The Last Word is an independent publication for tournament SCRABBLE® players. It is not affiliated with Hasbro, Mattel, the North American SCRABBLE® Players Association (NASPA), the Word Game Players Organization (WGPO), or the National SCRABBLE® Association (NSA). Our mission is to provide content of interest to all SCRABBLE® players, so please let us know if there are topics you would like us to add. We welcome contributions: stories, artwork, etc.

For the time being, we are hoping to provide this Newsletter at no charge; however, since it is a 100% volunteer effort, we would appreciate any donations. Advertisers are encouraged, too. If you would like to have The Last Word emailed to you, please send a request with your email address to CorneliaSGuest@gmail.com and we will add you to our mailing list.

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From the Editor

As the year comes to a close, it’s a good time to reflect on the many changes we’ve seen in the world of tournament SCRABBLE®.

The Collins dictionary has entered the North American tournament scene, with the North American SCRABBLE® Players Association tournaments earning participants world ratings with WESPA. While entries at Collins tournaments are still small, a number of top players have supported this dictionary, and more tournaments plan to offer Collins divisions in 2011.

A new tournament organization--the Word Game Players’ Organization--emerged, and despite creating much controversy, is doing well and growing, with elections held this month. A number of longtime top tournaments will be WGPO-sanctioned in 2011.

Thanks to the National SCRABBLE® Association, School SCRABBLE® is expanding, with more programs being offered throughout North America and additional tournaments joining the schedule, including the Capitol Cup this month and the monthly New England School SCRABBLE® Series.

Michael Tang has brought international SCRABBLE® to new heights, with this month’s Causeway Challenge offering higher prize money than ever before and featuring the debut of the Tournament of Champions.

Unfortunately, 2010 has also been a year of much controversy, with various rule changes bringing strong reactions from players, directors, and tournament organizers. It will be interesting to see what 2011 will bring. Certainly interest in tournament SCRABBLE® continues to grow, thanks primarily to the many directors throughout the country who have put so much effort into offering competition at tournaments and clubs.

In closing, I wanted to thank the many columnists and contributors to The Last Word over this past year, and to thank our advertisers--be sure to see their terrific SCRABBLE® offerings in our advertising section.

Sadly, this issue will not be including a column that first ran last December: “Stell’s Racks of Mirth.” The author, Cheryl Cadieux, who has battled brain cancer since late November, 2010, is now in hospice care at her daughter’s. My sincerest appreciation goes out to Cheryl, who has brought our readers so much joy and has contributed so greatly to the SCRABBLE® community. Cheryl has been a great inspiration to us all.

Cornelia Guest
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Word Game Players’ Organization

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March 4-6: VANCOUVER, B.C.
Total of 22 games
Directed by John Aitken

February 18-21: PHOENIX
Total 28 games & 20 games of Collins
Larry Rand & Barbara Van Alen, directors

To find out more about the WGPO and get details regarding these tournaments and more, please go to www.wordgameplayers.org

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Cool clock. -- Conrad Bassett-Bouchard

*We love this new clock! -- KC Frodyma*

*We played with it at a closed tournament--we really like this FlipTimer. -- Cesar del Solar*
Baton Rouge 10/23-24
by Lila Crotty

It’s All in the Family!
The Baton Rouge SCRABBLE® tourney, held October 23-24 was host to three new SCRABBLE® players: Daniel and Nell Pounder from the New Orleans club and James Hall, husband of Sharon Hall of the Brandon, Mississippi club. We treated all three to special gifts donated by our club members! Daniel came in third in their division with an 8-4, +639 record and a cash prize. Welcome, Daniel, Nell and James!

Reaching New Heights!
In the same tourney, Orry Swift and Ben Withers, both from Texas, took first and second places in division one, each earning new career high ratings, 2009 and 1909, respectively. Congrats to Orry and Ben! Rod Noland earned the Louisiana Cup as the highest finishing Louisiana player in the tourney. Also, kudos to Mike Waugh in his solo debut as Director.

Orry Swift, Division One winner, and Mike Waugh.

Ben Withers, D1 runner-up, and Mike Waugh.

Rod Noland, the highest finishing Louisiana player in the tournament, will have his name join past winners displayed here by Mike Waugh.
The fifth annual “Terror of the Tiles” Halloween School SCRABBLE® Tournament, held Sunday, November 7th at the Pound Ridge (NY) Library, was a great success, with 29 players from 4 different states competing in two divisions. Players ranged from 4th grade through 11th grade, with teams playing five games for the tournament titles. After the main event there was an informal Speed SCRABBLE® tournament.

Bradley Robbins, 2010 National School SCRABBLE® Champion, teamed up with Nicholas Vasquez, 2009 NSSC runner-up, to win Division A with a 3-1 +445 record. The team also won the prize for the division’s High Game (612), and Bradley was the 8th Grade Champion.

A close second was the 2010 NSSC runner-up, Kevin Rosenberg, with his partner Mack Meller, new this year to tournament SCRABBLE®. Kevin and Mack had the division High Play (TRAMPLES, 131), and Mack was 5th Grade Champion. Third was Lake George division winner Matthew
O'Connor, teamed with Jerray Chang, winner of several School SCRABBLE® tournaments. The top three finishers all had 3-1 records, with just a slight difference in spread separating the three teams. Division B went to 7th graders Philip Glynn and Alexander Pacella from Long Island, who won all their games to finish with a 4-0 +499 record; they also took the prize for 7th Grade Champions and won the prizes for division High Game (580) and High Play (PUBDIDLY*, 104). Second went to 6th graders Kyle Imperato and Thomas Wiig, who lost the championship game against the winners by just 13 points; they were the 6th Grade Champions. Third were 6th graders Drew Gregory and Nick Krasnow, finishing 3-1 +219.

A three-game Speed SCRABBLE® tournament attracted 16 of the 29 players. With parents keeping track of the score, teams rushed through their games with 5 minutes per side. Three players ended up with perfect scores, spread determining the winners. First was Mack Meller; second Bradley Robbins; and third Siya Chauhan. Fourth, with an enormous spread but one loss (to the winner) was Matthew O’Connor.

A prize for “Best Halloween Word” was decided by popular vote, with Christopher Imperato & Tyson Morton’s PANDIES (punishes by striking the hand) winning over a number of scary words such as BONY, GHOST, GORE, BONE, GRAVE, HAUNTS, SHIVER, DEAD, and DIE.

A popular feature of this tournament is the Costume Parade, where players march by in amusing costumes and spectators clap for their favorite. The winner for “Best Costume,” for the third consecutive year, was Evan Winston, who came as a rather grisly-looking Sushi Chef. Other costumes included a soldier, a rabbit, a SCRABBLE® tile, Homer Simpson, a guy with a beard, Thing 2, and Jerray Chang as himself.

Thanks to the kids and parents who made this third tournament in the New England School SCRABBLE® series another spectacular day! Complete results follow:

DIVISION A
1. Bradley Robbins & Nicholas Vasquez: 3-1 +445
2. Mack Meller & Kevin Rosenberg: 3-1 +402
3. Jerray Chang & Matthew O’Connor: 3-1 + 331
4. Kell Pogue & Amy Rowland: 2-2 -1
5. Christopher Imperato & Tyson Morton: 2-2 -331
6. DeeAnn Guo & Alexandra Kung: 1-3 -167
7. Zachary Lessen & Michael Schwitzer: 1-3 -579

HIGH GAME: Bradley Robbins & Nicholas Vasquez: 612
HIGH PLAY: Mack Meller & Kevin Rosenberg: TRAMPLES, 131

DIVISION B
1. Philip Glynn & Alexander Pacella: 4-0 +499
2. Kyle Imperato & Thomas Wiig: 3-1 +368
3. Drew Gregory & Nick Krasnow: 3-1 +219
4. Quinn Vissak (partner did not show up): 2-2 -176
5. Sharon Rowland & Evan Winston: 2-2 -278
6. Siya Chauhan & Manisha Kunala: 1-3 -62
7. Stephanie Adams & Isabelle Johnson: 1-3 -430
8. Ignacio Altamiranda & Armin Gachpazany: 0-4 -668

HIGH GAME: Philip Glynn & Alexander Pacella: 580
HIGH PLAY: Philip Glynn & Alexander Pacella: PUBDIDLY*, 104

4TH GRADE CHAMPION: Sharon Rowland
5TH GRADE CHAMPION: Mack Meller
6TH GRADE CHAMPIONS: Kyle Imperato & Thomas Wiig
7TH GRADE CHAMPIONS: Philip Glynn & Alexander Pacella
8TH GRADE CHAMPION: Bradley Robbins
9TH GRADE CHAMPION: Tyson Morton
10TH GRADE CHAMPION: Christopher Imperato
11TH GRADE CHAMPION: Evan Winston

