underwrite all Unit 123 STaC fees for participating clubs for the remainder of 2023.

STaCs are scheduled for August 14-20 and November 6-12.

Clubs had their income adversely affected during the pandemic due to closures and/or lower attendance. Many clubs are still feeling the effects of the pandemic, finding some players are slow to return to the tables.

Additional information can be found in the flyer on page 5.

At this time, planning is still taking place for Central States, a regional tournament. The dates for this exciting affair are December 11-15. This will be a great opportunity to win gold points.

If other tournaments are planned, we will get the information to you as soon as possible.



### 2023 CCBA Officers Board Members

President  
Loring Knoblauch

Secretary  
Jan Churchwell

Treasurer  
Joe Connelly

Board of Directors  
Bill Anspach  
Phyllis Bartlett  
Betsy Downs  
Guy Franklin  
Sarik Goyal  
Robert Maxson  
Steve McConnell  
Jamie Rubenstein  
Mark Stein  
Joe Stokes  
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Kibitzer Editor  
DeMaris Johnson

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Opinions of columnists are their own and may not represent those of the CCBA. For more information, go to [www.bridgeinchicago.com](http://www.bridgeinchicago.com) or call the CCBA at 630-235-4718.



# Unit 123 After-Labor Day Regional

Temple Beth-El, 3610 Dundee Road, Northbrook, IL



## September 5-7, 2023

### Tuesday, September 5

10:00 \*\*\*Invitational Pairs\*\*\* Qualifying Round  
2:30 Invitational Pairs Barometer Final

10:00 Stratified Open Pairs First Session  
3:00 Stratified Open Pairs Second Session combined with Invitational Pairs Consolation

### Wednesday, September 6

10:00 Open Pairs First Session  
Gold Rush Pairs First Session  
3:00 Open Pairs Second Session  
Gold Rush Second Session

### Thursday, September 7

10:00 Open Swiss Team First Session  
Gold Rush Swiss Team First Session  
3:00 Open Swiss Team Second Session  
Gold Rush Swiss Team Second Session

While eating 'tween sessions can be rather tight,  
We're doing our best to get it all right!

Our Area Guides offer choices galore...  
Of restaurants and takeout here on the North Shore.

If Chicago dogs (unlike Rover below!)  
Are what you desire: Portillos to Go!

The 10 and 3 start times were thoughtfully planned,  
For time to have pizza, thin crust or panned!

Single Session entries accepted for Pair events (excluding the Invitational Pairs!)  
Masterpoint Averaging

#### Stratifications:

Open Events  
A=3000+, B=1500-3000, C=0-1500  
Gold Rush Events  
0-100, 100-300, 300-750

#### Tournament Chair:

Guy Franklin, [guyfranklinchicago@gmail.com](mailto:guyfranklinchicago@gmail.com), 773.412.4882

#### Partnership Chair:

David Sales, [kishkes@gmail.com](mailto:kishkes@gmail.com), 847-564-9192, 847-561-5648



## Congrats to rank advancers

### Junior Master

Alex Ding  
Robert Gallogly  
James Hammond  
Patti Manoogian  
Zinnia Meyer  
James Morrison  
Karen O'Rourke  
Gess Rankavat  
Kathleen Shuman  
John Taylor

Robert Listernick  
Kevin Nuccio  
Benqing Shen  
Gregory Smith



### NABC Master

Todd Barre  
Robert Berg  
Sriram Datla  
Joe Nolan  
Ruth Watts

### Club Master

David Fritzsche  
Kathryn Healy  
Wendy Holliman  
Gail Kepley  
Lonnie Kepley  
Cynthia Levin  
Kaibai Liu  
Arminaur Mitchell  
Mark Scoles

### Advanced NABC Master

Henry Shi

### Life Master

Max Brock  
Carol Knoblauch

### Bronze Life Master

Max Brock  
Renata Musiol  
Carol Knoblauch

### Silver Life Master

Lori Anzine  
John De Forest  
Fran Green  
David Junge  
Marjorie Zolla

### Sectional Master

Patty Delony  
Ann Galezio  
James O'Connor  
James Reeder  
Chris Veeneman

### Regional Master

Michael Cohen  
Patricia Cohen  
Gayle Grunberg  
Mark Grunberg  
Thomas Karstens

