



**UNITED  
STATES  
TABLE  
TENNIS  
HALL  
OF  
FAME**

**SECOND ANNUAL  
AWARDS INDUCTION BANQUET**

**SUNDAY**

**DECEMBER 14, 1980**

Dinner 7:30 p.m. • Cash Bar 6:30 p.m.  
\$16.50 per person • Reservations please

**CAESARS PALACE**

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

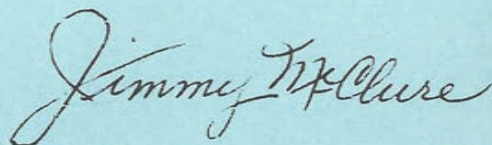
CONVENTION CENTER - NERO'S ROOM

## WELCOME!

Thank you for attending the second annual United States Table Tennis Hall of Fame Induction Banquet.

Tonight we recognize and honor players, officials and contributors who have distinguished themselves by their outstanding play or contribution to the sport of Table Tennis in the United States.

The Board of Directors of the U.S.T.T.A. Hall of Fame wish to express their sincere appreciation to Caesars Palace and the Advertisers whose kind and generous co-operation have made this U.S.T.T.A. Hall of Fame Induction Banquet a reality.



Jimmy McClure  
President  
Board of Directors  
U.S.T.T.A. Hall of Fame

This Souvenir Program is made available to you as compliments of the advertisers in the program and the Hall of Fame Board.

## UNITED STATES TABLE TENNIS

# HALL OF FAME

ESTABLISHED FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 1979

*... "to honor and recognize table tennis members and contributors who have distinguished themselves through their participation or contribution to the sport of table tennis in the United States."*

Compiled from records, minutes, correspondence, periodicals and news releases by ...

Bill Haid, Leah "Ping" Neuberger and Jimmy McClure

## PROGRAM

Invocation .....	Del Sweeris
Dinner .....	7:30 pm
Awards Program .....	8:30 pm
Toastmaster .....	Neil Smyth
Master of Ceremonies .....	Jimmy McClure
Guest Appearance .....	Pancho Gonzales