SPEED TOURNAMENT
1. Mack Meller
2. Bradley Robbins
3. Siya Chauhan
4. Matthew O’Connor
Other finishers: Nicholas Vasquez, Kevin Rosenberg, Jerray Chang, Amy Rowland, Kell Pogue, DeeAnn Guo, Drew Gregory, Nick Krasnow, Sharon Rowland, Manisha Kunala, Armin Gachpazany,

BEST HALLOWEEN WORD: Christopher Imperato & Tyson Morton (PANDIES)

BEST COSTUME: Evan Winston

SERIES STANDINGS

DIVISION A
1. Mack Meller, Kevin Rosenberg: 13
2. Stephen Alt, Jacob Litt, Bradley Robbins, Amy Rowland, Nicholas Vasquez: 5
3. DeeAnn Guo, Alexandra Kung: 3
4. Josefina Altamiranda, Jerray Chang, Matthew O’Connor, Kell Pogue: 2

DIVISION B
1. Sheng Guo: 8
2. Quinn Vissak: 6
3. Philip Glynn, Isabelle Johnson, Alexander Pacetta: 5
4. Nick Krasnow: 4
5. Kyle Imperato, Lorenzo Kinnicutt, Willie Sia, Thomas Wiig: 3
6. Drew Gregory, Jason Welch: 2
7. Ignacio Altamiranda, Sharon Rowland: 1
Winter Storm Watch eyow--I really did not want to see that the day before the tourney was to begin. I was sure that it would wait until all of my players arrived safely at the tourney venue in Bloomington, Minnesota. Alas, t’was not to be. When I woke up on Saturday morning it was an absolutely beautiful blizzard outside.

My car had about one foot of snow piled on it, and of course, the driveway (big big long one, with a significant incline) was not yet cleared. Aarrggh, how I wish I had packed everything up the night before…. I managed to get out of my driveway hitting the side of my house only once – thank goodness it is made of brick.

We got a late start because some players called saying they were delayed by the weather. Vincent Van Dover actually arrived before games even started, which is a “first.” Another “first” was hiring Stephanie Steele’s favorite first-born son (Nathan) to do the data entry. He was rolling along in no time at all, thanks to Stephanie, who also did the pairings for the divisions.

Gene Tzyska donated a beautiful fold-up board with carrying case, an Adjudicator timer, two extra-long wooden racks, a gorgeous set of tiles, and two tile bags for a raffle to benefit the players and WGPO.

Highlights include Lisa Odom’s induction into the Minnesota SCRABBLE® Hall of Fame. Joe, Carol, and Steve gave fabulous speeches. This is so well deserved--congratulations to Lisa!

In Division A, Jim Kramer’s addition of DEW to Sue Rhea’s HONEY (down to the triple line of course) was beautiful and brilliant, and that play may well have secured his win. In Division B, Zbiegniew Wieckowski, seeded 15th, managed to win the division, proving that he really is Z’man. He was drinking some strange-looking thick green juice; hmm, kryptonite perhaps? In Division C we had two birthdays: one for Diane Wienerman, who came in first, and one for Gail Opperman, who won the Adjudicator timer; we all got to sing “Happy Birthday” twice. Division D was won handily by Dawn Gewecke, who stepped in to play when we were uneven due to a player having to drop out because of the flu.
A very special congratulations to our performance-prize winners (finishing highest above their seed unless they won a place prize). Those were Dave Herfel (A), seeded 10th, coming in 6th; Daniel Jay Bliss (B), seeded 13th, coming in 8th; Meredith Leigh (C), seeded 8th, coming in 5th place; and in Division D we had a tie – Mary Shedd, seeded 9th, coming in 5th place (AND she won the beautiful board), and Helen Flores, seeded 10th, coming in 6th.

Division A and Division D winners, Jim Kramer and Dawn Gwecke (who was asked to play at the last minute to make us even).

Mary Shedd, the happy winner of Gene Tyszka’s raffle prize. Gene donated a board, racks, bags, tiles and an Adjudicator clock. Half the money went to prizes, the other half to the WGPO. Thanks Gene!
The 5th Annual Green Mountain SCRABBLE® Challenge
by Peggy Grant

The charming Essex Resort & Spa -- Vermont’s Culinary Resort & Spa -- once again opened its Inn and kitchens to host the 5th Annual SCRABBLE® Challenge in the green mountain state. Organized by the cordial Jane Whitmore and directed by the top-notch team of Sherrie Saint John and Tim Fukawa-Connelly, 86 players from 17 U.S. states and 2 Canadian provinces assembled to play 20 games of competitive Scrabble®.

The event started as players arrived on Thursday and Friday, to participate in culinary classes and world-class spa amenities at the resort before the tourney. “Baking with cheese” was a filling favorite of Colleen Shea and Ginger White. Barb Kester and Katya Lezin were seen frequenting the spa and gym facilities. Rumor has it that Sue and Peggy Grant even traveled to Waterbury to check out the Ben and Jerry’s factory and to sample the “flavor of the day” (triple caramel swirl, I hear). Others headed to downtown Burlington to do some shopping along the pedestrian walk.

The North American SCRABBLE® Tour (NAST) qualifying event took place on Friday. Winter, 5-0, +679 and Jason Keller, 4-1, +644, qualified for the NAST finals and Steve Glass finished a close third, 4-1, +497. Making his competitive SCRABBLE® debut was 12-year-old Nathaniel Jones, who came in unrated, but finished 3-2 to earn an initial rating of 1567.

The main event kicked off with the ringing of the cow bell on Friday evening with 3 rounds. Another 8 games were played on Saturday. The Kings and Queens of Saturday night (best record after 11 games) won cozy hand-knitted hats crafted by Bets Brown. The lucky warm-headed winners were Matthew Tunnicliffe, Dave Engelhardt, Wilma Pitzer, and Susanna Kahn (undefeated at this point).

The group dinner was well attended by players and family members. The Seitan (wheat protein) stroganoff was the hands-down culinary favorite with carnivores and vegetarians alike. Jane was recognized for her hard work and dedication organizing this event, and Sherrie and Tim were recognized with beautiful Vermont baskets (which Sherrie had been eyeing for years) for their directorial efforts.

Twenty players matched brain power in the “Who wants to be a Hundredaire” trivia contest hosted by


Nathaniel Jones v. Steve Glass. Nathaniel, twelve, finished eighth in the NAST Early Bird, his first tournament, earning an initial rating of 1567.
Frank Tangedi. The majority of other players and guests cheered on their favorites, and continued being “shushed” by Sherrie when stray answers could be heard from the audience. Finale qualifiers included the “Judys” (Horn and Cole), Don Drumm, Dan Wachtell, and Donna Balkin. But in the end, after a sudden death over British Monarchs resulted in a deputed tie, Donna graciously suggested a split of the prize money and title, which Dan graciously accepted.

Sunday brought the final day of the Challenge, and cold Vermont air made its debut. Awards for auxiliary prizes were given for “Best Vermont Word,” which went to Kate Fukawa-Connelly for FROSTNIP (a gift certificate for an overnight stay with breakfast at the Inn at Essex), “Flashiest BINGO,” won by John O’Laughlin for ALEXANDER, a triple-triple outplay bingo though the DE (a Hasbro SCRABBLE® Flash game), and “the best record by a Vermonter,” awarded to Barb Kester, who finished in seventh place in Division C.

Trivia cowinners Donna Balkan and Dan Wachtell flank host Frank Tangredi.

Best Vermont Word: Kate Fukawa-Connelly, who played FROSTNIP, with Jane Whitmore.

Flashiest Bingo Winner: John O’Laughlin, who played ALEXANDER, with Jane Whitmore.

Great friends, roommates, and 1st and 2nd place in Division D: Jane Kay & Susanna Kahn.

Best Vermont record: Barb Kester.
The highly coveted “sock-lady” socks went to the Low Win in each division: Lou Cornelis, Bob Becker, Emily Saltz, and Jaqueline Arel left Vermont with warm feet (although Katya Lezin was seen in the corner trying to negotiate her way into a pair of those socks….). High Wins, High Losses, and High Play winners in each division were awarded Vermont flannel tile bags crafted by Anita Kintz. Last Gasp award-winners (best Sunday record) won Joel Wapnick’s *How to Play SCRABBLE® Like a Champion.*

But in the end, to the victors go the spoils (and a cow!)…in this case:

**Division A:** 1. Matthew Tunnicliffe, 11-4 +897, $650; 2. Winter, 11-4 +206, $300; 3. Chris Lipe, 9-6 +999, $200; 4. Joel Sherman, 9-6 +531, $100.

**Division B:** 1. Sal Piro, 11-4 +813, $500; 2. Dave Englhardt, 10.5 - 4.5 +640, $250; 3. Paul Arvin, 10-5 +554, $150; 4. Bob Becker, 10-5 +417, $175 (class prize); 5. Anita Rackham, 10-5 +217, $125; 6. Judy Horn, 9-6 +671, $100.

