

# *The Kibitzer*

*Winter 2015*

*Volume 61, Number 4*



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has 20,000 Reasons  
to Be Happy!**

Hazel Wolpert (right) hosted a party in October to celebrate Jonathan Steinberg earning his 20,000 masterpoint



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## Editor's Note

This issue of the Kibitzer marks the beginning of a new look and a new phase. The plan is to transition from four issues per year down to three in 2016 and then eventually go completely online. You can see the new deadlines and publication dates on the next page.

To create more space for ads the Unit 166 Board has decided to eliminate the Tournament Winners section. So if you recently won an event at a sectional or regional tournament you will have to see your name in pixel rather in print. Is that so bad? Feel free to weigh in on what you would like to see in future issues of the Kib by completing a survey on page 21.

Andy Stark  
 andy.kibitzer@gmail.com



Cover photo courtesy of Jonathan Steinberg

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## *The Kibitzer Information*

**ADDRESS CHANGES:** Please notify the ACBL at...  
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or [addresschange@acbl.org](mailto:addresschange@acbl.org),  
or (662) 253-3136

This will also correct your Kibitzer address.

The Kibitzer does NOT store address information.

### **KIBITZER ADVERTISING RATES:**

Full Page \$275; 1/2 Page \$165; 1/4 Page \$100; 1/8 Page \$60  
(All plus HST)

See back cover for contact information about placing an ad.

**KIBITZER ONLINE:** <http://unit166.ca>

### **IMPORTANT KIBITZER DATES:**

Issue:	Deadline:	Publication:
Spring	December 15	February 1
Summer	June 1	July 1
Fall/Winter	October 1	November 1

## Kibitzer Editorial Policy

The Kibitzer is published to promote bridge and to inform members of ACBL Units 166, 238, 246 and 249 about tournaments and special events, as well as to entertain with deals and articles of interest. It is also a forum for the exchange of information and opinion among the members. Opinions expressed in articles or letters to the Editor are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Unit Boards of Directors or the Editor. The Kibitzer reserves the right to edit or exclude submitted material.





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## **Nominations Please!! For Unit 166 members only**

### **Kate Buckman Award**

Do you know someone who contributes to others' enjoyment of the game of bridge? Do you know someone who should be honoured by the Board of Unit 166? We're looking for nominations for the Kate Buckman Award for 2015. If you don't nominate someone, then we can't honour them and we really want to celebrate this kind of person and the contributions they make to the game of bridge.

### **Audrey Grant Award**

Do you know a bridge teacher who exemplifies the best of the profession? Do you know someone who should be feted by the Board? Submit the nominations for the Audrey Grant Award for 2015. Again, if you don't nominate then we can't celebrate the excellence of this teacher's skill and dedication.

The Unit 166 Board of Directors should consider

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for the Kate Buckman/Audrey Grant (circle one or both) Award.  
The reason that this person deserves your consideration is:

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Please submit to Andy Risman  
714-1121 Steeles Avenue W, Toronto, Ontario M2R 3W7  
arismanca@rogers.com

**Deadline: December 31, 2015**



The Unit 166 Financial Statements can be found on the Unit's website at: [www.unit166.ca](http://www.unit166.ca)



### **Zero Tolerance Issues**

Any Unit 166 tournament Zero Tolerance concerns, or Zero Tolerance tournament situations which were not satisfactorily resolved, should be reported to [ZT@execulink.com](mailto:ZT@execulink.com)

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## District 2 Website

(Visit [www.acbldistrict2.org](http://www.acbldistrict2.org) for details)

- All District 2 tournaments & results
- District 2 business
- NAP/GNT tournament information
- District 2 Director's page for ACBL news & info
- Graham Warren is the District tournament coordinator -  
**gwarren@rogers.com**
- Martin Hunter the NAP/GNT coordinator -  
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## Unit 246 Items of Interest

(Visit [www.unit246.com](http://www.unit246.com) for details)

- 1<sup>st</sup> time members of the ACBL can apply to the Unit 246 Board for a \$20 rebate for their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of ACBL membership
- Bridge teachers can list their services on the Unit 246 website free



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**Notice to All Clubs & Tournament Managers in Units 166, 246 & 249**

If you plan to run a tournament, please check with your Unit Coordinator to see if the date is free. There is an agreement among the three Units in southern Ontario that their tournaments will not compete with one another. This does not apply to those clubs which have an historic tournament weekend - they are set aside for you.

*Graham Warren, District 2 Tournament Coordinator*

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# Wake Up Call *Revisited*

By Carole Coplea

In my first Wake Up Call article, published this past summer in *The Kibitzer*, I called upon the ACBL to develop a long-term strategy for the survival of duplicate bridge in North America.

I cited some membership figures that were challenged by the ACBL President, Robert Hartman, as being inaccurate. So, here's the scoop ... the ACBL has provided me with year-over-year membership numbers that we can all digest together.



Year	Month	Total
2015		167,726
2014		167,811
2013		166,408
2012		165,418
2011		165,052
2010		165,249
2009		159,122
2008		157,856
2007		156,957
2006		155,477
2005		156,028
2004		155,866
2003		155,459
2002		157,826
2001		158,713
2000		159,183
1999		158,604
1998		161,105

As shown above, the total number of members is 167,726, as of January 2015. The membership has increased by 6,621 since 1998, an average of 368 members per year.

Take a closer look at the membership data. For 11 out of 18 years the number of ACBL members was lower than in

1998. By 2010, the membership finally passed its 1998 high, which leads me to wonder if this has anything to do with the tidal wave of baby boomers reaching retirement age and looking for something to do with their new leisure time...ACBL's low hanging fruit.

Well, I'm not going to split hairs about that. We need the low hanging fruit as well as newly planted seedlings to secure the future of ACBL and duplicate bridge.

New Members	Year
8,130	2015
11,539	2014
11,559	2013
11,578	2012
11,739	2011
11,196	2010
14,875	2009
11,647	2008
11,369	2007
11,136	2006
10,952	2005
11,414	2004
11,549	2003
9,904	2002
12,313	2001
11,859	2000
11,276	1999
11,182	1998

The other chart shows how many new members were added each year in the same time period. In all these years but two, more than 11,000 **new members** signed up with ACBL. That looks very good...so what is wrong with this picture?

