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.

Editor in Chief: Cornelia Guest
Columnists: Joe Bihlmeyer, Cheryl Cadieux, Jan Dixon, Diane Firstman, Ryan Fischer, Stu Goldman, Jeff Kastner, James Leong, Katya Lezin, Art Moore, Ember Nelson, Juraj Pivovarov, Larry Sherman, Chris Sinacola, Siri Tillekeratne, Linda Wancel
Editors-at-large: Robin Pollock Daniel, Joe Edley, Stefan Fatsis, Ted Gest

For advertising rates, please email CorneliaSGuest@gmail.com

The Last Word is a volunteer effort. We appreciate your donations. (PayPal or snail mail--contact CorneliaSGuest@gmail.com)
Table of Contents

From the Editor 4

Emails to the Editor 5

Meet Our Columnists: Diane Firstman 6

Book Review: How to Play SCRABBLE® Like a Champion reviewed by Cornelia Guest 7

Youth Player in the Spotlight: Sam Rosin 9

Tournament News 10

Hudson Match Play by Dan Stock, photos by Frank Lee 10

2010 GRITS Are Served! by Peggy Grant 12

AAJA-NY Tournament & Fundraiser by Cornelia Guest 16

The New England School SCRABBLE® Series: Tournament 1 by Cornelia Guest 18

Tournament Results 20

New Faces 22

Annual Achievement Award Winners 24

Achievement Award Winner Profiles 26

Video Joe by Joe Bihlmeyer 35

The Wordsmith: Miles ingloriosis by Chris Sinacola 36

Play the Game: Game Analysis by Joe Edley 38

Club News edited by Larry Sherman 42

Ottawa Scrable Club #495 by Emilie Henkelman and Matthew Tunnicliffe; Photos by Sue Tremblay 42

Word Trivia Quiz by Siri Tillekeratne 45
Know the Rules by Jan Dixon 47

Book Review: SCRABBLE® Crosswords and SCRABBLE® Bingo Crosswords reviewed by Allan Simon 48

What’s Your Play? 49

Player Profile: Peggy Grant by Katya Lezin 51

Word Star by Jeff Kastner 53

Diane’s DEFALTS by Diane Firstman 56

SCRABBLE® and Scrabblers in the News 57

Linda’s Library by Linda Wancel 58

Stell’s Racks of Mirth by Cheryl Cadieux (AKA Stella) 60

Passages edited by Larry Sherman 62

Scrab-doku by Jeff Kastner 64

Something for Everyone at the Delaware SCRABBLE® Festivus 67

Badqoph Blog Talk by Ryan Fischer 69

SCRABBLE® Resources 72

Tournament Calendar 76

Archives 78
In this issue we acknowledge the recipients of the NASPA Achievement Recognition Awards, awarded by NASPA to 17 notable players whose achievements distinguished them in the period between Nationals 2009 and 2010. Player of the Year was once again Dave Wiegand—a remarkable feat. David Gibson, another SCRABBLE® great, repeated as the winner of the most Division 1 multi-day tournaments. Winter won first place in four different divisions, having played a remarkable 753 games of tournament SCRABBLE® on the way. The youngest award winner was 17-year-old Noah Walton, who was the Youth Player of the Year (his rating is now 1927). The oldest winner was 80-year-old Stu Goldman, who won the prize for most lower-division wins. SCRABBLE® is truly a game all ages can enjoy!

We also applaud the achievement of another formidable Youth Player: 17-year-old Sam Rosin, currently the top-rated player under 18 in North America, with a 1942 rating. Sam placed 12th of 116 players in Division 1 at Nationals, and is now ranked 18th of all NASPA players of any age.

There is also a newly published book I’d like to recommend: Joel Wapnick’s sensational guide to SCRABBLE® strategy entitled How to Play SCRABBLE® Like a Champion. It is reviewed in this issue, and is a must-have for all serious tournament players.

October is a great month for SCRABBLE® players, with East Coast players enjoying Annette Tedesco’s Lake George Tournament at the Tiki Lounge in the Berkshires, West Coast players enjoying the California Open in San Francisco, and Canadian players enjoying the Western Canadian SCRABBLE® Championship in Calgary. Players not attending these large events will find many other events on the October schedules.

I’m planning the Halloween decorations for my November “Terror of the Tiles” School SCRABBLE® Tournament the week after Halloween (candy and decorations go on sale; pumpkins are still usable; and costumes have not yet reached the attic). This year the annual tournament will be part of my New England School SCRABBLE® Series, giving teams a chance to compete once a month. I’m excited to see 4th graders-12th graders enjoying these tournaments, and I know those teams that have “aged out” of the National School SCRABBLE® Championship appreciate the opportunity to compete still as a pair. Any coaches interested in trying this in your area? I’m happy to help out—just send me an email at CorneliaSGuest@gmail.com or call me at 203-244-5324.

What brings players to a particular SCRABBLE® tournament? It’s more than just the game. In this issue of The Last Word you’ll find stories on two unusual tournaments: Peggy Grant’s GRITS tournament in Folly Beach, SC, and the Asian American Journalists Association of New York’s 2nd Annual SCRABBLE® Tournament and Fundraiser in New York City. Both were great fun for all participants. You’ll also read in Chris Sinacola’s column, “The Wordsmith,” about his adventures playing Latin SCRABBLE® with his wife, and learn in Ryan Fischer’s “Badqoph Blog Talk” about an ISC Blitz Tournament between some of the nation’s top players.

SCRABBLE® players like to have fun! Have a great October!

Cornelia Guest
Thanks to the many readers who continue to send in enthusiastic emails of support for the Newsletter—and to those who sent donations. Thanks, too, to those readers who sent in corrections; I appreciated hearing from you. Should you wish to comment on any of the Newsletter articles—or make suggestions or corrections—please send your emails to Cornelia Guest at CorneliaSGuest@gmail.com. Snail mail is also welcome at 6A Barry Avenue, Ridgefield, CT 06877. Emails chosen for publication may be edited at the editor’s discretion.

Corny--

Reading "The Bane of Scrabble Players" [September issue] reminded me of a little song parody I wrote many years ago, which was published in “Medleys.”

To the tune of "The Eyes of Texas Are Upon You":

The I's of SCRABBLE® are upon you
Fouling up your rack;
The I's of SCRABBLE® are upon you
And you've got to toss them back.
Can't you give up just this one turn?
Two bad racks, you'll lose.
Can't you give those 4 I's back so
That you can pick (gazIng at palm) 4 U's!

Stu Goldman

[Re: The CJRP SCRABBLE® Challenge (in Spanish)]

Cornelia:

I doubt this is the answer to the puzzle, but in the lower-left corner, there's the play "senta(r)án," a conjugation of the verb "to sit." It would be a triple-triple that scores a lot of points. I have to look a bit more carefully at what words are accepted in Spanish SCRABBLE® as verbs can be conjugated in many different ways.

Matt Silver
Meet Our Columnists

The Last Word would not be what it is without our terrific columnists. I am particularly grateful to our monthly columnists, many of whom have been writing for the Newsletter since it first appeared in July, 2009, as the NASPA Tournament SCRABBLE® Newsletter. This month’s featured columnist is Diane Firstman, from Forest Hills, NY. She is the author of “Diane’s DEFALTS.”

DIANE FIRSTMAN

So how and why did I get involved in tournament SCRABBLE®? Well, my mother and I would play kitchen table SCRABBLE® all the time (single parent raising only child, we had a lot of time together). She tried to get me into Bridge, but I never took to it like I did SCRABBLE®. We had a SCRABBLE® club in our high school, and just for kicks, I developed a crude rating system based on points per play, highest scoring word, percentage of points scored, etc. Got tired of beating up my friends, found the NSA flyer in a Deluxe SCRABBLE® box, and joined the Association in 1993 or so. Early in 1994, I ventured into Club 56 in Manhattan, and attended the Beginner's Club run by Susi Tiekert. From there, I started going to the regular Thursday night club gatherings run by the late Mike Martin.

My first tourney was in June 1994 in New York City, a one-night event run by Ron and Susi Tiekert. The very first rack of my very first game was a bingo (MATCHED), which in my nervousness I placed sub-optimally, pointswise. I did manage to win the game, despite going over the clock by two minutes. I went 3-3 that night, and I knew I wanted to stick with it.

My most memorable tourney game was actually a loss . . . a 499-492 loss to Joey Mallick in Albany in July 2002. Bingos all over the board. He played the flashier bingos, I hung around with the pedestrian ones. There was a Q-block endgame to analyze. It was fun.

My most memorable tourney would have to be the 2002 BAT. I drew well the whole tourney, caught a couple of breaks, won two nail-biters against Chris Guilbert to clinch Division A, and got Gibsonized for only the second time in my career. On the flip side, my most excruciating game involved scoring 163 points ...TOTAL ... in the final game at the Dallas Nationals in 1996.

After all this time, SCRABBLE® still keeps me entertained through the variety of "puzzles" presented to you, the challenge to improve, and the "eureka" moments of inspired playmaking. Then of course, the menagerie of kindred spirits ... smart, funny, off-beat ... most of my dearest friends are Scrabblers.

As for DEFALTS, I've tried all sorts of ways to learn words, and found that it's easier to remember a word if it's associated with a funny image/alternate definition. Take the word NINEBARK. I might not remember it, if not for my made-up definition of “Three Dog Night squared.”

A few years ago, there was a thread on CGP regarding people making up such "wacky definitions," and I decided to share some of mine. They became so popular that a put a bunch of them together in a book, and then was asked to supply them to the NSA for inclusion in SCRABBLE® News.

There are now two books (and a much-delayed third one in the works), and I'm still supplying DEFALTS (ALTernate DEFinitions) to Hasbro and The Last Word. From time to time, people send me their own DEFALTS for my approval. Those make me smile, and keep me going.
Book Review

How to Play SCRABBLE® Like a Champion
by Joel Wapnick
Reviewed by Cornelia Guest

For many years Joel Wapnick’s The Champion’s Strategy for Winning at SCRABBLE® Brand Crossword Game, published in 1986, was considered one of the finest guides to SCRABBLE® strategy. Out of print for several years, copies of the book could be found online sometimes; however, the book was somewhat dated and did not include word updates dating as far back as 1991.

Now Wapnick, a great SCRABBLE® player who has been World Champion, National Champion, and National Canadian Champion, has updated and added to that earlier book to present a book that no serious tournament SCRABBLE® player should be without. The book not only covers basics of strategy and tournament play, it explains the detailed analysis experts use in determining their moves and preparing for tournaments.

For an intermediate player hoping to move up, Wapnick shares his methods for learning words and improving play. He provides a terrific explanation of how using Quackle (www.Quackle.org) can help in selecting the optimal plays. At the back of the book he includes a chapter of 40 “Cool Plays,” which illustrate excellent finds that are not always the most obvious, and brilliant plays that are truly breathtaking.

Wapnick, who also is an expert pianist, shows readers the elegance of great SCRABBLE® strategy, using examples that demonstrate the imagination and creativity the game offers.

Part 1, “The Nature of the Game,” provides a basic summary of the game, tournament rules, and the important game tools: words. Wapnick touches briefly on the differences between casual and tournament play, as well as between the tournament game in North American and that played in other countries.

Part 2, “How to Play the Game,” is the meat of the book. Beginning with a description of the various ways to score points in SCRABBLE® (opening plays, hooks, inside plays, and extensions), Wapnick introduces strategy by having the reader look for hooks for bingos, then stretches into the world of setting up plays, weighing situational advantages of scoring versus rack balancing, and exploring why certain plays are more likely to result in a win than others. The extensive chapter on strategy introduces the formula \[ \text{valuation} = \text{score} + \text{leave} \], which teaches readers how to calculate valuation based on assigning point values to each letter and evaluating certain letter combinations that offer strong or weak synergy. Examples illustrate how important this can be in determining what moves to make. Wapnick also explains how and when to exchange tiles, pass a turn, play defensively,
and/or take a risk. He shows ways, too, that your opponent’s play may indicate what’s on his/her rack.

The section on setups is outstanding, with examples from top players showing brilliant strategy at its best. Wapnick also gives examples of well-played endgames.

Wapnick shares with readers his successful method for memorizing words, plus he outlines some of the pitfalls to avoid when at the tournament. Getting a good night’s sleep and eating well can help Scrabblers as well as athletes!

Chapter 8, “Annotated Games,” presents eight amazing games played by some of the top experts in the world, including Dave Wiegand, Brian Cappelletto, Adam Logan, Joey Mallick, Carl Johnson, Jason Katz-Brown, Evan Berofsky, Noah Walton, Lloyd Mills, John Luebkemann, Robin Pollock Daniel, Rod MacNeil, and Wapnick himself. This is a fascinating way to learn. Cover the answer with a sheet of paper, make your best move (on an actual board, as Wapnick suggests), and then see what the expert did—and whether Wapnick agrees. It’s like being in the heads of three experts: the players and Wapnick. I’d expected a barrage of obscure words; not so. Usually the plays were ones a 1200ish player could find, but often wouldn’t. I was humbled by this chapter into realizing that I play too fast, and don’t look hard enough for the best play. I finished the chapter with an enormous respect for the players whose games were chosen.

I cannot recommend this book more highly.

How to Play SCRABBLE® Like a Champion is available in many North American bookstores, as well as online at Amazon, Borders, Barnes & Noble, Chapters-Indigo, etc. Or order here.

Cornelia Guest is a tournament director and School SCRABBLE® coach. She is the publisher of the monthly e-magazine The Last Word.
Youth Player in the Spotlight: Sam Rosin

Sam Rosin, a 17-year-old senior at Bernards High School, Bernardsville, NJ, finished 12th out of 116 players in Division 1 at the 2010 National SCRABBLE® Championship in Dallas, in all likelihood the best finish ever for a Youth Player at Nationals. His 18-11-2 record also raised his rating to 1924--another remarkable achievement. His current rating is 1942, his all-time peak, and he is the 18th highest ranked player in North America--of any age. In addition to SCRABBLE®, Sam enjoys tennis, listening to music, golf and swimming.

Sam first started playing competitive SCRABBLE® when he was 8. In 2002, as a 9-year-old, he played in his first tournament, in Philadelphia, finishing 7th out of 16 players and earning an initial rating of 715. He played in his first Nationals at the age of 11. By the time Sam was 14, he was playing in Division 1--and winning. At 15 his rating passed 1800, and it continues to rise. Last year he was the youngest player ever to represent his country as part of the U.S. team at the World SCRABBLE® Championship. He is currently the top ranked Youth Player in North America.

Sam played exceptionally at Nationals, defeating such top SCRABBLE® players as Brian Cappelletto, Kenji Matsumoto, and Rafi Stern, all currently ranked above 2000. Modestly, he said he made some poor plays, too.

“I could definitely tell you my worst play at Nationals (there were many contenders). I was about to beat Nigel on Day 1 had I played CRAMPS, but I played the phony SCRAMPS* instead from my rack of AMPRSS and lost. CRAMPS would have won by two. It was exciting getting to play Nigel for the first time anyway, though.

“My favorite word from the tournament was probably FIVEPINs from a rack of EIINPV against Pat Barrett. I didn't have many other games or plays of note; the racks were pretty easy all tournament so there were a lot of baby bingos. I felt very fortunate all tournament, as the wins seemed to come pretty easily and there were a few games I definitely could have won--I blew two games in the endgame, one in the pre-endgame, and could have won both my ties, so that's four games right there I definitely could have won. There's always next year.”
Hudson Match Play
by Dan Stock, photos by Frank Lee

For the second straight Hudson tourney, a player ran a distance race on Sunday morning and then won the championship in the afternoon.