**Division C:** 1. Wilma Pitzer, 12-3 +1161, $450; 2. Jeffrey Scranton, 11-4 +802, $225; 3. Richard Landau, 10-5 +476, $175; 4. Don Drumm, 10-5 +361, $150; 5. Katya Lezin, 10-5 +358, $125 (or 12.5 pairs of "sock-lady" socks); 6. Linda Wancel, 9-6 +575, $100. Class prizes: Harry Durbin, 9-6 +57, $200 and Betsey Wood, 9-6 +28, $175.

**Division D:** 1. Susanna Kahn, 12-3 +736, $275; 2. Jane Kaye, 11-4 +518, $175.

The winners of each division received a maple-leaf-shaped syrup trophy and a cow!

And so another Green Mountain SCRABBLE® Challenge is in the record books! Most players are already talking about attending next year. Seth Lipkin plans to return so he can redistribute all the lanyards that he collected from everyone. Thanks to Jane, Sherrie, Tim, and all the participants for making the 5th Annual Green Mountain SCRABBLE® Challenge yet another memorable SCRABBLE® event.
Forty-four SCRABBLE® players from throughout New England (and the Mid-Atlantic states) met on the Saturday after Thanksgiving in Lexington, MA, to talk turkey and play some SCRABBLE®.

A veritable cornucopia of delights unfolded throughout the day:

- Freshly baked bagels, homemade chocolate chip cookies, and assorted snacks provided a welcome break from the 101 ways to reuse leftover turkey.
- Division A, with its average rating of 1890, was the SCRABBLE® equivalent of the dinner for Nobel Prize winners where President Kennedy observed that with the possible exception of Thomas Jefferson dining alone, there had never been such an extraordinary collection of talent at the White House. Substitute Quackle for Jefferson and the First Parish Church for the White House.
- Winter, winning 1st place in Division A, achieved a new peak rating of 1956. This tournament was the 8th consecutive tournament in which Winter has placed 1st (6 times) or 2nd (2 times) over 6 weekends.
- Gina Fassio returned to the tournament scene after 3 1/2 years and held her own in a very strong Division B where Seth Lipkin was 6-1.
- Proving that spread does matter, Marc Carnegie won Division C over Sean McKinney and Brenda Casey, both of whom also had 5-2 records. On the way to the tournament, Brenda
lost her SCRABBLE® equipment to another airline passenger who claimed it in error (and was probably surprised by the contents). Fortunately, it was returned, and Brenda headed back to the airport to retrieve it.

- Division D was also the first division to finish all of its games, and Lorraine Ray, who dominated the division with a 6-1 record, was usually part of the first game to finish.
- School SCRABBLE® veterans Sam Heinrich, Max Bohn, and 2010 champion Bradley Robbins brought their youthful energy to the competition, as did Morris Greenberg, who won Division E.
- Morris Greenberg used a portion of his winnings to renew his NASPA membership and that of his mother, Marla Choslovsky. Eight other players also renewed their memberships at the tournament to take advantage of the $5 discount offered for early renewals.
- Marvin Kraus, playing in his fifth tournament, won Division F over Marc Goldstein, who was playing in his very first tournament. Marc received a SCRABBLE® Flash game for having the two closest losses across all divisions. Both of those losses - by 4 and 6 points! - were to Marvin. Thanks to NASPA and Hasbro for donating the prize!

Prizes were $125/$75/$50 for 1st/2nd/3rd in Divisions A through D (groups of 8) and $125/75 in Divisions E and F (groups of 6). Prizes of $10 were awarded for High Win, Low Win, High Loss, High Bingo, and High Non-Bingo as well - players were eligible to win only one of these prizes.

Division A

- 1st - Winter - 5.5-2.5 +274
- 2nd - John O’Laughlin - 5-2 +238
- 3rd - Rod MacNeil - 4-3 +37
- High Win - Joel Sherman - 564
- Low Win - Cecilia Le - 345
- High Loss - Stefan Rau - 420
- High Bingo - Rod MacNeil - QUATRAIN (114)
- High Non-Bingo - Evans Clinchy - ZILCH (58) - Joel Sherman had ACQUIT for 86 but took High Win prize

Division B

- 1st - Seth Lipkin - 6-1 +510
- 2nd - Chris Guilbert - 6-1 +258
- 3rd - Merrill Kaitz - 4-3 +64
- High Win - Jamie Ryan - 541
- Low Win - Merrill Kaitz - 356
- High Loss - Ben Harrison - 462
- High Bingo - Gina Fassio - BIOPSIES (98)
- High Non-Bingo - Joel Horn - EX (42) - Gina had QUITE for 72

Division C

- 1st - Marc Carnegie - 5-2 +285
- 2nd - Sean McKinney - 5-2 +91
- 3rd - Brenda Casey - 5-2 +67
- High Win - Bob Becker - 514
- Low Win - Sean McKinney - 351
• High Loss - Bradley Robbins - 409
• High Bingo - John Cheras - QUIXOTE (96) - Bradley had INTEGRAL for 140, Sean had QUESTERS for 110, and Bob had HOSPICE for 107
• High Non-Bingo - Roberta Borenstein - ZORI (68)

Division D
• 1st - Lorraine Ray - 6-1 +651
• 2nd - Betsey Wood - 5-2 +258
• 3rd - Thomas Davis - 4-3 +337
• High Win - Lorraine Ray - 511
• Low Win - Shae McWilliams - 364
• High Loss - Thomas Davis - 398 - Lorraine and Shae had "higher" losses of 419 and 413
• High Bingo - Betsey Wood - REWELDED (92) - Lorraine also had SIMPLER for 92
• High Non-Bingo - Sam Heinrich - EX (61)

Division E
• 1st - Morris Greenberg - 5-2 +342
• 2nd - Joseph Waldbaum- 4-3 +167
• High Win - Lorraine Majka - 455
• Low Win - Max Bohn - 302
• High Loss - Elouise Pearl - 368 - Morris and Lorraine had "higher" losses of 390 and 381
• High Bingo - Morris Greenberg - PINIEST (96)
• High Non-Bingo - Joseph Waldbaum - ZINE (61) - Morris had ADJOIN for 63

Division F
• 1st - Marvin Kraus - 5-2 +87
• 2nd - Marc Goldstein - 4-3 +136
• High Win - Marvin Kraus - 430
• Low Win - Paul Becker - 312
• High Loss - Loretta Young - 354 - Marvin had a "higher" loss of 358
• High Bingo - Marc Goldstein - CREATOR (77) - Marvin had SCANTER for 88
• High Non-Bingo - Judith Shaw - XI (54) - Judith also had a high loss of 355 and a high bingo of BORIDES for 82


Special thanks go out to Judy Horn, who codirected the tournament and handled the logistics superbly; to Joel Horn, who did most of the room setup and found ink for the tournament printer as the tournament was about to begin; and to Joel Sherman, who volunteered a computer for challenges.

Judy Cole is co-director of the Lexington MA NASPA SCRABBLE® Club #108 and solves crossword puzzles when not playing SCRABBLE®.
Tournament Results 11/1-30

ASHEVILLE NC 11/6-7
1. David Gibson
2. Liz Gottlin
3. Andy Murphy
4. David Klionsky
5. Veronica Sherbourne

BAYSIDE NY 11/6
1. Winter
2. Linda Wancel
3. Gerianne Abriano

BRANTFORD ON CAN 11/6
1. Lou Cornelis
2. John Dungey
3. Terry Aitken
4. Israr Ahmad
5. Percy Fernando

PALM HARBOR FL 11/6
1. Timothy Bottorff
2. Brian Miller

PHOENIX AZ (WGPO) 11/6
1. Jim Lamerand
2. Travis Carlson
3. Susan Kessler

SACRAMENTO CA (COLLINS) 11/6-7
1. Nathan Benedict

BERKELEY CA 11/7
1. Jerry Lerman
2. Leesa Berahovich
3. Alan Whitman
4. Joan Mocine

LAGUNA WOODS CA 11/7
1. Doug Brockmeier
2. Fern Trausch

PHILADELPHIA PA 11/7
1. Winter
2. David Engelhardt
3. Ted Barrett
4. Elizabeth Zbegner

POUND RIDGE NY (SCHOOL SCRABBLE) 11/7
1. Bradley Robbins & Nicholas Vasquez
2. Philip Glynn & Alexander Pacetta

TORONTO ON CAN 11/7
1. Jason Ubeika

INDEPENDENCE OH (LCT) 11/9
1. Pete Zeigler

SEATTLE WA 11/11
1. Daniel Goodwin
2. Matthew Nelson
3. Nancy Roeder

FORT LAUDERDALE FL 11/12-14
1. Ron Tiekert
2. Paul Avrin
3. Emily Lichtman

SEATTLE WA 11/12-14
1. Conrad Bassett-Bouchard
2. Geoff Tongue
3. Tony Verma
4. Daval Davis
5. Sunshine Gudlaugson

