



# SOUTH BEND BRIDGE CLUB

Volume 11, No. 8

Website: [www.sbbc.info](http://www.sbbc.info)

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## Director Dawg wishes you a Happy Valentine's Day!

**WOW!** What a wonderful response to our request "Say Hi" from all of you. This issue is an unprecedented four pages. I want to thank all you who have kept in touch with us at the newsletter "office". I have heard from many members who say it so good to know their friends, partners & opponents are around and doing well. We hope you are all able to get your vaccinations.



*Jo Ann, Editor*

## Paul Silberman

June 6, 1946 - December 21, 2020



We recently received news that our former club president, Paul Silberman, passed away in St. Louis, Missouri. Paul left our community after suffering a stroke to live near his family. He was the SBBC president for three years and introduced many great innovations that made the club more open to new ideas and to

increasing the membership. He had a great love of the game and brought that feeling to our members. We miss his tooling into the Bridge Center parking lot in his white Toyota convertible. He was very young at heart!

Below is the start of the responses we received from many of our members. I know it seems like a long newsletter but we've never had this kind of response before. It really is so good to know that our bridge friends are coping, scheduling their Covid shots, finding ways to keep busy and still playing bridge. Joan Tobler, our president, Marty Martin, our club manager, members of the Board and the Game Directors all wish you a safe and healthy year. "See" you at the games!

## Saying "Hi" to all of us!

**Ivye Benson** - Greetings from sunny Florida. I've been playing a lot of online bridge- practically every day. Also, take walks on the beach which is right outside our door.

My special friend bought me a piano for Christmas so I've been enjoying that. I play classical, pop, & contemporary Christian music. Looking forward to the day when we will all be together again at the bridge table! Happy New Year!!

## Saying "Hi" to all of us! (cont'd)

**Margaret Lewis** - Hello my South Bend Bridge Club friends. I really miss seeing everyone at Miracle Lane. I appreciate BBO and Bud providing a way for me to keep playing bridge and help support the club during this unprecedented time. I spend a lot of time reading, thanks to Libby. I'm counting the days until spring and looking forward to a June trip to Savannah.

**Ted Mullett** - I have been going through some pain issues in my back and elsewhere. I am not sure yet what is causing them, but trying to get to the bottom of the problem. It's exasperating at best and the pain medicine I'm on causes drowsiness, so the more pain the more pills and the more pills the more drowsiness. Dulls the brain and other senses and also sets off dizziness and lack of balance. I am beginning to figure out how to use the pills but am still in the beginner group! I should be able to be more regular in my bridge now but we'll see. Thanks, Jo Ann, for reaching out and spread the word that I am OK, just my usual dizzy self.

**Nancy Alig** - Hi to everyone from the Aligs! We hope everyone is staying safe and well. We are super excited as we just got our first shots last week. There are advantages to being old, aren't there. Anyway, since Marty and I are both introverts, we haven't struggled as much as some, but we certainly do look forward to seeing our family and each of you before too long.

We've been busy right now doing tax prep for our business. Will Marty ever consider retiring - apparently not! I've also become an avid "Zoomer" as I host or lead several church groups and gatherings of friends. It's not the same as in-person, but we're very grateful for Zoom.

I enjoy watching Marty and Bill Searcy play BBO, although I often wonder, "What are they thinking?!!!" Actually, I'm the one who will probably remember nothing about the game when we finally head back to the Bridge Club. None of you will mind giving me zeroes, I'm sure!! Stay warm and safe and well.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Leslie Garvey
- 7 Bill Flanagan
- 12 Bob Knoblock
- 13 Donna Tieman
- 14 Maureen Skurski, Gerry Wardzinski
- 15 Carol Kraabel, Sally Frame
- 16 Pam Johnson, Bruno Zovich
- 18 Marian David
- 22 Sara Marcus
- 28 Bonnita Laub, Vicki McIntire