Last time, it was Winter who ran the Cleveland Marathon before his win. This time, the runner and winner was Jeff Clark, who ran his first-ever half marathon at the River Run ... then beat Jason Idalski 3-1 in a best-of-five series to take the championship trophy. The final game was a 486-477 barnburner, with Idalski not quite being able to win after Clark’s triple triple of ANTIRAPE.

As usual at this tourney, the top two were decided by the best records on the first day. The first day also determined who would play for third through sixth places. Carolyn Easter beat Pete Zeigler in a best-of-two match to qualify for the 3rd-place match, and Michael Bassett outscored his girlfriend Heather Steffy (of "The Scrabble Couple" blog fame) in the other best-of-two qualifier for the 3rd-place match. Easter then beat Bassett to clinch third place, while Steffy defeated Zeigler in the 5th-place match.

Cheryl Melvin had the best record of those who did not qualify for match play, making it so that all four Michigan players finished in the money. Another Scrabble couple, Connie Breitbeil and Frank Lee, won ribbons for their 8th and 10th place finishes.

Clark also succeeded at his goal of running the half marathon in under two hours. His fellow runner Dan Stock (hey, that's me!) was a little faster in the run, but far worse in the tourney: I finished 9th.
despite being the 3rd seed. Idalski and I both finished with 6-5 records ... but with spreads over +700, thanks to huge wins and close losses. Congrats to Steve Krieger, who regains the title of top-rated player in Ohio thanks to my ratings collapse.

The play of the tourney was made by Tony Incorvati, playing in his first tourney. The thirteen-year-old managed to find MANAGERIAL through the MA and a disconnected I. I suspect that once this kid has a little studying and experience under his belt, Krieger and I won’t have to worry about being top in this state any more ...

Place. Name (Seed): Won-Lost,Cume -- prize [Note: Results at NASPA site and cross-tables are not correct as they don’t reflect match-play format]

1st. Jeff Clark (#2): 9-2,+208 -- Won championship match 3-1, $117 + trophy
2nd. Jason Idalski (#1): 6-5,+725 -- lost championship match, $91 + ribbon
3rd. Carolyn Easter (#4): 8-3,+251 -- won 3rd place match, $65 + ribbon
4th. Michael Bassett (#11): 5-6,+131 -- lost 3rd place match, $52 + ribbon
5th. Heather Steffy (#6): 8-3,+296 -- won 5th place match, $39 + ribbon
6th. Pete Zeigler (#5): 5-6,+353 -- lost 5th place match, $26 + ribbon

7th. Cheryl Melvin (#9): 8-3,+349 -- best record among those not qualified for matches, $26
8th. Connie Breitbeil (#10): 7-4,+642 -- ribbon
9th. Daniel Stock (#3): 6-5,+758 -- ribbon
10th. Frank Lee (#7): 5-6,-72 -- ribbon
11th. Christopher Sheppard (#13): 5-6,-218
12th. Eileen Narvin (#16): 5-6,-257
13th. Pat Hardwick (#14): 5-6,-568
14th. Karen Smith (#8): 4-7,-125
15th. Eileen Popich (#12): 4-7,-407
16th. Walter Konicki (#15): 4-7,-428
17th. Tony Incorvati (unrated): 1-10,-1488
2010 GRITS are Served!
“Gal’s Retreat Including Tournament SCRABBLE®”
by Peggy Grant, Director

Eighteen amazing ladies from all across the United States assembled for the 2010 inaugural GRITS tourney, held in Folly Beach, SC, Sept 23-26. After almost one year from inception to completion, Gal’s Retreat Including Tournament SCRABBLE® left everyone feeling full of sightseeing, Southern Cuisine, sisterly bonding, laughter and of course…competitive SCRABBLE®.

The event started with the arrival of the ladies to the Charleston Airport and Amtrak station. All were greeted for transfer to the venue and our “home” for the next 4 days, the beautiful “Southern Charm” on Folly Beach. The first evening featured a wine and cheese reception. It was quickly followed by a game of “Know your Southern sayins,” which was won by Colleen Shea (NY), and a group game of “Name that famous person.” Denise Mahnken (NY) won the prize for having met the most other participants prior to the tourney: 14 of 16. No surprise there, and we were fortunate to have SCRABBLE® World’s own Ms. Congeniality bring her boundless positive energy to GRITS!

An impromptu primer of “How to prepare and eat boiled peanuts” drew interest by the contingent from Minnesota and Colorado (namely Steph Steele, who enjoyed and recalled them from her childhood; Janice Kaye, who likened their taste to legumes or edamame; and Angela Dancho, who just plan loved them). Since “green” or raw peanuts are not available in most parts of the country, ziplock bags of fresh ones from “The Pig” (Piggly Wiggly grocery store) were packed for the players’ travels home, to share with

L-R: “Folly Beach,” our home for GRITS; on the porch rocking: Nola, Susi, Steph, Jan, and Joann; on the beach: Jan K, Gerianne, Jan D., Doreen, Angela, Nola, and Joann
their families. Kudos to Gerianne Abriano (NY), who bravely tasted her first boiled peanut ever and suffered no apparent ill effects! Susi Tiekert (FL) made the observation: “We’ve been here almost a whole day, and nobody has played any SCRABBLE®.” Huh…more to life than SCRABBLE®? An interesting concept!

Friday started early with the smells of fresh-brewed coffee and a variety of homemade quiche. After everyone got a bite to eat, some ladies continued their day sightseeing in horse and buggy in historic Antebellum Charleston, while others enjoyed the gentle surf, sand, sun and rustic charm of Folly Beach. All returned during the early evening for a “Southern Fixin’s picnic” of fried chicken, squash casserole, macaroni and cheese, Denise’s potato salad, green beans, and sliced vine-ripened “low-country” tomatoes.

The SCRABBLE® part of the weekend got its official start on Friday evening with 4 games. A standard 16-game RR/KOH tourney format allowed for everyone, regardless of rating, to meet, socialize, and play everyone else. At 11:30pm, the majority of the group stayed up late for another rousing round of “Name that famous person.” Angie Harting (SC), who joined the group on Friday, proved to be a “ringer” for her team both in giving and receiving clues, leading her team to victory in Round 2. For those who did go to bed early, the laughter and rowdiness of the festivities disrupted any chance of catching an advantage from extra Zzzzz.

Saturday, which started a bit earlier, featured a breakfast of tasty veggie frittatas prepared by Joann Goddard (NC) and a “grits bar,” which showcased a variety of cheeses and other tasty toppings for our southern “delicacy.” Once again the Midwest contingent of Janice Kaye (MN), Bobbi Hendrickson (MN), Nola “anything tastes good with cheddar cheese” Hembrook (WI), and Jan Konkol (WI) enjoyed the experience, and took home their own bags of grits. Melissa Brown (MN) gave grits a taste, but conceded, “They’re just not my thing.”
On Saturday the group played 8 games of SCRABBLE®. Doreen Fiorelli (NY), feeling the effects of a long day on little sleep, supplied a bit of comic relief when she submitted her scorecard for game 12. She completed the tally slip listing herself as both player 1 and player 2...hence covering her bases as both the winner and loser of the same game. Interestingly enough, her opponent for the game, Angie Harting, concurred and initialed the same slip. Being such good sports, they were both able to laugh at themselves and the situation.

The day culminated with a prix-fixe meal at “High Cotton,” a quaint, well-respected Charleston dining establishment known for “low-country” culinary creations and sweet sounds of jazz. Shrimp n’ grits was the hands-down favorite selection, served along with other delicacies such as “she crab” soup. Upon our return to the house, the group convened for yet another rousing game of “Name that famous person.” Angie Harting proved dominant again, leading her teams to victory on two consecutive nights.

Sunday arrived more quickly than any of us expected, with yet another tasty breakfast--this one of “oven-baked French toast,” bacon, and fresh fruit--and the final 4 games of SCRABBLE®. Triple-triple bingos dominated the morning session. Bobbi Hendrickson played HEARTILY for 185 points in game 13. This play helped her to secure the tourney High Game with very impressive score of 642. In game 14 Angela Dancho played DOMInATE through the M for 145 points.
The final standings were: 1st Place ($300): Jan Dixon 14-2 +1473; 2nd Place ($200): Nola Hembrook 12-4 +1068; 3rd place ($100): Joann Goddard 11.5 - 4.5 +344; 4th place ($50): Bobbi Hendrickson 11-5 +351. Most Improved seed ($50) went to Susan Blanchard (NC), and High Loss went to Susi Tiekert with 450 points. Special prizes were awarded for the word that best embodied the spirit of Charleston, which was SWEETEN, played by Janice Kaye, and the highest-scoring play using the letters in G-R-I-T-S, which was RESTRINGS for 68 points played by Jan Dixon. Additionally, the high-scoring player for each round got their pick of GRITS goodies.

Even before memories were able to formulate in our minds, the ladies eagerly started making plans for next year. Do we take GRITS “on the road” to unexplored cities or do we return to Charleston in 2011? In true southern tradition, we won’t “kiss and tell”…but save the date (the last weekend in September 2011) and sign up early, because it promises fill up fast.

A special “Thank Y’all” goes out to Joann Goddard, Colleen Shea, and my sister Sue Grant (SC), for all of their hard work and dedication to make this event a huge success. But the most thanks of all go to the incredible ladies of GRITS who “got it” to make this weekend successful and memorable.

Peggy Grant, organizer and director of GRITS, is the founder and director of Columbia SC SCRABBLE® Club #645. (Read her profile by Katya Lezin on page 51.)
2nd Annual AAJA-NY SCRABBLE® Tournament and Fundraiser

by Cornelia Guest; photos by Vickie An

On Saturday, September 18th, Mike Ecsedy and I drove into New York City to be guests--and competitors--at the 2nd Annual Asian American Journalists Association of New York SCRABBLE® Tournament and Fundraiser. The event, sponsored by the New York Times and held in the Chelsea area at the billiards bar SLATE, was as elegant a SCRABBLE® tournament as I've attended. Brand-new SCRABBLE® sets were placed on tables in two areas of the space: one for casual players, the other for the tournament players. I brought in SamTimers and NSA scoresheets. Each table had a copy of the Official SCRABBLE® Players’ Dictionary, 4th Edition, the event lexicon.

Players were treated to a delicious buffet, plus a drink from the bar. Each also received a raffle ticket for a chance to win an iPad, with additional tickets available for purchase at $5 per ticket (yes, I bought a chance....) All proceeds went to benefit the AAJA New York Chapter; they will be used for scholarships, events, and workshops.

Players and friends, many of whom were top journalists for major NY newspapers, magazines, and television shows, arrived at 2:00 to check in, mingle, and enjoy the food. At 3:00 players were paired for the first of two games. While most of the players were terrific wordsmiths and a few had played on the Facebook SCRABBLE® Beta program, many were surprised by words like ZA and QI, and frustrated to see words like ZEN and DA challenged off. When the games had finished, the two finalists were Mike Ecsedy, a director of the Ridgefield CT SCRABBLE® Club #603, and Alex Dering, who plays at NYC Club #56.
The championship round was a speed tournament, each player given 5 minutes a side, with two volunteers keeping track of their plays. Checking the final score at the end of the lightning-fast round took longer than the round itself—and Mike Ecsedy emerged the winner. While Alex had flashily played the bingo UnTITLED and the high-point BOXy to triple-word scores, Mike had steadily played 20- and 30-point plays to take the championship, 395-307. First prize was a Nintendo DSi XL with a SCRABBLE® and a Crossword DS; second prize a Scrabylon DVD and two tickets to John Legend and The Roots; third prize a Scrabylon DVD and a SCRABBLE® game set.

Special thanks to the event organizers from the AAJA: Katie Benner, member; Sital Patel, president; Vickie An, secretary; Chris Chiang, treasurer; and national board representatives Cheryl Tan and Annalisa Burgos (who also won the iPad!) Mike and I definitely hope to return to next year’s tournament!
The New England School SCRABBLE® Series
Tournament 1: Ridgefield Library, CT
by Cornelia Guest, Director

This school year I am running a series of monthly School SCRABBLE® tournaments to encourage my novice SCRABBLE® students to try their skills in a tournament setting and to give more experienced Nationals-bound teams an opportunity to practice working together against other teams. The first tournament in the series took place on Sunday, September 19th, at the Ridgefield Library in Ridgefield, CT.

Fourteen players aged 7-15 came to the inaugural series tournament at the Ridgefield (CT) Library on Sunday, September 19th, with twelve playing in the tournament and the extra team playing casual games with each other and with parents who were attending.

The final match came down to an exciting finish between two teams with great records: Kevin Rosenberg and Mack Meller (2-0 +498) facing Jacob Litt and Stephen Alt (2-0 +447). Eighth grader Kevin, last year’s NSSC runner-up with Tim Bryant, was paired with 10-year-old Mack Meller, a home-schooled fifth grader in his first tournament. Jacob and Stephen, both 9th graders, had placed 7th at the 2010 NSSC after being defeated in the semifinals by Kevin and Tim.

The game ended with a narrow win by 63 points by Kevin and Mack. Stephen and Jacob finished 3rd, being passed by another undefeated team, 8th graders Amy Rowland (10th in last year’s NSSC) and Alexandra Kung.

Kevin and Mack won the High Game award (530) and Jacob and Stephen the High Play award (QIVIUTS for 90 points). The prize for funniest word ended in a tie between SNOOTIER (Amy and Alexandra) and JOLLIES (Jacob and Stephen). The National SCRABBLE® Association had generously sent prizes, which were awarded to the top teams and to the 4th grade champion, Sheng Guo; the 6th grade champion, DeeAnn Guo; the 7th grade champion, Jerray Chang; and the 9th grade champions, Stephen and Jacob. Kevin and Mack were the 8th and 5th grade champions respectively.
Participation prizes were also given to the casual players, Ignacio Altamiranda and Sophie Guo, and a raffle was held for a SCRABBLE® towel and t-shirt, donated by the NSA. Alexandra Kung was the winner of the towel and Sheng Guo the winner of the t-shirt. Complete results follow:

1. Kevin Rosenberg & Mack Meller 3-0 +561
2. Amy Rowland & Alexandra Kung 3-0 +470
3. Jacob Litt & Stephen Alt 2-1 +384
4. DeeAnn Guo & Quinn Vissak 1-2 -402
5. Jerray Chang & Josefina Altamiranda 0-3 -258
6. Siya Chauhan & Sheng Guo 0-3 -755

High Game: Kevin Rosenberg & Mack Meller: 530
High Play: Jacob Litt & Stephen Alt: QIVIUTS 90
Funniest Word (tie): Amy Rowland & Alexandra Kung (SNOOTIER); Jacob Litt & Stephen Alt (JOLLIES)

4th Grade Champion: Sheng Guo
5th Grade Champion: Mack Meller
6th Grade Champion: DeeAnn Guo
7th Grade Champion: Jerray Chang
8th Grade Champion: Kevin Rosenberg
9th Grade Champions: Jacob Litt & Stephen Alt
Participation Prizes: Ignacio Altamiranda & Sophie Guo

The series also has end-of-series prizes, with points accumulated over the course of the series (5 points for 1st, 3 for 2nd, 2 for 3rd, and 4 for 4th). Players are divided into two divisions, with mixed divisions awarding points for division finishes.