SEATTLE WA (COLLINS) 11/12-14
1. John O’Laughlin

TWIN CITIES MN 11/12
1. Mark Kenas

INDIANAPOLIS IN 11/13
1. Marc Broering
2. Connie Breitbeil

LUBBOCK TX 11/13-14
1. Stan Miranda
2. John Dowaliby
3. Grace McGrath

TWIN CITIES MN (WGPO) 11/13-14
1. Jim Kramer
2. Zbigniew Wieckowski
3. Diane Weinerman
4. Dawn Gewecke

GUELPH ON CAN 11/14
1. Jim Nanavati
2. Glenn Mosher
3. Risa Horowitz

LEXINGTON KY (WGPO LCT) 11/14
1. Frank Lee
2. Adam Johnson

ESSEX VT (NAST EARLY BIRD) 11/19
1. Winter

ESSEX VT 11/19-21
1. Matthew Tunnicliffe
2. Sal Piro
3. Wilma Pitzer
4. Susanna Kahn

DALLAS TX 11/20
1. Darrell Day
2. Gregg Speicher
3. Phyllis Owen

EDMONTON AB CAN
11/20
1. George Latis
2. Shirley Woodward
3. Dorothy Young

FLINT MI 11/20
1. Kelly McKenzie
2. Tom Kowalik
3. Janet Gray

PITTSBURGH PA 11/20
1. Mark Lum
2. Gary Perman
3. Linda Iannetti
4. Shirley Perman

OSHAWA ON CAN
11/20-21
1. Jeremy Hildebrand
2. Roger Cullman
3. Tina Cur
4. John Hayes

TUCSON AZ 11/20
1. Richard Spence
2. Richard Fields

ARDSELEY NY 11/21
1. Kevin E. Rosenberg
2. Jim Fonti
3. Mack Meller

ARDSELEY NY YOUTH
AM 11/21
1. John Schuman

ARDSELEY NY YOUTH
PM 11/21
1. John Schuman

FLINT MI LATE BIRD
11/21
1. Jeff Clark

MOUNTAIN VIEW CA
11/21
1. Isaac Apindi
2. Pat Diener
3. Bharat Sampath

CLAYTON CA (WGPO)
11/27
1. Carole Miller
2. Diana Cournoyer

ELMHURST IL 11/27-28
1. Paul Epstein
2. Jacquelyn Fyr
3. Doug Lundquist
4. Marlena Cannon

LEXINGTON MA 11/27
1. Winter
2. Seth Lipkin
3. Marc Carnegie
4. Lorraine Ray
5. Morris Greenberg
6. Marvin Kraus
New Faces

Since our last issue, 46 new faces have competed at NASPA, NSA, and WGPO tournaments. Four players won their division first time out: Veronica Sherbourne, who won Division 5 at the Asheville NC Tournament on 11/6 with a 10-4 +341 record; John Schuman, who won the Ardsley NY Youth Tournament on 11/21 with a 3-1 +317 record; Diana Cournoyer, who won Division 2 at the Clayton CA WGPO Tournament on 11/27 with a 5-1 +489 record; and our featured new face, Mack Meller, who won Division 3 at the Ardsley NY Tournament on 11/21. Mack finished 7-1 with a phenomenal +1504 spread to earn an initial NASPA rating of 1249.

Mack Meller

Mack Meller, a 10-year-old homeschooled 5th grader from Westchester, NY, is new to the tournament SCRABBLE® scene, but he is not new to SCRABBLE®. “I started playing SCRABBLE® when I was four years old,” said Mack. His first tournament was a School SCRABBLE® tournament this September, which he and his partner, Kevin Rosenberg, won convincingly. “My first adult tournament was in Ardsley on November 21, 2010.”

Although Mack lost his first game at Ardsley, he then hit his stride and won the remaining seven games with authority, finishing with a +1504 spread. “My best play at Ardsley was ATELIER for 88 points,” said Mack. “My favorite moment was when I played out and knew I won.”

Mack loves all board games, but especially strategy games that involve skill as opposed to luck. He practices SCRABBLE® at a few clubs and School SCRABBLE® programs and on ISC (the Internet SCRABBLE® Club, isc.ro). He studies with Zyzzyva (zyzzyva.com), books such as Brow-Raisers, and flashcards. “My favorite play ever was SNOWPLOW on a triple triple for 149, which was also my high score [on ISC].”

Mack plans to play in more adult tournaments and in School SCRABBLE® tournaments with Kevin Rosenberg. Mack and Kevin will be competing as a team at the National School SCRABBLE® Championship in Orlando this spring. This will be their first year as a team; Kevin finished 2nd in the 2009 NSSC with Tim Bryant, who has aged out.

An interesting fact about Mack is that in April, 2010, he was officially awarded the Guinness World Record for “most underpants worn at once,” at 230 pairs. He broke the record to raise money for St. Jude Children’s Hospital, successfully raising $14,000.

In addition to SCRABBLE®, Mack’s main interests are tennis, math, and chess.
Welcome to Mack Meller, Veronica Sherbourne, John Schuman, Diana Cournoyer, and the following other new faces:

**ASHEVILLE NC 11/6-7:** Kate Graham

**BAYSIDE NY 11/6:** Daniel Cantu, Alexander Dering, Pat Nahaczewski

**BERKELEY CA 11/7:** Deborah Baggett

**PHILADELPHIA PA 11/7:** Mikyeil El-Mekki, Adam Shuman

**POUND RIDGE NY (SCHOOL SCRABBLE®) 11/7:** Stephanie Adams, Armin Gachpazany, Drew Gregory

**SEATTLE WA 11/11:** Brenton Povis

**SEATTLE WA (COLLINS) 11/12-14:** David Eldar

**INDIANAPOLIS IN 11/13:** Penny Sitler

**LUBBOCK TX 11/13-14:** Julie Isom, Max Johnson, Johnna Pevey, Justin Price

**ESSEX VT NAST EARLY BIRD 11/19:** Nathaniel Jones

**DALLAS TX 11/20:** Charles Boonsiri

**EDMONTON AB CAN 11/20:** Darlene Snyder

**FLINT MI 11/20:** Diane Allmen

**OSHAWA ON CAN 11/20:** Daron Blake, Evangeline Etty, Mario Moran-Venegas

**PITTSBURGH PA 11/20:** Jenny Smith, Geo Muzika

**TUCSON AZ 11/20:** P. A. M. Gravalos, Janet Osborne, Velia Trevizo, Jennifer Wright

**ARDSLEY NY (A.M. YOUTH) 11/21:** John Schuman, Seth Gartner

**ARDSLEY NY (P.M. YOUTH) 11/21:** Jared Tilliss, Seth Tilliss, Kell Pogue

**ARDSLEY NY 11/21:** Chase Caro, Robert DeMono II, Kara Raap

**MOUNTAIN VIEW CA 11/21:** Maggie McCulloch

**ELMHURST IL 11/27-28:** Susan Foody, Linda Mislove

**LEXINGTON MA 11/27:** Marc Goldstein
Word Trivia Quiz
by Siri Tillekeratne

The words whose meanings are given below were introduced in the latest update of OSPD/TWL. What are the words?

1. A synthetic male sex hormone
2. An anchor used in mountaineering
3. Remove filaments from a mussel
4. A drug for Parkinson's disease
5. An English dialect of some African-Americans
6. Obstructions to defend the environment
7. A laborer in Anglo-Saxon England
8. Name of a people used by outsiders only
9. A candle in a paper bag
10. An aggressive feminist

ANSWERS ON THE NEXT PAGE

Siri Tillekeratne is a director of the Calgary NASPA SCRABBLE® Club #374 and a former Director of the Year.
ANSWERS

1. A synthetic male sex hormone: DANAZOL/S
2. An anchor used in mountaineering: DEADMAN/MEN
3. Remove filaments from a mussel: DEBEARD/S/ED/ING
4. A drug for Parkinson's disease: DEPRENYL/S
5. An English dialect of some African-Americans: EBONICS
6. Obstructions to defend the environment: ECOTAGE/S
7. A laborer in Anglo-Saxon England: ESNE/S
8. Name of a people used by outsiders only: EXONYM/S
9. A candle in a paper bag: FAROLITO/S
10. An aggressive feminist: FEMINAZI/S

Siri Tillekeratne is a director of the Calgary NASPA SCRABBLE® Club #374 and a former Director of the Year.
As an avid reader and book lover, I have found that many other Scrabblers also share my passion for books and for reading. So I am happy to have this opportunity to share some of my favorite books with you. These reviews, for the most part, were written for Amazon.com, where I have been writing reviews under a pseudonym for nearly ten years. I hope that the book lovers among you may find their interest piqued by some of these books.

**Fiction:**

**Vanished**
__by Joseph Finder__

I had no expectations when I started reading this thriller. Within minutes, however, I found myself totally engrossed and could hardly bear to put this plot-driven book down. Written in clear, spare prose, the author gives us an intriguing story line with many unexpected twists and turns, as well as a very charismatic hero who is smart, compassionate, and gutsy, with a great sense of humor and a core sense of right and wrong.