## Top Games in January

### Open Games

399ers:	1/04	Pam Johnson & Vicki McIntire	72.50%
	1/20	Miki Grant & Gerry Wardzinski	67.50%
199ers	1/08	Candace Hurwich & Mary Martin	65.08%
	1/15	Pam Johnson & Mary Newbold	64.81%
749ers	1/21	Kathy Peterson & Roger Wardzinski	64.77%
	1/29	Kathy Peterson & Roger Wardzinski	63.69%
Open	1/04	John & Tricia Killeen	67.46%
	1/01	Marty Alig & Bill Searcy	66.67%

## MOVING ON UP

Linda Urschel      Sectional Master  
 Mary Newbold      Club Master



### Membership Update

Lucinda Farwell e-mail - [farwell.lk@protonmail.com](mailto:farwell.lk@protonmail.com)

## Saying "Hi" to all of us! (cont'd)

**Cappy Gagnon** - Got my first Covid shot. Been watching a lot of Film Noir. Also, I have binge watched a lot of home rehab shows on HGTV. The two I have watched the most are "Home Town" and "Love It or List It". In the former, a nice young couple fix up homes, with an eye towards their history, in the small town of Laurel, Mississippi and sell them, mostly to new home buyers. In the latter, a lady designer creates needed upgrades on a nice house while a male realtor looks for replacement houses. At the end of the show, the homeowners decide to remain in their upgraded home (Love It), or use the enhanced value of their home to sell (List it) and buy one of the other homes they've been shown.

**Susan Farrington** - Hi! I am taking lessons on 2/1 from Rich Mao who is so very patient! Playing BBO at night in the casual rooms. I have also been playing a lot of socially distanced tennis and Pickleball. Going to Florida for a few weeks soon.

## Saying "Hi" to all of us! (cont'd)

**Gail Wells** - Hi to all my friends at the South Bend Bridge Club. I miss playing with you but I'll give you a little hint...you might see me this coming Wednesday. (Oh that's right--we cannot see each other.) When not playing bridge or taking care of my sick husband I am in charge of a food pantry at my church so this takes up a lot of time. .... What do I do for fun? I haven't even had time to read a book and I am envious of all of you who have listed the books you have enjoyed since last March. I usually go to Florida for a week or two but not this year. I think it is best (and so does my son) that I stay at home more and keep away from people. I play on Bridge Base Online almost every day and sometimes OKBridge. You would think I would be sharp...not really. I need to be playing with my friends in South Bend to enjoy the game. Take care all of you and maybe this summer we can start playing together in reality. Have fun!

**Miki Grant** - Do want to say "hello" and miss seeing all SBBC members. Luckily, was able to get first vaccine and second due in 3 weeks. Need very little space to tell anyone what I've been doing - Nada. Luckily, playing bridge is a great diversion and enables all of us us to keep in touch. Hopefully, we'll all see each other soon. We're getting close to one year anniversary of shut down. Thank you to Bud, Richard, Bill, Trish, Marty M., Joan T. and Jo Ann for keeping our club together. We all commend you and any others I've forgotten. You're our heroes.

**Bill Blum** - Dear Fellow Members of the SBBC, I have missed seeing you and playing bridge. So many things have been interrupted. Also, on my side I have only baked one rum cake in the last year. I send all of you my best wishes. Let me speak about my ministry as a Holy Cross Catholic priest chaplain.

Holy Cross is a community of priests and brothers. Before joining the priests the brothers were known as the Brothers of St. Joseph. Last year was the 200th anniversary of the founding of the brothers. For many years now, (since I came back from Africa) I have been the chaplain to the Brothers living in Columba Hall on the campus.

This last week of January has been particularly difficult; we have buried three brothers (one cancer, another injured in a fall and one Covid victim). I look forward to the day when we can again meet face to face.

My room faces St. Mary's Lake looking south so I get sun when it's shining and get to see so many people out for walks--many of them taking their dogs for a walk.

I have had my first vaccination shot a couple of weeks ago. It went fine and I encourage anyone, who is hesitating, to go for the vaccinations. I hope not only to be immunized myself but also to avoid being a danger to others.