## Troubling Attrition Rate

Here is the troubling thing. The organization is losing members almost as fast as it is recruiting new ones. Since 2010, the ACBL has grown by 2,477 members, but over the same period the ACBL has signed up 65,741 new members. That is a ratio of 26 to 1. It is like the organization is running just to stay in place...

It is that **high attrition rate** that puzzles, and troubles, me.

Robert Hartman, ACBL CEO, said their research suggested that the high rate of attrition is due, in part, to newcomers' unhappy experience when they join a local club, putting the blame on existing duplicate players and/or club directors who did not make newcomers feel particularly welcome. Really???

Some newcomers found the competition too high for their skill level, or they didn't like the competitive nature of duplicate bridge...and that is why they quit.

The attrition is not only among new members. I personally know several ACBL members who have amassed hundreds or even thousands of master points and have given up their membership because they saw no value in pursuing any more master points, and there was no other reason for them to keep paying their membership. And then there are long-time members who die every year. With an average age of 72, this attrition rate is bound to increase.

Recruiting and retaining new members is not only a critical issue for ACBL, it is also a multi-faceted puzzle that will require more thinking to solve.

## **25 million people in USA play bridge**

When you realize that in the USA alone there are about 25 million (rough estimate) people who play bridge socially, it really begs the question why don't more of them become ACBL members and enjoy the competitive side of the game?

The ACBL has done a great job of attracting 11,000 new members per year. It has also provided resources for clubs to help them build their membership.

So the burning question is – how to keep the new members engaged so they will renew their membership and become committed ACBL members. Alex Turner, Chief Marketing Officer for ACBL, told me in an email:

“We are truly helping all clubs and teachers help themselves with the new Resource Center website ([acbl.org/resourcecenter](http://acbl.org/resourcecenter)) and Tricks of the Trade blog ([tricksofthetrade.acbl.org](http://tricksofthetrade.acbl.org)).”

In addition to ACBL's PR efforts with media and charity events to raise public awareness of bridge, Mr. Turner said, “We are working on some serious retention planning after doing the studies to find out why people leave... The new online partnership desk is one such matter but also the creation a value-added benefits

program comparable to AARP or AAA that will roll out later this fall.”

Adding valuable benefits to membership in ACBL is certainly a positive step. Mr. Turner also mentioned that they are looking at programs beyond the master point system to enhance the experience that members have with ACBL. That's all to the good.

## **Membership Goal Needed**

I would like to suggest that the ACBL set up an annual membership goal of one new member per club above the attrition rate and build in an incentive for the clubs. Is it too hard for the clubs to bring in new members to replace those who leave, and add one new member a year?

Mr. Turner pointed out, “The online resource center is stocked with 100's of materials such as customizable ads, templates, press releases etc., giving them (the clubs) the pre-produced, simple tools they need for any and all occasions.”

Maybe some club directors and owners just don't want to grow any bigger. Or maybe the clubs that operate as a business do not receive enough of a return on their investment to be bothered to recruit new members. Do they see the writing on the wall and assume their club will operate for only a few more years? I'd really like to hear from some club directors/owners to understand this issue.

I have more questions. Is the ACBL satisfied to grow by 300 – 400

members a year, out of the 11,000 new members who sign up? What is the ACBL's goal for annual growth? Perhaps these questions will be addressed in a separate article down the road...

While the ACBL marketing team is busy coming up with a meaningful retention strategy, the leaders at the club level need to ensure that new members feel welcome. Perhaps clubs could offer a mentoring program to integrate new members whose duplicate skills are undeveloped, or hold a weekly "Newcomers Night" for social bridge players who just want to play bridge and have fun. Social bridge is a way to attract students and young people, too, as a stepping-stone to duplicate bridge. Perhaps existing members could be enticed to encourage their friends to join, and receive a tangible benefit for each new member they recruit.

There is also the issue of the steep learning curve involved with current bridge courses and lessons. Simplifying the standard system might go a long way to helping raw beginners enjoy the game faster, and become committed bridge players. Bridge is, after all, a lifelong learning experience.

With ACBL members average age of 72 and getting older, there is probably no greater issue facing the ACBL.

What is at stake is the survival of duplicate bridge in North America.

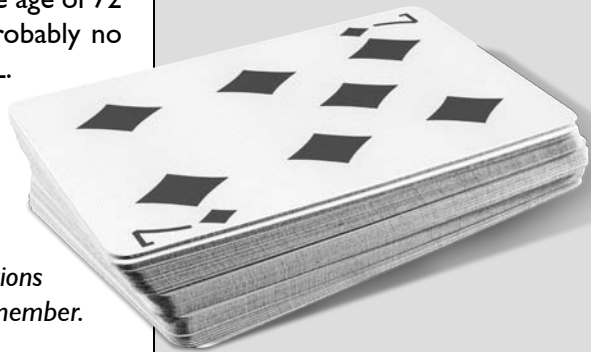
*Carole Coplea is a communications strategist and long time ACBL member.*

*She is the author of Death In Duplicate, a murder mystery about bridge players available through Master Point Press. You may contact Carole with your ideas for the future of bridge at [copleac@gmail.com](mailto:copleac@gmail.com).*



## Catching up with Armin Askari

Armin was a student at Marc Garneau Collegiate where Partners club owner Joel Shapiro (pronounced commonly as "sha-PEER-oh" and not "sha-PIE-roh") teaches bridge as part of the math curriculum. Joel's wife Suzanne Kosky was watching BBO last August where a Collegiate tournament was being held; Armin was playing for UC Berkley on BBO.





# Diamonds Are a Bridge Player's Best Friend

By David Deaves

The titular reference to Marilyn Monroe in "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" aptly fits this little anecdote because it is about some of my favorite "diamond" grand slams. Bridge players love to bid 7 Hearts, 7 Spades, or 7 Notrump. Me? I enjoy bidding 7 Diamonds. Let me share three deals with you, so that you can see why.

This deal I was playing with perennial Canadian champion Daniel Korbelt in a regional pairs event.