Current Standings New England School SCRABBLE® Series:

**DIVISION A PLAYERS**

1. Mack Meller, 5 points
1. Kevin Rosenberg, 5 points
3. Alexandra Kung, 3 points
3. Amy Rowland, 3 points
5. Stephen Alt, 2 points
5. Jacob Litt, 2 points
7. DeeAnn Guo, 1 point

**DIVISION B PLAYERS**

1. Quinn Vissak, 5 points
2. Siya Chauhan, 3 points
2. Sheng Guo, 3 points
Tournament Results 9/1-30

**PORTLAND OR EARLY BIRD 9/3**
1. Keith Smith
2. Michael Baker
3. Bruce D’Ambrosio
4. P. K. Gott

**ALPHARETTA GA 9/4-6**
1. Ian Weinstein
2. Mark Schmidt
3. Chris Knight
4. Samuel Bond

**PORTLAND ME 9/4-6**
1. Joey Mallick
2. Sue Gable

**IRVING TX 9/4-6**
1. Patricia Barrett
2. Stan Miranda
3. Keil Schults
4. Harry Durbin

**PORTLAND OR MAIN EVENT 9/4-6**
1. Carl Johnson
2. James Henderson
3. Gigi Miller
4. Max Dwyer
5. Scott Portocarrero

**LAGUNA WOODS CA 9/5**
1. Rachel Knapp

**PORTLAND OR LATE BIRD 9/6**
1. Mark Milan
2. Kolton Koehler

**ALBUQUERQUE NM 9/10**
1. Dominick Mancine
2. Jeff Martin
3. Susan Beard
4. Brenda Casey
5. Gertrude Savadge

**ALBUQUERQUE NM 9/11-12**
1. Kenji Matsumoto
2. Susan Beard
3. Allen Jacobson
4. Peggy Alley

**BAYSHORE NY 9/11**
1. James Curley
2. Michael Kapernaros
3. Phyllis Nussbaum
4. Jacob Klein

**FORT LAUDERDALE FL 9/11**
1. Chad Finley
2. Merlene Weithers

**MINNESOTA V. WISCONSIN, BLACK RIVER FALLS WI (WGPO) 9/11-12**
1. Peter Armstrong (WI) 11-2 +789
2. Dave Lockrem (MI) 13-0 +1060

**MICHIGAN WINNING STATE**

**TAMPA FL 9/11**
1. Steve Glass

**TAMPA FL 9/11**
1. Steve Glass

**BERKELEY CA 9/12**
1. Jesse Day
2. KC Frodyma
3. John Demeter
4. Bharat Sampath

**GUELPH ON CAN 9/12**
1. Tony Leah

**INDEPENDENCE OH (LCT) 9/14**
1. Pete Ziegler

**MOUNTAIN VIEW CA 9/19**
1. Jerry Lerman
2. Stuart Goldman
3. Pat Diener

**PHILADELPHIA PA 9/19**
1. Joel Sherman
2. Sue Gable
3. Mike Lean
4. Peter Filandro

**RIDGEFIELD CT (SCHOOL SCRABBLE®) 9/19**
1. Kevin E. Rosenberg & Mack Meller

**“GRITS” FOLLY BEACH SC (WGPO) 9/23-26**
1. Jan Dixon
FORT LAUDERDALE
FL 9/24
1. George Rogers
2. Dawn Doyle
3. Jason Gelman

PORTLAND v. SEATTLE
(TCC) 9/24
Winner: Seattle
1. Noah Walton
2. Walker Willingham
3. Alice Goodwin

TORONTO ON CAN 9/24
1. Tony Leah

REGINA SK CAN
9/25-26
1. George Macaulay
2. Jason Eyolfson
3. Linda Pearn

TORONTO ON CAN
9/25-26
1. Sinna Vijayakumar
2. Emely Weissman
3. Sharmaine Farini
4. Smylie Jackson

TORONTO ON CAN
(COLLINS) 9/25-26
1. Joel Wapnick

YORK PA 9/25
1. Winter
2. Edward Stewart
3. Steve Derr
4. Jan Lapierre

LEXINGTON KY (LCT; NASPA & WGPO) 9/26
1. Kelly McKenzie
New Faces

Since our last issue, 28 new faces have competed at NASPA, NSA, and WGPO tournaments. Our featured new face is Gary Powers, who placed 2nd in Division 4 at the Toronto (ON) Mike Wise Memorial Tournament on September 25th-26th with a 9.5-3.5 +452 record to earn an initial NASPA rating of 1199.

Gary Powers

When Gene Rawlins first played Gary Powers at the Toronto SCRABBLE® Club #3 four weeks ago, Gene struggled hard to win. Gary was new to the club, and had not played SCRABBLE® competitively before, neither at club nor on a computer. “I don’t even own a computer,” said the 63-year-old Toronto retiree. Immediately recognizing Gary’s potential, Gene encouraged him to play in the upcoming Toronto Tournament. “As he is disabled senior,” said Gene, “I volunteered to drive him to and from the tourney both days.”

Gene’s confidence in Gary was not misplaced: Gary won nine games, tied one, and lost three to finish in second place in Division 4 to Jackson Smylie, a Youth Player who won all his games in the tournament but one--the one he lost to Gary.

Gary has played SCRABBLE® for most of his life, and currently plays twice a month at the Central Eglinton Community Centre ([http://reseller2771-10004.netfirms.com/centraleglinton.com/](http://reseller2771-10004.netfirms.com/centraleglinton.com/)). “Until recently I’ve just played with friends,” he said, “or by myself, setting up two, three, or four racks and playing each turn.” It’s a serious hobby, though, and he confesses that he’s worn out a couple of SCRABBLE® dictionaries studying words. However, it wasn’t till he got to the Toronto Club that he saw his first word list. “I had to learn five new two-letter words: QI, OI, KI, ZA, and FE.”

He really enjoyed the tournament, particularly his game against the young Jackson Smylie. “He tried to block every move I had,” remembered Gary. “I had NOH to play in the corner, but he blocked it. Luckily I found a place to make a play hooking the O to make REPO, which he challenged unsuccessfully. I went out with that, so I beat him. He’s a very strong player; he got two bingos in a row.”

With Jackson Smylie Gibsonized, Gary’s final game was against Jean Waldron for the second-place prize. “She tried so hard,” said Gary, “but I challenged two of her words and they were wrong.”

Gary was thrilled with his finish. “I knew I was pretty good, but I never expected to finish second!” He won $200 for his efforts: $100 for 2nd place and $100 for “Best Score by a New Player.”

Gary suggests new players try playing by themselves for practice. “What I do when practicing is look up the words I’m not sure about in the SCRABBLE® dictionary. I give myself two chances; if it’s not there twice, I lose my turn. Once you look it up, you know the word.” He also recommended learning the two-letter words: “Learn all those and then you can find spots for longer words.”

Gary hopes to go to other tournaments, but since he doesn’t have a car he must rely on friends to give him a ride. But he’s prebooked a weekly ride with Wheel Trans to get to the Toronto Club!
Welcome to Gary Powers and the following other new faces:

**ALPHARETTA GA 9/4-6**: Andrew Gardner, Tara Moore, Kimberly Painter

**IRVING TX 9/4-6**: Constance Durbin, Regenia Hidalgo, Pamela McManus Stiehler

**PORTLAND OR 9/4-6**: Teodoro Della Flora, Will Stone

**LAGUNA WOODS CA 9/5**: Alex Gurney

**ALBUQUERQUE NM 9/10**: Delores Peterson, Armando Pina, Jo Ann G. Robles

**BAYSIDE NY 9/11**: Barbara Dusling, Samuel Franklin, Socrates Silver

**HUDSON OH 9/11-12**: Tony Incorvati

**MINNESOTA VS. WISCONSIN 9/11-12**: Gail Salm

**PHILADELPHIA PA 9/19**: Jack Hayon, Patricia Morfesis, Matthew Rupert, Holly Slepman

**RIDGEFIELD LIBRARY SCHOOL SCRABBLE 9/19**: Jerray Chang, Siya Chauhan, Mack Meller, Quinn Vissak

**TORONTO ON CAN 9/25-26**: Elizabeth Cherrett

**YORK PA 9/25**: Christine Barinka, Ann Marie McElwee
The start of Nationals 2010 also marked the end of the time period for the NASPA Achievement Recognition Awards for 2009-2010, tabulated at cross-tables.com. Here we take a look at the remarkable players who earned these awards. Special congratulations goes to Dave Wiegand, who is a repeat winner of the Player of the Year award; to David Gibson, who for the second year won the award for Most Division 1 Wins in Multi-day Tournaments; and to Winter, who repeated as the award winner for Most Division 1 Wins and also won awards in 4 different categories.

**PLAYER OF THE YEAR**
1. Dave Wiegand 781
2. Kenji Matsumoto 401
3. Nigel Richards 370
4. Joey Mallick 300
5. Ian Weinstein 274
6. Chris Cree 256
7. Joel Sherman 255
8. Orry Swift 247
9. Adam Logan 239
10. Joel Wapnick 218

**FEMALE PLAYER OF THE YEAR**
1. Lisa Odom 142.467 (22nd overall)
2. Laurie Cohen 76.7485
3. Jan Dixon 64.2071
4. Kate Fukawa-Connelly 51.7474
5. Leesa Berahovich 45.448
6. Yvonne Lobo 34.2791
7. Marjorie Schoneboom 26.9383
8. Patricia Barrett, 25.0674
9. Laura Scheimberg, 24.9113
10. Rachel Knapp, 24.5913

**NOTE:** Other youth players with strong records this year were (in alphabetical order):
Ted Barrett
Thomas Ensey
Paolo Federico-Omurchu
Aaron P. Green
Hannah Lieberman
Noah Lieberman
Justin Morris
Matthew Nelson
Bradley Robbins
Kevin E. Rosenberg
Eric Salgado
Jackson Smylie
Richard Spence
Tristan Vanech
Nicholas Vasquez
Christopher Walleck
Stephen Winston
Note: Matthew Silver, rated at 1592, played in only one tournament this past year.

**HIGHEST WIN %, DIVISION 1**
1. Eric Tran 0.763
2. Kevin Rickhoff 0.759
3. David Gibson 0.748
4. Adam Logan 0.705
5. Dave Wiegand 0.704

**HIGHEST WIN %**
1. Kevin Rickhoff 0.759
2. David Gibson 0.748
3. Eric Tran 0.747
4. Rob Siegel 0.717
5. Adam Logan 0.705
6. Carl Johnson 0.705
7. Dave Wiegand 0.704
8. Geoff Thevenot 0.693
9. Kenji Matsumoto 0.688
10. Olinga Flisock 0.686

**HIGHEST SPREAD (TOTAL)**
1. Winter +20429
2. Chris Cree +12390
3. Dave Wiegand +10374
4. Bradley Whitmarsh +9652
5. David Gibson +9294
6. Eric Tran +9121
7. Ian Weinstein +8954
8. Steve Glass +7313
9. Joel Sherman +7281
10. Joey Mallick +6654

**YOUTH PLAYER OF THE YEAR**
1. Noah Walton 132.815
2. Sam Rosin 57.0056
3. Joey Krafchick 42.6758
4. Matt Canik 18.9979
5. Carl Johnson 0.704
6. Geoff Thevenot 0.693
7. Kenji Matsumoto 0.688
8. Adam Logan 0.705
9. David Pearl 0.677

**HIGHEST WIN %, DIVISION 1**
1. Eric Tran 0.763
2. Kevin Rickhoff 0.759
3. David Gibson 0.748
4. Adam Logan 0.705
5. Dave Wiegand 0.704

**HIGHEST SPREAD (TOTAL)**
1. Winter +20429
2. Chris Cree +12390
3. Dave Wiegand +10374
4. Bradley Whitmarsh +9652
5. David Gibson +9294
6. Eric Tran +9121
7. Ian Weinstein +8954
8. Steve Glass +7313
9. Joel Sherman +7281
10. Joey Mallick +6654

**HIGHEST SPREAD (TOTAL)**
1. Winter +20429
2. Chris Cree +12390
3. Dave Wiegand +10374
4. Bradley Whitmarsh +9652
5. David Gibson +9294
6. Eric Tran +9121
7. Ian Weinstein +8954
8. Steve Glass +7313
9. Joel Sherman +7281
10. Joey Mallick +6654

**MOST DIVISION 1 WINS, MULTI-DAY TOURNAMENTS**
1. David Gibson 5
2. Winter 4
### NASPA AWARDS

#### 3. Brian Bowman 3
#### 3. Orry Swift 3
#### 3. Dave Wiegand 3
#### 6. Scott Appel 2
#### 6. Chuck Armstrong 2
#### 6. Peter Armstrong 2
#### 6. Evan Berofsky 2
#### 6. Chris Cree 2
#### 6. Darrell Day 2
#### 6. Cesar Del Solar 2
#### 6. Chris Lipe 2
#### 6. Adam Logan 2
#### 6. Rod MacNeil
#### 6. Joey Mallick 2
#### 6. Kenji Matsumoto 2
#### 6. Evan McIntyre 2
#### 6. Lisa Odom 2
#### 6. Joel Sherman 2
#### 6. Eric Tran 2
#### 6. Noah Walton 2
#### 6. Jeff Widergren 2
#### 6. Brian Williams 2

#### MOST LOWER-DIVISION WINS

1. Stuart Goldman 7
2. Michael Bassett 5
3. Raghuram Jonnalagedda 5
4. Denise Mahnken 5
5. Linda Wancel 5
6. Stan Williams 5
7. Jon Demeter 4
8. Pat Diener 4
9. Cheryl Levin 4
10. Isaac Apindi 3
11. Judy Cole 3
12. Brian Galebach 3
13. Gunther Jacobi 3
14. Nancy Konipol 3
15. Dave Krock 3
16. Hannah Lieberman 3
17. T. C. Houlgate-West 3
18. Andrea Michaels 3
19. Joy Nees 3
20. Shauna Petrie 3
22. Trevor Sealy 3
23. Colleen Shea 3
24. Rob Siegel 3
25. Doug Syzmkowski 3
26. Jesse Wornum 3

#### MOST DIVISION 1 WINS

1. Winter 18
2. Bradley Whitmarsh 9
3. Steve Glass 8
4. Ron Tieker 7
5. Chris Cree 6
6. Jim Nanavati 6
7. Pete Zeigler 6
8. Darrell Day 5
9. Michael Early 5
10. David Gibson 5

#### MOST GAMES PLAYED

1. Winter 753
2. Linda Wancel 710
3. Denise Mahnken 575
4. Sue Gable 513
5. Judy Cole 505
6. Paul Avrin 431
7. Michael Bassett 408
8. Heather Steffy 398
9. Ruth Hamilton 394
10. Pat Hardwick 377

#### MOST STATES/PROVINCES PLAYED IN

1. Winter 22
2. Linda Wancel 18
3. Denise Mahnken 17
4. Judy Cole 15
5. Sue Gable 15
6. Betsey Wood 14
7. Bradley Whitmarsh 14
8. Paul Avrin 12
9. Tobey Roland 12
10. Cynthia Seales 12

#### LONGEST WINNING STREAK

1. Chris Cree 22
2. Alan Helfgott 18
3. David Gibson 17
4. Ron Hoekstra
5. Adam Logan 16
6. Mark Schmidt 16
7. Eric Tran 16
8. Zana Anderson 15
9. Max Karten 15
10. David Pearl 15

#### HIGHEST SPREAD IN A SINGLE TOURNAMENT

1. Max Karten +2610
2. Doug Lundquist +2215
3. Luise Shafritz +2121
4. Ben Lam +2015
5. Winter +1990
6. Verna Richards Berg +1943
7. Jack Overby +1936
8. Larry Rand +1860
9. Zbigniew Wieckowski +1813
10. Laura Scheimberg +1801
Achievement Award Winner Profiles

This group of 17 award winners includes several repeat winners, including Player of the Year Dave Wiegand, David Gibson, Winter, and Denise Mahnken. The 13 other winners include longtime competitors and relative newcomers. We wish them further success in this next award season!