### Ruby Life Master

Donald Ferris  
Daniel Wright

### Gold Life Master

Paul Janus



*The Benson-Katz family (clockwise from left): Martha, Ralph, Sam, Jenny, baby Ben and Maz the dog*

## Benson-Katz family – bridge in their blood

Fewer families have a pedigree for bridge excellence more than Milwaukee natives Chris and Dick Benson. Chris and Dick were teachers in Milwaukee in the '70s-'90s and were key to organizing and winning bridge in the Milwaukee area during that time. Dick Benson died in 2010 with over 13,000 masterpoints and hundreds of tournament wins.

Chris Benson is a Grand Life Master, having won the 2008 Whitehead Women's Pairs with Lynne Feldman. Their daughter, Martha Benson, learned bridge at a young age and married Ohio's Ralph Katz. Martha won the family's first world championship with partner Debbie Rosenberg in the 1991 Junior World Team Championship.

Hall of Famer Ralph Katz of Burr Ridge has 25 national wins and two World Championships playing on the powerful Nickell team. Martha and Ralph had a son, Sam, in 1988 who learned bridge at a young age and he won the 2007 Mini-Spangold on a team playing with Matt Meckstroth.

Sam married non-bridge player Jenny in 2019 and they just welcomed their first child, Ben Katz, in April 2023. Look out, bridge world in 2040 and beyond – Ben has the pedigree of winning bridge in his blood.

*Used with permission from the ACBL, from the NABC Daily Bulletin in Chicago.*

**ACBL  
Donates  
\$5,000  
to the  
Rose-  
crance  
group**



Tournament Chair Suzi Subeck (fifth from left) presented a \$5,000 check from ACBL to Sally Draper (third from left), executive director of the Rosecrance Foundation. Others shown, left to right are Jackie Zayac, ACBL Charity Foundation chair; Bronia Jenkins, ACBL executive director; John Goldstein; tournament charity chair, and Stephanie Threlkeld, ACBL marketing manager. The Rosecrance Foundation is a nonprofit organization that provides substance abuse and mental health treatment at 60 locations in Chicago, northwest Illinois, eastern Iowa and southern Wisconsin.

## Winners

Roger Hendrick, left of Western Springs, and his brother, Bill of Colorado, won the Garry Landy Memorial Open Pairs on July 14 at the National.



# FALL FEST



## Chicago Sectional

October 23-25, 2023

Temple Beth-El, 3610 Dundee Road, Northbrook, IL 60062

### SCHEDULE

#### MONDAY, October 23

9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

2-Session Stratified Team Game

2-Session 0-500 Stratified Team Game

#### Tournament Chair

Joe Connelly

847-271-1666

madbridge16@gmail.com



#### TUESDAY, October 24

9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

2 Single-Session Stratified Pair/Team Game

2 Single-Session 0-500 Stratified Pair Game

#### Partnership Chair

Steve McConnell

312-890-1064

stevepmac@sbcglobal.net

For more information: [bridgeinchicago.com](http://bridgeinchicago.com)

#### WEDNESDAY, October 25

9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

2 Single-Session Stratified Pair/Team Game

2 Single-Session 0-500 Stratified Pair Game

Masterpoint Averaging when possible

Stratification: A:3000+, B: 1500-3000, C: 0-1500

Non-Life Master Stratification: 0-100, 100-300,  
300-750



# Take a look at this open pairs hand from Chicago Summer NABC

Jim Diebel

## Winning with Wimpy

I just finished playing nine straight days at the Chicago Nationals and had an amazing week. I qualified for the finals in two national events. I am pleased with my overall performance, but that's not to say that there weren't opportunities to do better. Take this hand from the second qualifying session of the Wehrner Open Pairs. You are playing with me. I'm west.:

North			
♠ 10 7 4 3			
♥ Q J 4			
♦ K J 8 4			
♣ A 9			
(West – Wimpy)		East (You)	
♠		♠ K Q 5	
♥ A		♥ 9 6 5	
♦		♦ A 10 2	
♣ 7	(South)	♣ Q J 10 8	
	?		
S	W	N	E
P	P	1D	P
1S	2H	2S	3H
3S	P	P	Dbf
All Pass			

Do I agree with East's double? It's a match-point event and it appears NS have overbid. If EW can't make 3H, passing and going plus 50 or 100 will be fine. However, if EW CAN make 3H, (and this is not unreasonable to assume), EW is already getting a poor score with either +50 or +100.

