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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.

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From the Editor

The positive response to the last Newsletter was overwhelming! Thanks to the many readers who sent in emails, and thanks again to the many contributors, particularly Stefan Fatsis, whose portrait of Nigel Richards elicited huge praise. I especially appreciate the work of Aaron Daly, who continues to astonish me as he stretches the Newsletter’s capabilities.

This month’s Newsletter celebrates the winners of the first annual NASPA player awards, which were tabulated for the period starting with the 2008 Nationals and ending on July 31 (before the 2009 Nationals). The Player of the Year, Dave Wiegand, needs little introduction. However, there are additional awards in 13 other categories, and these winners’ excellent achievements are being acknowledged here as well.

Although Nationals is behind us, it is hardly forgotten. Three-time National Champion Joe Edley gives his analysis of Game 29 between Dave Wiegand and Nigel Richards; Jeremy Hildebrand shares some of his amusing caricatures of players at Board 1; and there is a short piece about Trey Wright, the charismatic winner of the 2004 Nationals.

We also have stories about Reno, the tournament that almost wasn’t; the Can-Am Challenge; Portland OR; and the Mid-Cities TX Tournament. Katya Lezin gives us a look at Kurt Kopitz, the player who amazed the room at the New Year’s Albany Tournament with his 311-point play WALTZERS. Two-time National School SCRABBLE® Champion Matthew Silver shares his lesson plan for newer players, and Reno fourth-place finisher Noah Walton provides a SCRABBLE® crossword puzzle. We’ve also added a new category to our popular regular features: book reviews.

On the international front, there is an interview with the Malaysian player Ganesh Asirvatham, considered by many to be the world’s best SCRABBLE® player (reprinted courtesy of WESPA), plus coverage of the British Matchplay Scrabble Championship. There’s information, too, on our young players preparing for the upcoming Youth SCRABBLE® Championships in Malaysia.

We also look at how SCRABBLE® can be used to “give back,” showcasing a number of successful events that have raised money for charitable causes. These benefits demonstrate that there are many SCRABBLE® players out there—and one way to find them is with good publicity and a good cause. Be sure to look at the “Grandmothers to Grandmothers” fundraising effort, which raised over $200,000 for African grandmothers caring for AIDS orphans (the article also has links to help others run such fundraisers).

A number of NAPSA members have expressed chagrin that the Newsletter is no longer being offered as a NASPA publication. At this time NASPA is a young organization, finding its way, and I hope it may be in a position to offer members a newsletter at some point in the future. However, we hope you will continue your support of this newsletter. If you would like The Last Word emailed to you directly, please send me your email address and I will add you to our mailing list.

Any companies or individuals interested in advertising in The Last Word are encouraged to email me directly. Donations are also welcome!

Once again, I encourage all SCRABBLE® players to submit stories, club news, and suggestions to CorneliaSGuest@gmail.com. This is a volunteer effort—and I can’t thank those volunteers enough for all they’ve done and continue to do!

Cornelia Guest
Hi Corny --

I wanted to add some information to the write-up of Sharon Swerdloff that appeared in the Passages section of the first Newsletter.

Among her many interests, Sharon was very involved in music. She had the usual childhood piano lessons, and as a young adult learned guitar and took songwriting classes at the New School and other places. She had a beautiful singing voice, and even took part in a couple of cabaret workshops and performances in the 1980’s. She took piano lessons with me for about a year and a half, only stopping when she got very ill. She was talented and really grew in her lessons as a pianist and musician. She was a joy to work with because of her talent, dedication, and positive attitude. She loved Bach and other classical composers as well as Broadway show music. As a pianist, she especially enjoyed playing Edward MacDowell's "To a Wild Rose" and Roger and Hammerstein's "Edelweiss" from *The Sound of Music*. She was also an enthusiastic Stephen Sondheim fan and kept up with the work of contemporary songwriters in the show music genre/style.

Some years back, she had written a moving and life-affirming song called "It's Time to Celebrate Me." In her last year she was refining it, with the aim of making a studio recording of it for use as a demo.

Music was one of the many things that sustained Sharon and stimulated her creativity. Everything she did (in and out of music) demonstrated her own mix of strength, subtlety, humor, sensitivity, and "carpe diem" attitude.

Music was an important part of Sharon’s life, and I think she would have been pleased for the SCRABBLE® community to know more about her involvement.

*Lynn Cushman*
Tournament News

For the most up-to-date tournament results and the official calendar of upcoming tournaments, players should visit scrabbleplayers.org and view the NASPA results and calendar. Detailed information about past and upcoming tournaments is also posted at www.cross-tables.com. Here we will feature a tournament or two each issue, plus list winners of recent tournaments. Directors who would like to submit results and photographs from their tournaments are welcome to send them to CorneliaSGuest@gmail.com.

________________________________________________________________

Mid-Cities Tournament: A Labor Day Debut

by Mary Rhoades

September 5-7 the Mid-Cities Club #?, which meets in Euless, Texas, just west of Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, hosted its 24th annual and first 3-day Labor Day weekend tournament. It was held at the beautiful Westin Dallas Fort Worth Hotel next to DFW Airport.

Previous Mid-Cities tournaments have been held on Memorial Day weekends, while the Houston Club held theirs on Labor Day weekend, right during the height of hurricane season on the Gulf Coast. An amiable trade was made and players can look forward to the first Houston Memorial Day weekend tournament in 2010.

Sixty-nine players arrived at the Westin, armed and ready with their equipment and word knowledge. The top eight players in the 14-player Division 1 were rated 1800+, which made for some very competitive games.

The playing room was open until 11 p.m. each night and always had games of different sorts in progress. Bryan Pepper, the multi-talented tournament co-director who kept our pairings and standings entered in a timely manner, directed a Speed SCRABBLE tournament on Saturday night. The speed tournament was won by Mike Early.

When the dust settled on Monday afternoon, the winner of the top division was Orry Swift, who is making a habit of taking home money from the tournaments he attends. In this tournament he won $500. Matthew Hodge and Mike Early came in 2nd and 3rd.

Division 2 was fought to the finish by teen players Matt Canik and Stephen Sneed, who placed 1st and 2nd, both 13-5, with only 59 cumulative points separating them. Additional money winners were Gregg Speicher, who came in 3rd, and Kate Watson, who placed 4th.

Division 3 was handily won by John Redding, fully 2-1/2 games ahead of the 2nd place winner, Harry Decker, at the end. Coming in 3rd and 4th were Mariah Smith and Pat Sanchez.

Scott Clement won Division 4, with Kenneth Kasney close behind. Kenneth and his son Ken, who was in Division 1, find that a mini-family reunion at the Mid-Cities tournament is always fun since Kenneth lives in Arkansas and Ken lives in Houston. Octogenerian Beulah Cooper, 88, placed 3rd, and Phyllis Owen came in 4th.
Cash prizes were also given to the players who started the tournament seeded in the bottom half of their divisions who had the best record but didn't place in the top prizes. High turn, high win, and high loss also received cash prizes. There was actually a three-way tie for one $10 prize and $20 more was added to the prize fund rather than pay each of them 33-1/3 percent!

One prize always given at the Mid-Cities tournament is the Silver Fox award. If players are 60+ and want to participate, they can sign up for this prize. This year's Silver Fox was Kenneth Kasney, the Elder.

Since the Mid-Cities Club generously paid the entire cost of the playing room for the tournament, it enabled the prize fund to be a larger prize pool.

One highlight of a Mid-Cities tournament is that there are many free raffle drawings players can enter. This year around 30 drawings were available. There are also always two $50 drawings for those who sent their entry fees by the deadline posted on the tournament flyer.

Complete results are listed on the NASPA wiki and on cross-tables.com.

Austin’s Beulah Cooper, 88, 3rd in Division 4, with Albuquerque’s Nancee Mancel
Portland Oregon: A True SCRABBLE Mecca

by Dave Johnson with photos by Howard Neal

In 2009, the tradition continued, as Portland Oregon hosted its 20th Annual Labor Day SCRABBLE® Tournament. From the first tournament organized by Karen Merrill to the tournament software skills of Fontes and the continual organizational skills of Ruth Hamilton, this tournament has flourished. This year 119 SCRABBLE® players from 17 states and provinces gathered in Portland. The tournament was directed by Dave Johnson, who was ably assisted by many volunteers. Rich Moyer served as the official rules judge and helped run the Early Bird and Late Bird tournaments. Ron Southwick helped organize and direct the Nite Bird, and hosted a fun poker competition Saturday night. Data entry was handled by Gail Wolford and Polly Moyer. Polly also assisted the director with whatever needed to get done (which was a lot!).

Congratulations to all who participated. More than fifty players shared in over $5000 in prize money. In addition, players in the Main Event enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch on both Saturday and Sunday as part of their entry fee.

Complete results can be seen on the NASPA website and on cross-tables.com.

TOURNAMENT SUMMARY

The Early Bird featured 50 players in 6 divisions. In Division A, Carl Johnson (Portland, OR) won with a 7-1 record. Travis Chaney (Ashland, OR), seeded last in the division, finished a strong second. Division B was won by Karen Merrill (Portland, OR) with a 6-2 record. T C Holgate-West romped through Division C, going 8-0 and raising her rating 110 points to 1527. Matthew Steele (Eugene, OR) won Division D going 7-1. Similarly, Ron Barker (Boise, ID) won Division E going 7-1, and Dawn Camille Wisniew (Everett, WA) won Division F with a 7-1 record. Ron Gideons (Talent, OR) had the high game of 612 and Leesa Bergeron (Salem, OR) had the high word, request for 133 points.

The Nite Bird hosted 30 players in one division for four games. With a short tourney and only one King of the Hill round, anything could happen. However, the top rated player, Joe Dackman (NV) prevailed going 4-0, +482. Also going 4-0 were Paula Catanese (Mountain View, CA) +423 and Barbara Van Alen (Chandler, AZ) +220. Paula was seeded 11th and Barbara seeded 18th. Paula had the high game of 542. Special congratulations to Elizabeth Wood (Portland, OR) who finished 8th (seeded 22nd) and to Joshua Standig.
(Corvallis, OR) who finished 10th (seeded 27th). Joshua’s 3-1 record boosted his rating 105 points to 957. Elizabeth participated in all four tournaments, doing well in every one, raising her rating from 958 to 1085.

The Late Bird was won by Wes Morrison (Klawock, AK), going 4-0, +272. He just edged out Mark Milan (Laguna Niguel, CA) who was 4-0, +264. Wes was seeded 18th of the 28 players, Mark 6th. The four games boosted Wes’ rating 74 points. Steve Alexander (Portland, OR) had the two highest games: 568 and 560.

The Main Event featured 108 players in four divisions. Going into the event, Division A featured four of the top twenty rated players in the U.S.: Dave Wiegand (Portland, OR), Carl Johnson (Portland, OR), Joe Dackman (NV), and Rafi Stern (Seattle, WA). Carl dominated at 18-2, and Dave was second going 15-5. Mike Frentz (Seattle, WA) was a strong third at 14-6. Rafi Stern (Seattle, WA) was fourth at 12-8, and Steve Alexander (Portland, OR) (seeded 12th) was fifth at 11-8-1. Special mention to Chris Williams (Vancouver, BC), seeded 15th and finishing 7th and to Larry Rand (Chandler, AZ), seeded 18th and finishing 10th. Stu Goldman (San Francisco, CA) has now competed in more than 5,740 tournament games, more than any other player in the history of the game.

Division B was won by Mark Peltier (Seattle, WA). His 16-4 record was two games ahead of the field. Mark raised his rating 166 points to 1585. Mark was seeded 17th of the 20 players and had to request to play up into this division. Also in the money were Travis Chaney (Ashland, OR) and Karen Merill (Portland, OR) at 14-6, Bruce D’Ambrosio (Los Angeles) at 13-7, and Leesa Berahovich (Berkeley, CA) at 12-8. Alan Meyer (Newberg, OR) was seeded last (20th) and finished 11th. Siri Tillekeratne (Calgary, AB) has now competed in more than 5,000 tournament games, only the third player to ever do so.
Division C had 38 players and was our largest division. Ron Gideons (Talent, OR) was the victor at 15-5, +1552, beating out Jesse Wornum (Portland, OR) who was 15-5, +532. Ron had the largest spread of the tournament (edging Carl Johnson’s +1400). Jesse was the only player in the Early Bird competition to go winless (0-8), so the strong comeback was particularly gratifying. Money was disbursed to the top nine finishers. Third was Margie Gordon (Garden Grove, CA), 13-7, +962. Tony Verma (Burnaby, BC) was seeded 19th and finished 4th at 13-7, +101. Norbert Saldanha (Richmond, BC) was fifth, 12-7-1, and Dion Saldanha (Richmond, BC) seeded 22nd, finished sixth at 12-8, +850. Wes Morrison (Klawock, AK) was 72nd at 12-8, +596, Tom Lackaff (Spokane, WA) 8th at 12-8, +204, and Leah Kruley (Arcata, CA) 9th at 11-8-1. Special kudos to George Bissonnette (Seattle, WA) who was seeded 27th and finished 12th and to Tim Lecompte (Portland, OR) seeded 37th and finishing 22nd.

Division D had 30 players with tight competition amongst a half dozen players right up until the last game. Coming in first was Ron Newberry (Pahoa, HI) at 14-6, +886. He edged Sunshine Gudlaugson (Vancouver, BC) who was seeded 20th and finished 14-6, +811. Scott McManus (Seattle, WA), seeded 22nd was 13-7, +334, while Karen Powell (Redmond, WA) was 13-7, +135. Godwin Gwei (Seattle, WA) was 5th at 12-8, +923. Ron’s sister Anne Newberry (Portland, OR) was 6th at 12-8, +261. The final money winner was Jane Jackson (Seattle, WA) at 12-8, +212 in 7th place.
High Games in the Main Event went to Mike Frentz (Seattle, WA) in Division A – 625, Travis Chaney (Ashland, OR) in Division B – 602, Ron Gideons (Talent, OR) and Margie Gordon (Garden Grove, CA) in Division C – 552, and Julius Chaney (Ashland, OR) in Division D – 627. Tuffluck Awards (closest 5 loses) went to Dan Goodwin (Seattle, WA) in Division A -84, Chris Tallman (Vancouver, BC) in Division B -58, Kathy Sutrov (Portland, OR) in Division C -46, and Anne Newberry (Portland, OR) in Division D -83. Chris Williams (Vancouver, BC) won the RUTH award, honoring Ruth Hamilton, who has put on tournaments here in Portland for the past two decades. Chris played FURTHERS for 75 points.

CELEBRATING DAVE WIEGAND’S NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

At the conclusion of the Awards Ceremony cake was served in honor of Portland’s own Dave Wiegand. We are extremely proud of our National Champion, winning his second championship, an amazing accomplishment. Thanks to Betty Cornelison for obtaining two beautifully designed cakes. Presented by the Portland Tournament and local Club 308, the cakes congratulated Dave Wiegand for his performance and provided a nice conclusion to the Scrabble Tournament. Dave finished 2nd to Carl Johnson in the Main Event, going 15-5, pushing his rating even higher to 2078.
A group of our 21 and younger players gathered after the tournament to celebrate some phenomenal play. From left to right in the photograph:

**Chris Tallman** (Vancouver, BC) playing in only his 2nd tournament, competed in a very tough Division 2 and finished 9-11 with a rating of 1530. Chris is definitely a young player to watch.

**Julius Chaney** (Ashland, OR), son of southern Oregon’s strongest player Travis Chaney, talked his Dad into letting him play in the Early Bird where managed to win two games. Since we had an odd number in the Main Event, he volunteered again and surprised a lot of adults in Division 4 by going 8-12. His Dad was mighty proud.

**Matthew Nelson** (Poulsbo, WA) has been playing a couple years and has moved up to Division 3, now boasting a higher rating than his Dad who played in Division 4. Matthew went 11-9 and was just one half game out of the money.

**Noah Walton** (Portland, OR) has skyrocketed up the ratings and now plays in Division 1. His rating has risen more in the last 12 months than any other player in the country (926 points). He went 9-11 in our Main Event.

**Rafi Stern** (Seattle, WA) went 12-8 in Division 1 in the Main Event, finishing fourth and raising his rating to 1895. Rafi played in the 2009 Nationals and was at or near the lead in Division 1 for the first several days.

**Dielle Saldanha** (Richmond, BC), part of a great SCRABBLE®-playing family, finished 10-10 in Division 1. She was the winner of our other annual Portland tournament – Dave Wiegand’s prestigious 2009 Oregon Tile event held in May.

**SCRABBLE® is definitely thriving with the younger generation here in the Northwest!**
In 2002 Zev Kaufman, assisted by Director John Chew, came up with the idea of a SCRABBLE® tournament pitting the best Canadian players against the best U.S. players. This year, the 7th annual Can-Am Challenge was held in Aurora, Colorado, just outside of Denver, at the Crystal Inn.

Seven top players from the U.S. challenged seven top Canadian players in the traditional double round robin (each player plays each player from the opposing team twice). Representing the U.S. were Dave Wiegand (OR), Kenji Matsumoto (MA), Nathan Benedict (AZ), Nigel Peltier (WA), Joey Mallick (ME), Sam Kantimathi (CA), and Jason Idalski (MI). Playing for Canada were Adam Logan (ONT), Robin Pollock Daniel (ONT), Christopher Sykes (ONT), Tony Leah (ONT), Max Panitch (ONT), Evan Berofsky (ONT), and Chris Williams (BC).

The teams were well matched, with the defending U.S. team coming in with a slightly higher average rating than the Canadian team: 1885 vs. 1849. The Americans started out strong with a 5-2 lead, then had a clean sweep in round four, which the Canadians then almost completely erased by going 6-1 in round six. By the end of the first day the U.S. team had opened up a comfortable 7-game lead over the Canadians, 31.5 to 24.5.

On Saturday night we drove to DiCicco’s, a local Italian restaurant, for a group dinner, which was great fun. The restaurant had a live keyboard player who sat in front of a 15-foot-
tall video projection of a fireplace. It was over-the-top tacky, but the food was good.

Day two saw the U.S. team rapidly extend their lead. By game 12 the Americans had earned enough of the 98 points to defend their title. The team went on to finish with a 60.5-37.5 final score. The U.S. individual players also finished well, taking the top 6 places. Nigel Peltier (WA) narrowly edged out the new National Champ, Dave Wiegand (OR), for first place with a 10-3-1 record. It was Peltier’s first multi-day division 1 win—particularly impressive since it was against such a strong field. Complete results can be found at scrabbleplayers.org.

