



## NEWSLETTER

October, 2013

VOL.I, NO 3

### WHERE ARE OUR BRIDGE CLUBS?

#### **Alpharetta Duplicate Bridge Club**

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Back of Building Lower Level  
Alpharetta, GA 30005  
Larry Rich - 770-272-2429  
E-mail: [info@alpharettadbc.org](mailto:info@alpharettadbc.org)  
Website: [alpharettadbc.org](http://alpharettadbc.org)

#### **Atlanta Duplicate Bridge Center**

6761 Peachtree Industrial, Suite 200  
Atlanta, GA 30360  
Dan Papineau -770-248-0306  
E-mail: [atlantaduplicate@bellsouth.net](mailto:atlantaduplicate@bellsouth.net)  
Website: [atlantaduplicatebridgeclub.com](http://atlantaduplicatebridgeclub.com)

#### **Bridge Club of Atlanta**

4920 Roswell Road., Suite 33  
Atlanta, GA 30342  
Sam Marks-678-812-4324  
E-mail: [sam@sammarksbridge.com](mailto:sam@sammarksbridge.com)  
Website: [bridgeclubatlanta.com](http://bridgeclubatlanta.com)

#### **Buckhead Bridge Club**

Northwest Presbyterian Church  
4300 Northside Drive  
Atlanta, GA 30327  
Bill Marks-770-855-6952  
E-mail: [billmarks13@gmail.com](mailto:billmarks13@gmail.com)  
Website: [billsbridge.com](http://billsbridge.com)

#### **Dan's Duplicate Atlanta North**

1715 Millside Terrace  
Dacula, GA 30019  
Dan Osburn-678-827-1776  
E-mail: [danosburn@bridgeteachers.us](mailto:danosburn@bridgeteachers.us)  
Website:  
[www.facebook.com/dansduplicateatlantanorth](http://www.facebook.com/dansduplicateatlantanorth)

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

If there is anything the ACBL is good at, it's finding more ways to award masterpoints. Many special games such as the Instant Gold Point game held earlier this month include an expert narrative on each of the hands for that game. There are far too many different games for a short message so I'll cover just three of them today. Your club managers work hard to find ways to get you as many points as possible. If you have any questions about these or any other special games, they will be happy to explain them to you.



#### "Gold Dust"

Each October is Club Appreciation Month, when the ACBL allows each club to run Club Appreciation Games. In a pairs game, it pays roughly triple the number of masterpoints as a regular club game. In a team game, it pays extra points and 5% of the total award is gold. Hence the sprinkling is called "gold dust." (The maximum gold is .25; the ACBL does after all need to have some standards!) It would have been better to let you know earlier in the month, but you still have a few days left.

#### Grand National Teams

GNT is first cousin to the North American Pair competition discussed in the July Newsletter. For a full description see the article by George Powell elsewhere in this Newsletter.

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#### REQUEST

We still do not have e-mail addresses for all those who play at our clubs. If you know someone who is not getting the Newsletter, please send e-mail addresses to [maryann.oakley@mindspring.com](mailto:maryann.oakley@mindspring.com). Thanks!

**Duplicate Bridge Association of Atlanta**

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 Atlanta, GA 30360  
 George Powell-770-594-1874  
 E-mail: [gpowell622@aol.com](mailto:gpowell622@aol.com)  
 Website: [www.atlantabridge.org](http://www.atlantabridge.org)

**KSU Bridge Club**

KSU Center  
 KSU Bridge Club  
 3333 Busbee Drive  
 Kennesaw, GA 30144  
 Janice Ripley-770-726-9881  
 E-mail: [bridge4jr@gmail.com](mailto:bridge4jr@gmail.com)

**Marietta Country Club Players**

1400 Marietta Country Club Drive  
 Kennesaw, GA 30152  
 Priscilla Smith-770-973-7717  
 E-mail: [cook201@bellsouth.net](mailto:cook201@bellsouth.net)

