

Albuquerque Bridge Player

Unit 374's Quarterly Newsletter

President's Column

The Unit 374 Board elections were held in November with Jill Burtram, Felix Moore and Jerry Shinkle winning re-election. Jay Armstrong and Jeff Brown were newly elected. Thanks to those candidates who ran but were not elected.

Thanks are also due to Wilma Morris and Marian Schreyer who went off the board at the end of this year. Willie had served as our Hospitality Chair for Unit Sunday games until a couple of years ago. Recently she has handled hospitality at special events – Unit Holiday party, sectionals, ... and even though she is leaving the board she has promised to stay involved with these events. She has served as Unit Membership Chair for the last two years to round out her board duties.

Marian handled Sunday instrumental in working organize our charity been the Charity first year of her term.



hospitality this year and was with Susan Zimmerman to brunches. Marian had committee chair in the

Regarding charity, the Unit to Albuquerque area charities history. (These donations do not include which more than double the total charitable contributions by the duplicate bridge community.) These charities included: APS Title I – which helps homeless children buy school supplies; Meals on Wheels – which provides home delivery of meals to those who need them; St. Martin's Homeless Shelter; The Storehouse – which provides food for homeless and charitable organizations and Toys for Tots which provides toys at Christmas time. Nancy Kruger has been this year's Unit charity committee chair.

The final charity which we have supported in 2010 is the Assistance League of Albuquerque. This organization helps both children at

donated more than \$6000 this year- the most in recent the other clubs within the Unit

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BUDDHA SAYS

Cindy asked me to write a series of articles entitled "I know I should be thinking, but what should I be thinking about?" Here's an example: Sometimes you can isolate and think about the play of just one suit.

Holding A105 opposite KJ98, how should you play this suit with plenty of entries to both hands and no real information about the opponents' hands? What should you be thinking? Well, It's 50-50 as to the location of the queen, and if the suit breaks 3-3 (which occurs 36% of the time), it's a pure guess. With six cards of a suit outstanding, there is a 48% chance that they will be divided 4-2, and a 50% chance that the queen will reside with the 4-card suit. You must cash one high honor in case there is a singleton queen out and then finesse. Even if this wins, you may not capture the queen. So you should play the ace first and then finesse toward the king. Even better - lead the jack toward the ace to see if the opponent flinches or covers, and then finesse toward the king. If the suit is 4-2 (or 5-1 or 6-0) and the person with length has the queen, you can only win four tricks in the suit when the Qxxx is in front of the K. It's a simple combination with lots to think about.



President's Column, from page 1

risk who need clothing and seniors who are artists or crafters by providing an outlet to sell their crafts. The Unit has made the Assistance League the local charity that receives the benefits from Unit Charity games and the Sunday Brunches. We hope to continue our association with this worthy organization in the future.

Other major expenditures that the Unit made this year were approximately \$4000 for computer upgrades at DCBC, \$2000 for the Karen Walker Seminar, and Bridge Mate table scoring upgrades.

The Unit Holiday party held on December 12 was well attended with about 16 tables of bridge and nearly 100 tickets sold for the dinner.


Once again the Navajo Trail Regional is just around the corner. For the fourth consecutive year it will be held at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North from January 17-23, 2011. According to my contacts at the Marriott, room reservations have been going well – indicating a good crowd from out of town. We would like to offer a special invitation to our local players to come out as well. Your tournament has been very successful in recent years because of your strong support and we thank you.

This year the North American Pairs District 17 Championships will be held at our regional after an absence of several years. This is a flighted event with Flight B on Saturday, January 21 and Flights A and C on Saturday, January 22. Top qualifiers are eligible to play at the National finals at the Spring Nationals in Louisville in March.

Please come and play in some (or all) of the events. Hope to see you there.