The U.S. team retained the trophy (referred to as “the blender”), which had suffered a bit of damage on its way to the tournament. Sam Kantimathi took it to get it fixed and engraved before it travels among his teammates. Paul McCarthy, a local player, donated copies of his book Letterati (amazon.com), which were given to the high games from each country. Nathan Benedict scored 604 for the Americans and Chris Sykes scored 602 for the Canadians.

As is customary at the Can-Am, all 98 games were recorded. Six local players from the Denver and Boulder clubs volunteered to annotate, and did an outstanding job. All the games can be found online at poslfit.com.

It was definitely a privilege to be allowed to direct such an elite group of players. I got to hang out with them and experience all their games without having to lose any games or miss any bingos! The annotators were understandably a bit starstruck, and got some autographs and pictures of the famous SCRABBLE® experts, as well as some invaluable lessons due to their unique view of the games.

I am greatly appreciative of the many people who helped make this tournament a success.

Angela Dancho, a local player who has become a director and revived our own Rocky Mountain Rumble, helped me out a great deal by entering results and many annotated games into the computer. She also found the hotel (it’s the one we used last year for the Rumble) and got snacks and goodie bags for the players. Lesesne Kunz, Keith Pries, Ryan Barrett, Dave Goldberg, Nath Addams, and Laura Scheimberg gave up their weekend to annotate games and help drive players to and from the restaurant.

Results Follow:

**United States: 60.5**
- **Nigel Peltier**: 10-3-1 +420 (1st)
- **Joey Mallick**: 9-5 +489 (3rd)
- **Kenji Matsumoto**: 9-5 +485 (4th)
- **Sam Kantimathi**: 8-6 -188 (5th)
- **Nathan Benedict**: 7-7 +614 (6th)
- **Jason Idalski**: 7-7 -182 (8th)

**Canada: 37.5**
- **Adam Logan**: 7-7 +277 (7th)
- **Christopher Sykes**: 6-8 -454 (9th)
- **Robin Pollock Daniel**: 5-8-1 -122 (10th)
- **Evan Berofsky**: 5-9 -28 (11th)
- **Max Panitch**: 5-9 -262 (12th)
- **Tony Leah**: 5-9 -875 (13th)
- **Chris Williams**: 4-10 -905 (14th)
Reno: The Inaugural NASPA Tournament That Almost Didn't Happen

by Jeff Widergren

Co-director Kyle Widergren presents the first-place check to Reno Division 1 winner Nathan Benedict.

As readers of cgp are well aware, this year’s West Coast SCRABBLE® Championship in Reno, Nevada, July 1-6 was extremely controversial. Rick Wong and I, the tournament organizers, had felt that some commitment had been made and broken to us regarding a 2009 Players Championship, and we announced on May 26th that Reno would not be a NASPA tournament and that we would take a chance making our own member-elected/run organization and rating system/webpage. To avert the secession, NASPA members Steve Pellinen and Joe Edley went through great last-minute efforts, asking us to have faith in them that NASPA’s power structure would be a fully empowered elected board soon enough and for us to give them a chance to make that happen. We agreed, and since then we have been pleased to hear of the establishment of a Governance Committee, which has been created to review and critique existing NASPA organizational structures, bylaws, decision-making, and other processes. [Note: Rick Wong is not a member of NASPA at this time and is still hoping for it to become a fully elected organization.]

Speed Record?
Reno organizer Jeff Widergren plays fast on line and in person. At Reno this year he played two 500-point games, both with 20:00+ minutes left on his clock: One against Greg Heidler (534) in the Main Event and one against James Johnson (525) in the Early Bird. “Too much caffeine,” jokes Jeff!

As for the tournament: Even with about 3-weeks notice that we were going to be an official NASPA Tournament, we still managed to get 116 players. The tournament started with two Early Bird events on July 1-2. The first Early Bird, a 10-game open event, went to Rob Robinsky, who won all of his games over many top players. The second Early Bird was divided into groups of 8, with the following winners: Joe Dackman, Carlene Wallis, P. K. Gott, Pat Diener, Betty Cornelison, and Richard Strick.

The main event, the 21st annual West Coast Championship, was divided into three divisions. At points early in the tournament, it looked like it could be a sweep by people under 20, with 15-year-old Noah Walton leading Division 1, 12-year-old Bradley Robbins doing the same in Division 2, and 13-year-old Matthew Nelson leading (and eventually winning) Division 3. It was inspiring to see Noah leading a group with the likes of Dave Wiegand, Carl Johnson, Ian Weinstein, and eventual winner, Nathan Benedict. Nathan actually won the tournament with one round to go, and was Gibsonized. In Division 2, Denver Steele, a Reno resident, won 8 of 9 to pass and maintain his lead over Bennett Jacobstein (2nd), and Carlynn Mayer, another Reno resident, whom he played for the championship. In Division 3 the title also came down to the last game, with Matthew Nelson outlasting Steve Brown to take the win.

The tournament, held at the Grand Sierra Resort, was a gala event, with a hotel co-sponsored reception and with commemorative Reno tiles or bags for players who were Reno residents or hotel guests. A complete list of results can be found at scrabbleplayers.org.
Tournament Results 8/1-8/31

NATIONAL SCRABBLE® CHAMPIONSHIP 8/1-5
1. Dave Wiegand
2. Thomas Reinke
3. Dave Leonard
4. Max Karten
5. Doug Szymkowiak

TAMPA FL 8/1
1. Stefan Huber

LAGUNA WOODS FL 8/2
1. Jesse Kellerman

MONTREAL VS. OTTOWA (RESTRICTED) 8/8-9
1. Matthew Tunnicliffe

GUELPH ON CANADA 8/9
1. Allen Pengelly
2. Alex Rodriguez
3. John Apissoghomian

MILL VALLEY CA 8/9
1. Jerry Lerman
2. Isaac Apindi
3. Leesa Berahovich
4. Judy Romann
5. John Demeter

MONTROSE OH (LCT) 8/13
1. Daniel Stock

CHAPEL HILL NC 8/15
1. Kurt Davies
2. Quentin Read
3. Flora Taylor
4. Sean Aery

PINELLAS PARK FL 8/15
1. Steve Glass

VANCOUVER BC CANADA 8/15
1. Dean Saldanha
2. Reuvena Ross
3. Ted Bryde

MOUNTAIN VIEW CA 8/16
1. Chris Patrick Morgan
2. Leesa Berahovich
3. T. C. Houlgate-West
4. Gloriosa Ondoy Agdeppa

STRONGSVILLE OH (LCT) 8/16
1. Pat Hardwick

DALLAX TX 8/22
1. Darrell Day
2. John Redding
3. Joy Nees

FT. LAUDERDALE FL 8/22
1. Trip Payne
2. Larry Gradus
3. Steve Wolf
4. Margie Fickes

MANCHESTER CT 8/22
1. Richard Buck
2. Ben Schoenbrun
3. Chris Sinacola
4. Kevin Gauthier
5. Pat Patrick

STRATFORD ON CAN 8/22
1. Glenn Dunlop
2. Alex Rodriguez
3. Emily James
4. Cheryl Hardy
5. Jessica Campbell

LAGUNA WOODS CA 8/22-23
1. Cesar Del Solar
2. Eyal Goldmann

PORTLAND OR (LCT) 8/23
1. Noah Walton
2. Betty Cornelison
3. Anne Newberry

BUFFALO NY 8/29
1. Randy Greenspan
2. Dave Leonard
3. Ida Scaglione

EDMONTON AB CAN 8/29
1. Ben Settle
2. Ken Gilchrist

LAGRANGE PARK IL 8/29
1. Jeremy Cahnmann
2. Edith Brown
3. Ellen Levine
4. Mitchell Szczepanczyk

PHOENIX AZ 8/29
1. Laurie Cohen
2. Luther Durant

CAN-AM SCRABBLE® CHALLENGE DENVER CO (RESTRICTED) 8/29-30
Winner: USA (60.5) over Canada (37.5)
1. Nigel Peltier

INDEPENDENCE OH 8/29-30
1. Chuck Armstrong
2. Michael Bassett
Tournament Results 9/1-9/30

PORTLAND OR EARLY BIRD 9/4
1. Carl Johnson
2. Karen Merrill
3. T. C. Houlgate-West
4. Matthew Steele
5. Ron Barker
6. Dawn Camille Wisniew

PORTLAND OR NITE BIRD 9/4
1. Joe Dackman

TAMPA FL 9/5
1. Steve Glass
2. Joan Knobelsdorf

ALPHARETTA GA 9/5-7
1. Joey Krafchick
2. Jermaine Harris
3. Andy Murphy
4. Avis Turner

IRVING TX (MID-CITIES) 9/5-7
1. Orry Swift
2. Matt Canik
3. John Redding
4. Scott Clement

PONTCIAC MI 9/5-7
1. Evan Berofsky
2. Bob Blyler

PORTLAND OR 9/5-7
1. Carl Johnson
2. Mark Peltier
3. Ron Gideons
4. Ronald Newberry

SHELTON CT 9/5-7
1. Jan Dixon
2. Kathy Hooper

SOUTH PORTLAND ME 9/5-7
1. Bradley Whitmarsh
2. Bob Becker
3. Sean Coleman

LAGUNA WOODS CA 9/6
1. Rachel Knapp

PONTCIAC MI 9/7
1. Matt Robin

PORTLAND OR 9/7
1. Wes Morrison

INDEPENDENCE OH (LCT) 9/8
1. Pete Zeigler

TORONTO ON CAN 9/11
1. Tony Leah

BAYESIDE NY 9/12
1. Eric Goldstein
2. Phyllis Nussbaum
3. Jeffrey Goldstein

FENントON MI 9/12
1. Jeff Fiszbein
2. Bob Enszer
3. Will Scott

YORK PA 9/12
1. Carole Denton
2. Stan Williams
3. Gwen Stewart
4. John Wright

BERKELEY CA 9/12-13
1. Jerry Lerman
2. Alan Whitney
3. Jeannie J. Wilson

BLACK RIVER FALLS WI 9/12-13
1. Thomas Reinke
2. Harriet Strasberg
3. Zbigniew Wieckowski

HUNTINGTON WV 9/12-13
1. Rebecca Lambert

TORONTO ON CAN 9/12-13
1. Sinna Vijayakumar
2. Gabriel Shalom
3. Sharmaine Farini
4. Steven Karp

FENントON MI 9/13
1. Steve Grob

PHILADELPHIA PA 9/13
1. David Engelhardt
2. Michael Turniansky
3. Ronnie Thomas
4. Mike Lean

ALBUQUERQUE NY 9/18
1. Nathan Benedict
2. Stan Miranda
3. Sandy Nang
4. Susan Beard
5. Zana Anderson

ALBUQUERQUE NM 9/18-20
1. Nathan Benedict
2. Glenda Short
3. Angela Dancho
4. Zana Anderson

DALLAS TX 9/19
1. Darrell Day
2. Craig Sjostrom

HUDSON OH 9/19
1. Darin True
GUELPH ON CAN 9/20
1. Chris Bonin
2. Risa Horowitz

MOUNTAIN VIEW CA 9/20
1. Lewis Martinez
2. Stuart Goldman
3. Raghuram Jonnalagedda
4. Jon Demeter

SAFETY HARBOR FL 9/20
1. Justin Bailey

BATTLE CREEK MI 9/26
1. Ron Hoekstra
2. Heather Steffy
3. Diane Kraynak

EDMONTON AB CAN 9/26
1. Peter Yap
2. Fay Claus

FT. LAUDERDALE FL 9/26
1. Trip Payne
2. Carolyn Koslen
3. Shelley Koch
4. Marilena Sauza

PORTLAND VS. SEATTLE (RESTRICTED) 9/26
1. Mike Frentz
2. Mark Peltier
3. Ronak Singhal

RHINEBECK NY 9/26
1. Bradley Whitmarsh
2. Judy Cole
3. Stephen Winston

REGINA SK CAN 9/26-27
1. George Macaulay
2. Teresa Steeves-Gurnsey

Tournament Results 10/1-24

AKRON OH (LCT) 10/1
1. Daniel Stock

WISCONSIN DELLS WI 10/2
1. Joseph Gaspard

BERLIN NJ 10/3
1. Jan Dixon
2. Stan Williams
3. Gwen Stewart
4. Ted Barrett

CAMBRIDGE ON CAN 10/3
1. Yvonne Lobo
2. Janice Anderson
3. Terry Aitken
4. Catherine Mallory

PHOENIX AZ 10/3
1. Laurie Cohen
2. Richard Spence
3. Michael Bradley

TAMPA FL 10/3
1. Timothy Bottorff
2. Joan Knobelsdorf

CLEVELAND OH 10/3-4
1. Jason Idalski
2. Ben Lam

WISCONSIN DELLS WI 10/3-4
1. Peter Armstrong
2. John Fultz
3. Thomas Tremont

BERKELEY CA 10/4
1. Rich Baker
2. Raghuram Jonnalagedda
3. Maggie Morley

LAGUNA WOODS CA 10/4
1. Kevin Rickhoff

CHARLOTTE NC 10/10
1. Chad Harris

MILLBURN NJ (LCT) 10/10
1. Cheryl Allen-Munley
2. Fred Ezell
3. Rosalyn Katz

RHINEBECK NY 10/10
1. Winter Zxqkj
2. Paolo Federico-Omurchu

SOUTH LYON MI 10/10
1. Carolyn Easter
2. Michael Bassett

OKLAHOMA CITY OK 10/10-11
1. Chris Cree
2. Scott Garner
3. Cliff Smith
4. Robin Gates

GUELPH ON CAN 10/11
1. Allen Pengelly

PORT JEFFERSON NY 10/11
1. Winter Zxqkj
2. Bernie McMahon
3. Colleen Shea
LAKE GEORGE NY
EARLY BIRD 10/15
1. Paul Avrin
2. Steven Karp

LAKE GEORGE NY
10/16-18
1. Joel Sherman
2. Judy Horn
3. Matt Gross
4. Dean Porporo
5. Ryan Chepita

DALLAS TX 10/17
1. Darrell Day
2. Lee Brooks

PINELLAS PARK FL 10/17
1. David Dinning

BATON ROUGE LA
10/17-18
1. Orry Swift
2. Wesley Eddings
3. Lee Scott

MOUNTAIN VIEW CA
10/18
1. Jerry Lerman
2. Jon Demeter

PORTLAND OR 10/18
1. Noah Walton

CALGARY AB CANADA
10/22
1. Eric Tran
2. Wendy McGrath
3. Andrew Twiddy

CALGARY AB CANADA
10/23-25
1. Jason Hlady
2. Jaret Myskiw
3. Dion Saldanha

ANAPOLIS MD 10/24
1. Jeff Cook
2. Louis Berney
3. Thomas Ensey
4. Ruth Shilkret

FT. LAUDERDALE FL
10/24
1. Ron Tieke
2. George Rogers
3. Claire Ullman
4. Greg Coons
New Faces

Since August there have been 56 new faces at NASPA tournaments. Three players won their divisions at their first tournament: Steven Karp, Division 4 winner at the Toronto Ontario CANADA Tournament September 12-13 (10-2 +848); Rosalyn Katz, winner of Division 2 at the Millburn NJ Local Club Tournament October 10 (6-1 +774), and Greg Coons, winner of Division 4 at the Ft. Lauderdale FL Tournament October 24 (7-1 +261). Another successful new player was Chris Tallman, our featured “new face,” who debuted in Division 2 at the Vancouver (BC CANADA) Tournament August 15, coming in second with a 6-2 +255 record and earning a strong initial NASPA rating of 1592!

Seth Mandel and Don Carson, the directors of the Millburn NJ Tournament October 10, attracted an impressive six new players to their tournament with an interesting approach: The directors included free NASPA membership as part of the entry fee for non-members. Perhaps other directors might consider this creative way to attract new members without over-taxing their wallets!

______________________________________________________________________________

Chris Tallman

Four years ago a friend introduced Chris Tallman, then 14, to the Internet SCRABBLE® Club (ISC). The Vancouver, BC teen played solely on ISC until this May, when he finally decided to try his hand at live SCRABBLE® at the Vancouver SCRABBLE® Club #545. He was a bit nervous about how his game would translate, but seeing a bingo on his very first rack (VITALIST through an I) quickly dispelled those feelings.

Chris continued playing at club for three months before entering his first tournament, the Vancouver One-Day Challenge. Although he had no NSA or NASPA rating, Chris was played up into Division 2 (for players rated 1100-1499) using the director’s discretion rule.

“Other club members had warned me that tournament SCRABBLE® was unlike anything I had experienced online or at the club, so I was anxious to get my first game in to calm my nerves. When I sat down to play, I felt confident; after all, I had played thousands of SCRABBLE® games online and was sure of my ability. This confidence translated into a 5-0 record after the first five games, and I started to think that maybe I could win the thing. Unfortunately my luck (read: my level of play) changed and I finished 6-2, ending up second.

“Regardless, it was a great experience, both SCRABBLE®-wise and in terms of meeting great people, and I look forward to fun times at future tournaments.”