**Midtown Bridge Club**

Ansley Golf Club  
 196 Montgomery Ferry Drive  
 Atlanta, GA 30309  
 Alvin Daigle Jr.-770-313-5124

**Play Bridge**

4920 Roswell Rd., Suite 33  
 Atlanta, GA 30342  
 Ina Parry-770-713-1445  
 E-mail: [playbridgeusa@gmail.com](mailto:playbridgeusa@gmail.com)  
 Website: [bridgewebs.com/playbridgeusa](http://bridgewebs.com/playbridgeusa)

**Roswell Duplicate Bridge Club**

St. David's Episcopal Church  
 1015 Old Roswell Rd.  
 Roswell, GA 30076  
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**Ruff 'n Sluff Bridge Club**

1809 Roswell Rd.  
 Marietta, GA 30062  
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 Website: [ruffnsluffbridgeclub.com](http://ruffnsluffbridgeclub.com)

**Silver Belles and Beaus**

5285 Lakeside Drive  
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 Bettie Harden-770-306-3461  
 E-mail: [travell33@gmail.com](mailto:travell33@gmail.com)

*President's Letter con't*

**Sectional Tournaments at Clubs**

The ACBL masterpoint formula generally dictates that clubs award black points, sectional tournaments grant silver points, and red and gold points are earned at regional and national events. There are a few exceptions, such as the Instant Match Point game held each fall and the "gold dust" games noted above. But by far the most significant hybrid is Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (ST@C). You play at your favorite club but the points are all silver. Your club play is a "section," as is every other participating club in the district. That means lots of sections and, just as in a regular sectional, you can score big points by doing well in the overalls. Look at what Atlantans racked up in last month's ST@C:

<u>Date</u>	<u>MP's</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Players/Club</u>	<u>%</u>
9/9	15.02	1	Carol Semonsky— Charles Semonsky Roswell DBC	75.52
9/9	11.27	2	David Zeckets—Stuart Goff Roswell DBC	70.31
9/9	17.14	1	Richard Taube—Jim Stogner Play Bridge	77.38
9/11	9.48	1/2	Barbara Tureen— Anne Gaillard Mellen Play Bridge	67.86
9/12	12.67	1	Andy Eastwood— Laurence Rivkin Atlanta DBC	74.70
9/13	15.97	1	Bridget Dobson—Margaret Whitaker Bridge Club of Atlanta	71.13
9/14	10.67	2	Lenora Fernandez— David Haydon Bridge Club of Atlanta	69.60

And that's just those who finished 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> in the open games!

Missed out in September? You get another chance December 9 - 15. Check your local club's calendar as every game might not be a ST@C.

*Martin J. Nathan*

## SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR

Each year Unit 114 selects one player as its Sportsperson of the Year. This award recognizes the outstanding qualities of goodwill that make the game enjoyable for partners and opponents alike. The Unit believes so much in the importance of goodwill that it gives the player free plays in its sectionals for a year. Second place gets free plays for one sectional of his/her choice. Here is the yardstick against which candidates are measured:

- ◆ Observes both the laws and ethics of the game
- ◆ Plays competitively and is always fair
- ◆ Is gracious in victory as well as in defeat
- ◆ Is pleasant as a partner or opponent
- ◆ Exhibits good manners at the bridge table and an awareness that pleasure is also a purpose for playing bridge
- ◆ Graciously abides by the ruling of the directors and does not give unsolicited bridge lessons during the game
- ◆ Avoids discussion of boards in the presence of new opponents
- ◆ Refrains from intemperate drinking and has regards about personal appearance
- ◆ Does not become angered or quarrelsome
- ◆ Has a genuine interest in the preservation and development of duplicate bridge and the maintenance of its good reputation.



This September in a very close vote, Mike Sheldon edged out Ina Parry for this year's award. As stated on the Unit's web site, Mike "is widely admired by his partners and his opponents as being ethical, kind, patient, courteous and very generous with his bridge knowledge. Less experienced players have expressed appreciation for the time he is willing to spend helping them improve their game by answering questions and especially for cheerfully and selflessly agreeing to play with them."