**Dir: West**  
**Vul: None**

♠ A  
♥ K Q  
♦ A K 10 4 3  
♣ A K Q 6 5

♠ K J 9 6 4 3	♠ Q
♥ 10 8	♥ J 9 5 4 3 2
♦ J	♦ 9 7 6 5
♣ 9 8 7	♣ 10 2

♠ 10 8 7 5 2  
♥ A 7 6  
♦ Q 8 2  
♣ 4 3

West	North	East	South
	(DK)		(DD)
2♠	4NT	Pass	6♦
Pass	7♦	All Pass	

As you can see that 2 Spade preempt really gave us bidding problems! Yeah, sure, it took about seven seconds for the rest of the bids. Oddly enough, I submit the bidding to 7 Diamonds, the optimal spot, is much harder without the preempt.

I received the jack of diamonds lead, and as Daniel put the dummy down, he said, "You must have the heart ace to bid 6 Diamonds, yes?" He was waiting for a 'Yes,' or, 'Of course,' but I said "Only the shadow knows." He must have forgotten: when you answer diamonds to 4NT it shows one ace, doesn't it, right?

Anyway, it was not a difficult deal; I won the diamond jack opening lead with the ace, cashed the club ace and king and led a low club off dummy, as East discarded the spade queen. I ruffed with the diamond eight, cashed the diamond queen, then played a low heart to dummy, and pulled the remaining trumps, shedding the heart ace at my



first opportunity. A little panache is part of the game and I thought it was time to ease Daniel's concern about the heart ace. The dummy was high after the play of the club queen. Surprisingly, no other pair bid and made 7 Diamonds.

This next deal was played by Tom Ramsay.

**Dir: South**

**Vul: Both**

♠ A  
 ♥ A K Q 10 9 3 2  
 ♦ A J 3  
 ♣ A 8

♠ 9 8 7 5  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ K Q 9 8 7 2  
 ♣ 7 6

West	North	East	South
	(DD)		(TR)
	2♥	Pass	3♦
Pass	7♦	All Pass	

The bidding requires explanation for those who don't know me: I haven't learned the weak two bid system yet, so Tom and I play Dinosaur game-forcing two bids. Two hearts shows 9.5+ playing tricks, as we believe it is dangerous to open at the two-level with anything less. Responder's bid of 3♦ promises KQ-fifth or better, as we believe in strong positive responses. We tend to overbid. (Tom claims I opened and reversed with 9 HCP once, but I'm sure he didn't calculate my point count correctly.) I bid 7 Diamonds because we were playing in a Regional Knockout match and, being old-fashioned, I wanted

the best odds for a grand slam. I even make safety plays, now and then, when I remember. But, Maria says, I'm losing my memory and Tom told me last week my safety play cost a Swiss match that we lost by one imp. Yes, I probably would bid 7NT at matchpoints, but matchpoints isn't really bridge—is it? JC (John Carruthers) always tells me that matchpoints is a turkey shoot. However, I digress.

Tom won the club king opening lead and proceeded to show his prowess as declarer. He pulled trumps in two rounds and then ruffed out the heart jack which sat behind the heart ♥AKQ10932. Yes, hearts broke 4-1. You know that, of course, or why would I be telling this story? At the other table 7 Hearts went two down on the lucky club lead by our partners. It's only one down on a spade lead, they told us. (They probably led a club by accident.)

The last deal, (previously chronicled by Paul Thurston in the National Post), was also played by Tom in a Swiss Teams Sectional in Tillsonburg.

## Puzzle Corner

Q: Name Ontario bridge players whose first initial is the same as their second initial. Example: David Deaves (DD). Try to represent all the letters of the alphabet. The Kib can only come up with 20. How many letters can you represent?

 Answer overleaf. 

**Dir: South**  
**Vul: N/S**

♠ A J 6 4  
 ♥ A K J 9 8 3  
 ♦ A K Q  
 ♣ —

♠ 10 3	♠ Q 9 8
♥ Q 10 4	♥ 7 6 5 2
♦ 10 7 2	♦ 9 8
♣ Q 8 5 3 2	♣ 10 9 7 4

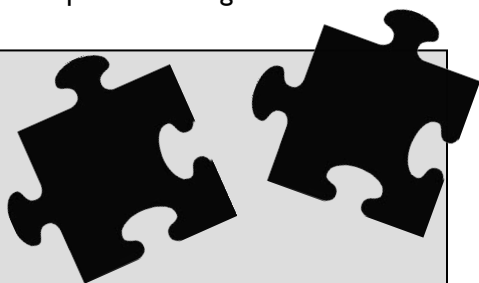
♠ K 7 5 2  
 ♥ —  
 ♦ J 6 5 4 3  
 ♣ A K J 6

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣
Pass	7♦	All Pass	

After the Grand Slam Force (Josephine) denied the spade queen, disappointment set in, until I realized that the bidding pretty much guaranteed at least five diamonds by opener. Most people assume Tom and I play 4-card majors and 5-card minors; although close, neither is actually true.

Anyway, Tom justified my analysis of the bidding by winning the spade lead with the king, drawing trumps, and simultaneously ruffing two hearts in his hand. Two losing spades from the North hand were pitched on South's high clubs and the grand slam was home. At the other table 6 Spades was bid and made. I think they were playing 3-card minor openings.

The interesting point of these three grand slams is that souped up conventions such as Blackwood, RKC Blackwood, Exclusion Blackwood, Minorwood, Gerber, etc. were never needed or used. To be fair, I've been told by some experts that I'm just shooting when I bid and make a slam without checking for aces. Next episode: Club grand slams.



## Puzzle Corner Answer

Here are 20 possible answers:

Armin Askari, Thornhill  
 Barbara Brockelsby, Toronto  
 Chris Cowan, Oakville  
 David Deaves, Ripley  
 Esther Eastmure, Toronto  
 Frank Fowler, Toronto  
 George Geyer, Toronto  
 Hazel Hewitt, St. Marys  
 Ina Idemme,\* Maple  
 Joo-Hee Janicki, Markham  
 Kris Korczynski, Oakville  
 Linda Lord, Schomberg  
 Marilyn Maher, Wastage  
 Paul Parent, Tiny  
 Robin Rowe, Barrie  
 Siobhan Scannell, London  
 Theresa Tierney, Oshawa  
 William Woodcock, Sarnia  
 Xiao-Fang Xue, Markham  
 Zheng Zhang, Scarborough

\* "Director!"