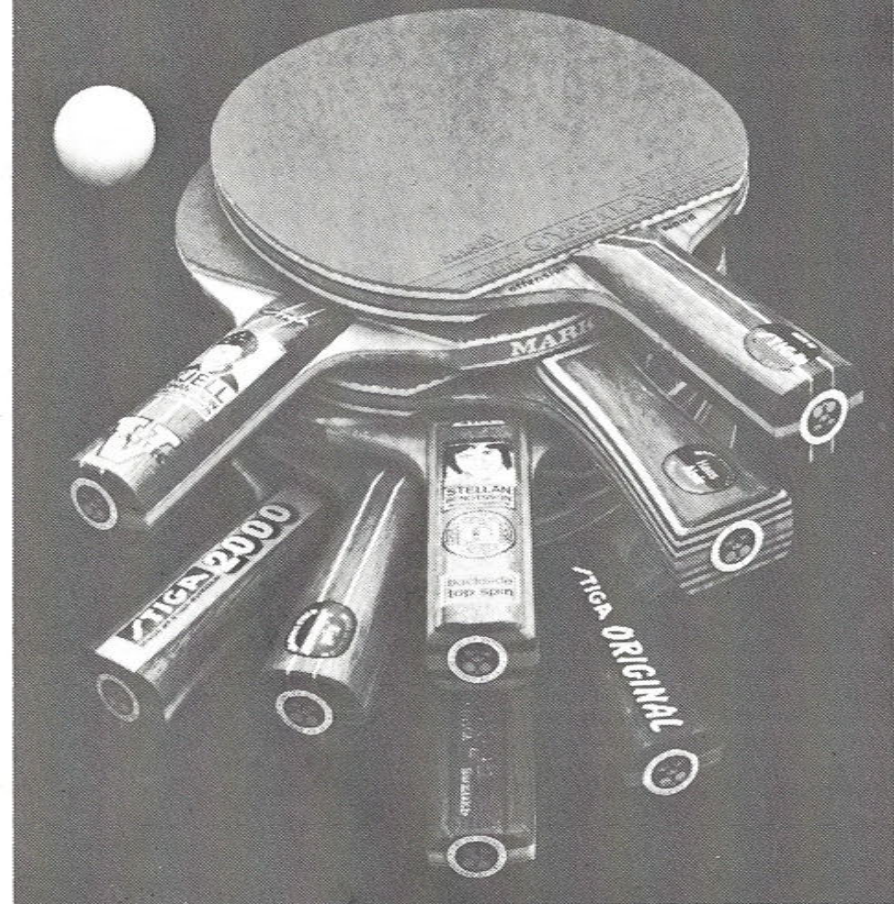
### 1980 Inductees

Players .....	Laszlo Bellak Peggy Mclean Folke William C. Holzrichter Mildred Shahian Thelma "Tybie" Sommer
Officials .....	William Gunn George Shein
Contributors .....	William R. Price John Varga

## MENU

COLD:	Assorted Relishes
	Sliced Beefsteak Tomatoes
	Tossed Chef's Salad/Dressing
	Compote of Fresh Fruit
	Cold Cut Plate (Ham • Turkey • Roast Beef)
	Cole Slaw      Potato Salad
	Assorted Cheese Board with Fresh Fruit
HOT:	Chicken Saute Chasseur
	Seafood Newberg
	Philadelphia Pepper Steak
DESSERT:	Christmas Dessert
	Mousse
	Rolls and Butter Coffee • Tea • Milk

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## 1966 and 1979 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

On December 16, 1979 the United States Table Tennis Hall of Fame inducted those shown and listed below in honor of their contributions to Table Tennis in the United States.



(left to right) Dave Phillips, (accepting award for General Sportcraft Co., Ltd.), Sol Schiff, Ruth Hughes Aarons, Sally Green Prouty, Elmer F. Cinnater, Dolores Probert Kuenz, Robert "Bud" Blattner, Marcus (Schusheim) Matthews, Lou Pagliaro, Robert Nissly, Pres. The Detroit Co., Jimmy McClure, Neil Smyth, Sr. Vice President Caesars Palace (Toastmaster of the Banquet)

Unable to attend: Dick Miles, Leah Neuberger, Abe Berenbaum

Deceased: Emily Fuller, Jessie "Jay" Purves, Coleman Clark

### 1966 Original Inductees

Ruth Hughes Aarons  
Jimmy McClure

Sol Schiff

Dick Miles  
Leah Neuberger

### 1979 Inductees

Players . . . Abe Berenbaum  
Robert "Bud" Blattner  
Emily Fuller  
Dolores Probert Kuenz  
Lou Pagliaro  
Sally Green Prouty  
Jessie "Jay" Purves  
Marcus (Schusheim) Matthews

Officials . . . . . Elmer F. Cinnater  
Coleman Clark

Contributors . . . Detroit  
General Sportcraft  
Co., Ltd.

## UNITED STATES TABLE TENNIS HALL OF FAME ORGANIZATION

Steve Isaacson, a member of the USTTA for many years and associated with "Tennis Magazine", worked diligently to start a Hall of Fame for table tennis in 1966. At a tennis banquet, five table tennis players were inducted into the newly formed United States Table Tennis Hall of Fame. These five were selected from seven names submitted for election. Those inducted on March 26, 1966 were, Dick Miles, Sol Schiff, Jimmy McClure, Ruth Aarons and Leah Neuberger. After this initial induction, the Hall of Fame was not continued.

Bill Haid, Executive Director for the USTTA took action at the winter E.C. meeting at Caesars Palace on December 21, 1978 and through much discussion, received the approval of the E.C. to re-establish the Hall of Fame but with little expenses to be incurred by the USTTA.

