



Final Results:

Transatlantic Senior Qualification Trials 2020 Round Robin

Team Name	Total	14	13	7	6	5	8	10	12	3	9	11	1	2	4
14. Wolfson	155.43		3.37	5.54	4.50	13.28	18.69	11.94	11.58	13.28	13.59	13.89	14.18	14.18	17.41
13. Simson	154.51	16.63		10.00	4.50	14.46	7.04	8.42	15.50	5.00	17.93	8.06	18.69	13.28	15.00
7. Levine	150.60	14.46	10.00		12.96	10.41	11.94	5.26	10.81	14.74	0.00	12.29	13.59	15.74	18.40
6. Lall	147.36	15.50	15.50	7.04		6.72	13.59	11.20	12.29	1.60	11.20	12.63	9.59	17.22	13.28
5. Greenspan	142.31	6.72	5.54	9.59	13.28		5.00	18.09	10.41	8.80	15.50	17.03	14.74	6.41	11.20
8. Lewis	139.67	1.31	12.96	8.06	6.41	15.00		11.20	16.63	5.26	17.03	17.03	11.58	5.26	11.94
10. Parker	132.99	8.06	11.58	14.74	8.80	1.91	8.80		8.42	4.03	13.59	8.80	8.42	18.25	17.59
12. Sanborn	131.10	8.42	4.50	9.19	7.71	9.59	3.37	11.58		19.34	2.59	11.58	16.63	9.19	17.41
9. Cappelli	125.16	6.72	15.00	5.26	18.40	11.20	14.74	15.97	0.66		10.81	9.19	6.72	7.71	2.78
3. Nadel	124.62	6.41	2.07	20.00	8.80	4.50	2.97	6.41	17.41	9.19		8.80	7.37	17.41	13.28
11. Reynolds	114.45	6.11	11.94	7.71	7.37	2.97	2.97	11.20	8.42	10.81	11.20		15.97	7.37	10.41
1. Beatty	108.09	5.82	1.31	6.41	10.41	5.26	8.42	11.58	3.37	13.28	12.63	4.03		12.29	13.28
2. Bell	103.75	5.82	6.72	4.26	2.78	13.59	14.74	1.75	10.81	12.29	2.59	12.63	7.71		8.06
4. Goodman	89.96	2.59	5.00	1.60	6.72	8.80	8.06	2.41	2.59	17.22	6.72	9.59	6.72	11.94	

**Congrats Teams:
Wolfson
Simson
Levine
Lall**

Good luck Next Year!

Thank You to our Great Volunteers!

These online tournaments are really fun... especially during a Pandemic. The downside is that they take a lot of effort on behalf of the USBF tournament committee and a lot of careful preparation. This competition came up unexpectedly and Jan Martel, with support from the USBF Board of Directors rose to the occasion, wrote a Conditions of Contest and a tournament schedule that was perfect!

Thank you to Jan who is always there for us, to Al Hollander without whom the tech process would implode, to Will and Z for keeping operations running smoothly, to Suzi and Stan for the Bulletins, to the Appeals Panel for standing by, to Brad Moss, USBF President and the entire USBF BOD for their support, making all this possible.

Thanks also to RealBridge for offering us a platform for play where competitors feel secure and confident... which offers audio and visual capabilities for both spectators and players.

See you at the JLall 2 event next year!!

- USBF President**
Brad Moss
- USBF Vice President**
Kate Aker
- USBF COO & Secretary**
Jan Martel
- USBF CFO**
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- USBF Recorder**
Jack Oest
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Danny Sprung
JoAnn Sprung
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Jan Martel
- Bulletin Editor**
Suzi Subeck
- Photographer**
Peg Kaplan

**Another
Special
Pandemic
Competition**

Teams Entered...