Additionally, if 3S can be defeated TWO tricks, suddenly we'd be getting a top. Even if it's only down one, +100 would beat all those who defended 3S and didn't double.

Bottom line is that timidity is seldom rewarded at matchpoint scoring. Doubling is aggressive, but I believe it has far more to gain than it does to lose. I support partner's decision.

Wimpy leads ♥A and you contribute the ♥9 (discouraging). Wimpy switches to the ♣7, dummy plays the ♣A and you contribute the ♣Q, denying the ♣K but promising the ♣J. Declarer follows with the ♣4.

Declarer leads the ♠10, you cover with the ♠Q, (you probably shouldn't), and South wins the ♠A, (partner following with the ♠2). Declarer leads the ♠J, partner discards the ♣2, and you are in.

You've taken two tricks on defense, and need three more. At this point, would you rather play or defend?



Jim chats with internationally known pro Claude Vogel of Chicago before gametime.

North			
♠ 7 4			
♥ Q J			
♦ K J 8 4			
♣ 9			
(West – Wimpy)		East (You)	
♠ 2		♠ 5	
♥ A ?		♥ 6 5	
♦ ?		♦ A 10 2	
♣ 7 2 ?		♣ J 10 8	
South			
♠ 9 8 6			
♥ 2 ?			
♦ ?			
♣ 4 ?			

If you choose to defend, what do you need from partner to beat the contract? What do you do next? Consider this before reading further. Let's do some thinking. What are partner's hearts? Does Declarer have another one? Partner is a passed hand. If he held 6 hearts, Declarer played his only one at the 1st trick. That would give partner ♥AK-T873. He would have opened 2H in 2nd seat. Nope, partner clearly only has 5 hearts to the AK.

What's going on in clubs? Partner led the ♣7 and later discarded the deuce. Since the deuce is present (standard) count, he is showing an ODD number. Thus, the deuce was either from one, three, or five meaning partner started with 2, 4 or 6. If partner started with ♣K 7 6 2, ♣K 7 5 2, ♣K 7 3 2 or K 7 6 5 3 2 he would not have led the SEVEN. Therefore, the seven can't be from the King.

Since the ♣K did not drop at trick one, we can rule out partner starting with 6 clubs. This means partner started with either ♣7 2, or ♣7 x.x 2. If partner has only two clubs, Declarer has 5, and his pattern is 5-2-1-5. We can return a trump, but we can't stop declarer from scoring 4 spades in hand, 1 heart, 1 diamond, (The Ace of Diamonds is marked in our hand because partner did not open). 2 clubs, and a club ruff. Can we

take five tricks before Declarer can take 9? Not if Declarer times it right by winning the trump in hand and leading a diamond right away. This will threaten establishing the King of Diamonds for a heart pitch. Now Declarer can afford to lose two clubs, one spade and one diamond. We would be forced to lead a heart right away, giving Declarer both a Heart and a Diamond pitch. Declarer scores four spades, one heart, one diamond, two clubs and one club ruff before we can establish five defensive tricks.

What if we return the ♣J? Declarer wins in hand and leads a diamond to the Jack. We win the Ace, and once again, we have to switch to heart, else Declarer's heart loser vanishes on the Diamond King. Partner can win, but has no trump or club to return, and once again he gets his 9 before we can get our 5. No matter how hard we try, if Declarer has 5 clubs, this contract is going to be unbeatable. We are going to need to assume he has only 3.