-Bill Kass

Buddha Says, from page 1

In the 1970's, about 40 fellow Albuquerqueans and I would go to Reno every year to play in their regional. In those days, there was only one knockout team event at regionals and the games were only held in the morning. In Reno, about 60 teams would enter and every year my team would be the bottom seed. That meant we had to play the Number One seed in round one. And every year the top seed was some part of the Dallas Aces, including Paul Soloway and Bobby Goldman, who were then the current world champions. Although we gave them a rough go, in the end they eventually prevailed. After getting knocked out in the first round, I would get up every morning and kibitz Goldman and Soloway. Paul had a wonderful table presence, and went out of his way to be really nice to me. He said he liked my game. Bobby was not only a great player, but also a theoretician. In those early days of personal computers (you had to make them yourself), he was the first to computerize his system notes, and he wrote a dealing program that allowed him to create dozens of hands, e.g., with a Flannery opening, or a no-trump opening opposite 12-16 points and six diamonds, etc. He and his partner would then bid the hands until they were satisfied with their conventions and understandings. As I watched Paul and Bobby play, I'd jot down questions I had about their bidding and play and after the match, 

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AT DCBC

Beginners' Lessons:

Start date: Sunday, Feb 6, 2011 - 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Course length: 8 weeks

Textbook: Audrey Grant's Bridge Basics 1, An Introduction, included in \$20 course fee. Focus: Basic concepts of duplicate bridge (hand valuation, bidding language, scoring, trick taking, no-trump opening bids and responses, major suit opening bids and responses, and minor suit opening bids and responses). Hands to be played cover play of the hand, defense, and opening leads.

Advanced Beginners' Lessons:

Start date: Saturday, Feb 5, 2011 - 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Course length: 8 weeks

Textbook included in \$20 course fee.

Topics may include preemptive opening bids, overcalls, takeout doubles, competitive auctions, Stayman convention, Jacoby transfer bids, strong opening bids, and slam bidding. Hands to be played include declarer play, defense, and opening leads.

Intermediate Lessons:

Start date: Saturday, Feb 5, 2011 - 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Course length: 8 weeks

Textbook: Commonly Used Conventions in the 21st Century, included in the \$20 course fee

Focus: Competitive bidding, Stayman convention, Jacoby transfers, major and minor suit opening bids and responses, weak two bids, and strong 2 club opening bids. Hands to be played provide the opportunity to practice skills learned in class.

All classes will be held at Duke City Bridge Club, located at 8616 Northeastern Ave, NE.

Supervised play will commence on Saturdays at 9:30 am after the 8 weeks of lessons and will enable students to practice skills learned. Intermediate students are encouraged to play in the 1 pm novice games on Saturdays, as well as in any other games, novice or open.

Thanks to our dedicated team of teachers for the fall bridge series: Keesha Ashanti, Norm Cliff, Jan Evans, Pat Plummer, Francie Straw, and Bob Zipp. Additional support was provided by Jim Hull and Susan Zimmerman. Thanks also to Felix Moore for heading up Supervised Play.

-Pat Plummer

Buddha Says, from page 2

when Paul would invite me to go to lunch with them, I would ask them my questions. I was really lucky, because they would always explain their thought processes. Bobby also gave me a copy of their notes, which has been the basis of what I've played for the last thirty years. Since then, whenever I go to a big tournament, I always take a day off to kibitz and try to learn something new.

In our upcoming January Regional, there's a good chance that Mike Passell, Eddie Wold, Mark Lair, Mark Itabashi, Gene Simpson, Sue Sachs, Kitty and Steve Cooper and Chris Compton will be playing. They are among the best players in the country, but you can watch them for free, and they will go out of their way to tell you their thought processes, if you ask nicely and at an appropriate time. They make their living playing bridge, they want bridge to thrive, and they want you to learn to love and master the game. Maybe you'll end up with a big-time mentor.