"TRIALS" AND TRIBULATIONS—PRE-BULLETIN

There are 14 teams and 1 alternate entered. They are in alphabetical order:

Beatty	Steve Beatty, Capt Gloria Bart	Fred Stewart Les Bart
Bell	Leo Bell, Capt Mark Ralph Bob Thomson	Cris Barrere Bill Harker Bob Etter
Cappelli	Bob Cappelli, Capt Phil Becker Jerry Helms Dave Caprera	Bob Bitterman Ken Kranyak Ed Schulte Anne Brenner
Goodman	Andy Goodman, Capt John Schermer	Steve Zolotow Neil Chambers
Greenspan	Jon Greenspan, Capt Geof Brod John Rengstorff	Glenn Eisenstein John Stiefel Greg Woods
Lall	Hemant Lall, Capt Bob Hamman Naren Gupta Michael Rosenberg	Reese Milner Peter Weichsel Zia Mahmood Ash Gupta
Levine	Mike Levine Jeff Meckstroth Mike Passell Bob Morris, NPC	Eddie Wold Eric Rodwell Mark Lair
Lewis	Linda Lewis, Capt Billy Cohen Ifti Baqai	Marc Jacobus Ron Smith Mitch Dunitz
Nadel	Julie Nadel, Capt Dennis Clerkin Billy Miller	Bruce Ferguson Jerry Clerkin
Parker	Howard Parker, Capt Drew Casen Venkatrao Koneru	John Onstott Jim Krekorian
Reynolds	Tom Reynolds, Capt Joe Viola Bill Hall	Lance Kerr Randy Howard Gary Donner
Sanborn	Kerri Sanborn, Capt Bart Bramley Neil Silverman	Jill Meyers Kit Woolsey Allan Graves
Simson	Doug Simson, Capt Glenn Milgrim Allan Falk	Jeff Aker Barry Rigal John Lusk
Wolfson	Jeff Wolfson, Capt David Berkowitz Mike Becker Bruce Rogoff	Steve Garner Larry Cohen Howie Weinstein Bob Sartorius
Tudor [Alternate]	Harry Tudor, Capt Janice Molson Brian Glubok	Jeff Mandell Tobi Sokolow Lee Rautenberg



Upcoming Event from the USBF

2021 JFall Online Teams #2

The second USBF JFall Online Teams event (JFall2) will be held from February 12-15, 2021 and February 26-March 1, 2021 on RealBridge. It will be similar to JFall1, with a few minor changes suggested by the players in JFall1. JFall2 is open to all Active USBF members who have paid their USBF dues on or before February 1, 2021.

Event Schedule and Format - **NOTE DATE CHANGE**

- Play each day will start at 1:00 pm EST and end no later than 9:30 pm EST. Time per board will remain 7-1/2 minutes, but we will have longer breaks, based on responses to the JFall1 Exit Poll.
- There will be no more than 32 teams, each with 4-6 players.
- The entry fee for the event is \$300 per team.
- DIC for the event is McKenzie Myers. Tournament Organizer is Jan Martel. Software guru is Al Hollander.
- The event format will be:

Round Robin Stage 1, Feb. 12-14:

Everyone plays 3 days of a "split field" Round Robin with 10 board matches; there are two Round Robin groups, to be named later (**suggestions welcome**). Teams will be assigned to the two groups based on a "draft" by the top two teams (chosen by a vote of all teams). The top 5 teams in each group will qualify for the KO Round of 16. The bottom 6 teams in each group will be eliminated. The five teams in the middle of each group ("bubble teams") will play in Stage 2 of the Round Robin.

Round Robin Stage 2, Feb. 15th (Presidents' Day):

Each bubble team plays a 10-board match against each bubble team from the other group, scored at VPs with carryover from the first 3 days. The top 6 teams qualify for the Round of 16. The bottom 4 teams are eliminated.

Knockouts, Feb. 26-Mar. 1:

- One match per day. 56 boards per match. If both finalists want a longer match (60 or 64 boards), we will have that.
- There will be a Captains' meeting on Feb. 23rd to set the KO bracket. The precise method of setting the bracket will be set forth in the Special Conditions of Contest. Summary: the top 4 teams from Round Robin Stage 1 will select their opponents for the Round of 16 from the bottom 8 qualifiers. The remaining qualifiers will be shuffled in groups to fill the bracket.
- The matches will be played on RealBridge. During the bidding & play, each player will see & hear their screenmate - (N&E, S&W). Before and after each match, teammates will be seated at one table. We are trying to find a way to allow the players who were sitting out to join you with audio (players who sat out can see & hear their teammates and be heard but not seen).
- There will be no real-time kibitzing allowed for any match. Kibitzers will be able to watch after a delay. For the Round Robin, the delay will be until each match is complete so kibitzing does not provide "state of the match" information. For the first half of each KO match, each board will be shown when all tables have completed it. For the second half of each KO match, kibitzing will start one hour after play starts. We will try to have voice commentary, and may limit chat at the tables late in the event to approved commentators.
- RealBridge will archive bidding, play & score information for the event. We will also post scores on this website.
- We will take a vote of all teams entered in the event to determine whether to continue to have "open notes."