And here is what the nominator had to say about Ina Parry. "Over the past five years, few have done more to grow bridge in Unit 114 than Ina Parry.... [She] is a wonderful ambassador for our game. Her gregarious nature is contagious, whether she is directing or playing. It is only fitting that Unit 114 recognize the exceptional contribution Ina Parry has made to bridge in our area."



CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH OF THESE OUTSTANDING PLAYERS!

## ELECTIONS ARE COMING!

Elections for the five Atlanta positions on the Unit 114 Board will be held during the Roswell Spring Sectional. We will also have the usual voting at clubs. The deadline for nominating yourself or someone else is January 30, 2014. Nominations should be sent to Donna Parker (Election chair) at [donna@ken-parker.com](mailto:donna@ken-parker.com), or 770 254-4737, or Roz Howell (Secretary) at [secretary@unit114.org](mailto:secretary@unit114.org), or 404 831-4353 before the deadline date.

## DBAA Game Schedule

The DBAA game is held on Wednesday nights at 7PM at the Atlanta Duplicate Bridge Center.

Nov. 6	Club Appreciation (teams)
Nov. 13	NO GAME-Roswell Sectional
Nov. 20	ACBL Charity
Nov. 27	ACBL Membership Game
Dec. 4	Regular Game
Dec. 11	District 7 ST@C
Dec. 18	Atlanta Junior Bridge
Dec. 25	NO GAME
Jan. 1	Regular Game
Jan. 8	GNT Qualifier (teams)
Jan. 15	Grass Roots FUNd
Jan. 22	ACBL Charity
Jan. 29	Regular Game

## DBAA Opponent of the Month: Who's Bidding Against You?

By Janet Edwards

With the Winter Olympics only a few months away, many people look forward to some of their favorite sporting events. Among these is figure skating, bringing together grace and athleticism in breathtaking combinations. As we watch these events, we don't think about the panel of judges with the unenviable job of picking the best of the best. If you wonder what is going on in the judge's box ask Susan Johnson, this month's DBAA Opponent of the Month. Having spent most of her life as a figure skating judge, she can tell you all about it. You will often find her playing at the Atlanta Duplicate Bridge Center with her favorite partners, husband Ron, and friend Jean Eidson. Like rising in the ranks of the duplicate bridge world, becoming a World Judge took love of the sport, dedication, years of experience, focus and the ability to keep multiple things in mind at the same time. Susan has these traits in spades!

Susan's love of figure skating began in Minneapolis, where she grew up, and where she took her first skating lessons at the age of 12. At 18, the youngest possible age, she accepted an appointment as a Test Judge, trading in her spot on the ice at competitions for a place on the judge's panel. Over many years, she worked her way through the intricacies of judging competitive figure skating to achieve the highest rank of World Judge. As a Test Judge she mastered four levels of judging competency before becoming a Competition Judge, then a National Judge, and finally achieving the rank of International Judge. To achieve the ultimate rank, World Judge, Susan passed both written and trial judging segments at the World Exam competition in Oberstdorf, Germany in 1993. Each tier of expertise required ever increasing knowledge of the many levels of difficulty in figure skating's jumps, spins and figures.

Susan accomplished the daunting goal of becoming a World Judge while still maintaining her regular life. Being a figure skating judge is not a paid career; it is essentially volunteer work. The judge's out-of-pocket expenses are paid, but the time spent at competitions — one week for a National Championship and three weeks for an Olympic event — is not compensated. So, while staying involved in the sport she loved, including skating herself for fun, Susan stayed busy building a "real" life.

After graduating from the University of Minnesota, Susan earned a Ph.D in chemistry from Northwestern University, one of only four women in her class.