Nick Heller's brother, Roger, seemingly vanishes into thin air without a trace after his wife, Lauren, is attacked. Her son Gabe, Roger's step-son, asks his Uncle Nick for help in finding out what happened. So, Nick, like a knight in shining armor, comes to the rescue, determined to find out what happened to his brother, from whom he has been somewhat estranged. Nick, a former member of the Army's special forces, now works for a high-powered intelligence firm, specializing in high-end investigations. So, he is no stranger to solving mysteries.

Nick's investigation soon begins to take many labyrinthine twists and turns, as he learns things about his brother that are both surprising and shocking. Moreover, as Nick gets more and more involved in the investigation, he begins to get a sense that things are not all that they seem. Where his investigation leads will surely surprise the reader.

This book was a compelling page-turner, and I was hooked from the get-go. I could not bear to put it down. Unfortunately, work has a way of sometimes interfering with my reading. Anyway, I loved the book and the main protagonist, Nick Heller, and hope that there will be another book featuring him. Those who enjoy fast-paced, well-plotted thrillers will be sure to love this book.

*Vanished* is available at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).
Non-fiction:

The Stranger Beside Me
by Ann Rule

This is an excellent true crime book. It has an unusual twist in that the author and the subject of the book, serial killer Ted Bundy, had a platonic relationship that arose from the time they were co-workers for a Seattle, Washington crisis center. The author initially had no idea that Ted Bundy was anything other than what he appeared to be: a handsome, intelligent, charismatic, and articulate young man, who was, at the time, involved in local politics and later became a law student.

When Bundy became the suspect in the disappearance and murders of a number of very young, pretty women, the author was in total disbelief. As the evidence mounted against her friend, the author, who is a former police officer, could not shut her eyes to the reality that Ted Bundy was actually a very disturbed individual who was guilty of all of which he was accused (and probably guilty of other such crimes for which he was not accused for evidentiary reasons). Consequently, the author would suffer some angst for many years, as she struggled to reconcile the Ted Bundy that she thought she knew with the fiend who was compelled to commit so many vicious abductions, assaults, and murders. It is believed that at least thirty-five young women, and probably a good number more, died at the hands of Ted Bundy.

The author details the abductions, assaults, and murders of Bundy’s victims from coast to coast, which crimes were ultimately to make Ted Bundy a nationwide household name--and an entity to be feared. The investigative efforts of law enforcement officers in the states of Washington, Utah, Colorado, and Florida are covered, as are Ted Bundy's arrests and his trials. The author also details Bundy's two escapes from custody in Colorado, the last of which found him heading to the sunshine state of Florida.

The Stranger Beside Me is a well-written and well-researched book. It is highly detailed and contains a great deal of information, some of it quite personal due to the author's relationship with Ted Bundy. She paints a very intriguing, intimate portrait of this prolific serial killer, one that is three-dimensional and complex. He was definitely a man whose benign and compelling external visage was at odds with his many internal demons. Externally, Ted Bundy was the sort of man towards whom women gravitated, and there was no dearth of Ted Bundy groupies once he made headlines.

Aficionados of the true-crime genre will find much of interest in this book.

The Stranger Beside Me is available at Amazon.com.

Linda Wancel loves reading, writing, watching films, traveling, and Scrabbling. She is the mother of 27-year-old twins and has been a criminal prosecutor for the last 23 years.
The Wordsmith

Unwrap a quiz for the holidays

by Chris Sinacola

While the word elves were busy assembling their latest set of eight-letter alphagrams for me, they ran into a few oddities and inconsistencies (imagine that!) and thought it might be fun to present a holiday word quiz that you can take and share with family, friends and SCRABBLE associates.

Let's begin with an UN-believable example from the land of the UN prefix. At this year's Cape Cod tournament, I was matching wits with Bradley Robbins, the young phenom from New Hampshire. After an early slugfest, Bradley had the edge and I was scrambling to catch up when he hooked UNSTILL* to one of my words. I held the play for a good long while. I really didn't think it was acceptable, but we all know that decision-making in the heat of battle is a different matter than in the quiet of the study.

I concluded that UNSTILL* made no sense at all, and that 80+ additional points would sink my hopes in that game. There being so many useful words to express motion, I challenged it off. (I later put ANGERLY down, and won a challenge, but lost the game anyway by 11.)

But there is probably no overall lesson, or UNLESSON* to be drawn from this. Just when you think you have the UN- words figured out, another one comes along to surprise you.

For example, the elves alerted me this morning to the existence of UNSILENT in their latest word construction box. “Look, master!” they shouted. “A word that makes no sense!”

But UNSILENT does make a certain amount of sense. It shows up in John Nichols's *The Progresses and Processions of Queen Elizabeth*, a work which was published in 1805 but goes much further back. It shows up -- for what is apparently the first time in English -- in a 1597 letter in which the queen consoles Lady Margaret Norris on the death of her son, Sir John Norris, a military commander who died of gangrene.

The opening of the letter is worth quoting:

“Mine own Crow, harm not thyself for bootless help but shew a good example to comfort your dolorous yokefellow....”

Elizabeth was not in the habit of calling people names. Rather, “Crow” is a reference to the Norris family crest. Bootless is one of those old words that people don't use very much anymore. We tend to say “useless” or “lame” -- or worse. It has nothing to do with being without one's boots, of course. In fact, the word boot meaning a covering for the foot -- a shoe that extends above the ankle, to be precise -- derives from a different root word than the boot in bootless. The word boot as Elizabeth uses it means “the good” or “advantage.” So, something that is bootless is that which offers no good or advantage.

It's interesting to reflect here on the precision -- or lack of it -- that we modern speakers of English employ in our choice of words. Sometimes, when working in the basement, one of my elves might hand me the wrong size wrench for a given application. But it is bootless to say “That's useless!” because the wrench in question isn't useless in general, just for the job at hand. And to say “That's bootless!” would be silly. It's simply the wrong size wrench. We should reserve the word useless for things are truly are -- like the football picks by certain of my friends at the coffee shop. Those are
truly useless. And bootless, though I'd never say so to their faces. I'd just say, “You guys are lame!” Or worse.

Anyway, back to our main story. The queen proceeds to write a very moving and comforting letter indeed, and concludes: “More at this time we will not write of this unsilent subjecte, but have dispatched this gentleman to visit both your lord and you....”

In other words, the queen is having her letter delivered by a messenger who will spend additional time with the grieving couple. The matter is one of such emotional importance that it cannot be dealt with merely on paper. It requires a personal touch. The sovereign being the sovereign, she cannot really take a few days off from her duties to handle it. She doesn't have email yet, but she can snap her fingers and have an instant messenger.

The sense that words on paper are in a way silent carries over even to our own day, I think. Humans in 2010 have more ways than ever to communicate, but for all the texts, tweets and blogs that abound, the amazing world of social media still cannot wholly replace the personal touch. Good friends who talk and text one another constantly still get together for meals, movies and more. And why? Because some matters really are UNSILENT ones.

Now that you have learned a bit more about this matter, it's time for the first of our quiz questions. What acceptable 10-letter SCRABBLE® word or words can you form from these tiles: CDEEILNNSU?

Believe me, I don't study 10-letter SCRABBLE® words. A bit of logic will suffice. And trust me, there are no more than two answers.

Once you've solved that one, decide which of the following words that appear in the queen's full letter is acceptable at SCRABBLE.

CURETH
DOLOROUS
RICHMOND
SUBJECTE
YOKEFELLOW

Well, the elves aren't quite done. One just objected to STEALAGE, and wants to know why such a word exists in our lexicon. After all, we have STEAL, THEFT and ROBBERY already. And too much of all three, I might add.

But think about it for a moment and you'll agree that STEALAGE is needed. What other word do we have to describe a quantity of goods or services that have been stolen away from us? (“Federal budget” doesn't count, because it's two words.) We can't very well say STEALTH, because we need that word to describe the quality of being capable of theft. So, STEALAGE it is.

Ah, but wait. This is a quiz column, and there is the little matter of our friends the -INGS endings. Many a SCRABBLE® player has tossed many a Hail Mary pass late in the game with one of these. Suppose for a moment you are in need of a big score and STEALING is on the board. You've just found ZAIKAIS in your last rack but the only place for it is to hook the S onto STEALING.

Could it be good? Could it mean the same thing as our new friend STEALAGE? You decide.
Another of the elves has been puzzling over the card AFILNRTU. “What's the matter, Herbie, it's TRAINFUL!”

“Yeah, but now I can't remember which -FUL words take S.”

Well, there are 48 words ending in -FUL, and I won't go into all of them, but I will offer this condensed list, which contains 15 words ending in FUL, three of which are phony. Which three?

ARMFUL
BARRELSFUL
BOATFUL
BOWLFUL
CARFUL
KISTFUL
MUGFUL
PLANEFUL
RACKFUL
SKINFUL
TRAINFUL
TRAMFUL
TRISTFUL
TRUCKFUL
VATSFUL

The elves are having great fun with the latest word construction set. There were a few jokes: “You TOOLHEAD!” There were a few gasps of surprise, such as the news that TRIBUNAL also produces TURBINAL, a bone of the nasal passage, and that a UTILIDOR is an system of insulated pipes for use in the Arctic. And there's now a chorus of shouts: “Let's play some SCRABBLE®!”