How to Enter

- Entries are now open. Entries will close on the earlier of January 15th or when 32 teams (and 2 alternates) have entered. You must be logged in to this website to enter. After you have logged in, click on "Enter 2021 JFall2" under the User Menu and complete the entry form.
- Your entry is not complete until you have 4 players. You cannot "save" a place in the event by entering a team with fewer than 4 players.
- Teams can freely change their rosters until January 29th, when the division of teams into Round Robin groups will start. After January 29th, a team may change its roster only because of unexpected occurrences and only if the change does not substantially strengthen or weaken the team. Roster changes are made by **email to the Tournament Organizer**. If an added player or pair is not able to meet the deadlines for system filing, they may not play any unusual method unless it is played by another pair in the event.

Some Suggestions For Your Nearby Dining Pleasure (Home?) Pandemic Pleasures...

Christmas Ideas...



Spiral Ham with Cranberry Glaze

Ingredients

- 1 bone-in fully cooked spiral-sliced ham (8 pounds)
- 1 can (14 ounces) whole-berry cranberry sauce
- 1 package (12 ounces) fresh or frozen cranberries
- 1 jar (12 ounces) red currant jelly
- 1 cup light corn syrup
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger

Directions

- Place ham on a rack in a shallow roasting pan. Cover and bake at 325° for 2-1/2 hours.
- Meanwhile, for glaze, combine the remaining ingredients in a saucepan. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, until cranberries pop, stirring occasionally. Remove from the heat; set aside.
- Uncover ham; bake until a thermometer reads 140°, about 30 minutes longer, basting twice with 1-1/2 cups glaze. Serve remaining glaze with ham.
-

Nutrition Facts

6 ounces ham: 439 calories, 5g fat (2g saturated fat), 50mg cholesterol, 2072mg sodium, 59g carbohydrate (32g sugars, 1g fiber), 41g protein.

Triple Cheese Broccoli Puff

Ingredients

- 1 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 3 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 6 large eggs
- 1 cup 2% milk
- 3/4 cup biscuit/baking mix
- 3 cups frozen chopped broccoli, thawed
- 2 cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 1 cup 4% cottage cheese
- 1/4 teaspoon salt



Directions

- In a small skillet, saute mushrooms in butter until tender; set aside. In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese, eggs, milk and biscuit mix just until combined. Stir in the broccoli, cheeses, salt and mushrooms.
- Pour into a greased 2-1/2-qt. baking dish. Bake, uncovered, at 350° until a thermometer reads 160°, 50-60 minutes. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving.
-

Nutrition Facts

1 slice: 315 calories, 21g fat (12g saturated fat), 210mg cholesterol, 578mg sodium, 13g carbohydrate (4g sugars, 1g fiber), 19g protein.

Crisp Caraway Twists

Ingredients

- 1 large egg
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1 teaspoon country-style Dijon mustard
- 3/4 cup shredded Swiss cheese
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 2 teaspoons minced fresh parsley
- 1-1/2 teaspoons caraway seeds
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed



Directions

- In a small bowl, beat egg, water and mustard; set aside. In another bowl, combine the cheese, onion, parsley, caraway seeds and garlic salt.
- Unfold pastry sheet; brush with egg mixture. Sprinkle cheese mixture lengthwise over half of the pastry. Fold pastry over filling; press edges to seal. Brush top with remaining egg mixture. Cut widthwise into 1/2-in. strips; twist each strip several times.
- Place 1 in. apart on greased [baking sheets](#), pressing ends down. Bake at 375° for 15-20 minutes or until golden brown. Serve warm.
-

Nutrition Facts

1 twist: 90 calories, 5g fat (2g saturated fat), 15mg cholesterol, 91mg sodium, 8g carbohydrate (0 sugars, 1g fiber), 3g protein.

Parmesan Bacon Bubble Bread... serve with pesto, marinara or alfredo dipping sauce!