They came to Atlanta when Ron was hired by Emory University as a chemistry professor. Susan soon joined the faculty of Georgia Tech, one of the first women to be hired as an instructor and researcher in the Chemistry Department. After her two daughters were born, she was a stay-at-home mom, re-entering the work place in 1989 as the Editorial Assistant for the chemical



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# Bridge Lesson



## Suit Preference Signal

South Deals	♠ 9 8 7												
None Vul	♥ A Q J 5												
	♦ 7 3												
	♣ K Q 7 2												
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	N												
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♠ 5		♠ A J 6 4 3 2											
♥ 9 6 3		♥ 4 2											
♦ J 9 5 4 2		♦ A 8 6											
♣ 8 6 5 3		♣ J 10											
	♠ K Q 10												
	♥ K 10 8 7												
	♦ K Q 10												
	♣ A 9 4												

DEFENSE COMMENTARY: Partner's lead is an obvious singleton (given the bidding, what else could it be?) and you have the ace of partner's suit plus an outside ace! Happiness. Since your outside ace is in diamonds, the HIGHER ranking of the two remaining suits, win the ♠ A and return the ♠ J, an abnormally high card, requesting a return in the HIGHER ranking side suit.

### THE BOTTOM LINE

1. When giving partner a ruff, your return is a suit preference play for either the higher or the lower ranking of the two side suits.
2. When giving partner a ruff with no clear-cut preference for either side suit, ask partner to return the suit that is least likely to cost a trick.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 N
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	

Lead: ♠ 5

BIDDING COMMENTARY: Routine Stayman Auction

LEAD COMMENTARY: Stands out like a sore thumb

*Thanks to local bridge teacher Carole Budnick for contributing this hand.*



## Kudos

Congratulations to Nancy Watkins and Ina Parry who will soon be admitted to the Aileen Osofsky ACBL Goodwill Committee. This committee was created in 1955 to recognize those who demonstrate the qualities of outstanding goodwill towards their fellow players. From its web site, here are some of the qualities the Committee desires:

- ◆ Greet and Welcome Opponents
- ◆ Always Say, "Director, Please"
- ◆ Lead or Place Dummy before You Write
- ◆ Mentor a New Player
- ◆ Say, "Thank You, Partner"
- ◆ Compliment Opponent's Play
- ◆ Discuss Hands after the Game
- ◆ Accept Defeat and Victory with Grace
- ◆ Leave a Tidy Table
- ◆ Smile Often!

Nancy Watkins is one of the outstanding tournament directors from the metro area. She learned her trade directing in Atlanta clubs before joining the ACBL. While her tournament schedule limits her play, she does find some time to play in local clubs. Watch closely and you'll see her personify all the goodwill characteristics above.

For Ina Parry good things come in threes. First, this honor. Secondly, see the separate newsletter article about the Unit 114 Sportsperson of the Year (p.3). And lastly, Ina was recently rewarded with a certificate and a small honorarium for signing up her one hundredth new ACBL member.

Congratulations to both Nancy and Ina for a most deserving honor.

## ROSWELL SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT

by Dick Myers

The Roswell Sectional will be held Wednesday November 13, 2013 to Sunday November 17, 2013 at the Recreation Center in Roswell.

Parking at the Center is always tight on the lower level. We have asked the Center to designate additional handicapped spaces to accommodate our senior players with disabilities. In addition, Park Police will be monitoring the lot for compliance. If you are healthy (regardless of age) please park at the upper lot and walk down the stairs to the level where the Center is located. Those who need the designated spaces will appreciate you.



## JOKE TIME

Here's a story Jerry Helms told in his lecture at the NABC, which he claims actually happened. You be he judge of that last part.

A pro is playing with an inexperienced client. The bidding starts 1♣ by the client; the pro responds 1♥ and the client rebids 1NT. So far so good. Then the client's LHO doubles, passed around to the client, who now bids 2NT! This bid is also doubled and the auction mercifully ends there.



The client does her best but goes down one in 2NT. The pro then asks, "Why did you go to 2NT when you could have played 1NT?" And the client replies, "Well, everybody says 1NT is the most difficult contract to play!"