Since his debut tournament, 18-year-old Chris, a student at Simon Fraser University (SFU) in Vancouver, has played in one other tournament, the Portland OR Tournament on September 5-7, where he finished 13th in a very tough Division 2 (see page 11). Directors all agree: Chris Tallman is a player to watch!
Welcome to Chris Tallman, Steven Karp, Rosalyn Katz, Greg Coons, and the following other new faces:

**CHAPEL HILL NC 8/15:** Liam Hoppensperger, Amalan Iyengar, Estelle Rainsford  
**DALLAS TX 8/22:** Troy Luedeker  
**FT LAUDERDALE FL 8/22:** Madeleine Bennett, Karen Desimone, Gloria Pellecer  
**MANCHESTER CT 8/22:** Will Johnson  
**STRATFORD ON CAN 8/22:** Sandra Lavallee  
**BUFFALO NY 8/29:** Jason M. Poole, Christine Wolf  
**EDMONTON AB CAN 8/29:** Don Kretz  
**LAGRANGE PARK IL 8/29:** Charles Hounmenou  
**PHOENIX AZ 8/29:** Michael Bradley, Anita Peakes  
**INDEPENDENCE OH 8/29-30:** Tina Leone, Debby Sterba, Victoria Zulli  
**PORTLAND OR EARLY BIRD 9/4:** Tyler Creviston, Michael Lavoie  
**TAMPA FL 9/5:** Mary Kay Heckerman  
**PORTLAND OR 9/5-7:** Maureen Clifford  
**SOUTH PORTLAND ME 9/5-7:** Marianne Bratton-Davies, Nancy E. Fritz, Lindsay Garcia  
**BAYSIDE NY 9/12:** Jerry Dowd, Summonnett Lugto  
**PHILADELPHIA PA 9/13:** James Zimmerman  
**BATTLE CREEK MI 9/26:** Marilyn Tan-Gan  
**REGINA SK CANADA 9/26-27:** Daniel Benesh  
**BERLIN NJ 10/3:** Alex Fine  
**CAMBRIDGE ON CANADA 10/3:** Don Sinclair  
**PHOENIX AZ 10/3:** Travis Carlson  
**CHARLOTTE NC 10/10:** Angie Harting  
**MILLBURN NJ (LCT) 10/10:** Sarah Bissey, David Braunstein, Bob Cisse, Mort Feigenbaum, Natalie Wilson  
**RHINEBECK NY 10/10:** Suzy Keller, Conor McGeehan  
**OKLAHOMA CITY OK 10/10-11:** Lisa Abraham, Debra Allen, Johnny Carlton, Andy Zaller  
**GUELPH ON CANADA 10/11:** Adam Kubik, Rob Kubik  
**LAKE GEORGE NY EARLY BIRD 10/16:** James Katz  
**LAKE GEORGE NY 10/16-18:** Wendy Hall  
**ANNAPOLIS MD 10/24:** Kazimeras Campe, Michael Perlmutter, Graham Robinson
Interview with Ganesh Asirvatham

by Elie Dangoor, Chairman of WESPA
Reprinted with permission of the World English-Language Scrabble Players Association (WESPA)

Ganesh Asirvatham, an English-language teacher from Klang, Selangor, Malaysia, is considered by many to be the best Scrabble® player in the world. He was runner-up in the 2007 World Scrabble® Championship and won the individual title at the Causeway Challenge (Malaysia) four years in a row. Before taking a year off from Scrabble®, Ganesh had won 16 of his previous 18 tournaments. He holds the current Guinness World Record for the most Scrabble® opponents played simultaneously by one challenger (Ganesh beat 21 out of 25 opponents during his record attempt). He will be on the Malaysian team at the upcoming World Scrabble® Championship in November.

Thanks so much for letting me ask you some questions. I hear you took a year off Scrabble®—what did you do?
I've been concerned that I was leading a very one-dimensional life. All I had was work and Scrabble®. I took up French (completed two external papers), went to Somalia to set up an English-language centre, and spent time on community-related activities. Recently I've just started my masters, and that's taking up my time as well.

Did you take The Word List with you?
Nope. I wanted a clean break.

Did you miss playing?
At times. But I didn't miss the study. I love words, I love the feel and texture and sound of the exotic words all Scrabblers strive to play for, but to sit and look at columns of words for hours was something I didn't want to do anymore.

Have you started a comeback?
I've made efforts which suggest that. :)

Your record in WSCs shows a continuing improvement: 54th, 36th, 22nd, 4th and 2nd. Will you be taking up your place at the WSC to try to gain 1st place that we know you're capable of?
It won't happen this year. The level of play that you need to sustain consistently is missing. I'll be happy for a decent finish.

Who do you think are the toughest players you have played against and why?
Nigel—extraordinary word knowledge and excellent board vision. Pakorn, Panupol—the Thais are generally very strategic, and they can make life difficult with moves that seem to restrict board movement.
Are there any words you have played that you’re particularly proud of?
Playing FRUGALITY on to AL against Nigel. The rack had a blank somewhere and it was on a tight board. Playing NORMALITIES—I extended NORM. I’m sure there are other plays but my memory is playing tricks on me. I’ll email you more if I can think of them.

Do you keep TWL by your bedside and check the odd word in the middle of the night?
I used to!

You had amazing Causeway tournament results in 2006 and 2007, particularly in 2006 where you averaged over 500 per game against top-class opposition. How much does luck play a part and how much is it about “being on fire” and spotting all the possibilities?
I had amazing racks during that tournament. I don’t know if I spotted all the possibilities, but it was as if I could do no wrong. "Being on fire" would be one way of classifying it.

Do you have hobbies besides SCRABBLE®?
SCRABBLE® seemed all-consuming when I was taking it up seriously. Nowadays I’m more than happy to try new things/activities.

Do you like living in Malaysia—and which other countries have you been to that you like?
I love living in Malaysia, but the state of Malaysian politics has made our future untenable. Australia seems like a reasonable country :)

Many thanks, Ganesh, and good luck with the comeback!

Elie Dangoor is Chairman of the World English-Language Scrabble Players Association. A real estate director from London, England, he has played SCRABBLE® in many different countries and has won several tournaments including the prestigious Easter Matchplay and the London League Tournament.
SCRABBLE® in the News
Keith Hagel, Editor

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

SCRABBLE® bride
A story on examiner.com about SCRABBLE® at the Denver CO Public Library includes an amusing promotional YouTube video.

Fighting Dirty in SCRABBLE®

Mehal Shah, a Seattle WA software developer, spoke on this topic August 3 at Ignite! Seattle, part of a nationwide series where speakers present short 5-minute power-point talks on a topic that gets them excited. His YouTube video has been a sensation. See the video and read Mehal Shah's account of how and why he made it at: mehal.blogspot.com.

Shah has played SCRABBLE® for about 10 years, though he hasn’t had time lately for club or tournament play. How did he develop his amusing SCRABBLE® technique? “A while back, I was dating this girl who was an excellent player. I got tired of losing to her but could never manage to memorize word lists. Instead, I figured out good strategies for psyching her out. To this day, that’s the way I’ll play when against a stronger opponent.”

His favorite play? ZWEIHANDER*. “I hooked two triples with that. Also, it’s not in the dictionary!”

Could SCRABBLE® make you a millionaire?
The popular show “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?” posed a question about SCRABBLE® as its first question on the 12:30 p.m. show on August 21 on Channel 5 (ABC Network) in the Boston area: Which two U.S. states cannot be spelled using the tiles in a SCRABBLE® set, without the blanks? Anyone?

Dave Wiegand featured in The Oregonian
Read “A seven-letter word for national Scrabble champion: Wiegand” by John Foyston, in the August 12 issue of The Oregonian.
Player Profile: Kurt Kopitz

by Katya Lezin

Kurt Kopitz doesn’t do much dancing these days, but that doesn’t mean he isn’t fond of waltzing. Or waltzers, to be exact, which is the word he played in the 2008 Albany New Year’s Early Bird Tournament for a whopping 311 points. He ended up winning that game 704-353 in a game that marked several highs for him (high game, high word) in a competitive SCRABBLE® career that harkens back to 1995. That’s the year he attended his first tournament in Atlantic City, NJ, went four and eight, and was, as he puts it, “hooked.”

There aren’t many who can boast, as Kurt can, that they entered the world of SCRABBLE® via pool. Kurt was a fixture at a certain bar in Cohoes, New York, where he made a nice chunk of change playing pool. He noticed that pool was not the only game being played – and wagered – at the bar. There were several folks playing SCRABBLE® for money, and Kurt was convinced he could beat them. “I used to do crossword puzzles,” he explains, “and I knew plenty of words.” Kurt began taking on the SCRABBLE® players, and it was not long before he began spotting them 50 to 100 points to level the playing field. He made $2500 over the course of that first summer.

Kurt learned about the NSA through Joel Wapnick’s book The Champion’s Strategy for Winning at SCRABBLE® Brand Crossword Game, which, in turn, led him to his first tournament in Atlantic City. He has played in approximately 70 tournaments since then and points to the excitement and rush he feels with each game as a highlight of playing. “It’s certainly not for the money,” he notes, chuckling. “I made a lot more money playing pool.” The perks come from winning tough games and from his fellow players. John Morse, a fellow director in the Albany area, made Kurt a table tent reading, “Kurt’s Korner” at a local club tournament one year, and a similar sign now adorns whatever table he settles himself at for the duration of a tournament.

One of the things Kurt, an 1100 player, most enjoys about the game is how, on any given day, a player of any caliber or division can beat even the most expert of players. “The first and only time I played Vernon Jones (a 1690 player),” he says, to illustrate his point, “I beat him.” Leave it to Kurt to parlay that one victory into something more. “I tell people,” he says, grinning mischievously, “that every time I’ve played Vernon Jones, I’ve beaten him.”

In the fourteen years Kurt has played the game, he has seen many changes to it, such as all the study guides and tools that are now available to up-and-coming players. When he first started playing, back in his bar days, Kurt intuitively
sensed that the two-letter words were important building blocks for a successful game. He scoured the dictionary and made a list of all of the two-letter words, coupled with mnemonics to help him remember them. “For instance,” he recalls, “A Silly Wandering Tax is what I came up with for all of the two-letter A words.” Once he joined the NSA, he received a list of key words and was both gratified and dismayed to see that he had been on the right track but that there was an easier way to find and memorize the words he needed to know to master the game.

While he loves playing in tournaments and appreciates the technological advances that speed them along, he does not see all of the changes to the game as positive. “Before we had Zyzzyva,” he recalls, “we had live adjudicators, and there’s definitely an element of fun lost without them.” He remembers a game in which he played OINK with a C, and his opponent promptly challenged OINCK. Susi Tiekert, who was officiating, walked over at looked at the word in question. “What’s that?” she asked. “A Polish pig?” Kurt says he knew it was no good at that point, before she’d even looked it up, but they all had a good laugh. “You don’t get that from the computer,” he pointed out.

He also notes that tournaments run much faster now that pairings are done with a computer, but the longer breaks between games used to provide a nice opportunity to meet people. “I used to be a smoker,” he says, “and I met all sorts of expert players sharing a smoke with them in between games.”

What has not changed, and what he still finds one of the most enjoyable aspects of the game, is the good sportsmanship that he has seen displayed over the years. Stan Williams, his opponent in the 2008 Albany Early Bird game, in which Kurt scored 704 to Stan’s 353, stood up in the middle of the game to announce Kurt’s phenomenal play. “Stop your clocks, everyone,” he announced. “Kurt Kopitz just played WALTZERS for a triple triple scoring 311 points.” Everyone applauded, and Kurt now goes out of his way to acknowledge his opponents’ good plays in his own games.

So if you find yourself at Kurt’s Korner facing Kurt Kopitz across a SCRABBLE® board, know that you’ll enjoy a good game with someone who might try to play OINCK on you, but who will laugh and enjoy himself whether he prevails (with a score of 704!) or loses.

Katya Lezin lives in Charlotte, North Carolina with her husband and three children (Noah, Hannah, and Eliza). She is the author of Finding Life on Death Row, which profiles six individuals sentenced to death, and has written 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.
Play the Game: Game Analysis  

*Notes by Joe Edley*

Nigel Richards (NR) vs. Dave Wiegand (DW): 29th round in the 2009 National SCRABBLE® Championship. To play the game, click [here](#).  
(Note: All simulations, done using Quackle, are at least 10K iterations.)

1. **NR: GIMNOSU MOUSING H4 76 T: 76**  
   For those of you who know that GONIUM is acceptable (it’s an immature reproductive cell), know also that its plural is only GONIA. MOUSINGS is, however, good.

1. **DW: AAAINSY MAYAN 4H 20 T: 20**  
   Best! He scores decently while ridding himself of unwanted vowels. Though AIS isn’t completely balanced, there’s no way to save, say AS, IS, ANS, INS or even AINS without losing too much equity.

2. **NR: ILOQRTT QAT K3 24 T: 100**  
   Best, because it gets rid of the Q and the duplicated T while scoring about as well as possible. Note that QUITTOR 6G 18 and even QUILT 6G 16 may seem more attractive because they both use more tiles, but in many instances, saving a reasonable blend of 5 unique letters, two of which are 1-point consonants, on an open board such as this, can lead to just as many good next racks. Why? Because saving ILORT will immediately avoid all of the grossly unbalanced racks you’ll draw occasionally after saving just the L, plus you’ll actually draw a bingo more often if one of your two new letters is an E. Then too, after QUILT, you sacrifice a full 8 extra points! In other words, the old axiom about moving as many tiles as possible at the outset of the game must be tempered, using OWL2, with other important criteria.

2. **DW: ACILLST CLINAL L1 24 T: 44**  
   A beautiful overlapping play! One should not be afraid of opening the TWS because he covers the DLS at L1, which makes the opening much less dangerous. However, a slightly stronger play is just to drop the L at I3 for LA 3pt! Why? Because he is MUCH more likely to bingo next turn holding ACILST. For example: an A gives him SANTALIC, an E, LACIEST, LATICES, ELASTIC, an I ITALICS, an O STOICAL, CITOLAS, a U allows him LUNATICS, plus any number of consonants also work. True, opponent may block some of these, but the rule of thumb is generally that if your fishing leave produces a bingo at least 30% of the time, make that play! In many cases a lesser percentage of bingos will also warrant such a fish.

   Even given all that, CLINAL is an excellent play, and just marginally less effective than LA, because of those extra 21pt.

3. **NR: DIILORT IODIC 1H 24 T: 124**  
   Or LOTIC 1H 21. Simulation shows these two plays about equal. It can be argued that keeping the vowel after LOTIC might be better, but you lose 3pt., plus, you already have an I on H8 that’s likely to stay open for any bingo racks you may draw, so in most cases it’s a tossup as to which play has more value.
3. DW: EEERSTT TEETERS 11B 75 T: 119
Of course!

4. NR: ABLRSTW BRAW 10C 38 T: 162
The ultimate overlap!

4. DW: AEIPRTU UPBEAT C8 26 T:145
When your chances of drawing a bingo are high enough, it's right to keep the rack intact. Here, PAREU D8 20 leaves EIRT, a terrific leave, and is well worth the 6pt. sacrifice. YUP J4 17 is also an improvement, as is just fishing with TAU 5K 3, which draws a playable bingo over 40% of the time, but sacrifices too many points to overtake PAREU in value. As good as EIR is (after UPBEAT), it's not nearly as strong as any of the other leaves.

5. NR: BCEELST CLUB 8A 33 T: 195
ABET 12C 31 is also a good play, but CLUB is more defensive, plus it sets up his S with a nice bingo line on Column E.

5. DW: EIMNRSV MINIVERS 8G 64 T: 209
His only bingo!

6. NR: AEEEGST AGEE 12C 27 T: 222
What play could possibly be better? This scores the best while leaving the best 4-tile leave!

6. DW: HHIJLNU HUNH 2F 25 T: 234
JUN 2F 28 is good, but leaving the HH on his rack would be worse than the JIL. HUNH plays best!

7. NR: AESTUZ? qUETZAL B2 70 T: 292
The last S is well worth saving, which is why his play is better than any of the gAUZES, yUTZES, fUTZES or PUTZES for 77 at 1A.

7. DW: AGIIJL? JIAO 5E 22 T: 256
Best way to score and save a bingo leave.

8. NR: AKOOOSX OKRA M6 16 T:308
Very interesting situation. OKRA is an obvious setup play, because human experts don’t set up humungous X hotspots at this stage of the game without having the X. Even so, Richards is ahead, and OKRA is forceful and best. Should Wiegand have a bingo elsewhere, Richards is sitting pretty. Should Wiegand block, he still has the X and will likely retain the lead while scoring well somewhere else. Nonetheless, there are ways it can backfire—should Wiegand, say, have a five ending in W, retaining the blank. But it’s right to play these odds.

8. DW: EGIIL? EGIS N5 23 T:279
He needs to block the hotspot, and this is easily the best way, balancing his rack at the same time.
9. NR: NOORSWX SWORN 01 29 T: 337
Given the current vowel/consonant ratio, SWOON is better. However, simulation suggests that GOX 10H 27 is the best play. Likely it’s because the O column will remain free next turn, as well as retaining the S. The one huge negative is that he makes it much harder to draw the blank. But given that he doesn’t really fear Wiegand getting the blank, because of his lead, GOX retains a 30pt. play next turn and good overall winning chances with that S.

9. DW: AILOOT? OOT N1 20 T: 299
Missing VIOLATOR K8 70. Failing that, OOT does it best to balance his rack.

10. NR: EEFIOOX OF 6E 35 T: 372
Best because of the score and that valuable X, worth another 30-40pt. next turn.

10. DW: AEILPR? PLAInER 13F 69 T: 368

11. NR: DEEINOX DOXIE 12K 35 T: 407
This wins.

11. DW: DDEFRVY FRY 14D 38 T:406

12. NR: EN NE 11L 14 T: 421 + 18 (DDEV) = 439
Final Score: NR: 439  DW: 406

Joe Edley is a three-time National SCRABBLE® Champion and the author of numerous books, including Everything SCRABBLE® (Simon & Schuster/Pocket Books), SCRABBLE® Puzzles, Vol. 1-4 (Sterling), and SCRABBLE® Calendar (Workman), all available at amazon.com.
Scrammbling for Words
by Cornelia Guest

RATIONS, RELATIONS, REVELATIONS…words stretch and transmogrify as magnetic cards are placed on the blackboard and buzzers sound. The TV cameras roll. WEAVING becomes WAVERING, which is changed to WAIVERING* and challenged off. This is the 2009 Scrammble© Fall Tournament, and 11 contestants, aged 8 through 15, are anagramming at lightning speed.

Dr. Ifay Chang, a 67-year-old inventor, research scientist, and educator from Somers, NY, introduced Scrammble© in 2002 to help children expand their vocabularies and improve their anagramming and math skills. The game is played with a deck of 136 cards, and there are many game variations. The basic one is similar to Anagrams, with rules changed to suit the age/skill level of the contestants.

Dr. Chang and has been teaching Scrammble© in local school districts since 2004. For the past 3 years, on Friday afternoons he has been producing a weekly cable television show called “Scrammble©
Game Show” with the help of his wife and director, Teresa (Cablevision Public Access Channels in Westchester County NY and Comcast Public Access Channels in Putnam County NY).

In 2007, Dr. Chang realized that Scrammble© was an ideal training tool for SCRABBLE® players. Since then he has run several unrated Scrammble©/School SCRABBLE® tournaments. Two of his six sons, Jemmin, 14, and Jerray, 11, are strong tournament SCRABBLE® players and were featured in the fall 2008 SCRABBLE® News (Issue 224).

When Dr. Chang attended SCRABBLE® and School SCRABBLE® tournaments with his sons and their friends, they would play Scrammble© to warm up for their games. Other competitors noticed them and became interested in Dr. Chang’s fascinating word game. At the August 28 Scrammble© tournament, taped in Yorktown, NY, the 11 young contestants included some of the top players from this spring’s National School SCRABBLE® Championship: Paolo Federico-Omurchu, Nicky Vasquez, Noah Turner, Matthew O’Connor, Jemmin Chang, Jerray Chang, Stephen Winston, and Alex Gordon.