Ingredients

- 1 loaf frozen bread dough, thawed (16 ounces)
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 3/4 cup shredded Parmesan cheese
- 6 bacon strips, cooked and finely crumbled, divided
- 1/3 cup finely chopped green onions, divided
- 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons salt-free herb seasoning blend
- 1-1/2 teaspoons sugar
- Optional: Alfredo sauce or marinara sauce

Directions

- Turn dough onto a lightly floured surface; divide and shape into 16 rolls. Place butter in a shallow bowl. In a large bowl, combine the shredded Parmesan, half the bacon, half the green onions, grated Parmesan, seasoning blend and sugar. Dip dough pieces in melted butter, then toss with cheese mixture to coat. Stack pieces in a greased 9-in. cast-iron skillet.
- Cover with a kitchen towel; let rise in a warm place until almost doubled, about 45 minutes. Preheat oven to 350°. Bake until golden brown, 20-25 minutes. Top with remaining bacon and green onions. Serve warm and, if desired, with Alfredo or marinara sauce.

Nutrition Facts

1 piece: 140 calories, 6g fat (3g saturated fat), 14mg cholesterol, 311mg sodium, 14g carbohydrate (2g sugars, 1g fiber), 6g protein.

Board 15 Dealer S NS Vul		♠ 543 ♥ 872 ♦ 2 ♣ AK10982	♠ KQ972 ♥ AQ9 ♦ K7 ♣ J75
♠ AJ10 ♥ 653 ♦ AQ863 ♣ 43	♠ 86 ♥ KJ104 ♦ J10954 ♣ Q6		

NS	EW	Contract	Lead	Score
Ken Kranyak & Phil Becker	Jon Greenspan & Glenn Eisenstein	4♠-2 E	♦ J	100
Dennis Clerkin & Jerry Clerkin	Mark Lair & Mike Passell	3NT-2 W	♣ 9	100
Les Bart & Gloria Bart	Jeff Wolfson & Steve Garner	4♠-1 E	♦ J	50
Michael Rosenberg & Zia Mahmood	Gary Donner & Joe Viola	4♠-1 E	♦ J	50
Lance Kerr & Tom Reynolds	Peter Weichsel & Bob Hamman	4♠-1 E	♦ J	50
Drew Casen & John Onstott	Glenn Milgrim & Barry Rigal	3NT= E	♦ J	400
Mike Becker & Howie Weinstein	Fred Stewart & Steve Beatty	4♠= E	♥ J	420
Leo Bell & Cris Barrere	Ron Smith & Billy Cohen	4♠= E	♣ Q	420
Marc Jacobus & Linda Lewis	Bill Harker & Bob Etter	4♠+1 E	♣ Q	450
Greg Woods & John Rengstorff	Dave Caprera & Anne Brenner	4♠+1 E	♣ Q	450
Steve Zolotow & Andy Goodman	Bart Bramley & Kit Woolsey	4♠+1 E	♣ Q	450
Kerri Sanborn & Jill Meyers	Neil Chambers & John Schermer	4♠+1 E	♣ Q	450
Jeff Meckstroth & Eric Rodwell	Billy Miller & Bruce Ferguson	4♠+1 E	♣ Q	450
Allan Falk & John Lusky	Jim Krekorian & Venkatrao Koneru	4♠+1 E	♣ Q	450

Board 15 provided an assortment of results. The spade game either made four or five or was defeated one or two tricks while the no-trump game, played only twice, once made and once failed by two.

Clearly, no-trump depended on the opening lead. Where Mike Passell declared 3NT from West, Denny Clerkin led the C9 and the defense collected a quick six tricks. Where Glenn Milgrim declared 3NT from East, John Onstott led the DJ and the offense took five spades, one heart and three diamonds before conceding.

In 4S, seven players led the CQ after their partner showed either natural clubs or the desire for a club lead. This lead turns out to be the best lead possible for the offense... who woulda thought? Whether North overtakes the club or lets the queen hold, the defense is helpless.

South can switch to the DJ but it is too late to score a ruff for partner since the CQ was the only entry to South's hand to give his partner the ruff.

If the defense starts with three rounds of clubs, declarer will take 11 tricks by squeezing South in the red suits.

