

Albuquerque Bridge Player

Unit 374's Quarterly Newsletter

President's Column

The duplicate bridge world in Albuquerque would not function very well without the volunteers who donate their time and energy. For the last several years Unit 374 has recognized two volunteers for their service. This year's awards went to Lise Sullivan for the "Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award" and Susy Law for the "Perpetual Service Award".

Lise was honored for her work in providing hospitality at DCBC games and for her active participation in the remodeling and interior design of DCBC in 2005. She served on the DCBC board for six years. She is also a delightful person to know.

Susy has worked tirelessly on the Unit 374 board as secretary since 2002. She edits the Unit's newsletter and has produced the Unit membership directory for the last several years. Her most notable service recently is the coordinated the hospitality. She deserves a create the friendly Albuquerque tournaments



I think it is important to remind the members how valuable volunteer contributions are. The Unit board has created these awards for that purpose. It is also important to involve Unit members in the nomination and selection of these invaluable volunteers. Which gets me to my point – the job of recognizing special volunteer services needs a special volunteer who can receive nominations and lead a group of other Unit members to select the nominees. This occurs in the spring.

I would like the person who takes this task to not be a current Unit or DCBC board member. So if you have been ducking serving on one of these boards, here is a chance to put your toe in the water and serve in a smaller (a few hours once a year) but extremely important way. Contact me if you are interested.

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BUDDHA SAYS

Playing in the finals of the national senior pairs in Louisville, a pair of men came to our table. They reminded me of those old-time rubber bridge players who add a good chunk of change to their social security benefits at the card room at the Elks in Falls City, Nebraska.

Though I didn't know their names, I recognized the dapper man on my right as someone I'd played against before and I had a vague recollection that the man on my left once made a play against me that I'd never seen and resulted in a bottom for me. The first hand was uneventful. Then came this:

North

- ♠AK983
- ♥K82
- ♦A3
- ♣T43

South

- ♠Q
- ♥AJ95
- ♦KJ754
- ♣QJ5



While I am on the subject of volunteers, the most recent Albuquerque Sectional in June will be the first sectional in a while that Wilma Morris did not do the hospitality. Willie did a great job and it wasn't easy to find her replacement. Thanks, Willie, we appreciate your hard work.

By the way, for sectional tournaments, at least, having the DCBC as a facility where we can bring in or prepare our own food is the only way we can provide the level of hospitality that we do. The people who selected this building twenty years ago can be proud of how it has turned out.

One last thing- recently the Santa Fe bridge club suffered some water damage which has cost many thousands of dollars to repair. At the suggestion of Al Beebe, the Unit 374 board voted to donate \$1000 from our treasury to Santa Fe bridge club as a token of our thanks for their continuing support of our tournaments. We could afford it and they needed it.

-Bill Kass

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CLEM JACKSON BECOMES GRAND LIFE MASTER

Clem Jackson has just advanced to the highest rank that the ACBL recognizes. Grand Life Master is achieved when a player has won more than ten thousand masterpoints and won a qualifying event – NABC championship or equivalent. In Clem's case the qualifying event was winning the Bronze Medal in the Senior Bowl of the 2003 World Team Championships in Monte Carlo. The 10,000th masterpoint came in Denver last month.

Clem has been hitting the tournament trail pretty hard for the last couple of years and has been quite successful. He has been playing on professional teams and averaging in the neighborhood of 100 masterpoints per regional. Now that he has advanced to the Grand Life Master level, he plans to take off a few months to reflect on his next goal.

-Bill Kass

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JUDY RANDEL HITS THE BIG 15,000

Once Judy became a Grand Life Master, Mark Lair told her she should go for 15,000 points. "No way!", Judy replied. But many tournaments later, she has accumulated a total of 4,200 Gold Points. Way!