DAVE WIEGAND
Player of the Year

Dave Wiegand finished the 2009-2010 period winning for the second year in a row the title of Player of the Year. Among his remarkable achievements were his wins at the Dallas Open (over 96 other players with a 16-4 +1606 record) and at Reno in Division 1 (over 37 other players with a 19-9 +867 record). He was also second in six other tournaments, including the Oregon Tile and the CanAm Challenge.

LISA ODOM
Female Player of the Year

In competition that does not separate sexes, an award such as “Female Player of the Year” may sound odd. However, had the Player of the Year been female, we would have announced a “Male Player of the Year.”

Lisa Odom has been at the top of competitive SCRABBLE® for over 20 years. Currently rated at 1841, she has been as rated high as 2006 in 1998, when she was ranked 6th in the country, and has been one of the game’s best players for longer than most current players have been competing. She has represented the United States at the World SCRABBLE Championship on three occasions. Lisa came into this year’s Nationals seeded 16th with a 1928 rating, the highest rating of any woman in North America.

Lisa, who lives in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, with her husband, Scrabbler Steve Pellinen, enjoys reading guitar, singing, design, and ventriloquist manque. In the past year she competed in 14 tournaments, winning two, placing second in two, and finishing third in two. Her final game before this year’s NSC was the two-day Omaha NE tournament, which she handily won with an 11-2 +1190 record.
Seventeen-year-old Noah Walton of Portland, OR, had a spectacular year. He played in 14 tournaments during the time frame, playing in Division 1 in all of them against some of the top players in the country. He won 4 of these tournaments, was 2nd in three, and 3rd in two, raising his rating from 1761 to 1862 (as of October it is 1927).

This year of SCRABBLE® has been my favorite yet. Every tournament that I have gone to has been a lot of fun. I’ve met many wonderful new people and played many exciting games.

The year started with Winter Reno, which I had never been to before. As in any Reno event, the quality of the field was very high, and my games were all exciting and fun. My next tournament was Vancouver, where I was thrilled to win my first multi-day, D1, tournament. All of the games there were challenging, and I really enjoyed the beautiful city of Vancouver.

A couple of months later, I played in the Oregon Tile, which is probably the most exciting event I have played yet. After starting off 2-2, I ended up finishing at the top of the standings in the first 15 rounds. Afterwards, I played a really cool final match with Carl Johnson, which he won to take the title. I was very happy to see him win – no one deserved it more.

That same month, I made it down to Campbell, California for an event with really excellent competition. It was a neat field, because the caliber of all the players was close enough so that literally anyone could win. It was another fun tournament, and I won about half of my games, all hard-fought.

A while later, it was time for Summer Reno, the biggest tournament I’ve ever played in. My best game in this event was a huge shootout against Jeff Widergren (see the game here: http://www.cross-tables.com/annotated.php?u=6718#0). However, I found the highlight of this tournament to be Ed de Guzman’s 771 game (go Ed)! At the end of the tournament, with Rafi beatboxing, I rapped about this record-breaking event. If you haven’t yet, check out the game http://www.cross-tables.com/annotated.php?u=6507#0 and the video! http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=764590876683&ref=mf

A bit after Reno, I played in a one-day in Berkeley while visiting my friend Conrad BB. I was fortunate enough to win, and played my favorite tournament play of the whole year – oITICIC(A).

To end the summer, I played in the Portland Labor Day tournament for the fourth time. I did the best yet at this event, placing fourth, and, once again, I had some great games. Carl Johnson won this year, putting him at 3 Portland titles in a row! This is a great accomplishment, and he deserves major props for it.

Overall, I had a great year of SCRABBLE®, full of good times and good tournaments. I hope next year will be even better!
ERIC TAN  
**Highest Win %, Division 1: 0.763**

Eric Tran of Calgary AB had an amazing past year, starting with a 3rd-place finish at the 2009 Nationals in Division 2, which he'd entered with a 1574 rating. He moved up to Division 1, where he scored victories at two October Calgary Early Birds, the 1/30 Calgary tournament (where he reached 1900 for the first time), the 3/5 Vancouver tournament, and the 3/27 Calgary tournament. He finished the year rated 1952, his peak thus far. Out of a total of 164 games he played, he had 122 wins, a tie, and only 41 losses.

KEVIN RICKOFF  
**Highest Win %: 0.759**

Kevin Rickoff of Saugus CA played in seven tournaments this past year—all of them in Laguna Woods CA, and all in Division 1. He was 1st in three, 2nd in two, and 3rd in two, winning 44 out of 57 games. His rating at the end of the year was 1774. This year Kevin traveled to Texas for the 2010 Nationals, where he finished 26th of 116 players in Division 1, raising his rating to 1832, his all-time peak.

DAVID GIBSON  
**Most Division 1 Wins in Multi-Day Tournaments: 5**

For the second year in a row, David Gibson of Spartanburg SC had the most Division 1 wins in multi-day tournaments, confirming his position as one of SCRABBLE®’s all-time greats. Currently ranked 3rd in the country with a 2045 rating, David played in nine tournaments this past year, winning five.

I would especially like to thank all the fine directors here in the Carolinas-Georgia-Tennessee area for providing a fine selection of topnotch and enjoyable tournaments. I mostly participate in multi-day tournaments that are within driving distance and that don’t conflict with my school schedule. We are fortunate to have a growing number of such contests here in the Southeast. My wins this past year were in Asheville, NC (November); Knoxville, TN (December and June); Myrtle Beach, SC (March); and Charleston, WV (May).

I also owe immense gratitude to my two best sparring partners------Mark Schmidt and, best of all, my wife Nancy.
My 2009-2010 SCRABBLE® season was exciting, and I am quite pleased with the results, although I do not foresee attempting to win so many categories again, at least not in the near future--the effort was exhausting. I am even more surprised that I managed to pull off the Most Games wins given that my season started three months late, and did not even include the NSC, because of my long trip to Europe. What enabled me to catch up was a guarantee of 10-12 months of work in Princeton, which is effectively the IDEAL location for maxing out on tournament SCRABBLE®. As much as love taking jobs around the country, anytime I am not on the East Coast, I feel a little bit deprived of SCRABBLE®.

As soon as I started that contract in Princeton, my goal was to win Most Games, but that goal seemed quite daunting given that I was 78 games behind the leader [last year's category winner, Linda Wancel]. Still, I did the math, and it appeared that if the other players in the lead stuck to nearby East Coast events, I would take the lead sometime in June. I never expected that anybody would seriously try to challenge me for the title.

A third of the way through 2010, I decided that I not only wanted to achieve the most games, but that I also wanted to win as many categories as possible, theoretically seven of them. That meant I wasn't playing just for games, but also for number of states, for total spread, for tournament wins (single and multi-day), and for winning streak. In some cases, the goals conflicted with each other--for example, the best chance to win a multi-day tournament in a particular weekend might mean choosing an event with fewer games.

Another interesting aspect of the whole competition were the personal rivalries (perhaps one-sided, in many cases). I understand that some players were genuinely interested in winning certain categories, but others, like David Gibson, probably weren't too concerned about my attempt to win for most multi-days. I'm sure Bradley Whitmarsh noticed when I passed him up for most tournaments, but I doubt that Chris Cree cared about the highest-spread category. But I cared--boy, did I care. Needless to say, I had reached the point of taking the competition too far... and beyond.

When all was said and done, I spent $7500 (expenses minus winnings), not counting income sacrificed because of days off, on my quest to win all these categories. This sum is much more than I would have expected, or wanted to spend, and quite a sacrifice, because that money will affect my ability to go Starbucking in 2011. I also spent a substantial amount of time traveling, quite literally pushing myself beyond exhaustion at several points. I would say the most difficult aspects of my quest was the air travel, especially a six-weekend run of flights that left me feeling like the Ryan
Bingham character in "Up in the Air", or the narrator at the beginning of "Fight Club." I believe that all this traveling had a direct effect on my game, because after achieving a peak 1934 rating and staying at that level for over a month, I went into a slump that did not end until after the whole competition was over.

Winter played in a total of 71 tournaments during this period, a remarkable feat. Among his 17 wins, all in Division 1, were the Fort Lauderdale 6/25 tournament, which he won 16-4 +1485 over Robert Kahn; Rockville MD 4/10, which he won 11-3 +165 over Bradley Whitmarsh; and the Nashua NH NAST Early Bird, which he won 6-1 +402 over Kate Fukawa-Connelly and 30 other players.

STUART GOLDMAN
Most Lower-Division Wins: 7

Cornelia has asked me for some of my recollections of the tournaments that got me a certificate at the NSC for the most lower-division wins in the past year. Although it's difficult to remember a lot of details, here are a few.

First of all, in nearly all of these wins I had a higher spread than one or more players with the same number of wins. The epitome of this was the Reno Early Bird win I had, when two of the other seven players had the same 4-2 record as myself. In none of the seven tournaments I won was I undefeated. So going for more points is definitely indicated.

And the experience mentioned in the headline is not SCRABBLE® experience, though that can be important. Very few players of today can remember when Americans were urged to observe beefless Tuesdays during World War II. My memory of that won a challenge of the word and a victory in my most recent one-day affair.

I would also like to comment on what happened between my one-day wins in September and November of last year. I played in the San Francisco Open and finished 4th from last! The first day I was tremendously distracted by transportation difficulties caused by closure of the Bay Bridge in San Francisco. The message here is not to be discouraged by a poor showing, but to come back and win another day.

Finally I would like to thank the directors of the Bay Area one-day tournaments. We are fortunate here to have two of these every month, and the directors are universally great in giving their all to make these events a success. And lest you think that having so many events to play in increases my chances to lead in number of victories, I almost never can play in one of these venues, and occasionally have missed a tournament in the other one because of no transportation. If you want to increase your own chances, my advice is get directors to run more one-day tournaments in your area.
WAYNE BARCLAY
DENISE MAHNKEN
COLLEEN SHEA
ROB SIEGEL
DOUG SZYMKOWIAK
TERESA STEEVES-GURNSEY
MARCIA WADE

Most Lower-Division Wins in Multi-Day Tournaments: 2

Seven players tied for this award by winning two games in lower divisions in multi-day tournaments. Here are their stories:

WAYNE BARCLAY

Since he started playing tournament SCRABBLE® in 2005, Wayne Barclay, from Ottawa, Ontario, has played in 11 tournaments, all in Canada, winning 5 of them. This year he played in 4 tournaments, winning Division 3 at the John Weston Memorial Tournament in Ottawa 12-2 +1354 and winning Division 2 at the Montreal tournament with an 11-3 +580 record to reach a year-end rating of 14ll. He is now rated at his peak rating: 1444.

In January, the Montreal Club recruited some Ottawa players for its annual grudge match against the Toronto club. Though I was lowest rated in Division B, I won 8 of 12 games for Montreal, and was only outscored by a teammate. The rating points I gained made me a favourite in Division C in the John Weston Memorial Tournament in Ottawa in April. In the final round in Ottawa, my opponent scored 4 bingos to win the game, but fortunately, I had already been Gibsonized.

My next event was the Montreal tournament in May. Despite, my rating gains, I was again one of the underdogs, since I was now playing in Division B. My first round opponent opened with a bingo, but afterwards most of the luck in the tournament went my way. In an early round I challenged off MELTY and was surprised a few rounds later when another opponent played MELTY against me. Again in the final round, my opponent beat me with 4 bingos, but again, I had already been Gibsonized.

I owe much of my success in 2010 to the gang at the Ottawa SCRABBLE® Club #495 [see page 42]. It’s easier playing tournament games against players rated 1400 after playing experts at our club almost every week. I’ve picked up some valuable tips on strategy and vocabulary building. There are several other players at our club who have had large rating gains over the last few years. It is easier to get motivated to improve my game when I’m around others who are passionate about the game.
DENISE MAHNKEN

Last year Denise Mahnken, of Long Beach NY, was the winner of the prize for Most States Played In. This year she is a co-winner of the prize for Most Lower-Division Wins in Multi-Day Tournaments. Her wins were at the Essex VT Tournament, where she won Division 3 12-3 +485, and at the Buffalo NY Tournament, where she won Division 3 13-1 +1357. She also was her division winner in one-day events in Phoenix AZ, Columbia SC, and the Buffalo NY Early Bird. She’s still playing in lots of states: This past year she played in 51 tournaments in 17 different states.

Last year I decided not to play up at tournaments and stay in the division my rating dictated. The competition was fierce, yet I knew sitting down to the game that I had a chance to win. On a multi-day tournament it makes for a more enjoyable experience. Sure I got lucky once or twice [playing up] and beat a couple of experts, but for the most part I knew going in that I was "dead money" as we say in poker. I've had my share of posterity. At this point it's "Pay the lady, pay the lady, pay the lady!"

COLLEEN SHEA

Colleen Shea of Rocky Point NY has been steadily improving this past year. In January she won Division 4 at the Atlantic City NJ Tournament 16-3 +1385, and in June she traveled to Northern Spain on a SCRABBLE® Tour, winning Division 3 of the tournament 8-4 +452. She also was the winner of the one-day Port Jefferson Tournament last October (6-1 +587). She ended the year rated 1132.

ROB SIEGEL

Rob Siegel of Wheat Ridge CO started playing tournament SCRABBLE® just two years ago. He’s played in a total of seven tournaments, winning three of them this year. Last November he took Division 3 in Aurora CO 14-3 +943, and in January he won Division 4 of the Bloomington MN Tournament (22-8 +1398). He also won Division 2 at the July Denver CO local club tournament, sweeping the division with an 8-0 +632 record. At the end of the year his rating was 1190.
DOUG SZYMKOWIAK

Doug Szymkowiak of North Ridgeville OH finished the year rated 1178 (he is now 1322). He started the year with his decisive win over 53 players in Division 5 at Nationals in Dayton (22.5-8.5 +1440). In March he won Division 3 in Elyria OH (10-3 +633); he also won Division 2 at the February one-day tournament in Seven Hills OH (6-1 +551). This year he already has a win in Division 3 at the August 8/21 Independence OH tourney (6-1 +689). Impressive playing for a player whose first tournament was in 2008!

I'm honored again to receive another SCRABBLE® award...I certainly have had a good year. I only hope I can keep it up! I'm very pleased...I entered my first Nationals last year rated 937 and I left this year's Nationals at 1244 (I'm now over 1300!) Along the way, I won three tournaments, finished 1st and 7th at my two NSC's, and met a lot of fantastic people. The best part was being able to share my successes with my great clubmates from the Rocky River and Independence clubs here in NE Ohio (a lot of great SCRABBLE® here in the OH/MI/PA region). Now that I've had a little success, I'm looking to improve my game and my word knowledge so I can have just as good of a year in 2011!