When, however, the defense started with the DJ, 4S failed. Where Gloria Bart was South against Jeff Wolfson, she led the DJ. Wolfson won and played a diamond back. Les Bart ruffed, cashed the CK, led a heart through Wolfson's hand to Gloria's king, and Gloria cashed her CQ for down one.

The screen you see above is one of the great things on RealBridge. You get several comparisons all at once. You see the contract, the players (by their real names) and the opening lead at each table ... credit to RealBridge for a new and different way to keep things interesting.

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

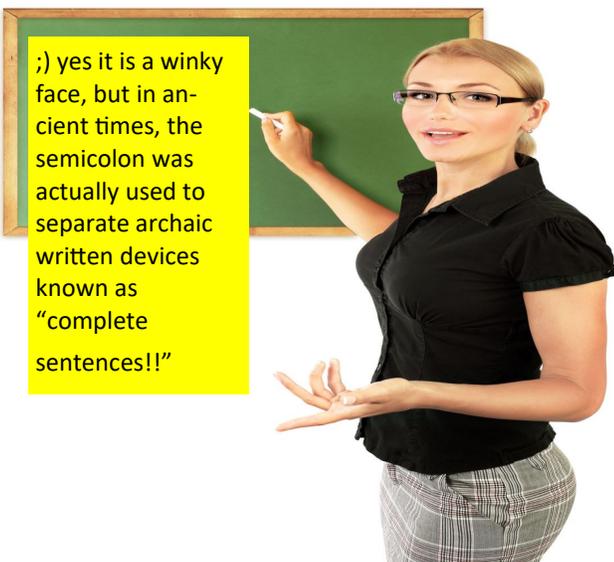
Sudoku 1

Sudoku

Sudoku 2

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

Answers to Puzzle on Page 11



B L U E M O O N C R A Z Y M B S S
H P P M V J I H U O Z Y Y G P X R
E E D E G T A J T C S G U I C L E
R H Y M O I T Y B C I A T F M A X
A A B J N P W Q T R E R P E N S O
L I L G U H L I L I E P V L P T B
O R A F O D S E L G C O S O E K E
V N K P D V E S N D S F T E T I H
G S T U O E P I W D T S R D R S T
Q H Z E I O F N R B S H F U Y S Y
S E Q T O V Y O I U H G I K S P Z
Q R W K N O W G B O T G L N X Y Z
U R Y N O T S E V L A G M A G F I
K Y M T H E S E E Y E S K S X S D

BLUE MOON
BUS STOP
CHAIN GANG
CRAZY
DIZZY
EL PASO
FINGERTIPS
GALVESTON

HAIR
HEY JUDE
LAST KISS
MY GIRL
PEOPLE
RESPECT
SHERRY
SPOOKY

SURF CITY
THE BOXER
THESE EYES
VOLARE
WILD THING
WIPEOUT
WORDS

60's Songs Wordfind

Logic Puzzle ...

	Armstrong	Chambers	Flowers	Frost	Smothers	Cinderella	Pinochio	Prince & the Pauper	Puss in Boots	Sleeping Beauty	Calvin and Hobbes	Dilbert	Family Circus	Garfield	Peanuts	Captain Blood	Han Solo	Robin Hood	Tarzan	Zorro	
Alice																					
Betty																					
Fran																					
Jane																					
Sally																					
Captain Blood																					
Han Solo																					
Robin Hood																					
Tarzan																					
Zorro																					
Calvin and Hobbes																					
Dilbert																					
Family Circus																					
Garfield																					
Peanuts																					
Cinderella																					
Pinochio																					
Prince & the Pauper																					
Puss in Boots																					
Sleeping Beauty																					

Alice and four of her friends were talking one night and discovered that each of them had a favorite fairy tale. As the conversation progressed, they also determined that everyone had a favorite comic strip and movie character. Surprisingly, everybody's was different. Determine each person's full name, favorite fairy tale, comic strip, and movie character.

1. Sally didn't like Robin Hood and Alice didn't like Garfield. Ms. Chambers liked Family Circus, but didn't like Zorro.

2. The girl who loved Zorro also liked Puss in Boots. Alice admitted that Pinochio was her favorite and Betty stated that she wasn't fond of Cinderella.

3. The one who loved Puss in Boots wasn't Fran Armstrong or Jane. Jane's favorite wasn't Cinderella. The one who loved Calvin and Hobbes also liked Tarzan.