-Joe Harris

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE DCBC

As the 2010 year ends, I would like to acknowledge and thank the many individuals who have volunteered their time and talents to help make it successful:

To those board members whose terms have expired:

Jay Armstrong - Housekeeping
Jim Drennan - Purchasing
Russ Edwards - Maintenance and Building Management
Pat Plummer - Education Outreach
Lise Sullivan - Hospitality

And those coming back next year:

Dick Allen - Purchasing
Norman Cliff - Vice President/Membership and Partnerships
Diane Todd - Secretary/TLC
Jan Evans - Treasurer

Assistants to the Board:

Larry Bertholf - Conduct and Ethics
Jerry Shinkle - Finance
Felix Moore - Game Coordinator
Nora Johnson - Toys For Tots with Marge Brosnan, Mary Erickson, Dale Hanson, Mary Jo Scrivner & Sherril Walters
Jay Armstrong
Jim Hull (donated flowers)

Birthday Cake Celebrations

Mary Jo & Gary Scrivner

Education Outreach Instructors

Keesha Ashanti
Norm Cliff
Jan Evans
Pat Plummer
Francie Straw
Bob Zipp

Indian Art Sculptures Raffle

Marianna Helger
Antje Muir

Kudos To:

Maxine Upchurch - For donating the Indian Art Sculptures for the raffle, that raised \$255.00 for the club.

Lori Schultz - For serving as our banker.



DCBC Report, from page 4

Nora Johnson and Cherri Berry for donating money towards the purchase of the new microwave oven.

Bill Koehler - For printing the score sheets, convention card forms, and other miscellaneous forms.

Gloria Hopley - who has volunteered to be our new banker.

Thanks to the Nominating Committee, including Diane Todd, Chair; Jim Hull; and Mary Erickson; for selecting the candidates for election to the 2011 Board of Directors.

Reminders:

The Flu season is here again. Please wash your hands with soap, and use the hand sanitizer often, to avoid the spread of germs. Cough and sneeze into the crook of your arm, or fully cover your mouth with your hands.

Please refrain from using strong perfumes and colognes, because some of our members are highly allergic to them.

The club cannot accept two-party checks for payment of game fees.

Only those items that pertain to the game of bridge may be advertised and sold at the DCBC.

An appeal:

Our nominating committee for new board members for 2011 received many no's before coming up with a slate of candidates. Next year if you are asked to run for the Board of Directors, please say yes. Remember, you are a part-owner of the club. It is a very interesting experience, doesn't require a lot of your time, and you will feel good about serving. The huge success of the DCBC is a result of good people who have donated their time and talents in the past. Please help continue this tradition.

Commentary:

The number of tables of bridge played this year is substantially higher than last year and should exceed 7,000. A large portion of this may be attributed to our fine teaching staff. Several of them are retired school teachers, and all are well qualified. Many of the individuals enrolled in these classes have made favorable comments about the content, and how well the information is presented. One gentleman stated that he and his wife were amazed that our instructors were willing to give up their free time on Saturday morning to teach Bridge.

-Russ Edwards

Newer Players Page

I WISH SOMEONE HAD TOLD ME, PART 4

Why Do We Need Convention Cards?

For each partner you play with, you should fill out a convention card. The convention card is a contract between you and your partner. It spells out the agreements you have and the special conventions that you play. If you have a disagreement with your partner as to what a bid means, the convention card defines your partnership agreement.

Both partners should fill out a convention card (hopefully together at the same time). In duplicate bridge, secret partnership agreements are forbidden. You must document your agreements on the convention card. To have secret agreements is considered unethical.

The convention card serves two additional purposes. The opponents have a right to understand your bids, and may ask to look at your convention card when it is their turn to call. The advantage to looking and not verbally asking is that you do not give the opponents a chance to verbally communicate information. In addition, if the director is called, she/he may need to use your convention card to make a decision.

For newer players, I recommend printing the ACBL "Fat Free" convention card at <http://www.acbl.org/play/toolsSupplies.html>. The "Fat Free" convention card is much simpler than the standard convention card, and much easier to fill out. This web page also has a link to a completed card with the basic conventions.

Why Is The Convention Card So Colorful?

Lines and check boxes on the convention card are black, red or blue. The different colors help you to remember what you should do. Anything in black is standard, and you don't have to do anything special. Lines or check boxes in blue require an announcement. An example of this is the 1NT opening; your partner announces "15 to 17". The only other announcement used by beginning players is the transfer bid; your partner must say "transfer" after you respond 2D/2H/2S to his/her 1NT call.