So I have to go play some SCRABBLE®....

I hope you did well with the quiz questions, and that whether you are a believer or an AGNOSTIC, the elves COASTING and the COATINGS of snow in your region bring you a joyous winter season. Oh yes, there's one more word in ACGINOST. Anyone?

Chris Sinacola is director of Worcester SCRABBLE® Club #600.
Joe Bihlmeyer, a top Connecticut SCRABBLE® player, presents a video SCRABBLE® demonstrating the importance of being aware of which key tiles might be useful in future plays.

Holding on to key tiles
SCRABBLE® and Scrabblers in the News

See something about SCRABBLE® or a SCRABBLE® player in the news? Let us know! Send your stories to CorneliaSGuest@gmail.com.

Lexington Club in the News
The Lexington (MA) NASPA SCRABBLE® Club #108 was the lead story in the November 23 Lexington Minuteman. The reporter spent at least an hour observing and talking to players at the club.

http://www.wickedlocal.com/lexington/features/x1966815551/This-week-in-the-Lexington-Minuteman;

The Lexington Club tournament also received coverage in Lexington Patch, a local paper: http://lexington.patch.com/articles/lexington-scrabble-club-preparing-for-upcoming-tourney.

Giant Fever
Scrabbler Jerry Lerman and his wife, Eve, were shown cheering on the Giants at game one of the World Series in the October 28 San Francisco Chronicle’s online publication, SFGate: http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/object/article?f=%2Fc%2F2010%2F10%2F28%2FSPLH1G3KRGDTL&object=%2Fc%2Fpictures%2F2010%2F10%2F28%2Fba-knapp29_PH5_0502467750.jpg

GOODDOG*?

Popular Internet meme icanhascheezburger.com ran the following photo of cats playing SCRABBLE®. http://icanhascheezburger.com/2010/11/14/funny-pictures-is-gooddog-a-word/

NOVEMBER MILESTONES

CONRAD BASSETT-BOUCHARD reached 2000 for the first time at the Seattle (WA) Tournament.

LOU CORNELIS reached 1900 for the first time at the Brantford (ON, CAN) Tournament.

MIKE FRENTZ reached 1900 for the first time at the Seattle (WA) Tournament.

BENJAMIN BLOOM reached 1700 for the first time at the Fort Lauderdale (FL) Tournament.

DEEN HERGOTT reached 1600 for the first time at the Oshawa (ON, CAN) Tournament.

GEOFF TONGUE reached 1600 for the first time at the Seattle (WA) Tournament.

NATHANIEL JONES reached 1500 for the first time at the Essex (VT) Tournament.

KEVIN E. ROSENBERG reached 1500 for the first time at the Ardsley (NY) Tournament.
Chicktionary
A new iPhone app gives players the opportunity to find as many words as possible from a given seven letters within a time limit—great practice for Scrabblers! http://www.quadnews.net/arts-and-entertainment/there-s-an-app-for-that-1.2389156

Cheating at SCRABBLE®
As online SCRABBLE® becomes more popular, many players are looking for an edge from cheating tools and software. http://www.beepthegeek.com/2010/11/scrabble-cheat-online-tools-and-softwares.html

Sodoku replaces SCRABBLE® in Calgary Herald
The Calgary Herald has removed "Scrabble Grams" from the puzzle section, moving there instead the Sudoku puzzle. http://tinyurl.com/32p6g5a

Prisoners paid to play SCRABBLE®
The Scottish Sun reports that some prisoners are “paid to play” SCRABBLE®, which has infuriated the public. http://www.purplepawn.com/2010/11/sun-uk-prisoners-paid-to-play-scrabble/

Collierville TN fundraiser in the news

WESPA Rules Version 2 released
A major update of WESPA rules has been released. Chris May has uploaded them in PDF format to yahoogroups (go to yahoogroups, log in to My Groups, go to world-scrabble and then go to Files). Writes May: “As always, comments on the rules are welcome. I collect these on the committee's behalf. Please direct them to me at busker221@gmail.com.”

Director! now available for MAC
Creator Marc Levesque has now tested Director! on a MAC. “It does require the purchase and installation of the CrossOver program (no affiliation with Director!) that sells for $40 US last time I checked. This program basically implements the Windows API on a MAC (not emulation per se). Or, if you are really computer-savvy, you can use Wine (which I have not personally tested) which is the freebee equivalent of CrossOver. The only limitation I could find was that the graphics routines don't work, which means you cannot print forms (ie. tally slips, challenge slips, scoresheets) and labels from Director! (reports are all OK).”
Word Star
by Jeff Kastner

Play *Word Star*, a word game with similarities to Boggle, created and presented each month by Phoenix, AZ expert Jeff Kastner.

Your object is to find and list as many words as possible, using only the 6 letters contained in the Word Star puzzle. All words must be OWL2 or Long List acceptable.

There are 3 basic rules to finding words within a Word Star puzzle:

1. **Words must be at least 3 or more letters long** (with no limit on how long the word can be).

2. **Words are formed by using letters that adjoin each other.** For example, the words CAT and ION are acceptable, but not CON, because the “C” and the “O” are not neighboring letters.

3. **Letters within a word may repeat as many times as possible,** as long as such letters are repeated twice (or thrice) in a row, or as long as Rule 2 is followed. So, for example, NOON and TAT are acceptable. But, INN would not be acceptable because the “I” and the “N” are not adjoining.

Note that the **Center Star**, located in the white middle portion of the puzzle, is the most important letter. It is the only letter that adjoins each of the 5 others in the puzzle. In addition, there are bonus points awarded for using the Center Star as often as possible. The Center Star in this month’s puzzle is the letter “T.”
Multiple forms of the same word are acceptable (for example, RATE, RATED, RATER, RATERS, and RATES would all be fine, if they were in the puzzle). No points are awarded (and no penalty points are assessed) for any entries on your word list that are not in OWL2 or the Long List, or that do not adhere to the above rules.

**Points are scored as follows:**

- 2 Points for each WORD found.
- 5 Bonus Points for each BINGO (7 or more letters) found.
- 1 Point for each LETTER of every word found.
- 1 Bonus Point for each CENTER STAR of every word found.

**Example of Points Scored:**

Let's say a Word Star puzzle has an “S” as the Center Star letter, and your list consists of the following words:

ATTIRE
ATTIRES
SAT
SATE
SATIRE
SATIRES
TIRE
TIRES

Your score would be:

- 16 Points for the 8 WORDS found.
- 10 Bonus Points for the 2 BINGOS (ATTIRES and SATIRES) found.
- 42 Points for each of the 42 LETTERS used in the 8 words.
- 7 Bonus Points for each CENTER STAR used (the letter “S” is used 7 times).

**TOTAL SCORE** in this imaginary example = 75 Points.

**Par Scores for this month’s Word Star:**

275 points (Novice); 400 points (Intermediate); 500 points (Advanced)

Once you've compiled your list, check out my SOLUTION on the next page. See you next month with another Word Star puzzle! …Jeff Kastner
Jeff Kastner, originally from New York City, has been living in Phoenix, AZ since 1985. Jeff is one of a handful of players who has ever been ranked in the USA-top-50 in both SCRABBLE® and chess. He is the 2009-2010 Phoenix SCRABBLE® Club champion as well as the 2008 and 2009 Scottsdale SCRABBLE® Club champ. His chess, Sudoku, and word puzzles appear weekly in The Jewish Press newspaper and on its website. He has recently begun hosting the Internet program Who’s on the Show?, where one of his first interviews was with directors Larry Rand and Barbara Van Alen: http://whosontheshow.com/shows.html.
Book Review: The Cardturner by Louis Sachar
Reviewed by Mark Fidler

The Cardturner is a young adult novel about bridge. That's bridge, the card game. As an adult, I really liked this novel. Part of the reason I enjoyed it so much was because the world of competitive bridge reminded me so much of the world of competitive SCRABBLE®.

This is a story about an 18-year-old boy, Alton, who is told by his mother to spend time with his "favorite uncle" who may not have long to live. This uncle is wealthy, and Alton's parents hope to get something out of this relationship. Uncle Lester, also known as Trapp, is blind, and a bridge fanatic. Being blind, Trapp needs someone to turn the cards and read them to him. His nephew Alton is the guy.

Not excited at the prospect of spending his summer this way, Alton nevertheless gets drawn into the bridge-playing world of his uncle, into both the game and the people who are part of it. This turns out to be a sweet novel about a boy's relationship with his crusty, older uncle. Alton also finds himself involved with past family intrigue, and summer romance, as well as the card game that intrigues him.

I think readers will enjoy this book even if they don't play bridge. Scrabble players will especially enjoy it. Louis Sachar's writing alone is enough to make this a fun read.

I recommend this book to both adults and young people.