4. Each of the five girls are represented by the following: Alice Frost, Sleeping Beauty, Han Solo, the Peanuts, and Sally.

5. Jane didn't like the Prince and the Pauper or Han Solo. Ms. Flowers loved Captain Blood but neither she nor Fran liked Calvin and Hobbes.

6. Ms. Smothers loved Garfield. The one who loved Robin Hood didn't like Cinderella but the one who liked Cinderella liked Dilbert.

First name	Last name	Fairy Tale	Comic Strip	Fictional Hero
Alice	Armstrong	Cinderella	Calvin and Hobbes	Captain Blood
Betty	Chambers	Pinochio	Dilbert	Han Solo
Fran	Flowers	Prince & the Pauper	Family Circus	Robin Hood
Jane	Frost	Puss in Boots	Garfield	Tarzan
Sally	Smothers	Sleeping Beauty	Peanuts	Zorro

Answer to Puzzle

Zorro	Garfield	Puss in Boots	Smothers	Sally
Robin Hood	Family Circus	Sleeping Beauty	Chambers	Jane
Han Solo	Dilbert	Cinderella	Armstrong	Fran
Captain Blood	Peanuts	Prince & the Pauper	Flowers	Betty
Tarzan	Calvin and Hobbes	Pinochio	Frost	Alice
Fictional Hero	Comic Strip	Fairy Tale	Last name	First name

Meet the Players

Biography Online from 2005



As a player, with over 25,000 masterpoints, **Jerry Helms**, has appeared 31 consecutive times on the ACBL Top 500 list, with over 300 Regional wins.

When the ACBL established its Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP) in 1987, Jerry was asked to participate as a trainer. During his tenure, he certified over 2,000 bridge teachers. Since 1994, he has served annually as an expert panelist for the ABTA. He is a member of the National Speakers Program, and he provides lectures during the Spring, Summer, and Fall National Bridge Tournaments.

In addition to professional play, much of Jerry's time is spent performing seminars across North America. Jerry is a featured columnist for both Better Bridge Magazine, and the ACBL Bulletin. His byline for both magazines is "Ask Jerry" He is the author of Helms to HELLO, which is now in its third printing, along with The Best of Ask Jerry, released in 2017. His publication, Over My Shoulder, is another good read.

Helms, a Platinum Life Master of Charlotte NC, is a full-time player and teacher. He was second in the Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs in 1995 and has numerous other high finishes in NABC events. He is a frequent guest expert lecturer at NABCs. He is the co-inventor of the HELLO convention that is used over the opponents opening 1NT bid.

Jill J. Meyers (born February 13, 1950) is an American bridge player from Santa Monica, California. Sometime prior to the 2014 European and World Meets (summer and October), she ranked 7th among 73 Women World Grand Masters by world masterpoints (MP) and 1st by placing points that do not decay over time.

Meyers was born in New York City and earned a B.A. from Tulane University. She and her sister Nina moved to Los Angeles in 1972 and started to play duplicate bridge there, where Ed Davis was her first teacher (they still have a partnership). From 1979 she studied law at University of West Los Angeles and she passed the California bar in 1983, after which she played bridge more seriously. She is married to Sid Brownstein and is a self-employed "Music Consultant for Motion Picture, TV and Advertising industries". Before 1988 she worked in music departments within the film industry.

Meyers was inducted into the ACBL Hall of Fame in 2014.



Puzzle Answers:

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

Sudoku

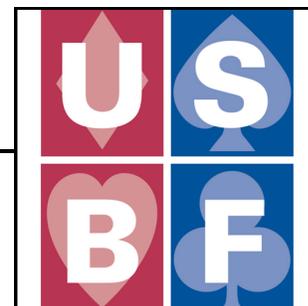
on page 7

Puzzle 1 on left

Puzzle 2 on right

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

USBF Supporting Membership



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

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

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

We hope you will join us.

Bd 5, Dlr N 4♥ = N		♠ AKQ ♥ 107653 ♦ J6 ♣ A97	N Barry Rigal
W Ken Kranyak ♠ J9643 ♥ J ♦ 942 ♣ Q1053		Phil Becker E ♠ 105 ♥ Q98 ♦ AKQ853 ♣ 62	
0 0	♠ 872 ♥ AK42 ♦ 107 ♣ KJ84	W N E S 1♠* 1♦ X* 2♦ 2♥* 3♦ X* P 4♥ P P	
Glenn Milgrim S			

Barry Rigal found an excellent play on Board 5 to bring home the heart game.