The good news is that if Declarer was looking at 5 clubs, partner would be looking at 5 diamonds. If partner had seen 9 diamonds between his hand and dummy, he almost certainly would have switched to a diamond, rather than a club, recognizing that a diamond would be the trick most likely to disappear if hearts were continued. I think it's reasonably safe to assume the partner started with 3 diamonds. We can now picture the whole hand:

North			
♠ 10 7 4 3			
♥ Q J 4			
♦ K J 8 4			
.....			
♣ A 9			
(West – Wimpy)		East (You)	
♠ 2		♠ KQ5	
♥ AKxxx		♥ 965	
♦ Qxx		♦ A102	
♣ 7xx2		♣ QJ108	
(South)			
♠ A J 9 8 6			
♥ x 2			
♦ 9 x x			
♣ K x 4			

I ask you once again. You've taken two tricks. Is this contract going to make or go down? Would you rather be playing this or defending it? Last chance. Decide before finishing this column.

East saw nothing better than exiting with a trump and hoping Declarer guessed Diamonds wrong. Declarer forced out the ♥K, and when West exited with a low diamond, South correctly inserted the ♠J. South's losing diamond was pitched on the established heart.

EW wrote -530 on their scoresheet. Could we have done better? *Continued on page 7)*

## Bridge player and Holocaust survivor recalls experiences during WWII

By *Jamie Rubenstein*

Glenview duplicate player Yvonne Aronson, 84, who as a child hid from the Nazis during the Holocaust, now shares her haunting tale of survival at the Holocaust Museum in Skokie. Yvonne is a member of the speakers' bureau, an elite contingent who devote endless hours to moderating in-person online forums, morning coffees and lunches. As Holocaust survivors, they take questions from the public on their experiences.

"My reason for participating and telling my story is simple: I am lucky to be alive and living in this country, which again has been very good to me," said the native of Brussels.

In her talks to civic clubs, schools, religious groups and various organizations, Yvonne tells of her years of hiding, along with her mother and 25 others, in a Brussels convent and then later in the basement of a pharmacy. After the war ended in 1945, Yvonne and her mother were eventually reunited with Yvonne's great-grandmother and great-aunt, emigrating to the U.S. in 1947. Later Yvonne was reunited with other family members in Hyde Park. She said her father and his brother were taken to a labor camp in southern France and then to Auschwitz. She learned later that her father perished but her uncle survived.

One of Yvonne's close bridge friends, Nancy Frank of Glencoe, has long touted Yvonne's ability to connect with both the general and bridge public to tell her story in a moving way. Nancy recalls a family trip of 17 members ranging in age from 13 to 80, decided to hear Yvonne at the Skokie museum.

"Before signing up, it was suggested that I wait until my youngest grandchild was at least 13, about the time he would have his bar mitzvah," she said. "We had a private room with Yvonne, and she spoke to us for about an hour, giving us a very personal and individual perspective of her experience."

"Yvonne shares her experience with so many people in a very clear way that does not upset her audience but definitely lets

them know how traumatic it was for her. She often takes a doll from her childhood with her to show as an artifact that survived with her. When she speaks at schools, the children often have read *The Diary of Anne Frank*. She has learned that school children ask surprising questions, such whether she knew the Holocaust icon, whether she minded being Jewish, and whether she had met Hitler.

Today, Yvonne, a grandmother of five and a great-grandmother of one, does not focus on the negative. She looks for the positive and finds it with her family and with friends at the bridge clubs. She began playing social bridge in 1963 with husband, her mother, and step-father, and later on the north side, Yvonne was a student and partner of pros like Frieda Arst and Ben Saxe. Once married and living in Lincolnwood, she played more duplicate games in Muriel Novick's Skokie club.

Now she finds herself assisting Muriel's son Daryl, the owner/manager of the Ace of Clubs, at his weekly games in Jeremiah Temple, Northfield. There she is the club's volunteer doorkeeper, the watchdog on COVID vaccine compliance, and a volunteer fill-in player.

### Take a look at this open pairs hand from Chicago NABC

*(Con'd from page 6)* East needs to realize that this is a timing problem. Declarer always has 9 tricks if given time to establish them. EW has two diamond winners if they are started early enough. East needs to switch to a low diamond immediately. West will be momentarily surprised but will have no other option than to play the Queen. Later, when put on lead with his ♥K, he will return a diamond through the ♦J84, and the defenders emerge victorious.