“On most of my TV shows I allow words 4 letters and up,” said Dr. Chang. “The kids on this show are so good we started with 5-letter words, then 6-letter words, then 7. The buzzers just kept buzzing [the first contestant to press a buzzer gets to say the word]!”

The winner, with 1,024 points, was 14-year-old Jemmin Chang of Somers, NY, with second prize going to Matthew O’Connor (DeWitt, NY) and third to Paolo Federico-Omurchu (Montclair, NJ). The prizes for longest word played and highest-point word went to Noah Turner (Ridgefield, CT), with Jerry Chang and Jemmin Chang winning those categories for non-wild-card words. All contestants won prizes donated by exhibitors at the New York Toy Show and Reader’s Digest. Complete results can be found at the tournament website: www.scrammble.us.

If you are interested in attending one of the cable TV tapings, contact Dr. Chang at 914-248-6770 or drwordman@scrammble.us. If you would like to order a deck of Scrammble© cards, go to www.scrammble.com. To see Dr. Chang on a YouTube clip from News 12, click here.
SCRABBLE® Crossword
by Noah Walton

Across
1. Word often used by 34-Across
4. Old Irish words
8. End
13. Verse starter?
14. Bar Mitzvah tradition
15. Sent the wrong way
16. Have the flu, say
17. Early 34-Across Ballard
18. Al of The Godfather
19. Kind of candy
21. Head bump
23. Laugh syllable
24. Yiddish snack
25. Sault-__-Marie
26. Saxophone type
28. It may be straight
29. Ploy by a 34-Across
31. Heart scan
32. A Change of __
33. Rigoletto and others
34. This puzzle’s theme, or what you are
36. Defensive martial art
39. Kuwaiti ruler
40. Sticky stuff
43. Big change for 34-Across
45. Aesop character
46. Massage targets
47. The Appalachians, e.g., abbr.
48. Romantic one

Down
1. Tool much used by 34-Across
2. Like oxygen in nitrate
3. Ill-advised action for 34-Across
4. Remark of dislike for a Japanese play?
5. Enter
6. Trajectory
7. Goal for 34-Across
8. Covert org.
9. Omitter
10. Grantor
11. Iberian woman
12. Tokyo of old
15. Car stat.
20. Half of a fly?
22. ___-thermal
25. Org. for terriers
26. Keyboard user
27. They may need paving, abbr.
29. 34-Across Bader
30. Old New Orleans project
32. Old operating system
34. They’re often found in malls
35. Comp. file types
36. Tennis player Ivanovic
37. Drgrr, for example, for 34-Across
38. Chiefs
40. Item often found between two 34-Acrosses
41. Leaf parts
42. Inhabits
44. Lover on the Loire
45. Action for 45-Across
48. Wash (out)
50. ___-Tzu
51. Snatched up
52. Waste receptacle
53. Gun org.
55. Blue October genre

Solution on next page
NOTE: I had some much-needed assistance from Conrad Bassett-Bouchard in creating this puzzle, and I couldn't have made it without that help.

Noah Walton is a 16-year-old from Portland, Oregon. Besides being a SCRABBLE® player, he also enjoys singing, playing the piano, acting, and spending time with his friends and family.
World Youth SCRABBLE® Championship

The fourth annual World Youth SCRABBLE® Championship will be held in Johor Bahru, Malaysia, December 8-10. This year, for the first time since Tim Michaels and Lia Campbell represented the U.S. in 2007, there will be a team of Youth Players heading over from the United States.

The two players planning to attend are Nicholas Vasquez and Christopher Walleck. Aune Mitchell, a member of the winning team at the 2007 National School SCRABBLE® Championship, was also invited, but is unable to go because of school conflicts.

Nicky Vasquez, 11, is a sixth grader at the Mount Pleasant Middle School in his hometown of Livingston, NJ (see NASPA Newsletter Issue 1 for a profile of Nicky in "New Faces"). He was on the runner-up team at this year’s National School SCRABBLE® Championship, and he won his division at the Ardsley NY Tournament this spring. Nicky, who will also play at the Causeway Challenge tournament the week before the WYSC, hopes his representation of his school will encourage interest in the formation of a SCRABBLE® club. Nicky had been invited to represent the Philippines at this event, too, but he has elected to play for the U.S.

Christopher Walleck, 17, lives in Lakewood OH and is a senior at Lake Ridge Academy in nearby North Ridgeville. He played at the 2009 National SCRABBLE® Championship in Dayton, finishing 11th in Division 4 (see NASPA 2009 NSC coverage). Christopher also won his division at the three-day 2008 Pontiac MI Tournament, winning a remarkable 18 games in a row to place 4th in the Annual Player Award for Longest Winning Streak. His current rating is 1240.
SCRABBLE® Lesson Plan
by Matthew Silver

Matthew Silver presented this SCRABBLE® Lesson Plan at a clinic he gave this past spring in Ridgefield, CT, to ten teams headed to the 2009 National School SCRABBLE® Championship.

Rack vs. Leave Analysis

Look at the following rack:

A A I O R S T

You can play ROAST for 24 points or AGO (through a G on the board) for 10 points. With ROAST, you are left with the tiles AI. With AGO, you are left with AIRST. Which rack is better? Is it worth sacrificing points for one of the racks?

Put the tiles AI on a rack and draw 5 tiles. Try to find the best-scoring word with these 7 tiles. Repeat this 4 more times. Now try this with the tiles AIRST, drawing 2 tiles each time and trying to find the best-scoring word. Remember, a bingo (a 7-letter word) will give you 50 extra points!

After doing this, which rack gave you better words more often--AI or AIRST? Probably AIRST. But is it worth sacrificing 14 points? Yes! Since you will have a great chance of drawing a 7-letter word or being able to play an 8-letter word, it’s good to give the points up now for scoring a lot of points in the next turn or two.

Now look at this board:

A A I O R S T

You have the rack above, the score is 87-143, and you have 87. What do you do? This rack has a lot of good tiles. Don’t play a word like BITS parallel to QUILTS—it scores well, but the tiles you’re left with, AOR, aren’t great. BIT can be played in the same place, saving the S, but it has an O hook (OBIT) and is not safe to play. However, look at BOYO, which uses BO on your rack and plays through OY. You have AIRST, which are great tiles, and you can make a 7-letter word off BO. Is it worth sacrificing the points? Yes!

Rules of thumb on rack leave:
If you have an S on your rack, don’t use it if it adds less than 8 points to a play. For example, playing BARK for 24 points is better than playing BARKS for 26 points.

Whenever possible, have a roughly equal amount of vowels and consonants on your rack. For example, if you have the tiles AIKMNRT, playing MARK and saving INT is better than playing AIR and saving KMNT.

If you think you have 4-6 really good tiles on your rack, try to play the others off. For example, if you have EIOSTVW, playing VOW and keeping EIST will set you up for a good rack in the next turn.

During the Game

Memorize this simple acronym: DORK

D – Defense. If you’re winning by over 70 points, close down the board. In other words, take scoring opportunities, like double- and triple-word scores, away from your opponent to keep your lead.

O – Offense. If you’re losing by over 70 points, open the board. Try to make it easier to reach premium word scores so you can increase your chances of making a comeback.

R – Rack. If you have good tiles, you can score more points. While using all of your tiles in one turn scores a lot, don’t hesitate to use fewer tiles to score 30+ points.
K – Knowledge. Word knowledge is essential to playing well, but everyone will stumble across a mysterious word. If your opponent plays a word you don’t know, hold it and consider the following: Am I ahead or behind? What can I do the next turn if I challenge my opponent’s play off? And what will happen to me if I challenge the play and lose a turn? If it’s too risky to lose a turn, don’t challenge a word. However, if you have a much higher chance of losing if you let the word go, challenge it. If you find yourself in the opposite situation and aren’t sure if a word you’re playing is good, go over the same questions.

The Endgame
Questions to ask yourself when no tiles are left in the bag:

What high-scoring or powerful tiles does my opponent have? (Think J,K,Q,X,Z, S’s, and blanks.)

Am I winning? If so, can my opponent use any high-scoring tiles to win? How can I prevent my opponent from doing this?

If I’m losing, how much do I need to score to win? How can I do this?

How can I prevent my opponent from playing all of his/her tiles?

Matthew Silver, a 10th grader at Staples High School in Westport, CT, is one of the top Youth Players in SCRABBLE®. He is the only player to have won the National School SCRABBLE® Championship twice (in 2007 and 2008), and he has nine other tournament wins to date. He also enjoys music, soccer, tennis, and mathematics.
Hardscrabble Spotlight: Paying It Forward
by Ember Nelson

SCRABBLE® players do not need a reason to get together to play our favorite game for fun, rating points, or charity, but it helps when you can say you are playing for a cause. It also helps to have that cause rated by NASPA and sponsored by a lovely hotel like The Adam’s Mark Hotel in Buffalo, NY. My usual tournament is three days long and includes an Early Bird, so we had a lot to do to fit three days worth of activity into a one-day tourney. We wanted the tournament to be a big success for Literacy Volunteers of Buffalo and Erie County.

Fortunately, the Buffalo SCRABBLE® Club #456 is a tight-knit group that always pulls together to help out its own. With the help of many club members, (special mention to Peggy Tartaro and Jennifer Thomas!), we got it all together and managed to pull off three tourneys in one day, with two of them run simultaneously, side by side. My co-directors, Allen Pengelly and John Robertson, ran the 7-game rated one-day tourney and I took care of the heavily attended (2 players) "Newcomer’s Tourney." But if you count the two new unrated players who attended the 7-game rated event then I can say that there were four new players among us. We also had a “Consultation Doubles” tournament.

The Adam’s Mark Hotel’s head chef again made his specially created salmon cheese, which he served along with other assorted cream cheeses, bagels, danish, muffins, coffee, and teas on a buffet table in the front of the beautiful Fountain Room. The hotel donated half the cost of the room and coffee for 100 people. Sam Kantimathi also made generous donations; he always pitches in to help with any tourney I have and I am ever grateful!

Our biggest supporters were our Canadian brethren, who deserve so much more than just a shout out of thanks. But THANK YOU to all who attended as well as to all of the people who silently made cash contributions. I hope that you reap rewards for your many kind words to me, encouraging me to go on with directing benefit tournaments.

Fifty-six hearty souls braved sporadic downpours and—in some cases—lengthy border delays to arrive on time to our Third Hardscrabble SCRABBLE® Tournament. Those who saw the immediate benefits were the following:

**Division A**
1. Randy Greenspan, 6-1, +569
2. Arie Sinke, 5-2, +222
3. Lloyd Mills, 5-2, +165
4. Lou Cornelis, 4-3, +241
Best Literacy/Charity Word: DEVOTING, Arie Sinke
High Game: Lou Cornelis, 536 pts.
High Loss: Mark Edelson, 458 pts.

**Division B**
1. Dave Leonard, 6-1, +394
2. Ben Lam, 5-2, +362
3. Lilla Sinanan, 5-2, +273
4. Yvonne Lobo, 5-2, +91
5. Olinga Flisock, 4-3, +380
Best Literacy/Charity Word: TROUVERE (a medieval poet), Ben Lam
High Game: Olinga Flisock, 589 pts.
High Loss: Glenn Dunlop, 444pts.
Division C
1. Ida Scaglione, 6-1, +638
2. Kevin Gauthier, 6-1, +196
3. Merran Dunlop, 6-1, +101
4. Shan Abbasi, 5-2, +425
5. Henry de Young, 5-2, +111
6. Ruth Fedeson, 5-2, +23
Best Literacy/Charity Word: LITERATE, Paul Mistrette
High Game: Sophia Ozorio, 514
High Loss: Dianne Watson, 412

Sam Kantimathi, ever the picture of generosity, set a beautiful example of charitable behavior by donating a SamBoard to be auctioned to the highest bidder (Ruth Fedeson), plus sets of SmoothTiles, which were given as prizes. Thank you, Sam!

In the Newcomer's Tournament there were two contestants battling out the 3-game unrated tourney to win the coveted prize of The 25th Anniversary Silver Edition of Trivial Pursuit by Hasbro. The winner was Bill Coad, who not only appreciated the new game but said it was coincidental he should win that prize as he and his wife had just recently set up a trivia website! And the coincidences did not stop there. Coad won the Newcomer's Tourney with a 3-0 record, and in his second game he played the bingo SPELLING, which surely would have won a prize for Best Literacy/Charity Word (offered in the main event only).

The final tournament of the day was a Consultation Doubles Tournament that was played as people enjoyed more coffee, tea, and desserts. Twelve people enjoyed the laughter and joviality unmistakable when you play your favorite game without the worry of rating points. Players had fun teaming up with a good friend, or, in some cases, a significant other. Speaking of which, our winning couple were the Ubeikas! Team Ubeikastan giggled and munched their way to the top of the heap and won $60.00 in cash as the only UNDEFEATED team. Congratulations to Shelley and Jason! In second place, winning two more sets of Sam's donated SmoothTiles, were the "Timgunns" team of Timothy Schwab and Peggy Tartaro. A really FUN time was had by all!

My thanks and sincere admiration go out to John Robertson, Director-Extraordinaire, and Allen Pengelly, The Genie of the Stats, who made everything run smoothly with and without me, at all times! Seriously, I am quite certain that there would be no Buffalo Tourney without both of them working tirelessly throughout the day. I owe them a true debt of gratitude, and the Literacy Volunteers of Buffalo and Erie County can thank them for the check for $500 that I will writing out to them at our next meeting on the 2nd of September.

The full results are on the NASPA website.

Hardscrabble Spotlight Word:
DOGTEETH=GHETTOED

Ember Nelson has been playing tournament SCRABBLE® for ten years and is the author of The Race Towards the Light: Hardscrabble, available at amazon.com.
Annual Award Winners

by Cornelia Guest

At the 2008 National SCRABBLE® Championship in Orlando, Chris Cree announced that the NSA would be presenting annual awards for various achievements in SCRABBLE®, starting with results from that Nationals. Little did he realize that a year later the NSA would no longer be involved with regular tournament play—not that he would be co-head of the NASPA organization that now oversees North American tournament play.

We are pleased to celebrate the Player of the Year: Dave Wiegand, whose 362.52 tournament points garnered him the award over David Gibson (298.56) and Rob Robinsky (288.57). Dave also won the award for Highest Spread (+16727). Needless to say, with his win at Nationals, Dave is starting out as the leader for next year’s award as well!

Here is a list of the final standings, plus a look at the award winners. (For complete standings, go to cross-tables.com.)

**Player of the Year**
1. Dave Wiegand (362.52)
2. David Gibson (298.56)
3. Rob Robinsky (288.57)
4. Nigel Richards (273.44)
5. Nathan Benedict (268.8)
6. Joey Mallick (244.2)
7. Rod MacNeil (241.64)
8. Brian Cappelletto (224.63)
9. Orry Swift (220.18)
10. Sam Kantimathi (214.13)

**Female Player of the Year**
1. Kate Fukawa-Connelly (176.77)
2. Cecilia Le (110.19)
3. Dielle Saldanha (103.41)
4. Laurie Cohen (89.34)
5. Lisa Odom (88.9)

**Youth Player of the Year**
1. Sam Rosin (164.58)
   (Although the NSA did not keep track of players’ ages, other top youth players during that period were Noah Walton, Matthew Silver, Joey Krafchick, and Bradley Robbins.)

**Highest Win %, Division 1**
1. David Gibson (.801)
2. Nigel Richards (.745)
3. Tony Leah (.73)
4. Brian Cappelletto (.719)
5. Evan McIntyre (.716)

**Highest Win %**
1. David Gibson (.801)
2. Doug Stone (.778)
3. Evan McIntyre (.774)
4. Nigel Richards (.745)
5. Jesse Inman (.737)

**Highest Spread**
1. Dave Wiegand (+16727)
2. Winter (+12092)
3. Pete Zeigler (+10537)
4. Joel Sherman (+10185)
5. Doug Stone (+10065)

**Most Division 1 Wins, Multi-Day**
1. David Gibson (5)
2. Brian Bowman (4)
3. Dan Pratt (4)
4. Dave Wiegand (3)
4. Rob Robinsky (3)
4. Orry Swift (3)
4. Rod MacNeil (3)
4. Winter (3)
4. Chris Lipe (3)

**Most Lower-Division Wins, Multi-Day**
1. Doug Stone (6)
2. Cynthia Seales (3)
3. Evan McIntyre (2)
3. Ben Lam (2)
3. Gigi Miller (2)
3. Adam Townsend (2)
3. Cheryl Allen-Munley (2)
3. Diane Pietrzak (2)
3. Max Karten (2)
3. Jesse Inman (2)
3. Russell Stewart (2)
3. Dave Rauppius (2)
3. Jack Lysowski (2)
3. Susan Blanchard (2)
3. Jason Eyolfson (2)
3. Meredith King (2)
3. Julie Kading (2)

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Most Division 1 Wins
1. Winter (10)
2. Pete Zeigler (9)
3. Dave Wiegand (7)
4. Brian Bowman (6)
4. Steve Glass (6)
4. Bradley Whitmarsh (6)

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Most Lower-Division Win
1. Doug Stone (6)
2. Judy Cole (5)
2. Pat Diener (5)
2. Frank Lee (5)
5. Noah Walton (4)
5. Cynthia Seales (4)
5. Andrea Michaels (4)
5. Bradley Robbins (4)
5. Keil Schults (4)
5. Tobey Roland (4)
5. Edwin Roth (4)
5. Nancy Konipol (4)

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Most Games
1. Linda Wancel (561)
2. Denise Mahnken (519)
3. Winter (473)
4. Judy Cole (399)
5. Bradley Whitmarsh (391)

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Most Different States
1. Denise Mahnken (16)
2. Linda Wancel (15)
2. Winter (15)
4. David Englhardt (13)
4. Sue Gable (13)
4. Daniel Milton (13)
4. Linda Oliva (13)

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Longest Winning Streak
1. Steve Glass (26)
2. David Gibson (24)
3. Ben Lefstein (19)
4. Chad Harris (18)
4. Christopher Walleck (18)

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Highest Single-Tourney Spread
1. Bradley Robbins (+2758)
2. Julia Scruggs (+2454)
3. Kathy Norman (+2155)
4. Max Karten (+2145)
5. Kevin Rickhoff (+2038)
5. Noah Walton (+2038)

PROFILES OF THE WINNERS ARE ON THE FOLLOWING 10 PAGES
Dave Wiegand
Player of the Year: 362.52 points
Highest Spread: +16727

Dave Wiegand was honored to receive the Player of the Year Award (and the award for Highest Spread). He attributes his success to playing in many more tournaments than he has in previous years. He also adds: “Much of the credit has to go to my dear wife, Chris, for staying home with the kids and letting me sneak off so many weekends to pay SCRABBLE®.”