## GOODWILL COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

By Roz Howell

Nominations to the Goodwill Committee are **DUE OCTOBER 30!** Anyone can nominate a member of Unit 114, considering the following qualifications:

- ⇒ Observes both the laws and ethics of the game
- ⇒ Plays competitively and is always fair
- ⇒ Is gracious in victory as well as in defeat
- ⇒ Is pleasant as a partner or opponent
- ⇒ Exhibits good manners at the bridge table and helps others enjoy their bridge-playing experience
- ⇒ Graciously abides by the ruling of the directors
- ⇒ Does not give unsolicited bridge lessons during the game
- ⇒ Avoids discussion of boards in the presence of new opponents
- ⇒ Refrains from excessive drinking and gives due consideration to personal appearance
- ⇒ Does not become angered or quarrelsome during bridge games
- ⇒ Has a genuine interest in the preservation and development of duplicate bridge and the maintenance of its good reputation
- ⇒ Gives back to the game of bridge through mentoring, volunteering in bridge organizations or in similar conduct



Please include a short (less than one page) summary of the candidate's qualifications. Thank you for your help in getting the best candidates for the Goodwill Committee. Please send nominations to the Unit Secretary Roz Howell ([rozrhowell@gmail.com](mailto:rozrhowell@gmail.com)) by **October 30, 2013**.

## BRIDGE AT GEORGIA TECH

by Thomas M. Eidson

Georgia Tech has had a bridge game and/or club for many years with varying degrees of success. At one time, you could find a pickup game in many dorms and fraternities. This is how I learned to play bridge. As is typical of many college campuses, the interest in bridge has waned for various reasons.



Tech currently has a bridge club. I and others have worked with the club for about four years--teaching formally and informally. I have helped get supplies and additional funds donated to the club. The club now has a faculty advisor, Giorgio Casinovi. Each year the club attracts up to twenty new members, but the number dwindles to fewer than ten permanent bridge players each year.

Part of the reason that the Tech Bridge Club does not grow is that students have a large number of social options. A wide variety of clubs as well as computer games attract the interest of potential bridge players.

The club members, faculty advisor and I all agree that a more aggressive effort---advertising and special events---is needed.

This year Patty Tucker taught "Learn Bridge in a Day?" and the attendance was good. She also teaches bridge each Thursday night at the Tech Student Center. There are at least three students at Tech who have participated in the Atlanta Junior Bridge program. (Another is also at Georgia State.) Now seems to be the time to help the club and support the efforts that Patty has made.

It is generally agreed that current ACBL members need actively to assist teaching bridge to younger players. While our initial focus has been on Georgia Tech, efforts at all Atlanta area colleges would be worthwhile. The Atlanta Junior Bridge program has

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## Many Thanks to NABC Volunteers

by Judy Fendrick

The 2013 Summer North American Bridge Championships tournament held in Atlanta in August was an overall success. The Hyatt Regency was an outstanding venue. There were lots of events for players at all levels, and many of our local players did quite well. Most importantly, many players expressed how much they enjoyed the tournament, primarily due to the volunteers who made it a fun and memorable event.



The local NABC Planning Committee was formed in 2011 with assignments for Chair, Co-Chairs and Committee Chairs. Judy Fendrick volunteered to be the secretary and was involved in many administrative aspects of the tournament. The Committee met almost monthly during the two years leading up to the NABC, and also twice with ACBL staff. They were fortunate to have **Jack Feagin**, who brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the committee, as the Tournament Chair. **Becky Butler** and **Dick Myers** as Tournament Co-Chairs inspired the Committee with their creativity and hard work.

Committee members learned that, regardless of the plans for the schedule, venue, gifts, prizes, and hospitality, one of the most critical elements is to have volunteers who are willing to commit their time and resources. Players from Atlanta and throughout Unit 114 stepped up to the challenge and worked diligently to make it a great tournament.

The list of volunteers follows and may be viewed on the DBAA website by clicking onto [www.whidco.com/dbaa](http://www.whidco.com/dbaa).