# Things You Didn't Know

By David Colbert

You are at a sectional tournament. You hear a man shouting an insult to his partner for a bid just made. You can tell that emotions are running high and people are uncomfortable. You make a mental note as to who is involved and recognize a familiar face and a familiar situation. In another instance you notice an opponent staring at your partner's cards as your partner plays—in hope of ascertaining your partner's holding in a suit. The same person deliberately hesitates for quite a few seconds when you lead toward the KJ doubleton in dummy. So you play the king and it loses to the ace. You are upset, because this is not how bridge is to be played or how people should behave. Did you know there is something you can do?

I have just finished a term as discipline coordinator for District 2. The ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations—the CDR—is available at [acbl.org](http://acbl.org) but generally when I contact people about something they are genuinely surprised, as this corner of the game is unfamiliar to most of us.

Here is how the process works if you ever feel someone is not following the

rules and/or acting unethically you can contact the District Recorder and/or the District President and file a complaint in writing. They will review it and may decide the complaint has merit. If there is sufficient evidence, a discipline coordinator forms a committee and the complaint is dealt with through a local closed hearing. The unacceptable actions and consequences are clearly laid out in the CDR but are generally not well known and consequences are harsher than people expect. For example, if you “actively and deliberately” try to see an opponent's cards, or intentionally change the score of a hand, it is mandated that you lose 10 to 50% of your lifetime masterpoints.

The ACBL has jurisdiction over the masterpoints issued by clubs, and over the conduct of its members in any sectionally rated game or higher. This could even be a STAC game at a club.

Other discipline- worthy actions from “Part A: Conduct” include rudeness, intentional intimidation or harassment in words or behaviour. These generally warrant reprimand, probation or suspension, with 6 months being a

common term. The Ethics Section, Part B, outlines 20 unacceptable offenses including unsportsmanlike psyching, intentionally hiding partnership agreements and various forms of cheating. The consequences in that area

are generally more severe and mandate masterpoint reduction.

I feel that being better informed can only improve the quality of our game.



## ► Kib 2016 Survey

Over the years the Kibitzer has evolved. There once was a time when regional winners had their photos published. And who can forget John Armstrong's interviews with Ontario bridge 'celebrities'? The Kib will continue to evolve especially if and when it goes completely online—which is slated to happen perhaps as early as 2017. Here's your chance to let us know what content you would like to see. Additionally, what would you not like to see?

Here are three ways you can go about telling us what you think.

- Please fill out the survey on the next two pages, detach it, and mail it to:

**Andy Stark  
107 Kent Rd.  
Toronto, ON M4L 2X5**

Feel free to include or exclude your name on your mail-in survey. Please let us know if you would like your comments published as a letter to the editor.

- Go online. Please enter this link into your browser:

**[www.surveymonkey.com/r/JWLSPZZ](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JWLSPZZ)**

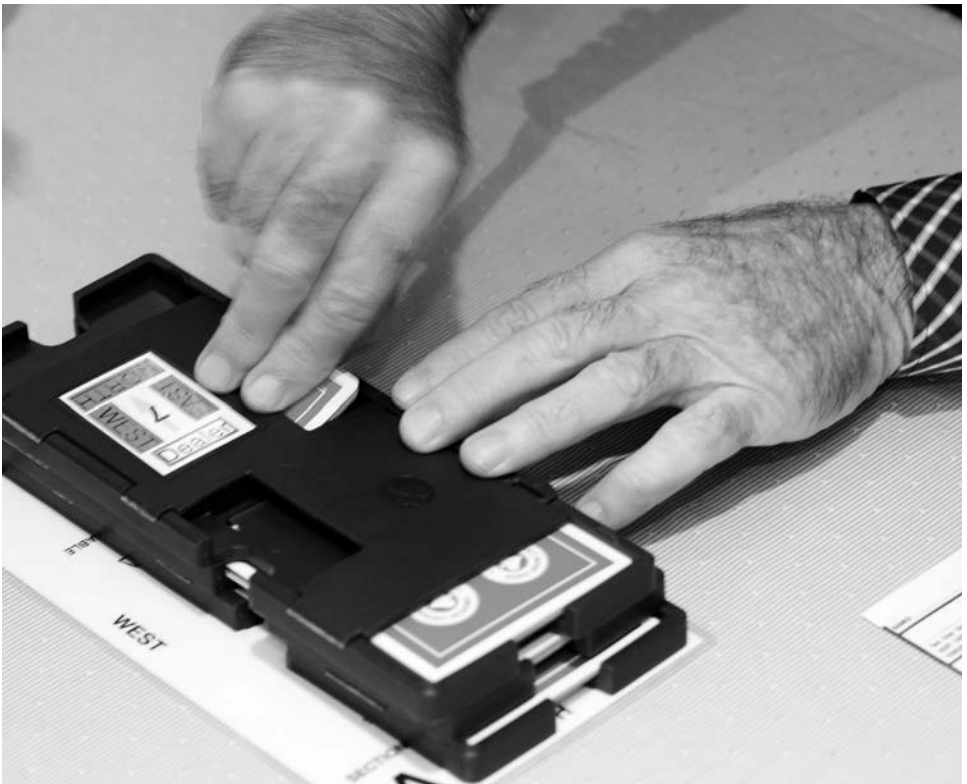
- Write me an email. I can send you the link so that you don't have to type it in.

**[andy.kibitzer@gmail.com](mailto:andy.kibitzer@gmail.com)**

Thank you for taking the time.