Lines and check boxes in red are "Alerts". When your partner makes a bid that requires an alert, you should say "Alert" and pull the blue alert card from the box and show it to the opponents. This tells the opponents that your partner is making an artificial bid, and gives the opponents the opportunity to ask about the meaning of the bid. To summarize, blue on the convention card means announce, and red on the convention card means pull the blue card from the bidding box and say "Alert". It is one of life's little mysteries why the red line means pull the blue card.

What?? Who Can Ask Questions When?

Alerts are rarely used in intermediate/novice (I/N) games. The convention card is designed such that alerts are required for exceptions to the "Standard American" bidding system, and players in these games usually stick to "Standard American". But it is important to know the process for asking questions. If the opponents make an alert, you may ask the "alserter" to explain the meaning of the alert when it is your turn to bid. You may not ask the person who made the alertable bid. The reason for this is to prevent the opponents from communicating information if they are confused as to how they play this convention. When you first encounter alerts, you will want to ask your question; however, do not ask unless this information will help your side. By answering your question, the opponents may communicate information. This will only hurt your cause.

Knowing the meaning of the alert might help during the bidding process. If the artificial bid means that the opponent has certain suits, you should not be playing the contract in notrump unless you have "stoppers" in those suits. In this case, asking during the auction is important, as you must know the meaning of the alert. In general, ask if it seems that your side will be declaring (playing offense).

Knowing the meaning of the alert(s) will also help you with the play of the hand, particularly if you end up on defense. Since you now know not to ask during the auction unless it benefits your side, you should



Wish Someone Had Told Me, from page 6

also know that you should ask before you make your final pass. This information may help to formulate your defense.

If your partner is on lead, there is a chance you didn't get to ask your question. This is one of the reasons that the opening lead should be placed face down on the table, and the leader should ask "questions partner?". This technique was discussed in a previous column as a way to prevent leads by the wrong person. Now you can see that there are two benefits to leading in this manner.

-Bob Zipp

BRIDGE BITES: TOO EASY

[...] Declarer got to a great slam but he forgot to make his contract. It was just too easy.

♠ T854 ♥ ♦ KQJT52 ♣ AKQ			
♠ J96 ♥ A9543 ♦ 63 ♣ T43	North West East South	♠ 3 ♥ KQJT76 ♦ A98 ♣ 962	
♠ AKQ72 ♥ 82 ♦ 74 ♣ J875			

None Vulnerable

	South West	North East	
		2♥	
2♠	4♥	6♠!	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West leads the ♥A and, when Dummy goes down, who would blame Declarer for thinking

"Yippee! What a terrific slam, and on just a combined 25 HCP! Nicely bid, pard!"

Declarer ruffs that ♥A opening lead and, without pausing for thought, cashes the ♠A and ♠K. When East shows out on the second round of trumps, Declarer ponders awhile (it's a bit late now!) before realizing that "Oops!" and not "Yippee!" is the appropriate exclamation. Yes, indeed, Declarer has goofed mightily. He cannot draw the last trump (that would let the defense score a Heart and a Diamond), so he ruffs a Heart on the board and exits with the ♦K. But that doesn't work, either. East wins the ♦A and returns a Diamond which must be won in Dummy. Now Declarer has no way back to his hand to draw that last enemy trump. He'll cash a Diamond and lead another one, but, when East follows to the third round, Declarer will know that his goose is cooked. Whether he ruffs high or low, West's ♠J will score a trick. Down one!

Of course, the winning line is to ruff the opening Heart lead, cross to the ♠A, ruff another Heart, and then draw trumps. Now is the time for that yippee. Trick 1 was the time for thinking.

-by Brian Gunnell, reprinted from the ACBL Website

Odds & Ends

**ELECTRONIC
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
NOTICES**

Save a Tree! - Opt for e-billing membership renewal notices on MyACBL.

You will receive your membership renewal notice by e-mail and can submit your payment by credit card. The ACBL accepts MasterCard, Visa or Discover.

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SUNDAY HOSPITALITY

- Have a favorite bridge snack?
- Need to try out a new recipe?
- Have an urge to bake/buy a goodie and don't want to admit you "ate the whole thing"?