Rigal opened 1C (which could be a doubleton) rather than opening 1H on his anemic 5-card major. Becker overcalled 1D. Glen Milgrim doubled showing hearts. Rigal's 2H bid showed 4+ hearts. Milgrim's double of 3D was a game try and Barry had a clear acceptance.

Becker cashed the DA and king and shifted to the H9. If hearts are divided 2-2, the hand is over. If hearts are not 2-2, it's reasonable to expect that West might hold the QJx since East was known to hold length in diamonds. If this is true, West will be automatically end-played.

Not so fast! Barry cashed the HA and Kenny Kranyak discarded a diamond from West!!

Rigal led a spade to the queen and cashed the SA. Playing upside down count, Kranyak played the S6 followed by the S3 while Becker played the S5 followed by the ten.

Rigal is a trusting soul. He believed his opponents. He concluded that East held 2-3-6-2 distribution. As such, he cashed the CAK and played a spade, on which Becker discarded a diamond. Rigal exited with a heart and Becker was forced to yield a ruff/sluff. Well played, Barry!

At the other table, the play to the first six tricks was identical, but Rigal's counterpart, Bob Cappelli, relied on the end-play scenario and cashed a third spade. Jeff Aker, sitting East, refused to trump the third spade. Had he ruffed, he could have exited with a club and defeated 4H easily. If Cappelli had drawn the same inference as Rigal, he could cash two clubs and exit with a heart and succeed as Rigal did. Instead, however, Cappelli exited with a heart. Aker won and played a club through to defeat the contract. 12 IMPs to Simson



A photo from the ACBL Board of Governor's Town Hall meeting on Saturday afternoon. BOG Chairman, Doug Couchman (second from left on top) is emphasizing communication and this meeting reflected his strong commitment to keeping membership active and involved.

		N Jeff Meckstroth												
W Bruce Ferguson		E Billy Miller												
♠ 1093 ♥ 94 ♦ J10987 ♣ AJ2	♠ QJ62 ♥ Q10765 ♦ K53 ♣ K	♠ 754 ♥ AKJ3 ♦ A642 ♣ 73												
	♠ AK8 ♥ 82 ♦ Q ♣ Q1098654	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S			1♦	2♣	3NT	P	P	P
W	N	E	S											
		1♦	2♣											
3NT	P	P	P											
Eric Rodwell S														

Board 14 was played in a part-score, usually clubs by N/S, at thirteen of the fourteen tables. There were a few who played it elsewhere. The resulting scores ranged from +130 to -150 depending on the suit and level of play.

Bruce Ferguson and Billy Miller were a little more aggressive than most. Ferguson, despite his lack of high card points, jumped to 3NT based on a diamond fit and a double club stopper.

Jeff Meckstroth led the CK. Rodwell followed with the encouraging C4. Ferguson won and played a diamond to the ace. A second diamond was played and ducked by Meckstroth. Rodwell discarded the CT. On the third diamond, Eric discarded the C5. Jeff won the DA and shifted to the S2. Rodwell created a “wish trick” by winning the SA rather than the SK. Eric cashed the CQ.

Rodwell realized the defense would need two more spade tricks to defeat 3NT. If Meckstroth held the SJ and declarer held the QT of spades, the best hope was to make declarer guess wrong. Rodwell led the S8, Ferguson covered with the ST and Meckstroth won with the tricky SQ. Jeff could not continue spades, since he would be leading into declarer’s hypothetical K9 tenace.

He exited with a heart. Ferguson won the HA, cashed two diamonds and the CJ. Meckstroth discarded three hearts and declarer took the last two tricks with the H:KJ, scoring nine tricks for +400. Obviously this hand could have been defeated two tricks with less tricky defense. (The wonder of false cards...)

		N Dennis Clerkin																
W Mike Passell		E Mark Lair																
♠ 1093 ♥ 94 ♦ J10987 ♣ AJ2	♠ QJ62 ♥ Q10765 ♦ K53 ♣ K	♠ 754 ♥ AKJ3 ♦ A642 ♣ 73																
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2♦	X	P	3♣															
P	P	P																
Jerry Clerkin S																		

At the other table, the contract was different, played North/South, defended by Meckwell’s teammates.