Wiegand, a 35-year-old mortgage underwriter from Portland, OR, had a fine year, with several top-5 finishes and a few big wins. The best, in his opinion, was the California Open last October, which he won over Doug Brockmeier. “It came down to the final game [against Jeff Widergren], and I got off to a roaring start with CHARITY, FARADIZE, and WALLOPER on my first 3 plays.” He looks forward to returning to “that excellent tournament” later this year to defend his title. His other favorite tournaments include the Reno events and the Oregon Tile.

After winning the 2009 National SCRABBLE® Championship in August, Wiegand has started off this new SCRABBLE® year as America’s frontrunner. His next big challenge is the World SCRABBLE® Championship in Malaysia November 26-29. He is thrilled to be on the US team for the fifth time, and he is hoping to improve on his best WSC finish of 8th place. Wiegand has been studying hard. In August he said: “I’ve gotten out of the studying habit of late, normally just keeping fresh with the daily challenges on JumbleTime and Aerolith, but to be competitive I will need to hit the Collins words hard in the next few months.”

“I got started in SCRABBLE® as a kid growing up in Lincoln, Nebraska. Unfortunately, there was no formal club, so my early experience was mostly limited to beating up on my parents. I did cultivate a love of words from an early age, and spent many fascinated hours poring over the OSPD. When I was 11, my family spent a year in Madison, Wisconsin, and I ventured out to the club there a few times (and promptly impressed them by beating their top player).

“My SCRABBLE® career really took off after I came to Portland in 1991 to attend Reed College. I looked up the local club, and after one or two false starts (the club was meeting in a bar, where I wasn’t allowed in), I was rapidly assimilated into the hotbed that is Portland SCRABBLE®. I learned a lot from the many strong players in town, who took me under their wing.

“After a few local tourneys, I took the plunge into the Nationals in 1994. It was an amazing experience: Somehow I came in second, and I was hooked for life. Since then I’ve had considerable success, and it’s been a wonderful journey.”

Wiegand has now won over 50 tournaments, including the 2005 and 2009 Nationals, and has earned close to $100,000. But he has gained much more from his SCRABBLE® career: “The glory and accolades are nice, not to mention the money, but I will always treasure the friendships I’ve made through SCRABBLE®, and the infinite beauty that the game has to offer.”
Kate Fukawa-Connelly
Female Player of the Year: 176.77 points

The ocean air in Kittery, Maine agrees with Kate Fukawa-Connelly, 33, who was surprised to hear that she’d won the award for Female Player of the Year. She and her husband, NASPA Director Tim Fukawa-Connelly (in photo), have had a whirlwind year, selling their Waltham MA house and moving to the Maine seacoast in August 2008. They have both started new jobs at the University of New Hampshire, but Kate has made time to keep studying and spending time with her friends in Boston, many of whom happen to be expert SCRABBLE® players.

Currently rated at 1852, Kate is now North America’s second highest rated female player, a few points behind Robin Pollock Daniel. She is also the second highest ranked player in Maine (she briefly dethroned Joey Mallick, who had been number one in Maine for the previous twelve years).

Kate credits her improvement to the generosity of other players who are always willing to share their knowledge over the board. Originally from Chicago, Kate started playing SCRABBLE® while living in Grinnell, Iowa, “where there was little else to do.” Tim, whom Kate married in 2001, had suggested Kate’s sister give her Word Freak as a Christmas present. Moving to Maryland in 2002, Kate played her first tournament in Baltimore, then discovered the Bowie MD SCRABBLE® Club #501. Director Linda Stephanides was an excellent teacher, with helpful word lists and club records that helped Kate see her progress in the group.

In 2005 the Fukawa-Connellys moved to the Boston area, which was perfect timing in terms of Kate’s SCRABBLE® learning curve. The level of play at Lexington Club #108 was more intense than that at Bowie, forcing her to start studying (she didn’t even have all the threes down during her tenure in Maryland). She quickly took in new strategy and new words at Lexington, and made some excellent friends along the way. Around the same time, many Scrabblers migrated to livejournal, a blog site where Kate has kept a journal since 2002. Suddenly, there was a lot more SCRABBLE® content online in an accessible format. Kate has enjoyed learning from other players’ annotated games and blog entries about strategy and words, as well as just learning about their lives in general. Blogs don’t substitute for getting to see everyone at tournaments, but they do provide a nice connection to her friends between these quick weekend visits.

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Living in Maine, Kate now plays every other week with Joey Mallick, who has been equally gracious in providing tips for improvement and helping Kate to develop her game (and keeping her motivated to study, since he’s always challenging her words). Thanks to her peer group in Boston and her games in Maine, Kate has had a great year, gaining 116 ratings points and winning her first Division One multi-day tournament in Albany NY July 1-5. Her Albany win was made even more special because of the strong finishes of the other women in the field (not to mention the incredible hospitality and excellent food at Director Annette Tedesco’s home).
“I just love learning, and love words, and I love making lists—all big parts of what first drew me into SCRABBLE® and studying. The more I play and learn, the more I appreciate the rhythm of the game, the geometry of it, the different ways that different people approach the game. It’s all fascinating, as is the social side of it. Also, I’m curious how good I can get. That sounds weird, but it’s neat to have something where I can continue to improve, and don’t know what the end goal is—it isn’t an academic degree, or a specific skill—it’s undefined, and I like that.”

There are many similarities between the SCRABBLE® world and the world of higher education, where Kate has worked since graduating from college. Both are dynamic, diverse, intellectual, and colorful. Both allow you to learn and teach at the same time. Kate looks forward to continuing to forge friendships across the board, and to refining her game as part of the SCRABBLE® family.

**Sam Rosin**
**Youth Player of the Year (164.58 points)**

This award, given to a player aged under 18 for the entire year points were tabulated, goes to Sam Rosin, a 16-year-old high school junior from Bernardsville, New Jersey. Rated at the end of the period at 1876, Sam earned 164.58 points to win the award. Sam is currently the highest rated Youth Player in North America. He will be representing the United States in November at the World SCRABBLE® Championship in Malaysia.

In 2008, Sam won the Princeton NJ Tournament, plus placed 16th in Division 1 of the NSC. This year he placed 5th in Division 1 in the Eastern Championship in Charlotte, NC.

Sam first started playing competitive SCRABBLE® when he was 8, and he played in his first tournament when he was 9. He was a strong School SCRABBLE® competitor in 2005-2007, placing 4th, 2nd, and 3rd in the National School SCRABBLE® Championship. Sam also enjoys playing tennis and golf and listening to music.
**David Gibson**

**Highest Win %, Division 1: .801**  
**Highest Win %: .801**  
**Most Division 1 Wins, Multi-Day: 5**

David Gibson is one of the highest rated SCRABBLE® players in North America. Amazingly, his 2066 rating is not his highest ever; he was rated 2122 after winning the 1994 National SCRABBLE® Championship. This Spartanburg, SC mathematics instructor has been a top player for over 20 years—and he will continue to be remembered for years to come for the term “Gibsonizing,” which was instituted in his honor because of his penchant for sewing up tournaments before their final rounds. As of 2006, Gibson was the number-two money winner in SCRABBLE® history (behind Brian Cappelletto), primarily for his wins in the two most lucrative tournaments in SCRABBLE® history: the 1995 SCRABBLE® Superstars Showdown and the 2003 SCRABBLE® All Stars Championship, both of which had a $50,000 first prize.

Because his school obligations often conflict with the dates of major SCRABBLE® tournaments, Gibson doesn’t play in many tournaments each year, and competes primarily in tournaments held in the Southeast. However, he makes a big splash at every tournament he attends. This past SCRABBLE® year David played in 6 tournaments, starting with the 2008 National SCRABBLE® Championship in Orlando, where he finished third. He was first in the other 5: Ashville, SC; the Eastern Championship; Columbia, SC; Atlanta, GA; and Knoxville, TN. Gibson has the benefit of a live-in sparring partner: His wife Nancy is a word person and an excellent S player. “We play a game almost every day. Then we go back over it turn by turn via Quackle.”

Gibson was born in Raleigh, NC, and grew up in Charlotte playing SCRABBLE® as the main family game (his mother also enjoyed crossword puzzles). He earned a bachelor’s degree in math from Furman University and a master’s degree in math from the University of Tennessee. He moved to Spartanburg in 1975 to teach math at Spartanburg Methodist College, where he has worked for 34 years. He also teaches at Converse College in Spartanburg.

It wasn’t until 1983 that Gibson was struck with a “love of words.” He started scouring the newspaper every day looking for new words. Then he read a story about a local SCRABBLE® player winning a tournament, and he realized he wanted to play competitive SCRABBLE®. He befriended Ruth Cross (who passed away a few years ago), and she introduced him to the tournament SCRABBLE® scene.

Gibson competed for the first time in 1986, winning a regional tournament in Atlanta. His first major win came in 1991 at the Gatlinburg, TN Tournament. He worked his way up, placing third in the 1993 World SCRABBLE® Championship in New York City. The next year he won the National Championship.

As part of his winning strategy, Gibson makes it a point to learn letters that make up a word by
creating a phrase as a way to improve his memory and score. For example, the word FEDERAL, plus the letters in the word TROOPS, gives you letters that can be added to FEDERAL to make words using eight letters.

According to Gibson, SCRABBLE® holds an enduring popularity with Americans because it is a game for all ages—from the time a child can spell to old age. It improves vocabulary and spelling, which is a draw for word people. It ranges from a very simple family game around the kitchen table to one-on-one tournament play involving high-level strategy somewhat akin to chess. There is also the luck factor, which makes it possible for a weaker player to stand a chance against a stronger player.

A model for the pinnacle of SCRABBLE® achievement, David Gibson has helped Subway Restaurants with their Subway-SCRABBLE® promotion and contest in his area.

**Doug Stone**

**Most Lower-Division Wins, Multi-Day: 4**  
**Most Lower-Division Wins: 6**

Doug Stone played his first tournament just about a year ago: the Toronto ONT CAN Early Bird on September 19, 2008. Like many first-time tournament players, he had a rough debut, winning only one game and ending up 21st out of 22 players. But he was a fast learner: Two days later he finished first in the Toronto main event, dominating his division with an 11-1 +1417 record.

There’s been no looking back. That first tournament is the only tournament Stone’s been in where he hasn’t been a major contender. Since then he has played in 9 tournaments, winning 7 of them (he was 2nd and 3rd in the others) and making a meteoric rise to his current 1551 rating. Along the way he has won his division at 4 multi-day tournaments: Toronto, Cleveland OH, Phoenix AZ, and the Chicago IL ArdenCup Memorial.

Stone’s 6 tournament wins (the 7th was at a Club Tournament, which aren’t factored in for these awards) won him the award for Most Lower-Division Tournament Wins, and his 4 multi-day wins earned him the award for Most Multi-Day Lower-Division Tournament Wins. But if he keeps winning at this rate, he’ll be making way for another player to win these awards next year: Stone will be playing in Division 1.
Winter

Most Division 1 Wins: 10

Winter (official NASPA name Winter Zxqkj), whose quest to visit every Starbucks in the world was documented in the first issue of the NASPA Tournament SCRABBLE® Newsletter, seemingly is on a quest to visit every SCRABBLE® tournament he can as well. In this past SCRABBLE® year, Winter played 473 games in 41 tournaments in 15 different states, in the process winning a remarkable 10 Division 1 tournaments. This summer Winter’s rating reached 1873, his all-time high.

Winter’s record is even more impressive considering the challenge he had trying to make his Starbucks visits and SCRABBLE® tournaments dovetail. Because of the economic crisis, a huge number of Starbucks stores were closing, and Winter’s rush to visit as many as he could before they were shut become big news. This spring he was juggling media interviews, Starbucks visits, and SCRABBLE®. Oh, and he also was working as a freelance computer programmer.

As Winter’s face appeared on the front page of the Wall Street Journal, he made possibly bigger news in the SCRABBLE® community by winning the Austin TX Open. His other multi-day Division 1 wins were the Lexington KY Iron Man and Akron OH.

“In all honesty, I attribute my number of wins simply to the fact that I love SCRABBLE® so much I play at every possible opportunity. I’m far from the best player, but being prolific has its advantages.”

Winter recently returned from two months of travel in Ireland, the UK, the Czech Republic, Germany, Switzerland, France, Spain, and Portugal; and he has now visited 9,872 Starbucks stores. Details of his travels are on his blog: starbuckseverywhere.net. Sadly, Winter did not play any tournaments abroad. While he considered playing a Collins tournament in the UK, none of the tournaments fit into his tight schedule.

Now that he’s back, Winter is waiting to see where his next job will land him. Then he’ll look for tournaments nearby!
Linda Wancel likes to play SCRABBLE®. This criminal prosecutor and mother of twins from Flushing, NY, also holds the distinction of having played the most games in 2007: 498. From Nationals 2008 to Nationals 2009 she played in 561 games. She hopes to play in over 500 games this next year, too.

“I play in many tournaments because it is so much fun to travel with my SCRABBLE® friends, play lots of SCRABBLE®, see new cities, play new Scrabblers, see other SCRABBLE® pals, and try new tournaments. No matter what the outcome of the tournament, I always enjoy myself. All tournaments are different; but most directors and organizers go to a lot of trouble to ensure their participants have fun, so it would almost be churlish not to enjoy one’s self.

“The SCRABBLE® community is unique in that people of all different ages, genders, races, ethnicities, religions, sexual orientations, and political persuasions come together and bond as one for love of the game. One could travel anywhere within the SCRABBLE® community and feel welcome. There is nothing like it. The SCRABBLE® community is, indeed, special. They are family.”

Linda, whose rating is currently 1079 (down from a high of 1359), was pleased to be acknowledged by NASPA. “I represent the majority of SCRABBLE® players,” she said, noting that the majority of SCRABBLE® players are not Division 1 players.

The many tournaments in the Northeast Corridor make it easy for Linda to play frequently. However, she also travels to further-away tournaments, and this past SCRABBLE® year she played in 50 tournaments in 15 different states or provinces.

Her favorite tournament? “Definitely Lake George—though all three of Annette Tedesco’s weekend tournaments are in my top five!” Linda also enjoys the Twin Cities Redeye, which features a marathon of 29 games in two days, with games starting at 7 a.m.—perfect for a person who likes to play a lot of SCRABBLE®.

Does Linda ever take a vacation? Yes, but not from SCRABBLE®! This July she enjoyed playing on board the Celebrity Century on Larry Rand’s Baltic Cruise. Linda also has other hobbies—reading, writing, traveling, drawing, and watching films—and, under a pseudonym, is a top 10 Amazon Reviewer. A true Renaissance woman!
Denise Mahnken
Most Different States: 16

If you’re thinking, “Didn’t I just see Denise Mahnken playing SCRABBLE® in a different state last week?” you’re probably right. Denise, a teacher of the deaf from Long Beach, NY, played in 16 states last year, traveling as far as Minnesota, Missouri, and Alaska.

“I started out to complete a long-time family project. Whenever we traveled the kids put stars on a map for the states we visited. They are now grown and have flown the coop, leaving ten states starless. A couple of years ago, I was printing out tournament flyers and noticed the map on the wall above the computer. The states without stars stood out. When I counted that there were only ten, I decided I would visit those states, and play SCRABBLE® while doing so. I played tournaments in Missouri, Minnesota, Texas and as far away as Alaska on that quest.

“Every year my number of states increase as I keep adding the new states to my ‘must do’ list of tournaments. I’ve made many friends along the way, and look forward to the reunions throughout the year. The six states left to complete the map are: Nebraska, Utah, Alabama, Idaho, South Dakota, and Wyoming.”

The wildest state-hopping Denise did this past year was when she played in Florida, Alaska, and Pennsylvania—all in one month!

Denise enjoys herself at tournaments, both during the games and after hours. Few can forget her arrival at the Hartford CT Open dance party dressed as Tina Turner! And Denise is game for adventure: Karaoke? Casinos? Count this girl IN!

Anyone who’s ever faced Denise across a SCRABBLE® board can vouch that she’s also one of the gamest players there is. Her never-say-die attitude has often rescued her from what seemed like certain defeat [at the New York Tournament Denise astonished me by bingoing out with GILLNET for a three-point win]. If you see a player involved in a recount, it may well be Denise. She likes to win—and she won’t go down without a fight! Witness Denise at the 2008 Nationals: Seeded dead last of 116 players in Division 4, she finished 7th—raising her rating by 312 points and setting a SCRABBLE® record for the greatest difference between initial rating and performance rating in a tournament.

But Denise is also a gracious loser, quick to complement her opponent on a good game. She hopes this year to raise her rating, currently 1225. “I’m working on improving my end game. I find that I’m losing games in the last two or three moves, and am not planning my exit play well enough. I play strong throughout the game, stay in it all the way, and often fizzle toward the end. I’ll review annotated games of the experts and see what strategic thinking they employ.”

Look out! No matter what state you’re in, you may have to face Denise and her improved skills in the coming year!
Steve Glass
Longest Winning Streak: 26

Steve Glass, a tax accountant and semi-retired real estate agent from Dade City, FL, began his amazing 26-game streak on March 20th at the Port Richey FL Early Bird. He won his last 4 games to come in first in Division 1. Little did he know at the time that he’d started on a record winning streak.

Glass continued to play well in the main event at Port Richey, winning all 16 of his Division 1 games—an amazing feat in itself. As he acknowledged to his opponents, he was “on a roll.”

At his next tournament, Pinellas Park FL on April 4th, Glass’s streak continued. He once again won all of his games—6 this time—to take Division 1. The streak ended at his next tournament, Columbia SC on April 18: He lost his very first game. In a period of less than a month Glass had won 26 games in a row!

“I was just at the right place at the right time,” says Glass of his achievement. “A tile or two the other way, and it becomes three games in a row. It came to a quick halt as I started the Columbia SC tournament 0-2, about -250.”