Call Susan Zimmerman at 332-8502 to donate snacks or to volunteer hospitality services for any Sunday game.

P.S. All surprises welcome!!!

OVERFLOW PARKING

Overflow parking for DCBC members has been authorized for the east and lower level (southern edges) of the adjacent bank building's lot. Walgreen's has given permission to park in the slots at the northern edge of their property. See the map posted in the club for more detail.

Please do not park in the Furr's, Kelly Liquors, Dollar Store, or Radio Shack/Dos Hermanos strips' parking areas. The realty company who owns this property has given us permission to park behind Dos Hermanos and in a few slots west of Furr's ONLY during our June and November 2011 sectionals. Parking there at any other time will subject your vehicle to towing.

Wal-Mart has authorized us to park in their lot. It is suggested that we park in slots less close to the doors of Wal-Mart. A listing of members by zipcode is being prepared by the unit. This will facilitate car pooling, especially on Tuesdays and Thursdays, when our attendance is very high. The DCBC Board approved a \$1.00 coupon for future games of the driver of a carpool. *-Pat Plummer*

Changes in Unit 374 Membership

RANK PROMOTIONS

Junior Masters

Philip H Baker
Diane Brewer
James DeFlon
Joann T DeFlon
Sue Defender
Robert L Hine
Roberta E Hine
Joanne Vye
Pat G Zich

Club Masters

Edith L Izenberg
Karen S Nesbit

Sectional Masters

Edith L Izenberg

Regional Masters

Randall E Jones

NABC Masters

Marianne Helgesen

Life Masters

Robert P Zipp

Bronze Life Masters

Robert P Zipp

Silver Life Masters

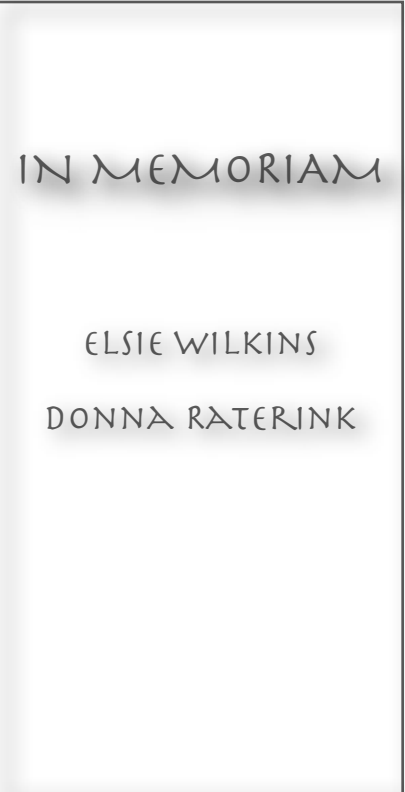
Judy Wissert

Diamond Life Masters

Ted Stein

NEW MEMBERS

Lynn D Fugelso
Benjamin L Headley
Thomas J Headley
David B Higgins
Sue Millington
Carmelita C Pruet
Maris D Shepherd
Bettye B Stephens
Wayne D Sundberg



IN MEMORIAM

ELSIE WILKINS

DONNA RATERINK



c/o Susan Law
 13101 Summer Place NE
 Albuquerque, NM 87112

Return Service Requested

Presorted Standard
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Albuquerque, NM
 Permit No. 100

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

UPCOMING UNIT GAMES SCHEDULE

Sunday games at 1:30p are hosted by Unit 374.

January

2nd: Pairs Championship
 9th: Charity B-A-M Teams
 16th: Pairs Championship
 23rd: No Game (ABQ Regional)
 30th: Pairs Championship

February

6th: GNT Qual., Teams
 13th: ACBL Junior Fund Pairs
 20th: ACBL Junior Fund Pairs
 28rd: Junior Fund Swiss Teams

March

6th: Charity Mixed Pairs
 13th: Charity Pairs for ACBL
 20th: Pairs Championship
 27th: GNT Qual., Teams

UNIT 374 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTACT LIST

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