Prior to the 1979 summer meeting held in New York, Bill researched and then wrote up by-laws and a constitution and selected eight USTTA members to serve on the Board of Directors. These eight were notified of a special meeting to be held, Friday, June 29, at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum in NY where the U.S. Open was in progress. At this meeting, officers were elected, each element of the by-laws and constitution was discussed and rewritten and committee chairmen were selected. A charter for the organization will be recorded in the state of Illinois, the home state of John Read, our Treasurer. We developed a series of qualifications for each of three categories: player, contributor, and officials. The Hall of Fame officers and members elected were:

## USTTA HALL OF FAME BOARD MEMBERS

President . . . . . Jimmy McClure  
*Indianapolis, Indiana*

Vice President . . . . . William R. Haid  
*Colorado Springs, Colorado*

Treasurer . . . . . John Read  
*Bloomington, Illinois*

Secretary . . . . . Steve Isaacson  
*Chicago, Illinois*

Elmer F. Cinnater  
*Los Angeles, California*

Leah "Ping" Neuberger  
*New York, New York*

Tim Boggan  
*Merrick, New York*

Sol Schiff  
*New York, New York*

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## 1980 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

For their contribution to the sport of table tennis, the Board of Directors of this now established Hall of Fame, is proud to induct this new group of five players, two officials, and two contributors at this second annual awards banquet.

### PLAYERS

#### LASZLO BELLAK

Miami, Florida

#### Enshrined - 1980

*Represented Hungary in 9 World Championships • 7 World Championship titles • member of Hungarian team that won Swaythling Cup 1928, 1930, 1931, 1934, 1935 and 1938 • 3 times runner-up in Men's Singles in World Championships 1928, 1930 and 1934 • 1938 World's Mixed Doubles Championship (Wendy Woodhead, England) • holder of 8 European titles • 19 U.S. National titles.*



Laszlo Bellak was born in Hungary. In the late 1920's, Laszlo trained with his childhood friend and the world famous Hungarian, Sandor Glanz. Many of his after school hours were spent at the "Ping Pong Salon" playing with some of the best in Hungary. Bellak toured the world with such great Table Tennis personalities as: Glanz, Kolar, Vana, Betz, Barna, Ruth Aarons, Pagliaro, Schiff, McClure and Blattner. Bellak became the most brilliant and versatile stroke artist in the game. World Champion and Hall of Famer, Ruth Aarons, wrote of Laszlo Bellak in 1937 . . . "He impressed me as the one player worthy of that extravagant word "genius". His game possesses a certain finesse and artistic touch, of which I have not yet seen the equal" . . . Bellak, in the midst of an important match, would not forget his sense of showmanship and humor.

#### "PEG" MARGARET McLEAN FOLKE

Westport, Connecticut

#### Enshrined - 1980

*Represented U.S. in 1949 World Championships • Winner 1949 Corbillon Cup • 1949 World Women's Singles Consolation Champion • 2 English Open titles • 4 U.S. National titles • 5 Canadian titles • 8 Eastern Open Championship titles.*



"Peg" McLean Folke was born in Hollis, Long Island, New York. She is the oldest of four children. As a child, Peg was a weakling and on the advice of her doctor to exercise, her father coaxed her interest in playing Table Tennis on his home-made table. Her first official coach, while Peg was a teenager, was Dave Balch. Later, under the direction of coaches Lawrence, Pagliaro, Bellak, Dattel and Schiff, her game matured to a forceful offensive which brought her world wide acclaim. She met her husband, Elis Folke, while on the USA Team in Sweden in 1949, at the World Championships. He was covering the matches for the Christian Science Monitor. They were married in the USA but moved to Kungsholmen, a district of Stockholm. Three years ago, on November 27, her husband died. Peg is a retired primary school teacher of 20 years.

## 1980 HALL OF FAME Players - Continued

**WILLIAM C. HOLZRICHTER** *Elburn, Illinois*



**Enshrined - 1980**

*Represented U.S. in 1947 World Championships • Represented U.S. on Team that toured Japan in 1941 • 6 U.S. National titles • 7 U.S. Central States Open titles • 6 U.S. Western Open titles.*

Billy Holzrichter, probably one of the best all around players of the younger group in the early 1930's, used his short, stocky build to develop a game of power that became his trademark. Billy was one of the first players to stay close to the table and drive and counter-drive from both backhand and forehand sides. He had amazing mobility for his size. He never seemed to move but was always in position. He hit equally well from both sides and because of this was an excellent doubles player. His concentration and spirit to win pulled Bill through many matches in which he was the underdog. Who said they never come back? Bill Holzrichter was ranked No. 1 in the U.S. in 1938. Seven years later, age, experience and determination brought the No. 1 title back to Bill again, and now in 1980 he has earned a position of honor in the Hall of Fame.