Glass, 55, is overly modest. Currently rated at 1772, he has been a top competitor for over 20 years and has won over 25 tournaments. Prior to becoming involved with tournament

SCRABBLE®, Glass played tournament chess (he retired with a 2050 rating) and experimented with blackjack for a few months “earning little and getting barred from Caesar’s Place in Lake Tahoe and the Barbary Coast in Las Vegas.” Since “the streak,” he has won four other tournaments.

Glass talks briefly about how SCRABBLE® has influenced his life:

“I have been playing recreational SCRABBLE® for as long as I can remember. During my childhood, I played with my mom, but by her rules—if she never heard the word, then it was unacceptable. Also, no interjections, musical syllables, or dialect—but words she discovered from crossword puzzles (like AI) were okay. I still play her when I visit, but by those same rules. Fortunately for me, I gave her a SCRABBLE® program, so her SCRABBLE® vocabulary has expanded.

“While in Dallas [where he lived for 25 years], I read about a SCRABBLE® Club and finally went to a meeting in 1989. When asked why I’d come, I said, ‘to get clobbered,’ and I was told I’d come to the right place. When I found out there was a single word source (other than my mom), and competitive playing, I became hooked.

“But being hooked on SCRABBLE® has been a really, really good thing for me and my family. It provided me the connections for my transition to real estate, and the ability to semi-retire. It has brought me, my wife, and my extended family numerous vacation opportunities and dozens of close relationships. (Even in Israel, I have made several good friends from attending the Jerusalem SCRABBLE® Club.) It has provided me a source of intellectual challenge that is still fun. For all of you I have met through this venue, and for all of you who have put effort in making organized SCRABBLE® a better place, I say ‘Thank You.’"
Bradley Robbins was 11 years old, the youngest player of nearly 700 competitors at the 2008 National SCRABBLE® Championship in Orlando, FL, when he set this record spread for the year on the way to winning Division 6 24-4 +2758. He also set the record as the youngest Division winner ever at a NSC. At the time, he had no idea his spread was that unusual. “I wasn’t really focused on the spread, as I was new to tournaments,” he said. “I was more focused on winning each game.” His high spread, earned at the first tournament of the competition year, was never touched.

At the time Bradley had been playing SCRABBLE® for almost a year—mainly on his computer. At the Nationals he met many of his SCRABBLE® heroes, some of whom he had played on line. Most were astonished to find Bradley was so young.

Since then Bradley has set other records, including being the youngest player to win seven tournaments in a row (more if his School SCRABBLE® tournament wins are included), which he did between May and November in 2008. Currently rated 1507, Bradley came in 5th in Division 3 at this year’s Nationals.

Bradley, who attends 7th grade in his hometown of Windham, New Hampshire, hopes to encourage other younger players to play in tournaments. From his winnings over the past year, he donated money to the NSA to pay expenses for less affluent teams to compete at this year’s National School SCRABBLE® Championship. A boy with great skills—and a great heart!
Hi again all! I’ve heard a lot of positive feedback from everyone; any kind of criticism, I feel, is something you can use to improve yourself, in some form or another. I’d also like to thank Robin Pollock Daniel for being a great editor for these columns. Robin has been the top-ranked SCRABBLE® player in Canada and the top-ranked woman in SCRABBLE®. She brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the column and can somehow make sense of my ramblings.

That being said, let’s get onto the tiling!

With respect to my first column, there was some confusion with the following section that I wrote:

… if the leading move wins 4% of the time and the second best wins 2% of the time, it basically means you are doubling your chances of possibly winning if you pick the leading move, and thus making sure the numbers are accurate matters a whole lot more than, say, with moves that have a 98% vs. 96% winning probability.

The confused person asks, "Why would 4% vs. 2% matter "a whole lot more" than 98% vs. 96%? From a statistics perspective, both mean that if you played exactly like Quackle, you would win exactly two more games out of one hundred, right? Thus they’d be equal. So why does one matter 'a whole lot more’?"

That would be correct except that, in terms of your odds of winning, 4% is double the odds of winning than 2% is, whilst 98% is far less than double 96%. Put simply, when your chances of winning are very low to begin with, every chance you can give yourself to improve the odds is significantly more important than when the numbers overwhelmingly suggest you will win. This becomes obvious, say, at 2% compared to 0% – there, 2% is far more important than 0% from your perspective because then, you actually have a chance of winning...assuming everyone plays like Quackle from then on.

Now, let’s get onto one of this month’s questions. It’s kind of a doozy, so bear with me!

What thinking path should one follow to make sure that one doesn’t engage in inordinate amounts of 'fishing'? It seems like once someone has fallen in love with a set of congenial tiles that don't quite bingo, he/she often short-circuits his normal chain of thought – and looks only for the best-scoring 2-tile play that leaves great tiles. That's not always the right play, though. What process would help players spot when that strategy yields less than playing away many of the great tiles for a considerably higher score? – LJ
Ah! This question brings up one very difficult-to-answer question: how should one “fish?”

As a primer, fishing is the act of playing off very few tiles from a rack, in the hopes of drawing the right tiles necessary to play a bingo the next turn. This most often occurs when a person has a rack that doesn’t have a bingo which is playable, or that he or she has spotted, yet has a large group (at least five) of tiles that is considered to work well together. Fishing is an important part of playing SCRABBLE®, particularly because it can occur almost anytime (except, of course, during the endgame when the tile bag is depleted). However, if left uncontrolled, one can “overfish” – that is, a player relies too much upon fishing and minimizes his or her other plays to the extent that the opponent can easily catch up to whatever bingos that are consequently played.

Fishing also becomes increasingly complex when you keep in mind that, usually with these racks of great tiles, there are often other scoring possibilities available on the board. How one determines whether or not a fish (essentially, a gamble) is worth more than playing one of these other scoring options (and thus spending more of the good tiles, increasing the uncertainty of what one’s hand will be next turn) thus needs to be examined.

In economics, the concept of expected value is used to determine whether or not people should take a guaranteed certain amount as opposed to gambling, whereby they might win or lose more. The expected value of the gamble is based on how likely each outcome (win, lose, or draw) is to occur and what the respective values of each outcome are. This then helps an individual to determine whether something is too risky to gamble in or not, and whether or not they are risk takers or risk-averse.

Applied to fishing, the certainty is the scoring play you identify in the present, plus the expected score in your next turn (you can reasonably predict this by using your average score per turn in a normal game). The gamble is the value of the fish added to the value of gambling – that is, the average value of bingoring taking into account how likely it is (this relies on you knowing what tiles are out there and what bingos can be formed using a combination of your leftovers and the draw). The first is a quick addition, whilst the second can be somewhat tricky: it’s easier when one fishes one tile, and for two tiles one often has to take a guess unless there are very few tiles left.

From this perspective, if you can get an approximate valuation of both the certainty and the gamble, you should be able to figure out which one has the higher expected value and pick accordingly. However, there should be some warnings here as well: if the game is relatively even, picking the move with the highest expected value is often best. However, when there is a distinct score imbalance, one might want to take a different attitude. For instance, if you have a fairly sizable lead, it might not make much sense to make a fish if it could cost you the lead quite quickly, meaning you would be averse to taking risks because you are more likely to win if you can minimize uncertainty in how much you score. Likewise, when you are behind by a significant margin, taking wilder risks might be much more attractive because it may be the only way you can get back into the game.

Note that the idea of fishing as opposed to taking a scoring play, as I am explaining it, is done in a vacuum. No game is exactly like this, and there are always other considerations – foremost among them strategic and positional ones – to keep in mind. That being said, I hope this helps people to
keep in mind that SCRABBLE®, for all its great words and art, is fundamentally a game of math, particularly of properly evaluating one’s options and picking accordingly.

Now, after that whale of an answer:

**Why is PIZZAZZ in the dictionary? – JL**

One of the definitions of “dictionary”, per dictionary.com, is “A reference book containing an alphabetical list of words, with information given for each word, usually including meaning, pronunciation, and etymology”; hence a dictionary should hold every word it possibly can given its constraints (including PIZZAZZ).

Joking answer aside, whilst PIZZAZZ is technically impossible to play in SCRABBLE® (and I assume you are wondering about the OSPD), that assumes that the OSPD is going to be used as a word source for only one game: SCRABBLE®. However, Hasbro has already released Super SCRABBLE® with two Zs and four blanks, so it’s quite readily possible that PIZZAZZ and its ilk will be played in other games that are likely to use the OSPD as the authoritative source for words.

Personally, the thought of playing off two Zs and two blanks (at best) in one hand is mind-boggling, at least to me, but that’s words and word games for you!

So, with this, I bid you happy tiling!

*Got a question? Don’t hesitate to write, no matter how strange or silly it may sound! Just fire away to tilebag@gmail.com.*

*James Leong is a top player from Vancouver, BC, Canada. He was the winner of the 2007 Players’ Championship in Dayton, OH.*
The British Matchplay Scrabble Championship

Mark Nyman playing out with ITA to win the Championship over Harshan Lamabadusuriya by 13 points.

Photo Credit: Craig Beevers, ABSP

The British Matchplay Scrabble Championship is the most prestigious and high-profile event on the British SCRABBLE® calendar. Organized by the Association of British Scrabble Players (www.absp.org.uk), the tournament determines Britain’s SCRABBLE® Champion. It also produces the United Kingdom’s additional wildcard entrant into the upcoming World SCRABBLE® Championship in Malaysia.

This year’s BMSC, held in Stone, near Stafford, August 29-31, attracted 158 players, including 10 World Championship competitors, who played 20 games. The tournament was sponsored by Denki, a manufacturer of video games, and first prize was £1000+ (plus the coveted trophy). (To see a promotional video of the event, visit http://www.expressandstar.com.)

First place went to Mark Nyman, the 1993 World SCRABBLE® Champion, with a 16-4 +1669 record, narrowly edging out Harshan Lamabadusuriya (16-4 +1656) by just 13 points. The exciting final game can be followed at http://www.centrestar.co.uk. (The game can also be downloaded as a .gcg file here for use in Quackle.)

In winning the British Matchplay Scrabble Championship, Nyman earned himself a place on the UK team for the 2009 World SCRABBLE® Championship.

Complete results can be found at http://www.centrestar.co.uk.
Giving Back with SCRABBLE®: Benefit Tournaments

by Cornelia Guest

A few years ago I ran an unrated SCRABBLE® tournament to benefit my sons’ orchestra, the Norwalk (CT) Youth Symphony. The three-game tournament was relatively easy to organize, and the NYS provided a free space and snacks, so my costs were minimal. We raised several hundred dollars for the orchestra—plus introduced some new faces to tournament SCRABBLE®.

It occurred to me that SCRABBLE® tournaments were ideal for fundraising, with benefits for players as well as the charity or cause selected. It is much easier to get publicity for a tournament if it is a benefit event, and local merchants are often happy to donate prizes or a playing space. Since then I’ve had several tournaments at which I ran a raffle to raise money for Literacy, Inc., a New York-based organization that promotes early reading in poorer communities.

Here we spotlight several benefit tournaments throughout North America in the hopes that other organizers will consider using SCRABBLE® fundraisers for other good causes.

Pam Hunter’s SCRABBLE® Fundraisers

For the last 8 years Canadian SCRABBLE® player Pam Hunter has run an annual SCRABBLE® fundraiser to raise money to fight multiple sclerosis and, since 2008, diabetes, too. The Ottawa event, held at St. Matthias’ Anglican Church, is not a rated tournament, as Hunter also caters to members of the public by having a drop-in session from 2-4 p.m.

She gets about 50 players (roughly half are NASPA members) who play in the all-day, 6-game tournament and about 55 drop-ins in the afternoon. She donates entry fees ($5 per person for the drop-in session and $25 per person for the full-day tournament) and money raised from a silent auction and a raffle for a custom-made SCRABBLE® board to the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada and to the Canadian Diabetes Association.

Many members of the SCRABBLE® community donate items for the silent auction and prize table. The event raises about $2,800. The 2010 event will be held on March 20th.

You can hear an interview with Pam at the following site: www.electricsky.net/.

Pam notes that benefit SCRABBLE® events seem to becoming more popular in Canada, with many NASPA members participating.

[Information on two other Canadian benefit events follow.]

She hopes more people and charities become involved.

For more information, contact Pam at pamhunter@comnet.ca or by phone at (613) 761-1005.

SCRABBLE® with the Stars: A Gala Event

Surely the most glamorous of all SCRABBLE® fundraisers is “SCRABBLE® with the Stars,” an annual event that has been held in for the past five years in Toronto in support of Performing Arts Lodges (PAL) Toronto, a group that supports performing arts professionals in the areas of health care and affordable housing. Patrons get to rub shoulders and match wits with some of Canada’s premiere...
celebrities at this sparkling event. This year's proceeds went toward providing assisted living for those who are no longer well enough to fully care for themselves.

Attendees of this wordsmithing evening dine, mingle and compete against some of Canada's most eminent stage, screen and literary celebs—plus top SCRABBLE® players such as Joel Wapnick and David Boys. Each table of four, at $125 a head, includes a celebrity Scrabbler.

The evening begins with a "getting to know you" cocktail reception, where stars socialize with guests over drinks, followed by a delicious buffet dinner. Then out come the SCRABBLE® boards, and the battle of words begins in earnest, presided over by internationally noted SCRABBLE® Master [and NASPA co-head] John Chew. The exclusive advisory services of World SCRABBLE® Champion Joel Wapnick as well as Canada's top female expert, Robin Pollock Daniel, are auctioned for the cause.

While SCRABBLE® director John Chew totals the scores and establishes the winners, guests enjoy coffee and dessert on the edge of their seats as they await the results.

This year's event, held at The Suites at 1 King West in Toronto, raised over $50,000.

For more information, go to www.scrabblewiththestars.ca

2008 event hosts Colin Mochrie and Deb McGrath look happily on as SCRABBLE® Master John Chew (L) awards Ryan Cripps with his prize for best individual score. (Photo: Gerry Salsberg)

"Good Words for Africa" SCRABBLE® Game Tournament

Can you imagine helping African grandmothers caring for AIDS orphans by playing SCRABBLE®?

In the fall of 2008, hundreds of grandmothers from five provinces across Canada invited their families and friends to take part in local SCRABBLE® tournaments to raise funds for the Stephen Lewis Foundation’s “Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign,” a campaign launched by Canadian politician and philanthropist Stephen Lewis to help provide grandmothers in 15 African countries much-needed assistance, including: food, educational fees, income-generating projects, counseling and social support, and coffins to allow for a dignified burial of their loved ones.

Between September 11th and November 2nd, 2008, 20 participating grandmother groups held SCRABBLE® events that raised an astounding $215,000! The community with the highest average won an evening with Stephen Lewis.

This idea was first conceived by the GANG (Grandmothers in Alberta for a New Generation), which held a “Good Words for Africa” SCRABBLE® game fundraiser in 2007 and raised $50,000 in one night!

In many African countries populations have been devastated by AIDS, with an estimated 11 million children left orphaned in sub-Saharan Africa (the numbers are expected to reach 20 million by 2012). The unsung heroes of this awful epidemic are the grandmothers, who in many communities are now raising their children’s children with little or no support (40-60% of orphans live in grandmother-headed households). The “Grandmothers to Grandmothers” campaign, launched in March, 2006, encourages Canadian grandmothers to reach out to their African counterparts by raising awareness and mobilizing support. The
movement is now over 220 groups strong.

Visit the Grandmothers Campaign website (www.grandmotherscampaign.org) to learn more about how to have your own SCRABBLE® game fundraiser.

The group also has a number of materials and resources to help you plan and publicize your event:

- **Sample Scrabble® Media Advisory** (.doc)
- **Good Words for Africa: Scrabble® Kit** (.doc) (compiled by the GANG)
- **Scrabble® Donation Tracking Sheet** (.xls)
- **List of participating Grandmother Groups** (.doc)

If you have any questions, please call (toll-free) 1-888-203-9990 ext. 230 or 416-533-9292 ext.230, or email campaign@stephenlewisfoundation.org.

The Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) supports community-based organizations that are turning the tide of HIV/AIDS in Africa. They provide care to women who are ill and struggling to survive; assist orphans and other AIDS-affected children; reach heroic grandmothers who almost single-handedly care for their orphan grandchildren; and sustain associations of people living with HIV and AIDS. Since 2003, SLF has supported hundreds of community-level initiatives in 15 countries. For more information about the Stephen Lewis Foundation, go to www.stephenlewisfoundation.org.

### Support for Literacy Groups

In the United States there have been many SCRABBLE® fundraisers for Literacy Volunteers. Most of these events are not SCRABBLE® tournaments, per se, but events where people pay to play SCRABBLE®. Many top players have volunteered their time to help at these events, and organizers sometimes make extra money by charging a fee—say $10—to get free advice from an expert on a move. Over the years Literacy Volunteers of America and ProLiteracy (www.proliteracy.org) have used SCRABBLE® as a fundraising tool and raised well over two million dollars. A calendar of upcoming literacy fundraisers is at the website of the National SCRABBLE® Association: www.scrabble-assoc.com.

### Illinois Fundraisers in Chicago and Danville

Marty Gabriel, an expert SCRABBLE® player and director from Charleston, IL, has been quite active over the last several years working on annual SCRABBLE® fundraisers held by two groups: the Literacy Volunteers of Illinois, based in Chicago, and Reader’s Route, another literacy organization, based at Danville (IL) Area Community College. This year he decided to try running a fully sanctioned tournament simultaneously, and he was pleased with the results.

“The central part of these events has always been an actual SCRABBLE® tourney. Originally we had a short tourney of 2-4 games in which a 50-55 minute time limit was used and players were allowed to use the standard 'cheat sheets' and to buy expert help for a turn or two during each game. All entrants were placed in one division, although a separate playing area was always made available for those who did not care to compete in a tourney but still wanted to play some SCRABBLE®. Additional fundraising aspects of the events have included a chance to 'Beat the Champ' in a single play competition and to compete in 'Word Play' contests that involve finding words of 4 or more letters from a group of 7-9 letters as well as a silent auction of donated items.

“This spring we expanded the Danville event to include a 5-game NSA-rated tourney in addition to the usual 4-game modified-rules tourney that we’d been having, which we renamed the 'Beginner Tourney'. The Beginner Tourney was restricted to players who had never played in an NSA
club or tourney, and the NSA tourney consisted of divisions of six players each, according to ratings. We ended up with 16 players in the Beginner Tourney, including a group from a high school SCRABBLE® club, and we had 34 NSA players. 50% of the tourney entry fees went to the charity and the rest minus expenses was returned as prize money in addition to some donated prizes. A separate 'Super Casual' playing area was once again made available for those who wanted to play SCRABBLE® but not in a tourney; only a few took this option.