The Cardturner is available at Amazon.com.
Clubs News

Larry Sherman, Editor

If you’d like your club to be considered for an article or if a newsworthy event has taken place at your club in the last month, please submit material to CorneliaSGuest@gmail.com.

Vince Van Dover Scores 731 at Club 42

For the last seven years the Minneapolis/St. Paul (MN) NASPA SCRABBLE® Club #42 record has been 665 (Steve Pellinen). On Tuesday, November 30th, in the third round that record was broken by Joe Gaspard (674). But only ten minutes later Vince Van Dover showed up with a 731 (pictured below)! There was also a 612 score by Bob Lundegaard in that very same round. Amazing!

Six bingos by Vince, and no phonies played.

The Minneapolis (MN) NASPA SCRABBLE® Club #42 meets on Tuesday nights at 6:00 p.m. at Bridge Center, 6020 Nicollet Ave. S., Minneapolis MN. Contact: Steve Pellinen, 952-925-2440, steve@pellpro.com.
Record Tie at Mid-Cities Club

On November 23, Bryan Pepper and Mike Early tied a game 456-456 at the Mid-Cities (TX) NASPA SCRABBLE® Club #248. Bryan's three bingos were STAINERS (66), ATTENDS (76) and BREEZED (86). Mike's two bingos were FURLERS (78) and PRINTED (98).

The Mid-Cities (TX) NASPA SCRABBLE® Club #234 meets on Tuesday nights at 6:45 p.m. at Taco Bueno, 1528 Brown Trail, Bedford, TX 76021. Contact: Mary Rhoades, 817-718-3115, mrhoadestx@gmail.com.

Weirdities* at Downington SCRABBLE® Club

Three weirdities* happened at the Downingtown (PA) SCRABBLE® Club (previously NSA Club #333) on November 17 (reported by Steve Oliger):

1. The total number of games we have played since inception in the middle '80s surpassed 60,000. It's now 60,022 and counting.

2. Steve Oliger broke the record for highest game *ever* recorded at our club (677 vs old record of 663). The loser (by a 427 point margin) wishes to remain anonymous. Says Steve: “There were no triple-triples in the game. I had four bingos and high JQXZ plays, and won two challenges. If I hadn't lost a third challenge (INROOTED), I might have had a 700. It was the 59,998th game recorded in our Club.”

3. Marty Fialkow broke the record for lowest win *ever* recorded at our club, defeating Bunny Gorchov -11 to -30. The combined -41 points is also a record for our lowest combined score. They both passed/exchanged three times at the beginning of the game, not sure whether or not that would end the game. Marty had a K on his rack. I believe Bunny had either JXQ or JXZ! The low game of -30 was not a club record, however. We had a -40 back in 1999 when a novice (one-time player) ran over on her clock by about ten minutes...."

4. Joey Mallick pointed out that the difference between the high and low scores for the night (707 points) is probably the most unbreakable record. :)

The Downington (PA) SCRABBLE® Club meets on Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m. at the Downington Senior Center, 983 E. Lancaster Ave., Downington, PA. NOTE: The club recently switched from playing on Mondays, as it had the past 25 years. Contact: Steve Oliger, aeinrst3x3x@epix.net
Know the Rules
by Jan Dixon, NASPA Rules Committee Chair

Jan Dixon, a longtime expert player and chair of the NASPA Rules Committee, writes this monthly column on rules for The Last Word. We are thrilled to have Jan sharing her rules expertise with our readers, and we encourage you to email any questions you may have about tournament and club rules to CorneliaSGuest@gmail.com. (Photo credit: Jill Jarrell)

Question:

Near the end of the game, Player A drew too few tiles, and Player B subsequently drew the remaining tile. The mistake was discovered before Player B made his next play.

Am I to understand that B can give A any tile from his/her rack? Or just the one/ones that were picked? Is the penalty for A underdrawing that B gets to decide what tile/tiles he/she wants to hand over?

Answer:

You essentially answered your own question. Yes, B can give A any tile from his rack. That is the penalty for having underdrawn in this crucial situation. Technically, who is to say which tile had been drawn anyway?

see IV.B.6. End of Game Underdrawing

Jan Dixon has been playing competitive SCRABBLE® for 32 years and in tournaments for 29 years. She has been a member of the Rules Committee since its inception. She divides her time between New York City with her fiancé, Aldo Cardia, and Delaware, where her children and grandchildren all reside.
**Scrab-doku**

*by Jeff Kastner*

In a standard Sudoku, your object is to fill in every square of the grid so that all nine rows across, all nine columns down, and all nine 3-by-3 boxes contain the numbers 1 through 9, with no repeats.

Same rules apply to this *Scrab-doku*, but I’ve added a few twists to help you solve it. First of all, I use letters to replace the numbers. These letters are part of a “Keyword” which I’ve scrambled below. I’ve also provided a clue to help you find the correct anagram. Once you’ve unscrambled the Keyword, one of the rows or columns will contain all of its 9 letters in the proper order.

—

**Scrab-Doku Puzzle for: December 2010**

```
   C   H
   R   O
   K   W   A
   T   W   B   K
   C   W   A   T   K   H   R
   B   R   C   T
   K   H   R
   K   A
   R   B
```

“Scrambled” Keyword: WRACKBOTH

—

This week’s “Scrambled” Keyword: WRACKBOTH

**Clue:**
Reversion to a primitive state; or what I do when I get five I’s on my rack!

**SOLUTION** on the page after next.
Word-Finder Challenge:

Here’s an additional test of your anagramming ability. Your object is to find all the words you can that have exactly 5 letters in them, using only the 9 letters of this month’s (Scrambled) Keyword: WRACKBOTH.

In addition to being exactly 5 letters long, all words must be OWL2 acceptable. Each letter of the Keyword may be used only once within any word you find. Multiple forms of the same word are acceptable. For instance, if LINED, LINER, and LINES were contained in the Keyword, they could all be used.

Par Scores for this month’s Word-Finder Challenge:

16 words (Novice); 25 (Intermediate); 32 (Advanced)

Once you’ve compiled your list, check out my SOLUTION on the next page.
See you next month with another Scrab-doku puzzle and Word-Finder Challenge! …Jeff Kastner

Jeff Kastner, originally from New York City, has been living in Phoenix, AZ since 1985. Jeff is one of a handful of players who has ever been ranked in the USA-top-50 in both SCRABBLE® and chess. He is the 2009-2010 Phoenix SCRABBLE® Club champion as well as the 2008 and 2009 Scottsdale SCRABBLE® Club champ. His chess, Sudoku, and word puzzles appear weekly in The Jewish Press newspaper and on its website. He has recently begun hosting the Internet program Who’s on the Show?, where one of his first interviews was with directors Larry Rand and Barbara Van Alen: http://whosontheshow.com/shows.html.
SOLUTION

Scrab-Doku Solution for: December 2010

Unscrambled Keyword: THROWBACK

Word-Finder List

Keyword (Unscrambled): THROWBACK (44 words)

ABHOR       BROTH       KORAT       THACK       WACKO
ABORT       CAHOW       ORACH       THRAW       WATCH
ACTOR       CARBO       RATCH       THROB       WHACK
BATCH       CAROB       ROACH       THROW       WHORT
BOART       CHARK       ROTCH       TORAH       WORTH
BOTCH       CHART       ROWTH       TORCH       WRACK
BRACK       COBRA       TABOR       TRACK       WRATH
BRACT       CROAK       TAROC       TROAK       WROTH
BROCK       CRWTH       TAROK       TROCK
Diane’s DEFALTS

by Diane Firstman

*Diane Firstman published her first book of DEFALTS, Generous to a DEFALT: Vol. 1-3, in 2006. Since then, she has published a second volume of her humorous alternative definitions to common (and not-so-common) words--DEFALTS Vol. 4--and selected DEFALTS have appeared in SCRABBLE® News and on the online SCRABBLE® discussion groups crossword-games-pro (cgp) and OSPD. The Last Word is pleased to offer the following selection of DEFALTS.

PORRINGER: 1) fake porridge; 2) the type of gun used by the Three Bears to off Goldilocks

PRERETURN: the state after you preorder an item and realize you actually don't want it

PROGRAMER: a computer software coder with spelling issues

QUARTERER: a collector of State quarters

RAREFIER: box set of demos, b-sides and previously unreleased comedy bits by actor/comedian Harvey Fierstein

RARERIPE: the status of a banana harvest after a particularly harsh Winter season

REARGUARD: "bumper" for the "junk in your trunk"

REARWARD: a hospital unit dealing mainly with proctology

REDRAWER: where one might stash their "REs"

REREBRACE: instrument used to control or stabilize the movement of a reremouse

CARROTIER: Bugs Bunny’s "wine cellar" for his carrots

*Diane Firstman is a lifelong New Yorker and has been playing SCRABBLE® competitively since 1994. When not thinking up DEFALTS, she attends crossword puzzle tourneys and writes on the New York Yankees for www.bronxbanterblog.com. She is adept at math, can reach items on top shelves in supermarkets, and does a dead-on impression of a sea lion. The collected “DEFALTS” are available at http://stores.lulu.com/dianagram."
SCRABBLE® Resources

There are many study tools to help tournament SCRABBLE® players hone their skills, including a number of programs that can be downloaded for free. This section will offer suggestions and links for both players and directors.