So who made the biggest mistake on this hand? East made a big one when he exited with a trump rather than a diamond. But before that, Declarer was in too big of a rush to start trumps. Looking at a slow diamond loser, South should have won the club return in hand, and immediately led a heart, establishing a diamond discard should the defenders attack that suit. Once a diamond is discarded, the contract is impregnable. So was it South who made the biggest mistake?



*Yvonne Aronson and Daryl Novick*

"Apart from a likable personality and generous spirit, Yvonne is a wonderful person and a great help to me even if it is just answering the door," Daryl said. "In any number of clubs, door security particularly at Jewish synagogues or churches has risen in importance in recent years."

Not even close. All the way back at trick one, East played the ♥9. Wimpy assumed that this was simply an attitude or count card. Partner is not an idiot. (If your partner is an idiot, you can disregard this). Partner can see, just as you can, that there is no profit in continuing hearts. His nine was not an attitude signal, nor was it a count signal. This was a rare case of a suit preference signal. 99% of the time, partner has only two signals: stop and go. If he says "stop" partner has to work out what to shift to. However, when both defenders can plainly see that the signal is STOP, then, and only then, the signal becomes suit preference. Partner was not telling me to stop leading hearts, he was telling me to switch to a diamond. An early diamond switch gives Declarer no chance. Wimpy was asleep at the wheel and must ultimately assume the responsibility for this disaster.

## Loser on loser play can generate a winner



Ginny and Jeff Schuett

In order to understand declarer's loser on loser play, let's review "the duck". This play allows an opponent to win a trick when you, the declarer, want him to win it. You might do this to retain communication between dummy and your hand or to destroy (hopefully) the communication between the two defenders.

A loser-on-loser play is the same type of situation. You concede a trick in order to win one or more back.

You are compressing two losers into one, AND YOU DID NOT HAVE TO LOSE THE ONE YOU DID. Some possible reasons for loser on loser:

- Allowing a safe ruff to produce a trick later in the hand.
- Allowing a safe re-entry when a possible overruff is threatened by the defenders.
- Preventing a later overruff threat.
- Preventing a particular opponent (the danger hand) from ever gaining the lead.
- Establishing one or more future winners for slow loser discards in a side suit.

You and partner end up in four hearts: (You belong in 3NT, but somebody goofed!)



North  
 ♠ JT73  
 ♥ Q9  
 ♥ KJ2  
 ♣ A763

West  
 ♠ AQ9842  
 ♥ 85  
 ♦ T64  
 ♣ Q5

East  
 ♠ 5  
 ♥ 7432  
 ♦ Q985  
 ♣ JT94

South  
 ♠ K6  
 ♥ AKJT6  
 ♦ A73  
 ♣ K82

West leads the ace and a small spade which East trumps. East now returns the jack of clubs. How do you play?

You have two more losers – a diamond if the finesse fails, and a sure club loser in addition to the two tricks you have already lost.



Relying only on the finesse is 50/50. A loser on loser is 100 percent. You lose one trick to gain 1+ tricks later. The key is what happened in the opponent's suit spades. There is only one high honor outstanding, the ♠ Q and then you will have a winner.

If you pull trump and play a spade and trump it, West will not give you his queen. But, if you pull trump and play the spade ♠ J pitching a club, West has to win. (Remember, you didn't have to let him win this trick, but you put a loser on the spade loser.) Now you have a good ♠ 10 in dummy for a discard.

NOTE: You retained communication to dummy by winning the club return in your hand. (Leave as many entries to the hand where you eventually will want to be.)

Ginny & Jeff Schuett – bridge teaching & play, phone 847-940-7236  
 email=jgschuett2@comcast.net



Audrey, left, with ACBL Executive Director Bronia Jenkins

## Audrey's a Hit

Hall of Famer, author, world famous bridge teacher Audrey Grant, gave a free lesson, followed by a free 12-board game for newer players. The July 15 event at the Chicago NABC was a huge success as evidenced by the standing room only crowd. Over 80 attended and organizers ran out of tables. Her publications include the Better Bridge books and the Better Bridge magazine. Thousands of teachers use her textbooks and methods to teach bridge.