-Nancy Kruger

Buddha Says, from page 1

The auction proceeded with east-west silent:

- North 1 Spade
- South 2 Diamonds
- North 2 Spades
- South 3 No trump

We were playing that two diamonds was a game force, two spades was a punt (don't have anything to tell you now) and that 3NT was fast arrival, showing minimal values. LHO led the Club 2, his partner won the king and returned the Club 9 to the ace. He then continued the Club 7 to the 10, 8 and queen. I now had several lines of play. If the spades broke 4-3 (62%), I could give up a spade and win at least four spades, two hearts, two diamonds and a club for at least nine tricks. I could play on hearts and win three spades, four hearts (30%), or three hearts ((60%), two diamonds and a club again for at least nine tricks, or I could play on diamonds and if they behaved, I could win all the remaining tricks. When playing matchpoints, one wants to maximize the number of tricks taken, especially when one is in a normal contract. So I led a diamond to the ace and finessed the jack. This lost to the queen, RHO playing two small cards. LHO immediately shifted to the spade five, which ran around to my queen. When I cashed the diamond king, RHO played a small spade. The play to the first six tricks went very quickly, maybe a minute in all, with no hesitations, but now I had to stop to think. 

EDUCATION NEWS

The education of bridge players is on-going and fun. The growing number of tables in play attests to the efforts of a dedicated group of teachers. A look back at learning opportunities:

In the spring, for eight weeks, two classes were offered on Saturday morning. Francie Straw taught intermediate players and had an attendance of about 40 players every week. Simultaneously, in the north room, Bob Zipp, Jan Evans and Norm Cliff expanded the knowledge of advanced beginners (40 attendees) who used *Bridge for Dummies* as their text. Keesha Ashanti and Pat Plummer offered supervised play sessions and classes for the very beginning players.

After the classes concluded in April, Felix Moore created a Saturday study group for supervised play.

In May, on the 18th and the 24th, Mike Vermillion held two classes on defense and play of the hand.

Watch for notices in this newsletter and at the DCBC about upcoming educational opportunities and plan to join a class and bring a friend or two; our club thrives on new players. Also remember that Mike Lawrence is coming to present a workshop on September 10-11. Don't miss this opportunity to study with a nationally renowned master (sign-ups begin in early July).

-Kathleen Church

NEW BRIDGE CLASS

If you're an experienced intermediate bridge player and would like to become a better defender, this is the class that will help you improve your skills. This eight week class beginning Saturday, September 19, 2011, will be taught by Francie Straw. Leads, signals, and discards are key for partnership communication. Should your defense be active or passive? Building a picture of the closed hands allows players to make better decisions. Using Barbara Seagram and David Bird's text, "*25 Ways to be a Better Defender*," lectures will be followed by play of the hand to provide experience for practicing the skills taught. The cost of the class is \$20 and will include a copy of the text. Players will enjoy the friendly and supportive nature of this class.

-Kathleen Church

Buddha Says, from page 2

First of all, where was the Club 6? I couldn't tell from the way the play went; either one of them could have it. If LHO held the last club, why didn't he cash it? Also, if he started with four clubs to the ace, he might have ducked the second trick to preserve communications. Maybe he started with four spades, two hearts, four diamonds and three clubs and just didn't have a better lead. Or could he be hiding the last club? If he cashed it, I might abandon diamonds and play on hearts to make my contract. Was he a good enough player to make that play? My gut thought he was, but to do it with almost no thought and in perfect tempo? If I did play on hearts, I'd have to go to the dummy and cash the top spades before leading up to my heart tenace, risking a minus 200 or the absolute worst scenario, minus 300. I just didn't know what to do. 77 was top in the session, and a plus 630 would be a very good score, plus 600 about average, and minus 100 below average. Minus 200 would be disastrous. It turned out that if I got it right my partner and I would make the low overalls in the event, but if I was wrong, we would be just out of the money. I'd like you to make a decision on how to proceed. Next time, I'll tell you the play I chose, and why it was the wrong thing to do.

-Joe Harris

BRIDGE FOR THE YOUNG

The DCBC Board of Directors and the Unit have an interest in attracting young players to the game of bridge. The ideal situation for us would be to offer an after-school class or club in local middle schools. Bridge can be an important hobby for kids! An interesting article in the NYTimes recently reported on a school classroom in which the game of bridge was used successfully not only to teach children math skills but also to encourage social interaction. Bill Gates and George Buffett have actually contributed money to some clubs to use to attract youngsters to the game. Santa Fe Prep currently has a bridge club after school.