Our Committee was thrilled to have the opportunity last month to thank our volunteers with a dinner honoring their efforts at Eclipse di Luna in Buckhead. We only wish we had pictures of everyone who worked so hard on your behalf. See some of the party pictures on page 9.

## UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

Nov 13-17	Atlanta Sectional	Roswell Recreation Center
Dec 9-15	District 7 ST@C	Your Club
Feb 26-Mar 2	Atlanta Sectional	Roswell Recreation Center
Mar 25-30	District 7 ST@C	Your Club
Jul 2-6	Atlanta Sectional	TBA
Aug 1-3	NLM Sectional	Ruff 'n' Sluff BC
Aug 26-Sept 1	Atlanta Regional	Ravinia







## Limited Games - up to 500 MPs

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Roswell DBC</b> 11:00 0-500	<b>Alpharetta DBC</b> 12:00 0-500	<b>Bridge Club of Atlanta</b> 12:00 0-100	<b>Ruff'n Sluff</b> 10:00 Lesson 10:30 0-20	<b>Alpharetta DBC</b> 12:00 0-500	<b>Atlanta DBC</b> 12:00 0-500
<b>Play Bridge</b> 12:00 NLM	<b>Bridge Club of Atlanta</b> 12:00 0-500		<b>Play Bridge</b> 12:00 0-300		<b>Bridge Club of Atlanta</b> 12:00 NLM
	<b>Ruff'n Sluff</b> 7:00 Lesson 7:30 0-300				
	<b>Atlanta DBC</b> 7:30 0-500				

## Bridge Teachers

Bridge Teachers are the lifeblood of the game. While they do help each of us to learn to play better, their vital role is in bringing in new players. New customers are key to any enterprise; given an average age around 70 for ACBL members, they are especially critical to the future of duplicate bridge. Whether you are looking to raise your game to the next level or know someone who wants to join our ranks, check out the list of Atlanta teachers at <http://whidco.com/DBAA>.

*GA Tech continued*

been successful at introducing bridge to young people. We need to continue that effort at the college level.

If you are interested in helping, please send an email to [teidson.ae@gtalumni.org](mailto:teidson.ae@gtalumni.org) or [teidson@att.net](mailto:teidson@att.net), or call (678) 333-8513. I will collect ideas about financial support and other involvement with the Georgia Tech Club and share them with those who respond. If there is interest, I will organize a group to meet at dinner at the Roswell Sectional on Friday, November 15.



## GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS

by George Powell

The ACBL has kicked off the Grand National Teams Event for 2013-14, culminating at the Summer Nationals next year. The initial rounds are held at your local clubs from September through April, with the dates chosen by each Club Manager. Teams who perform well at the Club level earn qualification for the District 7 Finals. Open and Flight B Finals will be held in Morganton, NC, May 3-4, 2014. Flight A and Flight C Finals will be held in Greenville, SC, May 17-18, 2014.

Qualification for the District 7 Finals is given to all members of the team, but the qualification is as an individual to allow for teams to change members or build new teams for the District Finals. Participation at your local club does not commit you to play at the District Finals. This flexibility is necessary because the event runs over many months and in multiple locations. District 7 offers each team that wins at the District level a stipend to attend the Summer Nationals in Las Vegas next July.

There are many significant changes from prior years. (You can see them all – including much lower entry fees – at <http://www.district7bridge.org>.) There are still four flights for this event but the masterpoint levels now are: Open [No Masterpoint Limits], Flight A [0-6000 MPs], Flight B [0-2500 MPs], and Flight C [NLM up to 500 MPs]. All members of a Team wishing to compete in a particular flight must have fewer MPs than the upper limit for that flight. Eligibility for a given flight is determined at the beginning of the event; in this case your masterpoint total as of Aug. 6, 2013. This is the masterpoint total shown on your *Bridge Bulletin*, either the closing total on your September *Bulletin*, or the opening total on October's.