TERESA STEEVES-GURNSEY

Teresa Steeves-Gurnsey, of Saskatoon SK CANADA, has played in Canadian tournaments since 2000. Last year she played in four tournaments, winning Division 2 at the 9/26 Regina SK tournament (10-4 +492) and Division 3 at the 4/17 Moose Jaw SK tournament (8.5-3.5 +87). She finished the year rated 981 (she is now 999).

MARCIA WADE

Marcia Wade of Muncie IN has played in 94 tournaments since she started playing in the 1980s, reaching a peak rating in of 1872 in 1987. This year she played in 11 tournaments in 9 different states: Ohio, California, Florida, Indiana, South Carolina, West Virginia, Illinois, Tennessee, and Nevada. She was the Division 2 winner at both the 1/30 Kissimmee-Orlando FL tournament (12-2 +990) and the 5/1 Charleston WV tournament (7-5 +324), ending the year with a 1271 rating. She’s started this year with a tournament in yet another state--Texas, where her strong playing in Division 3 at Nationals raised her rating to 1339.
**CHRIS CREE**  
**Longest Winning Streak: 22**

Chris Cree’s winning streak began last year on September 19th at a one-day tournament in Dallas. He finished third out of six players, going 3-3 +142--hardly one of his best showings, and his rating went down 10 points. However, he did win his final game against Mike Early.

Three weeks later Chris blazed at Oklahoma City, winning 13 straight games to win Division 1 13-0 +1376. His rating rose to 1955--his highest rating since 2005. And his streak was now 14 games.

Chris played next at the California Open in San Francisco. He won his first 8 games to stretch the streak to 22. In game 9 Lewis Martinez ended the streak; however, Chris won 7 more games to finish 2nd out of 130 players with a 15-4 +1015. His 1980 rating after the tournament was his highest of the year.

It is fitting that Chris Cree, the NASPA co-president who initiated these awards at the 2008 NSC in Orlando, is now a winner of one himself.

**MAX KARTEN**  
**Highest Spread in a Single Tournament: +2610**

Max Karten is a SCRABBLE® phenomenon--he has a 100% win record after 5 tournaments. Since his first tournament in March 2008, he has played in 72 games and lost only 12. The victory that earned him this award was his phenomenal win at the 2009 NSC, which he won 27-4 +2610 in Division 4, seeded 16th of 94 players. His rating went up from 1216 to 1586.

Interviewed after last year’s Nationals, Max said he wouldn’t be playing in another tournament soon. He has been true to his word. He has not played since that tournament. Will he retire undefeated--or return with a new arsenal of words to combat the players he’ll be facing with his higher rating. Tune in next year and see!
Joe Bihlmeyer, a top Connecticut SCRABBLE® player, presents a video SCRABBLE® of his pre-game warmup with 5-vowel 8s. “A few friends and I go through some words before games on the last day of a tournament. I should have done this every day--maybe I would not have lost 6 in a row. There are 311 8-letter words with 5 vowels; it is a useful list to learn.

“Zyzzyva is the software used. Google ‘Zyzzyva: The Last Word in Word Study’ for the download.”

Pre-game warmup with 5-vowel 8s
The Wordsmith

Miles ingloriosis

by Chris Sinacola

Here in the Sinacola household, SCRABBLE® ratings were way down this summer. The usual participants were turning to Yahtzee®, puzzles, cable TV, and “Dark Shadows” reruns. There was even horrifying talk of learning to play Klabberjass, an obscure and vaguely menacing German card game.

The problem, to be blunt, was that your humble correspondent had taken a 15-3 lead in SCRABBLE® games over his hardworking spouse, Nancy. Contrary to popular belief, you see, teachers – even teachers of allegedly dead languages such as Latin – do not enjoy the “summer off.” They do things like hiring other teachers, sending inordinate numbers of emails, planning classroom layouts and seating plans, preparing lesson plans, and taking trips to Latin conventions in cultural hotspots such as Fargo, North Dakota.

Mind you, while Nancy (aka Magistra Sinacola) was working, I was doing my day job too – but also studying a great number of 3x5 flashcards with gibberish upon them, and muttering incantations designed to turn my sevens into eights.

Then came the evening when my wife announced she was really only playing the game to keep me happy. That did it. It was time to level the playing field. It was time for Latin SCRABBLE®.

Our order of Latin SCRABBLE® tiles arrived promptly from Jere Mead, and one Sunday evening after supper, Nancy and I set up the board and laid out the ground rules. It would be an open book match. We grabbed a couple of Latin dictionaries and the Allen and Greenough grammar. I added my copy of Vergil’s Aeneid just for inspiration, because the Latin tile distribution is based upon the first book of that epic, and I hoped some words might somehow leach into my rack.

In fact, I believe it was Alfredus Buttsibus himself who first sat down and counted the letters in those immortal lines, “Arma virumque cano…”

Given how long it had been since I’d done any serious study of Latin, I figured an hour each would be fair, providing ample time to hunt through the dictionary. We also granted ourselves the cheat sheet of two-letter Latin words.

With that, we were ready. Nancy pulled a D. I pulled an S. I was about to suggest that DS was a sign that she ought to put “Dark Shadows” on again and we’d just forget about the whole Latin SCRABBLE® thing. Instead, she plunked down VENAE for 26 points and we were under way.

I needed about four minutes to find any word at all, and finally settled for VIRES for 16.

A moment’s thought and she hit me with HAR(E)NIS for 30. Sand. As in sand in my face, I guess. I replied with TAXA for 27, but wasn’t crazy about the leave. But why quibble? I was happy to make points.

Nancy then played QVAM (the V can be either U or V in Latin). It pleased me to play LIBET for 15, and she snarled back with CATTA, which looks like CAT for the very good reason that it means cat, or weasel. This was good for 30. I was down 58-96.

An early 38-point deficit is no cause for panic in SCRABBLE®, to be sure, but when you’re playing in Latin, a shadow of doubt begins to creep in. Unable to perceive any word, in any language, in the rack now staring at me, I traded three.

Her CADERE, meaning “to fall,” netted 16 more, at which point I got all excited because I held an S and knew for sure that I could front hook her play for SCADERE, until I realized that that was an Italian verb. Linguistically, I was hundreds of years too early, or too late, depending on how you look at it. I settled for REGIS, a form of REX, a king, taking advantage of the fact that Latin is a morphological wonderland.

On my next turn, I had a bingo in my rack: BINGOQ? This is not nearly as hopeful a prospect in Latin as it would be in English. I made 5 points with BIS.

Her CADERE, meaning “to fall,” netted 16 more, at which point I got all excited because I held an S and knew for sure that I could front hook her play for SCADERE, until I realized that that was an Italian verb. Linguistically, I was hundreds of years too early, or too late, depending on how you look at it. I settled for REGIS, a form of REX, a king, taking advantage of the fact that Latin is a morphological wonderland.

On my next turn, I had a bingo in my rack: BINGOQ? This is not nearly as hopeful a prospect in Latin as it would be in English. I made 5 points with BIS.

Nancy was just warming up. She next played CELET, claiming it was the third person singular of the verb CELO, to hide, but in the subjunctive mood.

Having plenty of time left, I figured I'd look it up to be sure it was good. It was.
Now let it be said that since we were both new to this form of the game, Nancy wasn’t exactly laying waste to me the way Scipio Africanus took out Carthage, but her technique was effective enough: POSVIT for 18, MV for 16, MALE for 18 and VIRES for 17 soon followed.

Meanwhile, having no idea which tiles were the “power” tiles, and with my brain flitting between the instinct to find English words, or Italian words that might be related to Latin words, I felt much like a child feels learning language for the first time, stumbling through words and sounds in hopes of making himself understood.

And then, on turn 9, a ray of hope. Holding a rack of GINORST, I spied an E. Would GENITORS work in Latin as well as it does in English? Alas, no. I settled for GENITOR for 12, but figured that if I could obtain an E, I could extend that play to the triple word space.

Alas – or, as the Romans would have said, “Heu!” - I had to trade again. I played PICA, meaning a jay or magpie, and then found the E I needed to make (GENITOR)ES for 39.

That proved to be the single high play of the game, but it wasn’t enough. Nancy was north of 200 points by now, the tiles were dwindling to a precious few, and time was running down. The barbarians were at the gates. I really needed to bingo with my final rack of AEEFST?

“Hey, I really need to bingo!” I said.

“Yeah, well I really need to shower and get ready for school tomorrow,” she said.

I took the hint, hunted around a bit, settle for FA(V)CES, and then went out with ET and SE, leaving 31:45 on my clock. I know, I should have spent the next 31:44 searching for those elusive points. Trust me, it really didn't matter that much.

Final score: Magistra Sinacola 258, your humbled correspondent 195.

I gathered some important lessons from our first foray into Latin SCRABBLE®. First, some words that are good in English, like EQUID, are not necessarily good in Latin, even though they derive from Latin.

Second, don’t blame the Romans for our rules about making nouns plural. GENITORES became GENITORS much later, and you can blame the many changes that English underwent as it evolved from Anglo-Saxon and Old English.

Third, Latin SCRABBLE® is just plain fun. It is refreshing not to worry about finding the perfect play with AEINRST, or having to decide what to do with a rack containing J, K and Z, none of which occur in Latin – unless you want to introduce medieval or foreign terms. And the fact that there is no standard lexicon, at least none I know of, makes determining whether a play is acceptable a bit of a challenge.

Perhaps most importantly, when we must struggle not for the right word, but for any word at all, it serves to remind us of what a rare and wonderful thing language truly is. This product of evolution and culture is far too often taken for granted.

In time, I’m sure we’ll both improve at Latin SCRABBLE®. But very slowly. And just for fun. Excelsior!

Chris Sinacola is director of the Worcester, Mass. Scrabble club, and unlike the “miles gloriosus” or “famous soldier” of Roman comic theater, was a bit deflated by his first Latin SCRABBLE® battle.

BREAKING NEWS UPDATE!! The rematch has been played. Mrs. S. played CASTIGAS, our first bingo, with two blanks for 66 points and routed me, 301-170. At the end of the game I was stuck with TWO Qs.
Play the Game: Game Analysis

Notes by Joe Edley

Brian Cappalletto (IL) vs. Dave Wiegand (OR). Round 31, 2010 National SCRABBLE® Championship. Winner takes 2nd place (Nigel Richards was Gibsonized). To play along, reading the analysis as you play, click here.

(Note: All simulations, done using Quackle, are at least 10K iterations.)

1 BC: BEGORSX BOXER 8D 34 T: 34

Simulation suggests that GOX 8G 22 is best. The BERS leave will likely lead to more bingos quicker. However, philosophically speaking, top players often like to open the board at the outset, particularly if they have an S, in order to help improve their chances of being able to play their bingo if they draw one. The thinking goes that when the first play is a short word, opponent will often come back with a short blocking play, making it much harder to place a bingo. In either case the difference in winning percentage is small.

1 DW: AEEIOUV EXUVIA F7 24 T: 24

Nearly best. With his weak rack, this is the best he can do---he has to try to get rid of as many tiles as possible and hope for a better play next turn. Why “nearly”? Because simulation suggests that playing the hook E (EXUVIAE) improves his winning chances slightly. A minor difference at best. On the plus side he leaves himself the E hook, and on the downside he gives his opponent an easy extra 17pt. Hence, Wiegand’s play is far more volatile.

2 BC: EGJRSUU JUGA 12C 24 T: 58

Best! He must get rid of the J and U, and this does it nicely, despite the front A-hook (AJUGA). He can afford this because he has a bingo-prone leave and the alternatives look even weaker.

2 DW: AEGNORW WRANG B10 47 T: 71

He can’t play his bingo, WAGONER, so he does the next best thing.

3 BC: AEIRSU? SAUcIER 15B 81 T: 139

Or SAURIEs.

3 DW: AEHIOOR HAO 14F 31 T: 102

Or ONO 13A 24. Both are about equal, with the differences of points (7) vs leave (AEHIR- EIOR) balancing each other out.
Interesting simulation results. While SAUNA looks like the best play, and even after simming it’s clear it’s an excellent play, UNAIS I4 21 simulates slightly better. On the surface it may look weaker because it opens up the TWS at H1 unnecessarily. However, a deeper look into the position shows that after SAUNA, both Cappelletto’s and his opponent’s next play will be worth about the same number of points. Whereas, after UNAIS, with two major openings (H1-4 and the A column) and other potential openings after opponent’s next play, Cappelletto’s next play will be worth a couple of points more, while the rack leave (AN vs IN) will be worth close to equal. This shows that UNAIS is worth more. We can take away from this the standard theme: when one cannot make excellent use of one opening, open a second one so that you’ll be sure to have at least one available on your next turn.

Another simulation breakthrough. Playing just JO C12 22 is much more likely to produce a bingo, and thus give better winning chances.

Saving IO is not optimal. IOTA A7 17 is noticeably better. The EIN leave is superior, simulating at a substantially higher value.

Best bingo. Uh, the ONLY playable bingo!

The N and O columns are the main hotspots, and as such should be blocked if at all possible. RIDGY O11 not only scores much better, but blocks well. He needn’t worry about the Q, with QI still available next turn, in all likelihood.

Best, for turnover and points and taking the biggest hotspot.

Best. The CEIOR leave is enough bingo-prone and flexible that it’s the best he can do and score as well. If he had a choice, he’d prefer to play the tiles G, O, and Y, but there’s no such play that scores well enough.
7 DW: DEEITTY YETI N7 20 T: 260

Best. The DET is the best three tile leave. While DEIT is a better leave, YET N6 13 sacrifices too many points.

8 BC: ACEILOR LORICAE 6G 67 T: 292

The only bingo.

8 DW: DDEELT? TrEADLED L3 70 T: 330

DEsALTED L3 70 is just slightly better. That’s likely because TrEADLED opens the T and R and the DLS-DWS on row 3, which are just slightly more dangerous than the open D and E.

9 BC: AEKRSTZ TZAR 6A 33 T: 325

It’s hard to knock this great play. It’s sometimes hard to see the TLS bonus when it’s next to a T instead of a vowel. There’s nothing that improves on this score, while reducing the spread to five, keeping EKST, seems right. Having said that, simulation suggests that AUK10H 17 is definitely superior. Why? Sim details show that Cappelletto’s score, with the ERSTZ leave after AUK, offsets the current point sacrifice. Even as I read that, it’s a tough sell because players don’t play the same near the end of the game, and it’s likely that Wiegand may take pains to avoid giving away a 50pt. Z play through the open T at L3, whereas Quackle won’t take that precaution. And losing those 16 points may make it nearly impossible to catch up given the few tiles left. So, I leave it for the reader to make up your own mind. I tend to like TZAR, but given the computer analysis, I’m not at all certain.

9 DW: DILOOPW WOP K9 24 T: 354

Best in score and leave.

10 BC: BEKLPST KLEPTO H1 45 T: 370

He mercilessly thieves these points and threatens to win immediately.

10 DW: CDFILNO CONFIDE 3B 30 T: 384

A wonderful counterpunch, but is it enough?
Joe Edley is a three-time National SCRABBLE® Champion and the author and co-author of many books, including Everything SCRABBLE® (Third Edition reviewed in the December issue of The Last Word), BANANAGRAMS®!: The Official Book (reviewed in the February issue of The Last Word), More BANANAGRAMS®!, 10-Minute BANANAGRAMS®, and SCRABBLE® Puzzles, Vol. 1-4, all available at Amazon.com. His “wordscreen” puzzles are being featured in the upcoming November issue of World of Puzzles.
Club 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.