"The event was more successful than ever and has inspired the organization of a 7-game NASPA tourney in conjunction with the Literary Volunteers of Illinois fundraiser that will be held in Chicago on Nov.14, 2009 (see www.lvillinois.org). The Reader’s Route fundraiser in Danville on April 24, 2010 will also include a 7-game NASPA tourney. Both tourneys are listed on the NASPA calendar.

"Part of the reason that I like to involve myself with the literacy fundraiser scene is to promote club and tourney participation." Gabriel feels that he has encouraged this by structuring the events to include a NASPA tournament in conjunction with a Casual tournament (renamed so as not to slight experienced “kitchen players”).

"Of course, it really feels great to support this kind of charitable endeavor, and I’ve enjoyed working with and getting to know the folks who do such great work for the Literacy Volunteers of Illinois and for the Reader’s Route in Danville." To see the Literacy Volunteers of Illinois flyer for the November 14 tournament in Chicago, visit www.charityadvantage.com.

Seattle Fundraiser for Page Ahead
Jane Bissonnette, a member of the Seattle (WA) SCRABBLE® Club #253, directed a one-day NSA-rated SCRABBLE® tournament in Seattle this January that benefited Page Ahead: a children's literacy program www.pageahead.org. This was the first time the Seattle Club had done this benefit, which raised $445 for the organization. $10 from each entry fee was contributed to Page Ahead, plus some people made extra donations during the event.

Bissonnette said that Page Ahead had contacted her about 6 months before the event to see if they could partner the annual Seattle tournament. She thought it would be a nice way to give back to the community and agreed. Bissonnette plans to repeat the event this January.

Tiles for Teachers—and More
Although not a tournament, another charitable effort underway is “Tiles for Teachers,” organized by Protiles manufacturer Bob Schoenman. Bob is collecting loose, wooden, or faded tiles from players to send to teachers throughout the United States, who use them for teaching young children. Thus far he has distributed over 45,000 tiles. For more details, contact Bob at b.schoenman@comcast.net.
This is not the only charity Protiles is supporting. For several years Protiles has been selling sets of white tiles with pink letters and a pink breast cancer ribbon on the blanks. Five dollars from every set sold is donated to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

As of June 1, 2009 Protiles is donating 10% of the sales price of every set customers order to one of the following good causes: “Tiles for Teachers,” the Susan G. Koman Breast Cancer Foundation, Starbucks’ “Coffee for Our Troops” campaign to send instant coffee to soldiers, or the “Rose Award,” an annual award at the NSC honoring the memory of Rose Kreiswirth. When you order Protiles (www.Protiles.net) indicate where you'd like the 10% to go. If you choose not to choose, Bob and Andi Schoenman will choose for you. Either way you'll know that you're doing something good.

* * *

In August there were two other NASPA-rated benefit tournaments. Dean Scouloukas’s Cornerstone of Hope SCRABBLE® Fundraiser in Independence OH (8/29-30) included a silent auction and raffle that raised close to $1,200 for Cornerstone of Hope, a nonprofit grief center that helps families after the death of a loved one. Ember Nelson’s Hardscrabble 3: Buffalo SCRABBLE® Tournament (8/29-30) raised $500 for Literacy Volunteers [see “Hardscrabble Spotlight” for more details].

Why hold a charity fundraiser at a SCRABBLE® tournament? At a time when money is tight, it seems logical to think that players would rather get more prize money than see a portion of their entry fees go to a charity they may or may not support. But some people feel differently.

“It makes me feel better to know that I’m not just throwing away money on SCRABBLE®,” said one mid-level player who rarely shares in the prize pool pot.

Arlene Litt, mother of Youth Player Jacob Litt, 13, agrees: “I think it’s a good idea for SCRABBLE® players to help out if they can. The SCRABBLE® community is very small and focused, and benefits help players realize that there are less fortunate people who need assistance.”

Cornelia Guest is a SCRABBLE® player, tournament director, and School SCRABBLE® coach. She has worked in publishing for over 30 years.
2009 National SCRABBLE® Championship in Pictures
by Jeremy Hildebrand

TABLE 1 GAMES

Round 1

NIGEL RICHARDS def DAVE LEIFER 404-347

Round 2

NIGEL RICHARDS def DAVID PEARL 398-375

Round 3

NIGEL RICHARDS def JOHN VILORIA 419-359

Round 4

SAM ROSIN def JON SHREVE 436-345
Jeremy Hildebrand is an animation artist who lives in Ottawa Ontario. He also happens to play competitive SCRABBLE®.
Where’s Trey?
by Cornelia Guest

One of the most exciting National SCRABBLE® Championships took place in New Orleans in 2004, when the then 30-year-old professional pianist Trey Wright beat out veteran David Gibson in an ESPN-televised finals to win $25,000. People still talk about his final play, TEOPANS—obscure before Trey played it, and his controversial LEZ play, taken off the board to placate ESPN viewers (the final games can be seen at http://cross-tables.com/annotated.php?a=266#0, http://cross-tables.com/annotated.php?a=200#0, and http://cross-tables.com/annotated.php?a=267#0).

Trey, whose full name is Roger Robinson Wright III, started playing in SCRABBLE® tournaments in 1992, when he was just out of high school. A native Texan, he graduated into Division 1 in 1997 by winning Division 2 at Reno. On the way to the top prize in 2004 he won 8 tournaments, including Houston (twice) and Atlanta. When he appeared at the 2005 National School SCRABBLE® Championship to play six simultaneous games against young competitors, he was greeted like a rock star. Young, handsome, a brilliant pianist and the reigning king of SCRABBLE®.

And then he disappeared.

Trey’s last tournament was in 2006. But he hadn’t truly vanished. In 2007, SCRABBLE® players posted excited messages that they’d seen Trey on the TV show “Identity,” where contestants could win money by matching 12 strangers one-by-one to phrases about their identities, one of which was a “National SCRABBLE® Champion.” More recently, on August 16 cgp-ers and Facebook Scrabblers were invited to hear Trey play Rachmaninoff’s 3rd Concerto with the San Antonio Symphony in a webcast—under his more formal, professional pianist name: Roger Wright.

“As a musician I’ve been busier in the last few years than I ever have before—and unfortunately, my performances generally take place on weekends,” Wright, who now lives in Los Angeles, said in a recent interview. His piano brilliance has kept him very busy. He has performed as a soloist in North America, Australia, Europe and Africa, and he has issued several recordings. This winter he will be playing in Houston and Costa Rica, where he plays on the opening night of the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Costa Rica with conductor Chosei Komatsu. Wright’s CDs, available at his website, www.rogerwright.com, have generated great excitement and praise.

“I am coming back,” he promises, and he says he is looking forward to being part of the new NASPA tournament scene. But he doesn’t want to just return to play, he wants to be competitive—and he has “a fair amount” of studying and review to do to get back to his top level. “I don’t want to just come back and do a tournament. I want to be really ready.” Over the past two years Trey hasn’t been going to club or playing much live SCRABBLE®, except with a few friends who drop by; his playing has been mostly on ISC [the Internet Scrabble Club: www.isc.ro].

Wright was very pleased when he heard that Chris Cree had saved tournament SCRABBLE® when Hasbro withdrew its previous funding. “Kudos to Chris Cree,” Wright said, noting that Chris was the “perfect” person to be running the new organization. “He really is doing something amazing!”

To hear why SCRABBLE® players haven’t seen Wright drawing tiles recently, listen to his performances at www.youtube.com and visit his website at www.rogerwright.com.
Book Review
by Cornelia Guest

Word Nerd Puzzler #2 by Peter Schwartzman

The words on the cover are polyorths (variant spellings of the same word), a term coined by Amit Chakrabarti. See http://www.cs.princeton.edu/~amitc/Scrab/polyorth.html

Peter Schwartzman, a SCRABBLE® competitor since the mid-1990s and an environmental scientist/educator known online as Dr. Earth, published his first puzzle book, Word Nerd Workbook #1, in 2006. Since then he has published three other puzzle books: Word Nerd Workbook #2, Word Nerd Puzzler #1, and this latest book, Word Nerd Puzzler #2.

These books are all terrific for challenging the minds of SCRABBLE® players and other word aficionados. I’ve used the easier puzzles for warm-up exercises for my School SCRABBLE® students, and I use the harder puzzles to test my own skills. Word Nerd Puzzler #2, similar to Word Nerd Puzzler #1, contains 60 puzzles including anagrams, scrambles, fronts/ prefixes, ends/suffixes, hooks, word chains, phonies, categories, and more.

These puzzles really make you think. I particularly enjoyed Puzzles #8, 28, and 42, which list various groups of legitimate words, only one of which takes an –S back hook. I also liked Puzzles #6 and 27, “Add a Blank,” where you are given legitimate words that can become a new word by adding one letter. These puzzles teach words that could be very useful in a SCRABBLE® game.

Other puzzles, such as the word chains, where a word must be converted to another in a specific sequence, seemed of more interest to the general word buff. (For example, MYTH to HOPE in 4 steps is MYTH to MOTH; MOTH to MOTE; MOTE to MOPE; and MOPE to HOPE.) I felt the same was true with the category puzzles, where you are asked to circle the one word that does not fit in a group. Like many SCRABBLE® players, I don’t always know the meanings of the words I play. Perhaps I would do better if I did!

But this is not really a criticism; these more general puzzles actually give the book a broader scope of readers, making it a perfect present for word lovers. I appreciated that the truly tough puzzles are labeled as such, and my only wish is that puzzles using words that are not in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 4th Edition could be specially labeled so they could be avoided by School SCRABBLE® teachers (all words are listed in the Official Tournament and Club Word List, 2nd Edition).

Word Nerd Puzzler #2 by Peter Schwartzman (6 x 9 paperback, 64 pp., $12; CD: $7; book and CD $16 (shipping and handling extra); discounts for multiple copies.

To order this or any other of the “Word Nerd” books, contact Peter Schwartzman at wordnerdauthor@gmail.com. NOTE: Peter donates 80% of all profits from these books to literacy and environmental charities. He also donates copies of books to the prize fund at tournaments where he plays.

Additional information on Peter Schwartzman’s books is available online: onehuman.org
Sample Puzzle from Word Nerd Puzzler #2 (ANSWERS ON NEXT PAGE):

Puzzle #14—Front Hooks

FIND THE FRONT HOOKS TO ALL THESE WORDS.
All the words below have at least one letter that can be added to their front to make a new word. The number of such letters is provided in parentheses, if more than one exists.

6-letter words
#1: _ENABLE
#2: _LANKER (2)
#3: _ICKIER (3)
#4: _COTYPE
#5: _MIKRON
#6: _HODDEN
#7: _RUFFES
#8: _ARCING

7-letter words
#9: _OSTMARK
#10: _EDITION
#11: _UNDRESS
#12: _ENDWAYS
#13: _HIPLIKE
#14: _OROLOGY
#15: _LUNCHED
#16: _LABELLA (2)

8-letter words
#17: _RAILHEAD
#18: _HELLFIRE
#19: _HOLISTIC
#20: _ENCHANTS
#21: _LOWLANDS
#22: _SKEWNESS
#23: _OENOLOGY
#24: _ITCHINGS
ANSWERS:

6-letter words
#1: TENABLE
#2: FLANKER, BLANKER
#3: PICKIER, KICKIER, DICKIER
#4: ECOTYPE
#5: OMIKRON
#6: SHODDEN
#7: TRUFFES
#8: FARCING

7-letter words
#9: POSTMARK
#10: SEDITION
#11: SUNDRESS
#12: BENDWAYS
#13: WHIPLIKE
#14: HOROLOGY
#15: GLUNCHED
#16: FLABELLA, GLABELLA

8-letter words
#17: TRAILHEAD
#18: SHELLFIRE
#19: WHOLISTIC
#20: PENCANTS
#21: PLOWLANDS
#22: ASKEWNESS
#23: POENOLOGY
#24: WITCHINGS

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The Wordsmith
“Found in Translation”
by Chris Sinacola

The turkey is tucked away. The SCRABBLE® board comes out. You balance your rack and slap down PTERINS. And what thanks do you get from Uncle Milton? “That’s not a word!” he exclaims. Some dictionary is consulted. Grumbles are heard.

Where the worlds of competitive and “living room” SCRABBLE® collide, complaints are common. Those not among the illuminati may be impressed at first, but sometimes grow annoyed. Our words are not their words. Their words are not our words. They shake their heads and walk away, figuring that they can at least deprive us of the last slice of lemon meringue pie while we’re busy insisting on ZA.

There is some truth to the claim that there are “SCRABBLE®” words and “regular” words, but I think the depth of the divide is exaggerated. All words are grounded in someone’s culture and society, after all. Very few words are simply made up. And even unusual words that you never expect to see beyond the SCRABBLE® board do show up in polite and vulgar society alike.

In short, it’s OK to use fancy and unusual words in public, provided you choose your spots carefully. Some perfectly lovely words, irrespective of their utility in SCRABBLE®, can be ruined by overexposure.

A few years ago, for example, it was all the rage for local governments to take a page from the École des Beaux Arts and call their summits and conferences *charettes*. The news media, which loves nothing so intensely and briefly as novelty, embraced this lovely French word *charette* with the same passion that Madame Bovary exhibited in embracing her lovers.

They embraced it, anyway, until the term had become so ubiquitous as to overshadow the business at hand, was transmogrified into a verb (“Can’t do lunch today, I am charetting!”), became the butt of jokes, and placed a few editors in a suicidal frame of mind.

In short, *charette* may have its place, but it’s in a quiet corner occupied mostly by urban planners. And it should never be deployed over a SCRABBLE® board, for it exhibits the dreaded pall of unacceptability.

Conversely, pick up most any work of fiction or nonfiction and you may be pleasantly surprised to find that the OSPD4 has no monopoly on unusual words.

I noticed a column in the *Boston Globe* recently that sang the praises of Nikolai Gogol’s fiction. I opened my aging copy of *The Overcoat and Other Tales* and found this paragraph from the story “Nevsky Avenue”:

“At this time Nevsky Avenue is deserted: the stout shopkeepers and their assistants are still asleep in their fine linen shirts, or are lathering their noble cheeks, or drinking coffee; beggars gather at the doors of the pastry-cooks’ shops where the sleepy Ganymede, who the day before flew about like a
fly with the cups of chocolate, crawls out with a besom in his hand, without a cravat, and flings some stale pasties and other leavings at them.”

That one paragraph contains at least four “SCRABBLE®” words: GANYMEDE, meaning a “youth who serves liquors,” is from the Trojan youth whose beauty earned him the role of cupbearer to the gods and the favorite of Zeus; BESOM is Scottish dialect for a broom; PASTIES is common enough, but easy to misread for the much more common PASTRIES, and what Scrabbler wouldn’t be thrilled to play PASTIES through an R? Finally, LEAVINGS is not a “SCRABBLE®” word per se, but raises the devilishly knotty problem of which –ING words take an S. Those with a talent for memorization might consider simply learning them all, but there are 736 –INGS of 9 letters or fewer. If you care to take it to the 15-letter limit, prepare for 1,235.

Getting back to Gogol, the David Magarshack translation I have differs from the 1998 translation referenced by the Globe columnist. That translation, by Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky, renders the paragraph above this way:

“At that time Nevsky Prospect is empty: the stout shop owners and their salesclerks are still asleep in their Holland nightshirts or are soaping their noble cheeks and drinking coffee; beggars gather near the pastry shops, where a sleepy Ganymede, who yesterday was flying about with chocolate like a fly, crawls out, tieless, broom in hand, and tosses them stale cakes and leftovers.”

We’ve lost the besom for a broom, and shed the French cravat for a simple tie (or lack thereof). But rather than wearing mere “fine linen,” shop owners and salesclerks now sleep in Holland nightshirts.

Those of you intent on scaling the SCRABBLE® heights in a hurry will find this method of word study pretty slow, but it has its compensations. For one thing, if your Uncle Milton or other favorite relative happens to like Russian literature, it might just give you something to do at family gatherings other than play SCRABBLE®. I know, perish the thought.

Chris Sinacola is co-director of the Worcester MA SCRABBLE® Club #600.
There’s no place like home
by Judy Robbins-Rosenberger
Our club, the White Plains NY SCRABBLE® Club #656, was started about two and a half years ago when three of us SCRABBLE® junkies got tired of traveling over an hour to a SCRABBLE® club out of state. When we got there, we often found only one or two other players, so we decided to strike out on our own. We now play in White Plains, New York and attract players from all over Westchester County.

As with any club, our first dilemma was where to meet. We decided to buck the trend and meet in my home. There’s no rent, it’s centrally located, and it obviously has a relaxed atmosphere without all the distractions of being in a restaurant or bookstore. Besides, the smell of fresh-baked brownies greets players when they enter. We may not be the largest club around, but we have a good, solid base and some great competition. Several of our regulars have improved their ratings by several hundred points.

And since we play in the living room, if you’re called a great “living room player,” it takes on a whole new meaning.

White Plains NY Club #656 meets on Sundays from 5:45-9:30 p.m. at 15 Oakley Road, White Plains. Please call 914-288-8087 to confirm before attending. NOTE: There are no meetings during July and August. Contact co-directors Judy Robbins-Rosenberger, 914-288-8087, judyjudy10606@aol.com or Nancy Druskin, 914-693-9464.

One for the books
Metairie LA Club #541 members Lindsay Crotty and James Bahra celebrated their first wedding anniversary Aug. 16, continuing the happy, if improbable, saga of two people who met playing SCRABBLE® online. According to Club 541 Director Lila Crotty, James eventually moved from England after Katrina hit the Crotty home in New Orleans. Never folks to miss a game, he and the two Crottys played in the 2005 Bayou Bash during they time they were evacuated to Houston! James’ SCRABBLE®-themed proposal was featured in SCRABBLE® News in 2007, and he and Lindsay married in 2008.

Congratulations on the milestone, and best wishes for many more in the years ahead.

Metairie Club #541 meets Wednesdays at 6:30 at IHOP, 3400 S. 1-10 Service Rd. Contact Lila Crotty, 504-335-1616, liliuokalani_g@yahoo.com; Helen Joffe, 985-690-6188, joffegirls@aol.com; or Mareck Contractor, 504-885-7323, mfcontractor@bellsouth.net.

N.J. club gets ‘Patch’ of publicity
Millburn NJ Club #411 was in the spotlight in August in Patch.com. A feature article, written and photographed by Jennifer Connic, described a typical night at the club, with comments from Director Don Carson and members Bill Barnes, Teri Peppe, and Seth Mandel. The article and photos can be accessed at http://maplewood.patch.com.