Is there anyone out there among our members who has contact with a school and would be willing to coordinate the establishment of a bridge group at the school? If you have an interest and some ability to do this, please contact Kathleen Church (821-6687) email: churchkd@aol.com or Jeff Brown (275-9707) email: jcb@jeffbrowlaw.com.

We're also planning to offer a Summer Camp next year. If you have any children or grandchildren who might be interested, let us know so we can establish a list of potential attendees and start early next year to get them signed up.

-Kathleen Church

MIKE LAWRENCE SEMINAR

Unit 374 is bringing Mike Lawrence to Albuquerque for a weekend of informative and fun instruction. Mark your calendars for the 11th and 12th of September. Pick up a flyer at the DCBC or get one using the link on our website and sign up for one or more of the sessions. This promises to be top rate instruction for very little money.

Who is Mike Lawrence? In the world of contract bridge, there is no one who comes close to matching his combined record as a player, author, and teacher. As a player, Mike has won three world championships and placed second three times. In ACBL play, he has won over 20,000 masterpoints and more than twenty major National Championships, including more than ten wins in the Vanderbilt, Reisinger, and Spingold. As an author, Mike has written more than twenty bridge books, most of them exploring areas that no one else was willing to write about. His writings include numerous book-of-the-year awards starting with his first book, "*How to Locate Your Opponents' Cards*" and continuing through "*Opening Leads*," published in late 1996. More than any other author or teacher, Mike is known for an ability to share his experiences with his readers and students.

Make sure that you come and meet him in September.

-Felix Moore

Newer Players Page

DEFENSIVE PLAY

In bridge, almost every card we play conveys information. And that's our stated goal - to provide our partners with as much information about our hand as possible so that they'll know how to help defend. One of the most basic rules of defending is to play the lowest of touching cards when following to a trick. Holding touching cards, experienced bridge players always play the lowest.

With AKQ, play the queen. With KQ10, play the queen. With KQJ109, your proper play is the nine-spot.

Whereas one always leads the highest card of a sequence, when playing to a trick with intent to win the trick, the lowest of touching cards should be played. The play of any card denies a lower card which would fulfill the same purpose. This is how Louis Watson explains it in his book "The Play of the Hand at Bridge":

9 8 7
K 5 3 2 Q J 6
A 10 4

"Your partner, let us say, leads the diamond deuce against no-trump. The seven is played from dummy. Sitting East, you blindly choose your highest card - the queen. Now suppose declarer wins with his Ace, and later on in the hand, your partner regains the lead. What does he know about the distribution of diamonds? Nothing whatever - beyond those he can see in his own hand and in the dummy, plus the four that have been played. Anyone may have the jack of diamonds; anyone may have the ten. Partner's only high card is the king, now the commanding card of the suit. He will probably lead, therefore, some other suit.

Now suppose that, as East, you play the jack (instead of the queen) on the opening lead. Declarer wins with his ace. Partner later regains the lead. Now what does he know about diamonds? He knows a great deal. He saw you play the jack, and noticed that declarer won with the ace. Now if declarer had held the queen, wouldn't he have used it to win that trick,

since the king was still outstanding? He certainly would have. Consequently, since declarer did not win with the queen, your partner knows that you have the queen (obviously it is not in the dummy). He can thus lead another low diamond with the knowledge that you will win the trick and return the suit, enabling him to take two more tricks with the king and five-spot.

This conventional play of the bottom card of a sequence is of the utmost importance. Never depart from it. Since your cards in sequence are of equal value, the card you play can make no difference to you, but it makes a vast difference to your partner - so play the bottom one. "

-Susy Law

BRIDGE GAMES IN ALBUQUERQUE

In order to run a duplicate bridge game that issues master points, a club must obtain and pay for a "sanction," which is granted by the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL). We have several clubs in Albuquerque whose games are sanctioned by the ACBL.