Jerry Clerkin was declarer in the seemingly normal 3C contract. It’s easy to see that declarer has five top losers... when looking at all four hands: two trumps, two hearts and a diamond. But again, this is a case of disappearing losers.

Mike Passell led the DJ, which was ducked to declarer’s queen. Clerkin led a club to Passell’s ace. Mike didn’t have an easy way to diagnose his partner’s major suit holdings, so he continued with the DT which was ducked around and ruffed by declarer. Jerry Clerkin cashed the CQ and ran four rounds of spades discarding a heart. The defense scored a club and a heart. Declarer took ten tricks for +130 and 11 IMPs to the Nadel team.

Three other pairs also made ten tricks in clubs. One pair made exactly nine tricks when the opponents started with a heart to the jack, followed by the HA and a low heart. Declarer discarded a diamond on the third heart and East ruffed with a natural trump trick. Several pairs held clubs to eight tricks by winning the DA at trick one.

 Bd 29, Dlr N 6♦ = W	♠ K1064 ♥ J8632 ♦ Q9 ♣ 106	N Mike Becker E Jerry Helms																														
W Ed Schulte ♠ A875 ♥ Q ♦ K1063 ♣ AK52	♠ 9 ♥ AK10 ♦ J87542 ♣ 873																															
  < >	♠ QJ32 ♥ 9754 ♦ A ♣ QJ94	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td>3♠</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♣</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td>4♥</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♠</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td>6♦</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>P</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		W	N	E	S		P	P	P	P	1♦	P		3♠	P	4♣	P		4♥	P	4♠	P		6♦	P	P	P			P
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1♦	P		3♠	P																												
4♣	P		4♥	P																												
4♠	P		6♦	P																												
P	P			P																												
Howie Weinstein S																																

 Bd 29, Dlr N 5♦ +1 E	♠ K1064 ♥ J8632 ♦ Q9 ♣ 106	N Bob Cappelli E David Berkowitz																									
W Larry Cohen ♠ A875 ♥ Q ♦ K1063 ♣ AK52	♠ 9 ♥ AK10 ♦ J87542 ♣ 873																										
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Bob Bitterman S																											

Helms and Schulte had a good auction to arrive in the diamond slam on Board 29. Of course, their opponents did not make it as hard on them as their teammates did at the other table. At Helms/Schulte's table, South did not open his ten HCP including a singleton ace of diamonds. Schulte was able to open 1D. Helms splintered spades; Shulte cued clubs; Helms cued hearts; Schulte cued spades and Helms placed the contract in slam. The lie of the cards makes it easy to take 12 tricks. You can't misguess the diamonds with the ace singleton in front of the king.

At the other table, Bitterman opened 1C on the South hand. Cohen, short in hearts with good clubs, had no convenient bid. He passed. Capelli responded 1H and after two passes, Cohen reopened with double. Capelli bid 2H; Berkowitz bid 3D; Bitterman bid 3H; and with the deck sounding like it had at least 60 HCP, Cohen signed off in the diamond game. 13 IMPs to Capelli

For the invite:

<https://usbf.org/docs/foreigntournaments/Transatlantic%20INV%20AMERICA+AFRICA.pdf>

Draft CoC:

<https://usbf.org/docs/2020tasr/Main%20event%20information/conditions%20of%20contest%202021%20dec%20204.pdf>

It appears there are no play requirements, and you can add players to your team any time before or during the event, as long as they are eligible (USBF members born before 1960). The organizers said there were 35 teams entered at the deadline, but they're still letting teams enter (and will have an additional Polish team if they have an odd number of teams). With more than 32 teams, they'll qualify 16 for the KO phase.

The USBF has paid your entry fee, because the organizers wanted it before the Trials. Please either send a check for \$300 made out to USBF to Stan Subeck, 106 Penn Court, Glenview IL 60026, or make a "donation" on the USBF website by clicking on the red circle at the top right of the page that says "Donate to USBF Now" and then on this donation button:



Make a gift of \$300 and put Transatlantic entry fee into the explanation line or whatever they offer.

I will send the organizers your names, email addresses, and player names later today.

Good luck

Information For The Qualifiers From Jan