**MILDRED SHAHIAN** *Park Ridge, Illinois*



**Enshrined - 1980**

*Represented U.S. in 3 World Championships • Selected for U.S. World Team 3 other years • Winner, Corbillon Cup 1949 • 10 U.S. National titles • 1 English Open title 1950 • 5 Canadian Open Championship titles • 7 U.S. Central States Open titles • 1 U.S. Eastern Open Championship • 8 U.S. Western Open titles.*

Mildred Shahian, originally from Boston, Massachusetts and later from St. Louis, Missouri, devoted the better part of her life to Table Tennis. While in Boston, Millie was known as the quiet but regular partner of Mae Clothier. She developed a close-to-the-table game which was almost impossible to penetrate. She followed up with a quick backhand or forehand drive. Millie was a member of the USA Women's Team which won the World's Team Championship. She moved to Chicago from Boston and for years has kept the Net and Paddle Club going with her time, money and effort. Her style of play has made her one of the finest Women's Doubles players of all time. Millie is known for her easy going, quiet unassuming manner -- when not at the table blasting shots past her opponents.

**THELMA JANE THALL SOMMER** *Scottsdale, Arizona*



**Enshrined - 1980**

*Represented U.S. in 2 World Championships • Selected for U.S. World Team in 1951 • Winner, World Mixed Doubles 1948 • Winner, Corbillon Cup 1949 • 3 U.S. National Championship titles • 2 English Open titles • 2 Canadian Open titles • 1 Ireland Open Championship title 1948 • 3 U.S. Central States Open titles • 2 Western Open titles.*

Thelma "Tybie" Sommer is a native of Columbus, Ohio. Acquiring the ability to talk very early in life, "Tybie" became a radio personality on the local station WSEN - at the age of four. At age 13 she became adept in football, baseball and tennis. "Tybie" progressed from state tennis championships to local table tennis championships and then to back-to-back World Mixed Doubles Championships in London in 1948 and Stockholm, Sweden in 1949. She had an all around game . . . a great defense and the ability to hit from either side on offence. "Tybie" Sommer uses her 35 years or more experience in Table

Tennis, tennis, athletics, psychology, debate and public speaking to develop a style of teaching she calls "Holistic" (the development of the whole person). "Tybie" is the younger sister of Hall of Famer, Leah "Ping" Neuberger. Both Leah and "Tybie" were honored in 1979 as they were inducted into the Columbus Ohio Jewish Center's first Hall of Fame on October 21, 1979.

## 1980 HALL OF FAME OFFICIALS

Recognition of USTTA members, other than tournament players, who have distinguished themselves by their contribution to the sport of table tennis in the USA, is through the category of "Officials."

**WILLIAM A. GUNN** *Highland Beach, Florida*

**Enshrined - 1980**



*Represented the USA as Captain of the Table Tennis Team that toured Japan in 1941 and 1956, to Austria in 1951, to Holland in 1955, to Sweden in 1958 and to Germany in 1959 • Captain of the 1956, 1957 USA Teams to the World Championships • Runner-up for the Jubilee Cup in 1956 World Championship • 9 National Championships.*

William Alexander Gunn, popularly known as "Bill Gunn", is a man who could excite your admiration in no small measure. Bill is a native of Mamaroneck, New York. He has played Table Tennis in twenty-five foreign countries, met the royalty of many nations, and met Minny Stieber in Holland - who became his royal wife. Bill was a member of the advisory and development committees of the ITTF. He promoted the game of Table Tennis for years in the Westchester County in New York. Bill served as USTTA Vice President on several occasions and gave freely of his time and money to promote the game of Table Tennis. He was an outstanding Senior player winning many National titles. He played close to the table and had a devastating backhand "flick" shot. Bill is still Chairman of the Board of Gunn Brothers Oil Company.

**GEORGE SCHEIN** *Bronx, New York*

**Enshrined - 1980**



*Represented the USA in the 1955 World's Championship at Utrecht, Netherlands as Captain of the United States Team.*

George Schein was one of the original officers in the USTTA. He was Vice President four times and he also held many offices in the New York TTA. George promoted the sport of Table Tennis for years and was instrumental in developing many of the leading players during his era. He was tournament chairman for many tournaments including the U.S. Nationals of 1941 and 1949. He retired in 1958 after devoting 25 years to Table Tennis. George was known as the very level-headed, quiet, perfect gentleman.