Millburn Club #411 meets Mondays at 6:45 p.m. at the Millburn Library, 2nd floor, 200 Glen Ave., 973-376-1006, (or at a different site if the library is closed for a holiday). Contact Seth Mandel, 973-420-7768,
dentalmesh@yahoo.com, or Glenn Filzer, 973-898-1963. The club's website is http://millburnscrabble.googlepages.com.

Iowa writer hopes he's got game
The Greater Des Moines IA Club #658 got a plug in August from Dan Heck (danielheck@rocketmail.com) who describes himself as a 31-year-old inventor of card and board games. He says he plays dozens of games, not only the classics, but also "several obscure gems." His focus, he says, is to get others back in touch with the dying art of person-to-person friendly competition, as opposed to vegging out with video games all day.

Writing on the website examiner.com, where he is listed as a Des Moines gaming industry examiner, Heck gives some basic information about the club and invites readers to stay tuned to a future report on how his first club experience will go!

The Greater Des Moines Club #658 meets on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at Grounds for Celebration, 2645 Beaver Ave., and on Sundays at noon at Amici's 206-6th Ave. Contact Pat Boddy, 515-323-5355 (Patriciaboddy@gmail.com) or Dave Hurd 515-255-3986, (gdavidhurd@netins.net).

Records melt in July at Bowie club
Scores were sizzling in July at the Bowie MD SCRABBLE® Club #501, and two old records fell victim to the hot play, according to Director Linda Stephanides.

On July 20, Pat Gaboury of Crofton, MD, broke her own 2003 high-game club record of 609 when with a 610 effort that included five bingos. A week later, on July 27, the high-loss mark of 463, set in 2005 by Barbara Lowrey (who lost to Bob Kilpatrick's 498), also fell when Ted Mast of Bladensburg, MD, tallied 470 in a more-than-game, if losing, effort against Pat Brown, who scored 475.

Bowie Club #501 meets Mondays at 7 p.m. at Summerville At The Woodward Estate, 14977 Health Center, Bowie. Contact Linda Stephanides, 301-390-6751, lstephan@juno.com.

Too much fun and games?
John Robertson, director of Club #471 in Cambridge, Ontario, sends the following slice of life for those of us who can never get enough games in at club:

"When our club first began in 1996, we put notices in the local newspapers about our club forming. We received an enthusiastic telephone call from a woman who said that she and her husband would love to attend. At our next session, they both attended. They weren't great players, but they weren't terrible, either. When they didn't show up for either of the next two sessions I called the wife to inquire if they planned on returning. There was a long silence. Then she said no. I asked her what had put her husband and her off. She replied, 'All you did was play SCRABBLE®. We had the same problem when we joined a euchre club. All they did was play euchre. We stopped going to that club too!'"

Cambridge Club #471, the Golden Triangle SCRABBLE® Club, meets Fridays at 7:15 p.m. at Riverbend Place, Lower Level Rec Hall, 650 Coronation Blvd. Contact John Robertson, 519-621-6432, jgrobertson@sympatico.ca.

Club 350 congratulates David Pearl
By finishing 42nd in Division 1 in Dayton, David turned in the best record of Southern California players in that killer section. In Round 2, despite not having either blank, he gave world champion and defending NSA champ Nigel Richards a real challenge, being edged out 398-375. David, the five-time Club 350 champion, ended up with a solid 16.5 wins +255.
Costa Mesa/El Toro/Aliso Viejo CA Club #350 meets
Wednesdays at 6:00 at Arby's, 23862 Bridger Rd., El Toro;
Thursdays at 4:55 at Borders Bookstore, South Coast Plaza,
3333 Bear St., Costa Mesa, and
Sunday (except the first) from 12:30-4:00 p.m. April-October,
at the Neighborhood Cup, 1 Journey, Aliso Viejo, and from
12:30-4:00 p.m. November-March at Arby's, 23862 Bridger
Rd., El Toro. There is a tournament the first Sunday of
each month at Clubhouse #5, Laguna Woods Village, 24262
Punta Alta, Laguna Woods. For details, go to the club website:
web.mac.com. Contact Gary Moss 949-510-1673,
jfsoi@aol.com.
Word Trivia Quiz

by Siri Tillekeratne

All words are found in OSPD4/TWL2.

1. Which five-letter word is the name of a flower, and can be spelled backwards to spell the name of another flower?
2. What is the only seven-letter word that is its own alphagram (i.e., its seven letters are in alphabetical order)?
3. What is the only word ending in "-IH"?
4. What is the only word ending in "-NGG"?
5. What is the only word ending in "-GD" and "GDE"?

ANSWERS ON THE NEXT PAGE
Answers

1. LOTOS and SOTOL
2. BILLOWY
3. SHANTIH (also spelled SHANTI)
4. MAHJONGG (also spelled MAHJONG)
5. SMARAGD (also spelled SMARAGDE)

Siri Tillekeratne is a director of the Calgary SCRABBLE® Club #374 and a former Director of the Year.
Historic Moments: SCRABBLE® Throughout the Years
Some Spectacular Challenge Misrulings

by Stu Goldman

Recent articles on errors by challenge judges jogged my memory about three incidents that can make us doubly thankful for computer lookups. The first is a quote from my "Confessions of a Compulsive Tile Pusher." The tournament was in the early '70s and my opponent was Jim Guillot, who has played little competitively since the mid-'80s. The director was not a player, and the challenge judge was a high school student.

"[That] may have been the first time a second opinion was asked for... It was certainly the rudest. I had bingoed out with GOATEES, hooking the S to pluralize MA. Realizing that the penalty of losing a turn could not apply if the game was over, even if the words were good, Jim challenged both of them.

"Knowing from experience that they were allowable, I waited confidently for the ruling and victory. Imagine my consternation when the challenge slip...was returned marked 'Not acceptable!"

"I jumped out of my chair, saying, 'I want to see that dictionary!' The tournament director came over immediately to explain that I could not examine the dictionary during a tournament. But she took the challenge slip to look up the words herself.

"This time justice was done. The words were ruled allowable, and I won the challenge and the game. The first judge had not recognized that MAS was a plural."

Rarely is a phony ruled acceptable. Yet that is what two challenge judges did for a play challenged by Jeff Widergren in an early '90s tournament. On the board was ANENOME.

Probably the most significant ruling booboo in terms of result was in the third World SCRABBLE® Championship, held in London in 1995. Challenge slips were carried by runners to a central location where the officials stayed. Robin Pollock Daniel (perhaps only Pollock then) challenged Joe Edley's RADDING. When it was ruled unacceptable, Joe asked for a second opinion. The same judge received the slip and thought it came from a different table, and naturally ruled it unacceptable again. When he heard of this mix-up, the late Graeme Thomas, who was in charge, decided to handle all second opinions himself. But it was too late for Joe, who finished fifth, and may have been kept out of the top four who played for the big money by the misruling.

An interesting postscript to this was that about the same time Jeff Widergren played RADDING against former World Champion Mark Nyman in the 1995 Superstars, and it was disallowed by one challenge judge, but OK'd by the judge who took the second opinion. Not all challenge judges are fooled by words that are not main OSPD entries.

Stu Goldman lives in California and has been playing tournament SCRABBLE® for 36 years.
SCRABBLE Resources

There are many study tools to help tournament SCRABBLE® players hone their skills, including a number of programs that can be downloaded for free. This section will offer suggestions and links, plus feature each month a different SCRABBLE® resource. This month’s focus will be on going to a SCRABBLE® club. Readers are welcome to suggest additions to this section.

Going to Club

Despite the increasing interest in Internet play and analysis, most successful SCRABBLE® players will tell you there is no good substitute to live practice. NASPA has a roster of sanctioned clubs on their wiki, and you can access the list to find a club in your area by going to www.scrabbleplayers.org.

Here are a few suggestions before going for the first time to a SCRABBLE® club:

1. Call ahead. Most clubs have specific starting times, and at many there is a charge to play. Others are quite casual and may cancel if enough members are out of town. You also might want to check directions so you don’t arrive too late or early.

2. Bring equipment—including score sheets. Although it is likely there will be enough boards, timers, racks, and tiles at the club, you can’t be sure. Because many players like to use a particular type of score sheet, these are often not supplied.

3. Follow the director’s instructions. Some clubs run their meetings almost like a tournament, with players matched by the director. Others are more casual.

4. Offer to help out. The director may need assistance setting up tables, etc.—and putting them away at the end of the evening. Being helpful by volunteering will make you quickly feel like a part of the group.

5. Thank the director before leaving. Running a SCRABBLE® club is a lot of work. Even if you find the club is not for you, show your appreciation to the director before leaving.

Have fun—and don’t be discouraged if you don’t do as well as you’d expected on your first visit. SCRABBLE® success takes practice, and the more you can practice at a club, the faster you will improve!

NOTE: If there isn’t a SCRABBLE® club in your area, consider starting one!

OTHER SCRABBLE® RESOURCE LINKS

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.

Free Anagramming and Practice Tools

JUMBLETIME
A web site for practicing anagramming skills.

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

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

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

SCRABBLE® DICTIONARY
Type a word to check for acceptability.

Online SCRABBLE® Discussion Groups

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

OSPD (ospd-scrabble@yahoogroups.com)
This group, dedicated to players using The Official SCRABBLE® Players’ Dictionary, offers light-hearted humor, daily word lists, and more. Admission is to all SCRABBLE® lovers. Details can be found in the NASPA Tournament SCRABBLE® Newsletter #1.

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. Help feed hungry people as you expand your vocabulary!
Passages
Each month we will be including information about SCRABBLE® players (births, deaths, marriages, etc.) Please send your news to CorneliaSGuest@gmail.com.

ARNIE WEISBURG
by Christine Economos

The SCRABBLE® players of Washington Square Park and Club 54 Manhattan mourn the passing of our dear friend and competitor, Arnold Weisburg on September 6th at the age of 73.

Arnie was a regular player at Washington Square and was largely responsible for it becoming an internationally known SCRABBLE® venue. Arnie told Stefan Fatsis, author of Word Freak, how it happened. In 1985 Arnie, a retired salesman, arrived at the chess area in Washington Square Park. Under his arm was his travel SCRABBLE® set. The problem was there was no one to play with. Eventually he was able to find an opponent---Jerome, a homeless man and convicted murderer who had been released from jail on a technicality. That was the beginning.

One by one others wanted to play and eventually Arnie was heading to the park on a daily basis. But SCRABBLE®’s birth in the park was not without its problems. A sign in the chess area read: This area reserved for chess and checkers. The parks’ commissioner had changed the ruling to “board games” after chess players had attempted to drive backgammon players from the park. But no one had changed the sign. So one day an overzealous rookie cop ticketed Arnie for playing an unauthorized game at a table reserved for chess and checkers.

Arnie showed up the hearing and pleaded not guilty “In the interest of justice,” he told the judge, “I ask for a dismissal.”

When the judge learned the summons had been issued for playing SCRABBLE® he laughed…and then dismissed the case. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Arnie will be remembered for his love of the game and for his cunning at getting outrageous phonies by his opponents. Joe Simpson, an old friend, remembered Arnie extending BINGO to NONBINGOES. Even though he was a new player, Joe successfully challenged it off. “Arnie made the best coffee,” Joe recounted, “And he’d get people to come to his apartment to play by offering coffee and lots of good snacks.”

Every SCRABBLE® player remembers his or her best play ever. Arnie once told me his. The word FACT was on the board at 1D. Through it Arnie played MANUFACTORY for a triple-triple and 239 points. “That’s what they used to call them, you know,” he said.

A memorial service will be held for Arnie at the Senior Center on Washington Square North on a date to be decided.
Cecile Betts, an inspiration to many both within and beyond the SCRABBLE® community, died Oct. 10 of lung cancer in Laguna Niguel, Calif. She was 91.

Cecile was born Nov. 4, 1917, in New York City, the ninth child of Harris and Minnie Goldstein. After her mother died in a stove explosion when Cecile was 2, her older sisters became her surrogate mothers, and the family moved to New Jersey. When she was 10, Cecile contracted rheumatic fever and spent the next two years in a convalescent hospital, using the time to read voraciously. When she returned to school, she was skipped two grades and able to rejoin her age group. In 1936 she graduated from high school in the top 10 percent of her class and then attended New Jersey College for Women for two years.

In 1942 Cecile married Vincent Steers and soon relocated to the Seattle area. Two years later, they moved with two small children to the rugged setting of pre-statehood Alaska. Gone were indoor plumbing, electricity, reliable transportation, telephone, and nearby neighbors. Instead she learned to pump well water with a hand pump, cook on a wood-burning stove, use kerosene lanterns, and rely on messages transmitted on Mukluk Radio instead of phone service.

Divorced in 1953, she married Jack Betts in 1959, and together they operated King Mt. Lodge in Palmer, Alaska, for many years. Army troops participating in winter maneuvers used the lodge as their official rest stop, and some stayed throughout the length of maneuvers for maintenance and support. The lodge was well-known for its wild game barbecues twice a year, which often drew crowds of more than 1,000.

Cecile’s many occupations included: swimming instructor, governess, clerk typist, keypunch operator, PTA president, medical transcriber, poet, author, community activist, co-owner and operator of King Mt. Lodge, SCRABBLE® teacher for Braille students, and motivational speaker.

In her later years Cecile became legally blind from macular degeneration, which was difficult for her to accept because she could no longer read. However, she still lived independently until going into
hospice care in June. She continued to play in SCRABBLE® tournaments, and she taught weekly SCRABBLE® classes to the blind and visually impaired at the Braille Institute in Anaheim. She also organized and accompanied tours to Alaska for friends, three of whom were blind, and she wrote and published two books: "Reluctant Pioneer" (the story of her 46 years in Alaska) and "Random Thoughts While Contemplating My Navel in a Hot Tub."

Cecile's "can-do" attitude probably was always there, but it certainly was honed to perfection in Alaska. She had few employable skills when she found herself divorced with two small children and unreliable child support. But, she did what had to be done. She worked full time during the day and attended stenotype school at night to get a better paying job. Even after getting a better-paying job, there were times she worked three jobs to provide not only for basic housing needs, but also for dancing lessons, swim club membership, camp, bicycles (which she put together) and weekends at the Index Lake cabin.

In the 1980's, when her husband, Jack, needed custodial care for Alzheimer's, she fought bureaucrats until she got what she wanted -- proper care, not the "one size fits all dementia" then being applied as a diagnosis for Alzheimer's patients.

Most recently, during her residence in Laguna Woods Village, where she was a member of the Laguna Woods SCRABBLE Club #85, she lobbied to have the proper concrete cuts for the handicapped at all the intersections.

She loved a good joke, clean or raunchy; she just loved to laugh. Blindness resulted in a few jokes on herself, which she shared. There was the time she brushed her teeth with Desitin, or sprayed air freshener on her hair. She was precise beyond belief. If you asked her what time it was, she would say 4:44, not 4:45 or quarter to five. Her son-in-law, Sherman, once asked her to get him on a flight to San Francisco but not leaving before 3 pm. He needed to join a business function in the Bay Area but had local commitments. She booked him on a 5 pm flight out of Ontario which made him late for the event in San Francisco. There was a flight leaving at 2:59, but...that's before 3!

When asked how she came to grips with blindness, she said, "The first thing you do when you are told you are blind is to cry, and that's what I did. However, I had been a Braille volunteer for many years prior to losing my sight. I was fortunate to have had great examples of other blind people, much older than I, leading independent, productive lives and adapting to their blindness. I figured I could sit home and cry or I could stop crying and live. I chose to stop crying and live."

Cecile was predeceased by her husband in 1993. Survivors include her son, Donald Steers of Santa Rosa, Calif; and her daughter, Martee Shabsin of Laguna Niguel, Calif.

Donations in Cecile's name may be made to the Braille Institute, 527 N. Dale AveAnaheim, CA 92801-4899. Visit Cecile's memorial website: [www.mem.com](http://www.mem.com) Pacific View Mortuary.
MICHAEL KAVLESKI

Mike Kavleski of South Fallsburg, NY, died of cancer on August 15. He was 65.

Mike was retired from the Woodburne Correctional Facility where he was a math teacher for many years. Formerly, Mike was an art and antiques dealer with eclectic tastes. He was knowledgeable with fine art, applied art, interior design, architecture, antiques, and collectibles. He spent many years doing volunteer work for the Amos Eno Gallery in New York City. With his wife, Charlene, as treasurer, he helped the gallery achieve a not-for-profit status. He was a gallery and museum goer who enjoyed both the fine and popular arts.

Mike was reared on a dairy farm in Ferndale, NY, where he developed a love of nature. He spent most of his life surrounded by wooded areas, wild and cultivated plants, and domesticated and wild animals, which he nurtured. Mike loved all animals, particularly his beloved cats. He and Charlene had 10-15 pet felines at one time. Strays seemed to find their home--and they all received plenty of T.L.C.

A lover of SCRABBLE®, Mike played in national, regional, and local tournaments, achieving a high rating of 1671 in 1994 after winning Division 1 at the Hackensack NJ May tournament. He played mainly in local day tournaments, starting with Selig Wasner’s Teaneck games in the 80’s and going to some of Ginger White’s Bayside tournaments and several recent North Salem tournaments.

His weekly games were with friends with whom he had been part of the same SCRABBLE® club for over 25 years. No matter how stormy the weather, he faithfully trekked down from the Catskills to play SCRABBLE® in Middletown. He was an excellent player, and a gracious person.

One of his friends, Kathy Hooper, shares this memory: “Mike was a very quiet and gentle man, I can never remember a time he raised his voice, either in frustration or glee. However, he had one habit that was a sure sign of a great rack. He would audibly sigh, say, ‘I don’t know what to do here,’ and then throw down a bingo. You knew it was coming.”

He was a loving husband for 45 years of the artist Charleen Hayes Kavleski. He is survived by a brother, Andrew, his niece, Annamarie Doolittle, and many cousins and grandnephews. He was predeceased by his mother, Mary Waryha Kavleski, his father, John Kavleski, and a sister, Barbara Bennett.

Mike was a true gentleman--a quiet, intelligent man with a wry sense of humor. He was kind to everyone. He is sorely missed by his many SCRABBLE® friends.

Memorial donations in Mike’s name may be made to Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties, 800 Stony Brook Ct., Newburgh, NY 12550 or to the Sullivan County SPCA, 25 Rock Hill Dr., Rock Hill, NY 12775.