# Kibitzer Survey

1. Which of the following would you like to continue to read (or see) in the Kibitzer? Check all that apply.
- Lesson hands
  - Story hands
  - Humour pieces
  - ACBL News
  - Club News
  - Tournament reports
  - Interviews
  - Tournament Trail
  - Photographs
  - Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Please name one or more of your favourite Kibitzer contributors.
3. Do you use the Kibitzer's Tournament Trail as your main source of information for attending sectional and regional tournaments?
- Yes
  - No, I usually go online
  - No, my partner keeps me organized
  - No, I don't play outside the club all that much
4. Regarding the Tournament Winners section, did you make a point of reading through it?
- Yes, I enjoy seeing names I recognize, including my own
  - Sometimes
  - No, I usually skipped that section
5. Beginning in 2016 the Kibitzer will be published three times per year. Is that acceptable?
- Yes
  - No, I think 4 issues per year is better
  - No, I think 6 issues or more per year is better
6. The plan is that in another year or two The Kibitzer will cease to be a hard copy magazine and will be an online magazine only. Do you find that acceptable?
- Yes, it's just a reflection of the times
  - No, I much prefer to read a hard copy



# Vince Oddy Bridge Supplies

## New Books

***The Canterbury Bridge Tales*** by David Silver & Tim Bourke – \$21.95

***The Pocket Guide To Even More Bridge Conventions***

by Barbara Seagram & David Bird – \$9.95

***Tips On Competitive Bidding*** by Mike Lawrence – \$21.95

***Tips On Bidding*** by Mike Lawrence – \$21.95

**Buy Both Lawrence books for \$40**

***Play Bridge With Me*** by Frank Stewart – \$29.95

***Matchpoints – Second Edition*** by Kit Woolsey – \$33.95

**Buy all 4 of the Cohen Teaches Books for \$70**

## Kibitzer Special

***Better Balanced bidding*** by Klinger – regular price\$19.95 – **Now \$8**

***100 Winning Bridge Tips*** by Klinger – Regular price\$19.95 – **Now \$8**

***100 Winning Duplicate Tips*** by Klinger – Regular price \$19.95 – **Now \$8**

**Get all 3 books for \$20**

We now carry Duplicate Boards from the Danish Bridge Federation –  
check our site for pricing



Check out our website  
for a complete list of  
available products



42 Stemmler Drive, Aurora ON L4G 6N4  
1-800-463-9815 or 905-727-2300 Fax 905-726-1504  
www.vinceoddy.com    bridge@vinceoddy.com



# City of Toronto Sectional January 8-10, 2016

Holiday Inn Yorkdale—Free Parking!!

3450 Dufferin Street, Toronto, ON M6A 2V1 416-789-5161

## Friday, January 8

Stratified Open Pairs (single sessions)	1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Knockout Teams (continues on Saturday)	7:00 pm
0 – 500(non LM), 0-100 Pairs	1:00 pm & 7:00 pm

## Saturday, January 9

(Single Session entries welcome)

<b>Unit 166 Annual General Meeting</b>	3:00 pm
Knockout Teams (Cont. from Fri)	11:00 am & 4:00 pm
Flight A Pairs (Qualifying)	11:00 am & 4:00 pm
Stratified 0-3000 Pairs	11:00 am & 4:00 pm
0 – 500(non LM), 0-100 Pairs	11:00 am & 4:00 pm

## Sunday, January 10

Stratiflighted Swiss Teams (2 sessions)	11:00 am & TBA
0 – 500 (non-LM) Swiss Teams	11:00 am & TBA

**All Unit 166 Tournaments Are Zero Tolerance Tournaments. Please Let The Directing Staff Know If Someone Negatively Affects Your Enjoyment At This Tournament.**

**Flights:** (Stratified by average masterpoint holding)

Friday: A=2500+, B= 1000-2500, C = 0-1000

Saturday: A=Unlimited, B= 2000-3000, C=1000-2000, D= 0-1000

Sunday: A= 5000+, X= 0-5000; B= 1500-2500, C= 750-1500, D=0-750

**Sectional Session Fees:** ACBL Members \$13.00; 0-100 events \$10.00;  
Surcharge of \$3.00 for non current ACBL members

**Tournament Chair:** David Halasi, halasid@rogers.com, 647-924-6939

**Partnership Chair:** Wayne Ruttan,  
wayne.ruttan63@sympatico.ca, 647-284-8887

**Note: 0-300 and below will be stratified at director's discretion;  
Single bracket knockouts may be handicapped**



# 62<sup>nd</sup> NIAGARA DISTRICT SECTIONAL

Sponsored by the Niagara District Bridge Association

ST. CATHARINES, February 12-14, 2016

A Zero-Tolerance Tournament

## FRIDAY, FEB. 12, 2016

(All Single Sessions Today)

Women's Pairs (500/2000/unlim) .....	1:00
Open Pairs (500/2000/unlim).....	1:00
299 <sup>er</sup> Pairs (100/200/300).....	1:00
49 <sup>er</sup> Pairs (5/20/50).....	1:00
Open Pairs (50/2000/unlim) .....	7:00
299 <sup>er</sup> Pairs (100/200/300).....	7:00
49 <sup>er</sup> Pairs (5/20/50).....	7:00
Friendly Fred Swiss Teams .....	7:00

## SATURDAY, FEB. 13, 2016

Handicapped KO .....	9:00am, 1:00 & 7:00
299 <sup>er</sup> Pairs (100/200/300) - 1 session ...	1:00
49 <sup>er</sup> Pairs (5/20/50) - 1 session.....	1:00
Flight A/X Pairs (3000/unlim).....	1:00 & 7:00
Stratified B/C/D Pairs.....	1:00 & 7:00
(500/1000/2000)	
299 <sup>er</sup> Pairs (100/200/300) - 1 session ...	7:00
49 <sup>er</sup> Pairs (5/20/50) - 1 session.....	7:00

## SUNDAY, FEB. 14, 2016

299 <sup>er</sup> Swiss Teams .....	10:30 am & TBA
(100/200/300)	
Flight A/X Swiss Teams .....	10:30 am
(3000/unlim)	
B/C/D Swiss Teams .....	10:30 am
(500/1000/2000)	

\* 7 Rounds of 7 Boards

\* 30 minute break after 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> round

\* **Free Parking**

\* **Daily Door Prizes**

\* **Overall, Flight Top,  
& Section Top Prizes**

\* **Session Fees Only \$12**

\* **Stratification for all events by Pair/  
Team average**

**KO events may be handicapped**

Memories of  
Friendly Fred  
Hospitality  
following Fri &  
Sat eve games.