## 1980 HALL OF FAME CONTRIBUTORS

Players and officials alone do not make up the sport of table tennis. The directors of the Hall of Fame realize the importance of recognizing companies and individuals whose sponsorship and contributions are the foundation for building success. The Hall of Fame is proud to acknowledge two worthy such contributors to this cause.



**WILLIAM R. PRICE**

*St. Louis, Missouri*

**Enshrined - 1980**

*Represented U.S. as playing captain in 1948 World Championships • 1 U.S. National title 1952 • Represented U.S. to Canada 1947 • 15 U.S. Western Open titles.*

In those days of the Great Depression, Bill Price spent many long hours playing Table Tennis at the Northside YMCA in St. Louis, with such notables as Nash, Hendry and Tindall; however, even longer hours were spent coaching and playing with youngsters, many of whom became state and national champions. Twenty years ago Bill extended his coaching abilities to the tennis courts and is presently tennis pro at the Frontenac Country Club, in St. Louis. As a player, Bill Price, the tall blond, was probably the most graceful and stylish defensive wizard of all times. He made his mark in Table Tennis through his playing, coaching, exhibitions and as an official for many, many years. His contributions extended through 30 years of coaching, teaching and working with young boys and girls. Price held numerous offices in the USTTA and was editor of Topics in the late 1940's. For his service to the sport of Table Tennis he has earned this induction into the Hall of Fame.

**JOHN VARGA**

*South Bend, Indiana*

**Enshrined - 1980**

*Served on the USTTA Executive Committee for 9 years • 3 USA National titles • 2 Central Zone titles • 3 Western Zone titles.*

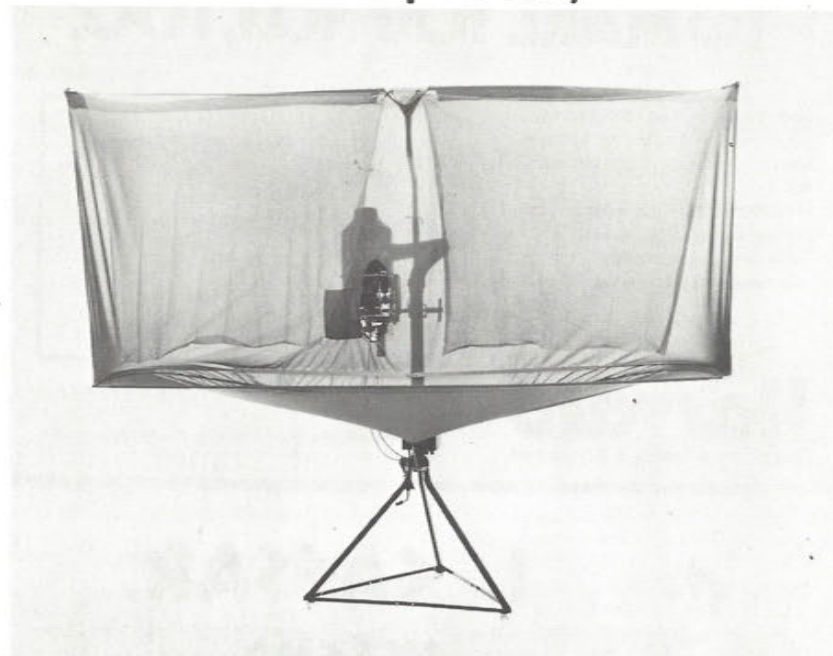
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Available

John Varga was born in Hungary and developed his Table Tennis skills in the company of Bellak, Glanz and Kolar. South Bend YMCA holds many fond memories, awards and warm feelings for John, who spent most of his lifetime teaching and coaching Table Tennis and building the characters of young boys and girls. He held a class for all age players every Saturday morning at the "Y", and developed and taught more National Champions than any other coach. John served on the USTTA Executive Committee until 1958 when, due to ill health, he resigned his post as Vice President. Varga's reputation as a gentleman, a warm responsible citizen and a strict but respected coach, led many people to feel fortunate just to say, "John Varga was my instructor". South Bend, the USTTA and the Hall of Fame are proud to recognize John Varga as a member of the Hall of Fame.