## **Saying "Hi" to all of us! (cont'd)**

**Hugh Metzger** - I will do even better. I will say both Hi & Lo. *(you just couldn't resist, could you, Hugh? I hear the moans in the hinterlands now! - editor)*

During the last few months, I have been busy playing Bridge Base On Line and luckily have been getting my share of points. Normally I leave home only to buy groceries or for medical or family reasons.

The big item in my life is the birth of my second great grandchild, Augustus Leon Nierste last Halloween. Gus does have a two-year-old sister, Amelia, who adores him.

The name Leon was my Father's name, Dad was a perfect gentleman if there is such a thing. He never swore, rarely if ever said something bad about somebody. and normally always wore a suit and tie. It will be a tough legacy for Gus to live up to but I am confident that my granddaughter and her husband are up to the task. They are the right kind of people.

I am sorry I rambled on but I am very thankful to our Heavenly Father for letting me live into my nineties in relatively good health and knowing six generations of my family, from my maternal Grandfather, Julius Israel, born in Germany in 1865 to Gus who was born in Warsaw, IN. 2020.

I hope this pandemic ends soon so we can lead normal lives again which of course means playing at the bridge club again.

**Lucinda Farwell** - Hi Jo Ann. And Hi to all of my fellow members at SBBC. I'm still playing Casual games on BBO. Trying to learn all of the bidding conventions. But it is hard without having an experienced bridge player help me learn! So I keep saying some day..... I am keeping the faith!

**Jimmy Cordas** - Sends a Hi to all his bridge friends and partners.

**Fred Stump** - Hope this email finds you healthy and filled with your usual vigor, Jo Ann. .I am doing well. I spent a lot of time on my bicycle from April until early November and hit biking trails far and wide. At my age, I no longer ride on highways or heavily traveled roads.

I am currently working full time as the interim principal at Queen of Peace School in Mishawaka and will continue through the end of the school year. I'm thoroughly enjoying the return to working with students, parents, and staff. Hope this email finds you healthy and filled with your usual vigor.

## **Saying "Hi" to all of us! (cont'd)**

**Pat Laing** - "HI", as requested. Have read with great interest the newsletters this past almost-year and think JoAnn deserves a medal for creating fun reading out of almost no activity! Miss bridge but mostly miss seeing, hearing, interacting with everyone in person. Soon, maybe?

**Tami McNally** - My sister Jessi only comes to visit me when she is sure there is a 399er game at the SBBC. She is from a small town in Iowa and loves to play bridge but no one there is interested in duplicate. Luckily she had played 3-4 times at the SBBC when the pandemic hit as that made her eligible to play with our club. The last time she visited before the pandemic was November of 2019 and she was so excited as she would get to play at the SBBC and all she needed was .15 MP to be at 1 whole point!! With the pandemic she can play bridge as much as she wants. She now has close to 40 points. We play as much as we can with the club but she also plays with robots. We are both looking forward to the Club reopening so we can play with our friends face to face. We want to thank Bud, Bill and Rich for being directors and all those who are keeping the club going. Be safe!

**Barb Fedder** - Hi everyone. Like many of us we miss the bridge center, but mostly the members. I am well, enjoying grandchildren, still baking (would love to share) and playing bridge on BBO. How are you??? good work Jo Ann ... Thanks Barb

**LaDora Sloan** - I'm spending the winter in Florida near my daughters. I'm keeping busy spending time with my family, playing in a golf league, walking the dog and playing some online bridge. Other than that, I'm keeping a low profile and trying to hide from the virus. I'm happy to report that I have received the first dose of the COVID vaccine and have an appointment for the second one in February. I am looking forward to returning to my home base and routine. I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. I'm optimistic that we will be able to see each other face to face soon. Miss you all!

**Karen Nagy** - Playing bridge 4 times a week. Going to movies and out to eat. Hope everyone is well. Getting my shot in Feb. Playing with grandkids as much as possible. Love to all.

**Marian David** - Can't tell you how much I miss seeing all my partners (as well as opponents). I'm looking forward to the club being opened! I've certainly read lots of books and have gotten tired of Gunsmoke reruns. Hope to see you all soon.