Ottawa SCRABBLE® Club #495

by Emilie Henkelman and Matthew Tunnicliffe; photos by Sue Tremblay

SCRABBLE® players in Canada’s capital have enjoyed playing the game at NASPA Club #495 for over 13 years, thanks to the initiative of Colette Weston and her late husband, John. Colette, an enthusiastic SCRABBLE® player, she was surprised that Ottawa did not have a sanctioned club, so she took it up almost single-handedly to remedy that problem. While taking her Director’s test and getting the club sanctioned, she announced the meetings in the local paper and attracted quite a few new members to join the established group. The club has seen many players come and go, but is growing and flourishing. Some of the original members -- Lou Cornelis, Sheila Masterson, Andrew Cadzow, Emilie Henkelman -- are still very active today. When health concerns forced Colette to take a reduced role in running club activities, Emilie Henkelman took over as club director.

These days, the club is directed in committee by Emilie Henkelman, Sue Tremblay, and Matthew Tunnicliffe. They split treasury, event planning, and directing duties. In addition, several other club
members contribute to club duties, including Chris ten Den as webmaster and Ross Brown as statistician. The club averages 12-16 players in the summer months and attracts as many as 24 players in the winter. The Ottawa directors usually organize one or two one-day club tournaments each year. These are in addition to the regular two-day NASPA-rated tournament hosted by the Ottawa club each April. With dozens of regular players and several fun events and get-togethers, it is safe to say that SCRABBLE® is alive and well in the national capital region!

Tonight, there are 20 players in attendance. As usual, the evening begins with Matthew Tunnicliffe announcing last week’s accomplishments (high game, high play, perfect records, etc.) and offering information about upcoming NASPA events. Then, a random consonant and vowel are drawn from a tile bag. Each week, the player in each division who scores the highest play with these two “prize tiles” receives free entry to the club next week (an idea inspired by the Toronto club). This week, the tiles drawn are M and E. Finally, players are paired and the games begin. Players compete in six-month seasons for the two club trophies (divisions A and B). With the summer season drawing to an end in just a couple of weeks, wins are becoming crucial for players still in the race. The Division A trophy has been won by Jeremy Hildebrand nine seasons in a row, but this time it seems like he may finally be unseated. The club maintains its own rating system separate from that of NASPA’s, and the directors use that to determine pairings and seedings for club tournaments.

Games begin and the room quietens down. In round 1, the word LANDS materializes in the leftmost column of Matthew Tunnicliffe and Jeremy Hildebrand’s board. There are so many possibilities for extensions to either Triple Word Score! Both players are one off of (LANDS)LIDE at one point and Matthew regrets lacking a tile for HINTER(LANDS). Jeremy gets gutsy and tries (LANDS)PEED*, but alas, it doesn’t fly. In round 2, Chris ten Den tries ZEROThS*, which is promptly challenged off by Clarissa Lewis. Unfazed, Chris brazenly phonies again the next turn, but this time TROoZES* stays on! Chris goes on to win the game with the high score of 547. Ross Brown scores the high ME word in Division A (PREMADE 89) and Anita Schlarb is the winner in Division B (AMOUNTED 94). Both players will play for free next week!

**NASPA Club #495** in Ottawa meets every Wednesday night from 7:00 to 10:00 in Hall A of the Gloucester Public Library, 2036 Ogilvie Road. More information can be found on the club website at www.ottawascrabbleclub.com.
Jeff Kastner wins Phoenix Club Championship

Jeff Kastner clinched the Phoenix Club championship for 2009-2010 on September 15th with a perfect 4-0 record and a 77.07% winning record for the year. Jeff had a spread of +514, 12 bingos, a double-double, a triple-triple (STEWARDS, 122), and a 471.5 average. He also added two more phoney bingos to his year-leading total of 22.

The first session of the 2010-11 year will be on Wednesday, October 6th, and the year-ending tournament will be October 9th.

Phoenix AZ Club #123 meets Wednesday night from 4:15-9:30 p.m. at Chris Ridge Village, 6246 N. 19th Ave., Phoenix, AZ. For information contact Larry Rand, larryrand@cox.net, 480-730-5031, Barbara Van Alen, vanrandtravel@cox.net, 480-730-5031, or James Johnson, jj_johnson@earthlink.net.

Worcester SCRABBLE® Club Featured in News

Lauren McShane of WorcesterMag attended the Worcester MA SCRABBLE® Club #600 in June. Here is her piece on the club: was featured in the following story in Worcester Mag: http://www.worcestermag.com/young-guns/96552944.html

The Worcester MA SCRABBLE® Club #600 meets on Tuesday nights from 5 to 9 p.m. at the NU Cafe (formerly Jumpin’ Juice & Java), 335 Chandler St., Worcester, MA. Contact: Chris Sinacola, 774-262-2818, sinacola@msn.com.

Mystery flier sends player to Casselberry Club

Had a new visitor to Club #438 in Casselberry (Orlando), Florida in September. When we asked how she found out about our club, Chris told us she was recently on a flight and got to talking to the person seated next to her. He told her that he played tournament SCRABBLE® and later told Chris to check out NASPA's website to see if there was a club nearby.

Lo and behold there was. Chris went 1-3 and said she had a good time and expects to be back. So, whoever you are Mystery Flier, if you are reading this today, we at Club #438 say "Thank you!"

Art Moore

Casselberry FL SCRABBLE® Club #438 meets on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. at Wirz Park Recreation Building, 806 Mark David Blvd., Casselberry, FL 32707, near Orlando. Contact: Art Moore, 407-733-2095, lazyart@earthlink.net; or Brian Miller, 407-580-1099, brian@buhmony.com; or visit the club website: http://www.orlandoscrabble.com/.
Word Trivia Quiz

by Siri Tillekeratne

The following words have unusual pluralizations. Do you know them?

1. TAMBALA   Malawian currency
2. SEECATCH   an adult male fur seal
3. GADJO   a non-gypsy
4. PERNIO   inflammation of hands and feet due to exposure to cold
5. TOLAR   Slovenian currency
6. KOMONDOR   a breed of dog
7. ZLOTY   Polish currency
8. AUTOBAHN   a German freeway
10. SHEKEL an ancient Hebrew unit of weight and currency

ANSWERS ON THE NEXT PAGE

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

1. TAMBALA  Malawian currency - TAMBALAS, MATAMBALA

2. SEECCATCH  an adult male fur seal - SEECCATCHIE

3. GADJO  a non-gypsy - GADJE

4. PERNIO  inflammation of hands and feet due to exposure to cold - PERNIONES

5. TOLAR  Slovenian currency - TOLARS, TOLARJEV

6. KOMONDOR  a breed of dog - KOMONDORS, KOMONDOROK, KOMONDOROCK

7. ZLOTY  Polish currency - ZLOTYS, ZLTE, ZLOTIES, ZLOTYCH

8. AUTOBAHN  a German freeway - AUTOBAHNS, AUTOBAHNEN

10. SHEKEL an ancient Hebrew unit of weight and currency - SHEKEELS, SHEKELEM, SHEKALIM
After drawing for first and putting the tiles in the bag, I left the table to get a glass of water. When I returned, my opponent had already drawn tiles. What can I do?

Tiles may not be drawn—under any circumstances—when the opponent is not present. The tiles should be returned to the bag and you will be afforded the opportunity to shuffle them before the game begins.

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.
Book Review

SCRABBLE® Crosswords & SCRABBLE® Bingo Crosswords
by Frank Longo
Reviewed by Allan Simon

These two collections of puzzles, both by Frank Longo and published by Puzzle Wright Press, present more or less traditional crosswords, but with a SCRABBLE®-oriented twist:

In SCRABBLE® Crosswords all answers are words that can be found in OSPD4 – you will therefore find no proper names like YSER, no multi-word phrases like IN A RUT, and no phonies like ADE*. Moreover, each puzzle will contain every letter of the alphabet at least once – great for your JQXZ practice. In fact, learning new SCRABBLE® words is one of the best reasons to try these puzzles. In the very first one I solved, I learned two new words: MOSHAV and RUPIAH.

In SCRABBLE® Bingo Crosswords, the author adds another neat twist: For each puzzle, he provides two seven-tile racks, for example CHIKSTY and EIMNOOR. In lieu of a definition, the clue might be: “See bottom rack.” The solver must anagram the rack and decide which of the multiple solutions fits in each space. Again, I learned plenty – for example I was faced with the rack AAMNTPR, which had stymied me just a few weeks ago (for the record I got away with the phony PARTSMAN* through an S), and now I know both anagrams.

The puzzles are very well constructed, and are suitable for intermediate solvers, I would compare them approximately to the level of a Thursday New York Times crossword. Unfortunately, there are no themes or tricky clues with question marks; perhaps the cleverest definition was “H for Socrates,” the answer being ETA.

The author is a well-known crossword puzzle constructor with many publications to his credit. In the preface he also outs himself as an ardent fan of SCRABBLE®; but he is not a current tournament player, as I found no record of him in Cross-tables.

I highly recommend both books for all but the most elite solvers.

SCRABBLE® Crosswords (50 puzzles; $6.95) and SCRABBLE® Bingo Crosswords (40 puzzles; $5.95) are both available at Amazon.com.

Allan Simon has been playing tournament SCRABBLE® and “stagnating” since 1997. He is a retired systems analyst and lives in Calgary, Alberta.
Scott Jackson had an interesting play this month in a game against Quackle. If you have a play you’d like to share with our readers, please send it to CorneliaSGuest@gmail.com.

From Scott Jackson:

Here's a position I had playing Quackle. The word I found is in the bottom 0.1% of eights by probability, and means "a friction match." I only knew the word because I saw it on Aerolith once, but what are the chances I'll ever have something this improbable again (especially without a blank) in my lifetime?

SOLUTION ON NEXT PAGE
Player Profile: Peggy Grant

by Katya Lezin

Peggy Grant grew up playing SCRABBLE® with her family, but one by one her family members dropped out because they did not want to face either Peggy or the most formidable player in their family, Great Aunt Alice. Whenever Aunt Alice, who was in her 80s, came to visit Peggy’s family in Columbia, SC, she and Peggy would engage in a SCRABBLE® marathon. Peggy remembers emerging triumphant, with 15 victories to her aunt’s 14, during Christmas of 2005. When Aunt Alice flew home to Boston, Peggy found herself yearning for more SCRABBLE®.

Fueled by her need to get her SCRABBLE® fix, Peggy went online and discovered the National SCRABBLE® Association’s website. The bad news was that there were no clubs in Columbia, SC. The good news was that there was a tournament in nearby Charlotte, NC scheduled later that month, in January 2006, directed by Wendell Smith and Linda Bianca. Peggy called Wendell and he gave her a quick tutorial over the phone on tournament play and gave her some names of local players who could teach her how to use a clock and master some of the other nuances of competitive SCRABBLE®. Peggy’s very first game was against David Klionsky, a director in nearby Durham, NC, and she recalls how gracious he was with her newbie nervousness. Her very first move was to play ZI, mixing up the QI and ZA she had recently committed to memory. “He essentially gave me a mulligan,” Peggy says. “He shook his head and let me remove the play.”

Following the tournament, Peggy was even more determined to find an outlet for her SCRABBLE® passion, despite the fact that there were no clubs where she lived. “As with most things in my life,” Peggy explains, “I knew if this was something I wanted, I was going to have to make it happen.” So she became a director and started a club in Columbia, SC, Club # 645, that met at a Panera Bread café. A writer for The State paper saw the club playing one night and ended up writing about it. The story ran on the front page of the paper in December 2007 and generated a lot of publicity for the club, which helped generate more interest and players. “I just stuck with it,” Peggy explains. “We never changed the day or time, even when we only had two or three people showing up.” They now average 6-8 people each week, with a peak of 16 at one time.

“I love being a director,” Peggy says, and she particularly enjoys putting on a tournament. She has held three tournaments in Columbia, SC, including the Palmetto State SCRABBLE® Classic, and also directed South Carolina’s first WGPO tournament on Hilton Head Island in August 2007. Peggy also organized the WGPO GRITS tournament in Charleston, SC (see page 12). GRITS is an acronym for “Gals Retreat Including Tournament SCRABBLE®,” and Peggy was in full hostess mode. She rented a house for the 16 women who participated from across the country and arranged for tourism outings and group meals in addition to 16 games of SCRABBLE®. “I set it up for 15 Round Robin games and one King of the Hill,” Peggy explains, “to make sure every player got to meet and play with everyone else, regardless of rating.” Even when she runs an NASPA-rated tournament with a more traditional format, as her Columbia tournaments are, Peggy sees directing a tournament as akin to throwing a big party. “I just want to make sure everyone has a good time.”
Peggy notes that players in the South are great and make her job easier. “They don’t have meltdowns around here the way I’ve seen folks do elsewhere,” she says. But as much as she enjoys directing, she still feels tremendous pressure not to make a mistake. “I’ve obsessed about calls I’ve made after making them,” she says. She appreciates being able to consult with other directors, and will often consult with any who are playing in her tournament for a second opinion.

As a player, Peggy credits SCRABBLE® with introducing her to folks she refers to as her “Yankee cousins.” She has made wonderful friends through the game, and she notes that “these are people I would never have met otherwise.” She has also used SCRABBLE® as a traveling impetus, and she considers the Mediterranean Scrabble Cruise and the Land Tour/SCRABBLE® Tournament in Spain to be highlights of her playing experiences. Stateside, her favorite tournament is the 2008 Nationals in Orlando, when she placed 7th in her division (6). And her best play, one she hopes to one day beat, is SCAMPERS on the triple-triple for 194 points. She and her sister, Sue, who often assists her with the club and tournaments, recently bought a beach condo that will no doubt cut into Peggy’s SCRABBLE® time and budget. But there are certain tournaments that Peggy tries not to miss each year because she enjoys them so much, so you will probably be able to see her at the Albany, NY New Year’s Tournament and the Asheville, NC Veterans’ Day Tournament.

Peggy will again be hosting a big party – interchangeable in her case with running a SCRABBLE® tournament – in Columbia, SC this Spring. She’s hoping to see y’all there!

Katya Lezin lives in Charlotte, North Carolina with her husband and three children (Noah, Hannah, and Eliza). She is the author of KNIGHT SWAM, a young adult novel based on SCRABBLE®; Finding Life on Death Row, which profiles six individuals sentenced to death; and numerous articles for magazines and other publications. When she is not on the tennis court or competing in a SCRABBLE® tournament (two of her passions, which her husband would argue border on obsessions), she enjoys cooking, reading, and spending time with her family.
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 ELK and RES are acceptable, but not LEKS, because the “K” and the “S” 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, EKE and SEEK are acceptable. But, CLEEK would not be acceptable because the “C” and the “L” 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 “E.”
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:**

**415 points (Novice); 620 points (Intermediate); 775 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.
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.