(Photo of Audrey and Zia courtesy of ACBL Daily Bulletin in Chicago.)



## Book Seller

Zia Mahmood was among the celebrity professional bridge players who were at the tournament promoting their books. Here Zia (right) signs a copy of his new book, *Bridge, A Love Story* for Charles Johnson. In the book he reveals a lot about himself and bridge. On July 16, he and his partner Ola Rimstedt took first place in the prestigious von Zedwitz Life Master Pairs This is the 31st NABC title for Hall of Famer Zia of London UK, and his fourth in this event.



## Recognizing the dangers in Dummy

By Michael Berkowitz  
(Presented at the Chicago NABC)

As a defender, you have a lot to think about. Reviewing the auction is a good start to help you figure out what the missing hands look like. While thinking about declarer, take a look at the dummy. Think to yourself: what is dummy going to be used for?

If dummy comes down with S 987 H 943 D J943 C 843, you should think to yourself, “this dummy is useless?” It doesn’t matter, on this example, whether you are defending a suit contract or no trump.

If you defend 4S, though, and dummy looks like S 987 H 43 D J943 C 8643, I would have one thought about this dummy. I don’t know what declarer’s hand is (and it had better be pretty good to get this high), but this dummy screams, “ruff a heart.”

### Playing Trumps as Defender

There are two excellent reasons to lead trumps as a defender. First, it might be the “safe” exit (we’ll talk about that later), or second, it might prevent declarer from getting extra tricks by ruffing in either declarer’s hand or in dummy.

You hold S AQT9 H 94 D 876 C KQ85. Your RHO surprises you by opening 1S. You pass and LHO bids 1NT. Partner passes and RHO bids 2D which passes out, so you are on lead. You should envision that dummy is going to be short in spades and that declarer will try to ruff spades in dummy. By leading trumps on opening lead, you are starting the important process of drawing dummy’s trumps.

In general, if you see shortness in dummy and dummy is the hand with fewer trumps, it is good to at least consider playing on the trump suit.

### Passive Defense

When dummy has a bunch of assorted stuff, it can be dangerous to play new suits. You often want to exit passively when there’s particular play to be worried about in dummy. Let’s say dummy has S AJT H K84 D J764 C Q85. You are behind dummy with S K64 H JT32 D Q53 C K62 after an auction of

1 NT –3 NT. Partner leads the S2 which you win with the K. What next?

There’s no reason to be aggressive. This is a dummy that has a bunch of random honors. Any suit you play might help declarer (picture Q95 of hearts in declarer’s hand or AK2 of diamonds or any of a million holdings in any of the suits.) Instead, just continue spades. Yes, you might be finessing partner’s SQ, but declarer could do that themselves. This is a passive exit - continuing a “safe” suit that won’t give declarer tricks that declarer couldn’t get themselves.

Many dummies are passive type dummies. There’s no good long suit or any other reason to think that you need to be in a rush.

### Dangerous Dummies

Sometimes, though, you see a dummy come down after a 1NT-3NT auction with S AJT H 84 D AQJ764 C85, Partner leads the S2 again and you win the K from your hand slightly different: S K64 H JT3 D 532 C 632.

This time, dummy is terrifying. Declarer would have 8 tricks already if you exit passively (whether declarer has the DK or partner has it in a finessable position).

Instead, this is the time to try either one of the other suits. Clubs is slightly more appealing than hearts, but switching suits is required here.

## Third in Collegiate Bridge Bowl

Championship was the University of Chicago Team (from left): Ian Dunbar, Jake Williams, Ziheng Yun, Zhiyu Cheng and Sarik Goyal.



Michael Berkowitz told his audience that to be a successful defender, one must think like the declarer.

### Killing Dummy

Occasionally, dummy will have a threat of some kind, but you can attempt to cut declarer off from dummy. This is called “killing dummy.” An example follows.

Contract is 3NT and dummy has S A H 874 D KQJ764 C 865. You have S J943 H AT3 D A53 C JT2.