## **Saying "Hi" to all of us! (cont'd)**

**Elaine Delaney** - The year of 2020 ended on a happy note for me. I was able to spend the month of December traveling in FL with my son. As winter set in for us in the North it was a very interesting and liberating experience to travel and enjoy many cities and beaches. We visited the Tampa/Clearwater area, Naples, Key Largo, Key West, Miami and Fort Lauderdale. I now have a strong preference for the Atlantic coast and am planning another adventure for next winter.

Best Wishes to all of you for a healthy and happy 2021!

**Mary Hintz** - Hi All. I so miss all the fine people at the Bridge Center and hope we can get back someday soon. One of the enjoyments is that my husband has been learning to cook some wonderful dishes. I'm keeping busy with The Great Courses on TV. Currently, I have enjoyed 5 Lectures on Questions of Philosophy and the work of St. Augustine City of God. Right now I am reading the biography of Washington as well as Illuminations.

With the help of Trisha Killeen, Julie Nelson and I are learning how to play bridge online (my son bought me an I-pad). I hope to "see" many of you online.

**Don Groch** - I have a Feb 4th appointment for a shot. I thought with all the free time I have I would get things squared away so I could downsize my house. I've lived here 42 yrs and have too much stuff. But I didn't get much done. I didn't realize there is so much on TV.

I usually say "read my book" when opponents question my bids or play. However, I have some suggestions. One is "Hugh Hefner's Favorite Jokes and Puns at the Bridge Club that Everybody Likes. The book has blank pages. The other book would be about under ruffing. John Killeen has noticed that I did that several times. And several times he had to do that playing against me. So the under ruff is named after me. And the book is Strategic Defense - the Groch Underruff. Note: Don says the book is a joke and not to be taken seriously. (really?)

**Tricia Killeen** - Trish says hi to all! She and John have been enjoying back issues of "The New Yorker" complements of Gini Stipp. Her book reading includes Anne Patchett's The Dutch House and her TV watching includes "Bridgerton" and the Korean series of films on Netflix. Of course she's playing lots of bridge on BBO.

**Jo Ann Steigmeyer** - "Bridgerton" - what a terrific presentation on Netflix. Loved the story, the costumes, the characters, etc., etc Might want to change our Club name?

## **Saying "Hi" to all of us! (cont'd)**

**Richard Mao** - Starting in February, I am offering to play in the open game with anyone who wants to play with me and perhaps get some mentoring. (I am discontinuing playing with my regular partners in the SBBC game.) I am doing this to attract players to our SBBC open game and hopefully increase attendance. (Kind of a Pro-Am offer.) Just e-mail (richardmao@rocketmail.com) a couple of days in advance, we'll work out a straightforward convention card and play. Players who want to learn ins and outs of BBO. Players at any level who want to play with an experienced partner. And perhaps want to improve their game. (**Thank you, Rich - a very generous offer that we hope will be used by the bridge members - editor!**)

**Excitement!** My wife and I have our first vaccine shots scheduled.

For several months we have stopped having friends over so we can protect them and ourselves from COVID exposure. My living room couch has now been piled with all my books and magazines and only has room for me to sit and read and watch tv. My wife has taken over the other couch and has her quilting projects, Sudoku books, library books. We are doing well and I'm doing a lot more cooking than before, *Chinese dishes*.

**Becky Delahanty** - HI!! Really looking forward to seeing everyone again. I miss playing bridge with all of you very much.

**Ann Ulman** - Hi Jo Ann. I am in my last free week. Next week I go back to the office for my very last tax season. Sure will be different! On the other hand....each tax season is unique anyway. Hope you're all getting your vaccinations. I'm still too "young." Here's to returning to the desirable parts of our life as it was before in our "new normal." Maybe some of what we are learning in COVID will improve life afterwards. I'm growing fond of getting groceries and other stuff delivered. I do miss going out for dinner, though.

**Joan Aldrich** - Hi, of course, to one and all. I've started to breathe again (albeit shallowly) and am hoping that mass inoculations will get us back on top. Finally there's an advantage to getting old: you're 2nd in line for CoVID shots.

I've played in a few 799er games and like it. Forgot what it was like to not get beaten up regularly. Call me if you want to partner-up in one of those games.