The Duke City Bridge Club (DCBC) is the largest bridge club in Albuquerque. It is a "cooperative" owned by its ACBL members. The DCBC owns the building at 8616 Northeastern, and shoulders the responsibility for the building mortgage and maintenance. Other clubs rent this building for their games. The DCBC runs the afternoon games on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday through Saturday, in addition to morning games on Monday and Friday, and evening games on Tuesday and Wednesday. While the cleaning crew and directors are paid, the remainder of the work is performed by member volunteers. The services provided by these volunteers are vast, from hospitality (kitchen detail) to daily operations (game coordination, facility maintenance, purchasing, finances and education). They are supervised by a board of directors which is elected every year by the members.



Bridge in Albuquerque, from page 5

The afternoon game on Wednesday is sponsored by the Casa De Amigos Club. Profits from this weekly game are donated to Casa Angelica, an intermediate care facility for mentally retarded children. This club is also run by volunteers.

The Sunday afternoon game is sanctioned to Unit 374. Unit 374 is comprised of all ACBL members in the Albuquerque area. It is administered by a board of directors that is elected on a yearly basis by the members. The board and its volunteers manage the sectional and regional tournaments (site selection, hiring of directors and caddies, food catering, provision of supplies and equipment, etc.). The unit also publishes the quarterly newsletter and the membership directory. It is charged by the ACBL to oversee the activities of all the clubs in Albuquerque in the areas of education, publicity, ethics and membership.

The Sandia West Bridge Club is privately owned and is sanctioned to run games at the Taylor Ranch Community Center on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. It also runs the game at the Placitas Community Center on Monday afternoon.

The schedule on the next page gives the time and location of the sanctioned games in the Albuquerque area. Open/Stratified games are for players of all experience levels. While some new players are comfortable playing in these games, most prefer to begin in the masterpoint-limited games (0-100, 0-200, 0-500). More experienced players (Life Masters), are not allowed to play in these games, so it is a good way to gain experience in a less competitive environment. The limited games are also stratified, which means a player only has to compete against players who have comparable experience and masterpoints. (For more information on stratification, see this column in Vol. VI, Issue III of the "Albuquerque Bridge Player".)

Local Bridge Information on the Web

Unit 374 provides the web presence for the Albuquerque bridge clubs. The homepage can be found at www.abqbridge.com. Announcements related to unit activities, such as local tournaments, guest speakers, or special events are posted. Links to the calendar for unit games, masterpoint races, and an

archive of the unit newsletters can be found here. From this homepage, you can access the websites of DCBC and Sandia West. The homepage of each club contains announcements and information for that club. To find results for a game, click on the button for that session. Four calendars will appear; click on the date on the upper calendar for game results, and click on the lower calendar for a hand record. Results are archived for the current and previous month. An additional feature is the "Get Summary" button. If you forgot to get your summary printed before you left the club, you can print one by using this function. Also, please note that sectional and regional tournament results can only be found at the link on the unit webpage.

-Bob Zipp

SCHEDULE OF GAMES IN ALBUQUERQUE AREA

DAY	TIME	LOCATION	TYPE OF GAME
Monday	9.00 am	Duke City	Players with 0–100 MP
Monday	9.30 am	Duke City	Open / Stratified Fast
Monday	1.00 pm	Duke City	Open / Stratified
Monday	1.00 pm	Sandia West	Open / Stratified
Monday	1.00 pm	Placitas	Open / Stratified
Tuesday	12.30 pm	Sandia West	Open / Stratified
Tuesday	12.30 pm	Duke City	Players with 0–200 MP
Tuesday	1.00 pm	Duke City	Open / Stratified
Tuesday	6.30 pm	Duke City	Open / Stratified
Wednesday	12.30 pm	Four Hills CC	Invitational
Wednesday	1.00 pm	Duke City	Open / Stratified
Wednesday	6.30 pm	Duke City	Non Life Master 0–500 MP
Thursday	12.30 pm	Duke City	Players with 0–200 MP
Thursday	1.00 pm	Sandia West	Open / Stratified
Thursday	1.00 pm	Duke City	Open Stratified
Friday	9.00 am	Duke City	Players with 0–100 MP
Friday	9.30 am	Duke City	Open / Stratified Fast
Friday	1.00 pm	Sandia West	Open / Stratified
Friday	1.00 pm	Duke City	Open / Stratified
Saturday	1.00 pm	Duke City	Open / Stratified
Saturday	1.00 pm	Duke City	Players with 0–200 MP
Sunday	1.30 pm	Duke City	Open / Stratified

Odds & Ends

BRIDGE IN PLACITAS

Did you know that there is a weekly duplicate game in Placitas? The game is now in its third year and attracts players from Placitas, Bernalillo, Santa Fe and Albuquerque. The game is held at the Placitas Senior Center every Monday at 1pm. We average about six tables and players without a partner are welcome and guaranteed to play.