UNBONNET: 1) brand of butter (“Blue Unbonnet”) with no discernible butter taste; 2) a substandard sunbonnet

UNFENCING: 1) to remove one's epee from one's opponent after a decisive scoring blow; 2) horrendously bad fencing technique

UNKENNEL: who let the dogs out .... who who who

UNKINKING: 1) throwing out all your records featuring Ray Davies and his band; 2) no longer engaging in kinky behavior

WANNING: to become sickly and pale from dealing with a long losing streak

ARMORER: site for emergency repairs to suits of armor

ARROWROOT: a cheer for someone at an archery competition

ARROWWORM: contestant at an annelid archery competition

BARRACKER: the person who sets up the next billiards game at your local tavern

BEARBERRY: breakfast cereal in the shape of the Chicago Bears logo

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® 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.

Marmaduke as Word Judge
Thanks to Joel Sherman for finding this cartoon featuring Marmaduke as word judge. http://comics.com/marmaduke/2010-09-29/

John D. Williams, Jr. quoted in Men’s Health
The October edition of Men's Health quoted National SCRABBLE® Association John D. Williams in an article entitled “How to Win at Everything”: “Learn the words ‘za” and ‘qi’. Za is slang for pizza, and qi is a variant of chi, the Asian life force. They’re legal words--and not only can you score big by using them around a triple-letter square, but your opponent may challenge them, and lose his turn.”

Gyles Brandeth on BBC quiz show, QI
Honorary Association of British Scrabble Players(ABSP) President (and SCRABBLE® author) Gyles Brandeth appeared as a panelist this month on the BBC quiz show, QI. Since the show is not available in the States, here are the YouTube links:
http://www.youtube.com/user/quite1nteresting#p/a/u/1/BiV2fe1-0XA
http://www.youtube.com/user/quite1nteresting#p/a/u/0/iA4J4UxFz20

Bad Words on CSI: Las Vegas

Fantasy SCRABBLE® Baseball Team
Diane Firstman put together a fantasy baseball team where all players have SCRABBLE®-playable first and last names: http://themeteams.blogspot.com/2010/09/all-time-scrabble-all-star-team.html

AUGUST MILESTONES

RAFI STERN reached 2000 for the first time at the Portland v. Seattle TCC (WA).

EVANS CLINCHY reached 1900 for the first time at the Portland (ME) Tournament.

NOAH WALTON reached 1900 for the first time at the Portland v. Seattle TCC (WA).

MARK SCHMIDT reached 1700 for the first time at the Alpharetta (GA) Tournament.

STEPHEN SNEED reached 1700 for the first time at the National SCRABBLE® Championship.

IAN CHESSER reached 1600 for the first time at the National SCRABBLE® Championship.

JEFFREY NELSON reached 1600 for the first time at the Portland (ME) Tournament.

JAMES CURLEY reached 1500 for the first time at the Bayside (NY) Tournament.

JAMES PORTER reached 1500 for the first time at the Portland v. Seattle TCC Tournament.
Fiction:

The Fog
by James Herbert

This is a superlative, well-crafted horror story with a quite original storyline. It takes place in foggy old England, where a dense, yellowish fog suddenly arises from the depths of the earth, infiltrating the minds of all whom it envelopes and taking away all restraint. Suddenly, all formerly sane individuals find themselves acting as if they were beings out of Dante’s Inferno. It is a disaster from which there is seemingly no end.

As the fog moves from place to place, it leaves in its wake a swath of grisly devastation, as murders, rapes, mass suicides, and looting become a way of life. Even animals succumb to the fog, as treasured pets turn on their owners. Only one man has managed to emerge with his sanity still intact, and a group of scientists in an underground laboratory are laboring to find out the reason for his seeming immunity, for in him lies the secret to the fog’s destruction and the liberation of mankind from its effects. Time, however, is of the essence and is running out.

This is really a terrific novel, well paced, tautly written, and totally absorbing. It is an absolute page-turner, with scenes of horror matter-of-factly written, making them all the more believable and horrific, while tinged by a trace of dark humor. The tension is crisply maintained throughout the entire book, from start to finish, and makes for a riveting read that is hard to put down. This is a must-read for all those who love a good horror story.

The Fog is available at Amazon.com.

Non-fiction:

A Gift of Prophecy: The Phenomenal Jeane Dixon
by Ruth Montgomery

This book tells the story of Jeane Dixon, a devout Catholic who was probably one of the greatest clairvoyants the world has ever known. She lived most of her adult live in Washington, D.C., to where she moved with her husband at the start of World War II. There she became the toast of the town. She made so many accurate predictions that it was mind-boggling. Yet, she never asked for money for a reading, as she considered it an act from God. On the other hand, she never had to consider that as an option, as she lived a privileged life,
having grown up in a wealthy household in Wisconsin and, later, marrying a very well-to-do business man.

The numbers and accuracy of her predictions are startling. Moreover, many of them were made years in advance of their occurrence. The one that gained the most notoriety was the prediction of President Kennedy's assassination, which is fully discussed in the book. The book also discusses Mrs. Dixon's thoughts on the issue of conspiracy behind the assassination. Given her track record, it is quite an interesting discourse.

The author of the book, an investigative reporter and friend of Mrs. Dixon, gives an excellent account of her predictions and, often, the context out of which they arose. She describes how the predictions came about. While many of the predictions involved well-known individuals, Mrs. Dixon also made many predictions for people with whom she came into contact in her everyday life. All in all, this is a memorable book about a most remarkable woman who, indeed, had the gift of prophecy.

A Gift of Prophecy 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.
Stell’s Racks of Mirth

by Stellacious (AKA Cheryl L. Cadieux)

Dear Mr. Director:
I seem to still be in div. 3 and I am worried about my rating's safety...is there anything that you can do about that?? I would hate to threaten you with my not coming........ you know how much my presence has enchanced your tournament so far. And

P. S.

Did I mention that I would be needing for you to supply my lodging and food while I am there?? If you cannot do this, then I will not be coming to your precious tournament.

Thank you so much for JUMPING to my every wish, whim and desire.

P. S. I think that I might need a ride also....

Kisses and Hugs
Your Stellacy

Reply from unknown director at large:
Dear Entrant: (Stellar Stellacious)

Due to your recent whining, bitching complaint I have decided to make you the top player in DIV 4. I have found you a great place to stay free of charge. Please bring a pillow and ear plugs, Some bus passengers are so loud and inconsiderate, even when they see someone sleeping .

Food should be no problem as there is a garbage can right next to the Kiosk.

Enjoy the tournament!

Signed,
Director of the Year -
Lovey Dovey

To join OSPD, Stella’s SCRABBLE® mail group, please send a blank message to the following URL: ospd-scrabble-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

We are so delicious, that we are DIGESTable, with the digest form of only one e-mail a day.

At the bottom of each and every e-mail that you receive from OSPD, you will see the address to change your daily subscription from receiving the e-mails as they come in to only once a day in the digest form.

OSPD is a way for Scrabblers to communicate. We also have a Daily Word List: For example, one recent word list was “N” back hooks.

Paul Epstein occasionally does Mystery Racks and we have a quiz from time to time.

Please join us!

Stellacious
AKA Cheryl L. Cadieux
The bizman (James Peters) outdid himself when he came up with this quote:

"I know every word that I recognize!"

Frankly, when asked by Ken Lambe before their game, "How do you stand?"

Frankly: "Only for short periods of time!"

I guess Ken was speechless and didn't know how to react to Frankly's sense of humor about his handicap.

Stell's books of the week to read:

I'm think I'm hopeless: But I Could Be Wrong
You Are More Than What You Weigh
When Once Is Not Enough - Help For Obsessive Compulsions
Overcoming Motormouth Syndrome
Don't Sweat The Small Stuff
Cyborgasm
It's All Over But The Shoutin'

**Stellaisms for Your Day**

*It wasn’t the apple on the tree that ruined Adam, it was the tomato on the ground...*

*The trouble with the world is that the stupid are cocksure and the intelligent are full of doubt.*

**Happiness is a way station between too little and too much.**

As Always Stelling It Like It is STELLLAAAA

_Cheryl L. Cadieux, a congenial tournament player better known to her OSPD group members as “Stella,” lives in Au Gres, MI and New Port Richey, FL._
Passages
Larry Sherman, Editor

Each month we will be including information about SCRABBLE® players (births, deaths, marriages, etc.) Please send your news to Cornelia Guest at CorneliaSGuest@gmail.com.

DEATHS

MEYER (MIKE) SHERMAN  9/17/1914 -- 8/31/2010
By Joel Sherman

Our father lived a life that was remarkable for nothing more than how long he lived it. His accomplishments were ordinary. He graduated James Monroe High School; dug ditches for a public works program as a teen; earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from Bernard Baruch School of Business and Public Administration of the College of the City of New York (Class of ‘41), attending school mostly at night, during which he also legally changed his surname to avoid anti-Semitic discrimination in employment; and toiled for many years as a public accountant, eventually reaching a position of auditor, for the City of New York and then the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation.

Dad's life resembled a "Forrest Gump" story but with a lot of observation and much less participation. He lived through the most interesting century in human history, crowded as much with societal regress as with scientific progress. He grew up with one older brother, Abe, and one younger sister, Rose, (he survived both by several years) at a time when it was not yet uncommon to see horse-drawn conveyances on the streets of any major city, and lived to see that mode of transportation replaced by petroleum-eating motorized vehicles that could go several times faster and do several times more damage than a horse ever managed. That, combined with the fact that he still operated one of those vehicles into the last of his 95 years, made it all the more remarkable that he lived so long, considering how unsafe a driver he eventually became. For most of his life, Dad marveled at and embraced technological advances.

Meyer Sherman served in World War II as a radio operator in the Philippines with the Army Air Corps. He came home and went to work at bookkeeping; met our mother, Gertrude, and married her in 1951; fathered the two of us; worked into his seventies and enjoyed a 20-year retirement. He got to see two world wars, the deployment against hundreds of thousands of humans of a horrific bomb that worked by splitting atoms; the attempted extermination of his religious heritage (though he was never visibly religious); radios and televisions go from bulky and tube-filled to solid state electronics and flat screens; humans go to and walk on the moon; a huge wall built and then torn down across the city of Berlin; the erection and deliberate violent destruction of two immense office monoliths in the NYC skyline; computers go from punch-card eating things the size of whole rooms to devices smaller than those original punch cards that you can hold in your hand; a California valley
go from farming grapes to farming silicon chips; energy sources go from coal to atomic; and African-Americans go from finally being allowed to drink at the same water fountains as white people to being elected President in the nation that held them down for so long -- all in just half of dad's lifetime.

He got a stereo, enjoyed what music we bought to play on it; got a color TV, eventually; and he learned how to use the stand-alone module "Monty® Plays Scrabble" electronic game, and the Franklin dictionary. But he hit the wall at handling TV remotes and computers, and never got into using email or Maven or Quackle though we tried to show him how. His lifelong loves were the New York Yankees, Chinese food, lobster and chocolate and Boston cream pie and lemon meringue pie, his car, and crossword puzzles and SCRABBLE®. He loved our mother and us, in his way, which was rarely obvious or demonstrative. The most emotion he ever showed was in response to an athlete's clutch hit.

Dad was close to entirely deafened by three decades of riding the NY subway trains to work from the Bronx to lower Manhattan. He officially retired from his main job with the HHC in 1979, but continued to prepare tax returns part-time for a private accounting firm he moonlighted with for many years, into his 70's. After that, he found the National SCRABBLE® Association with our mother, and when she died shortly thereafter, tournaments became as big a part of his life as they are of ours for the past quarter century. He was always happy to see anyone he could play with, and frequently played after hours games as well as the tourney rounds. But his deafness and compensating overly loud speaking eventually made it too distracting to have him in tourney rooms, and his cardiac blockages slowed him down too much to travel, so we had to stop taking him to tourneys. We knew his life was pretty much over when he stopped showing any interest in either the crosswords or the Yankees in mid-July, and we followed his living will in not taking artificial means to prolong his existence when he failed to respond to treatments for severe anemia. He lived and died on his terms, with little pain, and no complaints. When asked "howdy do?", his most frequent response was "I do fine." We were very lucky to have him so long.

Meyer Sherman is survived by his two sons, Joel and Larry Sherman; no grandchildren, but several nieces and nephews.

BIRTHS

AVA JADE TEDESCO

Annette Tedesco, SCRABBLE® tournament organizer extraordinaire, announced the birth of her first great-granddaughter, Ava Jade Tedesco, born on September 29th and weighing in at 8 pounds.

To celebrate the event, Annette offered a prize of free entry to one of her upcoming multi-day tournaments (Lake George, Albany New Year's, Berkshire) for the best anagram of her new great-grandchild's name. The winner were Robin Pollock Daniel for JAVA DECODES TEA and Jeremy Cahnmann for ODE AT JADES CAVE. Other entries were TEASED JAVA CODE, A SATED JOE CAVED, A DATED JOE CAVES, SEDATE JAVA CODE, A VADOSE DEJECTA, SO DA EJECTA OVA, A DOC SAVED A J TEE, COATED JAVA SEED, AVACADO JETES, ACED AS A JETE DOVE, JADE COATED VASE, JADE COATED SEED, JOE EVADES DA CAT, JAVA TEASED COED, JADE VETOES A CAD, AVE JOES DEAD CAT, and TAJ CEDES A DOVE.
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.

This week’s “Scrambled” Keyword: HAYLOPERS

Clue: It can describe rowdy misbehavior or the theatrical production of Equus.

SOLUTION on page 65
Word-Finder Challenge:

Here’s an additional test of your anagramming ability. Your object is to find as many bingos as possible using only the 9 letters of this month’s (Scrambled) Keyword: HAYLOPERS.

All words must be at least 7 letters long, as well as OWL2 or Long List 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 OUTLINE, OUTLINES, OUTLINED, and OUTLINER were contained in the Keyword, they could all be used.

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

8 bingos (Novice); 11 (Intermediate); 14 (Advanced)

Once you’ve compiled your list, check out my SOLUTION on page 65. 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.
Scrab-Doku Solution for: October 2010

Unscrambled Keyword: HORSEPLAY

Keyword (Unscrambled): HORSEPLAY (18 bingos)

HORSEPLAY
HOARSELY
EPHORAL
LEPROS
PARLEYS
PAROLES

PARSLEY
PHORESY
PLASHER
PLAYERS
PYROLAS
REPLAYS

REPOSAL
SHAPELY
SHARPLY
SHOALER
SPARELY
SPHERAL
Something for Everyone at the Delaware SCRABBLE® Festivus

As a new director in a part of the country that already has a pretty full tournament calendar, Dan Horowitz discovered that carving out a niche for a new event was difficult. So he opted to boldly go where no director has gone before: Christmas. The Delaware SCRABBLE® Festivus main event will be a 3-day tournament starting at noon on Friday, December 24th and ending Sunday, December 26th. For players spending Christmas with their families, Dan added a 7-game late-bird event on Monday, December 27th.

“Seinfeld” fans will recognize “Festivus” as the name of the alternative winter holiday introduced on a 1997 show by George Costanza’s father, Frank (“a holiday for the rest of us”). Today a number of people actually celebrate Festivus, traditionally on December 23rd.

“Like many Scrabblers,” said Dan, “at Christmastime I find myself with lots of free time and little to do other than go to the movies and/or a Chinese restaurant. I also realized that if I scheduled a tournament over Christmas weekend it would dovetail well with Annette Tedesco’s Albany Tournament. Players could take a holiday road trip that would allow them to play in over 60 rated games in 10 days.”