## HOLIDAY INN & SUITES, PARKWAY CONFERENCE CENTRE

327 Ontario St., St. Catharines

Reservations: 905-688-2324

[www.heartofniagarahotels.com](http://www.heartofniagarahotels.com)

**Ask for special bridge rate:**

\$99.00 (1 or 2 people, \$10 ea. add.  
person) if booked by Jan. 12, 2016

## TOURNAMENT CHAIR:

Wiebe Hoogland 905-688-0734

[wbybrenh@cogeco.ca](mailto:wbybrenh@cogeco.ca)

## PARTNERSHIPS:

Margaret Dykstra 905-732-4324

[adykstra3@cogeco.ca](mailto:adykstra3@cogeco.ca)



Holiday Inn & Suites,  
Parkway Conference  
Centre

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the QEW  
to St. Catharines.  
Exit south at Exit 47 Ontario St.



*Audrey Grant, left, winner of the 2015 ACBL Hall of Fame Blackwood Award; here with Shawn Quinn*



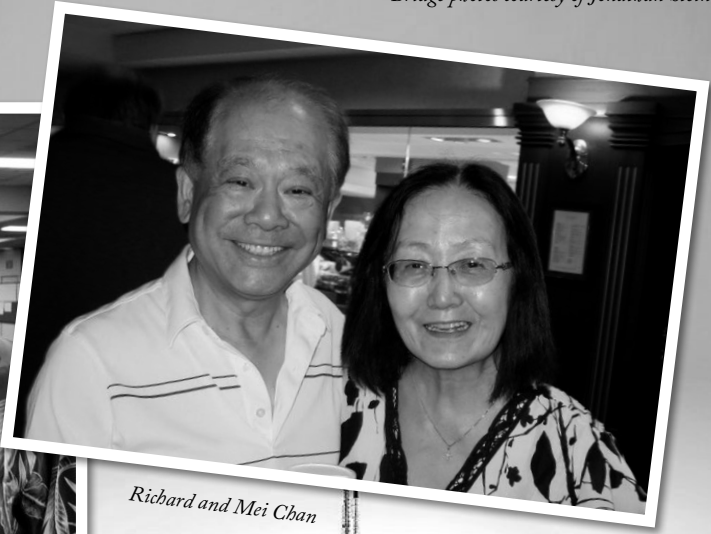
*Toronto expert Fred Lerner (right) was in Chicago to play and kibitz his friend Betty Schuler, a Regional KO winner*



# 2015 Chicago



*Bridge photos courtesy of Jonathan Steinberg*



*Richard and Mei Chan*



**NABC**

# OSHAWA & DISTRICT SECTIONAL

**March 5th and 6th, 2016**

Come out and join us for fun & bridge  
at the LVIV Hall & Pavilion  
38 LVIV Blvd., Oshawa, ON, L1H 3C3



## **Event Schedule**

**Saturday, March 5th Stratiflighted Swiss Teams (A/X and B/C/D)**

**10:30am & TBD**

**Sunday, March 6th Stratiflighted Swiss Teams (A/X and B/C/D)**

**10:30am & TBD**

Flight A/X: (separate) A=3000+, X=0-3000  
Flights B/C/D: B=750-1500, C=300-749, D=0-299

Assignment to flight based on player with highest master points. Pair/team stratification based on average master points.

**Entry Fees:** \$96 per team/ \$24 per person for ACBL members  
(non-members add \$6)

Food available on-site for purchase during 45 minute break both days

**Tournament Manager** – Doug Darnley, ddarnley@rogers.com, 905-509-8607 (h)  
or 416-258-1331 (text only)

**Partnerships** – Hoppy Carnwith, hoppyc@sympatico.ca, 905-655-4594

**Location** – One block north of Hwy 401

From the West on 401 take the Simcoe Street exit, turn left onto Bloor,  
left at the lights on Simcoe, then turn on first right to LVIV.

From the EAST on 401 take the Ritson/Simcoe exit, follow Drew St.,  
then left on 1 Ave., left on Albert St., then left to LVIV.

*Lots of free parking onsite and also on both sides of the street.*

# LOVE YOUR TEACHER?



Grassroots teachers throughout North America regularly give their time and expertise to those who wish to learn bridge. These teachers are responsible for helping students take pride in their accomplishments. Also, bridge teachers help expand bridge populations in many areas.

Beginning in 2010 with Tina Radding, from Charleston South Carolina, through August 2015, when Jeff Schuett, from Riverwood, IL, was awarded Teacher of the Year, the ABTA, in conjunction with Master Point Press, recognizes outstanding teachers. We'd like to learn more about your

teacher— someone who goes the extra mile to create a wonderful atmosphere and helps you to learn how to play better bridge.

Previously nominated teaching professionals earned comments from their students such as: “undeniably superb, thinks outside the box, positive, patient, and devoted, will go in any direction that the students ask him, great depth of knowledge, and responsible for building my self confidence.”

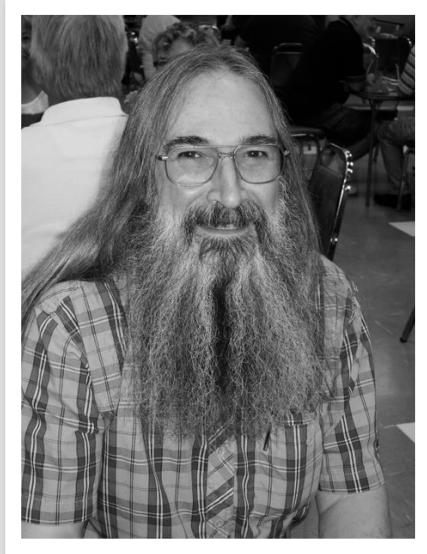
Please review the criteria and complete a nomination form, available on one of the following sites: [www.abtahome.com](http://www.abtahome.com), or [www.teachbridge.com](http://www.teachbridge.com). Enter your teacher now into competition for the 2016 Teacher of the Year Award. The winner receives an engraved crystal plaque plus a cash subsidy. The finalists and overall winner will be announced at the ABTA Annual Conference, in Washington, D.C., July 19 to July 22, 2016. Yes, previous nominees who did not win are welcome to re-apply.