The game is affiliated with Bill Koehler's Sandia West Bridge Studio and we support Casa Rosa, the Placitas food bank, by making regular donations.

For more information or directions, contact the director, Felix Moore, at 344-5209

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!!!

NORTH AMERICAN OPEN PAIRS

Club level qualifying for the NAOP started in June and will conclude at the end of August. All qualifiers are encouraged to play in the District 17 Finals which will be held at the Phoenix Regional in October. There will be 3 separate finals: A: Open, B: 0-2000 MP and C; 0-500 NLM.

If you play in the District finals, Unit 374 will pay your entry fee for any one final. The top three pairs in each final will win the right to enter the National Finals held during the Spring NABC in Memphis next year.

You will find the detailed Conditions of Contest on the District 17 website, www.dr7acbl.org or contact Felix Moore (344-5209) for information.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS AT THE DCBC

On the first Tuesday of every month, the DCBC holds a birthday party for all members whose birthday falls during that month. Volunteers bring in cakes, and the club allows all those whose birthdays fall in that month to play bridge for free. But remember, this only happens on the first Tuesday of each month. So, when you know your birthday is coming up, plan to play on the first Tuesday of the month, because you can't play for free on any other day of that month.

Changes in Unit 374 Membership

RANK PROMOTIONS

Junior Masters

Cynthia D Brill
Julie J Gregory

Club Masters

Don Austin
Maris D Shepherd
Marti Stone
Diane Brewer
James D Gunn

Sectional Masters

Ellen M Brabson
Michael C Koss
Joanne E Keyser

Regional Masters

Joel R Barkoff
Sara S Currens
Martha C Trainer

NABC Masters

Sue J Berry

Silver Life Masters

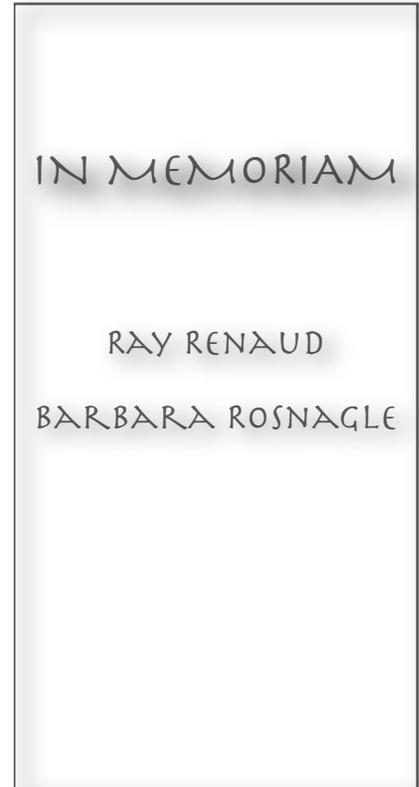
Bill D Fickel
Christa L Cooper

New Members

Paul Hargrave
Candice A Lichtenfels
Leona J Dennis
Eli L Follick
Betty A Tipton

Transfers into Unit

Patricia Elder
JoAnn Grauer
Marilyn Higgins
Dick Newkirk
Ginger Newkirk
Pat M Newman





c/o Susan Law
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

UPCOMING UNIT GAMES SCHEDULE

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

July

3rd: NAOP Qualifier
 10th: Pairs Championship
 17th: NAOP Qualifier
 24th: Swiss Championship
 31st: Pairs Championship

August

7th: NAOP Qualifier
 14th: Charity Pairs for ACBL
 21st: NAOP Qualifier
 28th: Great Western STaC
 (Silver Points)

September

4th: GNT Qualifier (Teams)
 11th: International Fund Pairs
 18th: International Fund Pairs
 25th: International Fund Pairs

UNIT 374 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTACT LIST

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