The Christmastime dates proved a bonus to Dan. “Since the hotel would otherwise have been rather empty over Christmas, they gave us an amazing deal: a room rate of $89 per night, which includes a full hot buffet breakfast for two each morning, free Internet access, and free shuttle service to the Wilmington Amtrak and Greyhound stations and nearby Delaware Park Casino. They’ve even contributed two gift certificates for a free night to the prize pool, which will be awarded to high-scoring plays using all the letters in HILTON.”

Option 1: Movies, Chinese Food, and SCRABBLE®?

If you were watching the news a few months ago, you may have caught this exchange between Senator Lindsey Graham and Supreme Court Nominee Elena Kagan:

Senator Graham: “I was just asking where you were at on Christmas.”
Elena Kagan: “You know, like all Jews, I was probably at a Chinese restaurant.”

Regardless of what (if any) religion you practice, if, like Justice Kagan, you usually find yourself battling a case of cabin fever on Christmas with almost everything closed besides movie theaters and Chinese restaurants, then Dan’s tournament might be your answer.

“For those of you who believe that no Christmas is complete without a movie and some Chinese food, we’ll be bringing in some takeout and showing Word Wars after the games on Saturday, December 25th. Since restaurants will be closed, we’ll also be providing lunch that day.”

Option 2: A Holiday SCRABBLE® Road Trip

For the diehards out there who believe there is no such thing as too much SCRABBLE®, Dan scheduled his tournament so that it can be combined with the Albany (NY) New Year’s Tournament to form the ultimate SCRABBLE® road trip. Here’s the itinerary:

Friday 12/24-Sunday 12/26: Delaware SCRABBLE® Festivus main event.
Monday 12/27: Delaware SCRABBLE® Festivus late bird.

Tuesday 12/28: Travel to Albany, NY.

Wednesday 12/29-Sunday 1/2: Albany New Year’s Tournament early birds and main event.

Option 3: 7-Game Late-Bird Tournament on Monday, December 27th

Understanding that there will be many people who will be unable to attend a multi-day tournament over Christmas, Dan added a late-bird event on Monday, December 27th, open to all NASPA members. “I figured the late bird would make a great pit stop for anyone driving through Delaware on I-95 on the way home from Grandma’s house, or on the way to the Albany tournament.”

Among the Festivus traditions is the “Airing of the Grievances,” which occurs during the Festivus dinner. Participants lash out at others and moan about how they have been disappointed over the past year. A great time for Scrabblers to whine about how few blanks they got, how they were always paired against their “SCRABBLE® Daddies,” and how their alarm clocks continually malfunctioned when there were early morning games! Whether Scrabblers will also participate in “The Feats of Strength” post-dinner wrestling matches is dubious—and only Dan knows if the venue will be decorated with holiday trees or the traditional “Festivus Pole,” a bare aluminum pole.

There’s one Festivus tradition all participants will be hoping for: a “Festivus Miracle.”

Dan is offering a $10 early-registration discount for anyone who registers and pays before October 15th. For more information, check out the flyer at cross-tables.com or email Dan at dhorowit@alumni.law.upenn.edu.
Badqoph Blog Talk

by Ryan Fischer

Ryan Fischer manages the Badqoph Directory, a database of blogs by known SCRABBLE® bloggers, primarily tournament players. In this column he looks at some interesting threads from the blogs.

Throughout the month of September, 18 of the best NASPA Blitz players competed for bragging rights in a double-elimination, best 5-out-of-9 tournament. Nathan James organized an incredibly fun, exciting event that, should it be repeated in the future, hopes to become a seasonal staple of the community. [http://ar-raqis.livejournal.com/12633.html](http://ar-raqis.livejournal.com/12633.html)

The tournament has not quite concluded as of this writing. Standings are as follows (ISC handles in parentheses):

1st: Sam Rosin (dugy1001)
2nd: Conrad Bassett-Bouchard (dacRON)
For 3rd: Noah Walton (whatnoloan) vs Jesse Day (Magrathean)
For 5th: Matthew Tunnicliffe (TheLamb) vs Nigel Peltier (ELBINGO)
For 7th: Ryan Fischer (Wonderfish) vs Brian Bowman (stmonday)
For 9th: Jeff Widergren (rewerding) vs Ian Weinstein (jqxzdoc)
For 11th: Bradley Whitmarsh (GoldfishBW) vs Jesse Matthews (soccerguy)
For 13th: Cesar Del Solar (ozmarules) vs Benjy Schoenbrun (bnjy99)
15th: #17 Lisa Abraham (blitzqueen)
16th: #4 Peter Armstrong (axolotl)
17th: #16 Nathan James (volucris)
18th: #18 Geoffrey Newman (Zooglea)

There is also a match play tourney in New York that James Curley is organizing, similar to Rod MacNeil's Beanpot of 2008.

[http://jc3181.livejournal.com/](http://jc3181.livejournal.com/) and more specifically: [https://sites.google.com/site/nycscrabble/home](https://sites.google.com/site/nycscrabble/home)

A brilliant play by Rafi Stern, shows some higher-level, advanced thinking and deductive reasoning:

[http://rafij52.livejournal.com/14382.html](http://rafij52.livejournal.com/14382.html)

Also interesting me this month is the pervasion of manufactured games in the Annotated Games list at [cross-tables.com](http://www.cross-tables.com/annolistself.php), both this month and over the past several months.

Off the directory is the cross-tables list of annotated games.


In multiple instances, these games are comical, creating weird or unique patterns or symmetries. Some employ all the tiles except for the blanks and are noteworthy for their beauty, artistry, and
creativity. Upon exploring this game, I marvel in the same way I do when I view Dan Stock's tableaux. It would be nice if the person who created these games revealed himself, but I guess that mystery adds to the fun of discovery:


These first two plays are beautiful because each rack is optimum, and there are no setups.


This one is noteworthy for its effort, but could've used a little more planning, and fewer dinking, inconsequential/setup plays plays.


This one includes all "best" plays as well, but has one minor error in a a late rack, making available more tiles than are possible. A minor quibble at best.

In the past, Jim Kramer has excelled at fashioning impossibly unlikely games, some of which I've touched on in past entries, including his birthday gift to Joey Mallick. Carl Johnson's shenanigans go way back to his epic 50-part report of the 2008 nationals (and perhaps even before that). Here, he played an epic game with Mark Kenas that's one for the books:

[http://chaithedog.livejournal.com/33967.html](http://chaithedog.livejournal.com/33967.html)

Later, he had a rematch with Mark K.:


And then a chance meeting with Kirsten Dunst:

[http://chaithedog.livejournal.com/61428.html](http://chaithedog.livejournal.com/61428.html)

Matthew Tunnicliffe has also, on occasion, entertained their readers with clever concoctions of his own. The stories behind them are not public, but the games themself# are:


Jeremy Cahnmann, has in the past always entertained both at tournaments and on his blog (bloglink, though the games are no longer found there) with constructed positions and games of fancy. You'll always learn a word or two (ASHFALL!) and be dazzled by unlikely overlaps. His constructed endgames are so complex (often with multiple high-scoring hotspots and both blanks in play) that they are prone to making Quackle’s Championship Player crash (at leat on my machine.)
This particular game ([http://www.cross-tables.com/annotated.php?u=6839#17](http://www.cross-tables.com/annotated.php?u=6839#17)) starts out in such a manner, and then slowly fizzles out, running out of places to go with an unplayable CINQUUX (no open N). His more classic games (some of which have appeared in earlier issues of *The Last Word*) can be found here:


This game in particular doesn't always make the optimum play, instead planning a complicatedly manufactured endgame where multiple high scoring plays are possible, a blank is unseen, and the proper play is not always immediately apparent.


Last but not least, my favorite of Cahnmann's constructed games, sure to make your hard drive burst into flames.

Spoilers in case you want to figure it out on your own.

In order to win, Tom must forego the urge to play any of the 4(!) higher-scoring 3x3s available at varying scores: Zai(B)ATSU, jA(C)UZzIS, cAZI(Q)UeS, or ZAS(T)rUgI, and instead block his opponent's possible 3x3s of JU(X)TA(POSITION)AL and JA(C)ULATE by playing 15H shIA(T)ZUS for 186. Jeremy can then take JU(X)TA(POSITION) for 115, to lose by 15.


I will leave the other three as an exercise to the reader. :)

---

*Ryan Fischer graduated from the University of North Carolina in 2005 with a degree in communications studies and a minor in creative writing. He is a NASPA player and director, a major force, with John Luebkemann and Sherrie Saint John, behind the Eastern Championships in Charlotte, NC, where he now lives.*
SCREWBLE® Resources

There are many study tools to help tournament Screwble® 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, plus feature each month, if possible, a different Screwble® resource. This month John Chew writes about his Screwble® tournament management software, tsh, which is used in most major tournaments throughout the world, and which he has recently updated to include a number of interesting new features.

---

tsh

by John Chew

tsh is Screwble® tournament management software: it is used by Screwble® tournament directors to keep track of their players; decide who is playing whom, where and when (using almost every different pairing system I have heard of); enter results of games; report on standings, statistics and prizes; adjudicate word challenges; maintain event web sites; and submit results to rating authorities. It is the leader in its field, and is used to run the World Championship, several National Championships (including ones in the U.S., Canada, the U.K., and Pakistan), the King's Cup in Bangkok, a third of rated events of all sizes in North America, and virtually all events in many countries (including the U.K.)

tsh is a platform-independent Perl application. It is developed using OS/X on a MacBook, but tested regularly with Windows, and it has users from the Mac, Windows, and Linux communities. Its input is primarily command-line oriented for speed (experienced data-entry staff can enter more than 15 games per minute), with customizable web-based output for printing reports and automatic upload to an event website. Some web-based data entry and editing tools are also available. tsh was originally written for an English-speaking user base, but includes varying degrees of user-contributed support for German, Norwegian, and Polish.

tsh is open source software: it comes with all of its source for you to tinker with (but not redistribute), and there is no charge for its use. If you feel moved to make a PayPal donation, you can do so at posfit.com, but please consider doing so first to other free Screwble®-related software you may be using, such Quackle, Zyzzyva, and crosse-tables.com, not to mention any number of more worthy charitable causes.

I wrote the first version of tsh in 1999, when I decided I was tired of doing Swiss pairings by hand. The oldest version I still have dates back to 2001 and is about 1,400 lines of code. The current version of tsh is numbered 3.310 and the tsh distribution ZIP archive is available as a free (1Mb) download. It currently has about 70,000 lines of code. The version number is incremented a few times a year, when significant changes have been made and reasonably well tested. The next version will be 3.320, portions of which are available in a testing ZIP archive or through the built-in update command. Unsupported older versions can be found in an archive directory. If you would like tsh to do something that it does not already do, please send me email; that’s how almost all of its features have started. If you’d like to find out more, the tsh manual is available at this web site, and it is also included in the distribution. If you are not an expert user, you will in particular need to read the installation instructions before you get started. You may also join the tsh-users mailing list to stay informed about what’s new with tsh, request new features and discuss tsh with fellow users.

Here are some examples of features new to the current version of tsh:

- Web tools for editing scorecard data and entering them into a PDA.
• Automatic generation of pre-filled tally sheets.
• Better support for team tournaments.
• Better localized support for German, Norwegian, and Pakistani users.

And here are some examples of features available in the development version:
• A new command for listing pending unrated NASPA tournaments.
• Team round-robin pairing for more than two teams.
• Interleaved round-robin pairings.
• Shading of alternate lines in long reports.

If you want to use the program, I will do everything that I can to support you. If you give me enough lead time, I’ll help you set it up on your computer, and set up the configuration files. If you want to set it up yourself, please read carefully the manual section on configuring tsh. As long as I am not unreachable while travelling, I encourage you to call me for immediate technical support while planning or running your event. I can also be reached via Skype, Gmail Chat, AIM, or Facebook Chat.

John Chew
jjchew@math.utoronto.ca
+1 416 876 7675

_______________________

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.

Play Live SCRABBLE® CROSS-TABLES
Lists all upcoming tournaments, as well as results of past tournaments. Has SCRABBLE® tournament aides.

NASPA CLUB LISTINGS
Lists clubs throughout North America with their meeting times and locations.

NSA CLUB LISTINGS
Lists casual clubs throughout North America with their meeting times and locations.

Anagreamming/Practice Tools
JUMBLETIME
A free web site for practicing anagreamming 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 anagreamming 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.

CLICK HERE TO HELP END WORD HUNGER AS YOU LEARN WORDS
A free vocabulary testing site. For every correct word, grains of rice are donated through the United Nations World Food Program. Feed hungry people as you expand your vocabulary!

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 (see story on page 74) 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 beginner 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. (Reviewed in this issue.)

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.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Berkeley CA 10/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laguna Woods CA 10/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain View CA 10/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland OR 10/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clayton CA 10/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco CA 10/29-31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MIDWEST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin Dells WI 10/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin Dells WI 10/1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akron OH 10/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ortonville MI 10/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago IL 10/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Lyon MI 10/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky River OH 10/30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NORTHEAST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Berlin NJ 10/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ridgefield CT (School SCRABBLE®) 10/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akron OH (LCT) 10/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin TX 10/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore MD (WGPO &amp; NASPA) 10/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Lauderdale FL 10/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millburn NJ 10/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississauga ON CAN 10/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ortonville MI 10/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guelph ON CAN 10/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia PA 10/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake George NY 10/14-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago IL 10/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kissimmee FL 10/16-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain View CA (WGPO) 10/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland OR (Collins) 10/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calgary AB CAN 10/20-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tucson AZ (Unrated Team Early Bird) 10/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clayton, CA 10/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tucson AZ (WGPO) 10/23-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baton Rouge LA 10/23-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas TX 10/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Lauderdale FL 10/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Jefferson NY 10/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Lyon MI 10/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toronto ON CAN (TCC: Toronto v. Mississauga) 10/24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Cod, MA 10/29-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandon MB CAN 10/30-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashville TN 10/30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky River OH 10/30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOUTH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fort Lauderdale FL 10/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kissimmee FL 10/16-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baton Rouge LA 10/23-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Lauderdale FL 10/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashville TN 10/30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOUTHWEST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austin TX 10/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tucson AZ 10/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tucson AZ 10/23-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas TX 10/23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CANADA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge ON CAN 10/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria BC CAN 10/2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississauga ON CAN 10/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guelph ON CAN 10/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calgary AB CAN 10/20-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toronto v. Mississauga 10/24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandon MB CAN 10/30-31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOVEMBER TOURNAMENTS

WEST
Sacramento CA 11/6
Berkeley CA 11/7
Laguna Woods CA 11/7
Seattle WA 11/11-14
Mountain View CA 11/21

MIDWEST
Independence OH 11/9
Twin Cities MN 11/12
Indianapolis IN 11/13
Flint MI 11/20
Elmhurst IL 11/27-28

NORTHEAST
Bayside NY 11/6
Philadelphia PA 11/7
Pound Ridge NY 11/7
Essex VT 11/19-21
Pittsburgh PA 11/20
Ardsley NY 11/21

SOUTH
Asheville NC 11/6-7
Palm Harbor FL 11/6
Fort Lauderdale FL 11/12-13

SOUTHWEST
Lubbock TX 11/13-14
Dallas TX 11/20
Tucson AZ 11/20

CANADA
Brantford ON 11/6
Toronto ON 11/7
Guelph ON 11/14
CAN-AM AB 11/20-21
Edmonton AB 11/20
Oshawa ON 11/20-21
Archives

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