Play SCRABBLE® On Line

POGO SCRABBLE®
The official SCRABBLE® online game. Created under agreement with Hasbro in 2008.

SCRABBLE® ON FACEBOOK
Select the SCRABBLE® application on the Facebook home page to play the official SCRABBLE® game. Various groups hold tournaments at this site, including a group called “Mad Scrabblers”.

INTERNET SCRABBLE® CLUB
A Romanian-based site and application for interactive games. A favorite site for many of the top players.

Anagramming/Practice Tools

JUMBLETIME
A free web site for practicing anagramming skills.
MAC USERS: After you do a Jumbletime quiz on a Mac, the scroll bar to view the results is missing. To make it appear, go to the lower right corner and grab the striped triangle and shrink the window all the way to the top left corner. When you pull it back, the scroll bar to the right of the answers to the quiz (magically) appears. (Make sure you do this before you check your score against other players.) Also, before running a quiz, you might want to first press Control and scroll with the mouse to enlarge the screen so that you can more easily view the jumbles. Once you finish playing, scroll the screen back to its original size. (Thanks to Larry Rand and Monique Kornell.)

AEROLITH
A free application for practicing anagramming skills and learning words.

QUACKLE
A free application for playing, simulating, and analyzing games.

ZYZZYVA
A free application for practicing anagramming skills and learning words. Also has Word Judge capabilities.

SCRABBLE® DICTIONARY
Type a word to check for acceptability. OSPD4 words.

LEXIFIND WORD FINDER
Type a word to check for acceptability (includes Collins words and TWL06). Also includes anagramming and constraint-based retrieval.

FRANKLIN SCRABBLE® PLAYERS DICTIONARY
An electronic handheld dictionary and anagrammer, with many helpful options and games. Includes the latest word lists, and can be adjusted from OSPD4 to OWL2 lists with a code.
Online SCRABBLE® Discussion Groups

CGP (crossword-games-pro@yahoogroups.com)
This group, for tournament players and directors only, has the largest membership of any online tournament SCRABBLE® discussion group. Most important events and changes in the SCRABBLE® world are discussed on cgp. Admission is by approval only. Details can be found in the NASPA Tournament SCRABBLE® Newsletter #1.

OSPD (ospd-scrabble@yahoogroups.com)
This group, dedicated to players using The Official SCRABBLE® Players’ Dictionary, offers light-hearted humor, daily word lists, and more. Admission is to all SCRABBLE® lovers. Details can be found in the NASPA

Tournament SCRABBLE® Newsletter #1.

SCRABBLE® Blogs

THE BADQOPH DIRECTORY
This is a database of blogs by known SCRABBLE® bloggers, primarily tournament players. As of March 29th there were 196 blogs in the directory.

Cheat Sheets

MIKE BARON’S CHEAT SHEET
A great cheat sheet with 2s, 3s, vowel dumps, short high-point-tile words, and good bingo stems. Includes useful front and back hook letters to make 3s from 2s. Adapted from Mike Barron’s SCRABBLE® Wordbook and the Official Tournament and Club Word List, 2nd Edition.

MIKE BARON’S CHEAT SHEET (for School SCRABBLE® and home play)
A great cheat sheet with 2s, 3s, vowel dumps, short high-point-tile words, and good bingo stems. Includes useful front and back hook letters to make 3s from 2s. Adapted from Mike Barron’s SCRABBLE® Wordbook and the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

COOL WORDS TO KNOW
A terrific cheat sheet from the National SCRABBLE® Association for School

SCRABBLE® and home play. Gives useful information on how to find bingos, plus the 2s, 3s, vowel dumps, and short high-point-tile plays.

COLLINS-ONLY CHEAT SHEET
A cheat sheet of short Collins words NOT found in the OWL2. 2s, 3s, short high-point-tile words, and Q-without-U words.

COLLINS WORD LISTS

Tournament Management Software

DIRECTOR!
Marc Levesque’s software for managing tournaments. Also has a Yahoo user group you can join as a support option.

TOURNEYMAN
Jeff Widergren's software for managing tournaments.

TSH
John Chew’s software for managing tournaments, recently updated with new features.
Books

**BOB’S BIBLE**
A terrific book to build word power for tournaments.

**BOB’S BIBLE, SCHOOL EDITION**
For School SCRABBLE® and home play.

**BROW-RAISERS II**
A brilliantly organized study guide geared towards the success of beginning and intermediate players.

**HOW TO PLAY SCRABBLE® LIKE A CHAMPION**
A new guide to winning SCRABBLE® from World SCRABBLE® Champion Joel Wapnick. Fantastic insights into expert playing techniques. (See review in the October issue of *The Last Word*.)

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE WORD BUILDER**
Bob Jackman’s guide to building a strong Collins vocabulary, organized by word length, familiarity, and part of speech.

**EVERYTHING SCRABBLE®, THIRD EDITION**
The ultimate guide to winning at SCRABBLE® by 3-time National Champion Joe Edley and John D. Williams, Jr. Completely updated to include all new words. (See review in the January issue of *The Last Word*.)

**THE OFFICIAL SCRABBLE® PLAYERS DICTIONARY, FOURTH EDITION**
The official word source for School SCRABBLE® and casual play.

**THE OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT AND CLUB WORD LIST, 2ND EDITION**
The official word source for NASPA tournament and club play.

**SCRABBLE® TOURNAMENT & CLUB WORD LIST (COLLINS)**
The official word list for international tournament play. (Available at SamTimer.com.)

**SCRABBLE® WORDBOOK**
A great word book for SCRABBLE® players by Mike Baron. *OSPD4* words. (POO Lists available with words excluded from the *OWL2*.)*
DECEMBER TOURNAMENTS

WEST
- Akron OH (LCT) 12/2
- Atlanta GA 12/4-5
- Austin TX 12/4-5
- Berkeley CA (NAST) 12/4
- Calgary AB CAN 12/4
- Cleveland OH 12/4-5
- E. Caribbean Cruise 12/4-11
- Vancouver vs. Seattle (WGPO; restricted) 12/4
- Fort Lauderdale 12/4
- Madison WI (WGPO) 12/4
- Berkeley CA 12/5
- Laguna Woods CA 12/5
- Ridgefield CT (School SCRABBLE®) 12/5
- Bayside NY 12/11
- Washington DC (School SCRABBLE®) 12/11
- Ridgefield CT (School SCRABBLE®) 12/11
- Guelph ON CAN 12/12
- Portsmouth NH 12/12
- Laguna Woods CA 12/18-19
- Charlotte NC 12/19
- Mountain View CA 12/19
- Strongsville OH 12/19
- Wilmington DE 12/24-27
- Albany NY 12/29-1/2/2011

MIDWEST
- Akron OH 12/2
- Cleveland OH 12/4-5
- Madison WI 12/4
- Strongsville OH 12/19

NORTHEAST
- Ridgefield CT (School SCRABBLE®) 12/5
- Bayside NY 12/11
- Washington DC (School SCRABBLE®) 12/11
- Portsmouth NH 12/12
- Wilmington DE 12/24-27
- Albany NY 12/29-1/2/2011

SOUTH
- College Park GA 12/4-5
- Fort Lauderdale FL 12/4
- Charlotte NC 12/19

SOUTHWEST
- Austin TX 12/4-5

CANADA
- Calgary AB CAN 12/4
- Guelph ON 12/12

INTERNATIONAL
- E. Caribbean Cruise 12/4-11
JANUARY TOURNAMENTS

WEST
Laguna Woods CA 1/2
Berkeley CA 1/9
San Francisco CA 1/29
Seattle WA 1/29

MIDWEST
Minneapolis v. St. Paul MN 1/1
Flint MI 1/8-9
Independence OH 1/11
Twin Cities Redeye MN 1/15-16
Hudson OH 1/22-23
La Grange Park IL 1/29

NORTHEAST
Bayside NY 1/8
Ridgefield CT (School SCRABBLE®) 1/9
Northampton MA 1/15-16
Utica NY 1/22
Atlantic City NJ 1/29-31

SOUTH
Oldsmar FL 1/8-9
Brandon MS 1/14-15
Durham NC 1/15-16
Fort Lauderdale FL 1/22
Kissimmee FL 1/29-30
Knoxville TN 1/29-30

SOUTHWEST
Dallas TX 1/8-9
Reno NV MLK 1/14-17
Austin TX 1/22
Tucson AZ 1/22
The Colony TX 1/29

CANADA
Winnepeg MB 1/15
Guelph ON 1/16
Regina SK 1/22
Calgary AB CAN 1/29-30

INTERNATIONAL
Southeast Asia Cruise 1/8-22
Archives

To download previous issues of *The Last Word* click [here](#).