So join in the fun. Find your teammates for the opening rounds at your favorite clubs and bid 'em up!

## BENEFIT GAME

On Sunday November 3, there will be a charity bridge game at the Bridge Club of Atlanta in Fountain Oaks Shopping Center on Roswell Road in Sandy Springs from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. There will be a luxury gourmet brunch and High Tea served. Ina Parry will be directing the non-sanctioned game, and there will be a raffle and door prizes. All proceeds benefit Kiryat Atta Day Care Center in Israel for disadvantaged children. Reservations are a must, and your check will be your reservation. Tickets are \$36.00 per person, and reservations are taken as a partnership only. To reserve your seat or for more information, please call Wendy Kraitzick at 404-256-9897 or Lorraine Watkins at 404-309-9077. The food will be fabulous and it will be a day full of fun.

## UPCOMING BENEFIT

A bridge benefit to raise money for the Center for Spina Bifida Research, Prevention, and Policy at the Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University is being organized. It will be held on May 18, 2014. Stay tuned for more details. If you would like to help with the organization & planning of this special event please contact Janet Edwards; [jlcedwards@comcast.net](mailto:jlcedwards@comcast.net) or Brenda Shavin; [jshavin@bellsouth.net](mailto:jshavin@bellsouth.net)

journal *Organometallics*, published by the American Chemical Society. Amazingly, throughout these busy years she found time to travel to skating competitions, often taking her daughters along.

Susan judged her first international competition in Prague, Czechoslovakia in 1984. She has participated in judging such notables as Dorothy Hamill, Brian Boitano and Scott Hamilton. At the Nagano Olympics in 1998 she was among the judges who awarded the Gold Medal to Tara Lipinski and the Silver Medal to Michelle Kwan. As exciting as it sounds to be in the thick of such a high profile event, Susan says being a judge at the Olympics was the most nerve-wracking assignment of her career. She spent three pressure-filled weeks judging the highly talented field of skaters. Her favorite international experience was at the Goodwill Games held in Brisbane, Australia in September, 2001. She enjoyed visiting the Great Barrier Reef. Her fondest memory is of holding a koala bear! Susan finished her career as a World Judge at the 2007 World Championships held in Japan, but continues to volunteer her time as a National Judge at competitions here in the U.S. Over the course of her career, she has traveled to all fifty states, and more than thirty countries. A favorite part of her work has been seeing these places and getting to know people from all over the world.

Throughout the years, Susan has seen many changes in the sport of figure skating. The sport evolved from a technical skill-based sport to a fast paced, highly choreographed, athletic endeavor. The skating of figures, once a required element comprising sixty percent of a skater's score, was abandoned fifteen years ago. Susan thinks that this happened because the figures are time consuming, difficult to film and do not attract a large following on television. The qualifications for becoming a judge also evolved over time and now include many more written exams. Susan believes that the new judging system, implemented after the scandal at the Salt Lake City Olympics, has actually made the job less interesting, challenging and fun. She does admit that masking the

identities of the judges at International competitions, a part of the new system, has helped reduce some of the stress.

Susan and Ron began playing bridge in college, and have enjoyed playing socially ever since. When Ron began playing duplicate, Susan read the books he brought home, teaching herself about the modern systems. She enjoys the mental exercise of bridge and the precision of modern bidding conventions. She began playing duplicate about six years ago. At the recent tournament in Greenville, SC, Susan and Ron were discouraged and ready to go home, but decided to give Gold Rush Pairs one more try. They were delighted when they earned the last of their Gold Points and became Life Masters!

You will enjoy getting to know Susan and find her to be a formidable opponent. She brings years of experience recognizing the small details that separate the champions from the rest of the field. She is surely applying her analytical ability and attention to detail to every bid you make and every card you play!

Editor's Note: Please email your nominations for **Opponent of the Month** to Janet Edwards at [jlcedwards@comcast.net](mailto:jlcedwards@comcast.net). We want to get to know lots of people who have led interesting lives and also play bridge.