2015-2016 Committee members are: Larry Cohen (Boca Raton, FL), Nancy Abbott (Middleburg, VA), Linda Lee (Toronto, Ont), Mary Jane Orock (Fort Worth, TX), Tina Radding (Charleston, SC), Barbara Seagram (Toronto, Ont), Kathie Walsh, (Hilton Head, SC) and Joyce Penn (Columbus, OH) Chairman.

Questions may be directed, by email, to Joyce at: [abtaTOY@gmail.com](mailto:abtaTOY@gmail.com). The deadline for all nominations and submissions is March 15, 2016.



*Jim Priebe is all smiles as Mississauga's top master point holder with just over 9,600 points.*

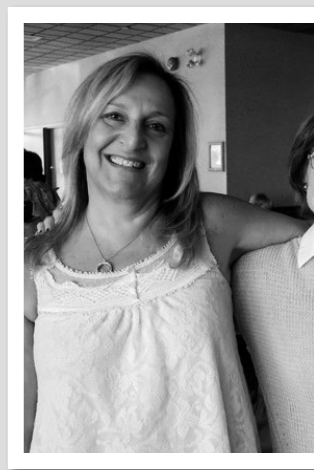


*Bill Koski became a Platinum Life Master at the Barrie Regional in September and now has over 10,000 points.*

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ 2015



*Longtime partners Lyn Stevens and Charlotte St. Amant*



*Joy Shapiro, Barbara Murray & Mary*



Allan Smith, Martin Newland, Ina Demme & Bill Kertes won the Fri/Sat KO (1)

# Barrie Regional



Loivics



Hazel Hewitt, Margot Stockie & Edith Ferber



Dear Andy,

Herein lies the whole story behind Don Brock's oft-told article in the last Kibitzer called "The Wimp."

Don, a studious competitor, wasted no time in over-calling my partner's 4 Heart bid with 6 Diamonds. This hasty decision suggested a heart void and no quick losers, so I just as briskly bid 6 hearts. Indeed, 6 diamonds produces -920 and 6 hearts doubled only -500. However, Don left out the best part of the story—the reason he shall forever after be known as the Wimp.

When 6 Hearts came back to him, he proceeded in a more typically thoughtful Brock-like fashion. Every time he looked at my unconcerned face, he seemed to get more worried. Eventually, he worried so much, he forgot to double! Thus the legend of "The Wimp" was born.

For the record, it is always been a pleasure for me to play against Don, the smiling raconteur.

David Baker

---

Dear Andy,

Philip Haley is in his eighties. During the District 2 STAC in May he won .89 Silver Points. This was enough to earn his Life Master! He was over the moon!

I got a call from the ACBL 2 days ago; Philip had contacted them because his points (and his LM) had not appeared in the Bulletin....I confirmed with them that indeed he won the points - they assured me that they would be credited to him - I think his perseverance should be celebrated!

Suzanne Kosky

---



Dear Andy,

At a tournament some time back a Director made a rude and lascivious remark to me when I asked him where I was supposed "to go." He was holding court with two of his buddies and all three of them found his remark to be profoundly amusing.

I was appalled but the tournament had started and my partner was waiting, so I collected myself and decided to deal with the matter at a better time. Later I took my issue to another Director who informed me that he had heard several similar complaints regarding this man but there was really nothing that could be done. "Were there witnesses?" he inquired. I was at an impasse since I truly doubted that Curly and Larry would be prepared to "rat out" Moe.

When I enter a bridge club I am expected to adhere to the ACBL rules. Barbara Rothkin's letter in the May issue of the Bridge Bulletin spells out in black and white what my obligations as a player are. The Director's purview is to ensure these rules are followed correctly. But what happens when an errant director decides that rules do not apply to him? Who directs the Directors?

At one club I attended my partner and I (east/west) played against a Director sitting (north/south) who was partnering one of the members. As we sat down they appeared to be in a heated discussion and there was no attempt by either one of them to

acknowledge our presence. OK - this can happen. For three whole hands my partner and I were inundated with a running dialogue exclusively between the two of them. Very loudly they discussed the play of the hand, what should/should not have been done, what convention should have been used, etc. As this was taking up time, I attempted to step up the play but was ignored. Suddenly the Director stood up and called "time." I objected, saying that we had one more hand to play. As his partner loudly announced "600 for the good guys," he showed me his back and with a wave of his hand dismissed me, saying disdainfully that he would "give us" an average board.

He later inquired with a tight little smile whether he had succeeded in intimidating me.

What do you do when a Director is rude and belligerent? I've seen one woman being talked to so rudely that she came close to tears, loudly insisting that she is no longer in kindergarten. Another woman who tried to make a point during a lesson was told that she was "too stubborn" to admit the Director was right. I asked a question during a lesson and was told that I had to be taught how "to think." One Director presumes to think that by calling me a "sexy chick" he's giving me a compliment. How would he feel, I wonder if I started calling him a "cackling capon?"

Enough is enough. I took my question to the Zero Tolerance Website and was informed that they only dealt with

issues concerning players who cheat. My only alternative was to boycott the club. In other words, turn tail and run. By ignoring this issue and shuffling off responsibility, the ACBL is tacitly condoning it. For the most part I have met some wonderful directors in my three years of playing duplicate but it only takes a few rotten apples to spoil the basket. Women's rights have come a long way but unfortunately misogyny, like the Loch Ness monster, periodically rears its ugly head. In corporations and universities there are institutions that attempt to curb this sort of behaviour.

Yes, players must be reminded that they are not always “the good guys” but Directors should be held accountable for conduct unbecoming an Officer of the Game.

*Ed. note: As you can see, this letter deals with an important issue. It was submitted by a bridge player living in Ontario; however, the Kibitzer and Unit 166 have decided not to print the letter writer's name or place of living.*

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# Club News

## The Dunes Duplicate Bridge Club Says Thank You!

By Joy Croke

On Friday August 28th, before our regular Friday afternoon game, people gathered at the Port Franks Community Center to say thank you to Mavis Reffell, our manager and owner, for her 23 years of dedicated service in building the club from very humble beginnings to the thriving club it is today.