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**OUR PERSONAL CONGRATULATIONS  
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INDUCTEES FOR THIS HONOR  
THAT IS BEING BESTOWED ON YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPORT OF TABLE  
TENNIS.**

**CAESARS PALACE**  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

## THE IDEAL TABLE TENNIS PLAYER - A COMPOSITE

By Austin Finkenbinder

The following list contains the names of those U.S. table tennis players who (in my humble opinion), at the peak of their game, have/had the best individual strokes, footwork, strategy, etc.

I have a definite advantage over most of my contemporaries in that I have seen all the great U.S. players at one time or another for the last quarter of a century. Therefore, I have incorporated both "old-timers" and present-day champions in my search for the ideal table tennis player.

I thought this might be of interest to table tennis enthusiasts in other parts of the country. Perhaps others have a better list in mind.

Austin Finkenbinder  
Glendale, Calif.

### MEN

**BACKHAND CHOP** - Richard Miles, New York, N.Y.

**OFFENSIVE BACKHAND** (Spectacular) - Garrett Nash, ST. Louis, Mo.

**FOREHAND CHOP** - Lou Pagliaro, New York, N.Y.; George Hendry, St. Louis, Mo.

**FOREHAND DRIVE** (Consistent) - Richard Miles; Jimmy McClure, Indianapolis, Ind.

**FOREHAND DRIVE** (Spectacular) - Marty Reisman, New York, N.Y.

**COUNTERDRIVE** - Ralph Bast, Chicago, Ill.

**BLOCK SHOT** - Bernie Bukiet, New York, N.Y.; Herb (Chubby) Aronson, Chicago, Ill.

**FOOTWORK** - Bill Price, St. Louis, Mo.; Bobby Fields, Los Angeles, Calif.

**TENACITY** - John Somael, New York, N.Y.; Bill Holzrichter, Chicago, Ill.

**STRATEGIST** - Erwin Klein, Los Angeles, Calif.

**MOST IMPROVED PLAYER** - Del Sweeris, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Dave Forelich, Los Angeles, Calif.

**BEST SPORTSMAN** - Sol Schiff, New York, N.Y.; Bernie Bukiet, New York, N.Y.

**BEST ALL-AROUND GAME** - Erwin Klein, Lou Pagliaro.

**BEST CROWD PLEASER** - Marty Reisman; Erwin Klein; Lazslo Bellak, Miami, Fla.

### WOMEN

**BACKHAND CHOP** - Reba Kirson Monness, New York, N.Y.

**OFFENSIVE BACKHAND** (Consistent) - Sally Green Prouty, Chicago, Ill.; Mildred Shaihan, Chicago, Ill.

**OFFENSIVE BACKHAND** (Spectacular) - Susie Hoshi, Los Angeles, Calif.

**FOREHAND CHOP** - Ruth H. Aarons, Chicago, ILL.; Reba Kirson Monness.

**FOREHAND DRIVE** (Consistent) - Susie Hoshi; Sharon Acton, Los Angeles, CALIF.

**FOREHAND DRIVE** (Spectacular) - Susie Hoshi.

**COUNTERDRIVE** - Bernice Charney Chotras, New York, N.Y.; Lona Flam Rubenstein, New York, N.Y.

**BLOCK SHOT** - Vallerie Bellini, Los Angeles, Calif.; Mae Clouther, Boston, Mass.

**FOOTWORK** - Ruth H. Aarons; Peggy McLean Folke, New York, N.Y.

**TENACITY** - Patty Martinez, San Diego, Calif.; Vallerie Bellini.

**STRATEGIST** - Sally Green Prouty.

**MOST IMPROVED PLAYER** - Janice Martin, Livonia, Mich.; Brooke Williams, Santa Barbara, Calif.

**BEST SPORTSWOMAN** - Carolyn Wilson Bast, Chicago, Ill.

**BEST ALL-AROUND GAME** - Sally Green Prouty.

**BEST CROWD PLEASER** - Susie Hoshi, Sally Green Prouty.

# Autographs



**UNITED STATES TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION**

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