Partner leads the H2 and you win the ace. Then what? You can “kill” dummy here. You need to knock out the CA and then you can hold up in diamonds (as long as partner has at least one). You should suspect partner has at least one diamond because partner lead a fourth-best heart, if partner is void, he will also have a 5-card suit. Winning and shifting to a spade may be the only way to be this contract.





Young people attending the youth events were among those taking advantage of the beautiful weather to eat outside the Sheraton Grand Chicago, the host hotel, to enjoy lunch on the Riverwalk, and to watch the boats go by.



The players below represent some of the 8,343 tables at the Chicago NABC.



CCBA Secretary Jan Churchwell, facing the camera in photo at left, and CCBA President Loring Knoblauch, above left, enjoy a game at the NABC.





NABC Tournament Chair Suzi Subeck thanked District 13 for sponsoring the Saturday "chits" and the afternoon hospitality Monday through Thursday. "I would like the district to know the funds we worked so hard to raise are going to good use and the attendees appreciate it. Foods that Chicago is known for were served. The choices were Italian beef (shown left), deep dish pizza above right, Chicago style hot dogs, and sausages.



The lines to purchase tickets were shorter this year because players could purchase them ahead of time. This was a no-cash tournament.



Above: Directors Diane Martin, Tim Hill and Judy Cotterman huddle before game time.



Above: I/N Desk volunteers Laurie Carr and Gay Yamagiwa.



Breakfast burritos



Above Tournament Chair Suzi Subeck, left, and Yvette Neary stop by the Information Desk. At right, Christine Goldsby, ACBL meeting coordinator, checks in with Adrienne Cohen.



Right: Partnership Desk volunteer Vicki Sosnay



Players line up to show proof of COVID vaccination to receive a wristband. This is expected to be the last National where proof will be required.



## Mark your Calendar

### AUGUST

All Month North American Pairs Flight A, B, C  
 Monday, August ACBL-wide Junior Fund Game open to all ages. Second of 2.

### SEPTEMBER

All Month Club International Fund Games  
 September 5-7 Unit 123 After-Labor Day Regional  
 Temple Beth-El, 3610 Dundee Road, Northbrook  
 September 10-12 Rockford 0-750 NLM Regional and Open Sectional,  
 Tebala Event Center, 7910 Newburg Road, Rockford. See flyer on ACBL website for info.  
 September 27 ACBL-wide Junior Fund Game open to all all ages-2nd of 3

### OCTOBER

All Month Jane Johnson Club Appreciation Games Clubs can hold two total games per sanctioned season  
 October 4-7 Milwaukee Fallfest Sectional  
 Good Hope School, #26  
 2315 W. Good Hope Road, Glendale, WI  
 October 13 Afternoon ACBL-wide Senior Pairs—2nd of 3  
 October 23-25 Unit 123 FallFest Sectional  
 Temple Beth-El, 3610 Dundee Road, Northbrook  
 October 25 Afternoon ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Game  
 Printed material available  
 October 28 District 13 NAP Final ANT/NAP Final  
 2315 W. Good Hope Road, Glendale, WI

### DECEMBER

December 5 Morning ACBL-wide International Fund Game-3rd of 3  
 December 11-15 Central States Regional Tournament  
 Temple Beth-El, 3610 Dundee Road, Northbrook

## NABC Volunteers

*There were many volunteers from District 13 who gave their time freely to help make the national tournament a success. Shown below are of few of the volunteers,*



*Among those manning the Partnership Desk were, left to right, Partnership Chair Yvette Neary, Bob Maxson, and Volunteers Chair Kathy Fortney. Yvette and her team mates Ronald Gould, Estelle Ronderos and Alvaro were runners up in the NABC 0-10,000 Mixed Swiss.*



*Passing out T-shirts were Registration Chairs Mike Saltzman and his wife, Linda, seen in the background.*



*Giving out wristbands at the COVID check-in desk were (left to right) Gina V, Driskel, Rella Silvers and Sojia Zutautas.*



*At the I/N Desk were Penny Pollack, Sue Salek and I/N Chair Jeff Schwett.*