It all started in an old school house used for community events in Port Franks, in the spring of 1992. Mavis had decided she wanted to play more bridge and she started to call people from a list she found on a cupboard door there to see if she could get people to come and play duplicate bridge. With the help of Jim Martell, who gave some lessons and directed the games, the club was born. It slowly grew through Mavis's outreach to people, her enthusiasm, and positive belief that it was an important endeavor.

In 1998, the club became sanctioned and in 2001, the first Port Franks bridge tournament was held. Jean Potthoff one of the early members, is still running the tournament today and it has become a well established fixture in the bridge culture of South Western Ontario. Mavis has had support from many others, Ann Louise Martyn, Sandy Webster, Louise Vandenberg and Dorothy Linton to name a few.

The club has flourished. There are now 2 games a week, Wednesday and Friday afternoons, with attendance ranging from 6-10 tables in the winter months to 10 to 15 tables in the other seasons- people coming from Goderich, London, Port Franks, Forest, Grand Bend, Parkhill, Strathroy and the surrounding rural and lake communities. Of the 35 original players, 7 of them still play regularly.

Mavis has given ACBL duplicate bridge a home in this community. Thanks from past, present and future lovers of the game!



*Mavis' speech*



*Mavis Reffell*

# All About MOBridge

By Jon Turner

A 32-year old Mississauga institution is going through a major transition. The Mississauga Oakville Bridge Centre which has been the centre-piece of bridge activity in the western GTA since 1983 has been transformed into a not-for-profit community bridge club owned and operated by its members.

The Centre has been a home away from home for many bridge players. It is the only permanent stand-alone bridge facility between Toronto and St. Catharines.

The club was founded and managed by John Rayner and has operated on the Mississauga/Oakville border since being moved there in 1999. As John's stature in the Canadian bridge community grew through his bridge accomplishments both nationally and internationally, the club has grown and attracted hundreds of newcomers as well as some of Canada's top bridge players.

In 2014 alone there were almost 15,000 individual bridge games played by almost 500 individuals at the club. For many in their retirement years, bridge at the club has been their primary leisure activity. And while the majority of the players would be over 50, plans are underway to attract new players to the game.

With the transition to a member owned club one of the first steps was to introduce



*Club reno*



*New kitchen*

two additional evening games to the schedule that will allow people who work to pursue more bridge activity. At the same time the education program has also been significantly enhanced to make it easier for people to learn the game or make the transition from social/kitchen Bridge to the more competitive world of duplicate bridge.

In October, students will have their choice of three different weekly time options to take the “Introduction to Bridge” course. There are also three time options available for those who are interested in the “Rusty Bridge” course which will be of great interest to people who have been away from the game for an extended period but would like to get back into the game with all the latest knowledge. Sally Rewbotham is MObridge’s new Director of Education. Sally has been teaching bridge for over 20 years and has an outstanding reputation as one of Canada’s leading bridge instructors.

Bridge is now offered as an extra-curricular activity in many elementary and high schools. And most university cafeterias still have a large number of students spending their lunch hours playing a few hands of bridge. The club is looking at ways that they

can support school programs to introduce more people to the game.

In addition to the enhanced educational offerings the facility has been renovated, the game and fee schedule revamped, and social and recognition programs introduced. It is all a reflection of what the members feel about the centre of their bridge community. As John Rayner said, “I am proud of what my family has done to grow the game of bridge in the Mississauga, Oakville area and I am equally proud of what this dedicated group is doing to maintain the legacy.”

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Community Bridge Club (MObridge)  
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## Tournament News

The Summer NABCs were held in Chicago this past August. The Hamilton pair of Ray Procwat and Barry Spinner scored big by winning three intermediate events. Over the course of five days, they won three pairs events with percentages of: 62%, 64%, and 67%.

Ray and Barry can be often seen at local bridge clubs: the Hamilton Bridge Centre on Ray Street, the Mount Hamilton Bridge Club, and at the Dundas Seniors Bridge club.

Ray said, “I want to become a Life Master before my next birthday, and so I am playing a lot of competitive bridge.” Spinner added, “I only started playing seriously two years ago when I retired. I find bridge very stimulating and the opponents very pleasant people to spend time with.”

Congratulations, Ray & Barry.

# 2015 CHICAGO YOUTH NABC



*Katherine Yang and Yolanda Ling were first in Strats B and C in the Saturday afternoon Cardrook Pairs and within less than a quarter of a matchpoint of winning Strat A.*



*Katherine Yang & Yolanda Ling with their coach Michael Yang*



*Katherine & Yolanda with the Bridge Bulletin's Brent Manley*



*Andrew Li and Neo Ling won the Friday morning and Friday afternoon Cardrök Pairs, Strat A.*



*Elissa Luo and Sherry Shu tied for first in the Friday afternoon Cardrök Pairs, Strat C.*



*Simon Li from Milton enjoys his Youth Swiss Teams match*

## Tournament Trail

Page numbers (p.) refer to ads in this issue. An asterisk (\*) means tournament information was in the previous issue. Information is subject to change - check [www.unit166.ca](http://www.unit166.ca) or [www.acbl.org](http://www.acbl.org) for up-to-date information.

### 2015

#### NOVEMBER

20-22 Stratford\*  
29-Dec. 6 Denver NABC

### 2016

#### JANUARY

8-10 Toronto, p.20  
22-24 Kingston  
22-24 Buffalo  
23-24 London\*  
23-29 Bermuda Regional\*

#### FEBRUARY

12-14 St. Catharines, p.25

#### MARCH

5-6 Oshawa Teams, p.28  
10-20 Reno NABC  
19-20 Guelph\*  
22-27 Toronto Regional

### APRIL

2-3 Sarnia  
8-10 Buffalo  
11-17 Gatlinburg Regional  
22-24 North Bay  
23-24 Brampton  
30-May 1 Peterborough

### MAY

14-15 Thornhill  
17-23 Kingston Regional  
21-28 Cdn. Championships,  
Toronto  
27-29 Sudbury

### JUNE

4-5 Cambridge  
25-26 Port Franks  
27-July 2 Can-At Halifax Regional

### JULY

1-3 Thornhill  
5-10 London Regional  
16-17 Hamilton  
21-31 Washington NABC

**Deadline for the *Spring 2016 Kibitzer*: December 15, 2015**

*The Kibitzer*

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